

07 JAN 1997

Muhammad-Brother

MUHAMMAD'S YOUNGER BROTHER CORROBORATES ELDER BROTHER'S STATEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) --The younger brother of Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib today confirmed that money amounting to RM2.4 million which the Menteri Besar is said to have failed to declare in Australia belonged to the family and was meant for the purchase of property in Queensland's Gold Coast.

Datuk Raduan, Executive Chairman of a listed company, said Muhammad's statement about the money was true.

He said this in response to reporters' questions at a function in Sungai Besi, which was also attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Muhammad was detained on Dec 22 at the Brisbane Airport for allegedly failing to declare cash amounting to RM2.4 million to Australian Customs as required by that country's laws.

He is required to appear at the Brisbane Magistrate's Court on March 21.

At a news conference here on Dec 30, Muhammad had said the money belonged to his elder brother Datuk Othman and his two younger brothers Raduan and Hassan.

Raduan said he knew the money was for the purchase of property in Australia but did not want to talk about it as it might be considered subjudice.

"As the case was before the court, we were advised not to make any statement which can be construed as subjudice," Raduan said. -- BERNAMA

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