

PM challenges universities to produce Nobel laureates

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By **Olivia Miwil** - September 11, 2020 @ 5:20pm



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KOTA KINABALU: Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has issued a challenge for universities to produce Malaysia's own Nobel laureates.

He said in order to achieve this, academicians need adopt a shift in mindset, by seeking knowledge which can also benefit the community and country.

"In principle, academicians should conduct researches for exploration of knowledge and to have expertises, but there are still many areas in the research field which can be improved for the benefit of the community.

"Academicians should change the thinking pattern from 'knowledge to knowledge' to 'knowledge to community and country,'" he said during his meeting with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) academicians and non-academicians here.

The prime minister said the country has yet to produce Nobel laureates among its pool of academicians.

"Lecturers and professors should be ready to become experts in their respective fields and become the top in the universities, nation and the community.

"The lack of experts promoting themselves means we have yet to produce Nobel Laureates," he said, urging tertiary education institutes to organise events that could produce laureates that Malaysia can proud of.

Muhyiddin said in order to realise this dream, the Higher Education Ministry and universities should look into strengthening all existing plans.

The prime minister also said the direction of the research efforts should be in line with the challenges and issues faced by the community.

Among the current challenges which should be given attention, he noted, include the Covid-19 pandemic, economic recovery and the implementation of the Shared Prosperity Vision, security, anti-terrorism, sovereignty and food security, as well as eco-tourism.

As for the development of education in the country, Muhyiddin said the government is committed to ensuring that inclusive development among the community can be achieved.

"In line with this, the development strategy will give focus to low-income groups and balanced development among the regions, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak," he said.

Muhyiddin called on other stakeholders to join the efforts to support educational institutions.

"We are aware of the importance in investing in human capital in tertiary education but the government has limited funds," he said, urging other stakeholders to join hands in supporting the institutes in various ways.

Also present at the event were Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Noraini Ahmad and UMS board of directors chairman Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun and Tenaga Nasional Bhd chairman Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

Muhyiddin also presented offer letters from TNB's My Bright Future (MyBF) scholarship to recipients and tertiary education students from the B40 income group. He also witnessed the signing of a collaboration note between the country and Yayasan Tenaga Nasional on the implementation of the MyBF programme.

As of today, 315 students from Sabah have received sponsorship from the MyBF programme.