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Examination questions that smack of negative political undertones

ALOR STAR, Sun. - "Premise One: If Anwa Brahim enters the lock-up, he will be poisoned. Premise Two: Anwa Brahim enters the lock-up. What is the conclusion?"

This was among the questions allegedly set for Form Four students at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Jabi by the same mathematics teacher who is under fire for setting similar questions for his Form Five students.

The questions were set to test the students' ability to make logical deductions (penaakulan mantik). It is part of the Form Four mathematics syllabus.

Several Form Four students met outside the school today claimed that they were surprised when given questions which had political undertones, in particular the mention of the case of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

These questions were set in a monthly test in August and this month.

The 42-year-old teacher's "political" questions first came to light last week when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad brought it up to illustrate his point about teachers sowing hatred in the classroom.

The Prime Minister had mentioned the questions set for Form Five students. Those questions had used the names of politicians and figures linked to the Government.

The teacher, who is now under investigation by the State Education Department, claimed that he did it as a joke.

Kedah Education Department director Hassan Hashim said he would wait for the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination to be over before taking action against the teacher.

He said the department wanted to avoid a situation which could jeopardise the students' preparation for the examination.

According to the students who spoke to reporters today, the teacher also told them to regard the questions as a joke when they questioned him.

The students, all of whom refused to give their names to reporters, wrote from memory four questions allegedly set by the teacher.

They did not have copies of the test papers which they said were returned to the teacher after the test.

The questions were:

\* Premise One: If Ali supported Barisan Najis, he would be committing a sin.

\* Premise Two: Ali supported the Alternative.

Conclusion: .....

\* Premise One: .....

\* Premise Two: Det became the leader.

Conclusion: We support Wan Azizah.

\* Premise One: If Anwa Brahim comes to the office late, Zizan Bakar is a truthful witness.

\* Premise Two: Anwa Brahim comes to the office early.

Conclusion: .....

About 20 reporters waited outside the school gates in the hope of meeting the teacher as well as the school principal Azizah Salam.

It is believed that the headmistress held a staff meeting this morning, but she refused to speak to reporters.

Reporters were later informed by other teachers that the mathematics teacher had left the school via the back gate.

Attempts to interview Form Five students also failed. They were supposed

to have taken the day off after attending a three-day motivation camp which ended yesterday.

Several policemen were also seen at the school. Kota Star police chief Assistant Commissioner Hussain Bapoo said policemen from the Langgar police station were deployed to the school since morning.

State Criminal Investigation Department chief Assistant Commissioner Abdul Jalal Mohd Yunus said police had not received any report against the teacher.

In Bukit Mertajam, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today said: "Disciplinary action must be taken against him."

Abdullah said besides the Education Ministry, the relevant authorities should ascertain the type of action to be taken against him including for sedition.

In Sungai Petani, Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz called the teacher an Opposition fanatic.

"We in BN only tell our children of the things Pas should not have done ... We do not ask them to hate Nik Aziz (Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat)."

In Kota Baru, State Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said civil servants should not take advantage of the Government's liberal and tolerant outlook to indulge in anti-Government's activities.

"I think our Government is liberal, never had it taken drastic action against its employees ..."

In Ranau, Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam said the teacher's action was irresponsible.

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