

Focus On Quality, Not Just Quantity, DPM Tells Higher Learning Institutions
Bernama
October 13, 2011

MELAKA, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said public and private higher learning institutions should not just focus on creating numbers, but on quality of students as well.

The deputy prime minister said this was to ensure that the country's institutions of higher learning could produce quality human capital who could compete or excel at the international level.

"I want the lecturers, academicians and student leadership bodies to help students develop character and so on while they acquire know-how in the various fields.

"But no less important is ensuring that the quality of knowledge we acquire is high, so that we will be at par or even better than our foreign counterparts," he said at a gathering with staff and students of Melaka's higher learning institutions at Dewan Seri Negeri, here, today.

Also present was Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the government hoped that the new generation could pursue studies up to the highest level so that they could master various fields of knowledge, whether science and technology, language or other disciplines.

He said only by mastering knowledge, could people improve their living standard, for instance, from backwardness and poverty to one that could ensure a bright future.

"Knowledge is the foundation for developing a civilisation, and because of that, the government has been focusing on education in improving the lot of the people."

He said compared to the days of old where only the nobility and the rich had the opportunity to pursue higher education, now all levels of society could do that.

Education is a universal thing. No one can be denied his or her right to seek education," he said.

During the question-and-answer session later, Muhyiddin answered several questions on the position of the school parent-teacher association (PTA), including on bringing it to a higher level.

However, he felt that it was better for each PTA to concentrate on the individual school concerned and there was no need to combine at the national level.

He added that the government would create an award for PTA leadership from next year in recognition of its role in helping schools to achieve excellence.

"We will disclose the form of award (later). But the aim is to make the PTAs play a more active role in assisting schools."

Muhyiddin said the inspiration to create the award came during his visit to a school in the federal capital when the Penilaian Menengah Rendah examination was being conducted recently.

"A woman told me that she had been heading the school PTA for 16 years and had spent a lot of time and money, coming to the school almost everyday to help the school," he said.

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