

REFORM

'NEW SCHOOL CURRICULUM LIKELY BY 2020 OR 2021'

It will be implemented in stages, says minister

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THE Education Ministry will formulate a new school curriculum, expected to be rolled out by the end of 2020 or early 2021.

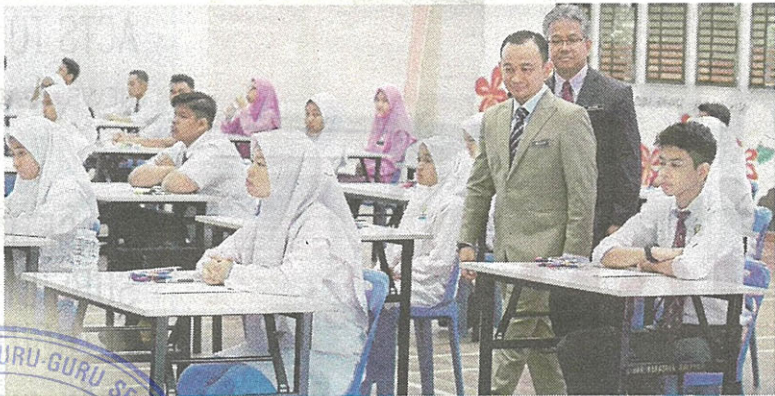
Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik said the new curriculum would be implemented in stages, based on the recommendations of the ministry's Policy Committee and National Education Advisory Council (MPPK).

He said the ministry, Policy Committee and MPPK would meet Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to get his views.

"When I met the prime minister recently, he has agreed and asked (the ministry) to continue striving for the same goal that he (Dr Mahathir) did when he was education minister, which is to turn Malaysia into a quality and hard-working society," Maszlee said after visiting SMK Putrajaya Presint 16(1) here yesterday.

During a high-tea session with Malaysians living in Singapore on Monday, Dr Mahathir touched on the need to revamp the school curriculum.

Maszlee said the new curriculum would ensure that subjects taught in school did not burden students and teachers.



Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik visiting Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia candidates at SMK Putrajaya Presint 16(1) yesterday. PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR

Besides prepping students for the working world, they would also be exposed to high-level thinking skills that comply with international standards.

On speculation that he could be dropped in a cabinet reshuffle, Maszlee said it was a rumour aimed at diverting attention from probes into former ministers.

It was reported that the prime minister was expected to reshuffle the cabinet as he was unhappy with the performance of some ministers, especially those from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia.

A news portal claimed that Maszlee and Rural Development Minister Datuk Seri Rina Harun were among those to be dropped.

National Union of Teaching Profession secretary-general Harry Tan said when it came to changing the syllabus, there was a need for an "education reformist" instead of a politician leading the sector.

He said any proposed new syllabus would not work if the Education Ministry failed to coop-

erate with those working on the ground, especially teachers.

"What our education system needs is not politicians, but an education reformist, and we see that in our new minister, who is trying very hard to revamp the way things have been carried out."

He said teachers hoped that improvements would be made to the way instructions were given to them, and urged the ministry to look into the reports that teachers were required to write.

On the formulation of a new school curriculum, Tan said there needed to be changes to the curriculum for vocational studies, but the curriculum for primary and secondary schools were "well thought out" enough.

Parent Action Group for Education Malaysia chief executive officer Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim said the change in curriculum should not burden students as the syllabus needed to be altered every few years to stay in line with advances in the world.