

Zuraida urged to quit PKR over Haziq remarks

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PETALING JAYA: Cracks within PKR continue to grow with its Wanita vice-chief calling on vice-president Zuraida Kamaruddin to quit the party over her contradictory statements about Haziq Abdullah Abdul Aziz, who has confessed to being in a sex video.

Datin Faizah Ariffin said Zuraida should have adhered to the party's decision to issue the Santubong PKR Youth chief a show cause letter but instead, her personal statements had gone against the party's position.

Slamming Zuraida's statement as "disrespectful" to the party, Faizah called for action against the Ampang MP and questioned her motive.

"Zuraida is a member of the PKR political bureau that convened to make a decision on Haziq and Datuk Seri Azmin Ali.

"The decision made by the PKR

disciplinary board on June 16 has the consensus from the political bureau on June 19," said Faizah.

"As a leader, she should defend the board's decision. Her actions clearly show that she does not respect the party. It is time for her to leave the party.

"In the goal to rebuild the country, we do not need people like this," she said.

On Monday, Zuraida, who is also the Housing and Local Government Minister, said that if it were up to her, Haziq would have been sacked at once from the party.

This came following an earlier call by Zuraida on the party to sack Haziq after he admitted to being one of the two men in the viral sex video and claimed that the other person was party deputy president Datuk Seri Azmin Ali, who denied the allegation.

The disciplinary board issued Haziq a show cause letter on Wednesday and gave him 14 days to respond.

Last week, 21 out of the party's 25 elected Youth leaders had also called for Haziq to be kicked out.

In a statement, Zuraida's political secretary Nor Hizwan Ahmad said it was important that Faizah understood democracy and the right to expression within the party.

"Her failure to understand this matter clearly shows her shallowness in really understanding the true fight of PKR," he said, adding that the party was set up based on the commitment that every member had the right to voice their opinions and not become a "yes man" to anyone.

Urging everyone to respect Zuraida's statement, Nor Hizwan said he hoped that Faizah could be more mature and not use insulting words in giving her own opinions.

"Such an act not only embarrasses Wanita but herself," he said.

In Putrajaya, PKR secretary-general Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said its political bureau

would discuss if action should be taken against Zuraida for making public her stand, which was against what the party had decided.

"We have our weekly meeting. We will see if the matter is raised. But what is important is for Zuraida to respect the collective decision made by the political bureau on this matter," he said to a question.

Saifuddin pointed out that Zuraida, as PKR vice-president, had also sat in the meeting and taken part in the discussion.

"After weighing its pros and cons, we made a collective decision. It is better if we respect the decision," he said after attending the National Council on Cost of Living meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

"The disciplinary board presented its recommendations and the bureau discussed it.

"Zuraida also took part in the discussion. We then made a collective decision on it," Saifuddin said.