

**Opposition Pitting People Against Government For Political Support - Muhyiddin Bernama
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TELUK INTAN, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- The opposition is raising the issue of inflation and higher living costs in their political campaigns to stir anger in the people against the government, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the opposition also blamed the government for the two problems in order to gain the people's support for their political struggle.

"The reality is we have done what is necessary to control and contain rising costs," he said at a "Meet-the-People" session at the Kampung Bahagia primary school here Saturday.

He pointed out that Malaysia was the only country in the world to have and was enforcing price control laws on essential items.

"There is no country in the world that has a price control mechanism to curb rising costs," he said, citing Singapore which practised an open market, Thailand which had no control over the price of rice and the United States which practised free enterprise.

Muhyiddin further dismissed the opposition's insinuations that the RM500 1Malaysia people's assistance (BR1M) was government bribery.

"PAS said it is not halal.. If it is not, then don't accept it. Some of their leaders said the amount is only a pittance. But never mind. We are giving this assistance to help ease the people's burden," he said.

On corruption, he stressed that the government and Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders viewed it as the enemy.

"We introduced new laws including to protect those who provide information, to show the government's earnestness in combating the menace," he added.

At the function attended by about 20,000 people, Muhyiddin also announced an allocation of RM27 million for the construction of a secondary school in Kampung Bahagia and an additional allocation for various upgrading projects in Hilir Perak district.

He also presented a mock cheque for the amount of RM118.54 million, the allocation for 237,098 BR1M recipients in Perak, to Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir.

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