Safety first for teachers and students

THE Education Ministry will intensify efforts to remind and educate teachers and students on safety precautions during outdoor activities.

“Teachers and students must practice safety first, to be vigilant, to take appropriate safety precautions and follow safety procedures when carrying out outdoor activities,” said ministry’s sports unit head Ee Hong.

“In view of the rainy season and unexpected weather conditions, we will remind and educate teachers and students on the dos and don’ts and what action should be taken when a person is struck by lightning.”

Ee Hong’s comments came in the wake of the death of 16-year-old Muhamad Mustaqim Muhamad Kamarul of SMK Seksen 16 Shah Alam who was struck by lightning while competing in the Petaling Perdana district schools football tournament at Putra University Malaysia last week.

As the matches were called off due to the bad weather, Mustaqim and his schoolmate Muhammad Yusop went to collect their belongings from under a tree before heading to the bus stop when lightning struck the tree causing both of them to be thrown to the ground.

The lads were rushed to Serdang Hospital but Mustaqim died while receiving treatment.

“The incident was most unfortunate and unexpected. As a sign of respect to the student and his family, it is only proper and appropriate to postpone the tournament. The decision to call off the tournament is not final,” she added.