

'Pupils sexually abused'

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Probe into claims against teacher

SUNGAI SIPUT: An investigation will be carried out into allegations by parents of orang asli pupils in a school near here that a teacher had shown them pornographic videotapes and sexually abused them.

State Orang Asli Affairs Department (JHEOA) director Wan Said Wan Chek said he would direct the district-level officers to investigate the matter immediately and prepare a detailed report for the state Education Department.

While the school hostel had been handed over to the state Education Department in 1996, the JHEOA was still providing supplementary aid to the pupils, he told *The Star* when asked about the complaint against the teacher.

Parents from several orang asli villages in the area had claimed that the teacher had been sexually abusing pupils aged between seven and 12,

who stay in the school hostel. There are about 100 orang asli pupils living in the hostel.

Kampung Beras village head Adnan Alang Samad, 48, claimed the teacher had been screening pornographic videotapes to the lodgers either in the evening or at night.

"The teacher will screen Hindi or Malay movies for about 15 minutes before switching to a pornographic movie. He will watch it together with the pupils.

"The teacher also draws pictures of nude men and women on the blackboard during lessons and explicitly explains the functions of the private parts to the pupils, saying that it was part of the syllabus," said Adnan, who has two children at the hostel.

He added that several villagers in the area had com-

plained to him that the teacher would touch their private parts while speaking to them.

"When talking to a woman he will make jokes about her breasts or private parts.

"On one occasion, when my wife and I were washing some plates outside the hostel while visiting our children, he stood near us and urinated," he said.

Adnan also claimed that the teacher had sex with teenage girls from Kampung Kenang on several occasions.

He said all the village heads were angry with the teacher but some of them had backed out when they wanted to send complaint letters to the Education Department and the state JHEOA.

"I have complained verbally to the Kuala Kangsar JHEOA but, to date, nothing has been done. This has to stop as it has

been going on for a long time.

"Something must be done fast as the future of our children is at stake," he said.

Adnan's claims were backed by villager Roslan Busu, 35, who said his Year Two daughter had told him about the incidents several times when she returned home from the hostel.

Normah Alang, 30, from Kampung Landap, said her 11-year-old son had also confirmed the allegations of sexual abuse.

She said her son had not gone to school since it reopened on Monday.

Normah said her son complained to her the teacher was forcing the pupils to watch pornographic movies.

"My son had also complained to me that the teacher had stripped naked several

boys and girls staying in the hostel on many occasions."

The pupils at the hostel refused to say anything when approached.

A Kampung Kenang villager Pandak Ngah Sidek, 43, claimed the pupils had been warned by the teacher not to disclose anything.

He said his son had told him the teacher had been showing pornographic movies at the hostel and drew explicit pictures of naked men and women while in class.

He added that the teacher had been having late night karaoke sessions with the pupils in the hostel recently and collecting fees for it.

A Year Two pupil from Kampung Landap, who confirmed the karaoke sessions when questioned, said, however, that he enjoyed them.

State Education Department special counselling officer Nazmi Md Noor said the matter would be investigated.