

# Blueprint weaknesses 'beyond our control'

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein has admitted there were some teething problems in the implementation of the National Education Blueprint, despite being on the right track.

He said the weaknesses were beyond the ministry's control.

Among the problems were clean water and electricity supply to schools.

"While the problem of drinking water can be overcome, it is harder to ensure all schools receive continuous electricity.

"Many rural schools rely on generators for electricity. This requires us to fork out about RM1 billion a year on diesel alone to power the generators. It is a huge sum."

He added that the ministry was looking into the possibility of producing electricity via hybrid-solar panels.

However, this would take time before it could be implemented.

"We need to have a pilot project to see if it is viable," he said when unveiling the blueprint's mid-year report card in parliament yesterday.

Launched in January, the blueprint details the strategies and performance index on goals such as producing able and confident human capital by 2020, strengthening national schools, improving racial integration and boosting excellent school clusters.

There was also a problem of co-operation between the ministry and the Public Works Department, but Hishammuddin was confident both could work on building quality schools and computer laboratories.

On unity and integration, the report stated that the ministry had introduced a programme called e-Integrasi involving 527 primary schools, which is set to take off this month.

To reduce the IT gap between urban and rural children, priority is given to infrastructure, software and training. Of the



**Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein says the ministry is spending up to RM1 billion to provide electricity for rural schools**

total 1,579 computer lab projects, 110 had been completed, while another 724 or 40 per cent are under construction.

To encourage more participation in co-curricular activities, the ministry will work together with the Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Ministry and the National Co-operative Organisation of Malaysia to strengthen the management of school co-operatives.

The report also stated that the ministry was in the final stage of preparing a Malaysia Teachers' Standard (Standard Guru Malaysia or SGM) as a quality standard reference for all teachers nationwide.

SGM is an early-warning system so that teachers will be sensitive to the need to upgrade their knowledge, skills and personality.

On teachers' training centres, eight institutes are being upgraded while another three will be turned into teaching schools to strengthen teaching skills.

The full content of the mid-year report will be available soon on the ministry's website at [www.moe.gov.my](http://www.moe.gov.my).