

**Market trader gets VIP visitor**  
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**By RUBEN SARIO**

KOTA KINABALU: Arranging rows of spicy salted fish at her stall in the Kota Belud market, Toumi Bayogoh was pleasantly surprised when she looked up and saw Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin stopping by to say hello.

The Deputy Prime Minister appeared intrigued when Toumi, 47, told him the fish, which was preserved with salt and chillies before being sun dried, was one of the many specialities in the northern Kota Belud district.

"I am so proud to have met the Deputy Prime Minister. He is the most important person to have ever visited this market and it is something I will always treasure," said Toumi.

She hoped Muhyiddin's visit to the district, some 80km from here, would spell more development for Kota Belud.

Muhyiddin's visit to the market with Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman was part of his walkabout around Kota Belud yesterday.

After taking a break at the Restoran Kota Raya for a cup of *teh tarik* with the local community, Muhyiddin headed to Kampung Narinang, 26km from Kota Belud town, for a meet-the-people session.

There, Muhyiddin said Barisan Nasional's practical, prudent and sound policies had enabled Malaysia to systematically develop since independence.

"We don't have a magic wand to make things happen instantaneously," he added.

"What we have are good policies balanced with the wise use of our financial resources that resulted in our country moving forward in terms of higher incomes and better infrastructure," Muhyiddin said.

He also announced allocations totalling more than RM41mil for road upgrading, school repairs and grants for various community associations and religious groups in Kota Belud.

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