

**Education Has Reduced Poverty Rate In Malaysia, Says Nancy
Bernama
April 4, 2015**

BATANG SADONG, April 4 (Bernama) - The Malaysian education system has been successful in reducing poverty rate significantly in the country, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri.

She said when Malaysia first gained its independence, there were only two percent rich Malaysians but now there are only two percent Malaysians who are still poor.

Nancy, who is Batang Sadong member of parliament said this in her speech during a thanksgiving ceremony for Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Iboi/Pelandok here Saturday.

SK Iboi/Pelandok is among seven schools in Sarawak that recently received the Award for Excellence for Cluster Schools.

There were 111 secondary and primary schools in Sarawak nominated for the award but only seven were selected to receive the award.

Nancy stressed that education was important in producing human capitals that are smart in analysing issues and would not easily be influenced with what is posted in the social media.

She said among the challenges faced by the young generation are the threats from the so-called IS militants in Syria who are actively recruiting young people including children.

"Malaysia is no exception in facing the challenges when every month there were Malaysians being detained at the KL International Airport as they were suspected to be on their way to join the militant groups.

She also urged schools to play an effective role as agents of change to transform the rural community to improve their standard of living and in facing greater challenges ahead.

Hence, she urged parents to give their children the best education so that they can find good jobs and get out of the clutches of poverty.

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