

# Calls for Muhyiddin to quit

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**PETALING JAYA:** Three senior politicians have called on Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to step down as prime minister.

In separate statements issued yesterday, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi cited the imbroglio in the revocation of the Emergency Ordinances (EO) as the reason warranting his departure.

In his statement, Anwar said he had submitted a motion to seek the resignation of Muhyiddin because the Dewan Rakyat had lost confidence in the incumbent prime minister.

Anwar, who is Port Dickson member of Parliament, said in the motion that "the Dewan Rakyat resolves to establish a vote of no-confidence in Prime Minister Tan Sri Mahiaddin Md Yassin and to (ask him) to vacate the post of prime minister immediately in accordance with the Federal Constitution".

The Speaker's office confirmed that it had received the motion.

Anwar later told a media conference that he would seek an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan

## Move follows Palace statement expressing King's disappointment with Emergency Ordinance revocation without royal assent

Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah "if there is a need".

Earlier in the day, Istana Negara issued a statement expressing the King's "utmost disappointment" with the revocation of the EO without his assent.

De facto Law Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan announced on Monday that the EO had been revoked on July 21.

In his statement, Mahathir alleged that Muhyiddin had "deliberately lied to Parliament".

"He must know he has no power to revoke the EO on his own. But the announcement was made as if he had the power when such power is solely in the hands of the King during an emergency."

Mahathir added although Takiyuddin Hassan made the announcement, Muhyiddin cannot absolve himself.

"He made no attempt to correct it nor stop Takiyuddin. Therefore it is incumbent upon him to resign."

Ahmad Zahid called for all Umno members of Parliament (MP) to withdraw their support for Muhyiddin.

In a statement issued yesterday, he also called for Takiyuddin to "resign honourably" after failing to get the King's consent to revoke the EO.

"This is clearly a form of *derhaka* (disobedience) against the King while going against the Federal Constitution. Umno MP must comply with the supreme council decision on July 7 to withdraw support for Muhyiddin as prime minister," the Bagan Datuk MP said.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, who is also Umno vice-president, insisted that the government still has the support of more than 110 MP.

PAS, which is part of the Perikatan Nasional government, said in its statement that it would give full support for Muhyiddin and his entire Cabinet.

Social activist Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam described the latest events as "most unwelcome and disconcerting".

"Let's not leave out the fact that this will eventually also cause great uncertainty in terms of our ability to fight Covid-19 and face the economic slowdown," the director at the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute said.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia geostrategist Prof Dr Azmi Hassan said it must be made clear if Takiyuddin had informed the prime minister and the Cabinet before making the announcement.

Malaysian Council of Professors Senior Fellow Dr Jeniri Amir said the government has failed to uphold the separation of powers by ignoring the decree.

"This is the first time in my recollection that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has made such a statement. It is important for those involved to make it clear what role they played in ignoring the decree."