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Teachers-Reaction

ACT FIRMLY AGAINST TEACHERS WHO SPREAD ANTI-GOVT MESSAGE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth has urged Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to take stern action against teachers who use school facilities and time to slander the government.

Its Training and Student Affairs Council chairman Zein Isma Ismail said there should be no compromise on the action to be meted out against teachers who indulged in such activities.

"The ministry should view this development seriously and take the appropriate action without compromise or bowing to pressure from any quarters," he said in a statement today.

He was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement in Jitra yesterday that teachers sympathetic to the opposition should stop using government facilities and school time to sow hatred against the government.

Zein said teachers involved in anti-government activities were prostituting their profession and were threats from within since they were willing to destroy the future of the younger generation for the sake of narrow political ideologies.

In SEREMBAN, Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the movement would work together with the ministry and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) to overcome the problem posed by a handful of ungrateful and disloyal teachers.

Wanita Umno would meet Najib to work out a suitable approach to deal with teachers who taught students to hate the government and its leaders, she said.

"For a start we will meet the PTAs to explain current issues," she told reporters after inspecting the Negeri Sembilan Wanita Umno election machinery at Wisma Umno.

She said small groups of Wanita Umno members would also meet teachers at all levels to enlighten them on the actual situation.

In ALOR SETAR, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said the teacher who set examination questions aimed at sowing hatred against government leaders had been identified.

It was up to the ministry to take the appropriate action, he told reporters after opening the 16th general meeting of the Kedah State Farmers Organisation.

At the same function, Kedah Exco member Ahmad Lebai Sudin said the culprit is teaching at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Jabi in Pokok Sena, the state constituency he is representing.

Sanusi, who is in charge of the state education portfolio, said although there were black sheep in the profession, most teachers were committed to their work.

Gerakan vice-president Dr S. Vijayaraj said such teachers were doing a great disservice by wasting time and not concentrating on the work entrusted to them.

"The government has been more than fair in taking care of its employees. Those who did not realise all these, and continue to bad-mouth the hand that feeds them are indeed ungrateful," he said.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said there were no reports of teachers indulging in such anti-government activities in Terengganu.

"However, the State Education Department should constantly carry out

checks to prevent such incidents," he said.

He advised teachers not to betray the trust given them to educate the younger generation.

In IPOH, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said several teachers were known to be instigating students to hate the government and Barisan Nasional.

No action had been taken against them yet and the authorities were still monitoring their activities, he told reporters after launching the state-level Family Day celebrations.

He said anti-government activities among teachers had not reached a serious level yet but could be dangerous if left unchecked.

In SHAH ALAM, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar said no anti-government activities were detected in government institutions of higher learning in Selangor.

He said these institutions had their own mechanism to monitor the activities of students and the teaching manpower.

The management of these institutions held monthly meetings where grouses on any issue could be raised, he said.

"So far I have not heard of any complaints or dissatisfaction being raised against the government," he told a press conference after the convocation of Kolej INPENS at Hotel Radisson.

In KUALA LUMPUR, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said it was disgraceful of teachers to smear the names of prominent people by setting examination questions with political undertones.

"I think this is unforgivable and totally unethical," he told reporters after presenting scrolls to about 400 Malaysian students of the Sheffield Hallam University at its convocation.

"And such teachers, I think, should be punished," said Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister.

He said teachers were entitled to their own political views but not to the extent of using classrooms to smear others.

"I think teachers should stand up and condemn (this action) and urge action against them because they are only a small number, but are smearing the name of the vast majority," he said.

In KUCHING, state Industrial Development Minister Datuk Abang Johari Openg said no teachers in Sarawak were involved in any hate campaign against the government.

"Although they have opportunities to poison the minds of students and the people, all teachers in this state did not resort to such acts," he said at the opening of the Sarawak Native Teachers Union delegates conference.

Abang Johari, who is in charge of education, said Sarawak teachers had used their wisdom well by steering clear of politics and instead concentrate on the task of educating students.

-- BERNAMA

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