

**Government Will Hold Discussions On NUTP's Demands Soon - Muhyiddin  
Bernama  
November 03, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- The government will be holding discussions soon with the National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) on the nine demands made by the union today including on the School-based Assessment system, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the Education Ministry would be fixing a date for the meeting in a week or two to enable senior ministry officials to meet NUTP representatives.

"We have a secretary-general and Education director-general...we can appoint several ministry representatives. I will only receive the report on conclusion of the discussions.

"This is what we normally do. Even before when there were proposals from the NUTP, discussions will be held at the ministry level," he told reporters after attending the Malaysian-level World Teachers' Day celebration at the CIDB Convention Centre here.

Muhyiddin said demands suitable to be implemented would be forwarded to the Public Service Department and if financial implications were involved, it would be brought to the attention of the Finance Ministry.

NUTP president Hashim Adnan at the gathering had made known the demands encompassing among others improving the teaching profession including in the aspects of management, administration, remuneration, and promotion opportunities.

On improving the School-based Assessment (PBS) system, Muhyiddin said he had anticipated this based on the feedback received by the ministry when it was rolled out.

He said the ministry would evaluate the matter including from the technical aspects which were deemed burdensome to teachers.

Under the PBS, students' performance will be continuously assessed by teachers and no longer depends on examination results per se.

At the same time, Muhyiddin said the ministry always kept an open mind and had never sidestepped any suggestion or demand made by any party.

Asked if the matters raised by NUTP would be added to the Preliminary Report of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025, Muhyiddin said: "If it is not too late and can be done if necessary."

Earlier, in his speech, Muhyiddin said that he was confident that problems related to the PBS could be overcome so that the system could be executed well.

"It means we can move on to a system whereby students' performance can be assessed on their capabilities at the school level guided by the Malaysian Examinations Board so that the type of questions used are in tandem (with the needs of the system).

"This will change our education system to one that focuses on students' performance than just examination results," he said.

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