



## The First Decade of Asian Research on School Leadership in a Global Context 拾載以來的全球脈絡亞太學校領導研究

### Education Policy Research Initiative: Reflections on Education Policy Directions towards Building a Future-Oriented, United and Developed Nation

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This work is a report on a policy research work in progress. It describes the challenges that face the Committee to Review, Study and Make Recommendations for Education Policies from Pre School to University in Malaysia. The Policy Review Committee was established on 18 October 2018, under the instruction of the Cabinet on 6 June 2018. The Committee was given six months to complete its mission and submit the Report to the Government on 30 April 2019. Thirteen people from diverse backgrounds, qualifications and experiences were selected as members of the Committee. This paper is a policy research paper based on the reflections of the Chair of the Committee but substantiated by documented evidence. From the first Meeting of the Committee the Chairperson set the direction by emphasizing the work of the Committee is professional work and is a sacred Mission beyond party politics. The work is to reflect continuity, be comprehensive, inclusive, and holistic, ensure alignments and be as exhaustive as possible. As on 1 March 2019, the Committee has met more than 2600 people face to face and over 2800 stakeholders on line. The Committee is to listen to, study feedback and academic documents and address matters raised by concerned citizens and the various significant stakeholders. The Committee is also to engage with the representatives of the people who do not come to Town hall or RoundTable Meetings and who do not give feedback online. The national vision to build a united multireligious, multiracial, multilingual and multicultural nation based on Knowledge and Virtues was articulated and shared with stakeholders. There were many responses regarding implementation of policies and “earth-shaking, ground-breaking and compelling” recommendations on educational policies. Every Recommendation must be evidenced based reference to some research findings, expert opinions, scholarly traditions or social conscience. In addition, every Recommendation must have Background and Context Narratives and Justifications. Abundant inspiring, positive and constructive responses were received. There were also controversial responses



regarding religion, language, science and technology and cultures. To ensure Benchmarking of Policies, Expert Representatives from Embassies of nations regarded as those leading in education are invited to share lessons of their policy initiatives in education. The governing policy thrusts so far include the notion of “scholar teacher”, recommending preschool be made compulsory, formulating Science, Technology, Reading, Writing, Arts, Engineering as core for the whole system with the structure of 2-5-5-2, identifying and enculturating core virtues across the system and focussing on Character Education and such values as Happiness, Love and Mutual Respect. Education Policies are to contribute to build the Malaysian National Character of Integrity, Honesty, Cleanliness, Civility, Truthfulness and Justice. The policy research work continues to evolve as one of the most important initiative in Malaysian educational history.