

**Government Recognizes Outstanding Students - Muhyiddin
Bernama
Mar 31, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 31 (Bernama) -- The government is committed in recognising and appreciating excellent students in line with the national objective of achieving the status of a high-income nation.

Deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the continuous and planned development of human capital was constantly carried out by the government through various programs and initiatives to achieve the mission.

"Such efforts will ensure that the number of knowledgeable and highly skilled human resources continues to increase in creating what is called a pool of talents for the future," he said.

He disclosed this in his speech at the handing over of letters of offer for the National Scholarship Program 2015 at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan), here today. Also present was the Director-General of Public Service, Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi Zainal.

Muhyiddin said as such, the government hoped the long-term investments such as the National Scholarship Program, which was entering its sixth year, could churn out quality human capital to continue the government's efforts towards achieving Vision 2020.

He was convinced that the knowledge and expertise gained by students of the programmes from notable universities abroad and locally would churn out the best and competent graduates.

"Such competent human capital are needed by the country so that their expertise can be harnessed to contribute towards government efforts to ensure that the country can compete at the global level.

"This success will be achieved and guided by the locals themselves, thus reducing dependency on foreign human resources," he said, adding that 151 students of the program were now undergoing studies in various fields at universities such as the University of Malaya, Oxford University and University of California.

Muhyiddin pointed out that the sponsorship of outstanding students also took into account the country's current needs to empower the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) studies, technical education and vocational training (TEVT), security and Data Science studies.

"I'm extremely proud of you (students). I hope you can continue to excel in the years ahead. As for the parents, this is an investment that is hoped to produce good results for the country," he said.

The National Scholarship Program was introduced in 2010 by offering the sponsorship to only 30 students before the number was increased each year.

The program is a prestigious sponsorship program offered to outstanding students who passed the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) in the academic field to further their studies at leading universities within and outside the country.

The students would be sponsored from the preparatory stage right up to the First Degree level in various disciplines.

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