

**Schoolchildren May Be Provided With Laptop Computer Starting Next Year**  
**Bernama**  
**8 April, 2013**

KLANG, April 8 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin Monday said that the government would look into ways and means to provide all schoolchildren nationwide with laptop computer starting next year.

He said it was something that must be implemented by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government as part of its commitment to fulfill its promises.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said this when meeting with national-type Tamil school teachers at SJKT Simpang Lima in Taman Seri Andalas in Klang, Monday.

He said besides the roles teachers played, the government was also looking at the importance of adopting latest technology to improve the schoolchildren's achievement in education.

Muhyiddin said in drafting the BN manifesto, one issue in particular that he proposed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was to make technology-based education compulsory.

Muhyiddin said during his visit to the United States last year, he visited a school which provided its students with laptop computers to improve the teaching and learning process.

However, he said the role of Parents-Teacher Association (PTA), should remain as important to improve the performance of the school, including in SJKT.

"Right now, we are in the opinion that the role of the PTA must be included in the mainstream education system and that the PTA should no longer be seen as an NGO (non-governmental organisation) in school," he said.

The government would also give moral and material supports to enable the PTA to be more effective in supporting national education, he explained.

He said during his visit to a school in Australia three years ago, he and his delegates were welcomed not by the principal, but by parents who were also involved in their children's school and sporting activities as volunteers and coaches.

On the coming general election, Muhyiddin, who is BN deputy chairman, hoped that teachers would think wisely when casting their votes for a better future and teaching profession.

"Don't just stay home and think that without your votes, BN will surely win. With that attitude, I'm afraid...we may lose," he said.

As such, he said the ministry hoped they would use their rights to vote for a brighter and excellent future.

Muhyiddin said the government would also continue helping SJKTs nationwide by providing additional infrastructure, such as classroom and computers.

Also present at the meeting were MIC president Datuk Seri G.Palanivel and Agriculture and

Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar.

--BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=940500>