

Jakarta Governor Promises 12-Year Free Education For Children
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JAKARTA, Dec 31 (Bernama) -- Jakarta Governor Fauzi Bowo has promised the city folks 12 years of free education for their children beginning 2013.

Fauzi, who is contesting in the 2012 local government election, hoped that the move would help to increase the human development index in the city.

"Soon, the people of Jakarta will at least have the Sekolah Lanjutan Tingkat Atas (upper secondary school) qualification," he told the media at a end-of-the-year media conference here.

Under the existing regulation, the Indonesian government made it compulsory for children to study until the lower-secondary level, which is for nine years.

Fauzi said the number of poor residents in the city had increased to 363,000 people, from 312,000 last year, and attributed this to increase in the price of essential items.

Jakarta has a population 9.61 million people.

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