

Umno confident of leading govt after 2004 polls: Muhyiddin

By R. Manirajan

SUN 0 SEP 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. Umno is confident of its strength in leading the government after the next general election although the country's political scenario changes in a year or two.

Party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said politics is more dynamic than static, therefore three years is a long time and too soon to make a judgment.

He was asked on statements made by Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew that it is possible for Umno to lose further ground in the 2004 election although it is unlikely for PAS to come into power.

Lee, who was on a four-day visit here, had also said that the reason Singapore pushed to resolve outstanding issues with Malaysia was because it fears "the prospect of having to deal with a different government that may be problematic and unable to deliver."

Muhyiddin said Lee, as an individual, has the right to express his views but that does not mean that all his views are right.

"What can I say . . . Lee always shoots his mouth, maybe his intentions are

good but it brings about a lot of other implications.

"We are confident that the Umno-led government will be strong even though the scenario-changes in a year or two," he said after opening the South East Asian Products Exhibition at Mid Valley Megamall.

On Umno losing ground, Muhyiddin said that might be Lee's personal point of view and that he should not interfere in Malaysia's affairs.

"We know better. We don't need advice from outside people and Umno leaders and members know this too. There are problems in Umno.

"Singapore too has (problems) . but that does mean Umno and its leadership do not know what is happening at the ground."

Asked about his personal view of Umno's position, he said the party solves and overcomes many problems from time to time.

"Anyway thanks to Lee Kuan Yew for his advice," Muhyiddin said.

During his visit, Lee and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reached an agreement in principle to resolve outstanding issues between both the countries, in Putrajaya.