

SHIFT OF MINDSET

# PRODUCE NOBEL LAUREATES, PM CHALLENGES LOCAL VARSITIES

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Call to focus research efforts on issues faced by the nation including Covid-19, economic recovery

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**P**RIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has issued a challenge for universities to produce Malaysian Nobel laureates.

He said to achieve this, academicians needed to shift their mindset, by seeking knowledge which could benefit the community and country.

"In principle, academicians should conduct research for the

exploration of knowledge and have expertise.

"However, there are many areas in the research field which can be improved for the benefit of the community.

"Academicians should change their thinking pattern from 'knowledge to knowledge' to 'knowledge to community and country'," he said at a meeting with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) academicians and non-academicians here.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia had yet to produce Nobel laureates among its pool of academicians.

"Lecturers and professors should be ready to become experts in their respective fields and become the top in universities, nation and the community.

"The lack of experts promoting themselves means we have yet to produce Nobel laureates," he



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin arriving at Universiti Malaysia Sabah in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

said, urging tertiary education institutions to organise events that could produce laureates that Malaysia could be proud of.

Muhyiddin said to realise this, the Higher Education Ministry and universities should look into strengthening all their existing plans.

He said the direction of research efforts should be in line with the challenges and issues faced by the community.

Among the current challenges which should be given attention, he said, included the Covid-19 pandemic and economic recovery, as well as the implementation of the Shared Prosperity Vision, security, anti-terrorism, sovereignty, food security and eco-tourism.

As for the country's education development, Muhyiddin said the government was committed to ensuring that inclusive development among the community could be achieved.

"In line with this, the development strategy will focus on low-income groups and balanced development among regions, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak," he said.

Muhyiddin called on other stakeholders to support educational institutions.

"We are aware of the importance in investing in human capital in tertiary education, but the government has limited funds," he said, urging other stakeholders to join hands in supporting the institutions in various ways.

Present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Noraini Ahmad and UMS board of directors chairman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun and Tenaga Nasional Bhd chairman Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

Muhyiddin also presented TNB's My Brighter Future (myBF) scholarship letters to recipients and tertiary education students from the Bottom 40 income group.

He witnessed the signing of a collaboration note between the country and Yayasan Tenaga Nasional on the implementation of the myBF programme.

As of yesterday, 315 students from Sabah have received sponsorship from the myBF scholarship programme.