

<p>Mon, Nov 2 2009 - PORT DICKSON: Deputy Prime

Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday reiterated that there is no such thing as a first or second-class citizen in the country and that all citizens have equal rights.</p> <p>♦</p><p>He stressed that the government would continue to ensure fairness and equality for all as stated in the Federal Constitution and uphold all the principles of the Rukun

Negara.</p><p>♦</p><p>"No Malaysian should feel neglected as every individual, regardless of race or religion and whether he lives in town or the outskirts, enjoys the same rights and privileges.</p><p>♦</p><p>"There is no segregation of race or status here and there is certainly no such thing as a first or second-class citizen," he said at the national-level Deepavali open house at Ladang Siliau near here.</p><p>♦</p><p>Muhyiddin called on all people to set aside their differences and heed the prime minister's call to unite as one under the spirit of 1Malaysia.</p><p>♦</p><p>"We admit that there are some differences among us, but these should not at any point affect our relationships with each other.</p><p>♦</p><p>"It is time for us to forget our differences and be more understanding towards one another and help each other to further enhance unity and development."</p><p>♦</p><p>He hoped that one day, Malaysia would become known as a country that had successfully united people of races under one roof.</p><p>♦</p><p>Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, said the government was working continuously to bring greater development to the country, including measures to assist the Indian community.</p><p>♦</p><p>Among these are efforts to increase educational opportunities for Indians and their participation in the public sector.</p><p>♦</p><p>"We will also assist Indian entrepreneurs through Yayasan Tekun, for which we have allocated RM15 million."</p><p>♦</p><p>More than 2,000 Indian businessmen are expected to benefit from such loans.</p><p>♦</p><p>His wife Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and his wife Datin Seri Salbiah Tengku Nujumuddin; Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim; MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Bagan Pinang state assemblyman Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad joined more than 10,000 people at the function.</p><p>♦</p><p>Muhyiddin also called on the people to continue to support the Barisan Nasional government.</p><p>♦</p><p>"Though there may be some problems and misunderstandings, we have always been able to overcome these and work for the benefit of the people.</p><p><br />"There is still plenty to be done... We must work hard together to preserve what we have for ourselves and the future generations."</p><p>♦</p><p>♦</p>