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Hike in allowances for principals, headmasters

JITRA: Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday announced several incentives for teachers in conjunction with the national Teachers Day celebration here.

Top of the list is an increment in the principal and headmaster allowance that would benefit 2,405 principals and 7,757 headmasters from July 1.

The RM150 allowance for principals is raised to RM300, while the headmasters' allowance will be raised from RM100 to RM200.

"The proposal was made as principals and headmasters play a crucial role in the excellence of schools, in line with the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025.

"I wish to thank the prime minister for agreeing to the proposal. I hope this incentive will spur them to continue improving the quality of leadership, to ensure excellence," he said in his speech at the 44th national Teachers Day celebration at Dewan Wawasan here yesterday.

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The theme for this year's celebration is "Teachers: Building Knowledge, Perfecting Morals".

Present were Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Deputy Education Ministers Datuk Mary Yap and P. Kamalanathan, as well as Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir.

Muhyiddin also said the soon-to-be gazetted Tun Hussein Onn Teachers Foundation Act will provide funds to teachers to further their studies, including those who were not qualified for federal assistance due to the age limit.

He said the foundation would also care for teachers' welfare, giving priority to those who need assistance in emergencies and disasters, and post-treatment equipment like wheelchairs.

"The Federal Government has also agreed to streamline the age limit for civil service officers to undertake post-graduate studies, from 43 to 45, which will give more opportunities to education services officers to further their studies.



Deputy Prime Minister **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** (centre) with Tokoh Guru Kebangsaan recipient **Datuk Dr Haili Dolhan** (second from left) and Tokoh Kepimpinan Pendidikan recipient **Tan Sri Abd Ghafar Mahmud** (second from right) at the 44th national Teachers Day celebration in Jitra, Kedah, yesterday. With them are Kedah Menteri Besar **Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir** (right) and Second Education Minister **Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh** (left). Bernama pic

"The enhancement of knowledge among these officers would see better quality and more efficient teaching and learning services."

Muhyiddin said it was time to place moral education at the core of learning in the country, towards producing responsible and trustworthy students with integrity.

"The task of instilling good values and discipline in our children does not fall on the shoulders of moral

teachers, Islamic education teachers or discipline teachers, but all teachers," he said.

At the function, Muhyiddin awarded the Tokoh Guru Kebangsaan to Malaysia Education Commission chairman Datuk Dr Haili Dolhan and Tokoh Kepimpinan Pendidikan to former director-general of education Tan Sri Abd Ghafar Mahmud.

Dedicating his award to teachers

nationwide, Haili said the government had provided ample allocations for development.

"I hope this award will become a catalyst for teachers to be more responsible and trustworthy, with integrity," the 63-year-old former Teachers Education Institute rector said.

Ghafar advised teachers to keep themselves updated with the latest technology.