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Muhammad-chronology

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS FOLLOWING MUHAMMAD'S CASE IN BRISBANE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 (Bernama) -- It all began when Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib was detained at the Brisbane international airport on December 22 last year as he was leaving for New Zealand when Australian customs officers discovered currency equivalent to RM2.4 million which had been brought into the country.

The money were in three currencies -- Malaysian ringgit, Singapore dollars and New Zealand dollars.

Following is the chronology on the case:

On Dec 22 1996, he was detained and later released by the Brisbane Magistrate Court on personal bond. He was required to be present at the Federal Court on March 21 1997.

On Dec 25 1996, Selangor Umno Deputy Liaison Chief Datuk Abu Hasan Omar met the Sultan of Selangor to explain the case on Muhammad.

On Dec 25, Abu Hassan gave an explanation to the state Excos and Selangor Umno leaders on the issue.

On Dec 28 1996, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he believed in the principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

On Dec 30, Muhammad explained that the RM2.4 million cash that he was carrying belonged to his three brothers who wanted to buy properties in the Gold Coast, Brisbane.

On Dec 30 1996, Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) Director-General Datuk Shafee Yahaya said the ACA might call Muhammad for an explanation.

On Dec 30 1996, the Sultan of Selangor said the position of the Menteri Besar would only be determined by the Prime Minister.

At 8.45 am, on Jan 2 1997, Muhammad resumed duties after his two-week leave abroad.

On Jan 2, Pas Youth movement lodged a police report against him for taking cash out of the country far exceeding the allowable limit stipulated by Bank Negara Malaysia.

On March 16, Selangor DAP conducted a straw poll survey on the position of Selangor Menteri Besar pertaining to the case.

On April 7 1997, the case against Muhammad was postponed from March 21 to April 11 for mention in court.

On April 10 1996, the Prime Minister said the ACA needed to ascertain the validity of the report which linked the Selangor Menteri Besar to the alleged ownership of properties in Australia.

On April 11 1997, the Magistrate Court Stependiary, Brian Hine, said Muhammad who was charged with attempting to bring out cash from Australia would face another charge of making a false declaration when appearing in the same court on August 19. -- BERNAMA

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