

**Muhyiddin: Chinese did good for economy**  
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**By NELSON BENJAMIN and CHRISTINA TAN**

BATU PAHAT: The Government acknowledges the hard work and efforts put in by the Chinese community to help develop the country, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

He said the community had been actively involved in businesses such as the opening of factories and shops.

"The Chinese are hardworking and dare to take risks when carrying out their businesses, which has helped spur development in the country.

"It is a proud moment when they say that Batu Pahat is a town which has produced 25 companies listed on Bursa Malaysia," he said to the crowd during the 1Malaysia luncheon at SRJKC Cheng Siu here yesterday.

He urged the community to continue supporting Barisan Nasional in the coming general election to allow for continuity with the economic transformations that were being carried out.

Citing Johor as an example, he said that in the past, businessmen preferred to do business in Kuala Lumpur, but now South Johor, under Iskandar Malaysia, has been attracting billions of ringgit worth of investments.

"Now, I have been informed that all the taukay (bosses) and top guns in the business world are bringing in projects into the state," he said, adding that the Government was aware that the four key issues that concerned the community mainly were economic growth, education, security and stability, and social order.

He also rubbished accusations that he was anti-Chinese when elected as Education Minister. He pointed out that he had helped get annual allocations to assist Chinese, Tamil, mission and Islamic religious schools.

"We have not closed down any Chinese school and have even amended the law so that no such school can be closed down in the country. The Opposition is spreading lies if it says that we are closing down Chinese schools."

Meanwhile, Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman urged the people not to place the country's future and economy in the hands of PAS leaders such as Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, as well as PKR adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

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