

Education Ministry launches first 9MP project

BANGI: The ground-breaking ceremony of a new primary school here was a historic moment for the Education Ministry - it marked the implementation of its first project under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP).

Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, who officiated at the event yesterday, said this showed the Education Ministry's determination to answer the Prime Minister's recent call to every ministry to speed up the exe-

cution of 9MP projects.

"I am very happy that the approval process for this project was completed quickly and that construction has started earlier than expected," Hishammuddin said.

The school, SK Bandar Seri Putra Bangi, which will have 30 classrooms, a field, canteen, hall and other facilities, is expected to be completed in two years and will be able to accommodate 900 students.

Bandar Seri Putra developer United Malayan Land Bhd's director Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said in his speech that the company had set aside plots of land for another primary school and two secondary schools in the area, and requested that the ministry build a secondary school there by 2007.

To this, Hishammuddin replied: "If we've allocated billions of ringgit (under the 9MP for education), and the developer has the land, I don't see why

we can't have a secondary school here as well."

He added that the ministry would be carrying out 54 new and 220 upgrading projects this year alone, with an allocation of RM980.5mil.

The projects include the building of nine primary schools, 10 boarding schools and 35 secondary schools.

The Education Ministry has been allocated a total of RM23.198bil under the 9MP.