

DPM: Malaysia's success due to BN's sound policies

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CAPABLE LEADERSHIP: It didn't happen by chance but through hard work, says Muhyiddin

MALACCA: THE Barisan Nasional government's courage in implementing sound development policies has brought Malaysia to where it is today, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said it was due to the good leadership of the government that such success could be attained for Malaysia, which was only eight years away from achieving developed nation status.

"It did not happen by chance, but took commitment, good planning, preparation and hard work," he said at a 1Malaysia gathering at the public field in Taman Maju here yesterday.

Muhyiddin, who is on a one-day visit to Malacca, said the government was able to do this unlike some other countries which before gaining independence had good leadership, but failed to implement sound policies after independence.

"These countries regressed, the number of poor people increased and many were not able to get jobs," he said

He said Malaysia's success was attributed to unyielding, knowledgeable and visionary leadership that was able to bring about progress to the country.

Muhyiddin, who was accompanied by his wife, Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman, and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, also announced an allocation of RM5.5 million for the Jasin district.

The allocation will used to build new buildings for Sekolah Rendah Agama Taman Maju and Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil Ladang Jasin Lalang, and repair a basketball court in Taman Maju.

"All these projects are only made possible under the BN's capable leadership in introducing policies that prioritise the people's welfare," he said.

Later, at the Malacca International Trade Centre, Muhyiddin, who met some 5,000 youths from 320 youth organisations in the state, told the country's future leaders to focus on their education, especially in the areas of science and technology.

"Currently, 80 per cent of the country's workforce or 12 million only have the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia certificate.

"If these 12 million people have at least a vocational training certificate, they would be able to increase their marketability."

Muhyiddin added that in 10 years, the country would need some 3.3 million skilled workers and it was in the hands of the youth of today to ensure this demand was met.

Earlier, Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president, held a closed meeting with Ali and all elected representatives from the state Umno.

Discussions were held on the political situation in the state and on preparations for the coming general election.

Muhyiddin spent about two hours where he was briefed on the strength of the Umno machinery and the parliamentary and state seats to be contested by the party.

Muhyiddin, who is also BN deputy chairman, then held another closed-door meeting with the BN component party leaders at Hotel Wakaf in Pantai Puteri after making a stopover at the Terendak Camp to meet with members of the Royal Malaysian Army's 3rd Combined Arms Division.

Later in the evening, Muhyiddin launched the "Gelombang Biru Melaka" at the Taman Ria Field in Masjid Tanah.

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