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`Matter raised by Muhyiddin settled'

Zubaidah Abu Bakar; Aion Mohd

ALOR STAR, Wed. - The matter raised by Pagoh Umno chief Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin that 18 or 20 divisions in Johor have been blocked by certain people from nominating him for the vice-presidency has been settled, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The party president said Muhyiddin had met him to discuss the matter after the Cabinet meeting today.

Dr Mahathir was asked about this in Titi Gajah after he gave away four cows for the Aidil adha.

In Kuala Lumpur, Muhyiddin said he was satisfied with the outcome of his meeting with Dr Mahathir.

Muhyiddin said he told Dr Mahathir he was ready to provide information given to him by certain groups and added that Dr Mahathir wanted the matter to "cool off".

He said Dr Mahathir also said it was not necessary for him to bring the matter to the supreme council or the party disciplinary committee and that the information given to him was adequate.

Speaking to reporters after the post-Cabinet meeting, Muhyiddin, who is Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, said he welcomed Dr Mahathir's advice that "unity of the party always comes first".

Muhyiddin had so far received nominations from three divisions. He needs at least 14 more nominations to qualify to contest.

He also did not rule out the possibility of "barter trade" among the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers to secure nominations.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, when asked on this, said there was no proof that it existed. When pointed out that the trend of nominations so far suggested that such a pact existed, he said, it was one's own interpretation.

"I see neither barter nor trade," he told reporters after chairing the Umno disciplinary and management committee meeting at Menara Dato' Onn in Kuala Lumpur.

(END)