

**GTP Achievements More Commendable Despite Challenges - Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the achievements of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) for 2013 are more than commendable despite the presence of challenges.

The deputy prime minister said the contributions and improvements made in the seven National Key Result Areas (NKRA) boded well for the government's transformation to become a high-income and developed nation by 2020.

He said it was difficult to single out any NKRA for special praise, but as the Minister of Education he had a special interest in the achievements of the Education NKRA.

"I am pleased to announce the seamless integration of the Education NKRA into the overall framework of the Malaysian Education Blueprint (MEB) 2013-2025, which is being led by the Ministry of Education's Performance and Delivery Unit (Padu).

"Efforts in this area focused on improving the foundational elements and, in time, the impact of these initiatives will manifest itself through the system," he said in his message in the 2013 GTP Annual Report launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak tonight.

Muhyiddin said the NKRA's efforts at transforming the country's education system, particularly in the areas of reforming the teachers and principal charters, had translated directly into student outcomes, which are reflected in the education in the number of Band 6 and Band 7 schools in the country.

He said the NKRA's efforts at auditing and validating its own achievements was the kind of scrutiny that would ensure that the country was on the right track in terms of securing the goals of the GTP, which is also an example of the much-anticipated action of the GTP as a whole.

On the other NKRA, Muhyiddin, who is also the chairman of the GTP's Delivery Task Force (DTF), said the reporting process for 2013 had been implemented in accordance with the highest standards of transparency.

The Crime Reduction NKRA took quick and decisive action in response to the student spate of gun violence, which took the sting out of the problem as quickly as it had begun, he said.

The deputy prime minister said the Fighting Corruption NKRA continued to make steady progress in the fight against corruption by collaborating with the Auditor Generals' Office to transform the latter's reporting processes, and was rewarded by an improvement in the

benchmark corruption perceptions index.

"The government's assistance programme, 1Malaysia People's Aid, continues to help low-income Malaysians defray the rising cost of living, while the textbook voucher and Back-to-School programme for school children directly complement the Education NKRA initiative to ensure that every child has a place in the schooling system.

The fact remains that the impact of the GTP is indisputable, whether it is the delivery of basic infrastructure to the hundreds of thousands of Malaysians living in the rural areas, or ensuring the availability of affordable housing for low-to-middle income urbanites, the GTP is making a difference in the lives of the rakyat (people)," he said.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia's GTP effort was to make the country a safer place, creating a more educated and skilled workforce and ensuring that the city centre was more accessible.

In short, the government had and would continue to simply make Malaysia a better place for everyone regardless of race, religion or economic background, he said.

In this regard, he urged support from non-governmental organisations, the corporate sector and all relevant parties to provide feedback and suggestions that would help the government realise the goals of the GTP.

"In fact, the implementation of the GTP has not always been easy or undemanding, and there is not much I can say to ease that burden, but I would like to remind that the service they are performing is invaluable," he said.

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