

**'Get real, Muhyiddin, fix the education system'**

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Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin is "out of touch" with the country's education system in claiming that it is better than that of the US, UK and Germany.

Lim Guan Eng and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, who levelled the charge, said this is evident when no Malaysian has been admitted to the prestigious Harvard University for two years in a row.

"The quality of Malaysian applicants to Harvard University has deteriorated so alarmingly that none was even good enough to make it to the interview rounds," he claimed in a statement.

Muhyiddin had cited the World Economic Report's Global Competitiveness Index 2011-2012 which surveyed 87 business executives on how well the Malaysian education system has met the needs of a competitive economy.

Lim said that at least one Malaysian has always been admitted into the Ivy League institution since 1985 and up to 2010.

At present, he said, Singapore has the highest number of Harvard undergraduates with 18, followed by Thailand (seven), Vietnam (six), Malaysia (five) and Indonesia (two).

"Instead of boasting that Malaysia's education system is better than (that of the) US, UK or Germany, Muhyiddin should be worrying about being overtaken by Thailand and Vietnam," said Lim.

Read report closely'

Lim also said that Muhyiddin is in a state of denial about the crisis of mediocrity engulfing the education system, as a closer reading of the survey report indicates the system has deteriorated.

He said the report also notes that 'as it moves toward becoming more innovation driven, Malaysia will need to improve its performance in education and technological readiness'.

English education" The result is the same for other indices such as in the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment involving 75 countries," said Lim.

"Malaysia was ranked 56th in reading ability, 55th in Mathematics ability and 53 in Science.

"The country's performance in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study has also seen a steady decrease from 1999 to 2007."

Lim said Muhyiddin needs a reality check and should immediately move to address the deteriorating education system.

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