

NST (7/3/2013)

ROAD SAFETY: All primary pupils have been taught road safety

THE Road Safety Department (RSD) would like to thank Jeyamany Sivapragasam for her views on road safety and to have it taught again in schools ("Have it taught in schools again" -- NST, March 5).

The RSD agrees that Road Safety Education is crucial in imparting knowledge and good safety values to road users, especially children.

RSD has already introduced the programme initially through a pilot project in 2007 in close collaboration with the Education Ministry as a long-term move to reduce the high number of road accidents and deaths.

It is incorporated in the teaching of the national language and interwoven with speaking, listening, writing and reading components.

In 2008, road safety was introduced to all Year One students nationwide in government and vernacular schools, and by 2011, all Year One to Year Six students had been exposed to it.

The lessons were extended to secondary school students beginning with Form One last year, and is expected to be taught in Form Two and Form Three this year and next. So, it is inaccurate to say that the programmes for Form Two and Form Three students had been put on hold.

The RSD, in collaboration with the Education Ministry, has also produced teaching aids to assist and facilitate the teaching of road safety in schools.

As road safety is everyone's responsibility, we hope that students, parents and teachers will also do their part in instilling a safety-first culture in their homes and schools.

We also would like to invite the private sector and non-governmental organisations to work with us to increase the awareness of the general public on the importance of road safety.

Form Two and Three students will be taught road safety this year and next.

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