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NUTP: 1,600 teaching posts yet to be filled

MALACCA, Wed. - The National Union of Teaching Profession wants the Government to immediately fill the 1,600 posts of guru cemerlang (excellent teachers).

Its president, Abu Bakar Shawkat Ali, said so far only 1,000 of such posts had been filled although the scheme was introduced five years ago.

"We have voiced our displeasure to the relevant authorities on this, officially and unofficially.

"Yet, nothing concrete seems to have been done.

"If they want to leave the posts vacant, then the scheme should not have been introduced in the first place."

Abu Bakar said this was one of the many reasons why some teachers in the country were angry with the Government.

"Actually, there is nothing political when it comes to the grouses expressed by teachers. Only a small percentage of our 280,000-strong members are involved with the Opposition parties.

"The rest of the teachers are unhappy with the Government over wide-ranging issues, such as delays in getting promotions and transfers."

Abu Bakar was commenting on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the Government would hold talks with teachers to know their problems and why they are angry.

Dr Mahathir had said teachers had been treated very well by the Government but there were instigators comprising politicians who instilled bad values among the teachers.

Abu Bakar said although the Government had done its part in uplifting the image of the profession, there were many other things it must do to win back the teachers' hearts.

"We want the authorities like the Public Service Department to speed up efforts to fill the vacant posts."

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