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NAJIB CLARIFIES HIS STATEMENT ON MUHAMMAD

IPOH, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the party needs leaders who can contribute to its progress and assist party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In this regard, he said, Umno welcomed the role that could be played by former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhd Taib.

He said this in clarifying a news report on his statement to reporters after breaking fast at the residence of Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib here on Friday night.

He was quoted as saying that Umno needed leaders of calibre like Muhammad to further strengthen the leadership of the party.

In a statement today, Najib said what he actually stated then was:

"We need our leaders to contribute to the progress of the party and to assist the party president.

"We welcome the role that can be played by Tan Sri (Muhammad) in dealing with the challenges ahead."

The High Court last Tuesday acquitted Muhammad, who is also an Umno vice-president, of failing to declare properties belonging to him and his family, under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1961.

Following this, Dr Mahathir was reported as saying that Muhammad, who is on leave from Umno duties, could become active again in the party.

-- BERNAMA

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