

# 'I did everything possible until the very end'

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**PETALING JAYA:** Caretaker Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin says he had done everything possible until the very end, to keep the Perikatan Nasional government intact.

He said he had listened to all the sincere pleas of millions of Malaysians asking him to continue as the Prime Minister.

But he added that he could not do so as he had lost the confidence of the majority of the members of the Dewan Rakyat.

"I worked on many things until the last minute to save the Perikatan government, at the very least, to carry out the task of managing the Covid-19 pandemic, continuing the vaccination programme and reviving the economy.

"My efforts did not succeed, however, as there were certain power-hungry parties who wanted to take over without considering the lives and livelihood of the people," he said in a live televised address to Malaysians hours after tendering his resignation to the Yang di-Pertua-

an Agong at Istana Negara yesterday.

Muhyiddin said he did not want to sacrifice his personal principles in order to remain the Prime Minister.

"Six years ago, I was sacked as the deputy prime minister just because I defended my principles of not compromising on the irregularities of the 1MDB case.

"However, it has been destined that today will be my last day as the Prime Minister and I accept the fate chosen by God," he added.

Muhyiddin, who is Pagoh MP, said he could have taken the easy way out by abandoning his principles to remain as Prime Minister, but this was not his way of doing things.

"I will never collude with those facing court cases, disturb the independence of the judiciary and violate the Federal Constitution just to remain in power," he added.

He also hoped that the new government would be formed as soon as possible, so that there were no

disruptions to the country's administration.

He added that the next two months would be crucial as Malaysia was expected to achieve herd immunity by October.

"Everything that has been outlined in the National Recovery Plan must not be affected. All the economic sectors must reopen to allow the economy to recover so that the rakyat can continue to generate income and support their families and themselves," he added.

Muhyiddin also assured Malaysians not to worry about the national vaccination programme as over 87 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines had been ordered at a cost of RM4.36bil.

"To all my fellow Malaysians, you don't have to worry.

"My Cabinet has ordered more than enough vaccines for all of you.

"If the vaccination programme goes well, all of you will get vaccinated by the end of October.

"Thus, the momentum of the implementation of the vaccination

programme should not be disrupted.

"Our record of the number of daily vaccinations being among the highest in the world, must be maintained.

"I am optimistic that our country will be able to get out of this pandemic crisis in the near future."

Muhyiddin expressed his excitement at seeing the positive development at several hospitals in the Klang Valley where the number of Covid-19 patients in Category Four and Five were declining.

"Hopefully, with the increasing vaccination programme, more lives can be saved and all of us can return to (leading) normal lives."

He also thanked all frontliners, industry players, workers, non-governmental bodies, grassroots leaders and all other parties who had supported the Perikatan government.

He also expressed his gratitude to his former Cabinet members and coalition partners who had stood by him.