

Windfall for teachers coming...

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PUTRAJAYA: Teachers can look forward to some good tidings next month.

Without elaborating on what was in store for them, Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said that an announcement would be made on Teachers' Day.

He urged teachers to focus on teaching and not on issues such as the proposal to fill senior posts at the state education offices with diplomatic service officers.

"I will ensure that the interests of teachers are protected when-

ever the ministry formulates plans to improve the country's education system.

"I will announce all the programmes and plans that we have drafted for teachers during Teachers' Day next month.

"They will be delighted by what is in store for them," he said after the official opening of Sekolah Seri Puteri, here, yesterday.

The school was officially opened by Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah. Also present were Hishammuddin's wife Datin Seri Tengku Marsila

Abdullah, Education Ministry director-general Datuk Dr Ahamad Sipon, ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Zulkurnain Awang and the school headmistress, Sabihah Ibrahim.

Hishammuddin also said that schools with low enrolment and those in remote areas would be given computer cabins to enable students to keep up with information and communication technology. Although only cabins, the facilities would match those provided in computer labs at urban schools.

He said these computer cabins were more cost effective and would have a "life span" of about 30 years, unlike the more permanent structures in urban schools.

"The computer cabin concept is more practical for schools which have only 20 to 30 students.

"These schools usually do not have enough land for the construction of a lab."

The minister said the setting up of computer labs and cabins in all schools was part of the ministry's smart school enrichment programme.