

SK Paun Temaga has two new facilities

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Samling Resources director Peter Ho (fourth right) and other guests at the cutting of ribbon ceremony.

SEMATAN: SK Paun Temaga, one of the dilapidated schools in Lundu District, now has a new classroom block and a teacher's quarters built by one of the main contractors of the Pan Borneo Highway project.

Lebuhraya Borneo Utara Sdn Bhd (LBU), in a statement, said Samling Resources Sdn Bhd, the main contractor for Sematan to Sungai Moyan works package (Works Package 02), has completed a four-classroom block and a bungalow as its contribution to the local community.

Built at an estimated cost of RM1 million, the construction took nine months. The new block and teachers' quarters were handed over yesterday at a ceremony attended by officials from Sarawak Education Department, Samling Resources and LBU.

"Thanks to the Pan Borneo Highway Sarawak (PBHS) project, SK Paun Temaga is one of 12 dilapidated schools in Sarawak included under a special corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme that all main contractors of PBHS have graciously agreed to take on," said the statement.

Pupils of SK Paun Temaga will move to the new school block next week, putting an end to studying in cramped and old classrooms.

According to headmaster Albert Bujon, the new block has solved the problem of classroom shortage.

"We were short of classrooms. One of the rooms had to be divided into two to accommodate pupils of two classes. Thankfully, we can now have proper dedicated classrooms for the pupils," he said.

There was also excitement at the spacious new 3-bedroom teachers' quarters. For Sopheena Nyowep who teaches English at the school, she said she looked forward to moving to the new quarters from her current rented house in Lundu.

"This new house will be more convenient and definitely more comfortable."

SK Paun Temaga was built in 1965. Today, most of the facilities are old and run down. It has 88 primary and kindergarten pupils from the surrounding Sematan area.

Having consistently performed well academically, the school is included in the government's selected cluster schools programme for rural schools.

LBU said that under the 'Usaha Murni Pan Borneo Highway Sarawak' CSR schools programme, three dilapidated schools have so far received new facilities, namely SK Kampung Buda (Betong) by Lebuhraya Borneo Utara, and SK Puak (Lundu) and SK Paun Temaga (Sematan) both by Samling Resources.

Facilities in three other rural schools are being improved – at SK Sungai Buloh (Selangau) by Musyati – Mudajaya JV, at SK Engkabang (Roban) by PPES Works-Bina Puri JV and at SK Kampung Bulau (Subis, Miri) by Konsortium KPE.

The remaining PBHS contractors are in the midst of planning their schools rebuilding programmes by working closely with the State Education Department and LBU.