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Muhyiddin-Transition

UMNO MEMBERS SHOULD AVOID SPECULATION THAT CAN AFFECT TRANSITION

BATU PAHAT, July 6 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Umno members should avoid speculation and making their own plans so that the process of leadership transition in Umno and the government can proceed smoothly.

He said they should concentrate on work because the leadership transition process would go on well, insya-Allah.

"What needs to be focused is that the team spirit in Umno should be maintained," he said at a media conference after launching the Batu Pahat Umno division's membership drive, here today.

He said that the advice was being extended to members at the grassroots level as party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had urged that solidarity and cooperation should be emphasised during the leadership transition process.

Muhyiddin, who is also Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said there should not be any effort or action that could jeopardise the smoothness of the transition process.

"In this matter, we should ensure that the strength and solidarity of Umno as well as the existing close cooperation among the top leadership, even among the vice-presidents, would be maintained," he said.

He said if the situation in Umno was already good, then it should be maintained and in fact strengthened.

"No one should try to create a situation which can jeopardise party solidarity...like making speculation and plans that would benefit certain individuals, because the president's message is clear, that is to ensure the party's strength," he said.

Muhyiddin said it was not only the leadership transition process that was important because after that it was also more important to strengthen the party with the focus on efforts to increase the Malay support for Umno.

He said party members should not be too pre-occupied with the leadership transition per se, on who, when and why which could cause too much politicking which was actually bad for Umno.

In his speech earlier, he said there was no such thing as "Team A, B or C" in Umno because what existed was merely the "Umno Team" which strongly upheld the principles of the party's struggles for the religion, race and country which had enabled Umno to lead the government and face various challenges all this while.

He also explained that Dr Mahathir planned to step down in October next year not because of any pressure or that there were groups out to topple him, on the contrary, it was on his own accord because he had been leading the party and government for 21 years.

"We should respect the Prime Minister's decision," he said, adding that the 16-month period up to October next year would enable the leadership transition to be carried out smoothly.

-- BERNAMA

MNY AO