

DPM: Umno fixing its internal problems
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By Lisa J. Ariffin

KAJANG, Nov 21 — Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today agreed with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Umno is plagued with internal squabbles but gave an assurance that the matter is being addressed.

“We all know after Prime Minister (Datuk Seri) Najib Razak took over from his predecessor (Tun) Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, there were problems, like internal squabbles,” Muhyiddin (picture) told reporters today at a press conference here.

“However, to say that the party is not moving to address the problem is not true. But I believe that not enough is being done. More needs to be done,” he said.

Last week, former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir had criticised Umno for not making any effective improvements since the 2008 general election.

The party’s longest-serving president was quoted as saying Umno currently lacked good, credible leaders and that it was a pale shadow of its former glory.

Muhyiddin today acknowledged the caustic appraisal from Dr Mahathir, saying that the former premier still cared about the party and wanted to see it stay relevant and lead the government.

“There is no malice in his appraisal and we must pay serious attention to the issues mentioned,” Muhyiddin said, adding that Umno was inseparable from the government.

“When the party president makes a government decision, it is based on the party’s decisions and views. You cannot separate the party from the government,” he explained.

Asked to comment on Umno leaders lobbying to be candidates in the upcoming general election, Muhyiddin said it was normal in all political parties.

“Even the opposition has this problem. When it is near elections, everyone wants to stand. The important thing is to manage the issue properly,” he said.

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