

**Dong Zong's Pullout Will Not Affect Committee's Work – Muhyiddin
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MUAR, May 19 (Bernama) -- The United Chinese School Committees Association's (Dong Zong) decision to pull out from the roundtable meetings of the Education Ministry's special committee to address the shortage of Chinese school teachers will not affect the committee's work, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said this was because there were four or five other representatives from Chinese education bodies on the committee.

"It's okay (the action of Dong Zong in pulling out from the committee). Without Dong Zong, it will be easier to resolve the problem," he told reporters after visiting the Seri Pekembar complex in Pagoh here today.

He said this in commenting on the decision by Dong Zong to pull out from the committee.

Muhyiddin said efforts to overcome the shortage involved long term training of teachers, up to 2018, but the ministry wanted to expedite the process.

Earlier, Muhyiddin had attended Leong Hup Group's Family Day celebration at the complex.

Asked if the move by Dong Zong was politically motivated, he said this had always been the case with the education body.

However, he said this was not important as the main objective of the ministry was to further improve the country's education system.

According to Muhyiddin, each year the ministry spent RM2.8 billion for national-type Chinese schools and RM1.09 billion for national-type Tamil schools.

He added that the ministry was not only making efforts to resolve problems faced by Chinese schools but also those plaguing Tamil and national schools.

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