

Muhyiddin Dismisses Opposition Charge Of Unfairness In Education
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PAGOH, April 19 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today stated his exasperation over the raising during election campaigns of the allegation that the government was unfair in the matter of education for all the communities.

He said all national type schools would remain as such so long as the Barisan Nasional (BN) received the mandate to continue administering the country.

Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, said the national type Chinese schools (SJKC), for example, received ever-rising allocations from time to time to meet their needs.

"I am saying this by way of an explanation. Every time, just before an election, education is one of the issues raised during the campaign. The opposition will claim that the government has been unfair to Chinese, Tamil and mission schools.

"Some tell the Chinese that if the BN remains in power, one day all Chinese schools will be closed. I get angry when I hear this. I want to ask, in the last 56 years since independence which Chinese school has been closed?" he said at a get-together with SKJC staff in his Pagoh parliamentary constituency at the SJKC Ai Hwa, Panchor, here.

Muhyiddin said that so long as the BN was in power, Chinese and Tamil schools would remain in the education system.

He said education was a priority for the BN and it had proven this by providing large allocations at every budget.

He also said that the government made heavy investments to enable children to have a good education in a conducive atmosphere.

"We do not discriminate in the matter of education among national schools, Chinese schools, Tamil schools, mission schools or Orang Asli schools. We regard all of them as important," he said.

Muhyiddin said no other country in the world had an education system catering to the communities such as in Malaysia, and a neighbouring country had even discontinued such a system.

The deputy prime minister advised the people against believing opposition claims that the government would close down schools in other streams if the BN remained in power.

He said the people must make the right choice by voting for the BN to ensure themselves a bright future.

"Do not choose the opposition to be the government. There's nothing special in Selangor and Kelantan (led by opposition governments), for example. There are more problems. If the opposition takes over, it will change all policies.

"Let's not change (the government). The country will face problems; the economy will deteriorate and many problems will surface in the future," he said.

At today's event, Muhyiddin announced an allocation of RM1.88 million to 18 SJKC in the Pagoh parliamentary constituency. Some RM1.27 million of the sum was for 14 aided SKJC and RM610,000 for four fully aided SJKC.

The money is a portion of the RM100 million allocated to SJKC over the past two years.

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