

**Education Ministry And Higher Education Ministry To Streamline Structure Within One Month**  
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PUTRAJAYA, May 21 (Bernama) - The streamlining of the structure of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education in an effort to improve the country's quality of education and is expected to be completed within one month, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said he had submitted a proposal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to shorten the name of the two ministries to the Ministry of Education and was expected to get an approval soon.

"The process of merging the two ministries is not difficult because the Ministry of Education has focused on primary and secondary schools while the Ministry of Higher Education has catered for higher learning over the years with excellence under the previous leadership. The new structure is being put in place," said Muhyiddin.

Muhyiddin said he had held discussions with the Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Dr Ali Hamsa and Public Service Department director-general Datuk Mohamad Zabidi Zainal on the streamlining exercise.

He was speaking to reporters after meeting Education Ministry divisional heads and higher education sector senior officials at the Ministry of Education at the E Complex and Presint 5 in Putrajaya, Tuesday.

Present were Education Minister II Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Deputy Education Minister I Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching and Deputy Education Minister II P.Kamalanathan.

Muhyiddin said the ministers and deputy ministers would shoulder the whole responsibility under the ministry to ensure that they were aware of all aspects in the country's educational development.

"We hope the merger of the two ministries into a bigger entity will smoothen matters related to education quality. It is a continuous effort, especially through the Ministry of Higher Education's National Higher Education Strategic Plan and the Education Ministry's National Education Blueprint 2013-2025.

"Both plans will continue to be implemented in several stages. The goal is to turn Malaysia into an education hub comparable to that of developed countries," he said.

He said the merger would enable resources of both ministries to be harnessed, for example, lecturers' expertise could be tapped to help improve English proficiency in schools.

Calling for close engagement and collaboration from all stakeholders in the education sector in the country, he said: "We are open and willing to accept views and criticisms to create a better, advance and successful education system."

On the position of secretary-generals of both ministries, and director-general of education and director-general of higher education, he said the matter would be discussed with Public Service Department director-general next week for the prime minister's scrutiny.

On the recognition of the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC), Muhyiddin said United Chinese School Committees Association of Malaysia (Dong Zong) should make the required revision in the curriculum in line with the Education Policy and the Education Act.

"The matter had been discussed before, but they have yet to make a decision. To us, if they (Dong Zong) is ready to make the review, it shouldn't be any problem to us," he said.

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