

PM denies deputy quitting, blames 'certain quarters'
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has denied that his deputy Muhyiddin Yassin is resigning and described the speculation as a "political creation by certain quarters".

However, Najib did not name the architects behind the speculation, which has been circulating in the social media.

Najib also said he shares a close relationship with Muhyiddin, who has served as his deputy since he took over as prime minister in April 2009.

"I have very close ties and understanding with him," Najib said in a statement.

"As deputy prime minister, Muhyiddin has supported and helped turn all national development agendas and policies, especially those related to the transformation programme of the nation brought forth by me, into a success," he added.

Najib said Muhyiddin has also worked alongside him to strengthen both Umno and BN in his capacity as number two in the party and coalition.

"With this close relationship and understanding between us, I am confident that we can face all the challenges to develop the nation and to increase the people's trust in BN," he added.

Yesterday, Muhyiddin also dismissed the speculation that he would be relinquishing his post to concentrate on Umno.

"No. I am alive and kicking," Muhyiddin said when asked to comment on talk that Najib's cousin, Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein, would replace him as deputy prime minister.

The speculation came in the wake of talk that Najib was planning to reshuffle the cabinet, which among others, would affect three Umno vice-presidents.

Apart from Hishammuddin, the other two vice-presidents whose ministerial portfolios are speculated to be changed are Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Rural and Regional Development Minister Shafie Apdal.

