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Dr M agrees to rejoin Umno

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Muhyiddin: Up to supreme council now

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has agreed to rejoin Umno, according to party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said Dr Mahathir had expressed his interest to return to Umno at a meeting last Saturday due to his concern over developments in the party but did not state when he would send in his application.

"You should ask Tun (Dr Mahathir) when he is ready to hand over the application form," Muhyiddin said.

Muhyiddin, who is International Trade and Industry Minister, said Dr Mahathir, who resigned from the party in May, had indicated that he (Dr Mahathir) was unsure whether his application would be accepted by the Supreme Council.

"I met Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on the matter but I have not met with president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. Whatever the decision, it is up to the Supreme Council," he told reporters after a meeting with the Malaysian Services Development Council (MSDC).

However, Muhyiddin felt that the former

premier should not have any problem returning to Umno as the Supreme Council had said that Dr Mahathir was welcome to rejoin at any time.

Asked why Dr Mahathir agreed to return to Umno, Muhyiddin said he was concerned about what was happening with Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno.

"He is also concerned about the people's feelings and what is happening now. He thinks that by rejoining Umno, he can participate in rebuilding the party's confidence," he said.

Muhyiddin added that several Umno veterans including Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Tan Sri Sabbaruddin Chik and Tan Sri Sanusi Junid met with Dr Mahathir in a private meeting in Cyberjaya last Saturday.

Dr Mahathir, however, was not available for comment on the matter.

On Bukit Bendera Umno division chief Datuk Ahmad Ismail's meeting with Abdullah, Muhyiddin said: "Let him meet with the Prime Minister to seek views. We would like to see this matter resolved in a manner that will benefit everybody." - Bernama