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Muhammad: Support my successor

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SHAH ALAM, Sun. - Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, who resigned yesterday, has urged Umno members to support anyone chosen by the party leadership to be his successor.

This was his message to members of the Selangor and Federal Territory Umno Liaison Committee whom he met at his residence last night.

"I told them to support anyone who is appointed as my successor," Muhammad told reporters at his residence today after inviting them for tea.

Earlier in the day, Muhammad had accompanied Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Malaysian Grand Prix 97 site at the Shah Alam race track.

Besides resigning as Menteri Besar, Muhammad is also resigning as Selangor and Federal Territory Umno liaison chief and Selangor and Federal Territory Barisan Nasional chairman.

Muhammad faces two charges in Australia relating to his failure to declare cash amounting to A\$1.2 million (RM2.4 million) at the Brisbane International Airport on Dec 22.

Muhammad said he also explained the reasons why he decided to step down but he refused to give details of the meeting.

"I will explain everything in a Press conference at my office tomorrow morning."

In the afternoon, Muhammad met State and Federal BN leaders at his residence to also explain the reasons for his resignations.

At the meeting, the Selangor MCA chairman Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh spoke on Muhammad's contribution towards Selangor's development.

"The MCA will continue to support whoever is appointed as the next Menteri Besar," he told reporters after the meeting.

State MIC deputy chairman S.S. Rajagopal, who attended the meeting, said the MIC would also co-operate with the next Menteri Besar.

Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon described Muhammad's decision to step down as "appropriate and wise".

"As stated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, a problem faced by a leader should not jeopardise the administration or a party," he told reporters after attending Vasakhi Day celebrations at the Sikh Gurdwara in Penang.

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