

Muhyiddin: Education opens door to progress
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MUAR: Malaysians started off as poor people when the country attained its independence 55 years ago and there were not many schools for the children to go to, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

However, the Deputy Prime Minister added that the country was now regarded as a model Islamic nation that is highly respected in the world.

He said Malaysia wants its people to be self-sufficient without relying on any foreign aid, adding that education and economic growth pave the way for its development and progress.

"At the time Malaysia gained its independence, the people were poor, with gross domestic product at only US\$600 (RM1,920) but this has since increased to US\$9,700 (RM31,040) today.

"This is due to the education development that had given a better living standard to the people.

"We now hope to increase the GDP to US\$15,000 (RM48,000) when we achieve the developed nation status by 2020," he said, when addressing residents in Bukit Serampang at a buka puasa session in Kampung Baru, near Lenga, yesterday.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, said Muslims in the country should give importance to education if they want to join the rest of the nation in achieving the developed nation status.

He said the Government had always given priority to education to ensure every Malaysian had the opportunity to learn and acquire knowledge.

"There is no reason for Malaysians not to seek greater knowledge as this could improve their living standard.

"Knowledge and education can help to take them out of poverty.

"We must always seek greater knowledge and working skills if we want to compete with other nations," he said.

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