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Umno-Muhammad

MAT TAIB TO EXPLAIN TO MAHATHIR ON HIS ASSETS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- The Umno management and disciplinary committee today decided to give a chance to former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib to explain to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the status of his assets in Malaysia and abroad.

" Before making any recommendations, we give him a chance to explain to Dr Mahathir on his assets," Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik told reporters after the committee meeting chaired by party deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

After Muhammad had given his explanation, it was up to Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, whether to bring up the issue in next Monday's meeting of the supreme council, the party's highest decision-making body, he said.

The Brisbane district court acquitted Muhammad last Friday on two charges of falsely declaring the money he took into Australia in December 1996 and failing to declare more than A\$1.2 million (RM2.9 million) when he left the country.

The council decided on May 10 last year that Muhammad would cease to function as Umno vice-president and would not be involved in the activities of the council pending the outcome of his court case.

During the 10-day trial which started on May 19, Muhammad testified in court that he owned assets worth millions of ringgit in Australia and New Zealand under his wife's name.

The committee did not fix a time frame for Muhammad to explain about his properties to Dr Mahathir, said Sabbaruddin, who is Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

Asked whether Muhammad had been invited to the three-day Umno General Assembly which starts on June 19, he said Muhammad was still on leave.

Sabbaruddin said the committee also proposed to the supreme council to suspend Datuk Waad Mansor, 41, who faces five counts of corruption, as a state executive councillor and Tampin Umno division chief.

The four-term Gemencheh assemblyman who was charged in the Seremban Sessions Court on May 28 claimed trial to all the charges. He was granted total bail of RM260,000 pending the case to be mention at the Seremban High Court on June 22.

He also said the committee discussed on the position of 11 Umno members in Sabah who were said to have joined or participated in the activities of Parti Bersatu Sabah and Parti Bersekutu Sabah, the two main opposition parties in the state.

The committee would recommend to the supreme council to take appropriate action against them if there were incriminating evidence on their involvement, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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