

**Fewer Students To Be Sent Abroad From This Year - Muhyiddin
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PUTRAJAYA, March 22 (Bernama) -- The government proposes to reduce the number of students sent abroad from this year and channel them instead to local institutions of higher learning, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Thursday.

He said the standard of some of the local public and private institutions of higher learning was better than the foreign universities.

"We should not underestimate the institutions of higher learning in our country. Some of these institutions are far better than the universities abroad," he said at a meeting with tertiary students from his constituency of Pagoh at the Sri Satria office residence of the deputy prime minister, here.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said the government ensured that students who excelled in their secondary examinations were emplaced in tertiary institutions, regardless of race.

He said the government provided huge financial allocations to the education sector to ensure the success of national education transformation.

He also said that the government would continue to strive to bridge the gap in academic performance between urban and rural students.

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