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Computer labs: Delay not due to red-tape, says Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Education Ministry today refuted claims by Pintar Teknologi Bumiasia JV Sdn Bhd that the delay in completing computer labs was due to bureaucratic red-tape and site problems.

Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Ambrin Buang said the site problems only involved a small number of schools, and were solved with the allocation of new and more suitable sites.

Pintar is one of four main contractors entrusted by the Education Ministry to build computer labs in schools nationwide.

Ambrin said all the contractors had visited the sites and they were fully informed of all the problems.

He added that some schools had disallowed the contractors to use existing roads to reach the site, which may have hampered construction work.

"This is not a bureaucratic problem, but merely measures taken by the schools to ensure the existing road is not damaged."

He also said the Ministry took a serious view of the delay as it was the Government's aim to ensure all primary and secondary were fully equipped and IT-articulate by 2010.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad appealed to the media not to "hype up" the issue.

"Just give us a chance to find out what happened," he said today at Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar's Hari Raya open house in Putrajaya.

"We will study the problems and try to solve them.

"There are many things to consider when giving projects to contractors."

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