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Muhyiddin-Umno

PROPER TO DEFER UMNO POLLS IF GENERAL ELECTION IS CLOSE - MUHYIDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Umno constitution allows for the postponement of the party election if a general election is around the corner.

But deferring the party election "merely for the sake of postponing" is not allowed, said Muhyiddin.

"If the general election is very near, it is better for the party election to be delayed so that the focus will be on the general election.

"Otherwise, all the energy will go towards choosing (party) leaders, and when the general election comes we will be exhausted," the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister told reporters at his ministry today.

Muhyiddin was asked to comment on the statement by Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi that the Umno election scheduled for next year might be postponed to allow the party to prepare for the next general election.

He said any decision on the party election had to be decided by the Umno Supreme Council.

"Only the party president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and the Supreme Council can make a decision...right now I don't know what the scenario is going to be next year or the following year," he said.

The mandate of the party leaders ends in November 2003, but the party constitution allows an 18-month extension in the event of a general election around that time.

-- BERNAMA

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