

No to claims from individual groups

'Get together' small teachers unions told

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Smaller teachers' unions have been advised by Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed to amalgamate into a single union for greater effectiveness.

Such a move would facilitate quicker and easier settlement of teachers' claims or grouses, he added.

The Government would not entertain representations or requests from individual teachers or groups acting on their own, he added.

Problems

"We will only consider claims or grouses made through legitimate unions," Dr. Mahathir said at the opening of the first delegates conference of the National Union of the Teaching Profession in Petaling Jaya.

He revealed that individual teachers or groups of teachers often came up to him with problems which he regretted he could not

consider because they were not presented through the union.

He added that the Government would try to make a reasonable decision in line with the national interest on requests and claims made through teachers' unions.

About 60 delegates from all over Malaysia representing 22,000 teachers are attending the two-day conference.

The Minister advised teachers and parents not to encourage students to engage in undesirable activities like boycotting of classes.

He urged teachers to increase their knowledge and capability, especially in the academic field.

Teachers should also have a code of ethics to safeguard their professional standard. They should also have the correct approach and attitude towards their pupils.

Business-like

"A very business-like or an overly lenient attitude will not do," added Dr. Mahathir.

The president of the International Confederation of Free Trades

Union, Asian Regional Organisation, Mr. P.P. Narayanan, urged the NUTP to look into problems involving thousands of students.

Problems such as drug abuse, drop-outs and the frequent changing of textbooks were not uncommon in Malaysia.

The NUTP should also take up the case of the 12,000 untrained temporary teachers in the country, he added.

MTUC deputy president Mr. T. Narendran spoke on the service problems of teachers, including anomalies in salary scales.