

Muhyiddin Advises PAS To Keep Politics Out Of Education
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on Monday advised PAS to keep politics out of the efforts to improve the people's religious schools.

He said it would facilitate the sustainability of these schools, if PAS registered them with the Education Ministry.

Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, said it would be easier for the ministry to help in terms of infrastructure, quality of teachers, curriculum and others.

"However, they (PAS) do not want to accept the offer. They do not want to work with the ministry because they regard it as being under the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"This is not a question of politics. If it can be done, it can reduce problems," he said when winding up debate at the policy stage for the ministry on the 2013 Supply Bill.

Muhyiddin said that though the schools came under the jurisdiction of the state governments, the federal government channelled aid to them, even those which had yet to register with the ministry.

He said RM10.5 million was allocated to these schools to conduct Quran and 'Fardu Ain' classes this year.

Last year, RM95 million was channelled as a one-off compassionate aid to 247 people's religious schools throughout the country, he added.

"I realise that these schools still require aid. With the allocation we have, we can consider compassionate aid on a case-by-case basis from applications from the schools which are in dire need," he said.

In a related development, Muhyiddin refuted allegations of unjust allocation to schools in the country.

He explained that all schools under the ministry's jurisdiction were provided allocations fairly, encompassing emoluments, utilities, per capita grants, curriculum assistance, sports aid and others in accordance with the number of students in each school.

Muhyiddin said that this year, operating expenditure of RM937 million was allocated to 8,216 national primary and secondary schools; RM87 million to 1,294 national type Chinese schools and RM19.2 million to 523 national type Tamil schools.

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