

17 JAN 1996

LEAD Rahim - decision

RAHIM TO ANNOUNCE DECISION NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Former Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik will announce on Monday whether he will assume the post of Umno Youth head.

The Umno Supreme Council last night decided that he had the right to reassume the post as he had been cleared of the charges made against him.

Abdul Rahim, 45, said he would meet Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Acting Umno Youth head Datuk Nazri Abdul Aziz before announcing his decision.

He was speaking to reporters outside the Sessions Court in Jalan Raja here today.

The court acquitted and discharged him of a charge of not declaring his assets and that of his wife and children to the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA).

Nazri, who is Acting Umno Youth Chief, had stated that he wished to return the post to Rahim as he had been cleared of the charges made against him.

Rahim stepped down as Chief Minister and Umno Youth head in 1994 after being linked to a controversy involving an underage girl.

He also faced two corruption charges and a charge of not declaring all his assets and that of his wife and children.

Investigations by the Attorney-General found that there was no evidence to link Rahim in the case involving the girl and the corruption charges against him were dropped as there was no case against him.

The Sessions Court today cancelled the summons against him on a charge of not declaring his assets.

Rahim who was cheerful when he emerged from the court thanked the Umno leadership for allowing him to reassume the post of Umno Youth head. --

"I am also thankful to Allah that UMNO is a party that upholds the principles of justice and the law and not a party which harbours prejudice and suspicion," he told reporters on emerging from the court.

"I will only announce my stand after meeting the three leaders. Probably I will make the decision on Monday," he said.

Rahim was accompanied to the court by his wife Puan Sri Zabedah Abdullah and his lawyers Datuk Dominic Puthuchearry.

Judge Zura Yahya acquitted and discharged Rahim after DPP Datuk Abdul Gani Patail withdrew the charge.

Declining comment on the possibility of him reassuming the post of Melaka Chief Minister, Rahim said this matter was the prerogative of the party leadership.

Rahim was confident that the Supreme Council decision would not create disunity in Umno Youth as all Umno members including those from Umno Youth were mature and they were always guided by the Umno party spirit.

Asked about the stand taken by several state Umno Youth that he should not reassume the post, Rahim said they adopted the stand before the Umno Supreme Council made its decision.

"We are one when the Supreme Council had made the decision," he said.

Asked about the factors he would take into account when arriving at his decision, Rahim said: "Many... will consider all."

Reporter: How long will you take to solve your personal problem?

Rahim: What problem?

Reporter: It was stated in the minutes of the recent Umno Youth meeting

that you will be given some time to solve your personal problem.

Rahim: There shouldn't be any problem

Reporter: Did you meet the Youth Exco to get its views on the resolution it adopted earlier.

Rahim: Why should I?. It's not that I want to lobby. -- BERNAMA