Evaluation panel now complete

EDUCATION REVIEW:
Five other names announced for 12-member team

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Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday announced five more names as members of the National Education System Evaluation Panel.

The five are Prof Tan Sri Kamal Hassan (International Islamic University, Malaysia), Datuk Dr Adi Badiozaman Tuah (former director of Malaysian Examination Board), Prof Datuk Chuah Hean Teik (Universiti Tun Abdul Razak), Associate Prof N. Rajendran (Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris) and Dr Abdul Khadir Rosline (Universiti Teknologi Mara Sabah).

With the five, the 12-member panel, which will review the country's education system, is now complete.

Last December, the government had announced the names of seven experts from various sectors with Albukhary International University vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dzulkiifli Abdul Razak as the chairman of the panel.

The four corporate figures on the panel are AirAsia Bhd chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, former Securities Commission of Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar, Sunway Group and Jeffrey Cheah Foundation chairman Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah.

Speaking at a press conference after delivering his speech at the dialogue on the national education system here yesterday, Muhyiddin also announced the four international experts who will assist the team.

They are Dr Andreas Schleicher (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), Dr Byong Man Ahn (former South Korean education minister), Dr Michael Fullan (Canadian prime minister's special adviser) and Dr Sing Kong Lee (director of National Institute for Education, Singapore).

Muhyiddin said the ministry would review the input from the international experts and apply them only if they were suitable in Malaysia.

"This is phase one. Before we engage others, we want to give priority to our own people, the teachers, to give their ideas on the review. This is not about finding fault, but they can tell us their views openly."

He said more dialogue sessions would be held later.

Muhyiddin said the public could also give their ideas on the review online, adding that the dialogue sessions would be headed by former education director-general Tan Sri Wan Mohd Zaid Mohd Nordin.

The ministry, he added, expects to release the education roadmap and blueprint in August while the final report was expected to be brought before the cabinet by year-end.

Meanwhile, Bernama reports that Muhyiddin is expected to announce some good news regarding the Public Service Department’s scholarships today.

"The draft on the matter is being finalised," he said here yesterday.

Last year, the government had agreed to a total review of the PSD’s scholarship policy.

The review involves scholarships offered to excellent students for university intake and to Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) holders for pre-university courses such as the Sijil Tinggi Persekolanah Malaysia (STPM), matriculation and A-Levels.
Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin meeting teachers after the first of a series of dialogues on the national education system in Bangi yesterday. Pic by Rosdan Wahid