

# Revamp education system, not just unis



To produce quality graduates, we need to recruit quality educators, right from primary school level. — *Filepic*

ends up as one of the many thousands of unemployed graduates in the country?

Besides overhauling the public examination system, I feel that we need quality teachers in both the primary and secondary schools. Our education system is in need of an overhaul.

I remember some discussion about reforming the education system as far back as 2003 but where are the much talked about reforms?

The Public Service Department has not helped by introducing public exams for teachers to seemingly test their competence before they can be promoted. There should be a different scheme for teachers and lecturers in the public service.

We need to attract the best brains to join the teaching profession.

For a start, why not reward teachers who have done classroom research or who have post-graduate degrees?

The Education Ministry needs to look for people of calibre to nurture and educate the future

generation of Malaysia.

Let both the recruitment and the promotion exercises be fair and more transparent.

The Education Ministry should strive to make teaching a rewarding and challenging career not just for a handful but for every teacher.

Forget about the PTM exam. And forget about handsome rewards for a few privileged super teachers and super principals.

Excellent teaching depends not only on excellent teamwork but also on a sense of fair play on the part of the authorities.

Of course, it will take a whole generation to weed out the dead wood, but if nothing is done to recruit quality educators right from primary school level, the rot in the education system will worsen.

The symptoms of our educational malaise are already surfacing at tertiary levels.

Are we too late?

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Via e-mail

IN RECENT weeks, there has been an outpouring of concern about the drop in ranking of universities in Malaysia, especially that of Universiti Malaya and Universiti Sains.

But are the universities to be blamed if they do not get quality undergraduates?

Three or four years at a university will not change a mediocre student into a person of calibre in terms of ability to think outside the box, to work independently or to be able to communicate effectively.

Is it any wonder then that Malaysian universities score poorly in the new category, that is, the employability of graduates from the employers' survey?

A lot of talk has also been focused on the need to produce more research papers.

If lecturers had quality students, or if they themselves were eminent scholars with an insatiable thirst for acquiring new knowledge, we would have fared better in the category of "research cited by other academics".

Unfortunately, if one looks at the kind of students admitted into public universities, and who might later graduate to become lecturers themselves, you will forgive me for being cynical.

About 10 years ago, I told a fellow teacher that the day a certain student of mine graduated as a lawyer, I would be the Lord President of Malaysia.

Well, that student graduated, and I am still an English teacher.

It is undeniable that our public examinations have helped to create a breed of students who actually think they are quality material for university education.

Standards have been lowered so much that slightly above-average

students are lumped together with the truly excellent scholars. Any experienced teacher will be able to tell a genuine "A" student from one who deserves a lower grade. When such a student goes on with his education at a local university, is it any surprise if he