

Newspaper	The Sun
Date	18 May 2015

Why can't Myanmar solve crisis?

> Don't push Rohingya refugee burden to Asean countries, says DPM

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SHAH ALAM: Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday said the Rohingya refugee problem should be resolved by the Myanmar government and the burden should not have been pushed to Asean countries.

He said the Malaysian government is looking into the issue seriously as it involved national security and humanitarian aspects.

"We have discussed matters pertaining to the Rohingya refugee issue in the Cabinet and decided that our Foreign Minister and his counterparts in Asean resolve it internally.

"This issue should be solved by the Myanmar government ... doesn't it have any humanity in solving this issue internally? Now the burden has to be borne by Asean countries," Muhyiddin said after attending the 10th anniversary DRB-HICOM TSM Golf challenge media conference and the launching of "Golf Tunas Bestari Project".

On Saturday, Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has said an Asean solution is needed to deal with the Rohingya crisis.

"When a certain problem has spread and affects the leadership of other Asean countries, then a solution must be sought through an Asean forum," Najib said after handing over the Melana Indah People's Housing Project in Johor Baru on Saturday.

Muhyiddin said the government is in a difficult situation.

"We believe thousands of refugees are waiting to migrate and it is impossible for us to determine whether their arrival can be controlled."

At present, he said, the Foreign Ministry will be in charge of the next course of action involving Asean counterparts, especially Myanmar.

"We should not take this issue lightly because any wrong move from our side would send a negative message to neighbouring migrants and we might face a humanitarian catastrophe like the 'Vietnam days'," added Muhyiddin.



Muhyiddin with young participants Yara Melisandra, five, and Sabrina Iman, 11, after handing over golf sets for the Project Golf Tunas Bestari at the Glanmerie Golf Club, Subang, yesterday. Looking on are TSM Charity Golf president, Tan Sri Affendi Norwawi (second from left), and DRB-Hicom managing director Tan Sri Mohd Khamil Jamil. The Tunas Bestari Golf Project is to give underprivileged youth an opportunity to play golf.

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