

Cabinet backs Muhyiddin as PM

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Analysts predict no-confidence vote will not materialise in Parliament

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PETALING JAYA: The Cabinet has given its full backing to Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as Prime Minister to continue his efforts to battle the worsening Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

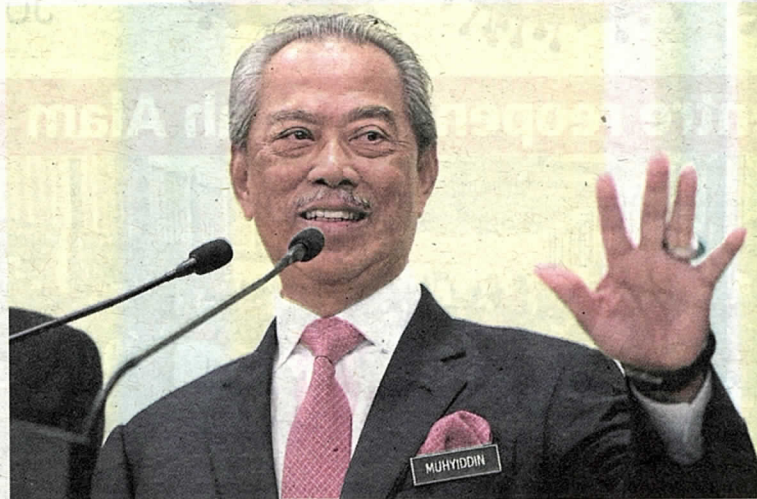
In a brief statement, it said the matter was decided unanimously at the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

The Cabinet said every government decision would be collectively decided by it after considering the views of all.

"The government's priority is to ensure the success of the National Recovery Plan to ensure harmony and prosperity and to bring Malaysia out of the Covid-19 pandemic," the statement added.

Analysts described the Cabinet's decision as a sign of unity within the government.

Universiti Sains Malaysia's Prof Dr Sivamurugan Pandian said the



Full support: The Cabinet has given its full backing to Muhyiddin.

move also showed that ministers from Umno were keen to remain with the Perikatan Nasional government.

"This shows that they are not inclined towards Umno's decision

to withdraw support for the Prime Minister," he said.

There were concerns on the frailty of the Perikatan government after Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi announced

that the party was withdrawing its support for Muhyiddin as Prime Minister, ahead of the reconvening of the Parliament session beginning July 26.

Sivamurugan said he did not think a no-confidence motion would be called against Muhyiddin during the parliamentary proceedings.

He added that the focus would be on the National Recovery Plan to address the pandemic situation.

Universiti Malaya's Prof Dr Awang Azman, Awang Pawi said the announcement was to convince the people that Muhyiddin still has the Cabinet's support to continue leading the nation.

He said there has been much public discontent, with the Perikatan government facing attacks even from allies, with Covid-19 figures continuing to surge.

"We now have more than 11,000 cases a day.

"This has led to concerns, panic and discontent among the people and they want the necessary steps

to be taken," he added.

Prof Awang Azman also agreed with Sivamurugan that a no-confidence motion was unlikely to be held.

"However, the passing of the 2021 Emergency Ordinance requires a majority vote and this will serve as a challenge to the Perikatan government unless Parti Pejuang Tanah Air, Muda and Parti Warisan Sabah support Perikatan in the House," he added.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said the Cabinet's message was clear and "self-explanatory".

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan said the Cabinet issued the statement to quell talk that the Perikatan government was divided.

"The Cabinet agreed on this as we need to be united when the country is fighting the health and economic crises," he said.

"As ministers, we owe it to the people to stand as one team."