

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	13/6/2014



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin gets up close with pupil Nur Damia Irsalina Daeng Malis, 7, to find out how she is coping at a school leadership management transformation programme in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. Nur Damia, who was born without limbs, uses a specially modified table to write and have her meals. Pic by Aswadi Alias

Making vocational studies first option

(NST- 13/6/2014)

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Education Act will be amended to make vocational schools and colleges an integral part of the country's education system.

The amendment, aimed at making vocational education the first choice among students, will be tabled soon, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday.

While about 40 per cent of students in developed countries were in the vocational stream, Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said only 10 per cent of Malaysian students had joined the stream at school level.

The number of vocational schools would be increased to encourage more students to enrol in vocational set-ups while more teachers will undergo training in vocational and

technical fields.

At present, he said there were 87 vocational schools, with many having been upgraded into colleges.

"It will help us fulfil the demand for skilled workers in line with the vision for Malaysia to achieve developed nation status by 2020," he said when opening a state-level school leadership transformation programme here.

Present were Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh and Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman.

The focus on vocational and technical education was contained in the Malaysia Education Development Plan 2013-2025.

Muhyiddin said it was important to produce quality and skilled students as they would one day become

the human capital that could fulfil the demand in various sectors and reduce the country's dependence on foreign workers.

At another function, "Jom Bertani" in Jertih, Muhyiddin said the government placed importance on food production despite rapid advancement in the industrial and other sectors in the country.

Producing enough food at a reasonable price for the increasing population proved to be a big challenge.

The government, Muhyiddin said had never ignored the importance of issues relating to food production and supply. He called on state governments to support the programme by allotting more idle land and issuing temporary occupational licences to those interested to participate.