

Muhyiddin 'likely to contest' against Najib in 2011
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KUALA LUMPUR - The recent report by the Economic Intelligence unit (EIU) pointed out that Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin appears to be most likely to contest for the Umno presidency in the upcoming party election in 2011.

The latest EIU report also claimed that there is a possibility that the Umno presidential election, expected to be in late 2011 or early 2012, could trigger political instability.

The influential report stated that if the party failed in the upcoming state election in Sarawak: "there will be even greater resistance to economic reforms, undermining the credibility of the prime minister, Najib Razak, and even placing his position as president of Umno (and thus his premiership) at risk."

It singled out Muhyiddin as the potential contender for the position, stating that Umno has a tendency to turn inward during leadership battles, ignoring the interests of other parties.

"This is even more likely to happen at a time when its status is threatened (if the party fails in the Sarawak election)," the report added.

The EIU expects the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition to remain in power of the forecast period between 2010-2014 stating that "BN has a sufficient parliamentary majority to pass most legislation unchallenged."

This is because "the political alternative to the BN, the Pakatan Rakyat (PR), will not be able to offer a sufficiently credible, stable alternative," the report claimed.

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