

**Muhyiddin: People of Bagan beginning to trust BN**  
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**By DERRICK VINESH**

BUTTERWORTH: The people of Bagan – a traditional Opposition stronghold in Penang – are beginning to show that they have trust and confidence in Barisan Nasional, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the strong turnout at a programme with him in Taman Tanjung Aman off Jalan Raja Uda here was a good indication.

“You can see for yourselves. Where can you dream of getting such a crowd in the stronghold of (Penang Chief Minister and Bagan MP) Lim Guan Eng?

“So many have come here and it shows they have confidence (in us),” he said, adding that the crowd would have been bigger if Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak were to come.

He said that although Barisan lost the Bagan parliamentary seat and all its three state seats in the last general election, it did not deter him from visiting the people there.

He said it might not be easy to win back the seats but Barisan would work very hard to overcome its shortcomings.

If all component parties did not have internal problems, he said, Barisan would definitely win the seats back in the coming general election.

Muhyiddin said the Chinese community, especially businessmen, knew that they needed a stable government that was hardworking like Barisan.

“In order for economy to grow and for the business community to enjoy good business, they must support a government that has a clear vision and policies on economic development,” he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the country’s National Education Policy encouraged the growth of Chinese and Tamil schools alongside the national schools, because the government wanted to allow the people to nurture their young to be fluent in their mother tongue.

“We spend RM2.8bil in salaries for Chinese schoolteachers every year and over RM1bil in salaries for Tamil schoolteachers.

“And we will not close down these (vernacular) schools. These schools have existed over the last 55 years.

“They are still there today even though some schools have very small enrolment,” he said.

Muhyiddin later pledged RM500,000 to Bagan residents via Barisan’s Bagan co-ordinator David Chua, to be distributed among the different non-governmental organisations, religious bodies and sports clubs.

Source:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/6/17/nation/11497637&sec=nation>