

**Close Cooperation Between Leadership, Security Forces Crucial To Face Challenges
- Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 26 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin says close cooperation between the leadership and security forces is crucial to help the government tackle all forms of current and future challengers.

In fact, the cooperation has to be further strengthened, said the deputy prime minister.

He said the security forces must be always ready to face whatever threat that could disrupt the prevailing peace and security in the country.

"I hope with the concerted efforts made by the government in the past and now, the security forces' state of preparedness can be further improved and upgraded to handle whatever form of challenges that can pose a threat to the nation's security," he said when speaking to about 1,000 airmen at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Sungai Besi here Friday.

Muhyiddin said the Barisan Nasional (BN) government was always sensitive and concerned for the welfare of security forces who have served and contributed their services to the nation.

"For instance, their salary grades and ranks, including RMAF personnel, have been synchronised with civil servants effective Jan 1 this year," he said.

"I believe the move can solve the problem, although not all but part of it, which we feel needs to be addressed to improve service quality," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, when addressing a civil servants' assembly in Putrajaya last month, said the government had agreed that the ranks in the armed forces and the police be synchronised with the civil service in line with government employees' salary grades and positions.

Muhyiddin said the synchronisation was made to ensure the position of the three services (army, airforce and navy), the police and the civil service are on par besides preserving inter-service harmony.

He said the BN government realised the responsibility to administer a multiracial nation was not an easy task as every strata of society had different needs and requirements.

"To discharge the responsibility effectively, it needs determination and courage so that the people's well-being can be guaranteed and the nation can enjoy lasting peace and prosperity," he said.

"It's not easy as we've many races of different religions and cultures. We need to adopt a different approach to manage their varying needs and interests than a nation with a homogeneous populace.

"This is what we've been doing in administering this country with the mandate given by the people. We've ensured that the country is peaceful, safe and the people of diverse races

and religions lived in harmony and united.

Muhyiddin assured the people that no one race would be left out from the government's attention to reap the benefits from the nation's rapid development.

"All the races will be treated fairly and justly to enjoy the nation's wealth and prosperity," he added.

Muhyiddin and his wife, Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, who came to the function as early as 8am, spent about 20 minutes having breakfast.

They had nasi lemak and Malay traditional delicacies.

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