

## **Young Johoreans band together to show support for Muhyiddin**

**The Rakyat Post**

**July 28, 2015**

**By Ben Tan**

**JOHOR BARU**, Most Johoreans, especially the younger generation, took their frustrations out on social media, following news that Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was dropped as the Deputy Prime Minister this afternoon.

Many gave words of encouragement and support for the 68-year-old Johorean from Muar and Umno veteran, who they see as Johor's pride in the country's leadership.

Among the Johor-centric Facebook pages that were popular was the non-political Persatuan Bangsa Johor page that commands more than 155,000 followers.

The Facebook page, displaying Johorean pride, was active with six posts in Bahasa Malaysia on Muhyiddin being dropped and replaced by Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi as the newly-minted Deputy Prime Minister.

The first post was at about 2pm when the Cabinet reshuffle was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in Putrajaya.

Many Johoreans expressed their unhappiness at the decision by the Prime Minister to drop Muhyiddin, who is also the Pagoh Member of Parliament.

Some even urged Umno Johor members to unite and quit the party in support of Muhyiddin.

Among the Facebook comments was by one Zam Seekers that urged Johoreans to be united against Umno (Ayuh Bangsa Johor, bersatu kuburkan Umno).

Another view by Nazir Nordin Ibrahim suggested that in support of Muhyiddin, Umno Johor should pull out of the party and Umno at the national-level will collapse (Umno Johor kena keluar parti, berkecuali. Maka pusat akan tumbang, support TSMY).

In addition to that, there were also some who made the similarities of history repeating itself on the fate of Johor leaders in the Deputy Prime Minister's role, such as Tun Musa Hitam.

However, the issue of Johor's secession from Malaysia was again among one of the popular themes discussed.

Hairul Nizam, in his comments, urged Johoreans to reject dirty politics saying it was time for Johor to separate from Malaysia.

Others urged Johoreans to reject any political parties and return the state's leadership to the Johor monarchy.

Despite that, there was no mention on Muhyiddin still retaining his Umno party post as the deputy president. The post is not an appointed post and is subjected to the party's supreme council.

The Johor-born Muhyiddin hails from the Muar district and was the son of a famous Islamic teacher in the state.

He completed his Bachelors Degree in Economics and Malay Studies in University Malaya before returning to Johor to serve as a member of the Johor Civil Service (JCS) and later the private sector in several senior management positions.

The former Johor Umno Youth chief later contested and won the Pagoh parliamentary seat in 1978, which he held for two terms until 1986.

He then served as a deputy minister in two ministries.

Following that, he then contested the Bukit Serampang state assembly seat which he won and later was made the Johor Menteri Besar in 1986.

After his Menteri Besar stint, Muhyiddin returned to the federal level and assumed various ministerial portfolios before he was made the Deputy Prime Minister to Najib in April 2009. He is also the Education Minister.

As a veteran Umno member, Muhyiddin has held the Umno deputy presidency since March 2009.

On Sunday night, Muhyiddin broke his silence on the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) issue during the closing of the Cheras Umno divisional meeting.

He reportedly maintained not having any "malice" in supporting the 1MDB investigations, saying that he had to speak the truth and give his views.

He also said the Prime Minister himself should personally take the lead to explain the issue to the people.

Following that, the next day rumours were rife that Muhyiddin would be dropped as the country's number two man.

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