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Selangor Umno to abide by PM's choice of successor

SHAH ALAM, Mon. - Selangor Umno will abide by the decision of the party leadership in choosing the candidate to succeed Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib both as its chairman and the next Menteri Besar.

Selangor Umno liaison committee secretary Datuk Onn Ismail said the committee in its meeting on Saturday decided to leave it to the wisdom of party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to choose whoever he felt fit to succeed Muhammad for both posts.

He said Selangor Umno would extend its fullest support to whoever was chosen by Dr Mahathir.

Asked if the committee had recommended any successor to Muhammad, Onn said, it had not.

"We have agreed to leave it all to Dr Mahathir to decide. We have not made any recommendation at all," he added.

Selangor Umno, he said, although saddened by Muhammad's decision, had decided to accept it with an open mind.

"We respect his decision to resign and accept it as his sacrifice to the party to ensure that whatever problem that he is currently facing will not implicate the party."

As far as the State Umno was concerned, he said, Muhammad's action proved his sincerity in upholding the good image of the party before his own interest.

Selangor Umno, he said, thanked Muhammad for his able and dynamic leadership.

"We hope Muhammad will continue to contribute his ideas and experience towards the advancement of the party and the State," he added.

Meanwhile in Malacca, Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani said Muhammad had the right to maintain the posts of party's vice-president and Batang Kali Assemblyman as those were elected posts.

He said being elected, Muhammad had to fulfil his obligations and duty to the party and country as entrusted by party members and voters in Batang Kali.

"Therefore, it is Muhammad's right to maintain those two posts as he is elected by the people," he said.

He was commenting on Muhammad's announcement to maintain the two posts today.

Mohd Zin, who is also the State Umno liaison chief, said if Umno members and Batang Kali constituents chose not to have him, then it would be a different matter altogether.

He added that Muhammad's decision to resign his post as Selangor Menteri Besar and Federal Territory and Selangor Umno liaison committee chairman was appropriate.

In Terengganu, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said Muhammad had the right not to relinquish his position as Umno vice-president and State Assemblyman for Batang Kali.

He said the two positions were elected posts.

"As such, he has the right to remain (as Umno vice-president and State Assemblyman). However, he has resigned as Menteri Besar Selangor and Federal Territory Umno liaison chief and Selangor and Federal Territory Barisan Nasional chairman as he was appointed to hold these positions."

Asked if this was a contradiction, he said: "I don't see it that way. He did not resign (as vice-president and State Assemblyman) because he has

not been proven guilty.

"But when there is a decision on his case (in Australia), that will be a different matter," he said after a briefing on the second Industrial Master Plan at Wisma Darul Iman today.

In Kuala Lumpur, Umno vice-president Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was up to Muhammad to decide on maintaining his party vice-president's post.

"This is purely his decision, just like his decision to relinquish his position as Selangor Menteri Besar and as the party's liaison committee chairman for Selangor and Federal Territory.

"The supreme council accepts this decision. I have no comments."

(END)