

Where is the final report on the Malaysian Educational Blueprint (PPPM) 2013-2025?

Written by straits-mongrel

Saturday, 07 September 2013 09:37 - Last Updated Saturday, 07 September 2013 09:44



ON 29 November 2012 Gabungan Bertindak Malaysia (GBM), a non-partisan multi-faith and multi-ethnic coalition of 25 NGOs, submitted a ten page memorandum to the Malaysian Government on the Malaysian Educational Blueprint (MEB or Pelan Pembangunan Pendidikan Malaysia in BM, PPPM) 2013-2025.

In the memorandum we welcomed the Ministry of Education's initiative in preparing a consultative and inclusive blueprint which as we understood it, aimed at the development and well-being of all sectors of education, including religious, in the country.

At the same time we expressed our deep concern that the Education Blueprint was being finalized without adequately taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of civil society organizations.

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Many of our concerns addressed crucial aspects of the Education Blueprint such as the national education philosophy, vocational education, vernacular education, the teaching of languages, the dropout issue and the teaching of history, geography and literature.

To ensure that the recommendations from various studies were optimally reflected and incorporated in the final Education Blueprint, we called on the Ministry of Education to extend the closing date of the Blueprint consultation so as to allow civil society organisations more time to study the final draft.

Despite our concerns and similar expressions by many other stakeholders, it appears that the Government is rushing ahead with the implementation of the Blueprint. Recent statements by the Minister of Education, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin implied that the PPPM will be launched on the 6th September 2013 and would not be delayed whatsoever by objections from any quarters. He is also reported to have said that the plan, if not implemented, could be seen as a weakness on the part of the government, and would also affect the national school education system.

No responsible stakeholder in the country should allow our education system to become a political football. At the same time, GBM cannot support and endorse an educational development plan which, according to the Minister of Education, contains 17,000 suggestions for change, without seeing its final form and ascertaining whether the 17,000 changes being implemented are based on the principles of justice, fairness and inclusiveness that transcends ethnicity, and benefits all streams of education institutions and communities.

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We urge the Minister to release the final report immediately and to delay implementation of the Blueprint until we and the larger Malaysian public can provide our definitive feedback. The educational well-being of our younger generation deserves careful and meticulous consideration and not rushed and hasty policy making and implementation.

Issued by Executive Council of Gabungan Bertindak Malaysia

Note: GBM comprises of the following 25 civil society organisation members:

- 1) Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH)
- 2) Aliran

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- 3) Tamil Foundation
- 4) Pertubuhan IKRAM Malaysia (IKRAM)
- 5) Majlis Perundingan Malaysia Agama Buddha, Krisitian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao (MPMA-BKHST)
- 6) Negeri Sembilan Chinese Assembly Hall (NSCAH)
- 7) Penang Chinese Town Hall (PGCTH)
- 8) The Federation of Chinese Associations Johore State (FCAJ)
- 9) Lim Lian Geok Cultural Development Centre (LLG)
- 10) United Chinese School Alumni Association of Malaysia (UCSAAM)
- 11) Muslim Professionals Forum (MPF)
- 12) Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
- 13) Pusat Komunikasi Masyarakat (KOMAS)
- 14) Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM)

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- 15) Persatuan Masyarakat Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan (Permas)
- 16) National Indian Rights Action Team (NIAT)
- 17) People's Green Coalition (PGC)
- 18) Anak Muda Sarawak (AMS)
- 19) All Women's Action Society (AWAM)
- 20) Partners in Community Organising (Pacos Trust)
- 21) Persatuan Bekas Siswazah Universiti dan Kolej di China, Malaysia (Liu-Hua)
- 22) Nanyang University Alumni Malaya (Nanda)
- 23) Japan Graduates Association, Malaysia (JAGAM)
- 24) Gabungan Persatuan Alumni Universiti Taiwan Malaysia (GPAUTM)
- 25) Islamic Renaissance Front (IRF)