

## Ministry will address Prof Haim if polemics over shortened UUM VC tenure continues

By [Ahmad Mukhsein Mukhtar](#) - August 1, 2023 @ 2:59pm



PN DUN Jitra candidate, Prof Dr Haim Hilman Abdullah greeted traders and customers including non-Malay voters around Pasar Besar, Jitra. - NSTP/AIZAT SHARIF

SINTOK: The Higher Education Ministry will address the issue regarding former Universiti Utara Malaysia vice-chancellor [Prof Dr Haim Hilman Abdullah](#) if he continues to speak about his shortened tenure as the institution's VC in his state election campaign.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin said although the ministry has already explained the reasoning behind Haim's shortened tenure, further clarification on the matter will be provided in due course.

"He (Haim) already made a statement saying he does not want to prolong that matter and the ministry has already responded to this issue previously.

"However, when the time comes, the ministry will address this matter further," he told reporters after an official work visit at UUM today.

Also present was UUM vice-chancellor Prof Dr Mohd Foad Sakdan.

Earlier today, Haim who is standing as PN's candidate for the Jitra seat said he declined to prolong polemics over the Higher Education Ministry's move to shorten his tenure.

In a Facebook post titled "Ranjau Sepanjang Jalan" Haim said he decided not to drag the matter further as he wished to dedicate his full attention to the coming 15th state election campaign.

He acknowledged that there had been relentless personal attacks against him lately but said he was prepared to face the situation before deciding to jump into politics.

Meanwhile, UUM political analyst Prof Dr Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani questioned Haim's intention behind his decision to contest in the state election.

"Another question arises- is Prof Haim entering politics to serve the people of Jitra or merely using the state election platform to criticise the Higher Education Ministry and UUM for what happened to him?"

"It's quite evident that his intention is not to serve the people of Jitra. As his friend, I think he should rectify his intentions," he added.

On Saturday, the Higher Education Ministry said Haim's tenure as the UUM vice-chancellor was cut short due to his performance.

The ministry, in a statement said Haim's leadership performance report had been submitted to the university's board of directors via a letter dated June 16, 2022.

The ministry also denied claims that the shortening of Haim's appointment was related to him contesting in Jitra.

In a separate matter, Khaled asserted that private universities hold the right to determine whether their students can take leave to vote in the upcoming state elections.

"The ministry has no authority over private institutions' decisions on that matter. We will leave it entirely to the institutions' discretion," he added.