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Asiaweek article on Muhammad quitting party post not true

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim described as rumours an Asiaweek article which inferred that Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib would resign as Umno vice-president before the conclusion of his court case in Brisbane.

Asked to comment on a report in the April 25 edition, Anwar said: "Why do you want to entertain (the) rumours section? When have they been given the credibility?"

Although Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad had said Muhammad's position as party vice-president would be considered only after the court case, the article said "latest intimations suggest, however, that he will have to go before that".

On rumours that Dr Mahathir would appoint Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib as the new Umno vice-president, Anwar said: "Is that so?"

Muhammad is facing two charges in the Brisbane magistrate's court for allegedly failing to declare the equivalent of RM2.4 million while leaving the Brisbane International Airport for New Zealand on Dec 22 and for making a false declaration.

He resigned as Selangor Menteri Besar on April 14 but retained his vice-president's post in Umno.

Muhammad also vacated his positions as the Selangor and Federal Territory Umno liaison chairman and the Selangor and Federal Territory Barisan Nasional chairman.

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