

# Feel free to give ideas on blueprint

The Star - 12/3/2007.

There's no need to wait for meeting

**LUMUT:** The National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) and other non-governmental organisations including the Dong Jiao Zong (United Chinese School Committees Association of Malaysia) are welcome to give their ideas on how to improve on the National Education Blueprint.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said it was an on-going process to improve the 2006-2010 blueprint.

"Any interested party, be it the NGOs, NUTP or Dong Jiao Zong, can present their views.

"There is no need to wait for a formal discussion. If you have a proposal to improve the blueprint, give it to us," he told reporters after attending the ministry's Strategic Planning Conference at a resort in Damai Laut.

"I am open to any ideas but if you want to wait for a formal meeting or a memorandum, I don't work that way because we are in a state of moving our ministry to greater heights.

"What is good we will take. If not, we can sit down and discuss it and explain why your request cannot be met for the time being," Hishammuddin added.

On book loans, he said there was no proposal to give them out to all the five million school-going children.

At present, he said 97% of them

»What  
is good  
we will  
take. If  
not, we can sit  
down and  
discuss it«



DATUK SERI HISHAMMUDDIN  
TUN HUSSEIN

received free books and only 3% were not getting them.

This, Hishammuddin said, gave the impression that 97% of the school-going children were from poor families because the scheme was only for those who really needed help.

"If we want to make a populist decision for the remaining 3%, we should look at those who are benefiting from the book loan.

"Some may even be from families who own three cars or two houses," he said.

"If we give 100% book loans to all every year, it will be like our petrol subsidies.

"For the 3%, show me evidence that you deserve book loans and I will make sure you get them," Hishammuddin added.