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TAN Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said he accepts Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's decision to drop him as deputy prime minister.

Muhyiddin said it was the prime minister's prerogative to remove any minister from the cabinet.

"I accept the prime minister's decision to drop me from the cabinet with an open heart.

"I respect the prime minister's prerogative powers to appoint and drop any cabinet member," he posted on his Facebook page yesterday.

He thanked Najib for giving him the opportunity to serve as the country's No. 2 leader.

Muhyiddin said he had fully supported Najib and the government's policies during his tenure as deputy prime minister.

"As deputy prime minister, I was directly involved in the drafting of government policies and I carried out all the duties entrusted to me."

Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president, however, said he had his own principles and stand on the controversy surrounding Malaysia Development Bhd (IMDB).



"(On) the IMDB issue, I have my own principles and stand in defending the people's rights, the good name of Umno and the country's interests.

"If my stand on this issue caused me to be dropped from the cabinet, then I *redha* (accept with an open heart)" he said.

Muhyiddin, who was also dropped as education minister, pledged to continue contributing to Umno in his capacity as party deputy president.

"I will always be loyal to Umno's struggles.

"As Umno deputy president, I will continue to serve to strengthen the party and return the people's trust in Umno," he said.

He thanked department heads, government officers, non-governmental organisations and all who supported him during his time as deputy prime minister.

Muhyiddin, who assumed the deputy prime minister's post on April 10, 2009, was dropped from the cabinet yesterday after the prime minister announced several changes to the ministerial line-up.

He was replaced by Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, who was dropped as rural and regional development minister, said his views were given with the intention of strengthening Umno.

"If it is not in line with the prime minister's stance, then it is his right

to reshuffle the cabinet.

"During my time in the cabinet, I have done my best based on the responsibility bestowed upon me to ensure the welfare of the people, especially those in rural areas," Shafie, who is Umno vice-president, said yesterday.

Shafie was replaced by Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, formerly agriculture and agro-based industry minister.