

**Labuan Will Be Developed In Tandem With Nation's Development - Muhyiddin
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LABUAN, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has assured that the government is determined and committed to stepping up development and prosperity in the Federal Territory of Labuan to be in tandem with the nation's overall development.

Muhyiddin said the prevailing peace and prosperity in the country which received recognition as among the safest countries in the world should also be the pride of Malaysians including those in Labuan.

"As a government leader, I want to see that Labuan continues to develop and prosper as the country is experiencing rapid development. In the past, there had been a major process of development but within a recent short time, we have moved forward even faster and notched many successes we had not thought of before."

He said this at a gathering with about 10,000 people from all walks of life at Dewan Arena, Bukit Kuda Public Servants Housing Scheme, here, in conjunction with his one-day working visit to Labuan.

Also present were Muhyiddin's wife Puan Seri Norainee Abdul Rahman, Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin and Labuan Member of Labuan Datuk Yusuf Mahal.

Muhyiddin believes that with the peace enjoyed by all in the country, Malaysia can soon be among the top 10 most competitive economies after the World Bank Report on Doing Business 2013 has ranked Malaysia 12th among 185 countries.

"Recently, it was also reported that Malaysia had made unexpected great strides in the manufacturing industry, tourism and oil and gas.

"For continued success, the active participation of all levels of society is vital to further spur development and for the successful implementation of development efforts including in Labuan, which has huge potential, especially in the oil and gas industry," he said.

Muhyiddin said Labuan had the potential of achieving a higher level of development based on its gross domestic product (GDP) record last year, which was higher than that of other states in the country and having the second highest per capita income after Sarawak.

In this regard, he urged all quarters including the Industrial Training Institutes to cooperate with other parties involved in the oil and gas sector to help develop the industry, especially in creating experts in the field among young Malaysians.

"We want to see oil and gas experts and oil towkays among the people of Labuan and it becoming an oil and gas hub," he said.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin who is also Federal Territories Umno liaison chairman, said the Barisan Nasional (BN) government would continue to strive in planning and implementing various development programmes for the people's benefit.

"I believe the people of Labuan are wise in judging a government that is capable of governing the country well compared to the opposition which could only promise the moon and the stars in its election campaign," he said.

He reminded them to always be grateful for the peace they were enjoying as prescribed by Islam, compared to the situation in turbulent countries.

He also urged them to give solid support to the BN government in the coming general election to be held anytime soon, as the other parties were incapable of solving the rakyat's problems, as well as to ensure Labuan's continued development.

At the function, Muhyiddin also handed out contributions from the Malay Vehicle Importers and Traders Association of Malaysia (PEKEMA) to the top schools and students here and the mock key to a hearse (van) for Al-Ehsan Mosque, Kampung Sungai Labu.

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