

Govt worried over fewer Science students
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PUTRAJAYA (Jan 26, 2012): The declining number of secondary school students choosing science subjects is worrying despite many initiatives introduced by the government to develop the field.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin said the interest level of students taking science subjects in schools is dwindling to a critical level.

He said that based on a study done by the Education Ministry, since 2007, the percentage of students taking science stream in school has dipped to 29% this year.

"If this situation continues, it will hinder the efforts to increase technological innovations to transform our country to become a high-income nation," said Mohd Khaled in his New Year address at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre today.

He said students, especially in primary schools, need to be encouraged to be interested in science.

"We also need to increase their awareness and cultivate their interest in science," he said.

On the alleged sales of 1Malaysia Book Vouchers, Mohd Khaled said the ministry lodged a report at the Putrajaya police headquarters on Wednesday on the matter.

"A finance officer from the ministry lodged a police report yesterday. We obtained information from several websites on offers to cash in the vouchers. We hope it will be investigated by the police," he added.

Mohd Khaled was commenting on reports that students who received four book vouchers worth RM50 each, have been putting them up for sale online at a discount of between RM20 and RM50.

Under the initiative, which costs the government RM260 million, all Malaysian students in public and private local institutions of higher learning, matriculation and Form 6 nationwide, were entitled to the RM200 vouchers.

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