

DPM pays tribute to the Sikh community
TheStarOnline
April 14, 2012
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Sikh community has played an important role in developing Malaysia's social, economic and education system and this should be continued for the country's growth, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

In wishing all Sikhs a Happy Vaisakhi, he urged the community to work together with the Government in carrying out efforts to spur the nation on.

"I was informed that there are about 250,000 Sikhs nationwide. However, it is not about the size of the community, but its role in society which they have played so well," he said during a Vaisakhi celebration at the Gurdwara Sahib Sentul here yesterday.

During the event, he also announced that RM500,000 would be given to the Sikh community in Sentul to fund the social and cultural activities of Punjabi students.

Muhyiddin said the Sikh community was a strong supporter of the Barisan Nasional government and hoped such backing would continue.

He said the Government had been working hard to make Malaysia an advanced nation for the past three years under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who has been "literally working day and night".

"The economic cake that we have built must be further expanded so that we can all share such wealth. Everybody must work together because we have a long agenda to fulfil," said Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister.

He added that he recognised the efforts by the Sikh community to help their children learn their mother tongue.

"As I have mentioned before, the ministry is willing to provide similar courses if there are a number of Sikh students in a school so that they can also learn the language," he said.

On another note, Muhyiddin said British Prime Minister David Cameron's visit to the country showed that others recognised Malaysia's progress in the fast growing South-East Asia region.

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