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Cabinet okays Education Blueprint

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PETALING JAYA: The cabinet approved the Education Blueprint 2013-2025 yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin made the announcement last night in his speech at the 21st anniversary dinner of the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia (Hua Zong).

"I would like to announce that today, the cabinet has accepted and passed the plan."

The Education Blueprint will now be presented to the Conference of Rulers for its consent for implementation next year.

Last September, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak launched the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 Preliminary Report, which outlined 11 strategic and operational shifts to transform the education system. Among the 11 shifts are to provide equal access to education of an international standard, ensure every child is proficient in Bahasa Malaysia and English, develop values-driven Malaysians and transform teaching into a profession of choice.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, thanked Hua Zong and other non-governmental organisations for providing input and suggestions on the blueprint in November last year.

"I am thankful for the associations' sincere opinions and several of the suggestions have been given priority to be included in the plan."

Earlier in his speech, Muhyiddin said certain quarters that sought to stir up racial and religious issues to



Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (centre) tossing yee sang at the **21st anniversary dinner of the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia (Hua Zong)**. With him are MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek (ninth from left), Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai (10th from left), Hua Zong president Tan Sri Pheng Yin Huah (sixth from left), Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon (fourth from left), Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong (left) and other Chinese community leaders. **Bernama pic**

gain support may cost the country its harmony and peace.

He praised Hua Zong and other organisations that had voiced their opinions and views through the appropriate channels and acted as a bridge between the Chinese community and the government.

Muhyiddin said organisations like Hua Zong had always delivered the demands and opinions of the Chinese community by meeting the

nation's leaders and also through the media, instead of resorting to demonstrations and other provocative means.

"The peace and harmony we enjoy today did not come easy. It was the result of cooperation and integration built by citizens of different races in this country over the years."

He said some quarters tended to be provocative in their actions, including organising demonstrations

when raising issues.

"This should not be the case if they are willing to discuss with an open heart. The government's door is always open for every quarter to voice opinions and demands."

Present were MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Hua Zong president Tan Sri Pheng Yin Huah and other Chinese community leaders.