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Teachers

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE PROPOSALS TAKEN UP BY MINISTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 5 (Bernama) -- Proposals by the Special Education Committee on the service system and the education career programme have been taken up for further action, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said action was also taken on the recommendations that appropriate steps be taken by the government to address the problems in the education service.

There were proposals however, he added, relating to the salary scheme, service appointment as well as other issues with financial implications which the Public Services Department (PSD) was pursuing for further discussions.

These would be resolved with the Cabinet Committee on Appointments, headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he told reporters on the latest developments relating to the report of the special committee, chaired by Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Arshad.

The committee, which was formed on Aug 4, 1995, began its work in November the same year and finally submitted its report to Najib in September last year.

On the grouses of the National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP) that the ministry had no powers to improve the teaching service and the related problems since it was within the purview of the PSD, Najib said it was a government decision to standardise the public service.

"The PSD actually serves as the secretariat for all decisions made by the Cabinet Committee for the creation of appointments," he said.

For the public sector, it was imperative for the government to streamline the service scheme for staff to avoid problems cropping up, especially those in the expenditure area and service priority.

"The various government services are inter-related and if there is a different scheme, many would believe there would be salary changes," he added.

Najib however said this would not mean that the government was not giving serious attention to the problems in the teaching service, which had to be viewed within the overall context of the service.

Najib said the PSD was also reviewing the service scheme for teacher trainees holding the Malaysian Teaching Diploma (DPM).

Answering questions, Najib said there was no necessity to increase the present SPM qualifying entry requirement for entry into teacher training colleges. -- BERNAMA

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