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Umno-Reaction (Vice Presidents)

DR MAHATHIR'S FORMULA WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Umno Vice President Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today the unity formula laid down by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad if practised will strengthen solidarity and brotherhood among Umno members.

He said the Umno president put forward the formula because unity in Umno, which formed the backbone of the Barisan Nasional, was very important particularly when the party faced challenges from within and outside.

"All Umno members should uphold his message so that the party president's aspiration to see Umno remain as the defender of the race can be realised," he said when commenting on the Umno President's policy address at the 54th Umno General Assembly.

Muhyiddin said Dr Mahathir stressed on loyalty to the party because he wanted to ensure that Umno continued to be victorious at the polls like it did during the last five general elections under his leadership.

"Dr Mahathir wants us to learn from what happened to other Islamic countries which had become the victims of the big powers. The president stressed that our country too will face a similar fate if the people do not safeguard the country's sovereignty from such threats," he said.

Another Umno Vice President Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said Dr Mahathir stressed on loyalty to the party to ensure Malays continued to prosper under Umno.

He said Dr Mahathir's fear was that Umno would be defeated and lose everything in the next general election if the leaders and members only gave priority to their own interests and betrayed the party's struggle.

Hence Umno members should pay heed to Dr Mahathir's call.

Dr Mahathir's statement was timely to safeguard the party and it was the responsibility of all Umno members to ensure that the party remained strong, Muhammad said.

Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the message contained in Dr Mahathir's policy address should be translated into action by members.

The Foreign Minister said all members should take seriously the message from the party president to ensure that Umno remained in power.

"Sometimes words are beautiful and when it comes to translating it, it becomes more difficult," he said after meeting the 70 leaders of foreign political parties from 21 countries invited to the opening ceremony.

Syed Hamid said that Dr Mahathir's contention that Umno was strong and could not be defeated unless the members themselves brought down the party should be given careful thought by members.

Hence Umno members should set aside personal interests and work sincerely in the interest of the party, he added.

--BERNAMA

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