

Lajim given the boot
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KUALA LUMPUR: The appointment of Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin as the Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government has been revoked with immediate effect.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office said that Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah had given his consent to the revocation of the appointment.

The revocation was made under Clause (3) Article 43A which was read together with Clause (5) Article 43 of the Federal Constitution.

Last Saturday, Lajim announced his resignation as a member of the Umno supreme council, Beaufort Umno division head, and chairman of the Beaufort Barisan Nasional with immediate effect. However, he remains as an Umno member.

When announcing his resignation in Likas Jaya, near Kota Kinabalu, Lajim was later reported to have said that he was leaving it to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to decide on his position as Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government.

At that event, he appeared together with Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Lajim, 57, was elected as a member of Parliament in the 2008 general election, replacing the incumbent for the Beaufort seat, Azizah Mohd Dun, after defeating Lajim Md Yusof (PKR) with a majority of 10,914 votes.

He was later appointed as the Deputy Minister of Transport in 2008 before changing portfolio as Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government in 2009.

In Kota Kinabalu, Lajim chose to remain mum over his sacking.

His press officer Jaafar Wahid said Lajim would not be commenting on the matter.

Jaafar said Lajim would call for a press conference at an appropriate time to address various issues.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said Lajim's removal as deputy minister was in accordance with procedures.

"If a leader does not subscribe to his party's principles, why should he hold on to a government post? It's no use trying to hold on in the hope of garnering sympathy," he said, adding that the Government would not be distracted by Lajim's decision and was "moving forward".

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