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Nik Aziz-Muhammad

MUHAMMAD'S RESIGNATION A RIGHT MOVE, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, April 14 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib made a right move by resigning as the Selangor Menteri Besar to safeguard the state government's image, said the Menteri Besar of the PAS-led Kelantan state.

Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the move showed that Muhammad, who is a vice-president of Umno, realised the implications of his court case and did not want the matter to be linked to the state government.

"The decision to quit the post on his own free will is better than resigning after being ordered to so," Nik Abdul Aziz told reporters after attending a briefing on social ills here today.

Muhammad's resignation was announced by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after an Umno Supreme Council meeting on Saturday.

Muhammad, 51, is charged with failing to declare cash equivalent to A\$1.2 million (about RM2.4 million) at the Brisbane International Airport on Dec 22, last year. He faces another charge of making a false declaration pertaining to the cash found in his luggage.

Nik Aziz said leaders who faced personal problems that could be linked to their organisations should clear their names immediately so as not affect the organisations.

The Kelantan Menteri Besar also did not dispute claims that opposition parties too played a major role in getting leaders faced with problems to clear their names before something damaging happened to their organisations.

BD AHH SK