

Five more Klang nominees with unsettled issues

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■ By V. Shankar Ganesh
shanky@nst.com.my

KLANG: Five more nominees to the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) have been found to have various problems yet to be settled.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo said their problems included failure to submit plans for extensions to their houses and factories, and failure to pay assessments and quit rent.

The five are Klang Umno vice-president Nasaruddin Zin, Kapar Umno secretary Samak Ahmad, Klang Umno acting Youth chief Zainuri Zakaria, Kapar MCA Youth chief Datuk Song Kee Chai and Klang MIC chief Alex Thiagarasan.

Nasaruddin has extensions to his house, while Song has extensions to his house and factory. Zainuri, who is the son of Port Klang assemblyman Datuk Zakaria Mat Deros, is the owner of the illegal restaurant, DZ Satay House, on government land. Samak has arrears on assessment and quit rent while Thiagarasan is owing in assessment.

Dr Khir said the five had been given until Nov 25 to settle these matters and MPK president Abdul Bakir Zin had been told to have the swearing-in ceremony after that.

"If they do not settle by then, they cannot be sworn-in with the others."

In that case, he said, they had until end of the year to clear all matters or risk their names being dropped from the councillors' lists.

"This includes all other local councils in the state."

Dr Khir spoke at a Press conference after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting in Shah Alam yesterday.

Asked for the number of councillors found to be in similar trouble, he said reports were being compiled from all the councils. He said they all had until Dec 31 to settle.

On the issue of Zakaria's palatial mansion, dubbed *Istana Zakaria*, in Kampung Idaman, Pandamaran, the menteri besar said it would not be demolished because it was on his own land.

"But the satay house is on government land and that is why we are demolishing it. It's

not double standards."

He said there were 12 other illegal stalls in the area and all had been given eviction notices yesterday.

"All have to move. Not just the DZ Satay House."

Dr Khir said the operators could appeal for time extensions at the district office if they were unable to move within 14 days. Extensions of up to three months may be given.

In the case of Klang councillor Datuk Mazlynoor Abdul Latiff, one of three councillors who failed to submit building plans for his house, Dr Khir said the issue was considered settled as he had submitted the plans.

The other two were Zakaria and Kapar Umno Youth chief Faizal Abdullah.

Both turned down their appointments as councillors following the revelations.

But the menteri besar said yesterday both could still appeal to be included as councillors if they managed to clear their problems. "But to whether we will re-appoint them, that's a different matter."

On the need for professionals in the council, he said many politicians were qualified professionals.

"It's not true that we don't have professionals in councils. I am a dentist. Just because I am an Umno member, it doesn't mean I am not a professional."

He said a list of politicians, who are also professionals and appointed as councillors in the state, would be released to the media soon.

When contacted, Thiagarasan said he had already met the MPK secretary yesterday over his arrears and would be settling it today. The arrears

are for a shoplot under his name in Pulau Indah, amounting to about RM3,000.

"I will settle it tomorrow (today), once I get the final bill from MPK."

Song said the house in question was in Taman Sentosa and he was its second owner.

"The renovations were done by the previous owner. I managed to trace the building plans and submitted it today (yesterday)."

As for the factory, he said the building was located in Sungar Rasau and it was more than 30 years old.

"I am the fifth owner. Previous owners had made extensions without plans. However, I managed to get ready all the plans and will be submitting them tomorrow (today)."

When contacted, Zainuri said he would not comment on the issue for now. "I will meet the menteri besar and discuss it with him first."

Samak said there may be some misunderstanding over the assessment problem as the unpaid dues were on a house that he had sold to his younger brother in 1989.

"The district office has changed the names but MPK still has my name on it. In any case, my brother paid it last week," he said, adding that the quit rent was for a piece of land in Kampung Perepat, Kapar.

"I admit that I have not paid it and will do so tomorrow (today)."

Nasaruddin said the extension for his house in Taman Sri Andalas was done five years ago. "I admit I took the issue of building plans lightly and regret it. I submitted the plans today (yesterday)."