

Muhyiddin says Umno is not going to Sarawak as PBB has achieved its objectives

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Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (pic) today reaffirmed that Umno would not enter Sarawak.

He said Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), the main component party of the state Barisan Nasional, had achieved what Umno had hoped to achieve if it were to spread its wings to the state.

“There's no reason why we should duplicate what had already been achieved,” he said in a news conference after meeting traders, representatives of trade associations and business people in Kuching.

Muhyiddin's comments comes on the heels of Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud's advice to his successor that whoever succeeds him must strive to keep Umno and its brand of racially divisive politics out of the state.

Sarawak BN secretary-general Datuk Dr Stephen Rundi had said that Taib's successor has to vigorously protect the state's rights as spelled out in the Malaysia Agreement of 1963.

“We must stick to the Malaysia Agreement in protecting the rights of the state,” he had said of Taib's message which was delivered at the state BN supreme council meeting in Kuching which also gave the chief minister the prerogative to choose his successor.

Rundi had said that standing up to Putrajaya included stopping Umno from coming to the state, which is widely seen as undermining the 20-point agreement which protects the interests and rights of Sabah and its people when the territory agreed to form Malaysia with Malaya, Sarawak and Singapore. Sabah has a 20-point agreement while Sarawak has a 18-point agreement for the formation of Malaysia.

“There's no necessity. Like Umno in the peninsula, PBB has become the main component party

which all other component parties rally around.

“The role played by PBB is similar to the role played by Umno in the peninsula and Sabah,” said Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president.

What is important, the deputy prime minister said was not the party, but the objective achieved.

He said Sarawak had it all - unity, peace, progress and stability.

Muhyiddin attributed this to the outgoing Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Muhyiddin, who arrived yesterday evening, is on a three-day working visit to Kuching.

Reaffirming Umno would not spread to Sarawak addressed the concerns of Sarawakians,

The deputy prime minister also heaped praise on Taib for the legacy he had left behind.

He said in the 33 years Taib had been chief minister, the economic landscape of Sarawak had been transformed.

He said Taib had achieved the unique feat of being able to unite the people of diverse cultures and religions to make them live in peace and harmony.

“This should be one of his greatest achievements. The issue of unity is important and he has achieved it here in the state,” he said. - February 13, 2014.

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