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Personal opinion: Dr Mahathir talking to the media after opening the Kimma bureau yesterday.

Dr M: Muhyiddin can beat Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has a chance of beating Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for the Umno deputy presidency in the coming party elections, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"If Najib is not competing for the party presidency, he would be competing for deputy president. If he competes for the deputy presidency, he would be competing against Muhyiddin, and it is quite possible that Muhyiddin will win," he told the press yesterday after opening the

Malaysian Indian Muslim Congress (Kimma) administration office and complaints bureau in Sentul here.

Asked why he was not confident that Najib would retain the deputy president's post, Dr Mahathir said "people are generally disenchanted with him".

"People perceive Najib as a very weak leader who's never had his own stand. He always merely says 'I support', 'I am very touched'. He never says anything about the people's wishes."

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the *muzakarah* (dialogue) between Umno and PAS.

"They can have *muzakarah*. It's okay to talk, but both have different objectives.

"I don't know how Umno can agree with PAS, or how PAS can agree with Umno. But if we look at PAS, they are willing to forgo their principles to get support. For example, they are working with DAP, which does not support PAS' version of an Islamic state," he said.