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Youth-Muhammad

UMNO YOUTH SATISFIED WITH SELANGOR MB'S EXPLANATION

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 2 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth said today it is satisfied with Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib's explanation regarding his arrest in Australia for allegedly failing to declare an equivalent of RM2.4 million in cash when leaving that country.

"The explanation is satisfactory and we do not want to add any statement because it may aggravate the situation," Umno Youth leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi told reporters at the state Umno office here.

He said Umno Youth shared Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's stand on the matter and did not want to prejudice the issue.

Muhammad was arrested at Brisbane international airport, Australia, on Dec 22 last year for allegedly failing to declare the money to Australian customs.

He said the money belonged to his brothers and was meant for the purchase of property in Australia.

Zahid conceded that the matter had a slight bearing on political situation but felt that PAS need not make an issue of it in the Pulai Chondong by-election.

He said he sympathised with Muhammad and added that the matter had been blown up by the press,

"Let us not judge him before the court makes its decision," he said.

However, he said that Umno leaders should not carry big sums of money overseas because various banking facilities were available for business transactions.

On the by-election on Jan 6, he said Umno Youth would give it fullest cooperation to ensure a Barisan Nasional (BN) victory.

The BN is fielding Yusoff Hamzah in the by-election while the PAS candidate is Zulkefli Mamat. -- BERNAMA

RAR JK