

Education in Malaysia
Prepared for Zaid Untuk Rakyat
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Overview

- Education in Msia is governed by two ministries, Ministry of Education (primary and secondary education) and Ministry of Higher Education (tertiary).
- Regulated by Education Act 1961, University Colleges Act 1971, and Private Higher Education Institutions Act 1996
- Adult literacy rate 92% (2003-2008, source: Unesco)
- Government expenditure in education averages 4.7% of GDP (2005-2008, source: UNDP)
- Primary-secondary gross enrolment ratio 85.4% female, 82.3% male (2005-2008, UNDP)
- Female enrolment at tertiary level 54.8% of total (2005-2008, UNDP)
- (For more details on enrolment, read this [Unicef report](#) for more details)
- Gov spent 4.7% of GDP in 2005, 4.7% of GDP in 2006 (For comparison, see [Worldbank's compiled report](#), but stats are only as recent as 2008.)
- There are 40 international schools throughout Malaysia (middle + high schools included, source: [ExpatKL listing](#)).

Education in The News

- **Proposal on scrapping UPSR & PMR: Will an exam-free system create a thinking Malaysian?** (free malaysia today)

"We must first stop the practice of allowing every Education Minister to experiment with the future of Malaysia's youth and strive to bring back the system which we once had which produced not only capable students, but equally capable sportsmen and women."

- **PPSMI Flip Flop**

For at least two decades or more, this is how Science and Maths were taught in national and national-type schools. (Bahasa Malaysia: BM, Bahasa Inggeris: BI, Mother Tongue: MT)

BM for Std 1 - Std 6 Sekolah Kebangsaan

BM for Form 1 - Form 6 Sekolah Kebangsaan

MT for Std 1 - Std 6 Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina & Tamil

MT for Form 1 - Form 6 Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina & Tamil

In 2003, the medium of instruction of these subjects were all changed to English, a policy which all schools had to implement from Std 1 - 6 and Form 1 -6. The switch was expected to be completed by 2008 for all SK & SJK schools in Malaysia.

In 2009, the government was forced to scrap the policy in stages, beginning from 2012. But all schools will now teach Maths and Science in Bahasa Malaysia.

- **Four political sc students frm UKM (UKM4) challenge UUCA**

"The UUCA is one of the reasons the younger generation has such a low level of participation in voting and so many are not registered as voters yet. Students are afraid to voice their opinion and are so used to being "not involved."

- **Why penalise students for being patriotic? UKM undergrad's open letter to vice chancellor**

Dear VC, when the rest of the student population cannot even be bothered about what's happening in the country, shouldn't we instead take pride in having students who do?

Are we to reward patriotism with penalties? On May 19, at 9.28am, you tweeted this on Twitter and also on Facebook, "Tun Musa Hitam: Youth & Women will change d world". But both need empowerment.

Now how do we empower youths to make decisions when their capacity to execute their basic rights as adults is limited and restricted? This isn't empowerment, this is control and intimidation not to mention an infringement of a person's rights.

- **Idris Jala's comments on 'social' subsidies** (thestar)

Backing his remark is the gargantuan size of subsidies in the country, from staple food items like flour and sugar to energy costs and services such as health care and education. To be exact, in 2009, government subsidies totalled RM74bil – RM42.4bil for social services including education and healthcare, RM23.5bil for fuel and energy and RM4.8bil for infrastructure (think lower rates for toll roads).

Education accounts for 15.6% of the 2010 Federal Budget of RM191.5bil

Msia the 7th largest spender on education as a percentage of total government expenditure in the world. (stats not attributed)

Non-obligatory expenditure for compulsory education RM2.9bil, higher education RM4.6bil

Proposes to review gov spending on meals for hostel accommodation, those who can pay should.

The gov can save RM446mil by 2015 if we

- stop subsidising fees for foreign students
- increase fees charged for local tertiary students
- PTPTN loan covers only study fees

Selected highlights frm the Malaysia Budget 2010

Note: education-related highlights are italicised

- CSR Fund of RM100mil to be set up to carry out social programmes.
- RM6bil for agriculture sector for irrigation of paddy fields, fish production, fruit farming, livestock farming infrastructure, training
- RM2bil subsidy for farmers and fishermen including subsidies for fertilisers, incentives for padi yields and allowances for fishermen
- RM9bil to finance infrastructure projects including road and bridges projects and rail, sea ports and airports facilities
- RM1.5bil fund to promote green technology by providing soft loans to companies that supply and use green technology
- RM200mil Creative Industry Fund to finance film, drama, music productions, animation, advertisements through Bank Simpanan Nasional
- *RM30bil to be allocated to enhance primary and secondary school education nationwide*
- *Rewards for students who excel in studies:*
 - *30 National Scholarships for the creme de la creme of students, stictly based on merit*
 - *Conversion of PTPTN loans to scholarships for students who graduate with 1st class honours degree, beginning from 2010*
 - *Offer of netbook package, including free broadband service, to university students for RM50 per month for 2 years.*
- *RM100mil for the Permata programme, which emphasises on early childcare and education, including the gifted child programme*

[PM Najib's speech in full, pdf download](#)

Selected highlights from the 10 Malaysian Plan

- The proportion of graduate teachers in primary schools will be increased from 28 to 60 per cent to improve the quality of students.
- The performance of students in critical subjects , particularly, the National Language, English, Science and Mathematics, will also be improved by increasing the number of graduate teachers.
- The qualification requirement for appointment of preschool teachers will be raised to a diploma and bachelor"s degree.
- Candidates with Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) will be considered for enrolment into the Chinese language programme in Institutes of Teacher Education to meet the demand for quality Mandarin language teachers in Chinese national schools and national schools.
- The same consideration will also be given to those who have Sijil Menengah Agama and Sijil Tinggi Agama and SPM to become teachers in J-Qaf and Islamic education programme.
- The number of high-performing schools will be increased to 100 by the end of 2012 and they will include primary, secondary, day and residential schools.
- A Trust School framework will be introduced to enable public-private partnership in the management of selected government schools and they will be provided with greater autonomy.
- RM280 million will be allocated to government-aided schools for 2011 and 2012. Each category of government-aided school, namely Chinese schools, Tamil schools, religious schools and mission schools, will receive an allocation of RM70 million for the first two years of the 10MP.
- The government will provide assistance to pay electricity and water bills of up to RM2,000 per month for each of the almost 1,900 government-aided schools.
- Financial allocation for universities will depend on the achievement of their KPI targets and the government will grant gradual autonomy to the universities to improve their performance.
- The quality of academic staff will be improved by increasing the number of PhDs with a target of 75 per cent in research universities and 60 per cent in other public universities.
- The MyBrain15 programme will be intensified to finance doctoral studies for the purpose of increasing the number of PhD holders to 18,000 by 2015.

- Salary packages will be reviewed to attract foreign lecturers and retired academic staff.
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) has been declared a research university, after Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia.

A summary of policies from 1957 onwards

From the Ministry of Education, Malaysia

http://www.moe.gov.my/tayang.php?laman=imbasan_sejarah&bhs=en

Razak Report 1956 and Education Ordinance 1957 - Consolidation Period

- Formation of a single system of national education
- Recognition of the eventual objective of making Bahasa Malaysia the main medium of instruction
- Commencement of a Malaysia-orientated curriculum
- Conception of a single system of evaluation for all

Rahman Talib Report and Education Act 1961 . Updating Period

- Stress on 3R basic education . reading, writing and arithmetic
- Stress on a strong spiritual education and the desired elements of discipline
- Stress on a Malaysian curriculum
- Upper secondary education of two streams, academic and vocational
- Opportunity to continue education from 9 years to 11 years
- Facilitation of education management procedures to improve the overall quality of education

Features of 1979 Cabinet Report

- Stress on 3R basic education . reading, writing and arithmetic
- Stress on a strong spiritual education and the desired elements of discipline
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- Upper secondary education of two streams, academic and vocational
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Education Bill 1995

- The national education system is designed to produce world-class education from the aspect of quality to achieve the nation.s aspirations
- The National Education Policy becomes the base for the national education policy
- Duration of primary education is between 5 and 7 years
- Pre-school education is part of the national education system
- Technical and polytechnic education are upgraded
- Allocations are made for the supervision of private education