

Government suffering trust deficit, says Muhyiddin in Merdeka message
The Malaysian Insider
August 30, 2015

Many quarters feel Malaysia is currently facing a trust deficit, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, noting that the credibility of the country's leaders is increasingly being questioned.

The Umno deputy president said the people's trust in the government was being eroded, while investors and the business community had also little confidence in the economy.

He said the people were getting worried when day by day, the principles of integrity and accountability within the administration seemed to be eroded.

"Dedicated civil officers were either terminated, transferred, threatened or subjected to actions.

"The freedom of important institutions in the country like the Attorney-General's Chambers, police, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and Bank Negara Malaysia appears stifled.

"It cannot be imagined in the history of our civil service that there are dedicated senior government officers who are willing to go against their superiors who tried to violate the principles of the civil service, which are to be fair, firm and non-partisan," he said in a Merdeka Day message posted on his Facebook today.

their opinions, especially on social media, because they themselves were unwilling to listen to criticism.

Additionally, he said, they also criticised the actions of leaders, calling them traitors and accusing them of planning to topple the government.

"It is clear they cannot differentiate that criticising leaders and toppling the government are two different things.

"There are so many of the country's leaders before this who had been criticised and yet the government remains, and become stronger."

The former deputy prime minister, who was dropped in a Cabinet reshuffle in late July, also said the credibility of leaders was increasingly being questioned, while the institution of democracy was seen as unable to function well because it was being controlled and pressured by those in power.

He expressed worry that if the leadership problem was not resolved then the country and the government would continue to be saddled with worsening trust deficit problem.

"To me, this issue of trust can be resolved if the country is led in accordance with the principles of integrity, accountability and responsibility towards the people."

In referring to this year's Merdeka Day theme of "Sehati Sejiwa", Muhyiddin urged everyone to have one heart or "wahdatul qulb" to rebuild back trust in the nation by returning to a leadership of integrity, accountability and responsibility. – August 30, 2015.

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