

**Vocational Education Transformation Programme Begins In 2013, Says Muhyiddin**  
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LONDON -- The Vocational Education Transformation (VET) Programme, aimed at strengthening further Malaysia's vocational education, will be implemented in 2013, said Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the programme was being implemented to support the national economic transformation agenda in churning out skilled and trained manpower.

"This is because efforts to develop the trained manpower required has yet to meet the government's aspiration despite the fact that vocational education had long been established in Malaysia.

"For example, we only produce 10 per cent of the industry's requirement in vocational education. We want to raise it to 20 per cent, just like in the developed nation," he told reporters, here yesterday.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, had earlier visited one of the world's top fashion colleges, the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London, and held a meeting with the college principal, Prof Frances Corner.

Muhyiddin, who was accompanied by his wife, Noorainee Abdul Rahman, is in London for a four-day official visit to the United Kingdom, beginning Thursday.

Commenting further, he said although the new curriculum would only be implemented in 2013, preparations must be made from now especially in terms of the infrastructure, site, training, providing skilled teachers besides the financial aspect.

In this context, he said the government would set up the National Vocational Council consisting of representatives from the industry and government to draw up the policy needed in churning out skilled manpower that fulfilled the market requirement.

He said under the new curriculum, vocational education would start as early as the lower secondary level, that is, Form One and it could be extended right up to the Diploma level.

Muhyiddin said the stress on the academic aspect would be reduced under the new curriculum, while the practical aspect and training would be increased to raise the skills of the students to meet industry requirement.

(Bernama)