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Kurup: I told PM, Rahmat before acting

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup said today he had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamad Rahmat before suspending his deputy Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan last week.

"Before I acted, I informed the Prime Minister and the BN secretary-general. They were both aware of my intention," Kurup said.

Kurup, who was speaking to reporters after opening the Wanita and Youth meetings at PBRs' seventh annual congress, also said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has not contacted him to resolve the issue of Jeffrey's suspension.

Kurup said he was sad that Jeffrey had made an allegation of sexual misconduct against him at a Press conference yesterday.

Jeffrey had said Kurup was "fined" two buffaloes and a pig for sleeping with a schoolgirl 37 years ago and produced a photocopy of a news report on the matter.

"I feel very sad that it has turned out like this. We have to focus on unity among our members. I will refer the allegation to my lawyer," Kurup said.

He had given five reasons for suspending Jeffrey, one of which was that the Bingkor Assemblyman was having an affair with a married woman.

Meanwhile, Bernama quoted Kurup as saying that he has clear evidence that 60 branches from the Tambunan division consists of non-members.

In the Pensiangan division, he said, some of the heads of branches were not even members of the party.

The Kadamaian division was not suspended but the number of delegates to the congress has been restricted, he added.

About 219 officials from 26 divisions had registered to attend the two-day congress.

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