

# Ministry to vet builders bidding for 9MP projects

BANGI: Special officers from the Education Ministry will investigate the background of contractors who bid for education projects under the 9th Malaysia Plan (9MP).

The team will work with the National Implementation Task Force, the Prime Minister's Department, the Public Works Department and the states to ensure projects are given to worthy contractors and completed on schedule.

Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said he had asked the officials to gauge whether bidders were capable of carrying out the projects or were "merely hiding behind" another company name.

"They will be assessed on their ability to build and complete projects, the machinery owned by the company and staff, as well as other criteria that we set," said Hishammuddin during the groundbreaking ceremony of a new primary school here yesterday.

"To me, if a school is not completed on time, it is a big betrayal. You will have to answer to me personally," he said, adding that contractors who had been given the projects should be trustworthy, committed and responsible.

Hishammuddin had announced last week that contractors who had failed to complete projects for the ministry under the 8th Malaysia Plan would not be given projects under the 9MP.