

A review to put things right

IPOH, Fri. — Education Minister (Dr. Mahathir Mohamed) is to review the present administration of primary schools, particularly those in the rural areas.

The review, at both State and national levels, is to seek ways to overcome any "inadequacies" to ensure that primary schools function systematically and effectively, he said.

He was speaking at the speech and prize-giving day of the Raja Perempuan National Type Secondary School here today.

Dr. Mahathir, who recently took over the Ministry from Haji Mohamed Yusoff, said pupils should have a strong foundation before pursuing secondary school.

He cited poverty, inspiration, attitudes and physical facilities as factors having a "positive" bearing on the progress of primary schools.

The problems

"Hence one of my main duties is to find a way of correcting any inadequacies generally found in our primary schools, especially those in the rural areas," he said.

"For this purpose I will review the running of primary schools at the Ministry as well as at the State level.

"If necessary the administrative system will be improved so that efforts directed at improving the situation in these schools could be carried out systematically and effectively," he added.

Dr. Mahathir said pupils in urban schools were not usually faced with the problems experienced by those in rural schools.

They had better transport and their teachers live nearby. Some of the urban schools also had hostels for pupils from distant areas.

"If with all these fac-

ilities the standard of education does not improve, then the faults are probably with the parents, teachers or the pupils themselves who are not making enough efforts," he said.

Rural visits

Dr. Mahathir said he would devote more time to visit schools in remote areas to find out the situation in such schools. The position of the urban schools will also be studied.

For this, he would review the reports relating to examinations and other matters received by the schools themselves and the school supervisors.

He said success in examinations would be a yardstick to determine whether facilities available had been properly utilised.

A school supervisor might also be asked to provide a "complete picture" of the workings of any school apart from submitting his reports.

Ministry officials would be asked to make their reports if necessary, he added.

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DR. MAHATHIR

... need for strong foundation