

PM thanks Agong for confidence, cabinet to discuss emergency rejection

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Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said his government has taken note of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's decision to reject its proposal to impose a state of emergency in the country.

He also noted that the ruler had also expressed confidence in his government in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic and expressed his gratitude.

The statement was released shortly after an informal meeting of ministers at Muhyiddin's home in Bukit Damansara tonight concluded.

"The cabinet takes note of the statement by Istana Negara about the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's views that there is no need to declare a state of emergency in the country or in any parts thereof for the time being.

"The cabinet will further discuss the Agong's decree. The cabinet and government's current priority is to protect the people from the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Muhyiddin had on Friday proposed to the king to declare a state emergency.

The government had framed it as necessary to combat Covid-19 but critics claimed it was an attempt to cling on to power amid speculations that a group of rebel Umno MPs were planning to turn against Muhyiddin, which will cause him to lose his already fragile majority in the Dewan Rakyat.

The Agong, after consultation with other state rulers, rejected Muhyiddin's request this evening.

However, the monarch also discouraged any efforts to destabilise Muhyiddin's government during the pandemic, urging the politicking to end.

Muhyiddin, in his statement tonight, welcomed the call.

"I thank His Majesty for his confidence in my leadership of the government and welcome his advice against threatening the stability of the government," he said.

The Comptroller of the Royal Household, Ahmad Fadli Shamsuddin, said the ruler wanted to see Budget 2021 passed as the frontliners fighting Covid-19 needed funding.

If Muhyiddin loses his majority, he won't be able to pass Budget 2021, which could spell the end of his government.

"Sultan Abdullah was also of the opinion that there was no need for MPs to continue with their irresponsible action that could threaten the stability of the current government.

"His Majesty stressed that Budget 2021 which will be tabled in Parliament is of utmost importance to the people in combating Covid-19 and reviving the economy.

"Those in the frontline desperately need the financial allocation so that they can conduct their duties smoothly," Ahmad Fadli had said.

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