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Goodies for teachers

100% rise in allowance for over 10,000 school heads

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By TAN SIN CHOW
sctan@thestar.com.my

JITRA: A total of 10,162 heads of primary and secondary schools nationwide will receive a 100% increase in allowance from July 1 this year.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced the goodies during the 44th National Teachers' Day celebration at Dewan Wawasan here yesterday.

He said 2,405 secondary school principals would receive RM300 monthly compared to RM150 they are currently getting, while 7,757 primary school heads would get RM200 instead of RM100.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said all the school heads play important roles in ensuring the excellence of their respective schools.

"Hopefully, the incentives will spur them to enhance their leadership quality so that our aspirations in the Malaysia Education Blueprint are met," he said in his speech during the celebration themed "Teacher: Building Knowledge, Perfecting Morals".

Muhyiddin also announced that the Tun Hussein Onn Teachers Foundation Act has been passed



Proud moment: Muhyiddin presenting the National Tokoh Guru 2015 award to Dr Haili during the celebration at Dewan Wawasan in Jitra. — Bernama

and gazetted in Parliament.

Through the foundation, teachers have an avenue to get funding to further their studies, including those who are not qualified for federal assistance due to age limit.

Muhyiddin said the foundation would also care for the teachers' welfare such as giving priority to those who need aid in cases of emergency, disaster and death as

well as providing post-treatment equipment like wheelchairs.

Muhyiddin also paid tribute to teachers, saying they played an important role in shaping balanced human capital and excellent personality.

In a related development, MCA deputy president Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong also paid tribute to teachers' contribution towards nation build-

ing, saying their advice formed the pillars of the country's building blocks.

In a Facebook posting in conjunction with Teachers' Day, the former deputy education minister reminisced about his school days, praising the efforts of his former teachers.

"Because of the moulding from my teachers' patience and in giving advice, I am who I am today," he said.

National Tokoh Guru 2015 award winner Datuk Dr Haili Dolhan, 63, advised teachers to constantly "upgrade" themselves to stay relevant in the industry.

"The profession is very challenging nowadays, compared to my time. It's only by constantly showing the hunger for knowledge that teachers can stay on top of the game.

"They have to learn new teaching methods all the time to prepare for the future. Things are changing fast and teachers too, need to equip themselves adequately to be on par.

"If you are knowledgeable, you will exude confidence and get to enjoy teaching," he said after receiving the award from Muhyiddin.