

Muhyiddin Suggests That Preschool Teachers Attend Early Education Diploma Course
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has suggested that preschool teachers under Kemas and the National Unity and Integration Department (JPNIN) undergo a diploma course in Early Child Education to elevate the standard and quality of teaching in such schools.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the suggestion was to enable the teachers to acquire knowledge and skills as required by the Education Ministry for preschool teachers who must have a degree in Early Child Education.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, said the government had taken several measures including allowing them to apply for loans under the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN).

"In this context, I suggest that the teachers take up at least the Diploma in Child Education course where the government is always looking at how it can assist so that this aspiration can be achieved," he said when opening the National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Week, here today.

Also present was the chairman of the ECCE Council, Datuk Dr Chiam Heng Keng.

Muhyiddin said the Education Ministry and the ECCE Council were developing a quality standard for kindergartens and preschools to come up with a self-evaluation programme aimed at assisting such centres to achieve the level of quality required in ensuring that the children's mind achieved a holistic growth.

He said the evaluation was not aimed at 'punishing' any kindergarten or preschool, but to assist in identifying the aspects that needed to be improved and the gap in service that needed to be narrowed down.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the Education Ministry had taken the initiative to provide a three-week course free of charge to all preschool teachers from the private sector to raise

the quality of private preschool teachers where it was estimated that only three per cent of them had diplomas or degrees in Early Child Education.

"By the end of this year, the Education Ministry estimates that 20,000 preschool teachers will be trained through these courses," he added.

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