

Vernacular schools to stay, says DPM
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ALOR SETAR, April 5 — Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today that the government has never called for the closing of vernacular schools, whether Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (SJKCs) or Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil (SJKTs).

According to Bernama, Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister said that vernacular education "could not be denied" to anyone as its role was to fulfil the needs of the Chinese and Tamil communities.

No law, he said, empowered the Education Minister to close these schools.

"Only in Malaysia do we provide education opportunities to cater to the needs of minority groups," he was quoted saying at SMK Keat Hwa II during a meeting with vernacular school teachers and students.

Muhyiddin said that RM2.98 billion had been allocated annually for the upkeep of 1,200 SKCS and RM1.04 billion for SJKTs.

He presented an allocation warrant for RM14.42 million to benefit 89 SJKCs and 58 SJKTs in Kedah, besides RM500,000 for SMK Keat Hwa II.

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