

<p>Tue, August 18 2009 -JOHOR BARU: Students are urged to strike up meaningful friendships with each other without regard for race and religion to better understand the different cultures and beliefs in the country.</p><p>◆</p><p>Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said unity was the biggest challenge for a country with different races.</p><p>◆</p><p>◆The differences do not mean weakness but strength.</p><p>◆</p><p>◆I hope students will appreciate the unity that we have been enjoying all these years and continue to build on this strength to enable us to overcome any challenges as a nation,◆ Muhyiddin said, urging students to unite under the 1Malaysia concept.</p><p>◆</p><p>He was speaking to more than 3,096 participants, mainly students leaders including school prefects and club and association leaders, during the annual Student Integration Plan for Unity here yesterday.</p><p>◆</p><p>Muhyiddin reminded the students that the country◆s founding fathers realised that unity was the foundation to create a peaceful, developed and united country.</p><p>◆</p><p>◆That is why leaders such as Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Tan Cheng Lock and Tun Sambanthan forged an alliance among the different races.◆</p><p>◆</p><p>He added that an understanding of unity and loyalty and love for the country needed to be nurtured from a young age.</p><p>◆</p><p>During the four-day event, participants would carry out various activities including team-building; community service, a walk down memory lane on nation building and go on excursions to promote unity among students. </p>