

25/07/2002

Call for creation of quality workforce

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PETALING JAYA, Wed. - The National Brains Trust (NBT), established to transform the education system to prepare the country's transition to developed status, has called for the creation of a world-class workforce and to achieve nation building targets where Malaysians will work with each other.

This is part of 13 strategic intervention points submitted by the NBT to the executive committee of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC).

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Isis) chairman and chief executive officer Tan Sri Noordin Sopiee said NBT found that Malaysia's education system required massive fundamental changes in order to create a world class workforce.

"The current and past education system cannot produce a good educated workforce therefore the 13 strategic points we came up with will have a huge impact on the education system.

"Isis was put in charge of the task to compose the thoughts of education thinkers at all levels from the university to the kindergarten level.

"The report was received by NEAC's executive committee chairman, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, with a high degree of enthusiasm," Noordin said at the National Education Conference themed Educational Excellence in a Globally Competitive Knowledge Economy.

It had at the end of last April submitted a report to the executive committee of the NEAC after 68 members from all levels of the education system had met for 23 meetings.

One of the 13 strategic points in the report was that by 2006, those opting to work in the public service are required to have credit in Bahasa Malaysia and English.

"Our recommendations can be implemented in the next 10 days to over the next 10 years," Noordin said.