

Muhyiddin wins some praise in visit to Kepong
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 — Donning her school uniform, nine year-old P. Subashini waited eagerly this afternoon for the arrival of Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for his Mesra Rakyat 1 Malaysia and Chinese New Year gathering in Kepong.

The student of Sekolah Kebangsaan Datuk Keramat 2 fidgeted with the zipper on her school bag and was distracted each time she heard a commotion among the hundreds of residents that thronged the event.

"I hope that's him arriving," Subashini said.

"This is the highlight of my day. I like (Muhyiddin). He is a very good and caring man," she said.

Like Subashini, hundreds of other Kepong residents had turned up today to receive contributions and join the deputy prime minister in the party organised by the government.

But despite the warm reception, Muhyiddin and Barisan Nasional (BN) still face an uphill battle in reversing voter support in Kepong and other parts of the city that has traditionally voted for Pakatan Rakyat (PR) parties.

Muhyiddin received a warm reception at the gathering today. — Picture by Choo Choy May In Election 2008, PR parties made a clean sweep of the 11 federal seats in the city.

But BN is hoping to win back some of the wards now controlled by PR although Kepong is considered a long-shot.

Still, Muhyiddin appeared to have the backing of some of the residents who turned up today.

"He engages with the people and is very approachable," self-employed Tan Soo Suan said.

"Even as Education Minister, he listens to the parents and does what is best for the children."

She added that although the recent PPSMI issue had drawn flak from the public, Muhyiddin's unwavering resolve to revert the teaching back to Malay despite pressure and criticisms from pro-English groups "showed his strength and character".

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