

## 'WISHFUL THINKING'

# Fahmi rubbishes Muhyiddin's redelineation claim

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government denies allegations that it will amend the Constitution to create more electoral districts.

Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil said Perikatan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's claim that the unity government planned to increase the number of parliamentary seats from 222 to 300, was untrue.

"As part of the unity government cabinet, this is the first time that I've heard of this number (300 constituencies).

"I'm not sure where he got the information. I'm not aware of this matter, despite being a cabinet member.

"To me, it is just wishful thinking from his side," he said after the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya-level Kita Madani Programme at the Pantai Eco Park Community Centre here yesterday.

He said Muhyiddin should raise the matter at the coming Dewan Rakyat sitting.

"He (Muhyiddin) can ask the prime minister (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) about the matter. He will get a clear and exact answer from the prime minister.

(And) I would like to remind him: *Jangan ponteng Parlimen* (do not skip parliamentary sessions) and please ask questions during PMQT (Prime Minister's Question Time).

*"Jangan malas, jangan culas* (don't be lazy)."

Muhyiddin had said at a PN ceramah in Kempas, Johor, on Saturday, that the unity government could amend the Constitution to create more electoral districts if it retained a two-thirds majority in Parliament.

He said it was important for Pulau voters to block the move by voting for PN candidate Zulkifli

Jaafar on polling day this Saturday.

He said a win for PH-BN would mean it retained its two-thirds majority in Parliament.

"We predict that this gerrymandering will take place in the next few years within this term.

"But it needs a two-thirds majority."

Muhyiddin, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president, claimed the government would likely increase the 222 parliamentary seats to 300.

"The areas they plan to add would probably involve high-density areas.

"This isn't a racial issue but a geopolitical reality.

"This is known as gerrymandering, where those who do not support them (unity government) would be excluded to other areas.

"They will include only people who support them and add new seats to ensure an easy win for them in elections.

"Based on the current situa-



Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil (second from right) inspecting a display at a government agency after launching the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya-level Kita Madani Programme at the Pantai Eco Park Community Centre yesterday. PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

tion, there will be a redelineation for urban areas, but not as many in Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu and the northern states."

"What's certain is that the urban areas, dominated especially by DAP, will increase. What then will happen to us?"

The last redelineation was in

2018, prior to the 14th General Election, after a motion was passed in the Dewan Rakyat to address voter imbalance in constituencies.

Redelineating electoral boundaries is governed by Section 4(2) of the 13th Schedule of the Constitution.