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Future history

> Special committee gets cracking on reviewing curriculum and textbook contents for the subject

BY **HUSNA YUSOP**

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PUTRAJAYA: The special committee to review the history curriculum and school textbook yesterday began its task of charting its future as an examination subject for form five students.

Set up following the decision last year to make History a compulsory pass subject in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination from 2013, the 12-member committee is chaired by former deputy education director-general Datuk Omar Mohd Hashim.

The committee's terms of reference are to:

- ▶ **Determine** the direction of the History curriculum development in realising the current needs and future challenges;
- ▶ **Study** the suitability of the present curriculum's content and textbook with the impact of

learning History which stresses on unity and patriotism;

- ▶ **Review** the accuracy in the facts contained in the curriculum and textbook; and

- ▶ **Make** recommendations based on the review and present them in a report to the ministry.

The committee which met for the first time at the Education Ministry yesterday has been given a year to complete its task. Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who had appointed the committee in his capacity as education minister, briefly attended the meeting.

In line with the move to make History a compulsory core subject, the ministry said the country's history should be taught so that students can understand and appreciate the spirit of unity and solidarity as Malaysians. "We hope to realise this objective in line with the policy to make History a must-pass subject in SPM examination

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from 2013," it said.

Other committee members are Universiti Teknologi Mara dean of Administrative Science and Policy Studies Faculty Prof Datuk Dr Ramlah Adam (deputy chairman), historian Emeritus Prof Tan Sri Dr

Khoo Kay Kim (Universiti Malaya), pre-historian Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Nik Hassan Suhaimi Nik Abdul Rahman (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia), Prof Dr Danny Wong Tze Ken (UM) and Prof Dr Ranjit Singh (Universiti Utara Malaysia), Assoc Prof Dr Ismail Ali

(Universiti Malaysia Sabah), Assistant Prof Dr Shamrahayu Abdul Aziz (International Islamic University Malaysia), Dr Neilson Ian Mersat (Universiti Malaysia Sarawak) and Dr Benedict Topin (Kadazandusun Cultural Association).