

Dollah: National school system benefits all races

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ALOR STAR: The Government is continuing to upgrade facilities at national schools to provide the best of education for all students, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

This would create an able workforce which could make quality contributions to the country's development.

"That is our objective. With this objective and the best efforts being taken now, we hope the people should accept national schools without any doubt," Abdullah told reporters after attending a Hari Raya function here yesterday.

He said national schools were established for all races in the country.

"We look forward to seeing a willingness in our children to study in national schools as the curriculum and facilities provided are for their benefit," he added.

Abdullah was asked to comment on a reported high-powered meeting on Wednesday to discuss the revamp of the national school system.

The meeting was reportedly attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Abdullah as well as several Cabinet members and senior government officials.

Abdullah said they had yet to come out with a decision on the matter, adding that similar meetings would be held in future.

At an earlier function yesterday, Abdullah advised the Kedah government to place emphasis on education, agriculture, eradicating poverty and developing small-and-medium sized industries (SMIs) in its attempt to achieve developed status by 2010.

The state government had a role to play in helping students excel in their studies although education was under the purview of the Federal Government, he said when opening the Kedah Maju 2010 convention here.

He added that the state government should also ensure the poor would benefit from programmes under the Kedah Maju 2010 Action Plan.