

Muhyiddin: BN Respects People's Decision
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CANBERRA, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) government has been very mature in its political process to accept and respect the decision of the people as well as the law, even when not in its favour, said Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said BN's defeat in several by-elections, for example, was clear proof that the government had not been manipulating the election process as claimed by the opposition parties.

Muhyiddin said BN, being a responsible government for 54 years now, had always put the nation's interest as its utmost priority.

"If you feel that in some ways the government has been manipulating the situation whether through the election process or through the enforcement agencies, you could imagine what you have anticipated.

"But we don't do that...we do accept (the decisions) in the elections or in the court of law because we have been very mature in our political process. We accept the decisions although they are not in our favour," he said when taking questions from the floor after delivering a public lecture at the Australian National University, here Wednesday.

To another question, Muhyiddin said BN would not want to be the opposition, but it was not up to the party to decide because at the end of the day the votes from the people would count.

"If they feel BN is still the best, then they will vote for BN but if they decide otherwise, like in the case of Selangor state, I believe we are mature enough to accept that," he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, was also asked on Malaysia's commitment to assuring education stays as one of its top agendas.

Muhyiddin said he believed that education was one of the ways to move people forward and put them into a higher-income position.

Malaysia, he said, had from the beginning emphasised the importance of education, and in terms of budget, more than 26 per cent of the national budget went to education -- primary, secondary and higher education.

According to Muhyiddin, when Malaysia gained independence, more than 60 per cent of the people were poor and the way out of poverty was through education.

He said the government was currently undertaking a major study to review the total education system to ensure that Malaysia could move forward and further raise the standard of education in the country.

He said Malaysia's education policies and the National Education Act were based on the Razak Report written about 40 years ago.

"But I believe now is the right time to look at it again so that our education system can be brought to the level of those in developed nations like Australia and the US, and in Europe," he said.

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