

Rewards for top performing schools, staff

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SLIM RIVER: In an effort to spur schools to achieve high performance, the Education Ministry would reward the schools, principals and teachers, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said yesterday.

Previously, only schools which were categorised as high performance schools were given special incentives.

"Starting this year, teachers in 10,000 schools will be gauged and rewarded in monetary or non-monetary terms, including promotion if they show improvement," he said.

Details would be announced by Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, at the Teachers Day celebration on May 16.

Speaking to reporters after launching the Perak-level Juara Rakyat programme at Tasek YDP here, he said as long as a school excelled the principals, headmasters and teachers would be rewarded.

Also present were Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, several cabinet ministers and Barisan

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— Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin
Deputy Prime Minister

Nasional component party leaders.

Muhyiddin presented incentives to 40 students who excelled in the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia and Penilaian Menengah Rendah examinations and scholarships to 20 students.

On another note, he said the private sector would be given launching grants to start kindergartens.

"This is a token sum but not a small one. I will announce the details next week."

He cited, as an example, that it would cost about RM5,000 to train a kindergarten teacher for three months.

"The Education Ministry will bear the cost so that the kindergarten will have trained teachers and they will be able to teach the children based on the ministry's curriculum.

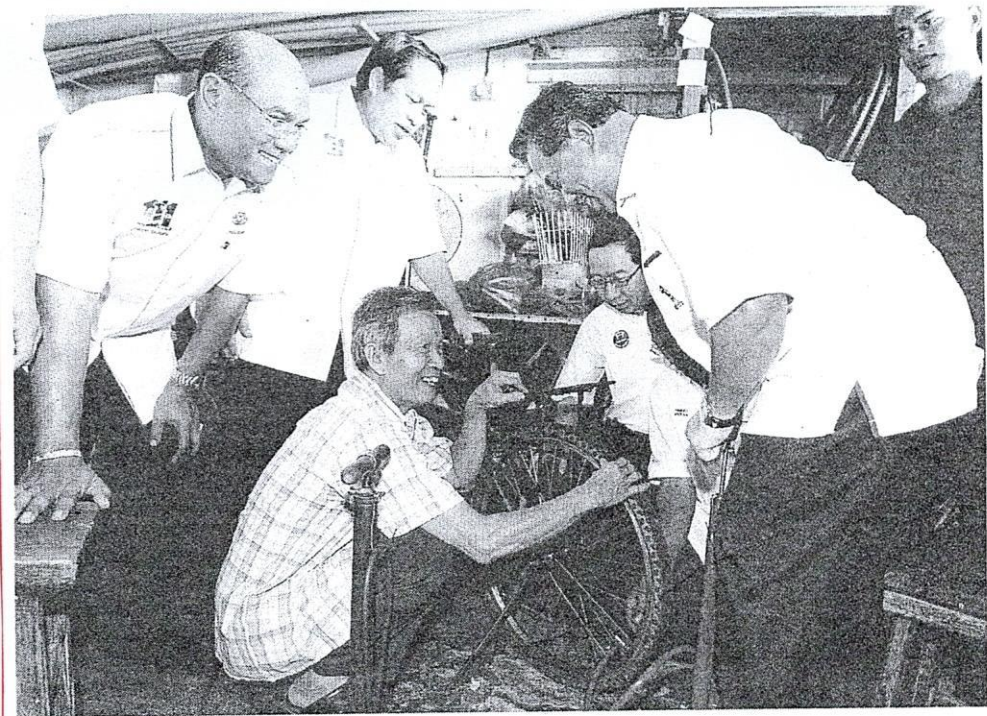
Zambry in his speech said the state was focusing on three Ps — *perasaan* (feeling), *padang* (field) and *penilaian* (valuation) to serve the people.

"We must go down, feel the beat of the people and find out whether problems have been solved," he said.

Muhyiddin also laid the foundation for a new house for Lim Yoke, 60, at Kampung Baru Slim near here. He was living in a shack at the site which belonged to his sister-in-law Loh Ko Ai, 54, who stayed with her daughter in Petaling Jaya.

The cost of the construction would be borne by Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan.

Earlier, Muhyiddin had a closed-door meeting with Perak Barisan Nasional and Umno leaders at Felda Residence in Trolak.



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (right) helping bicycle shop owner Kuan Tong to pump air into a tyre at Kampung Baru Slim Village near Slim River yesterday. With him are Slim River state assemblyman Datuk Mohd Khusairy Abu Talib (left) and Umno Information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan (second from left). — Picture by Ikhwan Munir