

**National Education System Must Always Be Reviewed - Muhyiddin
Bernama
February 14, 2012**

JITRA, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- The national education system must always be reviewed and improved in line with the rapid development of knowledge and technology to produce quality human capital capable of steering Malaysia towards becoming a fully-developed nation.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said teachers, as the front liners to achieve that objective, had a big role to play in educating and producing knowledgeable and highly-skilled manpower in various fields.

"The government has reviewed various aspects of national education and co-curriculum, Razak Report, the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English, the extension of teacher training curriculum, and the recruitment of English teachers from English-speaking countries.

"Every change made on those aspects are aimed at improving the quality of teaching and education as these are the most vital elements for Malaysia to become a fully developed nation by 2020," he said when addressing about 5,000 teachers from Kedah and Perlis, here Tuesday.

Also present was Kedah Umno Liaison Committee deputy chairman Datuk Mukhriz Tun Mahathir.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the government had also reviewed the performance of the national education system to assess its achievement and effectiveness.

The deputy prime minister said among the reasons which caused Malaysia to lag behind in development was the fact that the colonial policies did not give much focus on human capital development, which resulted in over 70 per cent of the people in the country to be left earning low income and living as poor and hardcore poor.

"Now, Malaysia has reached the status of an advanced developing country, especially in economy, as compared to other developing countries.

"In the global context, we want to be at par with the developed countries in all areas. That's why we must be prepared to compete, or else, we will be left behind," he said.

He said under the government's transformation plan, 3.2 million jobs, including in new sectors, would be created by 2020.

However, Muhyiddin said the plan could only succeed through the right training and education system.

On the decline in interest among students for science in school, Muhyiddin said a committee set up to study the matter had formulated a new method to be adopted as a long-term

solution.

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