

Mahathir calls for views

School review — what it will do



Dr. Mahathir called on teachers' unions, parents' associations, political parties and others interested in education to submit memoranda by Jan. 31 next year.

They must be sent to the Setiausaha, Jawatankuasa Kabinet Pelaksanaan Dasar, d/a Bahagian Perancangan dan Penyelidikan, Kementerian Pelajaran, Jalan Duta, Kuala Lumpur.

Not rigid

The committee will consider all views and suggestions concerned with the effectiveness of the implementation of the policy, Dr. Mahathir said.

He made it clear that the committee would not be "studying the policy which has already been laid down."

"By and large we will leave things open and not adopt a rigid position on anything," he said.

"Our job is to listen to various opinions and experts' views, and only after having studied them will we make our decisions."

The committee, he said, has "no real priority", but "its aim is to fulfil the needs of the nation and we feel that if the country is to prosper, society must be united, disciplined and trained."

On the future of

"We are not convinced that we are producing a society which is compatible with our beliefs in the democratic process and other values," the Education Minister said.

"It is not a simple process of giving education to the people. The problem is whether the people who get the education will later form a society which is viable and can withstand the onslaught of so many different cultures."

Dr. Mahathir, who is also the chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Education, said the committee would need a year to finish the review.

Four months will be set aside for the public to submit memoranda, six months will be needed to study them and another two months to compile a report, he added.

Changes in other parts of the world and the "very rapid communication of ideas" to this region could endanger Malaysian society, he said.

Many known values, such as the concept of religion, had changed or had been destroyed in the West, he said. Westerners, for instance, no longer cared for religion.

"This sort of thinking is seeping into Malaysian society and is something we are worried about," he added.

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Government is reviewing fully the way the education policy is being implemented because the country "is not producing the people it needs and the society it wants," Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

Ford asks rich to foot the bill: P2

‘SCHOOLS’ REVIEW: ‘NEED FOR DISCIPLINE’

★ From Page One

Chinese education, he said: "Where Chinese education is not in conflict with the national education policy, there will be no interference."

He added that "nothing is wrong" with independent Chinese schools if they fitted into the system.

The committee will be guided by the Drop-out Report, the Razak and Talib Reports and various other reports on education published in the country, Dr. Mahathir said.

"It is a very big job. It may be that we will fall short of expectations. But as far as it is humanly possible, we will try to accommodate everyone's views," he added.

The terms

On criticism that the committee is made up only of Ministers, Dr. Mahathir said: "The Ministers are closer to the people who are in power and their recommendations would be more likely to be accepted."

"We are not a committee of experts and we cannot claim to be one. We are serviced by experts and everybody will be given a chance to voice their opinions."

The Ministry's Educational Planning and Research Division headed by Enclik Abdul Rahman Arshad, will act as the committee's secretariat, and will process all memoranda, service the various sub-committees and report to the committee.

Initially, four sub-committees on national unity, the nation's manpower requirements, professional matters and financing of schools will be set up.

The committee held its first meeting two days ago to discuss its terms of reference