

DPM meets unions

By Tan Shiow Chin

EDUCATION Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin met with the teachers' unions for the first time recently since taking over the portfolio.

The meeting with nine of the 24 unions lasted for two hours and was described as a "very good start" by the National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng.



"We realised that he was listening to us very carefully and was jotting down all the problems that we are facing.

"We are confident that he will make changes in the education sector," she said.

Among the issues brought up at the meeting were that of teachers' workload, failure of the policy to consider three years of teaching experience as a Grade DGA 29 non-graduate teacher, who is in the graduate scheme, as equivalent to one year's experience as a DG 41 teacher for the purposes of "time-based" promotion and the non-satisfactory implementation of in-service training for teachers.

NUTP president Hashim Adnan described Muhyiddin, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, as "very open-minded and listened to what we had to say".

He added that the meeting was more of a feedback session and the minister had said he would examine each of the issues first before making any decisions.