

'Renewed interest in BN'

New Straits Times

November 25, 2011

By NOOR ADZMAN BAHARUDDIN

TAN Sri Muhyiddin Yassin says there is renewed interest in Barisan Nasional among the people in opposition-controlled states.

Describing this as a positive development, the deputy prime minister said BN leaders and workers should work even harder to win the hearts and minds of these people.

"It is happening in Kedah, and even in Kelantan.

"Therefore, BN must not rest on its laurels and must work harder to convince the people that we always have their best interests in mind.

"More importantly, this positive change is a manifestation of the people's acceptance of BN's development policies and the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak," he said after a Jamuan Rakyat 1Malaysia luncheon with some 2,000 people in Bandar Baru here yesterday.

Present were Kedah Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah and his deputy, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir.

Muhyiddin said his "guests" comprised people from all walks of life, who came on their own free will to find out for themselves what BN could offer them.

"Make no mistake. The people, including the Chinese community, came in droves to all the places I visited today, and I believe they are disappointed with the Pas-led state government for failing to honour its election promises.

"I was in Kelantan yesterday and the people came in droves to meet us. There is a new sense of awareness... a wave of sorts for BN and we should reciprocate by working harder to meet their needs."

On the state government's approval to demolish the 100-year-old Madrasah Sahiliah Kanchut in Alor Star to make way for a RM500 million shopping mall, Muhyiddin said this was contrary to Pas' preaching.

"The people should question the state government. If they (Pas) can demolish a surau, it shows they don't care about an Islamic institution. So what is Pas all about?"

On the move to build fewer boarding schools, he said this was to reduce government expenditure but it would still provide such schools if the need arose.

"We are concentrating on turning normal schools into schools of choice. In fact, there are many schools of choice that are not boarding schools."

On the amendment to the Universities and University Colleges Act 1974, proposed by Najib, he described it as a political transformation for the benefit of the younger generation.

He said it would give more room for students to be involved in politics and the

government's acknowledgement of their maturity.

Later, at a Jamuan Rakyat 1Malaysia at Taman Mutiara in Padang Serai, Muhyiddin reiterated that the large turnout indicated the strong support for BN and that the people of Kedah were frustrated with the state government.

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