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Najib-Action

TEACHER FACES ACTION FOR USING EXAMS TO SOW HATE

PEKAN, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- The Education Ministry will take disciplinary action against a secondary school teacher in Kedah for setting examination questions with political undertones.

Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the teacher had committed a serious offence by clearly breaching discipline.

"I've asked Education Director-General to take appropriate disciplinary action based on the information received by the ministry," he told a media conference held to announce the results of the Level One Test, here.

The minister was responding to a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that some teachers in Kedah had used the names of First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin and that of his sons Mirzan and Mokhzani in Mathematic questions.

He had said a teacher in a school in Kedah used the names in a Mathematic puzzle to indirectly implicate that they were amassing the country's wealth to enrich themselves.

Najib said the teacher had replaced the questions set by the committee responsible for preparing the examination questions with that set by himself for the school's monthly test three weeks ago.

He said the questions were given only to two classes.

One of the questions is on the distribution of money between three people named Daem, Mirzan and Zani. Daem could mean First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin while Mirzan and Mokhzani were Dr Mahathir's sons who are businessmen.

Najib said his ministry conducted investigations based on a report sent to the Kedah Menteri Besar's office by parents of students studying in that school asking the State Education Department to look into the matter.

Investigations showed it was true that the questions had political undertones, he said.

Earlier, Najib announced that 7,888 or 1.6 per cent of the 479,941 Standard Three pupils were eligible to go to Standard Five on express next year.

This was based on the Level One Test held nation-wide on Sept 13.

A total of 82,435 pupils or 17.2 per cent of the 479,941 Standard Three pupils sat for the Aptitude Test conducted by the Malaysian Examination Syndicate.

Najib said this year's results showed an increase of 1,941 pupils or 0.3 per cent qualifying for the Express Class as compared to last year.

The results would be released in schools on Monday, he said.

He said the ministry would leave it to the parents to decide whether to allow their students to enrol for the Express Class as the students' preparedness and ability in terms of emotion and psychology needed to be taken into account.

"That's why the decision not to opt for the Express Class sometimes seemed to be reasonable," he said.

Najib also announced the 1998 Standard Six Assessment Test (UPSR) results of the pioneer batch of Express Class students who sat for the Level One Test in 1996.

Of the 2,742 students, 1,020 or 37.2 per cent scored As in all subjects, he said. Pupils in primary schools (SK) take five subjects while those in national type schools (SJK) seven, he said.

He said 793 or 28.9 per cent received 4As (SK) and 6As (SJK), 516 or

18.8 per cent 3As (SK) and 5As (SJK) while the rest 414 or 15.1 per cent obtained 2As and 1A (SK) and 1A to 4As (SJK).

-- BERNAMA

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