

2020 target may be realised earlier, says DPM

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KOTA KINABALU: Malaysia may achieve its target of becoming a developed nation by 2018 instead of 2020.

This was based on analyses by economists, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"Our economists have told us that we can achieve developed and high income nation status earlier than 2020, maybe by 2018."

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said this when meeting Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Teknologi Mara Sabah students at UMS Chancellory Hall yesterday.

Present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah and state education executive councillor Datuk Masidi Manjun.

Muhyiddin said the projected per capita income for Malaysians of US\$15,000 (RM48,800) by 2020 was achievable. The government, he said, had been progressive in carrying out poverty eradication programmes and providing jobs for people.

During a dialogue with undergraduates, he said the issue of "too many graduates" for the teaching profession had been overcome.