

Muhyiddin's aide denies existence of 'Team 5M'

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An aide to Umno deputy president Muhyiddin Yassin has denied the existence of an alleged team led by his boss to contest in the next party elections slated for 2018.

"Do we have to reply when people concoct stories?" asked Hafiz Abdul Halim.

"That is sufficient to answer your question (if such a team exists)," he told Malaysiakini.

Prior to this, Johor Menteri Besar Mohamed Khaled Nordin also denied any involvement in the alleged group, dubbed 'Team 5M'.

Similarly, Umno vice-president Mohd Shafie Apdal's press secretary Zamri Maulan dismissed the report which claimed that his boss is a member of the team.

According to the report, published on portal PRU14.tv, Muhyiddin would unveil the team during a talk in Kuala Lumpur tonight.

Quoting sources, the report stated that Muhyiddin would contest for the president's post whereas Kedah Menteri Besar Mukhriz Mahathir would vie for number two.

Shafee, according to the report, would defend his vice-president's post, whereas Khaled, who is a supreme council member at present, would contest for vice-presidency.

The fifth 'M' is purportedly former Terengganu menteri besar Ahmad (Md) Said, who would also lock horns for one of the three vice-president's posts up for grabs.

In his denial, the Johor menteri besar described the report as the work of those attempting to sow discord in Umno.

Umno would be holding its three-day general assembly, starting tomorrow, amid allegations of corruption and abuse of power against its president Najib Abdul Razak.

Several quarters within the party, including former president Dr Mahathir Mohamad have openly called on Najib, who has denied any wrongdoing, to step down.

In July, Najib dropped Muhyiddin as deputy prime minister and replaced him with Umno vice-president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Also dropped from the cabinet was Shafie. The pair were critical of 1MDB, the allegation-riddled brainchild of Najib.

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