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Aziz-Siva

SIVA TO FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION IF HE INSISTS ON SEGREGATION - AZIZ

SUBANG, March 24 (Bernama) -- The Education Ministry will take disciplinary action against the National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP) Secretary-General Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam if he still insists on student segregation in schools on racial lines.

He said the ministry was prepared to negotiate but if Siva remained adamant, it only showed that the union had bad intentions.

"People with bad intentions...damaging, surely they're up to something," he said without elaborating on the form of action that could be taken against Siva, who is also Cuepacs President.

Siva should discuss with his executive committee and look into the mistake over the allegation that students have been segregated according to race in 210 schools, he told reporters at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Subang.

He was among the VIPs present at the base to welcome Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad from a working visit to Russia, Germany and Poland,

Aziz was asked by reporters whether disciplinary action could be taken against Siva.

He said the NUTP should understand that a lot of money, time and energy were spent by the independent committee to study the allegation and found it to be baseless.

"Maybe the NUTP is mistaken. When they visited the schools, they saw the pupils segregated for certain subjects like Islamic studies," he said.

Aziz said if the NUTP continued with its allegation, it would only harm the racial harmony and unity in the country.

Asked whether Siva still need to apologise for the allegation, he said: "He has caused distress and unhappiness among teachers in 210 schools.

"Is it fair for this union to go on with their arrogance and let school children of these schools suffer because their teachers are unhappy," he said.

In KUALA LUMPUR, Siva said the union would make its stand on the issue after the Ketari by-election on March 31.

The union would meet Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to explain the issue and other matters, he told reporters after attending a seminar on women's responsibility towards a disciplined society organised by the All-Indian Progressive Front (IPF).

Asked to comment on the findings of the independent committee, he said the union had not receive the committee's report.

Siva said the union cannot comment on the findings merely based on what was reported in the media.

The report must be studied by the union's national council, he said when commenting on the call by Abdullah for Siva to apologise over the segregation issue.

-- BERNAMA

FA DC TS