

**Abolition Of SBPA Not Policy Failure, Says Muhyiddin
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KUALA PILAH, March 9 (Bernama) -- The government's decision to scrap the Public Service New Remuneration Scheme (SBPA) is not a failure in implementing a policy as alleged by the opposition, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The deputy prime minister said on the contrary, the abolition of the SBPA was made after a study found that the scheme did not meet the pay rise and perk demands of the civil servants.

"When we were about to present the SBPA, we had no knowledge of other things at early stages. And as we fine-tuned one by one, Cuepacs lamented that what was proposed (the SBPA) did not meet their demands.

"This (the SBPA) had yet to be implemented as we had just made an offer, so we decided to review it because we are responsive to the views of public officials," he told reporters after meeting Kuala Pilah religious teachers, mosque committee members and community leaders in Johor here today.

The abolition of the SBPA and salary adjustments for civil servants, ranging from seven to 13 per cent, under the improved version of the Malaysian Remuneration Scheme (SSM) was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday.

Muhyiddin said as the salary adjustments were well received by civil servants, it rattled the opposition, who was now worried of their waning influence in the civil service.

On education, Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, the National Education Dialogue, which was part a comprehensive study on the national education system was expected to be completed in four or five months' time.

He said ideas generated from the discourse from all walks of life, races, professions and industries would be included in a report to be presented at the end of the year.

"We will not leave out any group in the discourse as we know there are some weaknesses in the past that can be improved. We promise to fix them and we will do ever better," he said, adding that this was in line with the national transformation programme.

He said in the march towards a developed nation status, the country faced many challenges, including external factors like the global economic crisis, but was doing its best to resolve it in the interest of the people.

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