

**Pagoh Umno rejects Muhyiddin's suspension**  
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**By Mohd Farhan Darwis**

Pagoh Umno has rejected the party's decision to suspend Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin until the next elections.

The Johor division's deputy chief Ismail Mohamed told The Malaysian Insider the move by the party's supreme council last night did not follow required procedures according to the Umno constitution.

"In a meeting today, Pagoh Umno decided to reject Muhyiddin's suspension," said Ismail in a statement shared with The Malaysian Insider.

The meeting which started at 11.15am and ended at 1.20pm also decided that Muhyiddin's suspension was a betrayal to Umno members as he was legitimately elected by party members nationwide.

Muhyiddin lost his deputy president post upon suspension of his membership, which was effective immediately.

"Muhyiddin stated the wrongdoing and criminal actions of Umno president (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) based on trusted reports from government sources such as the former Attorney General (Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail), Bank Negara Malaysia governor (Tan Sri Zeti Aziz) and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

"He ticked off the president to strengthen the party not for personal gain. He took the responsibility to defend the party and country's image," said Ismail.

He said the Pagoh division also agreed that Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz should face disciplinary action for using vulgar words against Muhyiddin.

The division also slammed party vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, who is from Johor, for leading the meeting which decided on Muhyiddin's suspension.

"Umno Pagoh is disappointed that the vice-president from Johor was forced to lead Muhyiddin's suspension.

"It shows the party president continuing to break up Umno Johor leaders.

"Umno Pagoh will continue to stand with Muhyiddin in the latter's mission," said Ismail.

Hishammuddin led the meeting when the motion on suspension was tabled as party president Datuk Seri Najib Razak and vice-president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi recused themselves, while the other vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie

Apdal was absent.

In a statement today, Muhyiddin said his suspension was not according to procedure as he was not given a chance to defend himself nor was he made to face the party's disciplinary board first.

But he also said he was not surprised at the decision and would not be appealing the suspension.

Zahid is to take over duties as party deputy president. – February 27, 2016.

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