

**Private Sector Complements Government In Education - Muhyiddin
Bernama
August 11, 2014**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- The private sector has been complementing government efforts in education by setting up a number of educational institutions that generate a large pool of skilled professionals and semi-professionals, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Malaysia has also embarked on public-private partnership initiatives such as the Trust Schools and Teach for Malaysia Programme to harness the strength and expertise of the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

"It is to provide further impetus to improve the quality of schools and promote efficiency and effectiveness of the education system.

"As an education hub within the region, Malaysia not only draws international students but has attracted foreign universities to our shores as well, displayed by the opening of branch campuses around the country.

"Besides formal education options, public training institutions such as technical schools, industrial training institutes, polytechnics and skills development centres have sprouted to meet the ever growing requirements of the industrial sector," he said in his speech at The Edge Billion Ringgit Club (BRC) Gala Dinner 2014 in the capital, Monday tonight.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and The Edge Media Group executive chairman Datuk Tong Kooi Ong.

The Edge BRC was established in 2010 to recognise Malaysia's largest listed companies and reward the top performers in their respective categories.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia's labour force includes a young, local, educated and productive workforce which was sustained by the government's continuous support for human resource development.

"In line with our strong commitment towards education, the Ministry of Education has released the National Education Blueprint which is a 12-year plan to ensure our education system grows in tandem with the competitive global economy.

"With education being our number one priority, a substantial amount has been allocated to enhance educational performance and skills training. While there are 20 public and 21 private universities, there are over 400 colleges, polytechnics and industrial training institutes in the country," he said.

Muhyiddin congratulated The Edge for the initiative they have taken through The Edge

Education Foundation to promote financial literacy and to improve English amongst Malaysian school-children.

"I am told that this year, 50 per cent of the money raised at The Edge Rat Race in October will be used to fund these two programmes in selected schools, with the rest going to other needy charities.

"I am also delighted to know that The Edge is working with the Securities Commission (SC) to develop the next generation of Malaysian investors, through the setting up of investors clubs in colleges and universities and providing them with the tools to learn the skills of investing," he said.

--BERNAMA

Copyright © 2014 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=1059583>