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Don't be swayed by emotions, teachers urged

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Najib Abdul Razak called on teachers not to be overcome by emotion and to support the country's leadership.

He urged them not to lose confidence in the system and give it their support for political stability.

"Teachers should not get involved in matters that will affect political stability," he said when addressing members of the 141,056-strong Yayasan Guru Malaysia Bhd before its fourth annual general meeting today.

The foundation was established in 1994 to safeguard the welfare of teachers. Its chairman is former Education director-general Tan Sri Dr Wan Mohd Zahid Mohd Noordin.

Najib said what was most important in the Malaysian system was its leadership.

"We must all be aware that the appointment or sacking of a Minister or Deputy Prime Minister is the sole right of the Prime Minister.

"We must also be aware that the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister was not an easy thing for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to do.

"The decision to expel Anwar from Umno, however, was not solely made by Dr Mahathir. It was a consensus decision."

He said a leader could be likened to the captain of a ship.

"If the ship is sailing in choppy seas, it is imperative that the captain receives full support and co-operation. Otherwise, the ship will sink."

At the AGM, members passed four resolutions:

- \* Support the Government under the leadership of Dr Mahathir in his efforts to counter the problems faced by the country and to continue striving for developed-nation status;
- \* Be fully confident in Dr Mahathir's abilities to bring the country out of its economic problems;
- \* Support the Government in efforts to maintain peace and harmony, and;
- \* Work with the Prime Minister to face all challenges.

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