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Muhyiddin-Umno

REFRAIN FROM MAKING ASSUMPTIONS, PAS TOLD

MUAR, Dec 28 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has called on PAS to refrain from making various assumptions over efforts to hold discussions on Malay unity.

"There should be no early assumptions...if there are no assumptions something good will be achieved," he told reporters at the Hari Raya Aidil Fitri open house at his residence here today.

He said if there were assumptions then the situation would be exploited by parties out to gain their self interest.

Muhyiddin also stressed that there was a need for a religious platform in efforts to unite the Malays as Islam demanded unity among its believers.

"It is nothing wrong if we sit down and talk openly with only one intention that is to unite the Malays," he said when asked to comment on the statement by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat as reported in the press today.

Nik Aziz was reported as saying that it was too late for Umno to ask for discussions on the issue of Malay unity as there were actually no splits among the Malays only that their stand had changed.

Muhyiddin, who is the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said Islamic ulamas themselves had called for unity among Muslims no matter where they were.

"If we see that there are problems, then we take steps to resolve it. What is important is the race and religion," he said.

Muhyiddin said Umno had already worked on the issue of Malay unity and as a result PAS had agreed to cooperate and became part of the Barisan Nasional (BN) but left the coalition later on due to certain reasons.

"It does not mean that now we should not do anything and let the Malays to squabble in politics due to religious principles, despite Islam wanting its followers to unite."

"If we already know of that situation, then why there should be no efforts. Those who raise it (issue of Malay unity) are not the politicians but academic figures," Muhyiddin said.

He said Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had merely commented on the call made by an academician and there were many others who supported it.

"Hence who will start it...it is Umno. Is that intention not good?. In Islam there should be no malice," he said, adding that, if any parties uphold a narrow political ideology then its struggle will also become narrow.

Muhyiddin said all parties should now open up their minds as the major issue was not that of self interest but that of the Muslims and country.

"If there is good intention then it should be welcomed. If it is received with malice then it will become the otherwise," he said.

-- BERNAMA

MKO ZUL