

I'm no traitor, Muhyiddin tells young Umno members
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By Hasbullah Awang Chik

An active Umno member of 40 years, former deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today that no one could call him a traitor.

Speaking to delegates at the Petaling Jaya Umno Youth division meeting today, the party deputy president said those who were now labelling him "traitor" were "young" and did not understand the long history of the party's struggle and the sacrifices its leaders had made.

"I have been in Umno for 40 years, since a time when many of you were not yet even born. Don't call me a traitor. Who is a traitor? Some are accusing me of being one," said Muhyiddin.

Muhyiddin was removed from the Cabinet on July 28 after openly questioning Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak over debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

"Surely, just because I spoke up, I should not be called a traitor. Just because I'm not in the cabinet, I have become a traitor," he said in his speech when officiating the meeting.

Muhyiddin also cautioned that Umno was no longer in its glory days, adding that the party faced difficult challenges.

He recounted to the Youth delegates his time as Johor menteri besar when Umno was in crisis in 1988, after the court declared the party an illegal entity following a dispute over election results.

He said he saw it as his duty to unite the Malay community which was in discord over the crisis.

"When Umno was outlawed, the disunity of the Malays all across the country was obvious. As menteri besar, I felt it was my responsibility to the Malays and to the people of Johor to restore unity."

Muhyiddin added that because of his many experiences as a leader and member of Umno, he should not be "discarded".

"So if you want to throw me out, it would be a loss," he quipped. – August 9, 2015.

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