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Teachers want set guidelines for campaign

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - While welcoming the nationwide launch of a cleanliness campaign for schools, the National Union of the Teaching Profession said its implementation should be clearly defined.

NUTP secretary-general N. Siva Subramaniam said specific guidelines should be drawn up on how to integrate the work required of the pupils and teachers in cleaning their schools.

"Parent-Teacher Associations should provide the Education Ministry with feedback.

"Everyone must help out in this campaign. Pupils and teachers must actively involve themselves in taking care of their schools' cleanliness."

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said yesterday that the campaign differed from previous ones in that it would require pupils and teachers to be personally involved in taking care of the cleanliness of their schools and their surroundings at all times.

The campaign, he said, was introduced at the request of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was concerned about the public's falling standards of cleanliness and civic consciousness.

Najib said under the new approach, pupils and teachers would be involved in the practical aspect of keeping their schools clean.

The move was not a short-term campaign, he said, but would be made a fixture in every school in an effort to instil a greater appreciation of hygiene among pupils and teachers.

Siva said cleanliness had been emphasised in the last few Cabinet meetings due to the public's poor civic consciousness.

"The majority of Malaysians throw rubbish all over the place and expect other people to pick it up," he said, adding that most public facilities, like toilets, were filthy.

"This shows that something is clearly wrong with the school system. If the spirit of gotong-royong can be cultivated while a child is still in school, then they will grow up to be responsible adults.

"Children must be inculcated with clean habits. The campaign is, therefore, a step in the right direction," he said.

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