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DPM post: Muhyiddin not caught in `excitement`

BATU PAHAT, Sat. - Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today declined to comment on the possibility of fellow Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak being appointed Deputy Prime Minister when Datuk Seri Abdullah Abdullah Badawi becomes Prime Minister.

"I do not want to comment because if I do, there will be all kinds of speculation.

"It is for the party leadership to decide," he said after launching a gathering of Batu Pahat Umno division here today.

Muhyiddin, who is Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, urged party leaders and members not to get "over-excited" and refrain from strategising for positions during the transition period.

He said such actions could jeopardise efforts by party leaders to ensure a smooth transfer of power and consolidating Malay support for Umno.

"As far as I am concerned, there should not be any strategising or planning by anyone because it is unnecessary.

"We should let the transition process take its course. The important thing for us to do now is to consolidate the Malay support for Umno."

Muhyiddin said focus should be on maintaining party unity in accordance with the wishes of party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"We must not let anyone harm the party by making speculations, predictions or plans which cater to the interests of any individual."