

DPM: Quality education for hospitalised children
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SCHOOL IN HOSPITAL: Programme to be in all govt hospitals nationwide, says Muhyiddin

PUTRAJAYA: THE school in hospital (SDH) programme will be extended to all government hospitals nationwide, especially those with a paediatric units, in the near future.

Announcing this, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the pilot programme launched in July last year in Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL), Ampang Hospital and Serdang Hospital was a "great success".

Under the programme, children, who are hospitalised for a long period of time, are allowed access to formal and structured education.

"Since its launch, the three hospitals have registered 6,550 pupils and students from preschools, primary and secondary schools on a daily basis," Muhyiddin said in his speech before witnessing the signing of memorandum of understanding between the Education Ministry, Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Cheras (PPUKM) and Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia Kubang Kerian (HUSM).

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister said last year, 1,219 from preschools, primary and secondary levels were given the opportunity to take part in the programme, while this year, from January to June this year, 5,331 students were taking part in the programme.

"Due to the success, I am pleased to announce the launch of Phase 2 of the programme with four more schools in Hospital Sultan Aminah, Johor, Hospital Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Termeloh, Pahang, PPUKM Cheras and HUSM Kubang Kerian."

SDH is the brainchild of Muhyiddin's wife Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, who is also its patron. The programme is a collaborative effort involving Yayasan Nurul Yaqeen, the education and health ministries.

Muhyiddin said parents now need not worry about their children missing school during hospitalisation.

"These efforts are to ensure that students who are hospitalised have access to quality education.

"I have instructed my officers to continuously monitor this project, especially the students' performance and results in UPSR (Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah), PMR (Penilaian Menengah Rendah) and SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia)," Muhyiddin said.

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