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Muhyiddin-Umno

APPOINTMENT OF UMNO MT MEMBERS IS PRESIDENT'S PREROGATIVE

JOHOR BAHRU, July 26 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the decision whether to appoint candidates, who have lost in the contest for the vice-presidency, into the Umno Supreme Council (MT) is the prerogative of the party president.

Muhyiddin, who is also Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister, said he had personally experienced being excluded from the MT after having lost the contest for the vice-presidency when Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was leading Umno.

"It's the prerogative of the Umno president...I've experienced it, I was out of the MT for four years. So, it's nothing unusual for me," he said when met after opening the conference of agricultural officers at a hotel, here today.

He said this when asked to comment on press reports today which quoted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also acting Umno president, as saying that losers in the contest for the vice-presidency in September, might not necessarily be appointed into the MT.

"The (Umno) president's statement might also be a reminder for us who are contesting, if we feel we can't win, we should not contest," said Muhyiddin.

According to Muhyiddin, all the eight candidates for the vice-presidency actually had a choice, whether to contest for one of the 25 seats in the MT, or go for one of the three vice-president's seats.

Two candidates who will defend their post as vice-presidents in the party elections in September are Muhyiddin himself and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib, while six others who are contesting for the post are Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Tan Sri Isa Samad, Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Datuk Shahrir Samat and Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

"It's the president's prerogative, so if the president has said

so,
maybe he will not appoint me to sit in the MT (if I lose)...I have
lost
before and Tun Dr Mahathir did not appoint me, I took a rest for
four
years," he added.

He said those who were not members of the MT would not be able
to
follow the discussions on major national policies.

-- BERNAMA

MNY AO