

Muhyiddin found out about axing less than an hour before Najib announcement

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By Eileen Ng

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin found out about his ouster from the Cabinet while on the way to launch an international school in Sendayan, Negri Sembilan yesterday morning, less than an hour before his boss Datuk Seri Najib Razak made the official announcement.

The former deputy prime minister said he was told of the matter by the Prime Minister's Office when he was on the way to the function.

"I realised then that it was my last function," he told a packed press conference at his residence in Bukit Damansara today.

Muhyiddin had put up a brave front at the Matrix Global Schools event yesterday, smiling and taking pictures with children amid speculation that he was going to be axed as deputy prime minister and education minister.

He said he was told to meet the prime minister at 11.30am but only managed to meet Najib about 45 minutes later, after the function.

"After some discussions, I asked him why he called me in. He was quiet when I asked if he has anything to say.

"I asked if it is about Cabinet reshuffle and he nodded. Then I asked if he has anything to say to me but he had trouble speaking. I asked 'does this mean my name is not in the list' and he nodded, so I said 'thank you'," he said.

Asked whether it was a fair decision, he said the move was the prerogative of the prime minister.

"I don't want to dispute the matter although I had given him my explanations but as an experienced politician, this is a fact... so I accept it.

"That's why I issued a statement yesterday stating my stand and conveyed my thanks for giving me the opportunity to discharge my duties as the deputy prime minister and I've given my best but if the prime minister feels that my service is no longer needed, I accept it."

He said he slept well last night despite going to bed later than usual as he was busy replying to the messages that came to his iPhone and an old Nokia. – July 29, 2015.

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/muhyiddin-told-about-axing-less-than-an-hour-before-announcement>