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Muhyiddin-Umno

NO NEED TO ENDORSE CANDIDATES, SAYS MUHYIDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- The Johor Umno should not endorse only one or two candidates for the vice-president's posts but should let the party members decide on the future leaders, former party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He said Umno delegates to the general assembly in May where elections would be held should keep their options open, especially during the critical time now.

"If more candidates want to stand, why not...the more the merrier, and more options. But if (we) restrict only to one, that will create an impression that the Johor Umno is not united," he said when asked to comment on calls by several state leaders that there should be only one Johor candidate for the post.

So far, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar had indicated his willingness to contest for the post while Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Muhyiddin are expected to do so.

Speaking to reporters after launching a sale at the Pasar Tani site in Jalan Ipoh here today, Muhyiddin, who is Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister and Pagoh Umno division chief, said he had not made up his mind yet whether to contest or not.

"There is no need to rush, still got time. I am still getting feedback from friends and UMNO leaders," he said.

Muhyiddin echoed the statement of Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the party did not accept parochialism and that the allocation of posts should not be made on a state basis.

"It should not be based on state consideration only. This is a process of leadership selection not only for Umno but also for the Malays...about who is in a better position to assist the present leadership, to solve problems, face challenges and bring new ideas to strengthen the party," he said.

Muhyiddin, who got the highest votes for the vice-presidency in the 1993 Umno elections but lost in the next elections, said contests for the three vice president's posts were normal in Umno and there should be no curbs on aspiring candidates.

He said it was time for Umno members to break the state barrier as the elections were for national and not state leaders.

-- BERNAMA

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