

# Digital education empowerment strategy in final stages

THE Education Ministry is close to formulating a complete strategy to empower digital education and ensure a smooth learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon said to improve school Internet access, infrastructure and network upgrades would be implemented under the National Digital Infrastructure Plan (Jendela), involving a total of 430 schools.

"The Education Ministry will also implement a pilot project of ownership of mobile devices involving 150,000 students in 500 schools.

"This programme will enable students to participate in online learning more effectively," he told Gobind Singh Deo (PH-Puchong) during Question Time.

Gobind asked the ministry to

explain its plans to prepare schools for digital and online education during the pandemic.

Mah said teaching and learning (PdP) could not be done physically as schools were closed due to the movement control order.

"But the ministry has provided access to education via home-based learning, according to teacher and student suitability," he said.

He noted that the ministry provided the Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia (DELiMa) platform to provide resources for teachers to support online teaching and learning.

As of now, a total of 485 digital textbooks have been uploaded on DELiMa, 1,591 educational videos were uploaded on the EduwebTV portal and 6,585 educational videos were shared by teachers in the



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Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon



CikgooTube portal, which was tagged in the DELiMa platform for the use of students and teachers, said Dr Mah.

The Education Ministry, he said, also provided Internet access with a minimum speed of 30Mbps and 100Mbps to 10,066 schools.

"The ministry is also in the midst of providing Internet connection via Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), at a minimum speed of 30Mbps, to 141 schools that have no Internet connection due to a lack of infrastructure in those areas.

"The implementation of the VSAT is expected to be completed in March 2021," he said.

"But for students who don't have Internet access or devices for online learning, PdP can still be accessed via TV Pendidikan, at TV Okey RIM and Tutor TV Astro channels."

Dr Mah also revealed the ministry had conducted a study on the Implementation Effectiveness of Home Based Learning between Oct 20 and Oct 28 involving school administrators, teachers, students and parents.

"The study is aimed at reviewing

the effectiveness of PdP at home, including online learning.

"The study shows the wide use of applications and devices consistently during PdP at home increased the skills and capabilities of students in terms of information technology and communications.

"But the results do not reflect the increase in skills and efficiency of students in general as it only involved students who have devices at home only," said Dr Mah.

He urged the cooperation of all parties, including students, teachers and parents, to support government initiatives implemented, especially by the Education Ministry.

"Each measure set by the ministry is to ensure the future generation will have access to the best education despite the challenging situation," he said.