

Muhyiddin: Gov't will not bow to threats
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Muhyiddin Yassin hit out at the opposition today, saying it seems to be threatening the government with more street demonstrations to achieve its demand for clean and fair elections.

The deputy prime minister also reminded the opposition not to manipulate its original objective just to achieve its political agenda, including creating public hatred towards the government.

"Do not take any threatening action (against the government). We will not bow to threats but since they (opposition) have a political motive, they are trying to make it look as though the government is insensitive, our electoral system is outdated and that our general elections have been conducted improperly," he said in Denpasar, Indonesia, today.

Muhyiddin (right), who was attending the informal meetings of Asean Education Ministers there, said if the opposition parties were really sincere about improving the electoral system, which the ruling BN government also desired, they should be taking a positive approach.

Tens of thousands of people, supported by opposition political parties, took part in an illegal rally in Kuala Lumpur on July 9, demanding the government improve the electoral system, which they said was not transparent.

"Our electoral system has been tested for more than five decades and this system should be accepted by all," Muhyiddin said.

He also criticised the opposition for refusing to accept the explanations on their demands given by the Election Commission, which has been managing general elections and by-elections in the country.

He said the explanations did not come from the government or a minister, but from the EC chairman himself.

"There are only certain other areas that need to be discussed with the government. But there must be a process for these areas to be improved."

The opposition, he added, never blamed the electoral system when it won (five states in the 2008 general election) but would deem the system dirty and unfair if it lost.

He said the people should judge whether those who organised the illegal rally had merely been used as a political tool by the opposition.

- Bernama