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Umno-Windup (Musa)

UMNO'S GOAL IS TO EMPOWER NATIONAL SCHOOLS - MUSA

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- The national education programme is the manifestation of the Prime Minister's thoughts and ideas that span over 30 years

- since Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was appointed Education Minister in 1974.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said intense competition began at school and it has long been Umno's goal to strengthen the education system.

"The entire Education Ministry and I are determined to intensify efforts in improving the quality of education through better infrastructure, solid curriculum and well-trained teachers.

"We will improve on the teaching and learning pedagogy, and prepare strong religious education," he said during the education motion wind-up at the 54th Umno General Assembly here today.

Musa, a member of the Umno Supreme Council, said he was confident that national school system could be strengthened and that Malay children could compete and succeed.

"So long as Umno strongly backs the Education Ministry, is the people's friend in education, and fights to strengthen education among Malays - the future awaiting the Malay race is bright despite intense competition in time to come," he said.

On religious education, Musa said if it was taught correctly and not used as a political tool, it would help build Malay confidence and tenacity.

"A special committee chaired by Tan Sri Murad Mohd Noor is finalising this study and will present proposals to boost religious education and empower national schools," he said.

On the teaching of science and mathematics in English introduced this year, Musa said Perlis, Kedah, the Federal Territory, Melaka, Johor, Terengganu and Sabah showed impressive achievement in the comprehension test that had been conducted.

On meritocracy, Musa said admission into university based on merit was generally accepted as the foundation for building self-confidence, competitiveness and a culture of excellence.

Bumiputera admission that dipped from 69 to 63 per cent this year has caused concern if meritocracy was beneficial to them. The drop in the number Bumiputera students into economic and pharmaceutical faculties (at 35 per cent each) and law (at 15 per cent) was also worrying.

"This is common in competition, however, we should be proud that admission for Bumiputera students is still able to reach over 55 per cent if the quota system is implemented," Musa said.

-- BERNAMA

MS KHY MOZ PC