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Ministry Urges Schools to Use Surrounding Environment as Learning Resource

Banyumas, Central Java, October 13, 2026 — Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Abdul Mu'ti has encouraged schools to use their surrounding environment as a learning resource to support the implementation of deep learning.

Speaking during a visit to SMAN 1 Patikraja, a public senior high school, on Saturday, October 10, as part of the 2026 School Building Revitalization Program in Banyumas, Central Java, Minister Mu'ti highlighted how hands-on experiences can help students identify plant species, learn about their characteristics, and connect what they learn in the classroom with everyday life.

One practical step he suggested is to installing informational plaques beside trees to display their common names, scientific names, key characteristics, and ecological benefits. This simple measure can turn the school campus into an accessible learning environment, encouraging students to observe, ask questions, and develop greater environmental awareness.

Minister Mu'ti explained that using the school environment as a learning resource is consistent with the implementation of deep learning, which includes creating a supportive educational environment. "Deep learning integrates with creating a school environment that serves as a hidden curriculum," Minister Mu'ti said. "The hidden curriculum refers to the values, habits, and experiences students absorb through their daily physical environment and routine at school." Through this approach, the school campus becomes more than a place for classroom instruction; it also serves as a means of shaping character and fostering students' curiosity.

During his visit, Minister Mu'ti reviewed the progress of the Fiscal Year 2026 School Building Revitalization Program at SMAN 1 Patikraja, which includes the construction of two new classrooms and the renovation of three existing facilities. The school's concrete rooftop area also has the potential to be developed for additional classrooms, subject to technical feasibility and the school's needs. He emphasized that improvements to school facilities must be accompanied by responsible management to ensure long-term benefits for student learning.

Across Central Java Province, the 2025 revitalization program covered 1,783 schools and educational institutions, supported by a budget of IDR 1.475 trillion and generating employment opportunities for 23,430 workers. In 2026, 5,443 schools signed Cooperation Agreements (PKS) worth IDR 4.169 trillion.

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To date, IDR 2.434 trillion has been disbursed to 4,597 schools, generating employment opportunities for 62,609 workers.

In Banyumas Regency, the 2025 program renovated 30 schools with a budget allocation of IDR 29.786 billion and generated employment opportunities for 499 workers. In 2026, a total of 176 schools signed agreements worth IDR 114.875 billion. Of this amount, IDR 69.387 billion has been disbursed to 156 schools, generating employment opportunities for 1,996 people.

During a session with students, Minister Mu'ti stressed the importance of thorough preparation for the Academic Competency Test (TKA), including mastery of the subject matter, test-taking strategies, and mental readiness. "First, master the material. Second, prepare a strategy. Third, prepare your mindset. These three are the key," Minister Mu'ti said, emphasizing the importance of a balanced approach. "If you master the material but lack strategy, you won't be able to apply your knowledge effectively. 5,443 schools signed Cooperation Agreements (PKS) worth IDR 4.169 trillion. That is why our motto is: be honest and be joyful."

He also advised students not to be intimidated by lengthy reading passages, noting that TKA questions are aligned with international benchmarks, including those used in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). "Do not believe anyone who says school isn't important as long as you are smart," Minister Mu'ti told the students. "No one becomes smart without schooling. School is ultimately what prepares us to succeed. Education empowers us to do better and do more for others and for our nation."

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