

Khir takes over as Selangor Umno chairman

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib has relinquished his Selangor Umno state liaison committee chairman's post to Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

Announcing the development after chairing the party supreme council meeting yesterday, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Muhammad had personally made the offer to let go of the post in favour of Dr Mohd Khir.

Muhammad who took over the post following the resignation of former Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar, is now the deputy chairman of state liaison committee, the post previously held by Dr Mohd Khir.

Dr Mahathir said Muhammad's decision was not something unusual in Umno.

"There have been many cases where the state Umno chiefs let go of their posts to others. Najib (party vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak) did it when he passed the post to Khalil (party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob)," he said.

He said another party vice-president, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, had also let go of that post to current Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Ghani Othman.

"Now all three Umno vice-presidents are only state liaison deputy chiefs in their respective state," he added.

Muhammad later told reporters that he was very sincere when he offered to switch posts with Dr Mohd Khir.

"I was only thinking about the good of Selangor Umno. Dr Mohd Khir is the Mentri Besar and it is only right that he oversees the state Umno," he said, adding that he had full confidence in Dr Mohd Khir's ability in strengthening the party at the state level.