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More housing units for teachers in rural areas

JITRA, Sat. - The Government will provide more housing complexes for teachers serving in rural schools to improve their working conditions, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said many teachers who taught in rural areas were forced to live in the nearest towns, at times located far from their schools.

As a result, teachers have to travel long distances to school, wasting their time and money.

"It is the aim of the Government to provide housing for teachers to make it easier for them to go to their schools.

"With such quarters, teachers will no longer have to seek accommodation in the nearest towns and travel long distances to and from their schools," he said when opening the Dewan Wawasan and Hari Raya gathering today.

The hall, which can accommodate 5,000 people, was built in six months. It boasts nine badminton courts and also three floors which include executive suites, conference rooms, a media centre, a library and a computer lab.

The Prime Minister earlier visited the teachers' housing complex in Bukit Kayu Hitam, built for those teaching in nearby rural schools.

The project, which has two four-storey blocks containing 32 units, is part of the Education Ministry's nationwide initiative to provide housing for teachers.

Datuk Mohamad Nor Mohamad, chairman of project developer Encorp Group, said the company was commissioned to design, finance and build 10,000 units of the quarters nationwide by June 2003.

The RM1.38 billion project is being implemented throughout the country.

Mohamad Nor said 9,492 units had been completed, with each block boasting amenities and facilities such as playground, community hall and parking bays.