

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	28/3/2012



GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Towards 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now



www.pemandu.gov.my



# Education NKRA reaping success

Education NKRA has raised the nation's pre-school enrolment rate to 77.2% and Literacy and Numeracy rates to 97.5% and 98.6% respectively.

Education is at the core of a nation's development. It is the catalyst in preparing a generation of people for the globalised future.

As Malaysia aims to become a developed and high income nation by 2020, the Government Transformation Programme's (GTP) Education National Key Results Area (NKRA), under the guidance of the Education Ministry, has put into motion a plan of action to meet this objective - to ensure that the very foundation of education is established from the pre-school stage.

The objectives of the NKRA are to increase pre-school enrolment, ensure all children have acquired basic numeracy and literacy skills after three years of primary-level education, develop High Performing Schools and to significantly improve the performance of head teachers and principals via performance management.

The Education NKRA's ambitious goal of raising the bar of excellence in the education system has been an arduous task but all the effort put in promises to reap bountiful gains.

Addressing the myriad of challenges faced at the pre-school, primary and secondary levels, and by providing equal opportunities to all Malaysians, the role of the NKRA is indeed a critical one.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin, who is also the Education Minister, said: "We have been met with more than our fair share of challenges along the way, such as the disparity between rural and urban schools, in rolling out the programmes.

"The lessons we have learned have only made us more determined to push our transformational efforts forward to solidify our foundation and create a generation of people who are able to compete effectively in the 21st century workplace."

Two years on, the results have been encouraging and laudable. Last year, 3,089 pre-school classes were built, with enrolment rates currently at 77.2%, as compared to 72.4% in 2010.

Literacy and numeracy rates among Year Two pupils reached 97.5% and 98.6% respectively while the number of High Performing Schools increased from 20 in 2010 to 52 last year.

The Education NKRA also rolled out new initiatives which improved the overall administrative function of the education system.

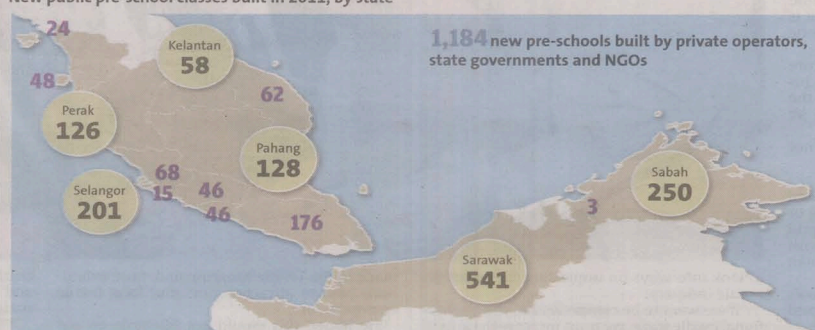
For the first time, a national pre-school information system - Sistem Maklumat Prasekolah Kebangsaan or SMPK - has been developed to collate data on pre-schools and students enrolled in pre-schools in the 4+ and 5+ age group.

In addition, an instrument to identify children with learning disability symptoms was developed and a total of 3,916 students were identified at the Primary Two level.

2011 Achievements

**Pre-school: 77.23% enrolment rate**

New public pre-school classes built in 2011, by state



1,184 new pre-schools built by private operators, state governments and NGOs

- 3,089 pre-school classes built - exceeding the 2,755 target in 2011
- Developed a national pre-school information system
- 45 pre-school classes built by Yayasan Sabah & SeDidik in the remote areas of Sabah & Sarawak
- 6,421 private pre-school teachers were trained by public and private higher education institutions in 2011



We have been met with more than our fair share

of challenges along the way, such as the disparity between rural and urban schools.

- TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN

The SIT then lends support to head teachers, allowing them to prioritise, plan and allocate resources more efficiently, resulting in a more motivated and well-organised teaching community.

The SIP is tied in with the New Deals programme, where schools are categorised into 7 different bands, with Band 1 being the best performing schools and Band 7 being the lowest performing schools.

Support and service lines to lift performance and motivate personnel were developed for schools in Band 6 and 7.

This will reduce the gap between the top performing schools and the lowest performing ones.

Last year, there was a 40.25% decrease in the number of Band 6 and 7 schools while the number of Band 1 and 2 schools saw an increase of 21.86%.

A comprehensive plan to better address the framework of special education programmes is also in the pipeline.

The plan will address the needs of teachers, parents and children with special needs who will enjoy better integration into an assisted school system.

While much has been achieved, the work is far from over.

For this year, the Education NKRA's goals have been raised to allow for a further increase in pre-school enrolment, create more High Performing Schools and introduce targeted intervention programmes that will further train and motivate teachers towards achieving greater standards of accomplishment.

Muhyiddin added: "As we move forward, our focus is on building a globally competitive Malaysia by continuously raising our standards of education and improving the delivery methods involved in teaching.

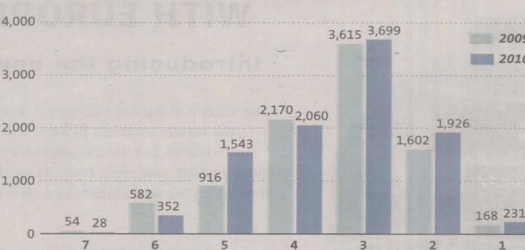
"Our primary objective is to produce a community of independent and creative thinkers who will effectively engage and participate in the workforce of tomorrow."

> Tune in to the live broadcast of the GTP Annual Report 2011 Results on April 2 at 8.30pm on RTM1.

2011 Achievements

**School improvement programme: 40.25% decrease in bands 6 & 7 schools and 21.86% increase in bands 1 and 2 schools**

2009 - 2010 School Ranking Trend: Primary and Secondary



- Developed a national level web-based data system for all public schools - School Examination Analysis System (Sistem Analisis Peperiksaan Sekolah or SAPS)
- Support system and service lines:
  - > School Partners → Give guidance to low performing Head Teachers
  - > Specialist Coaches → Excellent teachers help low performing teachers improve their teaching

One of the more noteworthy achievements of the Education NKRA is its commitment towards providing equal access to education for every Malaysian child.

SeDidik, an organisation under the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, is a programme that has facilitated and co-ordinated effective procedures for ensuring access to education for rural children living in East Malaysia.

With the assistance of the Ministry, SeDidik built 12 pre-school centres

in 2010. Last year, 30 villages, including longhouse communities, were identified for participation in this programme.

As a result, a total of 2,285 children were able to attend nursery school and gain a pre-school education.

Children in rural Sabah have also been assisted via a similar initiative.

The Sabah Pre-School Foundation Programme has successfully set up 17 pre-school centres, with 27 teachers in remote areas.

It has seen approximately 200



children being enrolled. Tadika Wawasan Ranau (Sabah) Principal San Yuk Ching said: "In the beginning, many of them didn't even know how to use a pencil, socialise or even use the toilet.

"We have adopted the learn and play style of teaching and have seen encouraging growth in the children as the months go by."

Aside from addressing the needs of pre-school education, the aim of the Education NKRA is also to identify and develop a cohesive framework that would provide support to the educators in the country's school systems.

With this in mind, the School Improvement Programme (SIP) was developed.

It aims to transform every school, especially under-performing schools, into excellent educational institutions.

Under this programme, a centralised data collection system and self-help tool called the School Improvement Toolkit (SIT) assists head teachers to keep track of school performance and identify challenges.