

Kempas rep Osman to be probed over campaign allegations, says Bersatu Sec-Gen

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 4 -- Former Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Osman Sopian is still a Bersatu member and he will be investigated for allegedly campaigning for an independent candidate in the recent Slim by-election, said Bersatu secretary-general Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin.

Hamzah said Osman, the Kempas state assemblyman, would be called up to answer the allegations against him.

“If he admits to crossing the floor, it means nullification of his membership. But for now, he has not crossed the floor. So, he will be summoned to help in investigation, which usually takes time,” he told Bernama when contacted today.

Media reports claimed that Osman had campaigned for independent candidate Amir Khusyairi Mohamad Tanusi, 38, who was backed by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in the Slim by-election in Perak.

Meanwhile, Bersatu Disciplinary Board chairman Tan Sri Megat Najmuddin Megat Khas, when contacted, also said the board would call up Osman for clarification before taking any action.

Hamzah and Megat Najmuddin were responding to media reports today that Osman’s membership had been nullified for breaching Clause 10.2.3 of the Bersatu constitution by helping in the campaign of a rival party.

In JOHOR BAHRU, Osman said he had not received any official letter from the party regarding the purported stripping of his membership.

“No official letter. That’s the work of a portal,” Osman, the Ayer Hitam Bersatu division chief, told Bernama via WhatApps today.

An online news portal reported that the Bersatu Disciplinary Board had stripped him of his party membership for allegedly helping in the campaign of Amir Khusyairi.

Recently, there was a viral video of Osman allegedly speaking in Slim in support of Amir Khusyairi.

However, Osman said he was in Slim to meet old friends and his presence had nothing to do with politics.

Johor Bersatu chairman Mazlan Bujang, when contacted, said the issue of membership disqualification did not arise and was due to a misunderstanding of the news portal.

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