

Muhyiddin To Highlight Malaysian Education At Commonwealth Meet

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From: Abdul Muin Majid

NASSAU (The Bahamas), June 22 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin will share Malaysia's experience in education development at the 19th Conference of the Commonwealth of Education Ministers (19CCEM) while also seeking to woo more students from member states to study in Malaysia.

The Malaysian deputy prime minister, who arrived here Sunday afternoon, said he would highlight the Malaysian Education Blueprints covering pre-school up to higher education.

"In my keynote address at the conference on Wednesday, I'll touch on aspects concerning the Malaysian education such as our desire to produce a skilled workforce through programmes like the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as well as the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programme," he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, was speaking Sunday to Malaysian media covering his working visit to The Bahamas ahead of the opening of the June 22 to 26 conference.

"We'll be sharing our views on matters concerning graduate marketability in terms of the need to not only produce people who not only can find jobs but also capable of eventually providing jobs for others; in other words producing job creators, not just job seekers," he said.

The special aircraft carrying Muhyiddin arrived at Nassau's Lynden Pindling International Airport at around 2.30 pm local time on Sunday (2.30 am on Monday in Malaysia).

On hand to welcome Muhyiddin, who is accompanied on the working visit by his wife Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, was the Malaysian ambassador to Cuba, Khairi Omar, whose jurisdiction also covers The Bahamas.

The 19CCEM is jointly organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the government of The Bahamas with the country's Education, Science and Technology Ministry serving as the lead agency.

According to the organisers, the Bahamas conference would bring together ministers, senior officials, teachers, students, technical experts and specialists to identify challenges and decide on policies and programmes that support countries in building effective education systems.

With the theme 'Quality Education for Equitable Development : Performance, Paths and Productivity', the event seeks to address a range of issues, including financing for education, ICT-based learning, curriculums, teacher training as well as programmes that

lead to gainful employment and social economic development.

The Bahamas is a coral archipelago of around 700 islands and more than 2,000 rocks and cays in West Atlantic, southeast of the east coast of Florida in the United States and northeast of Cuba.

The main event of the CCEM is a three-day meeting of Commonwealth education ministers preceded by regional forums and meetings for senior officials. Forums for teachers, stakeholders and the youths are also being held.

"We'll be giving attention to the post-2015 goals for education for the Commonwealth," Muhyiddin said.

The Malaysian deputy prime minister is scheduled to meet his counterpart from The Bahamas Philip E. Brave Davis, who is also the Works and Urban Development Minister, as well as its Education, Science and Technology Minister Jerome Fitzgerald.

Malaysia, he said, would also seek to woo more students from the 53 Commonwealth nations to study in the Southeast Asian country which is positioning itself as a regional education hub.

Malaysia welcomed 3,851 Commonwealth students in 2014, up from 3,214 in 2013.

A total of 51,883 Malaysians studied in Commonwealth countries in 2014, the majority of them in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, India and Singapore. The figure was 33,408 in 2013.

"Many students from Commonwealth countries have chosen to pursue their studies in Malaysia which is hosting a number of foreign universities," Muhyiddin said.

This information, he said, would be shared at The Bahamas meeting notwithstanding the attraction of American education institutions which were much closer to Malaysia.

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