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MB: LIAISON COMMITTEE LEAVES IT TO SULTAN, DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 22 (Bernama) -- The Selangor Umno Liaison Committee will leave it to His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad the question of appointing a new Menteri Besar for the state, its deputy head Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said today.

There was no need for the committee to hold a special meeting to discuss a suitable successor to Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib who resigned on April 14, he said.

"We, just like the State Executive Councillors, will unanimously support and cooperate with whoever is appointed as the new Menteri Besar," Abu Hassan, who is Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, said after launching last year's annual report of the Registrar of Companies.

Selangor Umno was confident that His Royal Highness and Dr Mahathir would make an appropriate choice acceptable to the people of Selangor and party members, he said.

Yesterday Dr Mahathir had an audience with the Sultan at which they were believed to have discussed the appointment of a new Menteri Besar. After the audience the Prime Minister said he needed more time to select a candidate and submit his name to the Sultan.

Muhammad's resignation was announced by Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, after chairing's the party's monthly Supreme Council meeting on April 12.

Muhammad also stepped down as Selangor Umno Liaison Committee Chairman and Chairman of the Selangor and Federal Territory Barisan Nasional.

He however remains an Umno Vice-President and Member of Legislatiave Assembly (MLA) for Batang Kali.

Muhammad faces a charge of not declaring money amounting to RM2.4 million in his possession to Australian Customs before leaving Brisbane, Australia on Dec 22 as required by Australian law.-- BERNAMA

SJA AAM