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### **Smart card proposal to check school truancy**

PETALING JAYA: A proposed smart card may help to remove the nagging fear some parents have of whether their children are playing truant when they should be attending school and whether they are misusing money given them to buy canteen food.

MULTI-PURPOSE CARD: Shariffah Masliqa Syed Malik, 10, demonstrates how to use 1Malaysia Smart Card after an MoU signing ceremony between iCES Malaysia and RCG (M) Sdn Bhd at Kota Damansara. Bernama photo

Students using the smart card, dubbed Kad Pintar 1Malaysia, will have to swipe the card on entering and leaving school, thus alerting their parents via SMS when they arrived at school and when they left, said Datuk Lee Boon Han, deputy chief executive officer of RCG Holdings Ltd which has come up with the card.

The smart card was a cashless card which enabled students to go to school without carrying any cash, thus preventing them from misusing their pocket money to buy cigarettes, for example, he told reporters after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between RCG Holdings Ltd and iCES Malaysia Sdn Bhd, here.

Lee said students could use the smart card to buy food at the school canteen as well as books and stationery at the school bookstore.

When they purchased food at the school canteen, the smart card would record the particulars of the vendor they bought the food from and, should there be any incident of food poisoning, detection of the responsible vendor would be easy, he said.

This would ensure that the food vendors maintained cleanliness as well, he added.

Lee said a proposal for use of the smart card had been submitted to deputy prime minister and education minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The software had been developed and fully tested, he said, adding that the smart card system could be introduced at selected schools in the Klang Valley within two months of getting approval from the ministry.

The main focus in the initial stage would be urban schools as the students were more likely to have been exposed to social ills and would be much more IT savvy, he said.

He said the company hoped that the smart card would be used by about 5.8 million students and more than 400,000 teachers in nearly 10,000 government schools nationwide in the near future.

Lee declined to reveal the cost of developing the smart card or how the company was going to recoup the investment.

He said the cost of providing the smart card to students and teachers would be borne by the company.

RCG, which is involved in research and development of biometric security solutions, is listed on the AIM (Alternative Investment Market) of the London Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Main Board, and has offices in Malaysia, China, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. Bernama