

Muhyiddin says don't fall for opposition 'offers'
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PUTRAJAYA - Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin on Monday told the people not to fall for the special offers of the opposition political pact, saying they were merely to garner their support.

He said the opposition pact could make these offers because it did not have the experience of having administered a central government where every decision would have to be made after an in-depth study of the implications to the people and country.

"We want to study the consequences (of such offers) and we will inform the people of the deception behind the sweet talk. Trickery is involved in influencing the thinking of the people.

"They (the opposition) do not take into account whether their offers will plunge the country into bankruptcy and such. It's victory (in the elections) they want at all costs," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Youth Development, here.

Muhyiddin was asked to comment on the "100 Days Reforms" offered by the opposition pact if it takes over the federal government in the next general election.

The reforms include the country's management, economy and education which would be implemented within 100 days if the pact were to win the 13th general election.

They include instructing Khazanah Berhad and the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) to take over highway assets from the concessionaires in order to abolish the toll system.

A restructure of the country's subsidies, to lessen subsidies given to the private sector and transferring these to subsidies for the man on the street, and increasing the incentives for teachers by RM500 a month, cancelling Felda Plantations and opening up its farms to second- and third generation Felda settlers.

Muhyiddin said that comparing with the Barisan Nasional (BN), each decision was made after a thorough scrutiny and because of this, the country was able to maintain good progress for the last 53 years and everyone had benefited from it.

"As such, we cannot afford to be lavish (in administering the country), cannot implement anything that can give a disastrous impact on the nation in the long term. This is one consideration that must be looked at closely by the people so that they would not be taken in by the offers made by the opposition," he said.

Muhyiddin said that such offers could be a big lie and it would be a deception if they made the offers but did not implement them because they did not make the right calculation in terms of their implications.

"Each teacher (is offered) RM500, the total number of teachers in the country is almost 400,000, this means an expenditure of RM200 million each month, (or) RM2.4 billion annually.

"But in terms of their implications, raise the teachers' salary but (for) the other 1.2 million government servants, there is no increase. Is the offer only limited to teachers? Why are the other government employees not offered (the raise)? We can go bankrupt," he said.

Asked about the possibility of the emergence of new political parties currently affecting the BN, Muiyiddin said: "The more, the merrier, because Malaysia is a democratic country."

He said he encouraged more bodies that were keen to contest in the general election to register their political parties, (so that) the people will have more choice.

"For us, they don't affect the BN, like in the past there were many other parties, but they could only last one term. They cannot last because they don't have a clear policy. They don't even have an ideology, even their leaders don't have a clear vision," he added. -
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