

# Dong Zong's Petition And Stand On The 13<sup>th</sup> General Election (GE13)

The coming GE13 will decide the fate of the nation and rakyat in the next five years; it will also determine the future development and survival of mother-tongue education. Being the highest authority to lead and oversee Chinese education in Malaysia, Dong Zong has an obligation and is duty-bound to make known its stand and to petition the authorities on Chinese education.

It is the long-standing tradition of Dong Zong to take a non-partisan stand in politics. Its core position is to object to any official policy that is not supportive of or detrimental to the healthy development of mother-tongue education.

With the unwavering support of the people, mother-tongue education will continue to develop and flourish in this country. However, in the past few decades, the single language education policy has posed as a major threat to the healthy development and the very survival of mother-tongue education.

In line with the development of events, Dong Zong, with the support of the public, had in 2012 organised peaceful gatherings to make known its demands on five different occasions, namely the March 25 gathering on the shortage of teachers in Chinese primary schools, the May 20 gathering in Kuantan on the issue of the proposed Independent Chinese Secondary

School, the July 29 gathering in Segamat in support of the demand for more Independent Chinese Secondary schools, the September 26 gathering at Parliament to present a petition on Chinese education to the Prime Minister, and the November 25 gathering in Petaling Jaya to protest against the adverse implications of the 2013-2025 Malaysia Education Blueprint on mother-tongue education.

These five rounds of gatherings clearly delivered the message to the Government that the People love and value mother-tongue education and its many problems that demand urgent solution. It is the firm belief of Dong Zong that if its requests are not met, the voters are certain to make their message known via the ballot box.

We again appeal herewith to all contesting parties to seriously look into our request for a better treatment of mother-tongue education by the government of the day. We hereby present a petition that is consistent with our stand on mother-tongue education in the country.

## 1. EDUCATION POLICY

- (i) To review the 2013-2025 Malaysia Education Blueprint so that it can be accepted by all ethnic groups and that will ensure the healthy development of a multiethnic and

multicultural society both politically and economically. While we reiterate our respect for the status and position of our national language, we also expect that the languages and cultures of all ethnic groups be accorded fair and equal treatment.

- (ii) To implement a multi-lingual policy that ensures equal treatment to all types of schools so that their existence will be guaranteed.
- (iii) To accommodate and maintain the characteristics of different types of schools and their requirements to meet the demands of educational reforms.

## 2. DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL TYPE CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- (i) To systematically provide funds and fully bear all administrative and development expenses of national-type Chinese primary schools, and to make available adequate budgetary provisions to meet the cost of infrastructure and manpower needs as an integral part of the country's annual education allocations.
- (ii) To institutionalize the unconditional allocations of funds and making available of land for the building of new Chinese primary schools.
- (iii) To provide sufficient teaching staff to overcome the acute shortage of teachers in Chinese primary schools and to make it a requirement for SPM and UEC holders with credit in Chinese language for acceptance into teachers' training colleges.
- (iv) To make it a policy that all senior administrative and teaching staff in Chinese primary schools possess appropriate levels of proficiency in Chinese.
- (v) To set up pre-schools as well as special education classes that adopt Chinese as the main medium of instruction.

- (vi) To safeguard the autonomy and legal position of the board of directors of all Chinese primary schools.

## 3. DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- (i) To grant unconditional recognition to UEC to pave the way for its acceptance by local universities, government colleges and the civil service.
- (ii) To approve the setting up of Independent Chinese Secondary Schools where needed, especially in Segamat, Johor Bahru, Puchong and Petaling Jaya.
- (iii) To allocate on a yearly basis and without prior conditions sufficient funds to these school and scholarships for their top students.
- (iv) To revise the letter of approval of the Kuantan Chinese Secondary School to state in no uncertain terms that the main language of administration and medium of instruction of this school is the Chinese language, and that it is part of the Independent Chinese Secondary education system that will adopt approved textbooks and the UEC examinations.

## 4. DEVELOPMENT OF CONFORMING SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- (i) To honour what have been promised to these schools; including bearing all expenses of these schools, a third of the school hours be allocated to Chinese language classes, to provide sufficient qualified teachers and to safeguard the autonomy and legal position of the board of directors.
- (ii) To restore the status of Sekolah Menengah Jenis Kebangsaan (SMJK) for all conforming Chinese secondary schools.

- (iii) To ensure that all conforming secondary schools only accept students from Chinese primary schools.
- (iv) To provide land and allocations of funds for the expansion of conforming secondary schools.
- (v) To ensure that all senior administrative staff of the schools are proficient in Chinese and the transfer of staff by the Ministry of Education to these schools be subjected to the approval of the board of directors.
- (vi) To make it compulsory for Chinese language to be taken as an examination subject in both the conforming secondary schools and national secondary schools. Both Chinese language and Chinese Literature subjects are to be included in the regular hours of teaching and that sufficient qualified teachers be made available.

## 5. DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION

- (i) To provide annual allocations for all non-profit making institutions of higher education including New Era University College, Southern University College, Han Chiang College.

- (ii) The elevation of Han Chiang College into a University College.

### SUMMARY

In the euphoria of the forthcoming general elections and the contest for votes, we appeal to the people to carefully review the candidates' views and stand on mother-tongue education. We appeal to candidates of all political parties to ensure that mother-tongue education is given fair and equal treatment in the next five years.

We expect the new government to be sincere and genuine in overcoming the problems faced by the People. We express our disappointment with the incumbent government's long-term policy of implementing an education system that is dominated by a single medium of instruction.

We appeal most humbly to all voters to support all parties and candidates, both at the State and Parliament levels, who support our cause.

We encourage every eligible voter to turn up on the auspicious day to cast that very important vote to choose a democratic, fair, clean, transparent, and a united multiethnic new government, one that supports and is committed to mother-tongue language.