

Najib: i-Think you can excel
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KUALA LUMPUR: Students should be taught to have enquiring minds instead of merely learning and absorbing information.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that if previously students were taught the "what part", they now needed to also know the "how part" so that the knowledge could be applied to their advantage.

Given this, added Najib, the education system would be transformed to churn out "thinking students" who are able to adapt to life's future challenges.

"We want students to be innovative, analytical, able to adapt to crisis, throw ideas, think out of the box and be able to solve problems. We need to prepare our young with thinking skills because the future will certainly be different.

"In order to hone such skills, we will change teaching and learning methods in schools because we want our students to excel," he said when launching the "i-Think" programme.

Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said that by transforming the education system, learning and teaching qualities would be enhanced so that students would acquire "new millennium skills".

He said the learning process no longer revolved merely around a student's ability to read, write and count but also the ability to solve problems, "be creative and think".

Muhyiddin said the pilot programme for "i-Think", involving 10,000 students, started early this year and that 700 teachers had been trained for the purpose.

"This programme is only the initial initiative undertaken by my ministry to boost skills and abilities of both teachers and students," he said.

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