

Muhyiddin: I never felt such relief as during removal from Cabinet

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PETALING JAYA, Aug 9 — Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today that he has “never been so relieved” than the moment he was dropped as the deputy prime minister.

The Umno deputy president reiterated, however, that it was the prime minister’s prerogative to determine who should be in his Cabinet, and that it was not an issue if the former was considered inappropriate.

‘I’ve never felt so relieved in my life [than] when I was dropped from the Cabinet.

“I can still go on with my duty, three quarters of the weight on my shoulder has been lifted,” he said during his speech at the Petaling Jaya Utara Umno Youth delegates’ meeting at the Crystal Crown Hotel here.

He added that he “shouldn’t speak about this”, but wanted to stress the importance of the fighting spirit and the need to protect the country’s institution so “Umno won’t lose”.

The Pagoh MP was dropped as the deputy prime minister during a Cabinet reshuffle late last month, ostensibly over open dissent against Putrajaya’s handling of current issues.

Today, Muhyiddin said Umno’s popularity has been dipping and that it was not due to the issue of 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) alone.

Delegates agreed with his prognosis when they responded in the negative when he asked if Umno could retake Selangor should a state election be held tomorrow.

“We are not getting better, it is a serious problem, it is not just 1MDB, before 1MDB there were a lot of issues.

“Economic issues, cost of living issues, the people are feeling the pressure. Economists say fundamentals are there but the people are feeling the pinch.

“It is a difficult problem, that’s why we have to try to resolve these issues, regarding GST, unemployment of youths, increase in cost of living...” he said.

Muhyiddin added that the Umno leadership must be able to accept a difference of opinions, saying that being in denial is a “recipe for disaster”.

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