

Press Release

Date: December 4, 2018

Taiwan launches the policy of developing Taiwan into a bilingual nation by 2030

On December 4, Premier Lai Ching-te, after listening to the report on the “Blueprint for Developing Taiwan into a Bilingual Nation by 2030” proposed by the National Development Council (NDC), instructed that the Blueprint is an important policy of our country, all government agencies should implement those measures formulated in the Blueprint precisely and continually to show the government’s determination.

Premier Lai said that the “Blueprint for Developing Taiwan into a Bilingual Nation by 2030” focuses on elevating the overall national competitiveness of the country, which is different from the past policies and practices for boosting students’ examination performance. The policy goal is to elevate English proficiency of all Taiwan citizens not just that of students and to formulate related policy measures from the demand side not just simply from the supply side. Premier Lai also instructed that all ministries/commissions will work diligently to promote and implement the policy measures being laid out within the Blueprint.

Since the central strategy of this blueprint is the promotion of a

bilingual environment in the education system, the Ministry of Education (MOE) should ease relevant regulations and submit draft amendments to the Legislative Yuan within three months, Premier Lai emphasized.

Premier Lai instructed that government agencies, in addition to crafting strategies for the operations under their remit, should cultivate the English proficiencies of their own staff as well. Ministers and deputy ministers should be able to communicate well enough in English to convey important messages through the international media in real time. The NDC will not set aside a particular budget for this policy, but agencies should make use of the ample English-learning resources already available and allocate from their budgets to support this initiative.

Premier Lai also instructed the NDC to report the Blueprint at the Executive Yuan Meeting on Thursday, December 6.

On September 19 this year, Premier Lai instructed the administration to set up the target year of 2030 for developing Taiwan into a bilingual nation, and the NDC was designated to serve as the coordinating agency and to put forward a blueprint for implementation of the policy.

With the instruction by Premier, NDC has held several meetings with central government agencies, local governments, and domestic and foreign chambers of commerce. Taking into consideration the opinions from various chambers of commerce and the general public,

the NDC has drafted the Blueprint to build Taiwan into a bilingual country by the target year of 2030.