

A quarter of projects resolved

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KUALA LUMPUR: More than 27% or 4,639 education-related infrastructure projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) have either been completed or are being implemented.

As of June this year, 2,816 out of a total of 16,735 projects have been completed while another 1,823 are under implementation.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the other 12,096 projects were at the planning stage.

"As for projects carried over from the Eighth Malaysia Plan, 432 have been completed while another 12 are under implementation," he told a press conference when releasing the report card on the progress achieved in the first six months after the implementation of the *National Education Blueprint 2006-2010* at the Parliament building yesterday.

He said the ministry received RM23bil to implement the 17,179 development projects and an additional RM2.6bil for 9,355 high-impact projects to strengthen rural education.

On another matter, Hishammuddin said the public would be able to study the report card once it was uploaded onto the Education Ministry's website.



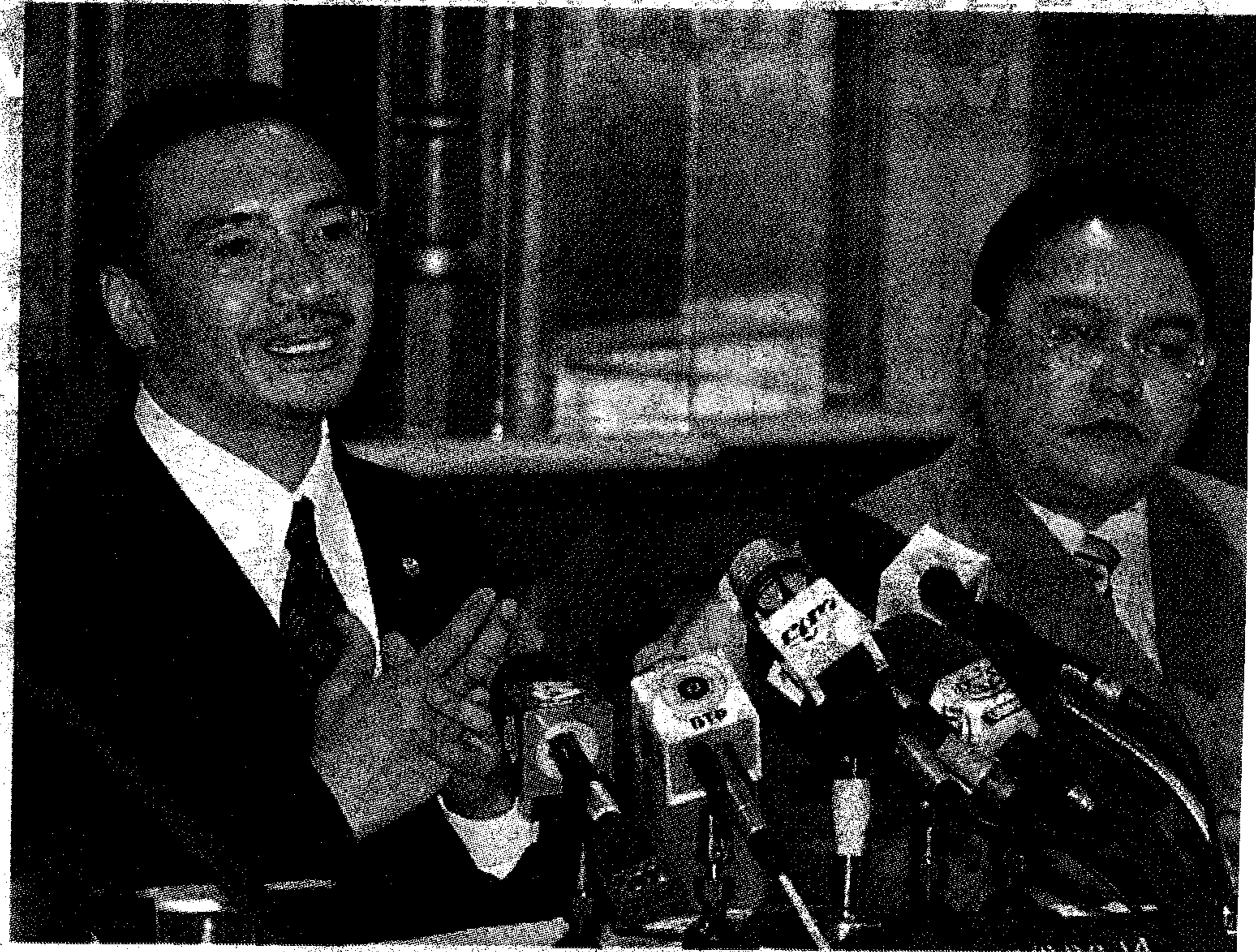
"We just finished compiling the report card on Monday. We want people to be able to understand what the allocations have been used for," he said.

He said what had been implemented so far was part of efforts to make the implementation of both the blueprint and 9MP a reality.

The 25-page report card, with 32 pages of appendices, addressed the progress made in the implementation of the blueprint since its launch by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in January.

The blueprint, which lays the foundation for education development over a five-year period, has six thrusts – nation-building, developing human capital, strengthening national schools, bridging the education gap, improving the teaching profession and accelerating excellence at educational institutions.

During the launch of the blueprint earlier this year, Hishammuddin had said that the ministry would release a report card twice a year on its progress and implementation.



Report card day: Hishammuddin taking questions from newsmen after releasing the report card on the progress the National Education Blueprint at Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Next to him is his deputy Datuk Noh Omar.