

Education Ministry to hound A-G over bridge tragedy
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The Education Ministry said the report on the collapse of the footbridge in Kampar, Perak last year, which claimed the lives of three schoolchildren, was still being considered by the Attorney-General's Chambers.

NONE"Maybe the complication is because there are reports from many ministries. You have the Public Works Department reports and our report."

"The reports are now with the A-G's chambers, so I will have to refer to them," said Deputy Education Minister Wee Ka Siong in a press conference in the Parliament lobby today.

The deputy minister said this after holding an hour-long meeting with parents of the deceased pupils and Perak parliamentarians in Parliament today demanding that the government name those responsible for the tragedy.

The tragic incident after dusk on Oct 26 last year saw three Year Three schoolchildren being swept away in the Kampar River after they fell off the footbridge which collapsed.

NONEThe government had earlier washed its hands off the matter and instead pointed fingers at the contractor for the construction of the bridge.

"They (the parents) will write in to the ministry and we will look into what information (about the case) which they want and we will furnish them with the details," added the deputy minister.

He did not, however, give a timeline for when the ministry will furnish the parents with the answers.

The parents of those pupils who died have filed a RM105 million civil suit against the education ministry and several other defendants over the incident.

Wee indicated in the press conference that the suit was among the matters he hoped could be resolved through discussion and dialogue with the parents.

'We still want answers'

Teja state assemblyperson Chang Lih Kang, who was present at the meeting, said that Wee has promised to "dig out" the report from the Attorney-General and will schedule a meeting with the A-G soon.

Meanwhile, T Nathan, father of one of the pupils, N Dinadevi, who perished in the tragedy, indicated that while he was happy with Wee's promise to take up their case with the A-G, he is still far from satisfied with the ministry's response to the matter.

"A promise is a promise, but this is my child. If it is (about) my death it is okay, but this is the death of my child. A parent is not supposed to outlive his or her child."

"There have been no developments since the incident happened eight months ago. We still want answers," he added.

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