

MUHYIDDIN RESIGNS

NST- 17/8/2021 Pg. 2

He apologises for shortcomings, will carry out duties as caretaker PM until successor appointed

ADIB POVERA
AND ARFA YUNUS
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

TAN Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced his resignation as the country's eighth prime minister yesterday following months of a tumultuous power struggle against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Muhyiddin, in announcing his departure from office, assured the people that his administration was leaving behind a well-oiled machinery and system to tackle the challenges posed by the pandemic.

He will serve as caretaker prime

minister until his successor is appointed.

Speaking in a televised address, Muhyiddin, 74, apologised to Malaysians for any shortcomings and mistakes during his tenure as prime minister.

He said the Perikatan Nasional (PN) administration's cabinet members, under his leadership, had carried out their duties to the best of their abilities to save lives and protect the livelihoods of the people from the pandemic-induced crises.

"As humans, (we) are bound to make mistakes here and there. For that, I apologise," said Muhyiddin, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president.

He said his term as prime minister came with huge responsibilities, at a time when the country and the world were facing unprecedented health and economic crises.

"Six years ago, I was sacked as the deputy prime minister because I upheld my principles by not compromising in the 1MDB (1Malaysia Development

Bhd) scandal."

He said his fights and sacrifices had brought him to the moment he was tasked with helming the country.

"However, it has been written that today is my last day as the prime minister. I have resigned my fate to Allah SWT."

Muhyiddin's resignation came after months of a power struggle, which saw Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and its members of parliament (MPs) who backed him withdraw their support for his leadership. This left the PN administration without a clear majority in Parliament.

Muhyiddin said he and his cabinet had resigned, as required by the Federal Constitution as he no longer enjoyed the support of the majority of MPs.

He said he chose to bow out with his principles intact.

"I could have taken the easy way out by sacrificing my principles to remain as the prime minister. But that was not my option.

"I will never be in cahoots with