

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WELCOME YOUR VIEWS on anything newsworthy. Please include your name and address on your letters. We reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, content and length.

Declaration of assets is a vital first step

Ref: "Graft fight a 'national priority'", news, yesterday.

It's wonderful to read this prominent headline and that of PM General Prayuth Chan-ocha's promise of tackling corruption as the first reform priority. Also heartening are the Bangkok Poll's survey findings that 74 per cent of respondents believe this government is far more transparent than the previous one.

I would agree with the lip service of our seriousness in damning corruption and the degree of openness if everybody having power to govern and legislate is legally required under the umbrella of the National Anti-Corruption Commission to declare his or her assets as of this date, just like during the Yingluck era.

Not only will this government be lauded as a sincere and believable white horse that cures Thailand's notorious corruption habit, but it will also be praised for sportsmanlike conduct from day one by holding themselves accountable as well.

Songdej Praditsmanont
Bangkok

Let locals lead way in the deep South

Let's support grass roots efforts to allow locals in the too often forgotten or ignored deep South to lead the way, deciding what works best for them.

Top-down, Bangkok-centric, regressive Education Ministry leadership has failed to recognise and support the progressive, highly successful trilingual project "A-OK All Our Kids, Can Do, Will Do". This was created, refined and field-tested more than two years ago by a dream team of resident teachers, community school principals and supervisors under the

astute leadership of Somkiat Chobphol, then deputy secretary-general of the Basic Education Commission. Why not?

All the jigsaw pieces are in place for cooperative decision-making, community involvement, decentralised control and regional autonomy. It is hoped that flexible curriculum reform can replace standardised lock-step mind-sets and continuity can be finally provided through increased, decentralised autonomy under the authority of more progressive, knowing area education office professionals.
Charles Frederickson
Bangkok

Another education reform proposal

I would like to propose the following measures to reform education in Thailand. Except for Thai literature and Thai history, all subjects should be instructed in English.

The Thai language is much less structured than English and contains many borrowed words. Thus, there is no need to mandate 12 years of Thai language in every subject. Learning maths in English would not only improve students' English, but make the transition to a foreign curriculum much easier should the student aspire to study overseas later in life.

Thais who graduate from international schools here have no problem communicating in

Thai, so let's not use "patriotism" to block us from learning better English.

Every TV station should provide another channel with English-only content. For the original Thai-language station, provide English subtitles and/or English soundtracks where possible.

Learning a language should

not be limited to a formal school setting. In fact, learning through media can be more efficient.

Besides Thai and English, each student should choose a third language, such as Chinese – another Asean language – from primary through high school. China is on its way to becoming a new economic superpower. And emergence of the Asean Economic Community will require Thais to interact with more foreigners, many of whom may prefer to communicate in their own language.

A similar, successful model is Singapore. Most Singaporeans are highly proficient in three to four languages.
Sopida Zheng
Hat Yai

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