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Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin officiating the 2015 Education Service Conference in Miri last night. With him is Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister **Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang** (second from right). Pic by Mohd Radzi Bujang

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DPM: Vet teachers through personality assessment

MIRI: Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has called on the Education Services Commission to introduce character evaluation as part of the vetting process for recruitment of teachers.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, proposed the commission conduct psychometric test for future teachers in an effort by the government to establish a pool of quality teachers.

"I would like to propose the commission to have a personality assessment through the psychometric test for all teaching graduates as an initial screening in the recruitment process," he said when officiating the 2015 Education Service Conference here last night.

Present was Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang, who attended the event on behalf of Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem.

The ministry, Muhyiddin said, had imposed strict entry requirements for those who wanted to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Education at teachers' training institutions.

"Interested candidates are required to achieve excellent results for at least five subjects in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination to enable them to sit the teacher qualification test (UKCG).

"For those interested in enrolling for 'Program Pelajar Cemerlang' (Excellent Students Programme), they need to have good scores in seven

subjects in SPM."

Muhyiddin said the government was gearing towards establishing an education system aimed at producing quality human capital and bridging the education gap in terms of location, social economy, race and students' potential.

"Efforts to transform the education sector started since last year with the introduction of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025, followed by Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education), which was launched by the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) last April.

"The blueprints have set a clear path to establish and provide the best education system."