

15 SEP 2002

Muhyiddin-Opposition

OPPOSITION BUDGET A DISGRACE TO PARLIAMENT, SAYS MUHYIDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- The alternative budget 2003, expected to be tabled by the opposition front before Sept 20, is a disgrace to Parliament and merely a gimmick to win the hearts of the people, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohamed Yassin said today.

He said the alternative budget to be announced by the opposition parties was unconstitutional and was not provided for in any Parliament rules or regulations.

"This shows their arrogance. They think they are strong enough to form the next government. It is an irresponsible act done without any respect for the highest law-making body of the country," he said.

Muhyiddin, who is Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said this after opening the ministry's Family Day at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, here.

He said the opposition parties should not belittle the budget by tabling one just to oppose the National Budget 2003 which Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be tabling in the Dewan Rakyat on Friday.

"The people will not be hoodwinked by their latest gimmick. It is another attempt to tarnish the dignity of the ruling Barisan Nasional government," he added.

The opposition front comprising PAS, Parti Keadilan Nasional and Parti Rakyat Malaysia, had announced that they would table a separate budget this week to oppose the National Budget 2003 to be tabled by Dr Mahathir.

Muhyiddin said the opposition wanted to show that whatever the government had done so far in boosting the economy and uplifting the standard of living of the people had not met the target.

He said the government did not have anything to prove to the opposition as it was clear that it had done all it could to stimulate growth and assist the people economically.

On another note, Muhyiddin said Dr Mahathir's wish not to seek re-election in the next general election should be respected by all parties.

"His sacrifice should be appreciated. Although he could have continued as a Member of Parliament (of Kubang Pasu), he chose to vacate the seat and give full backing to the new Barisan Nasional leadership," he added.

Dr Mahathir announced in Kedah on Friday that he would not contest the Kubang Pasu parliament seat following his decision to vacate all government and party posts in October next year but would work hard to ensure victory for the ruling Barisan Nasional.

-- BERNAMA

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