

12/04/1999

Inform panel, Dollah tells Muhammad

Lokman Mansor

UMNO will decide on the position of vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib after receiving a report from him on the Attorney-General's decision to drop the appeal against his acquittal.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who also chairs the party's Management and Disciplinary Committee, said Muhammad should inform the committee which will meet soon.

"We will decide based on the report submitted by him," he said when asked to comment on the status of Muhammad's position as Umno vice-president following the latest decision by the Attorney-General.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after flagging off the Green Run 1999 in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

Muhammad was acquitted by the High Court on December 29 1998 of a charge of failing to declare his and his family's assets to the Anti-Corruption Agency. The Umno Supreme Council, in its first meeting after the acquittal, decided to postpone any decision on Muhammad pending a notice of appeal filed by the Attorney-General's Chambers on January 5.

On Saturday Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah said after studying the full written judgement by High Court Judge Datuk Abdul Wahab Patail, his chambers decided not proceed with the appeal.

Muhammad, on the directive of the Umno Supreme Council, had taken leave from his post as Umno vice-president pending the disposal of the case. He had also resigned as Selangor Menteri Besar.

After the flagging off ceremony, Abdullah planted a tree in front of the Petaling Jaya Stadium to mark this year's edition of the run organised by the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry, BP, the NST Group and the Petaling Jaya Municipal Council.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday reminded the people to stop spreading vicious rumours as such actions can cause anxiety among the people.

The Deputy Prime Minister said such rumours, spread by various means including word of mouth and the Internet, could have serious consequences.

"All sorts of rumours are heard, including those running down Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other unpleasant stories," he said.

He said this when launching a one-day community programme and national anti-dadah campaign at Sekolah Menengah Datuk Haji Ahmad Badawi in Kepala Batas.

(END)