

No reason to sack Muhyiddin from party post, says Cheras Umno
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By Jamilah Kamarudin

There is no valid reason for the Umno Supreme Council to sack Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin from his No. 2 post in Umno, said Cheras Umno division chief Datuk Seri Syed Ali Alhabshee, dismissing speculation that the former deputy prime minister will also lose the post.

He said such a thing would not happen because Muhyiddin was appointed as the deputy president by the grassroots and the same excuse that led to his sacking from the Cabinet yesterday did not apply here.

He said to oust the deputy president, he must have committed a misconduct that was detrimental to the party.

"You have punished him, now you want to dispute his position which he won fairly in elections as well?"

"If something needs to be done, the party will have think about it as a whole. Let the members decide. No need to worsen the situation," he told a press conference in Cheras today.

Syed Ali said Muhyiddin's speech at the division annual meeting on Sunday should not be considered as violating or damaging to the party because it was just a reminder to make Umno stronger.

He said Muhyiddin's criticism on the controversy surrounding 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was also for the good of the party and never intended to split Umno.

"Umno needs to be fair on this. What was his fault? He merely spoke about what he heard from the ground.

"I do not think that it can be considered as a huge mistake that could damage the party's image."

Following Muhyiddin's removal from Cabinet yesterday, Syed Ali said he was worried that such a move would affect the future of the ruling coalition, Barisan Nasional (BN), in the 14th general election.

He said Umno could no longer ignore the voices of the people, including grassroots members seeking clarification on the issue surrounding 1MDB.

A clear example, he said, was on Sunday where many had ignored the directive not to discuss 1MDB during the division annual meeting because it was the only platform available for the delegates to talk about it.

He said the delegates only met each other once a year and had grabbed the opportunity to discuss the issue.

"Time is running out. We need to explain 1MDB, not only to Umno members but also to the people." – July 29, 2015.

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