



Deputy Prime Minister **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** testing a pen that can read the **Quran** at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang yesterday. On the right is AJV Velastar chief executive officer Amran Ahmed. Pic by Aizuddin

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# Counselling can deal with LGBT issues, says Muhyiddin

**SERDANG:** Sexual orientation issues that are increasing must be dealt with intelligently so that efforts to tackle them will bear fruit, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the emergence of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) groups could be tackled with strong and effective counselling.

He said counselling these groups could prevent the spread of this negative culture, which was previously prevalent only in Western countries.

Speaking at the opening of the four-day national counselling and education carnival at Universiti Putra Malaysia here yesterday, he said LGBT practices were against religious and moral values and also social norms.

"Sexual orientation problems also

threaten the family institution."

To achieve effective counselling, he said counselors must be well trained and also adapt to challenges and development in societies.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said his ministry realised the roles played by school counselors.

To reinforce the counselling profession in schools, he said the ministry had looked into providing a better career path for teachers by introducing excellent teacher awards for counsellors, just like those given to academic teachers.

He said counselling for the disabled was another aspect that should be looked into as it would help the disabled lead a better life.

He said the Malaysian International Counselling Association

(Perkama) had started to give attention to the disabled and efforts were underway to train more counsellors in this field.

Muhyiddin said people's potential could be unlocked by counselling and guidance.

"If the potential in these people is not realised and developed, it will be a great loss for the nation."

During the event, he pledged RM100,000 to Perkama for its activities and training.

Present at the event were Perkama president Tan Sri Dr Nordin Kardi and UPM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Radin Omar Radin Sohadi.

The event will see workshops, lectures and discussions with counselling experts, lecturers and corporate leaders.