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Najib thanks Muhyiddin for loyalty to Umno

PEKAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday thanked Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for maintaining his loyalty to Umno despite being relieved as deputy prime minister.

Najib, who is also Umno president, also thanked others who had been dropped from the cabinet, including Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and Datuk Seri Hasan Malek, for maintaining their loyalty to the party.

He said he was grateful that the cabinet reshuffle on Tuesday had been well received by the party and people.

"I thank Muhyiddin, Shafie, Hasan and those who are no longer in the administration. Everyone has expressed his commitment to be loyal to Umno," he said when addressing thousands of guests who came to his Hari Raya open house at Taman Tasik Sultan Abu Bakar here.

Present were Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

In the reshuffle, Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president, was replaced by Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi as deputy prime minister.

Shafie was removed from rural and regional development minister while Hasan was dropped as domestic trade, cooperatives and consumerism minister.

Shafie is Umno vice-president and Hasan, a supreme council member.

Najib said with the reshuffle behind it, the administration could move forward.

"I do not want us to lose direction and focus. We must return to the goal that we have to champion as members of the party and government for the country and people."

He said they should strive to fulfil the needs of the people in terms of housing, job opportunities, improved security, better unity among Muslims as well as among the races.

"If the people are concerned with



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak greeting guests at his Hari Raya open house in Taman Tasik Sultan Abu Bakar, Pekan, yesterday. Pic by Luqman Hakim Zubir

the rising cost of living, do everything you can to ease their burden.

"These are what I hope for. Syawal (the month of celebrating Aidilfitri) and thereafter should be calm and it is for us to have far-sighted thoughts for the future of our children," he said.

About 60,000 guests attended the open house here, which started from 10am to 5pm.

More than 100 booths were set up to offer delicacies, including 5,000 ketupat and 3,000 sticks of lemag.

Guests started to arrive at 8.30am before the prime minister made his way to the venue at 10.40am.

Najib, in his Facebook page yesterday, thanked his guests for attending the open house. He posted three pictures of him mingling and shaking hands with the crowd.

In his speech, Najib urged Malaysians to remain united and embrace di-

versity for the nation to enjoy continued progress and prosperity.

He said Malaysians should avoid fanning racial sentiments, which could lead to racial discontent.

In his speech at the national Aidilfitri open house, he said people must embrace the country's unity and diversity with mature thinking and an open heart.

He said there were three stages to gauge the people's level of unity and diversity — tolerance, acceptance and celebration.

"People should ask themselves which stage they are at now. Are they being tolerant, are they accepting diversity or are they celebrating diversity?"

"Maybe not everyone is at the third stage, but we can move on to a higher stage. We should not only open our doors (to other races), but also our hearts."

Najib said Malaysians should filter information on social media as certain parties were using it to fan racial sentiments.

"We have to ask ourselves: why are we so easily challenged when it is related to race?"

"An example would be the recent Plaza Low Yat incident. It was merely a criminal incident but it turned ugly and almost became another racial incident.

"We should always remind ourselves to be sensitive when voicing opinions."

Present were Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Deputy Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Mas Ermeyati Samsudin.