

STARTING NEXT YEAR

'STANDARD MUST IMPROVE'

Push for better quality of education, PM tells Education, Higher Education Ministries

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants the Education and Higher Education Ministries to put more emphasis on improving the country's education standard beginning next year. He said he had informed this to

respective ministers Fadhlina Sidek and Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin, apart from upgrading facilities in schools and in higher learning institutions.

"Starting January, our emphasis, apart from resolving matters surrounding basic infrastructure, is to improve the quality of education.

"We've made sure schools and toilets are repaired, and (provid-

ed) basic infrastructure. What else are you waiting for?

"We will not accept it if the (academic) performance is still the same as the past year. You ask for aid and facilities, we've given them, but if the students' performance does not improve, this we will not accept," he said at the launch of the dilapidated building pilot project at SK Bandar Baru Bangi here yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, stressed that the country could not be uplifted if its education quality was not improved.

He added that the Education

Ministry did not need to worry about anything else apart from enhancing the mastery of subjects.

"I also want parent-teacher associations to discuss how they can encourage parents to pay more attention to their children's studies.

"I hope that with our stable politics and a strong unity government, we can focus on education, apart from strengthening the economy.

"I will be raising this matter during the cabinet meeting on Friday."