

14/11/1999

Promotion for 6,100

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Some 6,100 teachers will be promoted next year under the time-based promotion scheme, bringing the total to 16,363 since it was launched last year.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who announced this today, said of the 6,100, 1,100 are graduate teachers while 5,000 are non-graduates.

This will serve as a significant morale booster for the 250,000 teachers nationwide as many qualified teachers could not be promoted previously due to limited vacancies.

Najib said last year, 2,713 graduate and 1,970 non-graduate teachers were promoted under the scheme following a RM42 million allocation from the Government.

"This year, 780 graduate and 4,800 non-graduate teachers were promoted," he told reporters after addressing teachers at a gathering in Gombak.

Since the time-based promotion scheme was introduced, the promotion of teachers no longer solely depends on the existence of vacancies but on fulfilment of conditions such as length of service and a good record.

Non-graduate teachers will be promoted from Grade DG6 to DG5 and graduates from DG3 to DG2.

Najib said the scheme was the Government's commitment to teachers and would be carried out "no matter what".

In his speech earlier, Najib said teachers must be professional and ethical.

"Over and above that, however, they need to be able to depend on a government with vision and calibre, one which places priority on education, or otherwise they will not be able to fulfil their role as social architects."

Najib said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was greatly committed to enhancing the welfare of teachers.

"All the proposals that the ministry has forwarded to him which enables the quality of life of teachers to be upgraded have been approved.

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