

**Government To Consider Extending 1Malaysia Book Vouchers - Muhyiddin
Bernama
Mar 2, 2015**

SERDANG, March 2 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the government will consider the proposal to extend the use of the 1Malaysia Book Voucher so that it is not limited to the purchase of books but could be used for other learning materials.

In his reaction to the suggestion from university students at a gathering at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Serdang, Monday, Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the suggestion would be brought up the Cabinet on Wednesday for further discussion.

"I will bring up the suggestion at the Cabinet meeting and I think Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh (Second Education Minister) will give his support," he said.

The event was attended by 1,500 student leaders as well as deputy education ministers P. Kamalanathan and Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching and Education Ministry Secretary-General Tan Sri Dr Madinah Mohamad.

The suggestion was made by president of the National Students Representative Council, Muhamad Anas Misbahudin, who, in his speech, also called for the amount in the voucher to be increased.

Muhyiddin said this suggestion could also be considered, subject to the government's affordability.

"I think, God willing, in future, it could be increased....how much the increase would depend on the national financial situation," he said.

The 1Malaysia Book Vouchers were first given out in 2012 at a rate of RM 250 per student.

On a request that the government consider a discounted rate for bus tickets to students, Muhyiddin said he would forward the suggestion to the Transport Ministry and the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD).

He said the matter was out of the ministry's jurisdiction and should be discussed with the transport companies and bus operators to ask them to give a special discount to students.

"I will discuss and bring this matter to the relevant parties to make sure the suggestion is considered," he said.

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