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Mahathir-Resignation

MUHAMMAD TAIB RESIGNS AS SELANGOR UMNO LIAISON CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 24 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib has resigned as Selangor Umno liaison committee chairman, the Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced today.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Khir Toyo has taken over the post, Dr Mahathir said at a news conference after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting here.

He said Muhammad Taib, himself a former Selangor menteri besar had voluntarily stepped down from the post and was in turn appointed deputy liaison chairman.

Dr Mahathir said such positional change was a normal process as had previously occurred in Pahang and Johor involving two party vice-presidents namely Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Najib and Muhyiddin are now respectively deputy chairman of their state Umno liaison committee.

Muhammad Taib was appointed Selangor Umno liaison chairman on July 17, 1987.

Meanwhile, Muhammad, who also attended today's meeting, told reporters later that he decided to step down as it was time to let Dr Mohamed Khir take over the chairmanship of the liaison committee.

"I reckon that Dr Mohamed Khir has been menteri besar for a year-and-a-half already and is +qualified+ to take over. Moreover he is also state Barisan Nasional chairman and as such it is proper that the Umno post be also streamlined and placed under a single leadership," he said.

He said for purpose of standardisation with the other states, the Selangor Menteri Besar should also be the state Umno liaison chairman.

Muhammad added that he had indicated to Dr Mohamed Khir last year that the Selangor Menteri Besar take over the post in the new year.

-- BERNAMA

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