

21 JAN 2003

Muhyiddin-Reshuffle

SELECTION OF NEW FACES IN UMNO IS NORMAL, SAYS MUHYIDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- The selection of new faces to replace the old ones in the state Umno leadership is normal practice in Umno before the general election, said party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"It's a normal thing...I have experienced it when I was Menteri Besar previously. Every time there is an election there will certainly be changes, new and old faces are merged, new and old experiences are put together," he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said this at the media conference after launching the book 'Beyond Consumer Culture-Other Responsibilities, Potential and Practices' published by the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP), here today.

However, he said the changes were made according to the situation in each area and state while the final decision rested with the party president.

"Numerous feedback are gathered before any decision is made to replace someone, besides considering whether the old leaders can be retained or replaced, new faces appointed, this is rather normal before the general election," he said.

On the possibility of revamps in the Umno leadership in the other states following the reshuffle of the Kelantan Umno leadership by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday, Muhyiddin said it depended on the performance of each state liaison body and the current needs.

"It (the reshuffle) is aimed at strengthening the party at the state level, to ensure efforts at uniting the members are more effective, party programmes can run smoothly and the important thing is that the party can deliver when the general election comes around," he said.

However, he was confident that the reshuffle would not be made on the rationale that 'a reshuffle has been made here, the other states too will have to be revamped', he said.

On the issuance of firearms to his ministry's enforcement officers, Muhyiddin said they would only be armed after police had confirmed that they were ready for it.

However, he said the firearms would only be provided for officers carrying out operations against recording piracy.

-- BERNAMA

SNS KHY AO