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Musa-School

ALL RURAL SCHOOLS IN EAST M'SIA TO HAVE UTILITIES

KUCHING, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- All rural schools in Sarawak and Sabah will be equipped with public utilities, namely electricity and running water, by the end of next year, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said.

Of the schools which still lacked those facilities, he said: "We are taking steps to rectify the situation and most schools which did not have water and electricity have nearly all been equipped."

He said the Ministry had made this a priority based on its promise two years ago in conjunction with former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Miri.

"We will see a far different scenario among rural schools in these two States by the end of 2004," he said after visiting Maktab Perguruan Batu Lintang here today.

Other facilities, like roads and lodgings for teachers, had been constructed in all rural areas in the two States, he said.

On the social malaise among students, Musa called on teachers to play a more holistic role in managing the problem.

"Teachers should be more confident in handling the seriousness of disciplinary problems in schools. This commitment should be ongoing so that school leavers will be useful people to their race," he said.

Musa also urged teachers to pay more attention to improving the standard of teaching English.

On parents who had requested that their children be exempted from school, he said their home-schooling must be perfect from all aspects so that the children received a good education.

-- BERNAMA

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