

21/08/2001

Good conduct pact: Discuss plan with teachers, says MTUC

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Education Ministry has been urged to discuss with all teachers' unions before proceeding with the proposal to require teachers to sign the good behaviour agreement.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress president Senator Zainal Rampak said the proposal had made teachers worried as it undermined their credibility.

He said that although the Government intended to improve teachers' productivity, professionalism and loyalty through the agreement, it would not produced positive results if teachers could not accept it.

Zainal added he had sent a letter today to Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, expressing this concern.

He said there were many ways to improve professionalism among teachers.

"Any method should take into account the sacrifices made by teachers and also the responsibility they shoulder."

The proposal which was announced by Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin recently had also been objected to by the National Union of the Teaching Profession.

NUTP secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam had suggested that the Government introduce a code of ethics for teachers to be regarded as an agreement between teachers and society.

Musa had said that the good behaviour agreement would be extended to all civil servants, and not only to teachers and lecturers.

He had said that the requirement to sign the agreement should be made a condition to maintain professionalism among teachers and to prevent them from influencing students with political ideologies.

Zainal said MTUC had received many complaints from teachers regarding the proposal.

He added the views of teachers must be considered 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 teachers numbered almost 250,000, making it the largest sector in the public service.

(END)