

Handshake no indicator Najib-Muhyiddin rift will end
Malaysian Insider
Dec 12, 2015
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As curtains fell on arguably the most scrutinised Umno General Assembly of Datuk Seri Najib Razak's presidency, it is unclear whether Najib has made up with his estranged deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Delegates at the assembly had high hopes that the two leaders would reconcile their differences, with some even calling them to shake hands and hug each other when the assembly ended today.

When Najib finished his policy speech, all heads turned to see whether this would happen. However, Najib stepped down from the podium after his speech, briefly shook hands with Muhyiddin and then returned to his seat.

"Yes, I shook his hand. We didn't say anything but we shook hands," Najib told reporters afterwards.

In his speech, Najib had said he was big-hearted and would, therefore, open his heart to any opportunity to mend relations and unite Umno once again, a gesture that received a standing ovation.

"You have to ask him about whether he accepts it (the offer). This is not my wish but the wish of the assembly and the highest decision making body in the party," Najib said, referring to the Supreme Council.

"This is not my personal wish or that of the Umno president, but it is the assembly's stand."

Muhyiddin, when met after the assembly, declined to comment.

Reporters who followed Muhyiddin to his car repeatedly asked him if his acceptance of Najib's handshake meant that the two had reconciled, but he did not answer.

Muhyiddin became estranged from the Umno leadership after openly questioning Najib's handling of his brainchild, state-owned investment firm 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

This led to his expulsion from the [Cabinet](#) as deputy prime minister in July, but he still remains Najib's number two in Umno.

He has continued to speak out and earlier today said he saw no reason to apologise to anyone for his open criticism of Najib, saying the issues he had raised were not personal but were in the party and country's interests.

[Muhyiddin is being investigated](#) by the Umno disciplinary committee for a scathing speech he made against Najib at a gathering on Monday night in Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur, ahead of the party general assembly.

He used the gathering as an [alternative platform](#) to address party members after being barred from speaking at the assembly. Traditionally, the Umno deputy president will officiate the assemblies of the Youth, Wanita and Puteri wings. – December 12, 2015

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