

**BN Has Begun Identifying Election Candidates, Says Muhyiddin**  
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PARIS -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) has begun to identify its candidates for the next general election, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said here on Tuesday.

He said this did not mean, however, that the general election would be held soon.

It was to ensure that the selected candidates were capable, also in helping to drive national development towards making Malaysia a developed and high-income nation, he said.

Muhyiddin said the BN would adopt a new approach in selecting candidates, with the primary criterion being their evaluation by the leadership, besides through official and unofficial sources.

"The BN has to change its mode of selection based on the changed political landscape, and cannot do so (select candidates) recklessly," he told Malaysian journalists.

Muhyiddin, accompanied by his wife Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman, is in the French capital city on a two-day working visit from Monday to attend the Unesco executive board meeting.

Elaborating, the BN deputy chairman said other criteria for selection of candidates included capability, integrity, background, educational status, specific skills in line with current demands, and understanding the people's needs.

Muhyiddin said it was most challenging to be selected as a candidate as the people were wise enough to evaluate the capabilities of any individual.

He said appropriate consideration would be given to the selection of candidates from among young and academically highly qualified people, but focus would also be given to experience to strike a balance between the young and the experienced leaders.

Priority would be for candidates of the people's choice, he said.

Muhyiddin said the reference of "winnable candidates" by Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak was not confined to winning but also all the aspects mentioned earlier.

"This means that an elected representative who has won unopposed may not necessarily be nominated again. Everything depends on current demands," he said.

(Bernama)