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Sabbaruddin-Umno

MUHAMMAD'S UMNO POST NOT IN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

KUALA LUMPUR, May 9 (Bernama) -- Umno Secretary-General Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today the post of Umno Vice-President held by former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib is not in the agenda of the Supreme Council meeting tomorrow.

This was because Muhammad's case was disposed off at the April 12 meeting of the Supreme Council, he told reporters after visiting the Pudu Prison Museum here in his capacity as Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism.

Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced after that meeting that Muhammad would resign as Selangor Menteri Besar because of the court case he was facing in Australia following Muhammad's failure to declare cash worth RM2.4 million when leaving Brisbane Airport on Dec 22 last year.

Two days after the April 12 Supreme Council meeting, Muhammad quit as Menteri Besar but said he would remain party Vice-President and as State Assemblyman for Batang Kali.

Following this, some Umno officials expressed views that Muhammad should also resign as Vice-President, prompting speculations that Muhammad's position would be discussed at tomorrow's meeting.

He said the chairman of the management committee and party Deputy President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would submit a report on the committee's meeting on May 7, which was expected to touch on the branch meetings and the problems encountered.

Asked whether the post of party president needed to be held in an acting capacity since the President was going on leave, Sabbaruddin said he did not remember as to whether this was provided for in the party constitution.

Dr Mahathir announced yesterday that Anwar would be Acting Prime Minister while he was two months' leave from May 19. -- BERNAMA

AFY AAM