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`Political' exam questions: Teacher identified

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - A teacher in Kedah has been identified as the person who had set "politically-motivated" examination questions for his Form Five pupils.

The 42-year-old mathematics teacher had set the questions for a monthly test about three weeks ago. He said he did it "as a joke" when hauled up by the State Education Department.

He teaches at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Jabi in Pokok Sena, near Alor Star. He was transferred there from Johor last year.

The graduate teacher who had set his own questions instead of using those prepared by the school, would face disciplinary action, said Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in Pekan today.

Four questions in Section A of the examination paper comprising 24 questions, were "political" in nature (see page 2 for the questions).

The incident came to light when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad raised it in Alor Star yesterday and said some teachers were sowing hatred against government leaders.

Pokok Sena acting Umno Youth leader Ariffin Man said today the father of a Form Five pupil in the school had handed the set of questions to him.

"I referred the matter to the Menteri Besar's political secretary Md Rozai Shafian who subsequently referred it to the State Education director."

Najib also said several parents had complained to Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid who informed the State Education director.

In Alor Star, a State Education Department officer said the disciplinary division was preparing a report on the teacher.

The teacher will either be issued with a stern warning and be transferred or be dismissed.

The officer said since it was the teacher's first offence, he might be issued with a warning and be transferred out of the State.

It is learnt the teacher might be transferred to Johor after the current school year as he is preparing pupils for the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination.

However, he did not dismiss the possibility of the teacher being dismissed.

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