

# MUHYIDDIN TO DEFEND BERSATU POST

He denies that his earlier statement on not standing for presidency was a mere gimmick

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**T**AN Sri Muhyiddin Yassin denied that his recent announcement about not defending his position in the upcoming party polls was a mere gimmick.

Yesterday, the Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) president made an about-turn by saying he would defend his post in the next party election a day after saying otherwise.

During a press conference at the end of the party's annual general assembly (AGM), Muhyiddin said such declarations should not be dismissed as playful antics, as he had been serious about his decision.

"Is this a gimmick? I am not playing around. As I stand up here and address the gathering, hearing various protests from the delegates, I want to make it clear that this is not a gimmick or child's play."

Muhyiddin said this in re-

sponse to questions about whether the announcement was a gimmick, as he retracted his announcement to not defend his position just after a day later.

Delegates at the AGM had passed a motion rejecting Muhyiddin's previous decision to not defend his post.

It was unanimously passed by them and was announced by Bersatu permanent chairman Datuk Muhammad Suhaimi Abdullah on the final day of the assembly.

The delegates also passed two other related motions, which were to reject its supreme council members from holding meetings to discuss potential candidates for Muhyiddin's predecessors, as well as the current assembly to be his final one during his presidency.

During Muhyiddin's winding-up speech, he said he would defend his position for another term, and said the next party election scheduled for next year would be his last time defending the post.

He shared a text message from his wife, Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, who said: "Stay for another term, carry on."

Muhyiddin said: "She texted me yesterday when I was doing my policy speech, as we were seated far from each other. She said to stay for another term and not to disappoint you guys (the party) as you need me."

"She said that you guys are sin-



Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin delivering his speech at the party's annual general assembly in Shah Alam yesterday. PIC BY AZHAR RAMLI

cere, but I told her that I know that and asked her what about it.

"That was when she said that I should carry on and that she gave me her blessing (to continue and defend the post)."

His announcement received a standing ovation from the delegates, who chanted "hidup abah" (long live abah).

Before confirming to the delegates that he would defend his

presidency, Muhyiddin made some last-minute suggestions to facilitate a possible transition of power.

He said he could become the party's adviser to help determine its direction and suggested that a presidential council be established, which would allow him to continue contributing to the party despite not being president.

"If agreed, we can propose to

amend the constitution and we can add the provision for the adviser's position, like the chairman position we used to have.

"At the same time, the council can act like the syura council (of Pas) where matters, such as party direction, policies and candidates for elections, are finalised by it," he said.

These proposals were rejected by delegates.