

**Government Ready To Discuss Relocation Of Low Enrolment Tamil Schools –
Muhyiddin
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PETALING JAYA, June 28 (Bernama) -- The Education Ministry is willing to discuss the relocation of low enrolment Tamil schools with Indian community leaders, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The deputy prime minister said many Tamil primary schools enrolled only 10 students instead of 100 as required despite meeting the condition of having seven teachers.

Expressing the government's concern over the quagmire, he said the government would like to see Tamil schools not only stand the test of time, but also attain good performance.

Tamil school development has been incorporated in the proposed review of the national education system, he said when opening a new block at Vivekananda Tamil Primary School costing RM3 million here Thursday.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said although educational development was the responsibility of the federal government, all quarters should also play their role to enable country's education standard to be on par with that of developed countries.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia was getting closer to universalism in education as parents from all levels of the society wanted their children to get quality education.

At the event, Muhyiddin approved an application from Vivekananda Ashrama for a RM6 million fund to upgrade three schools under its wing, namely two Tamil primary schools in Petaling Jaya and Brickfields, and a Tamil secondary school in Brickfields.

He also approved an application from Vivekanda Tamil Secondary School to start a Form 6 class if the conditions were met.

Meanwhile, MIC deputy president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, who was present at the ceremony, told reporters that Tamil schools saddled with low enrolment were mostly old schools from the colonial days located in plantations as many workers had moved to urban areas.

"So our main problem now is to find funds and land in urban areas to relocate the schools," he said.

Currently 265 out of 530 Tamil primary schools nationwide have less than 150 students, of which 69 schools with fewer than 25 students, he said, adding that, "We want to focus on relocating 69 of these schools first."

Present were MIC president Datuk G. Palanivel, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, and SJKT Vivekananda Petaling Jaya chairman Tan Sri Dr. Ampikaipakan Kandiah.

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