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Myanmar must take charge, says DPM

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INTERNAL ISSUE:

Unfair to make other Asean countries shoulder refugee problem

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MYANMAR should shoulder the responsibility of dealing with its escalating migrant crisis instead of involving other Asean countries, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin said Myanmar should solve its Rohingya migrant crisis internally, instead of burdening neighbouring countries like Malaysia.

"This (crisis) is under the responsibility of the Myanmar government. Don't they have the humanity to solve this problem internally, instead of passing the burden to Asean countries?" he told reporters after officiating the DRB-Hicom Tan Sri Muhyiddin (TSM) Golf Challenge here yesterday.

Muhyiddin said the massive influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar was not only a security issue for Malaysia, but also a humanitarian one.

"The cabinet has discussed this issue at length and we have di-

rected Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, together with his counterparts from Indonesia and Thailand, to communicate with the Myanmar government and their foreign minister to find a solution to the crisis.

"The influx of migrants from Myanmar has to be brought under control as it will be a big burden for our country. I was made to understand that thousands more are waiting to board ships to come



here," he said.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia was careful in dealing with the current Rohingya migrant crisis as it did not want a repeat of the "Viet-



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin after officiating the DRB-Hicom Tan Sri Muhyiddin Golf Challenge in Shah Alam yesterday. Bernama pic

namese boat people" saga, referring to refugees who had fled Vietnam by boat and ship after the Vietnam War in 1978 and 1979.

"We cannot take this issue lightly. If we send out the wrong signal,

that Malaysia is open to everyone, hundreds of thousands of refugees will land on our shores, just like what happened in the 1970s after the Vietnam war.