

DPM: Strengthen education system to achieve transformation
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RANAU: Malaysia needs to further strengthen its education system to enhance its human resources as it transforms itself into a developed and high-income nation.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said it was the challenge now for the education system to produce a new breed of expert and skilled workers to help the nation attain such a status by 2020.

He said the current education system had been adequate in taking the nation from independence towards developed nation among the developing nations, but the time had come to elevate it to ensure the country achieved its transformation goals.

"In our fast developing country, we must place importance on education so that we can meet the manpower needs of the country," he said Friday at the opening of SMK Ranau and handing over of the land for Institute Aminudin Baki, about 120km from Kota Kinabalu.

"We must provide this generation with sufficient knowledge and skills to become useful human resources for the country's transformation," he said, adding that country targeted to hit RM1.3tril in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2020.

He said the country needed another 3.3 million new workers in the next eight years added to the existing 12 million work force to achieve the nation's goals.

He said the importance of education was also reflected in the Budget, where 26% of the RM202bil budget was for education matters from pre-school to university.

It was for this reason that he had ordered a review the education system, where feedback from various quarters throughout the country would be obtained.

The report will be ready by year-end.

Muhyiddin announced an allocation of RM600,000 for a bridge, RM2mil for the sealing of a 10.4km village road and RM100,000 for the repair of a mosque here.

He also allocated RM10,000 grants each for five groups, including the Sijil Injil Borneo church, government pensioners' association and old folks association in Ranau.

Muhyiddin, who is on a two-day visit to Sabah, later met with ex-teachers and had dinner with business chambers later in Kota Kinabalu.

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