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Education ministry working to address shortage of counsellors

By Tuty Haryanti Ahmad Rodzi - October 7, 2024 @ 2:51pm



Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari after the launch of the Program Tekad Reformasi Pendidikan at Dewan Sri Chempaka, Saujana Impian. NST/HAZREEN MOHAMAD

KAJANG: The number of counselling teachers in the country is insufficient to meet the challenges faced by today's youth, said Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek today.

She stated that the target ratio of one counselling teacher for every 250 primary and secondary school students has yet to be realised.

However, she mentioned that the ministry is currently working to address this shortfall.

"This target has yet to be achieved, but we are in the process of making it happen. We recognise that filling the role of counselling teachers is a significant focus for the ministry to meet current needs.

"Therefore, we hope to reach this target to enhance the ecosystem, particularly in schools, and provide quality psychosocial services to our children... God willing," she said.

She made these remarks during a press conference after launching the Program Tekad Reformasi Pendidikan at Dewan Sri Cempaka today.

Also present was Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Last year, it was reported that the ministry was committed to achieving the target of one counselling teacher for every 250 primary and secondary school students to ensure that necessary recommendations and interventions are carried out efficiently and effectively.

Meanwhile, Fadhlina revealed that over 122,000 Year One students have yet to master the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic (3M).

She noted that factors contributing to this issue include learning loss during the Covid-19 pandemic, poverty, and the presence of children with special needs.

"The ministry has identified through the recently launched 'Anak Kita' programme over 83,000 children nationwide who will be involved in this initiative.

"This includes the 3M Programme (for primary schools), the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) programme (for secondary schools), and the School Dropout Programme (for both primary and secondary schools).

"In my view, these figures are dynamic; as soon as they master these skills through interventions carried out at the state and federal levels and the 'Anak Kita' programme, these numbers will improve," she said.