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Motivating youths to help tackle nation's problems

MALACCA, Tues. - The Youth and Sports Ministry will unveil a four-pronged strategy next month, aimed at encouraging youths to take part in programmes to help the nation tackle the economic problems.

Details were being drawn up by a committee, chaired by Deputy Minister Datuk Loke Yuen Yow, said Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said as youths accounted for 60 per cent of the population, they could play a pivotal role in carrying out the programmes.

"It is our hope that youths can assist to speed up the nation's economic recovery," he told reporters after meeting State youth and Rakan Muda programme leaders at the breaking of fast at Al-Azim mosque yesterday.

Also present were State executive councillor for Youth, Sports and Family Development Datuk Noordin Yaani, Youth and Sports director-general Raja Roslan Raja Samah and Malaysia Youth Council secretary-general Saifuddin Abdullah.

Muhyiddin said ministry officials, economists and State leaders would give talks to youths on the present economic situation.

Muhyiddin said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would also be invited to talk to the youths.

Such talks, he said, were necessary as youths generally did not understand the current situation.

"We hope the programmes can help inculcate patriotism and love for the country in youths."

Muhyiddin said youths should make it a point to buy only Malaysian-made products to help reduce the dependence on imports.

He also said his ministry would encourage youths to take an active part in agriculture.

"It is high time youths were encouraged to develop idle land."

Muhyiddin also encouraged non-governmental organisations to participate in the ministry's programmes which would involve some 2,000 youth leaders.

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