

Eye on bad hats in schools

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Possible troublemakers to get guidance

By **KAREN CHAPMAN**

educate@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Secondary schools will be asked to identify and list down students who may pose disciplinary problems in future.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Noh Omar said the move was not meant to blacklist these students but to ensure that they received more attention.

"School authorities can ensure that they join uniformed bodies and attend self-development courses.

"Sometimes students don't realise what they are doing is wrong as they just want to have fun," he told reporters after chairing a meeting on overcoming disciplinary problems among students at the ministry yesterday.

Noh said the list would remain confidential.

"What we want to do is prevent something from happening, rather than acting on it later," he said.

The ministry's Schools Division would be asked to come up with guidelines as soon as possible on identifying such students, he added.

"We hope these guidelines will be introduced in secondary schools by the middle of the year," he said.

On another matter, Noh said studies conducted by the ministry showed that bullying cases occurred mainly in residential schools.

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NOH OMAR

"Some schools use their own initiative and already have police officers coming to brief students on discipline.

"We found this has contributed to a decrease in bullying cases in these schools," he said, adding that the ministry wanted to introduce this practice in all schools.

Noh also said the ministry would streamline the demerit system in schools, noting that schools now had different demerit points for various offences such as smoking and truancy.

"Once there is the just one system, we can establish at which point disciplinary action should be taken," he said.