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Faisal wants board to be transparent

KUANTAN, Wed. - Umno member Datuk Faisal Abdullah, who was found guilty by the party's disciplinary board for indulging in money politics, has accepted the decision "with an open heart" but wants the the board to be more transparent.

Faisal wants clarification from the board on the guidelines in determining the severity of punishment for offences committed.

He told a Press conference here today that he was not disputing the disciplinary board's decision against him but was merely "seeking a clarification".

Also present was Abas Kassim, who like Faisal, has also been barred from contesting or being appointed to party posts for six years for committing the offence.

Faisal said there were 14 charges brought against him while Abas had only one but had received the same punishment.

He said that it would help clear the air if the board would make known the guidelines used in determining the length of time the guilty party was barred from party elections.

"As a loyal party member, I abide by the decision," he said, adding that an appeal letter was sent to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Aug 17.

Copies of the appeal letter were also sent to Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Pahang Umno liaison chief Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and disciplinary board chairman Tengku Tan Sri Ahmad Rithauddeen Tengku Ismail.

Faisal also raised the issue of allegations of money politics against the incumbent Kuantan Umno deputy chief Datuk Wan Adnan Wan Mamat for which he had documented evidence but the latter was let off the hook.

"I have documents to show that Wan Adnan was involved. These include the disbursement of RM3,138 allocation and a sponsored trip for 80 Wanita Umno members from the division to Phuket island in Thailand," he said.

Faisal, who is the State Barisan Nasional executive secretary, said he had submitted the documents against Wan Adnan to disciplinary board member Tan Sri Zaki Tun Azmi on May 26.

Asked if he wanted the case involving money politics in the Kuantan division to be re-investigated, he said it would be better that way if justice was to be upheld.

On his post as the State BN executive secretary, he said he had left the matter to the Menteri Besar, who is also the State BN chairman, to decide.

Faisal, who was the Pahang Umno executive secretary between 1971 and 1996, was a contender for the Kuantan division chief post during this year's divisional election.

Out of the 65 branches in the division which convened their delegates' meeting in March, Faisal received the highest number of nominations for the number one post with 31, followed by Wan Adnan (24) and incumbent chief Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman (10).

Following this, Fauzi who is Beserah State Assemblyman, threatened to vacate the seat on March 29.

In his letter to Adnan (Yaakob), Fauzi expressed his intention to step down if his allegations of money politics in the division were not investigated by the party.

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