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Muhyiddin 'undermined party'

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UNANIMOUS: Umno Supreme Council says Muhyiddin failed in his duties

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THE Umno yesterday suspended Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as deputy president with immediate effect until the next party election.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said the Supreme Council members had unanimously agreed on the motion to suspend Muhyiddin.

"The main duty of a deputy president in Umno's constitution is to assist the president (in his duties) as stated under Section 9.8.2.1 of the party constitution.

"But in the case of Muhyiddin, he is soon as not fulfilling his duties as provided for in the constitution. He has also undermined the party.

"The Supreme Council looks seriously into this matter, especially concerning those who do not uphold the party's aspirations and policies," Tengku Adnan said after the meeting at Umno headquarters in Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

Present were Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and heads of the party's wings.

Tengku Adnan said the meeting was chaired by Hishammuddin as Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak and vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had abstained from the decision-making process.

He said the discussion on the motion went on for more than two



Umno president **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** chairing the party Supreme Council meeting at **Putra World Trade Centre** in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

hours as all Supreme Council members were given time to air their views to Hishammuddin.

"Umno promotes freedom of speech and has never stopped any party leader from speaking their mind. But, it must be done through the proper channels."

Muhyiddin and vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal were absent from the meeting. Muhyiddin's aide said he was overseas.

The suspension followed his continued criticism of Najib's handling of the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and RM2.6 billion political

donation issues.

Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz had mooted the suspension idea earlier this week following the latest round of Muhyiddin's attacks on Najib.

Muhyiddin, who is also Pagoh member of parliament, was dropped as deputy prime minister and education minister in a cabinet reshuffle in July last year for breaking ranks over the 1MDB issue. Shafie was also dropped as the rural and regional development minister.

Muhyiddin was also barred from addressing the delegates at the Um-

no General Assembly last year.

Tengku Adnan said the suspension was made under Article 10.15 of the Umno constitution which outlined the steps to be taken with regard to any action contrary to party procedures.

"Muhyiddin is suspended as the party deputy president effective immediately. The suspension period is until the next Supreme Council election (party polls)."

Tengku Adnan said, however, Muhyiddin was not suspended from other party posts and the decisions made were in line with the current

political climate.

"While there is no provision under the constitution for an acting deputy president, it was decided that Zahid would execute the duties of a deputy president."

He said Muhyiddin was notified of the meeting, but he had informed via a fax message that he would not be able to attend.

"His absence at the meeting cannot be assumed as him not having been given the right and opportunity to defend himself." Additional reporting by Hana Naz Harun and Veena Babulal