

**Bakri Umno Division Chief Suspended Over Money Politics, Confirms Johor Umno Secretary
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JOHOR BAHRU, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- The Johor Umno Liaison Committee today confirmed that Bakri Umno Division chief Datuk Saipolbahri Suib has been suspended as a party member for involvement in money politics during the party elections last year.

The suspension of Saipolbahri, who is the state assemblyman for Bukit Naning, was confirmed by Johor Umno Liaison Committee secretary Mohd Jais Sarday.

"Yes," he said in an SMS message to Bernama today when asked to verify news that the Bakri Umno Division chief had been suspended as a member by the Umno headquarters recently.

Mohd Jais, who is a senior state executive councillor, declined to elaborate on the suspension.

The Bukit Naning assemblyman is also chairman of the National Farmers Association (Nafas) and retained the post of divisional chief after beating his challengers, the late Datuk Mazlan Sabari and Lokman Mohd Dom, in the elections.

Johor Umno Liaison Committee executive secretary, Ramlee Bohani, when contacted today, declined comment on the suspension and asked to refer to the Umno headquarters.

Meanwhile, sources told Bernama that Saipolbahri, along with four other leaders of the division, had been suspended for two terms by the Umno Disciplinary Committee.

The four others are secretary Mat Saad Amat, information chief Yaacob Jamian, committee member Uzir Sahid and Wanita vice-head Safiah Siwon, they said.

The sources also said that a meeting was held among leaders of the branches to collect signatures in support of the appeal against the suspensions to be submitted to Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Mat Saad, when contacted, said they were in the process of forwarding the appeal.

A check by Bernama found the Bakri Umno Division office to be quiet, with only a clerk at work there.

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