

Muhyiddin: Choice of new Perak PPBM head led members to quit

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He says only 'tens of members' quit instead of the reported 1,000, and that he knows who instigated them to leave.

GEORGE TOWN: PPBM president Muhyiddin Yassin says the recent alleged exit of 1,000 members in Perak was the work of a handful of divisional leaders upset over the appointment of the state's party chief.

The former deputy prime minister also said claims that 1,000 members had left were likely made up as a much smaller number had actually quit.

He said the handful of leaders were not happy with the state PPBM chairmanship, which was decided by the central party leadership.

"Actually, this is likely due to a handful of people who were not happy with a decision made by the PPBM central leadership, not just because of me.

"I know who's behind this, who caused this.

"Also, tell me where are the '1,000' who left the party?

"The truth is, only puluhan yang keluar (only some tens of members left the party).

"The handful are just using the 'thousands leaving' as a rallying call," he told reporters after breaking fast at the Ar-Raudah Mosque in Pulau Betong, Balik Pulau, today.

News reports said 1,000 Perak PPBM members had left the party en masse on May 26, claiming that Muhyiddin had failed to resolve conflicts at the national and state level.

Muhyiddin said there were no tears shed over those who had left the party, as more were eager to be part of PPBM to fight in the next general election.

He said it was normal for any party to have disgruntled members and "one or two" leaving.

"In any party, when the leadership has decided on something, we cannot act on 'nafsu kita' (our whims and fancies).

"Those who 'tak nak berjuang' (struggle) with us then 'tak apa lah' (never mind)," Muhyiddin said.

When asked if he was prepared to be the deputy prime minister candidate if the party's chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad becomes PM if Pakatan Harapan sweeps to power, Muhyiddin said it was too early to say.

Earlier, he broke fast with Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, state PPBM chief Marzuki Yahya, his deputy Mohd Shariff Omar and PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

Last Friday, Ipoh Timur PPBM division chief Azrul Suhadi Ahmad Mokhtar and Teluk Intan chief Jemaat Yaacob were reported as leading more than 1,000 Perak PPBM members in handing in their resignation letters.

Azrul was reported as saying Muhyiddin had failed to resolve conflicts at the national and state levels despite being given a week to do so.

The former state PPBM chief registrar also said he was disappointed that nothing was done after he had reminded the former deputy prime minister that a mass resignation of members would have a negative effect on the party's image and credibility.

Perak PPBM chief Faizal Azumu was reported as saying the mass resignation was masterminded by several members who failed to be appointed to key positions in the party.

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