

27 DEC 1996

Muhammad-DAP

KIT SIANG CALLS ON MUHAMMAD TAIB TO DECLARE ASSETS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang today called on Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib, who was arrested in Australia for an alleged currency offence, to publicly declare his assets.

He said the DAP supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's directive to Muhammad to submit a report on the incident in which the Menteri Besar allegedly failed to declare the equivalent of A\$1.2 million (RM2.4 million) in various currency before boarding a flight to New Zealand at the Brisbane airport on Sunday.

Muhammad was charged in a local court and released on unconditional bail.

In a statement, Lim said it was imperative that Muhammad gives a full and satisfactory accounting of the money not only to the Prime Minister but also to the entire nation.

"As the issue of personal integrity has been raised by the incident, Muhammad should publicly declare his assets when he became Selangor Menteri Besar 10 years and his current assets," Lim said.

Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) also said it supported the Prime Minister's directive to Muhammad.

PRM secretary-general Dr Sanusi Osman said Muhammad's arrest in Brisbane with such a large sum of money raised "many big questions and interpretations".

"The people want to know how and where the money came from. If the Menteri Besar's monthly salary was accumulated since he assumed office, without a sen being spent, the total would not reach RM2.4 million. Muhammad's explanation is eagerly awaited," he said. -- BERNAMA

SJ CTL