

18 MAY 1996

Najib

EDUCATION REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL

KUALA LUMPUR, May 18 (Bernama) -- A report based on a study of suggestions by educationist Tan Sri Dr Awang Had Salleh on a new agenda for Malay education will be soon be submitted to the Umno Supreme Council, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

"We will concentrate on a plan of action as Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said the party viewed seriously all suggestions and recommendations made at the convention held recently in conjunction with Umno's 50 anniversary," he told reporters after launching the "Love Your Teachers" programme here.

Najib said Anwar, who is Deputy Prime Minister, also made a commitment that a report would be presented at the coming Umno general assembly in October which meant an action plan based on the convention had to be prepared immediately by the convention committee.

"We hope the report will be accepted by the party and government for follow up action. However before the report can be presented we will hold a post convention exercise during which we will first study all views including the working paper and the suggestions made," he added.

Najib said the report also covered aspects like religion, economy, politics and ways to resolve issues like the poor achievement of students in rural areas and the drop-out problem.

On the move to upgrade the status of teachers, Najib said he had held discussions with the director-general of the Public Services Department and the PSD would study the suggestions before obtaining the approval of the establishment committee.

The committee, chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, would study several matters including the new diploma scheme as well as its financial implications.

On the "Love Your Teachers" programme, Najib suggested that all schools include it as part of their activities.

"All groups including students, parents and society at large recognise the role of teachers as a good thing as without teachers and their sacrifices, it will not be possible for us to be useful citizens and the country will not achieve progress.

"As such, we should accord a higher status to teachers, the teaching profession as I believe this will make teachers more serious and committed in imparting knowledge and give their best towards the education process," he said.

"This is line with the ministry's efforts to further upgrade the teaching profession, viewed not merely in terms of money but the overall society's perception towards the profession," he added.

Najib also called on the media to be fair in their coverage and not only report news which had a negative effect on teachers but also the sacrifices made by dedicated teachers as such stories are often not reported.

He said instances of sacrifices made by teachers such as one in Ranau, Sabah where several of them sleep in school buildings just to provide additional classes to guide students, were not at all covered by the media.

"We can help in the process of loving the teachers and the media should also highlight what is good besides reporting the negative aspects," he said.

In his speech, Najib said the teaching profession was sidestepped and

was often the last choice due to the existence of other professions viewed as having greater commercial value.

He said society by emphasising on materialistic values caused students not to respect or appreciate the services of teachers. Such a situation was more evident in urban areas caused by various influences.

The programme was organised by the St Mary's Primary School Parents-Teachers Association with the cooperation of the Federal Territory Education Department.

-- BERNAMA

ZAB MTA SK