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Umno-Reaction (Debate)

LEADERS CAN JUGGLE CHORES WITH GOOD TIME MANAGEMENT, SAYS VEEP

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has dismissed the notion that there is dereliction of duties towards Umno by party leaders holding too many positions in the party and government.

It was more of a question of good time management and the leaders' ability the juggle chores, he said when approached by reporters on Kelantan delegate Datuk Ibrahim Ali's proposal at the Umno General Assembly today.

As such the question of those Umno leaders wearing too many hats neglecting their responsibility towards Umno did not arise, said Muhiyiddin, who is the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs.

"I reckon this is a question of time management. If one can set aside the time, there is no problem. I observe that many colleagues are coping well," he said.

During debate on the presidential address, Ibrahim suggested that Umno limit the number of posts party leaders can hold so as to allow them devote more time to Umno.

According to Muhyiddin, the Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad constantly reminded Cabinet members to give priority to political duties, more so now that Umno was facing serious challenges.

"We have support teams to help us carry out official duties but for political duties, they are one's personal responsibility. We cannot send representatives to the ground to meet the masses," said Muhyiddin, acknowledging that attending to official duties took a lot of time.

Meanwhile, fellow vice president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Umno will restructure party activities designed to win the hearts and minds of the people, especially the rural folk, so that they remain loyal Umno supporters.

Najib was commenting on points raised by Kedah Umno liaison committee delegate Datuk Badaruddin Amiruldin that, among other things, the message on Umno's struggle did not reach the rural folk.

When debating the presidential address, Badaruddin urged Umno's top echelon, including Supreme Council members, to get to the grassroots to explain to the people arising issues and rebut opposition allegations.

"We shall have to rectify this. Not only the top leaders, those at the division level must also do their share of work to consolidate Umno," Najib added.

-- BERNAMA

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