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DPM's role to ensure govt transformation on track

Najib to focus on objective of high-income economy



THE task of ensuring that the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) is on track now lies with Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to whom the prime minister had given the directive a few weeks ago.

This will enable Datuk Seri Najib Razak to focus My on the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), which will turn the country into a high-income economy by 2020.

For a start, Muhyiddin said he would meet Minister in Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala, who is also the chief executive officer of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu).

Pemandu is the unit monitoring the implementation of the GTP and the key performance indicators (KPI) initiative.

Muhyiddin wants to be kept up to speed on the achievements of the GTP thus far.

"I will be working closely with him (Idris) and the six ministers and ministries involved with the national key result areas (NKRAs).

"I will have to make sure that they deliver the targets," he told the Malaysian media covering the last leg of his five-day working visit to Australia.

The six NKRAs under the GTP, which was launched by Najib early this year, are to reduce crime (under the purview of Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein; fight corruption (under Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz); improve student achievement and access to quality education (under Muhyiddin); eradicate hardcore poverty (under Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil); improve rural infras-



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*- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin
deputy prime minister*

structure (under Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal); and establish an efficient public transport (under Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha).

Pemandu had reported positive results for the six NKRAs.

Citing an example, Muhyiddin said his ministry had exceeded the six-month target for the provision of pre-schools.

"Now that we have seen positive results, we have to look at where we will be going with this looking forward."

Later, addressing students at universities here, Muhyiddin urged them to acquire as much expertise as they could while they were studying in Australia and use the expertise later to serve the nation.

"This, I think, is the biggest contribution that you can offer to the country at this critical juncture of our national development.

"Should all 23,000 Malaysian students currently studying in Australia

return home one day, we will have a huge pool of highly-qualified workers to contribute to the future growth of our nation.

"As Malaysians, let us work together as one community to achieve our national goal of transforming Malaysia into a united, prosperous high-income nation."

Muhyiddin, who is also chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Human Capital Development, said the country was facing an enormous challenge to attract and retain the best brains in Malaysia.

"Transnational migration and the search for global talent has become a worldwide trend that forces us to compete with other countries in attracting the best talents to come and work in Malaysia.

"At the same time, talented Malaysians, too, find more attractive job opportunities abroad.

"We cannot reverse this global trend.

"The government is aware that we cannot keep losing our talented,

high-skilled and knowledgeable workforce to other countries.

"We risk losing our national competitiveness altogether if we allow this trend of outward migration among our best brains to continue."

On the Galas by-election, Muhyiddin told Malaysian media he wanted to thank Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah for accepting the post of the Galas by-election director of operations.

"This is certainly a positive development. I am confident that we will be able to form a good team to deliver a win for Barisan Nasional," said the BN deputy chairman.

"Tengku Razaleigh had said that he wants to strategise the by-election.

"I see this as a pro-active approach."

He said he believed that Tengku Razaleigh, a nine-term member of parliament for Gua Musang, Kelantan Umno liaison chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin would as a team deliver success for BN.