

12 FEB 1996

Vocational

PM DIRECTS TWO MINISTRIES TO INCREASE VOCATIONAL TRAINING

BANTING, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed the Youth and Sports Ministry and the Entrepreneur Development Ministry to take over vocational training programmes from the Education Ministry.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin said this was to ensure that the two ministries give greater focus on upgrading vocational training.

"Both ministries have held discussions on how to make this informal education more effective," he told reporters after officiating the Selangor-level Rakan Muda Bertadurus (Quran reading) programme at Sijangkang, near here, last night.

He said vocational training had to be upgraded to meet the nation's manpower needs as well as to channel the potential work force from among the more than 200,000 school leavers annually under a proper plan.

For example, training opportunities in the Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara (IKBN) which could only cater for 3,000 youths annually, should be expanded to cope with the increase in applications for enrolment, he added.

Muhyiddin said the Treasury had agreed to the setting up of temporary training centres and employment of foreign experts increase opportunities for vocational training.

On the re-structuring of the ministry, he said the study on it was expected to be completed in a year.

"We hope to enhance the role of the ministry in economic and social development under the Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000)," he added.

The ministry's present set-up was no longer suitable or able to cope with the increased development workload, expanding target groups and rising expectations of the people.

Muhyiddin also said the ministry needed cooperation from many other agencies to implment the Rakan Muda programmes at district level where there was only one youth officer charged with organising and implementing several programmess for thousands of youths.

"To resolve the problem the Prime Minister has also agreed that the ministry increase its staff," he added. -- BERNAMA

MNY MTA LDB