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**BUILDING KNOWLEDGE,
PERFECTING MORALITY**

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND EDUCATION MINISTER TAN SRI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN

NST-16/5/2015

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Happy Teachers' Day to all teachers. Teachers' Day is celebrated on May 16 every year as a sign of appreciation for and as the nation's acknowledgement of the contributions of teachers in educating



the younger generation towards becoming useful members of society.

The role of teachers is an increasingly challenging one. As the nation heads towards developed nation status, teachers shoulder a great responsibility to create quality human capital to spur the country's development. Students need to be equipped with knowledge and new skills to enable them to compete in an increasingly competitive environment, whether in the country or abroad.

This includes having higher order thinking skills, the ability to analyse and apply knowledge, communication skills as well as having creativity and innovativeness. All these knowledge and skills need to be inculcated in the teaching and learning process. If teachers can carry out their roles effectively, then their students would be capable of mastering all knowledge and the requisite skills.

At the same time, teachers need to give serious attention to ethics, morals and the building of inner values in students in line with the needs of the National Education Policy to mould a holistic individual.

Producing an individual with noble values and praiseworthy behaviour is the basic role of a teacher. It is meaningless if our pursuit for material development is not supported by the inculcation of noble values and ethics. We need to remember that the developed nation we want to build will be based on our own mould which has values as the main foundation.

The theme for Teachers' Day this year "Teachers: Building Knowledge, Perfecting Morality" is in line with our aim to create holistic individuals. I believe with the various initiatives planned under the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025, and the support of teachers, our noble aim to create knowledgeable as well as ethical individuals would be successful.

To teachers, I would like to urge all of you to continue to serve with dedication, commitment, discipline and honesty. I believe your relentlessness in carrying out your duties will help propel the country's education standards to a higher level.

Finally, I would like to, once again, wish all teachers. wherever you may be, a Happy Teachers' Day.

Thank you, teachers.