

05/02/1997

Muhammad: No internal conspiracy to topple me

SHAH ALAM, Tues. - Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Taib said today there was no internal conspiracy to topple him as reported by a Chinese-language newspaper.

Muhammad, who is Umno vice-president and Selangor and Federal Territory Umno liaison chief, also said he had not submitted a resignation letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He was asked by reporters today to clarify reports attributed to him that there was an internal conspiracy to topple him after he was charged in a Brisbane court for failing to declare RM2.37 million at the airport en route to New Zealand.

Muhammad was asked whether rumours that he had submitted a resignation letter to Dr Mahathir was true.

"I never mentioned that there was an internal conspiracy to topple me. Probably he (the reporter) created the issue from the stories he had heard.

"I told him I did not know whether it was true or not. I never remember saying anything about a conspiracy," he said after attending a ceremony to mark the upgrading of the status of three district councils to municipal councils.

A Nanyang Siang Pau report quoted Muhammad as saying that certain parties had met the Selangor Sultan and offered to take over his post after the Menteri Besar was charged in the Australian court.

The claim was purportedly made in a special interview with the Chinese New Paper on Sunday which was picked up by the Singapore Straits Times and Utusan Malaysia.

In a Press conference on Dec 30, Muhammad said the money belonged to three of his brothers who had entrusted him with it for the purchase of property in the Gold Coast of Brisbane.

Muhammad decided to take the money back to Malaysia when the deal could not be finalised.

Muhammad said there was no reason for him to make such an accusation as he enjoyed the strong support of the State Umno, Barisan Nasional and the Government.

On rumours that he had submitted his resignation letter, Muhammad said it was unfounded as he was looking forward to a hectic schedule after the fasting month.

"I am carrying out my duties and I have many programmes to be launched including a voluntary organisation which will deal with social problems, an exemplary housing estate and development of the State's west coast areas. Also, there is a lot to be done for the Putrajaya and the Multimedia Super Corridor projects."

In jest, he added: "Rumours are also good ... at least I become famous. People talk about me and there are not many people as famous as I am ... that means I am an important man."

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