

**Muhyiddin: RM20mil for McKinsey reasonable**

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The RM20 million paid to consulting firm McKinsey and Co for the National Education Blueprint is "reasonable" as it involves large scale processes, Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said.

Muhyiddin, who is also deputy prime minister, justified the fee by saying that it was a big scale project which took two years to complete and required input from international education experts.

"I believe it is a reasonable rate as we need assistance from experts in any effort that we make.

"I would also like to stress that this exercise was a large one. It was not something we can do on our own, as it required consultations, international panellists and open days in every state," he told reporters this morning.

The government, he further said, will provide a detailed explanation on the matter as soon as it completes making payment to McKinsey.

"It takes two years to successfully complete, that it not something that is cheap or easy to do.

"In any case, we find the rate reasonable, but the details we will explain once we have calculated what we need to pay (the firm) and others," he told reporters after launching the competition law conference organised by the Malaysian Competition Commission.

Parliament yesterday heard that the Education Ministry paid the consulting firm RM20.56 million to draft out the National Education Blueprint.

This drew flack from opposition MPs, with Serdang MP Ong Kian Ming (above) deeming the expenditure a waste of taxpayers' money, especially since the firm did not specialise in education consultancy work.

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