

Muhyiddin: Don't doubt succession plan

Nst - 4 JUL 2002

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the people as well as party members should no longer have doubts over the succession plan reaffirmed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

"Dr Mahathir has named Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor. What is important is we must remain strong and there should not be any fighting for posts," added Muhyiddin, who is also Domestic Trade and Consumers' Affairs Minister.

He said if members respected Dr Mahathir as a great leader who had made tremendous contributions to the country, they should heed his advice that there should be a smooth succession in the party.

Datuk Seri Mohamed Najib Abdul Razak, who is also an Umno vice-

president, said Dr Mahathir's intention to retire was now very clear and party members and the people must accept and respect his decision.

He said the people should never forget all that the Prime Minister has done for the country and have confidence in Abdullah to carry on steering the country to greater development.

"We must ensure Abdullah receives the kind of support and encouragement given to Dr Mahathir all this while," he said.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said he was very happy that Dr Mahathir was back and had pledged to continue contributing even after retirement.

"True to his character, he headed straight to work and chaired the Cabinet meeting today. He will be

with us for another 16 months, to guide us and Abdullah," added Dr Ling after the Cabinet meeting today.

PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas said Dr Mahathir had taken all steps to ensure the transition process was carried out smoothly and the *rakyat* must be ready to accept Abdullah as the country's next Prime Minister.

"He (Dr Mahathir) has chosen a very worthy successor and I am confident with the same support given to Dr Mahathir, Abdullah would be able to effectively fulfil his duties," he said.

MIC deputy president Datuk S. Subramaniam said the party (MIC) was saddened by Dr Mahathir's decision, but respected and accepted it.

"He has named a worthy successor in Abdullah and we, in the MIC, will give him all the support he needs to ensure all future plans are properly implemented," he added.