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MUSTAPA TO FOCUS ON GENERAL ELECTION RATHER THAN UMNO POLLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today he would focus on defending his Jeli parliamentary seat in the next general election.

"My focus is to win in the general election," he told reporters at Parliament House lobby when asked whether he would contest the post of Umno deputy president next year.

A front-page report in the Malay daily "Utusan Malaysia", quoting party sources today, did not exclude the possibility of Mustapa, who is Second Finance Minister, going for the post head on against two party vice presidents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Mustapa is also Entrepreneur Development Minister.

The post is vacant following the dismissal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the party on Sept 3, a day after he was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

Party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said earlier he would not appoint a new deputy until the party elections expected to be held middle of next year.

-- BERNAMA

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