Zakaria to meet Sultan to explain mansion

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SHAH ALAM: Port Klang assemblyman Datuk Zakaria Md Deros will present his side of the story to the Sultan of Selangor today.

Palace sources confirmed yesterday that a royal audience was scheduled at the Istana Bukit Kayangan here at 11am.

Zakaria, who is also Klang Umno division chief, would have to explain to the Sultan why he built his four-storey mansion in Kampung Idaman without council approval, said the sources.

The Sultan had first summoned Zakaria for an audience last week but relented when informed that the assemblyman had been hospitalised.

Palace sources said the Sultan was displeased when he read in the newspapers on Thursday that Zakaria was holidaying in a chalet in Alor Gajah, Malacca, when he was supposed to be in hospital.

Yesterday, Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo also seemed irritated with Zakaria's evasiveness.

Just last week, Dr Khir had appeared sympathetic and told the press not to disturb Zakaria who was ill.

However, his tone changed on Thursday. Dr Khir instructed Zakaria to meet the Sultan immediately.

Yesterday, Zakaria attended the Hari Raya open house at the Malacca International Trade Centre where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was present.

Daud Awang, publication secretary to the Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, said he met Zakaria.

"He looked ill," said Daud.

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