

**Undergraduates Should Focus On Studies - Muhyiddin
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PUTRAJAYA, Nov 21 (Bernama) - Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has advised undergraduates to focus on their studies and avoid activities that can affect their academic achievement.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that they should utilise the opportunity to acquire knowledge in the field of their choice while in university.

"The government role is to create a conducive and harmonious environment in university to help them study properly," he said at the National Student Consultative Council meeting here Monday.

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

Muhyiddin said the constitution guarantees freedom of speech and association to every citizen including undergraduates but it should be accompanied by self awareness and responsibility.

"This requires students to always think with maturity in assessing whether their action will be beneficial to them or not.

"Universities and the government are always willing to listen to constructive views of undergraduates in matters affecting their welfare, activities or national issues."

The Deputy Prime Minister said the council was the best mechanism for student leaders to makes their views known to the government.

"The government is giving serious attention to matters raised in this meeting. Follow-up will be done to ensure that each decision is followed by appropriate action."

Muhyiddin who is also Education Minister said to make Malaysia a developed nation, the government must produce competent graduates.

This could only be achieved by enhancing the quality of teaching and learning, university research and scholarship and academic staff.

Under the 10th Malaysia Plan (10MP), the government is targeting 70 percent lecturers with PhD at research universities and 60 percent at other public universities.

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