

**Khir Toyo to spend 12 months behind bars**  
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**By Han Kar Kay**

**Former Selangor Menteri Besar Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo has been handed a 12-month jail sentence, to be served beginning today. — Bernama file pic**

**PUTRAJAYA,** Former Selangor Menteri Besar Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo will now spend 12 months behind bars for using his then position to purchase two plots of land and a bungalow in Shah Alam below the market price.

The Federal Court affirmed the Shah Alam High Court's decision and ordered the former Sungai Panjang assemblyman to serve his sentence from today.

A five-member panel led by Chief Justice Zulkefli Ahmad Makinuddin made the ruling together with Justices Jeffrey Tan Kok Wha, Datuk Ramly Ali, Tan Sri Hasan Lah and Tan Sri Ahmad Maarop.

The court has also rejected his mitigation to offer free dental services to the poor for three days weekly between one and two years as part of community service in default of jail.

"The appellant took a valuable thing for a consideration which he knew was inadequate from a person whom he knew was concerned with him as a public servant in his official functions.

"A year's imprisonment which was appealed against was hardly excessive.

"Community service does not apply to the appellant and imprisonment is the right and proper punishment," said Zulkefli.

On the forfeiture of the two plots of land and bungalow, the court affirmed the seizure but unanimously ruled that it is subject to the chargee bank.

After the decision was delivered, Dr Mohamad Khir and his wife Zahrah Kechik still had smiles on their faces.

The former MB is expected to serve his sentence in Kajang Prison.

When met outside the courtroom, his counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah did not dismiss the possibility of turning to the pardon board for his client.

"Pardon is an option but before that, we have another alternative," he said, adding that he will call for a press conference on the matter after the release of the full written judgment.

Last week, the Federal Court upheld the Shah Alam High Court ruling and found the former Selangor MB guilty of the charges after a five-year long legal battle.

In December 2010, Dr Mohamad Khir was charged for purchasing two plots of land and a bungalow in Shah Alam for himself and his wife from Ditamas' director, Shamsuddin at a much lower market price for RM3.5 million instead of RM6.5 million, paid in 2004.

He was charged under section 165 of the Penal Code for obtaining any valuable thing, from an individual he knew is related to his official matter.

The section provides a maximum jail sentence of two years, a fine, or both, upon conviction.

On Dec 23, 2011, the Shah Alam High Court sentenced Dr Khir to 12 months' jail and the authorities also seized the property.

Subsequently, in May 2013, a three-member panel at the Court of Appeal also upheld the sentence as well as the order to confiscate the property.

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