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Duo broke party rules, says Najib

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SERIOUS OFFENCE:
'They shared stage with opposition to attack party leaders'

KUALA LUMPUR

UMNO Supreme Council yesterday sacked former deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and former Kedah menteri besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir from the party, with immediate effect.

The council, in a meeting chaired by Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak, also decided to suspend party vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal.

"The Supreme Council has unanimously decided to expel Muhyiddin and Mukhriz for breaking party rules, more so for sharing the stage with opposition leaders to attack the party leadership.

"That's a serious offence," Najib said after the meeting at Umno headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Present were Umno vice-presidents Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa, Wanita Umno chief Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin.

Najib, who is also the prime minister, said the council also unanimously decided to suspend Shafie until the Umno Management Committee and the council received the report from the party disciplinary committee.



Umno president **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** at a media briefing after a meeting with the Umno Supreme Council at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Umno vice-president **Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi** (left) and party secretary-general **Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor**. Pic by Mohamad Shahril Badri Saali

In July last year, Muhyiddin and Shafie were dropped from the cabinet while Mukhriz stepped down as the Kedah menteri besar in February after losing majority support from Barisan Nasional state assemblymen.

Muhyiddin was also suspended as Umno deputy president in February.

The trio had been vocal in criticising the party leadership over issues surrounding the RM2.6 billion donation and 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The sacking of Muhyiddin as the party deputy president is the second in Umno's history after the expulsion of jailed opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in 1998.

Anwar was also sacked from his deputy prime minister and finance minister posts by then prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Touching on the recently-concluded twin by-elections in Sungai

Besar and Kuala Kangsar, Najib said the success of BN candidates was beyond Umno's expectations.

He said among the factors that contributed to the landslide victories were the integration and close cooperation of BN's machinery, excellent teamwork and discipline of component party members.

"The Supreme Council wishes to thank everyone who had contributed to BN's success and to the voters for their trust in BN," Najib said.

To a question whether snap polls would be called following the two victories on the back of Sarawak state election landslide win, Najib said it would be decided based on various factors.

"BN is, however, encouraged by the support we have received."

Najib later joined Supreme Council members at a breaking-of-fast event with orphans from several welfare homes, followed by *Maghrib*, *Isyak* and *Tarawih* prayers.

Muhyiddin to respond today

KUALA LUMPUR: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir were unavailable for comment yesterday following the Umno Supreme Council's decision to expel them from the party.

Journalists, who made a beeline for Muhyiddin's home in Bukit Damansara last night following the council's decision, were told by one of his aides that the former party deputy president would issue a statement on his sacking today.

The aide said Muhyiddin, who was not at home, would issue the statement via his Face-

book account.

Media members were told to leave and not to wait for Muhyiddin to return home.

Meanwhile, Mukhriz's media officer Mohd Fisol Jaafar said there would be no statement from the former Jerlun Umno division chairman yesterday.

However, he confirmed that Mukhriz had been made aware of the sacking.

"He will not be issuing a statement on the matter as yet, but he has been made aware (of the sacking)," said Fisol.