

**DPM: Be more open-minded**

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BUTTERWORTH: State leaders here should have been more open-minded and not try to prevent the 1Malaysia feast from taking place, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin said that as a Malaysian, he has a right to attend the event.

"So, we should have an open mind and not prevent (the function) until it creates problems.

"This is because I, too, have a role to play and a responsibility to meet the rakyat to convey matters concerning government policies.

"The luncheon was not for any personal or political interest," he said after opening the 1Malaysia NGO My Carnival organised by Persatuan Kemajuan Insan Malaysia (Kesan) at the Politeknik Seberang Prai here yesterday.

Muhyiddin was commenting on the 1Malaysia feast, where he was the guest-of-honour and which was attended by over 7,000 local residents in Persiaran Mahsuri, Bayan Baru earlier yesterday.

On Wednesday, tensions ran high near the venue when the organisers had a face-off with three Pakatan Rakyat assemblymen who were speaking to reporters some 50m away.

The three assemblymen had claimed the erection of the canopy for the luncheon was illegal as it did not have the approval of the Penang Municipal Council (MPPP).

On a separate matter, Muhyiddin dismissed allegations made by Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim that a few Barisan Nasional leaders in Sabah might jump ship.

"If it is true, he (Anwar) should show proof. Barisan Nasional's position in Sabah's state and parliamentary level is strong," he said.

Earlier, Muhyiddin launched a new patriotic song composed by local musician Datuk Wah Idris, titled, *U I Believe*.

Speaking at the Kenduri 1Malaysia and 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) presentation at Bayan Baru earlier, Muhyiddin said a total of RM2bil was given under the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) programme to households nationwide.

"I also expect Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to make an announcement soon for taxi drivers nationwide," he said.

He also announced an allocation of more than RM3mil to improve various housing infrastructure and community programmes for farmers and fishermen in Bayan Baru.

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/4/27/nation/11188192&sec=nation>