BANGI: A comprehensive evaluation report on the review of the country's education system would be ready in three months said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin who is also the Education Minister said a review of the country's whole education system was being carried out to understand the policy guidelines for achievements and developing the basics based on challenges faced by the school system with focus on efforts to improve standards and narrowing disparities.

He said the first dialogue session on the review was held with heads of the Education Ministry, and would be followed by a series of dialogues with other stakeholders, including members of the public and experts.

"We want the Ministry heads to understand the objective of the review and all dialogues will be an open affair. The process is not to identify or point the fingers at who is right or wrong but all views and recommendations will be taken into account," he told reporters after opening the National Education Dialogue and National Education Dialogue website here yesterday.

Muhyiddin said after the dialogue series, the ministry would conduct dialogues with School Heads Council, Headmasters, Teachers Association, District Education officers and teachers.

"We will then engage the public with a series of dialogues and those interested to take part can register themselves through the website," he said adding that at least one dialogue session per state would be organised.

Earlier in his speech, Muhyiddin said the transformation of the national education system must have a big impact in the development of students and not just a cut-and-paste change to restore the education system but rather a quantum leap that can bring about a total change.

Muhyiddin also named five new members of the National Education System Evaluation Panel, namely Professor Tan Sri Kamal Hassan, Datuk Dr Adi Badlozaman Tuah, Professor Datuk Chuah Hean Telk, Professor Madya Dr N Rajendran and Dr Abdul Kadir Rosline.

He had last December appointed a panel of experts from various sectors with Albukhary International University vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak as the chairman.

Corporate figures on the panel are AirAsia Bhd chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, Securities Commission of Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Zarina Anwar, Sunway Group and Jeffrey Cheah Foundation chairman Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah and Khazanah Nasional Bhd managing director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar.

"I have no indication of what will be the outcome of the report but we have identified nine main areas that will be discussed and debated in the dialogue sessions," he said.

Asked if a new education policy would be introduced, Muhyiddin said the current system was already good but added that if there was a need to amend any policy, it may be considered as long as such an amendment would not change the entire perspective of the system.
DEPUTY PM, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (left) greeting education stakeholders after the National Education Dialogue at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) yesterday. In attendance was UKM Vice Chancellor, Tan Sri Prof Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasain Shahbudin (left). — PHOTO: BERNAMA