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# 'PM should rethink transition timeframe'

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SINGAPORE: Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi should rethink his transition plan to step down by 2010 as the timeframe is too long.

The transition plan revealed by Abdullah two months ago, he claimed, had "sunk away" and that the people were not thinking about it anymore.

"The year 2010 is too long," he told a news conference on the sidelines of the Forbes Global CEO Conference here.

Under the plan for transition of power, Abdullah is to hand over the post of prime minister, chairmanship of the Barisan

June 2010.

Muhyiddin, who supported the transition plan when it was announced, said he had even asked Najib whether he wanted to wait that long as he (Najib) would have little time to manage and bring the confidence of the people back to Umno and the BN.

Saying he had always been critical of the matter as it was of interest to all Malaysians, he asked Abdullah to rethink it.

Abdullah had said the transition plan was to strengthen Umno solidarity and put party members at ease following too much politicking after the last general election which the BN won by a simple majority in Parliament.

Asked on speculation that he would team

up with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to mount a challenge for the Umno deputy presidency and presidency respectively, Muhyiddin replied: "Like you said, it is just speculation."

The speculation arose from a meeting between Muhyiddin and former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the latter's house in Cyberjaya last Saturday, where Tengku Razaleigh was also present.

In the meeting, Mahathir also voiced his intention to rejoin Umno which he left last May.

Muhyiddin said though Mahathir had left Umno, he was still talking a lot about the party, particularly on ways to strengthen it, and bringing the people's confidence back to the party.



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