

**DPM Wants Muslims To Protect Sanctity Of Islam**  
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PAGOH, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today called on Muslims to protect the sanctity of Islam in this country to prevent confusion over its teachings by those who claim to be religious experts but have a different agenda, especially politics.

He said a high level understanding of Islam could avoid Muslims from being hoodwinked by those who "appeared pious" but were actually devious.

"Nowadays when you mention Islam, many will claim to be experts or well-versed in the religion but if we observe carefully, their priority is not religion but politics," he said at a forum on Islamic affairs organised by a group of Ledang/Muar Malay non-governmental organisations and sub-district coordinating committee, Bukit Serampang state constituency, here, Sunday night.

The forum titled "Love The Religion, Love The Ummah (Islamic Community), Love The Nation A Personal Religious Obligation", had three penallists, Yadim preacher/speaker Sheikh Ismail Hashim, former National Mosque imam Datuk Kamaruddin Zakaria and Johor Islamic Religious Council advisor Datuk Nooh Gadut.

Muhyiddin, who is also Pagoh member of parliament, said the government had never budged in protecting Islam, including holding explanation sessions and forums and distributing religious information pamphlets to the community.

He said programmes like forums would not only increase knowledge in Islam but also prevent the spread of deviant teachings among members of the community.

"We want a strong religious institution. That is why Malaysia's role in promoting Islam and protecting its sanctity is highly respected by other Muslim nations.

"The chairman Al-Quds International Institution, Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, for instance, also thanked Malaysia for its commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause.

"Three other ulama whom I met had appealed for Malaysia's assistance over the violent turbulence in Syria," he added.

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