

**Nobody Can Deny Govt's Success In Providing Best Education Infrastructure- DPM
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AYER HITAM, May 25 (Bernama) -- Nobody can deny the success of the government in providing the best education infrastructure to boost knowledge among the people, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the success of the government in providing the best education facilities to the people was internationally acknowledged.

"Nobody can say that this effort (providing the best education infrastructure to Malaysians) had failed. This is one effort which is successful," he said when officiating the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Jerlun here today.

He said the world community including international bodies like the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had acknowledged the government's commitment in providing large allocations each year to education.

Muhyiddin said each year between 20 to 21 percent of the national budget allocation is reserved for the people's educational needs and an equally large allocation is also provided under the Malaysia Plan.

Muhyiddin said the government's efforts and commitment in providing educational infrastructure would be continued through the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP), as announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak recently.

"We are recognised as among the developing countries which give high allocations for education and also highest per capita allocation for students," he said.

About 600,000 out of the total 1.6 million civil servants in the country were working in the education sector, he said.

The best provision for educational infrastructure for the people would ensure the effort to improve their status through education achieved, he said.

"We want our children to master all kinds of knowledge in this world," he said, adding that the government wanted 60 per cent of school students in the country to take up science stream.

Currently, Muhyiddin said only 20 per cent of students took science stream and the ministry must find ways to achieve the 60 per cent target.

He added that to date the ministry had built 746 primary, secondary and government-aided religious schools (SABK) in Kedah.

It includes 24 primary schools, 10 secondary schools and two SABKs in Jerlun.

The RM23.8 million SMK Jerlun was built on 16 hectares of land and was opened on Jan 1.

Also present at the ceremony was Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir.

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