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Report by year-end on need to revamp education system

A PRELIMINARY report on the need to conduct a comprehensive study on the national education policy is expected to be ready before the end of the year.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the report would then be submitted to the cabinet for a decision on whether such a study was needed.

"If the cabinet agrees to it, then we will conduct a very comprehensive study on the national education policy. We have been conducting many reviews on various aspects over the years but not as a whole package.

"I personally feel that the time is right for such a study to be conducted," said Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, to the Malaysian media at the end of his three-day working visit to Surabaya.

Muhyiddin said there were many aspects that needed to be studied including on whether the recommendations and objectives in the Razak Report had already been achieved.

The Razak Report, formulated in 1956, was aimed at reforming the education system in the country.

The report was incorporated into Section 3 of the Education Ordinance of 1957 and served as the basis of the educational framework for Malaysia.



It provided for Bahasa Malaysia to be the main medium of instruction while allowing the retention of other languages in vernacular schools.

The Education Ministry's team to look into the review of the national education policy was formed early this year and is headed by its director-general, Datuk Abd Ghafar Mahmud.

Muhyiddin said many were of the view that such a study was necessary, going by the various developments in the country over the past five decades.

"There are some who feel that our education policy is not on a par with other nations. We need to look into all aspects when coming out with this report."

On another matter, while speaking to a group of Overseas Umno Club leaders, Muhyiddin, who is also the party's deputy president, urged them to adopt an aggressive approach in explaining issues.

"We must take the bull by its horns. Do not be apologetic. Be brave to

speak up. You must be sincere and truthful.

"We will send our leaders overseas to meet Malaysian students, leaders of foreign governments and their media to explain the situation in Malaysia. This is to enable them to get a clear picture of what is happening back home."

Speaking to a group of young corporate leaders and businessmen on Friday night, Muhyiddin urged them to visit Malaysia and explore the business opportunities available.

"My hope is to see more regular interaction between the private sector here and that in Malaysia.

"Our government, through the various agencies, is ready to provide assistance to those interested to set up businesses or invest in Malaysia.

"We want to see the public sector as the main driver of the economy."

Muhyiddin said the government was willing to provide customised incentives in accordance with the needs of businesses and investors for this purpose.

On the meeting, Muhyiddin described it as a fruitful one as it was an opportunity for him to explain what Malaysia could offer to investors.