

20 AUG 2001

Aziz-Agreement

GOOD CONDUCT ACCORD NOT SHAMEFUL FOR TEACHERS, SAYS AZIZ

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- The proposal to sign a good conduct agreement as a condition for a teaching service contract in government schools was not burdensome or embarrassing to the profession.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin said he was surprised as to why the proposal had become a controversy as it was well-intentioned for the teaching profession and the society in future.

He said the proposal was made as there were a small group of teachers who were anti-government.

"Although their number is small, they cannot be considered as not dangerous because it is like a fire that needs to be doused when it is small," he told reporters after opening an international conference on the National Language here today.

He was responding to the stand taken by Cuepacs and the National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP) to oppose the proposal, saying the existing disciplinary regulations were adequate for civil servants, including teachers, to discharge their duties responsibly and with total loyalty to the government.

Aziz did not deny that there were provisions in the General Orders governing discipline of government employees but he said many civil servants including teachers took the regulations lightly and did not sign the documents.

He said the regulations should not be seen printed on paper merely but also on the eyes, hands and hearts of every teacher so that they would always remember the agreement they had signed for the safety of themselves, their family and country.

He said the proposal was a follow-up to the recent statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that lecturers and university students would be required to sign an agreement with the government to ensure the big investment in education would not go to waste.

Asked to comment on newspaper reports today that teachers caught four Year Two pupils performing oral sex under the table in their classroom in Taiping last week, Aziz said this was solid proof that the influence of pornographic video compact discs (VCDs) had led to the moral decadence of the younger generation.

He regretted the attitude of the pupils' parents for not being ashamed to watch the lewd VCDs with their children.

He said such an attitude would only ruin the future of their children.

On the call by NUTP Secretary-General Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam that the government should set up a Royal Commission to review the education system, Aziz said the present system cannot be considered as a failure as it had succeeded in producing many quality graduates.

He said the ministry constantly studied the system and made changes deemed necessary.

He urged Siva, who is also Cuepacs President, to discuss with the ministry on ways to improve the education system and not make statements in the media.

-- BERNAMA

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