

**Education Must Be Family's Important Agenda - Muhyiddin
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MUAR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Parents are reminded on making education an important agenda in the family in line with the effort of the government to turn out more educated future generations.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said parents could only change the future of their children, especially to escape the clutches of poverty, via education.

On this basis, the government always allocated almost 21 per cent of its annual budget for education from pre-school until university level, and also trained 600,000 teachers every year.

"It is crucial that we should not ignore education. Even though we are poor, we cannot use the excuse to hinder the children.

"Poverty can be overcome with knowledge," he said in his speech at Dewan Sri Permata, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bukit Pasir in Muar, Saturday.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said this when attending a Primary School Evaluation Test (UPSR) and Form Three Assessment (PT3) Excellence Award Ceremony for the Pagoh Parliament.

He said education was seen as an investment for the future in the effort to boost the standard of living.

"If we, as parents, do not give them the opportunity and knowledge, the children cannot find employment and at the same time emerge from poverty.

"Malaysia's rapid development is due to the fact that most of our children are educated," he said.

To allegations by certain quarters that the national education system was not on par with those of developed nations, he said the government always endeavoured to improve the existing system.

"The policy we draw up is not to destroy but to continue improving the process of evaluation in our education system," he said.

A total 82 candidates obtained A in all subjects for UPSR and 28 candidates garnered 6A and above for the PTS examination.

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