

**We shouldn't question non-Malays' loyalty: DPM**  
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It is best Defence Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi clarifies his remarks on military intake he made in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday as some quarters have taken exception to it, said Muhyiddin Yassin.

The deputy prime minister said this was needed to rectify the situation.

"I have not read (about what he said) as I was not in Parliament then but from the reaction of various quarters, perhaps it is best Zahid explain his remarks and stand on the matter.

"As for us, we do not see it that way, even if there is a lack of participation (of non-Malays in the armed forces), I think we should not question the loyalty of citizens, be they Malays, Chinese or Indians... maybe there are other reasons," he told reporters after opening the PBS congress in Kota Kinabalu today.

Muhyiddin said this when asked to comment on the reactions of various political leaders including several opposition MPs who deemed Zahid's remarks to have no basis, were insensitive and smacked of racism.

"If the remarks are overboard... that I am not sure. No problems apologising... people make mistakes and I too have said sorry when I was wrong," he said.

Yesterday, Ahmad Zahid had issued a media statement saying his reply in Parliament about the low participation of non-Malays in the military was based on research done on the matter.

He denied having been insensitive or had questioned the loyalty and integrity of non-Malays, as had been claimed by certain groups.

He said he had never made statements that questioned the patriotism of non-Malays nor intended to do so.

- Bernama

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