

**Education NKRA: There's Room For Improvement**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**March 20, 2011**

PUTRAJAYA -- Educationists have hailed the progress achieved under the education sub-sector of the National Key Result Areas (NKRA), introduced a year ago, but called for further improvement in several aspects.

National Parent-Teacher Association Collaboration Council president Prof Madya Mohamad Ali Hassan said for instance, focus should be given on improving preschool infrastructure in rural and semi-urban areas as well as deploying trained teachers there.

He said preschool facilities in rural areas were still lagging compared to those in the urban areas.

Ideally, he added, both should move at the same level of progress.

"This covers all, including the infrastructure and the teaching staff. There should be trained staff because our objective is to provide good education to all," he told Bernama.

Preschool curriculum should also be streamlined irrespective of whether the preschool facilities were operated by the government or private sector agencies.

"As it is, there are preschool facilities operated by non-governmental organisations or political parties which are not in line with the nation's aspirations, especially in terms of national integration," he said.

Preschool education is among four sub-sectors of the Education NKRA and is aimed at providing quality early education to all children.

Meanwhile, National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP) secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng said more preschool facilities should be set up due to increase in demand.

Under the Education NKRA sub-sector, 1,468 preschool classes would be set up -- totalling 315 in 2010, 705 in 2011 and 448 in 2012.

A total of RM300 million has been allocated for the purpose.

On the new deal for school leaders, Mohamad Ali said the incentive should also cover non-teaching staff in a school.

"It should also be based on a broader criteria, not just in terms of academic qualifications, but discipline and service to the community," he said.

Under the new deal, headmasters will receive RM7,500, while five per cent of teachers in the school receive RM1,800. The rest will receive RM900. Support staff will also be given incentive.

For a start, headmasters and teachers in 586 primary schools had been given the incentive, totalling RM18.4 million, last month.

Mohamad Ali said the government could also come up with non-monetary incentives such as

providing opportunities to further education among teachers.

High-performance schools should be made mentors to other schools, he said.

(Bernama)

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/52500>