

Demo's Poor Response Shows Most Indians Back The Govt - DPM
Malaysianmirror.com
February 28, 2011

JASIN -- The poor response to a planned anti-government demonstration in Kuala Lumpur yesterday shows that most Malaysian Indians support the government, Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said here today.

He said the majority of the Indian community was rational and understood that the struggle of the outlawed Hindraf was contrary to their interests.

"Most of the Indians realise that only the BN (Barisan Nasional) can champion their cause," he told reporters after handing over performance-based incentives under a "new deal" aimed at rewarding head teachers and teachers, in Merlimau near here.

Muhyiddin was asked to comment on the demonstration staged by supporters of the outlawed Hindu Rights Action Force (Hindraf) and members of the Human Rights Party (HRP) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday over the use of the "Interlok" novel as a literature book in schools.

Indians had voiced opposition to the use of the novel as a literature book, claiming that it contained words and phrases derogatory of Indians. The government has set up a committee to look into the matter.

Muhyiddin is on a one-day visit to Melaka in conjunction with the by-election for the Merlimau state seat, which is being held following the death of the BN assemblyman, Mohamad Hidhir Abu Hassan, on Jan 20.

The by-election, polling for which is on March 6, is a straight fight between Roslan Ahmad, 44, of the BN and Yuhaizad Abdullah, 38, of PAS.

Muhyiddin said that though Hindraf had staged a demonstration prior to the general election in 2008, it was unable to garner the support of the whole of the Indian community for its cause.

"Therefore, it wants to create a perception that the country is not peaceful and that it is championing the people's cause. But, it is evident that it does not have the support (of the Indians)," he said.

(Bernama)