

Muhyiddin Declares He Will Defend His Umno Deputy President Post
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PUTRAJAYA, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today announced his intention to defend his Umno deputy president post in the party elections this October as he feels he is still capable of shouldering the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to him.

The deputy prime minister said since holding the deputy president post after the last party elections, he had been given a big task including overseeing the party's management committee, monitoring the general election and strengthening Umno and Barisan Nasional at all levels in order to strengthen the government and national unity.

He also declared his solid support for Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to defend his Umno president post and vowed to continue assisting his leadership.

"I will be the proposer for him (Najib) in his (nomination) form to be submitted this Sept 21," he told a press conference at his official residence, Sri Satria, here Thursday.

With that decision of his, Muhyiddin urged for cooperation, assistance and support from his party colleagues and members, particularly the delegates, so that if re-elected, he could continue striving for better things in the interest of the Malays, Malaysians in general, the religion and nation.

"I think a lot of people want to know my decision with regard to the party elections this time, so I've made the decision today to facilitate their assessment. Sure I feel relieved but I also think this is an important point of time for me to announce my decision," he said.

Muhyiddin also thanked the respective state Umno liaison bodies for openly stating their support for Najib and him.

He said such support was motivation for him, as it meant that his services were still needed by the party.

Asked whether he expected some surprises in the run-up to the nomination of candidates this Saturday, he hoped there would be no surprises although the new nomination system being practised now was more open than the previous system.

He said it was indeed the party's own decision for Umno to be seen as a democratic, more open and inclusive party which gave a lot of room for anyone to serve the party through holding an important post.

"The decision had been made and we need to respect that decision," he added.

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