

Gerakan wants education panel to provide 'out-of-the-box' solutions to impasse
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 — Gerakan has called for a national education panel to revamp the current history syllabus and to depoliticise other controversial issues currently surrounding education in the country.

Party president Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon said today the proposed National Education Consultative Council (NECC), which will comprise experts from both public and private universities, was needed to find "out-of-the-box" solutions to intractable issues plaguing the education system.

These include the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English (PPSMI), the lack of creativity and productivity among students and what critics have called a biased history syllabus.

"The present history curriculum needs a revamp to be more objective in its presentation and analysis of facts, and to be more inclusive in recognising the roles and contributions of all communities," Koh told the Gerakan National Delegates Assembly here today.

Educationists have long alleged that the current history syllabus is pro-Barisan Nasional (BN) and often downplays the contributions of non-Malays to nation building.

PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu reignited the controversy over official historical accounts recently when he said the Communists who attacked Bukit Kepong police station in 1950 should be seen as independence fighters and not as terrorists.

BN lawmakers and armed forces veterans were quick to slam his remarks as a bid to rewrite history and downplay the ruling coalition's contributions in securing independence for Malaysia.

Koh also voiced his support for PPSMI at the secondary level but added that the policy must include bilingual support for students who require help adjusting to the new medium.

He also stressed that the government should further explore complementary learning methodologies between content and language subjects.

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