

Umno: We'll challenge any move to expel Mustapha

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno will challenge any move by the Sabah State Assembly to expel Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun as Usukan state assemblyman.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the party would take the PBS-dominated state assembly to court if it expels the former Usno president.

"Tun Datu Mustapha will not quit. If they (PBS) want to expel him as the state assemblyman for Usukan, they can do so.

"But if they do, we will face them in court as we will seek an interpretation of the laws.

"We feel he has not violated the state constitution because he contested in Usukan under the Barisan Nasional banner and is still in the Barisan," he told newsmen after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at the party headquarters here.

It was reported on Tuesday that Sabah Speaker Datuk Haji Hassan Alban Sandukong intended to call for a special sitting of the state assembly to determine Tun Datu Mustapha's position in the state assembly.

Datuk Haji Hassan Alban Sandukong was also quoted as saying that the state assembly had written to Tun Datu Mustapha seeking clarification on whether he had joined Umno.

"We will act based on the newspaper and television reports," he was quoted to have said.

On Feb 23, Umno passed Tun Mustapha's application to join the party and on the same day he handed in his resignation letter as Usno president.

However, 11 other Usno state assemblymen have been told to stay put although they have expressed their intention to join Umno.