

**House Members Should Back Peaceful Assembly Bill - Muhyiddin
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BANDAR BAHARU, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- The Peaceful Assembly Bill 2011 tabled in Parliament two days ago should be supported by all members of the House as it will help curtail street protests, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The deputy prime minister said the government decided to promulgate the law as it was willing to provide more space for the public to voice their opinions under controlled conditions.

"This should be seen as a major development process of political transformation," he told reporters after attending the 1Malaysia feast and the symbolic presentation of the RM100 assistance to national-type, Tamil and religious schools at the Serdang Square here Thursday.

He said if the opposition did not endorse and not happy with the new law, it maybe assumed that they viewed it as a restriction or barrier for them.

"Some of their antics such as street protests do not go down well with the people. The new bill curtail street demonstrations. If you want to voice out your opinions, follow the rules... more space is being provided for the people to air their views," he said.

On the government's decision to amend Section 15 of the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA) 1974 to enable students above 21 join political parties but strictly prohibited from bringing partisan politics into the campus, he said it showed government recognised the maturity of the younger generation.

"Previously, it (UUCA) was regarded as a restriction that impeded learning process in the university. Hence, students may get involve in politics but the government does not want the campus to be an arena for political parties to pit against one another. The university should be free from partisan politics," he said.

On the Kedah government's decision to demolish the 100-year-old Madrasah Sahiliah Kanchut in Alor Setar to make way for a shopping complex, he said perhaps it was more concerned with generating revenue than Islamic education.

"The Islamic institution, which has a long history, is not being given attention by PAS. This is against their battle cry that they are fighting for Islam. Islamic symbols are neglected, not respected, even demolished.

"As the people are frustrated with what are being done by PAS in Kedah, especially its failure to solve the problems of the people, they now feel that they should return to the fold of Umno and BN," he said.

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