

06/10/2000

Report lodged against ustaz

MALACCA, Thurs. - The Sekolah Sultan Muhammad's Parent-Teacher Association today submitted a report to the Education Ministry on a religious teacher who had maligned the Government and criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the classroom.

He was said to have uttered the derogatory remarks on Sept 19 when he was teaching a Form One class as a replacement teacher.

PTA committee member Othman Muhamad, who is also special officer in the State Information Department, said the ustaz, in his 50s, made the remarks when he was in one of the Form One classrooms between 12.20pm to 2pm.

Othman said his son, who was in the class, related the matter to him, after returning home from school.

His son reported that the teacher gave a talk on politics in the country and also said that "Dr Mahathir is old, unhealthy and therefore, he is not fit to be the Prime Minister".

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

Othman added the ustaz also questioned the distribution of low-cost houses by the Government.

He said he had gathered information on the teacher and the statements he allegedly made from five pupils, including his son and the son of the school principal.

The following day, he lodged a report at the Melaka Tengah police station and another report to the State Education Department on Sept 21.

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