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Mahathir-Souvenir

TEACHERS ADVISED NOT TO ABUSE PROFESSION

MELAKA, May 16 (Bernama) -- Teachers have been advised not to abuse their position for other purposes to the extent that the image of the profession as whole could be tarnished.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also said that teachers should carry out their responsibilities sincerely and in a trustworthy manner.

"Of utmost importance is that the whole teaching fraternity must appreciate the struggle to form a future generation that could fulfil the religious, racial and national aspiration," he said in his message in the souvenir book in conjunction with the 2001 National-Level Teachers' Day celebrations at Dewan Seri Negeri, Air Keroh here tonight.

The theme of the celebrations this year is "Upholding the Teaching Profession is a Collective Responsibility" and about 3,000 teachers nationwide attended the celebrations here.

He said the government was concerned over the actions by a few teachers who had used their profession to instigate or spread false information to instil hatred among the students against the government and its leaders.

"Such negative acts by the irresponsible teachers not only tarnished the image of teachers but also spoilt the students' education," he said.

The Prime Minister hoped that such acts would stop immediately for the sake of the future generation and that those irresponsible teachers would repent and appreciate their responsibility to create a future generation that could contribute to the nation.

He said teachers should also be sensitive to the developments taking place around them to ensure that they were always ready to face whatever challenges.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, in his message, said the task of improving the image of the teaching profession was a collective responsibility of all teachers.

In addition, he said everyone, including the general public, should assist in improving excellence in education as it played a crucial role in Malaysia's efforts towards becoming a developed nation by the year 2020.

He said the teaching profession was also gaining more respect for having fulfilled the trust of the people and country, to educate the children to become good citizens.

-- BERNAMA

SBS AO