

03 MAY 1999

Mahathir-Muhammad

NO DECISION ON MAT TAIB, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- The Umno supreme council did not make any decision on the position of Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib who has been acquitted of a charge of failing to declare his and that of his family's assets to the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said no decision was made on the matter.

Asked whether this would mean Muhammad would still be on leave from performing his duties as Umno vice-president, Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, merely said: "Yes."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after chairing the supreme council meeting at the party headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre here tonight.

The supreme council directed Muhammad to go on leave on April 14, 1997 after he was charged in a Brisbane court in Australia for failing to declare foreign currencies totalling RM2.4 million.

Following the directive, Muhammad resigned as Selangor Menteri Besar and Umno liaison chief of Selangor and Federal Territory.

However, Muhammad, who was charged under the Financial Transaction Report Act 1988, was acquitted and discharged by the court on May 28 last year.

On June 10 last year, Muhammad was charged in the Kuala Lumpur High Court for failing to declare his and that of his family's assets to the ACA.

He was also acquitted from the charge on Dec 29 last year.

The public prosecutor filed an appeal against the High Court's decision on Jan 5 but Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah announced on April 10 that his chamber's had decided to drop the appeal.

Muhammad was elected as Umno vice-president in 1996 along with Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

-- BERNAMA

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