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Muhyiddin-Najib

I SUPPORT NAJIB'S APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - MUHYIDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs

Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said he fully supports the appointment of Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as Deputy Prime Minister.

Muhyiddin, who is also an Umno Vice-President, said he believed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's choice in picking Najib for the No 2 post in government could assist him in running the country's administration more effectively and efficiently.

"I hope everyone will give their full support to Najib's appointment. Following the appointment, I hope the Prime Minister will be able to propel the country to greater heights," he told a media conference after chairing his ministry's post-cabinet meeting.

The meeting is the last for Muhyiddin following his transfer to the Agriculture Ministry, replacing Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Effendi Norwawi, who has been named Special Functions Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Muhyiddin will be succeeded by Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis.

Apart from Najib's appointment, Abdullah also announced a minor cabinet reshuffle involving transfers of three ministers.

The Deputy Prime Minister's post fell vacant two months ago after Abdullah took over as Prime Minister from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 31 last year.

Asked how he felt about Najib's appointment, Muhyiddin said he accepted the decision by the Prime Minister.

"As a Muslim, I believe in fate. It is also the prerogative of the Prime Minister to appoint anyone (as his deputy).

"Moreover, in politics, we must have strong mental resilience so as not to hope for too much because when we don't get, we will feel frustrated.

"I am not frustrated, I can still smile, I can still laugh. I am

rational," he said.

Besides Najib, Muhyiddin was also speculated to be in the running for Deputy Prime Minister.

Muhyiddin also called on Umno members to support Abdullah and Najib to enable them to run the nation effectively, especially with the general election just around the corner.

On his appointment as Agriculture Minister, Muhyiddin said he appreciated the opportunity given to him by Abdullah to helm a ministry considered to be important in complementing efforts to further develop the country.

"I consider the appointment as a trust which I will carry out seriously. He (Abdullah) asked me to focus on modernising the agricultural sector, strengthen agro-based industries, encourage growth of agro-based small-and medium-based industries.

"I assured him that I will deliver the job to the best of my ability to fulfil Abdullah's expectation," he added.

Muhyiddin held the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs portfolio for more than four years. He was appointed to the post on Dec 15, 1999.

-- BERNAMA
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