

**Counseling Moulds Holistic Human Capital, Says Muhyiddin  
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SERDANG, April 4 (Bernama) -- Counseling has a very critical role in Malaysia's effort to achieve developed nation status because it could harness the potential of human capital holistically, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the development of holistic human capital was an important element in determining the success of the country's development which was driven by the strength in knowledge and innovation.

According to him, efficient and effective counseling service could not only handle problems in an organisation, community or family, but could also help to nurture emotional quotient, an important element contributing to better performance and career development.

He said in the field of education, counselors played a very important role in achieving the objectives underlined by the National Education Philosophy to produce humans balanced in emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual needs.

He was speaking at the launch of the National Career and Education Carnival and the Seminar on Enhancing Professional Counseling 2012 at Universiti Putra Malaysia, here.

Muhyiddin said to have higher quality professional counselors, their training needed to be improved from time to time to equip them with latest skills in handling various new challenges in the field.

"These included counseling skills on sexuality which could threaten the family institution. Sexual orientation disorders such as the emergence of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) group is affecting the local community," he said.

He said the practice of LGBT was against the moral and religious values of society as such he believed effective counseling could prevent the negative trend from taking root.

Muhyiddin also announced a special allocation of RM100,000 to the Malaysian International Counseling Association (Perkama) to assist the association in carrying out its activities to develop professional counselors in Malaysia.

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