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Zainal-Agreement

GOV'T URGED TO DISCUSS WITH TEACHERS UNION ON AGREEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) has urged the Education Ministry to discuss with all teachers unions before proceeding with the proposal to require teachers to sign the good behaviour agreement.

MTUC president Senator Zainal Rampak said although the government intended to improve teachers' productivity, professionalism and loyalty through the agreement, it would not have positive effects if the teachers could not accept it.

"If there is no sincerity, if they express unhappiness, dissatisfaction, why is it necessary to have the undertaking...nothing good will come out of it," he told Bernama here today.

"I hope that before the agreement is implemented, the Education Ministry would have discussions with all the teachers' associations...have a heart-to-heart talk to find the best way out...the pledge is not necessarily the only mechanism to improve the teaching profession," he said commenting on the proposal.

The proposal which was announced by Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin recently had been objected to by the National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP). NUTP secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam on the other hand suggested that the government introduced a code of ethics for the teaching profession as an agreement between teachers and the society.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad had commented that the good behaviour agreement would be extended to all civil servants, not only teachers and lecturers. He stressed that the requirement to sign the agreement should be made a condition to maintain professionalism among teachers and to prevent teachers from influencing students with political ideologies.

Zainal said MTUC had received many complaints from teachers and the NUTP expressing regret over the proposal.

He said the views of teachers must also be given serious consideration as they had contributed much to produce great national leaders who were respected at the international level such as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Zainal also did not want the problem to worsen as the teaching force in the country almost reached 250,000 people and formed the largest sector in public service.

"We need them in the long term and we need to think of the long-term prospects," he said, adding that he would write a letter to Musa on the matter soon.

-- BERNAMA

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