

08 JAN 1999

Mahathir-Muhammad

UMNO MT SUSPENDS MUHAMMAD TAIB'S PARTICIPATION IN MT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council (MT) has decided to suspend former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib's participation in the MT, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"Since the Attorney-General has filed a notice of appeal, meaning that the case isn't over yet, it's decided to suspend Muhammad Taib's participation in the MT," he told a news conference after chairing the MT meeting which lasted for three hours, here this evening.

Last Tuesday, Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah filed a notice of appeal against the High Court's decision to acquit and discharge Muhammad of a charge for failing to declare his assets and those of his family under the Anti-Corruption Act 1961.

Mohtar as Public Prosecutor had filed the notice of appeal against Judge Datuk Abdul Wahab Patail's decision.

Abdul Wahab in his decision on Dec 29 found Muhammad not guilty to the charge of failing to declare movable or immovable assets belonging to him, his wife and children as required by the Public Prosecutor via a notice dated April 10, 1997.

He was accused of committing the offence at the headquarters of the Anti-Corruption Agency in Persiaran Duta, here on May 26, 1997.

Muhammad, who is on leave as Umno vice-president, informed Umno president of the High Court's decision in a letter last Wednesday.

He also requested that his leave as Umno vice-president be terminated and that he be allowed to return to active politics.

--BERNAMA

TM AHH ABG