

05/01/1999

`Supreme council to decide on return of Muhammad'

SHAH ALAM, Mon. - Selangor Umno will leave it to the supreme council to decide on whether or not to allow former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib to reassume his vice-president's post.

State Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said as far as Selangor Umno was concerned, only the supreme council could determine Muhammad's political fate. "The State Umno and both its Youth and Wanita wings will abide by any decision taken by the supreme council," he told reporters after receiving his appointment letter as a member of the Selangor Royal Council from the Sultan at Istana Kayangan today.

He was commenting on the statement by the co-chairman of Umno management and disciplinary committee Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Friday that Muhammad should formally inform the council if he was still interested to return to active politics.

Abu Hassan said the State Umno had not received any report from Muhammad about his court case.

Selangor Umno, he said, had not asked Muhammad to do so because it was the supreme council which had asked him to take leave from active politics pending the outcome of his trial.

Abu Hassan said he was happy Muhammad had been cleared of the charge of not declaring his assets by the court as he could devote more time to his constituents in Batang Kali.

The High Court in Kuala Lumpur acquitted Muhammad on Tuesday of a charge of not declaring his assets on the grounds that the prosecution had failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

On Thursday, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the supreme council would decide whether to allow Muhammad to reassume his party post.

(END)