

**'Opposition budget has nothing for education'**  
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MARAN: The opposition coalition's budget failed to prioritise education and lacked provisions on allocation for academic matters, said Deputy Education Minister Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi.

Puad said he was not impressed with the plans as they did not contain anything concrete on education.

"The opposition promised a RM500 one-off payment to teachers but the government's 2013 Budget includes half-month bonus payments.

"Even during debates in Parliament, the opposition failed to address matters related to education."

He said the 2013 Budget was on the right track and more convincing.

"If they are serious, I challenge them to present an education blueprint as what the government had done with the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 Preliminary Report."

He also criticised the opposition for their alleged list of shadow cabinet, which suggested former Perak menteri besar Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin as a potential education minister.

"I am not sure about the veracity of the list, but I remember during Parliamentary proceedings that Nizar never said anything in relation to education issues.

"In fact, he never said anything in Parliament and yet he is to be the education minister," he said after handing out RM100 contributions to 942 orphaned students from 47 schools here.

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