

# 'Parents can prepare activities for children at home'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The closure of schools due to the haze has led to parents expressing concern over their children's studies, but educators believe teaching is a responsibility that should not be solely shouldered by schools.

Parent Action Group for Education chairman Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim said many activities could be done at home to inculcate values and knowledge in children.

She said it was time parents played the role of teachers at home, instead of relegating such matters to the classrooms.

"Parents can get their kids involved in storytelling, reading storybooks, watching a home movie, doing handicraft and chores, and playing board games.

"The teaching of values begins at home, but some parents tend to shirk this responsibility and leave it to the teachers.

"This is the time for parents to step up," she said.

Medical practitioner Dr Timothy William, who is a father of four, echoed Noor Azimah's sentiments.

"With today's technology, ev-

erything is at our fingertips.

"There are many lessons you can download from the Internet. YouTube has a lot of resources to help children learn," said the 49-year-old from Sabah.

He said with the worsening haze situation in Sabah, parents were taking extra precautions and many would need to go the extra mile in terms of their



Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim

children's education.

Kimmy Soon, a mother of two from Subang Jaya, said despite the smog, she was forced to send her son to school due to an upcoming examination.

"But my 7-year-old daughter doesn't have any examination, so I decided to keep her at home. It is tough because it has become a daily situation.

"I'm sure that parents are wor-

ried about their children's education.

"I buy more workbooks and reading material so that my kids are not just being idle at home," said the 45-year-old.

Businessman Tye Wuey Ping, 44, said public schools were not equipped with online classroom facilities.

"Unfortunately, government schools do not provide online lessons," he said.

"In these tough times, parents have to be more diligent and handle this problem with an open mind."