



Our Appeal to Datuk Seri Hishammuddin bin Tun Hussein Onn, our Honourable Minister of Education, Malaysia, for the Good of Our Nation On Behalf of Our Mission Schools.

1. Our Mission Schools have been an asset to the nation, producing outstanding national leaders, corporate captains and a populace proud to be called Malaysians. The Mission Authorities have fully cooperated with the Government in the implementation of national education goals, producing citizens loyal to King and country and with reverence for God. Our property, land and buildings are being used by the Ministry of Education Malaysia with no rentals imposed.

2. Yet we see, increasingly, that our Mission Schools, many of which are centenarian and of vintage value, as they grow older, are sidelined, "*dianaktirikan*". "*Perishables*" like basic furniture for our teachers and students, all Malaysian citizens and children of tax-paying citizens respectively, are not allocated for our mission schools. Other "*perishables*" not allocated are computers for the mission school computer laboratories. These "*perishables*" are not fixtures and do not add value to the land or buildings but are necessary for effective teaching and learning in the 21st century. We understand that from 1997, mission schools have been classified as "*sekolah kebangsaan*" and "*sekolah menengah kebangsaan*" that is "*national schools*" and therefore should be treated no differently from fully-aided Government schools.

3. We have always promoted national unity and nation building in our mission schools through our mission school culture and ethos, multiracial students' enrolment and inclusive school policies. However, our mission school ethos and culture have been gradually eroded by some over zealous voices.

Our mission school product has an open mindedness and receptiveness to global thinking and trends which have been recognized publicly and widely acknowledged by all. These unique qualities should be encouraged.

4. We appeal to the Honourable Minister to consider our Government-Assisted Mission Schools with regards to the following:

- 4.1) Existing LEASES of mission schools to be renewed at nominal premiums.**
- 4.2) LEASES of mission schools which have lapsed to be renewed at nominal premiums.**
- 4.3) Principle of MAXIMUM CONSULTATION in the appointment of our Head Teachers to be respected and adhered to at all times. (Refer to Revised Report of the Royal Commission on the Teaching Services June 1971 - Aziz Report).**
- 4.4) Boards of Governors / Managers to be enforced in line with the Education Act 1996, para 53 and Rang Undang-Undang Pendidikan 1995, 18 Disember, 1995 para 51.**
- 4.5) Rentals of the School Canteen and School Bookroom and from School fields, halls and courts being the property of the Mission Authority, should be in the Board of Governors / Managers Fund for the development of the mission school.**

- 4.6) Annual Maintenance Grants to be allocated to all Mission schools.
- 4.7) Special grants to be allocated for upgrading like electrical rewiring, termite deactivation and other repair works without which our children's and teachers' safety will be endangered. Funds for the repainting of the Mission schools should be allocated like repainting of Government schools.
- 4.8) "Perishables" and "Durables" to be allocated to Mission schools as a matter of right as mission schools are also Government schools which the Government wants to promote as schools of choice.
- 4.9) We request that the Ministry of Education continue to direct students completing Year Six in mission primary schools en bloc to Form One in the corresponding secondary mission schools.
- 4.10) Our mission schools to maintain the mission character, ethos and culture.
- 4.11) Christian Clubs and Societies to be allowed in all schools where there is a Christian student population in line with the Professional Circular No. 20/2000, dated December 16, 2000, entitled Guidelines for the Establishment of Non-Islamic Religious Clubs and Societies in Schools.
- 4.12) Utilities bills to be paid by the respective Education Departments.
- 4.13) Balanced multiracial composition of students, staff and administrators in mission schools to be maintained.
- 4.14) Promotional posts in mission schools to reflect multiracial composition of the nation in line with the current Prime Minister's call to have more non-Malay principals.
- 4.15) We hope more deserving mission schools will be included in the cluster schools project. However, all schools deserve more funding and attention from the Government's Annual Budget to develop human capital, the greatest resource of the nation.

Thank you.

The Malayan Christian Schools' Council

Yap Kok Keong,
Chairman

Miss Yin Kam Yoke
Hon. Secretary

Date: 13.02.2008