

26 JAN 2001

Musa-School

SJK (C) DAMANSARA TO REMAIN AT TEMPORARY PREMISES, SAYS MUSA

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- The SJK (C) Damansara will remain at the temporary premises at SJK (C) Puay Chai II pending the completion of its own building in Taman Tropicana in two years' time, said Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad today.

He said the ministry decided this after getting a letter signed by more than 1,000 parents who did not want their children to go back to the old premises.

In a meeting this morning, the Parent/Teacher Association, the school board and the school management had told the ministry that they had tried to persuade the other parents to let their children joined the others, even promising them free bus service for their children but they still refused, he told a news conference at his office, here.

Musa said he was satisfied that every opportunity had been made to allow the remaining 67 children to study at the temporary premises with the others.

The ministry would make arrangement to register them at other schools if their parents wished so, he said.

"I also wish to stress here that anyone who carries out educational activities without permit and in any unregistered premises could be prosecuted under the Education Act 1996," he said.

He said any teacher found teaching in premises not registered with the ministry could be fined up to RM10,000 under the Act.

The parents of 67 children who were against the school moving to its temporary premises had reportedly sent their children to a temple next to the original school.

Musa said the ministry decided to the move SJK (C) Damansara to the temporary premises following request by the headmaster, Ong Siew Lye who wanted relocation sped up since a construction project near the school had caused blockage to the toilet pipe causing it to spill its content.

On the proposed meeting with parents of the 67 children, he said the ministry had cancelled it since they wanted to send their representative who was not one of the parents.

On the old school, Musa said it would be closed and the site would be used for other purposes to be discussed by the ministry and the school's board.

On the issue of the Universiti Malaya's Science Matriculation Centre, he said he had advised the university not to close it as advised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"If they have problems we can discuss them," he said on the university's move to close the centre which was set up in 1977 in April.

--BERNAMA

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