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UMNO NEEDS LEADERS OF CALIBRE, SAYS NAJIB

IPOH, Jan 2 (Bernama) -- Umno vice president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has said that Umno needs leaders of calibre like Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib to further strengthen the leadership of the party.

Najib said that Muhammad, who has been welcomed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Umno president, to return to active politics, had an effective role to play in the party.

He was speaking to reporters after breaking fast at the residence of Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, here, last night.

The High Court last Tuesday acquitted Muhammad of failing to declare properties belonging to him and his family, under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1961.

Najib, who is Education Minister, said that Muhammad, who is Umno vice president, had only been on leave, to defend himself in court, and it was now clear that the court's decision showed that he was not guilty.

He however said that the Umno Supreme Council would determine Muhammad's fate and position at its next meeting.

-- BERNAMA

HJ RM