

Muhyiddin Accepts And Respects PM's Decision To Drop Him From Cabinet
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has accepted the decision of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to drop him from the reshuffled cabinet line-up with an open heart.

Muhyiddin, who is also UMNO deputy president, said he respected the prerogative of the prime minister to appoint and drop any member of the cabinet.

"Alhamdulillah (all praises to Allah), I wish to thank the prime minister for having given me the opportunity to serve in the federal government administration as deputy prime minister beginning on April 10, 2009.

"I also wish to thank all the heads of department, government officers, leaders of non-governmental organisations and all others who have supported me in carrying out my duties as deputy prime minister," he said in a statement via his Facebook page this afternoon.

When announcing the cabinet reshuffle today, Najib said the post of deputy prime minister would be taken over by Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also an UMNO vice-president.

Muhyiddin said throughout his time serving as deputy prime minister, he was directly involved in drawing up government policies and had carried out the tasks entrusted to him with full honesty.

He said while serving, he had always upheld all the government policies and supported the prime minister's leadership.

"Except on the 1MDB issue, where I have my own principles and stand in protecting the rights of the people, the good name of the party and the interest of the nation. If my stand on this issue has caused me to be dropped from the cabinet, I accept it," he added.

Muhyiddin also stressed that as UMNO deputy president, he would always be loyal to the party's struggles.

"I will continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to me and serve to strengthen the party and to regain the confidence of the Malays and people at large in UMNO," he said.

Muhyiddin, 68, was among the longest-serving members of the cabinet until he was dropped from the line-up today.

After the March 2008 general election, he was appointed as International Trade and Industry Minister and in April 2009, was made Deputy Prime Minister and Education

Minister.

Before that, the Pagoh member of Parliament was elected as UMNO deputy president at the party's general assembly in March 2009 after being vice-president for three terms.

He was appointed as parliamentary secretary to the Foreign Ministry in 1981 and then as Deputy Federal Territory Minister and later as Deputy Trade and Industry Minister before returning to Johor as Menteri Besar (MB).

He was MB for nine years after winning the Bukit Serampang state seat in the 1986 general election. In 1995, he contested the Pagoh parliamentary seat and remains as its MP.

His political career also saw him appointed as Youth and Sports Minister, and Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister.

During his early involvement in politics, he was elected as Muar-Pagoh UMNO division treasurer before becoming Pagoh UMNO Youth chief and division vice-head in 1975.

In the UMNO elections of 1987, he was elected to the party's Supreme Council after failing in his first attempt in 1986.

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