

Muhyiddin Disturbed Many Pupils Attend School Without Breakfast
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin visited a school here on the first day of its new school year today, and was disturbed to learn that many of the pupils he talked to had come to school without having their breakfast.

Immediately, he suggested that Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Bukit Pantai and other schools in the same situation bring forward their recess to 8.30 am or 9 am for the first week at least to enable such pupils to have some food and have the energy to follow lessons.

The schools can bring forward the recess, especially in the first week of the school year, so that every pupil has something to eat before the lessons start, Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, told reporters during the visit.

"This matter cannot be taken lightly as it can jeopardise the pupils' ability to follow lessons. Even an adult like I can become lethargic when I get to the office without breakfast, what more children," he said.

Muhyiddin said he was not suggesting that all schools should change the time of recess but they can consider the matter in accordance with the need.

On textbooks and desks and chairs for schools, he said all the facilities have been provided satisfactorily as the preparations were made early.

He said he was happy with the smooth start to the new school year as all infrastructure, including desks and chairs, have been made available with a RM20 million allocation from the government.

Muhyiddin arrived at Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Bukit Pantai at 8 am and was greeted by Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin and headmaster Sopian Mokhtar.

He went to four classrooms and chatted with several of the 145 Year One pupils. The school has a total of 847 pupils.

Muhyiddin also talked to the teachers as well as some of the parents of the Year One pupils waiting along the corridors.

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