

Muhyiddin welcome shows Sarawakians' support
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OUT IN DROVES: People greet the DPM warmly to show they are still behind BN

THOSE who doubted the optimism of Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin when he asserted that Barisan Nasional will enjoy a convincing electoral victory in Sarawak, should have seen his visits in Siniawan, Bau, on Monday night or at the market of Kota Sentosa in Kuching yesterday morning.

The warm reception by the people was a testament that the deputy prime minister was not exaggerating when he earlier said that Sarawak BN will not only retain most of their electoral seats in the coming 13th general election, but will do so with a bigger majority.

There was a festive atmosphere in Siniawan for Muhyiddin's visit as residents gathered to greet him and other BN party leaders in front of the Chinese temple in the small town.

Located in a Bidayuh-majority area about half an hour's drive from Kuching, the rows of wooden shophouses, which were mostly built as early as the late 1920s when the town was founded, were decorated with lanterns, pussy willow and other Chinese New Year decorations.

Muhyiddin captured the attention of the over 4,000-strong crowd.

Interspersing his speech with Bidayuh expressions, he explained in layman terms how the government had implemented policies that enabled the people to improve their lives and alleviate their difficulties.

He laid down simple examples, such as how the government's price control policies had prevented the prices of goods from soaring, thus refuting claims by the opposition that the people were suffering.

Muhyiddin's warning about the risk of uncertainty which comes with the opposition's insistence for the people to change the government was greeted with thunderous applause.

Early the next morning, en-route to the airport for his flight to Sibul and Sarikei for the last stop of his three-day visit to Sarawak, Muhyiddin went on a brief walkabout at the nearby market of Kota Sentosa.

Among those waiting for a glimpse of the deputy prime minister were Timothy Sii, 25 and his wife Evelyn Chang, 22. The young couple, who runs a small business, had with them their year-old daughter, Serena. They went to the market after sending their elder daughter Shirley, 5, to kindergarten.

Sii was beaming after he managed to take a picture of Muhyiddin, who was having breakfast with other BN leaders at the food court of the market after the walk-about.

"I am here to help my friends who had organised this walkabout," said Sii, who is a member of the Sarawak United People's Party.

Asked about the Chinese community's political affiliation, which was said to be leaning more towards the opposition, particularly the Chinese-based DAP, Sii admitted there was some truth to it.

"But, not all of us are against the BN government. My wife and I are supporting BN because the government has done a lot for the people and will do more if we give it our trust to continue doing so.

"I am also supporting BN because I feel more comfortable being able to work with my friends among the bumiputera people who are mostly supporting the government.

"I feel that it is better to support a coalition of parties that has the support of all communities instead of just the Chinese like the DAP, particularly in Sarawak, where the other opposition parties do not have the support of other ethnic groups."

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