

26 MAY 1999

Samy Vellu-School

GOVT TO STEP UP SECURITY AT METHODIST SCHOOL

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26 (Bernama) -- The Government will install adequate lighting and closed circuit TV in the vicinity of the Sekolah Menengah Perempuan Methodist here following the rape and murder of a Fifth Form student of the school recently.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wanted these measures to be taken in light of what had happened, Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said today.

He said the Cabinet at its meeting today took a serious view of the incident and discussed measures to enhance safety of the school's students.

"The Prime Minister wanted such lighting and CCTV so that there can be some form of protection for the school's students," Samy said at a post Cabinet meeting news conference.

The installation of the CCTV in the underpass and at strategic locations along the route to the school were part of the security measures agreed to by the Cabinet, he said.

On May 18, the body of Audrey Melissa Patinathan, 17, a Fifth Former at the school was found near the Tenaga Nasional Sub Station not far from the school. She had been raped and murdered, according to police.

Samy Vellu said the existing fencing would also be replaced and all entry and exit points to the school would be closed and bolted at 7.45am.

"We have requested the school principal to brief the students on the security measures the government is taking," he said.

He said the roads leading to the school would also be upgraded and the area around the school would be cleaned up.

-- BERNAMA

RV AAM