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Samy-Schools

STUDY ON PARTLY-AIDED CHINESE AND TAMIL SCHOOLS

IPOH, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet has directed the Education Ministry to study the condition and status of partly-aided Chinese and Tamil schools in the country, said Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Samy Vellu, who is MIC president, said the purpose of the study was to see whether it could be converted into fully-aided schools.

"This is because in future, all schools will be known as sekolah rendah kebangsaan (national primary schools). But of course, the identity, the teaching method and language will remain the same," he told reporters after attending the Perak Tamil School Headmasters' annual general meeting here yesterday.

Samy Vellu said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had asked the Education Ministry to conduct the study after listening to views from other Cabinet ministers.

"When this matter was raised in the Cabinet, all ministers representing the Chinese and Indian community spoke. All of us agreed that everyone should be given the same treatment. All should be fully-aided schools," he said.

Samy Vellu said if the proposal was implemented, it would go a long way in raising the quality of the affected schools, especially the Tamil schools.

At present, 170 Tamil schools are fully-aided by the Government while another 300 receive capital aid.

Samy Vellu said he had also asked Tamil school authorities to make the necessary arrangements as the Education Ministry was expected to announce the setting up of kindergardens in all primary schools in the country.

"They should look for suitable land or classrooms. The government will pay for the cost and provide two teachers," he said.

He also said the standard of Tamil schools had improved tremendously in the past few years, largely due to the various aid given by the Government and dedication of teachers.

"They are very much better off than before. For instance, there are 1,092 Tamil school teachers in Perak and only 107 of them are not trained teachers...they also will be going for training," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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