

22 JUN 2003

SYED HAMID HAS NOT THOUGHT ABOUT CONTESTING UMNO VICE-PRESIDENCY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today that he has not thought about contesting a vice-president's post in the party elections next year.

He said his focus now was to strengthen the party and prepare for the next general election which has to be held before November next year.

"I have no time to think about it (vice-president's post). The time is not right. When it's time, I will decide," the foreign minister told reporters after opening a leadership course for youth organisations at Wisma Belia, here.

He was asked whether he would be vying for the post which is likely to fall vacant as one of the three vice-presidents is expected to be appointed deputy prime minister and deputy party president after Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hands over the helm of the country and party to his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in October.

The three vice-presidents are Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Syed Hamid contested the vice-president's post in the Umno elections in 1996 and 2000 but lost on both occasions.

-- BERNAMA

AT HK JK