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Musa-School

DECISION ON SCHOOL SHIFT IS FINAL, MINISTER WON'T MEET PARENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said the ministry's decision that all pupils of Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina) Damansara move to SJK (C) Puay Chai II is final.

Musa said he would no longer entertain any party, including parents of the 67 pupils who refused to relocate their children.

"As far as I am concerned, the decision is final and I am not going to meet with any parent who refused to relocate their children to discuss the issue," he said commenting on yesterday's demonstration at the ministry by 100 parents and Damansara New Village residents protesting against the closure of SJK (C) Damansara.

Reporters approached Musa on the matter after he opened an international conference on Organisational Development and Leadership in Education here today.

Last Friday, the ministry ruled that all SJK (C) Damansara pupils would move to Puay Chai II and share the school premises temporarily pending completion of their permanent school in Taman Tropicana.

He said the ministry would take action against those who continued conducting classes for the 67 pupils in a temple adjacent to the premises of SJK (C) Damansara.

Musa, however said he would only meet parents of the 67 pupils if they faced difficulties in registering their children at Puay Chai II or other schools.

"I am only interested in helping parents who have problems to register their children," he said.

Asked about dissenting parents choosing to continue demonstrating in front of the ministry, Musa said they could do so but he would not budge from his stand.

He said yesterday's demonstration was obviously an illegal assembly.

"The police can take action against them according to the law," he said.

On the latest development following the cancelled closure of the University of Malaya's matriculation centre, Musa said the ministry had received suggestions from the university on how the centre would be utilised, including allowing the facilities and teaching staff to remain as they were when the centre reopens for the next academic session in March.

The decision to close the centre in April caused public outcry and in the wake of that the university cancelled that decision upon the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

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