

## **Don't spoil Sabah's chances, Bung tells Musa**

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**By Abdul Rahim Sabri**

Sabah Chief Minister Musa Aman should not go for an Umno vice-presidency in the coming party elections, says fiery state leader Bung Mokhtar Radin.

This is because Musa's entry into the election would pit him against a Sabah incumbent in the party and this may spoil the state's chances, Bung Mokhtar said.

"If possible, in my view, it is better if we give the chance to the leader (current Umno vice-president Mohd Shafie Apdal) who is already in the position to ensure continuity in the party's highest leadership.

NONE "If there are two candidates from Sabah, I feel (the chances of winning) by the two would surely be compromised.

"Delegates might not give support to the Sabah leaders to rise to the upper leadership." said the Kinabatangan MP, who is known for courting controversy.

He was speaking to Malaysiakini when asked on Musa's reported intention to vie for the post in the Umno elections in October.

He was at a function at Institut Kemajuan Desa (Infra) in Kajang today.

Bung advised Musa (right) to be "patient and decide wisely" and said he did not "see any great reason" why the Sabah CM should want to contest the third highest post in the party hierarchy.

He said the support given towards Musa's candidacy by several of the state Umno divisions was merely the individual divisions' stand and not that of Sabah Umno's communications body.

Bung Mokhtar added that he will be defending his Umno supreme council post and will ensure "Shafie and fellow supreme council friends" will be elected.

'Afdal' Apdal

NONE Meanwhile, Shafie (left) made a case for his own candidacy, saying delegates should choose the "better" candidate from Sabah, in a play of words on his own name.

"If there is a leader from Sabah (who is contesting), choose one who is more 'afdal' (better)," he said in his address at the same function.

In a later press conference, the Semporna Umno chief said he is unfazed by the challengers for the vice-president post, including Musa, as the grassroots are mature when it comes to choosing their leaders.

"I am not scared. If (the grassroots) give their support to me, Alhamdulillah. If not, I cannot force them.

"In (the party) struggle, this is the practice (democracy)," said Shafie, who is also Rural and Regional Development minister

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