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Commission gets report on teachers

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MALACCA, Sun. - The outcome of the Education Ministry's investigations into several teachers in Terengganu said to have prepared politically-flavoured questions for a school test, has been submitted to the Teaching Service Commission.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said only the commission could decide whether the teachers should be sacked.

"We are still waiting for the commission's decision on the matter," he said.

Last month, several teachers of Sekolah Menengah Tengku Lela Segara were said to have tried to sow seeds of hatred towards the Government among the students.

It was learnt that a few composition topics for Form Two students were politically inclined.

One of the topics read: "You represent the school in a debate competition, the title of the debate is Keburukan Pemimpin Negara Penyebab Utama Golongan Belia Tidak Bermoral (The country's leaders' weaknesses are the main reason youths become immoral). Write your composition to support this statement."

The other topic was: "You have been chosen to participate in an oratory competition entitled Keadilan Semakin Hilang dan Tandus Dalam Sistem Kehakiman di Malaysia (Justice Is Being Eroded in Malaysia's Judicial System)."

Musa also reminded teachers of the consequences of going against the General Orders.

"As long as you are in the civil service, you (teachers) must remain loyal to the Government," he said.

He said many teachers who had committed wrongdoing had repented after being advised.

"Those who do not want to heed our advice but keep on making similar mistakes will be referred to the commission."

Musa also said the ministry was still waiting for the report on an ustaz (religious teacher) of Sekolah Sultan Muhammad, near here, who was alleged to have maligned the Government and criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the classroom.

"We hope to get reports from the State Education Department and the police, if there is any, on the incident."

The teacher was said to have told students that Dr Mahathir was old, unhealthy and, therefore, no longer fit to stay on as Prime Minister.

He had also said the withdrawal of the oil royalty payments to the Pas-led Terengganu Government was proof that the Government was cruel.

He also questioned the distribution of low-cost houses by the Government.

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