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Muhyiddin-PAS

TUESDAY'S MEETING HOPEFULLY WILL BE FRUITFUL, SAYS UMNO VEEP

GERIK, March 24 (Bernama) -- The meeting on Tuesday between Umno and PAS technical committees hopefully will be fruitful with PAS agreeing to the talks on Malay unity, said Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today.

He said Umno wanted the talks to go ahead as they were important to national unity.

"Umno's stand is clear that it wants the talks to be held and PAS shouldn't be making excuses such as not being ready or Umno not accommodating to their conditions," he told reporters after officiating the closing of a seminar on consumer protection laws for some 300 participants at the Gerik Municipal Hall here today.

The Umno-PAS discussion was supposed to be held on Feb 19 but PAS turned spoiler when it imposed three conditions a day before the talks.

The opposition party wanted the word "Islam" be allowed in the names of political parties. PAS also demanded that its political organ, Harakah be allowed to be published twice a week and that the oil royalty reverted to the Terengganu government.

But the issue on the use of the word "Islam" has been resolved by the decision of the Conference of Rulers on Thursday. The Rulers had decided that the use of the word "Islam" in names of organisations is acceptable.

Muhyiddin said that in fact PAS could discuss many things during the talks, including the conditions imposed if they felt they were important.

"Umno has fixed four subject matters, namely the Malay rights, the position of the Rulers, Religion and Islam but other matters could also be discussed," he said.

He said they could up bring up the conditions to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also Prime Minister.

--BERNAMA

KAY ABG