

Headmasters give up plan to sue NUTP

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JOHOR BARU, Mon. The two headmasters who planned to sue the National Union of the Teaching Profession and its secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam have decided against it.

Zamani Ahmad of Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Perling and Baharuddin Abdul Wahid of Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Daya have followed the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who called on all parties to settle the school segregation issue in an amicable manner.

Zamani said they had accepted the public apology by NUTP and Siva Subramaniam on the matter and would not pursue the issue.

"We would like to thank the Prime Minister for his advice and hope that there will not be any more baseless accusation against us (school headmasters and principals)," he said.

Zamani said this at a Press conference at his school today, which was also attended by Baharuddin and more than 20 other headmasters and principals, as well as several representatives of parent-teacher associations.

He, however, regretted that NUTP and Siva Subramaniam had

only made the apology after the issue had become such a serious matter that it warranted a comment from Dr Mahathir.

"The issue wasted a lot of resources because the headmasters and principals had to answer a lot of queries, not to mention becoming the subject of negative perceptions

"NUTP needs to review its policies and refrain from making such reckless accusations in the future," he said.

Zamani also denied that he and Baharuddin were motivated by financial gain when they decided to file the defamation suit, which was estimated to be worth more than RM1 million.

"We are not doing this for the money. All that matters is that we want our dignity back as teachers, which is something that cannot be quantified."

The allegation of racial segregation in school by NUTP was proved to be baseless by an independent committee set up by the Government to investigate the matter.

Baharuddin said he would not renew his membership with the NUTP because he had lost confidence in the union.