



## THE HONOURABLE PEHIN MINISTER OF EDUCATION CALLS FOR CHANGE IN MINDSET



*24<sup>th</sup> April 2008, Gadong* - The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Awang Haji Mohamed Taib, Minister of Education held the 1<sup>st</sup> dialogue session 2008 with heads of government schools throughout the nation. More than 300 principals, deputy principals, head teachers and assistant head teachers of government secondary and primary schools all over the country attended the dialogue session.

The one-day session comprised of information regarding the Brunei Vision 2035, National Development Plan and its implications towards the education sector as well as the ministry's projects under it, balanced 'scorecard' achievements, 2008-2009 budget allocation for schools and the updates to the SPN21 (*Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad 21*) thus far.



The Honourable Pehin touched on the achievements by the ministry since last year's discussion, such as: the introduction of the Compulsory Education Order; the Building Improvement of Schools and Infrastructure programme (Program Bisai); the development of programmes directed towards the achievement and increase of students in Science, Mathematics and English; efforts to encourage physical and co-curriculum education programmes in schools; steps in preparation of a full-time counsellor; and the introduction of an aid policy for less fortunate students. During the dialogue, the Honourable Pehin also revealed that the review of the new education system (SPN21) is in its final phase. The update of the SPN21 and efforts in outlining a strategic plan for higher education were also mentioned.

At a dialogue session held at Rizqun International Hotel, the Honourable Pehin, said that based on his numerous school visits, a change in the mindset of school teachers is required to bring about fundamental changes needed in the education system. The Minister of Education called for a review and change in the stereotype mindset and the one-size-fits-all approach of government

primary and secondary schools in the country to better meet the needs of the students. In line with this, the minister urged school leaders to bring about these fundamental changes by changing attitudes, thinking creatively and making independent decisions as well as continually trying different ways to address educational issues in their respective schools. Adopting these changes will reflect and demonstrate the commitment, credibility and capability of the school leader to students, teachers, parents, the community as well as the country.

Ministry of Education will be continuing its efforts in giving exposure to school leaders with working visits to other countries and various training programmes both locally and abroad.

According to the Honourable Pehin, the dialogue was part of the ministry's continuous commitment to share the initiatives that have been and will be implemented by the ministry. From the dialogue, it is expected that the ministry can obtain feedback and receive support from all parties and individuals in the ministry.



Discussions and question-and-answer sessions on education-related issues were also held during the dialogue session.





Also present during the session were Deputy Minister of Education, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Directors as well as senior officers at the Ministry of Education.

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