

Enhancing digital education

Students will have access to the latest interactive learning materials

By SANDHYA MENON
sandhyamenon@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: After a year of unprecedented challenges, the Education Ministry is taking the country's education system to new heights in line with the fourth industrial revolution.

The first step, said minister Datuk Dr Mohd Radzi Md Jidin, was to enhance the national digital education and Jalanan Digital Negara (Jendela) initiative involving schools.

At present, the ministry has several digital education platforms, such as the Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia (Delima).

"We will enhance our existing platforms and add more. These digital sources will ensure that our students have access to the latest, interactive learning materials.

"Jendela is under the purview of the Communications and Multimedia Ministry but we will work together to ensure that its implementation in schools is conducted smoothly," he said in an interview with the media on the ministry's achievements for the past year.

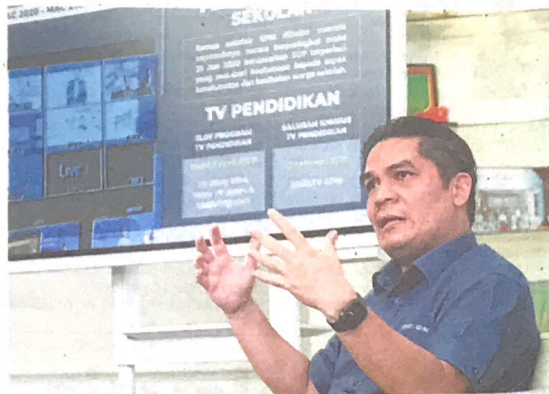
Internet connectivity in schools was another primary focus for the ministry, he said, adding that how some schools had extremely limited connectivity due to their location.

Additionally, not every teacher and student has his or her own devices which makes implementing digital education a challenge.

"Access to devices and the Internet are major constraints. We are determined to have more hot-spots within the schools," he said, adding that teachers must be trained to acquire digital education teaching skills.

Teachers, he said, had already taken their own initiative to get well acquainted with digital tools.

All parties, added Radzi, must work together to ensure that students were not left behind when competing with their peers globally. Many countries have implement-



Initiatives for schools: Radzi says the ministry will be bumping up resources to drive digital learning.

Setahun
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ed their digital education plans and Malaysia cannot fall behind.

"We must maximise our technological resources to ensure that teaching and learning are conducted well," said the former academic.

Pointing out that technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is gaining good traction among students, he said more were applying to study in the ministry's vocational colleges.

TVET, he said, would be enhanced as part of digital education.

"We want TVET students to receive a skills-based education that is in line with industry developments instead of learning about old technologies.

"Our emphasis is to improve the collaboration between vocational colleges and the industry.

"And in focusing on access to quality education, we are reviewing TVET programmes to improve its quality and increase parents' confidence to enrol their children in skills-based education," said Radzi.

The ministry is also looking to improve its data management system and applications.

Radzi said when he first took office on March 9 last year, he had read on social media about parents having to queue for long time at district education offices to register their child at secondary schools or apply for a change of school.

The reason for this, he said, was because the ministry's data of some five million students and the many different types of schools were not well organised.

"The data and applications we have will be organised into an integrated system so that we can efficiently, effectively and productively serve our stakeholders," he said.



All in for digital education
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What we can expect in 2021

National digital education

- Digital educational platforms and resources
- Jendela initiative involving schools
- Internet connectivity in schools
- Device ownership by teachers and students
- Teachers' expertise in digital education

Data and applications

- Integrate data, applications and softwares

TVET education

- Collaboration between vocational

- colleges and industry
- Access to quality vocational education

Infrastructure

- Building schools in critical areas
- Owning the land schools are built on
- Upgrading dilapidated schools
- Upgrading Teacher Training Institutes and matriculation colleges

Curriculum & co-curriculum

- Students' potential
- Literacy and numeracy
- Financial literacy
- Unity
- STEM

Achievements from March 2020 to March 2021

School operations

- Schools opened in stages starting June 24, 2020, based on detailed standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- TV Pendidikan that began broadcasting programmes on April 6, 2020, via TV Okey RTM, Tutor TV Astro and DidikTV@NTV7
- DidikTV Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia was launched on Feb 17, 2021

- abandoned for a long time
- Developing infrastructure for special needs education students

Assessments

- Single entry point system for admission into specific schools
- Detailed and thorough SOPs for public exams
- SPM 2020 exam papers marked online

Teaching and learning

- Curriculum alignment and blended learning
- Home-based teaching and learning according to teachers' and students' suitability
- Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia (Delima)

Source: Education Ministry

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