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## Johari and Saiful back in silat positions

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## Johari and Saiful back in silat positions

Ousted Singapore Silat Federation (Persisi) president Johari Mokti and secretary-general Saiful Nizam have regained their posts, following a tense three weeks after they were removed amid stories about alleged mismanagement.

Their reinstatement came after a 2½-hour meeting with Singapore Sports Council's director of national sports management division Ng Eng Soon yesterday afternoon.

At 4.30pm, Johari emerged from a meeting room at the SSC's offices at Kallang with a broad smile.

### Wang Meng Meng

Saiful is in South Korea on official business. Assistant secretary-general Bahtiar Kassim attended yesterday's meeting on his behalf.

"I'm thankful that the SSC has helped us solve the problem," Johari declared.

"Persisi's entire management committee agreed that I will remain as president and Saiful as secretary-general."

Johari said there was no tension at the meeting, adding that medal targets for Persisi were also discussed apart from the ouster issue.

He said: "The whole committee will work as a team towards taking

silat to greater heights.

"We have a vision for silat to

gain more popularity and we have targeted at least two gold medals at the Asian Beach Games.”

The event will be held in Bali from Oct 18 to 26.

Three weeks ago, Johari and Saiful were ousted from the management committee for allegedly failing in their duties.

A source said the duo's management skills were found wanting in at least 30 to 40 instances.

However, the ouster was deemed illegal as the duo were not voted out after an extraordinary general meeting (EOGM).

There was also a media report that an EOGM would be held on Oct 16 to formally boot them out.

But Johari said: “That newspaper report was completely untrue.

“No such EOGM was planned. And there will not be an EOGM on Oct 16.

“Everybody in the management committee of Persija has kept his post.”

Bahtiar said: “All these are just rumours. There is no truth in the stories that were spread around.

“What is important is that all differences in opinion within the management committee have now been resolved.”

ST PHOTO:



: SHAHRIYA YAHAYA

**Johari Mokti leaving the conference room after the meeting with the Singapore Sports Council officials yesterday. Behind him is Bahtiar Kassim.**