

Samy Vellu questions 'pricy' repair work

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KEPALA BATAS: Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu is puzzled. Does it cost RM100,000 to carry out minor repair work and termite treatment in seven classrooms?

The Works Minister yesterday ordered the Public Works Department to ascertain if the cost of repairs at SRJK (C) Mah Hua in Kampung Selamat, near here, was justified.

Repairs to the roof, truss, ceiling and gutters of the 21-year-old block plus termite treatment — costing RM99,547.50 — were completed on Dec 14 last year.

But the school authorities and the parent-teacher association voiced their unhappiness. Yesterday, Samy Vellu found out why.

Speaking at a Press conference after inspecting the block, Samy Vellu said: "I will send my people here (to the school) again next week. I give the PWD one week to compile the report and submit it to me.

"If the work carried out does not amount to RM100,000, action will be taken against those concerned," he said. "I am not pointing fingers at anyone now."

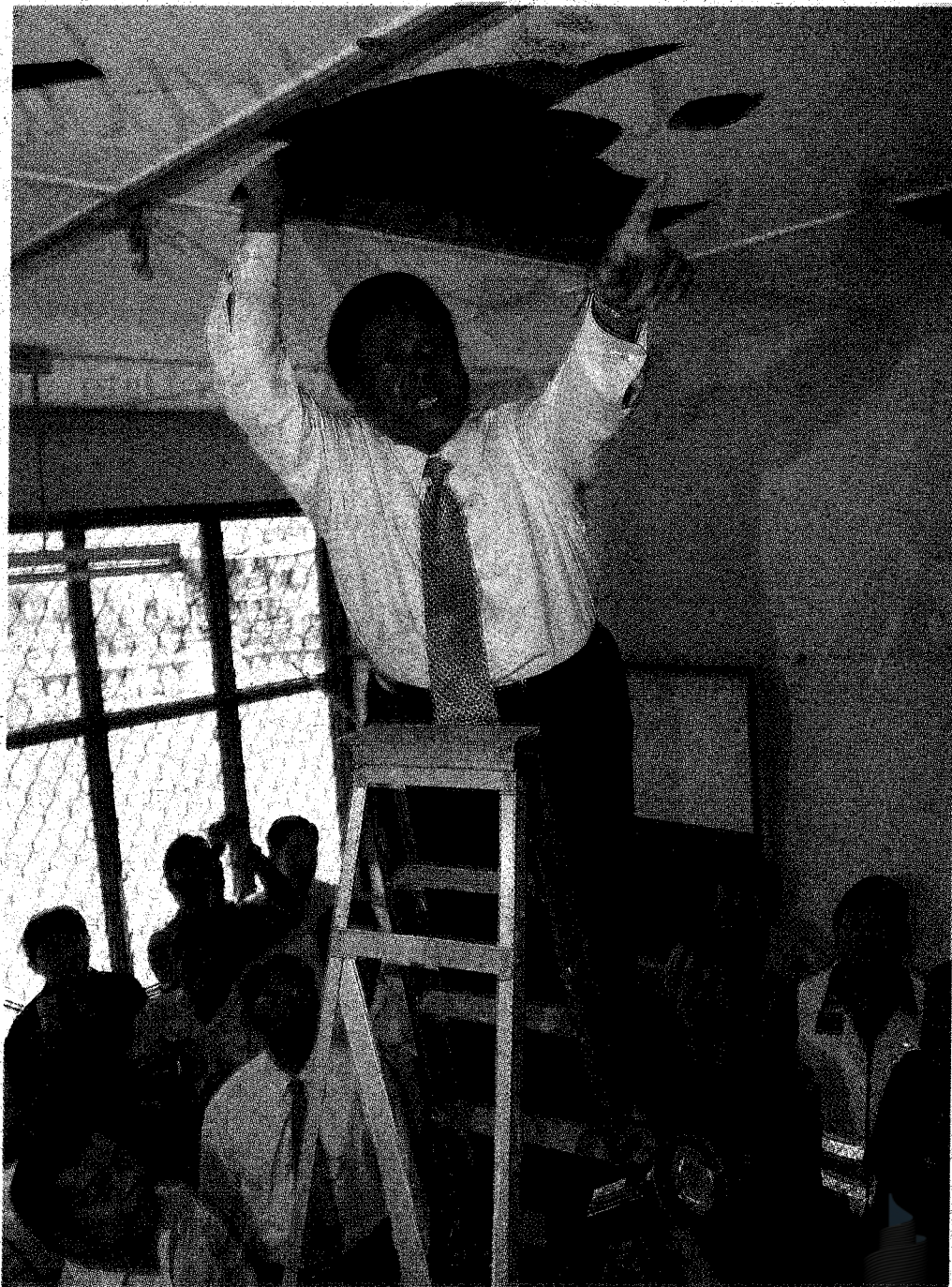
There are 13 classrooms in the school, which has 500 pupils.

The school was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Oct 29, 1985, when he was Education Minister.

Samy Vellu, who climbed to the ceiling to inspect the work, praised the contractor for using hardwood like cengal and merbau, but was dissatisfied that there still were several termite-infested structures.

"We will submit a report to the Education Ministry to ask for an allocation. I will also submit a report to the Prime Minister, who is also the Kepala Batas Member of Parliament, to inform him about the situation at the school," he said.

Earlier, Samy Vellu inspected repairs made at SRJK (C) Chung Hua Pusat. He said he was satisfied with the RM150,000 renovation there.



Samy Vellu examining the condition of the ceiling of a classroom at SRJK(C) Mah Hua in Kepala Batas yesterday. — NST picture by Fariz Iswadi Ismail