

Brace for floods, schools told

PUTRAJAYA: The Education Ministry has instructed schools and state Education Departments in flood-prone areas to be prepared for floods.

Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said the schools and departments had been asked to work with the relevant agencies, including the Civil Defence Department, to minimise damage, especially to school property and equipment.

"At the same time, they need to monitor the weather forecasts by the Meteorological Department," he said after chairing a two-hour meeting on school preparations for next year.

He said damage by floods last year cost the ministry RM100 million.

Mahdzir said the school term would begin on Jan 3 for Group A schools (Johor, Kelantan, Tereng-

ganu and Kedah), while others on Jan 4.

He said the school term would end on Nov 24 for Group A schools, while for others on Nov 25.

He added that 448,498 Year One pupils would start school next year.

On the issue of securing jobs for graduate teachers, Mahdzir said the ministry planned to hold a meeting with the Higher Education Ministry and universities.

"There is a need to re-look at the annual output of fresh graduates with teaching qualifications as

there are limited vacancies in schools."

He added that newly qualified teachers would be screened by the Education Services Commission.

Currently, there are 428,000 teachers on the ministry's payroll.



**Datuk Seri
Mahdzir
Khalid**

NSTP 5/12/2015