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Let PM name new MB, says committee

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THE Selangor Umno Liaison Committee, expressing shock and dismay over the resignation of Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, is leaving it to the Prime Minister to appoint a successor.

The committee's deputy chairman Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said this after a special meeting at the State Umno headquarters in Shah Alam yesterday.

The committee also met with the State Wanita Umno and Youth committees as well as State Umno elected representatives.

He said names of several candidates for Menteri Besar would be submitted today to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Umno president, for consideration.

"We leave it to the Prime Minister to appoint the new Menteri Besar from among Selangor Umno assemblymen and leaders," he said after the hour-long meeting.

"The important thing is for us to continue strengthening the party in Selangor."

Muhammad said the Selangor Umno Liaison Committee had a meeting with Dr Mahathir at Putrajaya yesterday morning at which the Prime Minister went through the latest developments in the State.

Asked about the names that were submitted, the former Menteri Besar who was replaced by Abu Hassan in 1997, said at this point the number of candidates and their names would not be made public.

Asked if the names were only from among elected representatives, Muhammad said, "That you have to ask the Prime Minister".

Muhammad was confident that Dr Mahathir would appoint a successor speedily as the matter of the Selangor Government administration was of paramount importance.

Asked about the Selangor elected representatives' reaction to the Prime Minister's explanation of the circumstances leading to the resignation, he said they accepted the reasons given by the Prime Minister and the decision made by Abu Hassan.

Selangor Umno recorded its thanks and appreciation to Abu Hassan for discharging his duties as Menteri Besar and State Umno liaison committee chairman.

After the news conference, Muhammad led a state Umno delegation to the official residence of the Menteri Besar at Bukit Megawati in Shah Alam to convey decisions made at the special meeting of the State Umno liaison committee.

The meeting was chaired by Muhammad.

Asked about the reasons for Abu Hassan's resignation, he said it was up to the Prime Minister to state them.

"We are not at liberty to say (the reasons)," he said.

A ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Selangor Development Corporation (PKNS) and Universiti Industri Selangor (Unisel) which Abu Hassan was scheduled to witness yesterday evening had been cancelled.

The Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya yesterday morning announced the resignation of the Selangor Menteri Besar.

Abu Hassan handed in his resignation letter to the Prime Minister yesterday after holding the post of Menteri Besar for three years and two months.

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