

Road safety education is important

QUESTION

THE STAR

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OUR children are vulnerable and are exposed to danger anywhere, especially when they are out of the house.

Educating children about road safety and equipping them with the necessary skills needed to keep themselves safe while on the road is very essential, especially if we want to reduce the number of fatalities involving children.

And thus, I was pleased to hear about the implementation of Road Safety Education in schools as the Government is finally doing something good for our future generation.

It will be a worthy cause, and the initiative by the Transport Ministry in collaboration with the Education Ministry is no doubt one of the best initiatives made by the Government.

From what I understand, the Government has promised to complete the teaching of road safety knowledge and skills to all primary school students by 2010. To date, only children in Standard 1, 2 and 4 have been exposed to the road safety education. What has happened to the teaching of road safety education for the remaining primary levels?

There is no news whatsoever about it in schools. Has the educational experience about road safety suddenly come to a stop?

Once there was a big hype about the teaching of road safety education, now there is a big hush about it!

Road safety education is a very good investment for our children; and they enjoy learning it because the activities are interesting and educational.

Please at least fulfil the promised plan that all primary school children will complete road safety education by this year.

CAT,
Klang

FEEDBACK

THE STAR

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Govt committed to road safety education

THE Road Safety Department would like to thank the writer CAT from Klang, ¿Road safety education is important (The Star, April 21) and Disillusioned Citizen from Subang Jaya ¿Buck up on road safety education¿ (The Star, April 22) for their feedback and shared concern about the current status of road safety education in schools.

Road safety was first introduced into the school syllabus in 2007 as part of a pilot project and taught for one period a week to Year 1 students through the Bahasa Malaysia subject where elements of road safety were incorporated in the teaching of Bahasa Malaysia. This means that children were taught road safety while learning to read and write.

The success of the pilot project prompted the Government to implement Road Safety Education for Year 1 students nationwide in 2008. As of 2009, the programme has already been taught to all Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 students in government and vernacular schools through the collaborative effort of the Education and Transport Ministries.

The Road Safety Department has already printed the educational material for Road Safety

Education in schools for the primary level from Year 1 to Year 6. There is currently some delay in the training of school teachers for Year 3, 5 and 6 which we still hope to commence by May to allow implementation of road safety education for Year 3, 5 and 6 to commence upon completion of the training programme for teachers.

The Government is very committed to this programme and will see it through as it realises the importance of such education in shaping and moulding the minds of our younger generation to create and nurture a first world road safety mindset within our society.

***DATUK SURET SINGH,
Director General, Road Safety Department.***