

Incentive payment for all teachers

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KUALA LUMPUR: All teachers teaching English, Mathematics and Science will now qualify for the incentive payment, irrespective of the number of periods they teach.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said a Public Services Department (PSD) circular dated Feb 6 had been sent to all state education departments informing them of this matter. Payments would be backdated to Jan 1.

This circular supersedes one sent earlier which stated that primary school teachers had to teach the subjects for at least 20 periods a week and secondary school teachers at least 15 to qualify for the payment.

The ministry renegotiated the provisions with PSD to allow all Maths, Science and English teachers to qualify for

the incentive.

"The previous conditions set by PSD no longer apply so all teachers can now receive the incentive payments," he said after the ministry's post-cabinet meeting yesterday.

Musa said the quantum of the payments was 5% for graduate teachers in secondary schools and 10% for non-graduates in primary schools. However, he said he did not know the number of teachers who would qualify for the scheme.

Asked whether the ministry had received any reports of problems in the implementation of Mathematics and Science in English in schools, Musa said there had mainly been technical problems with equipment.

"In general, we can conclude that the programme is running well so far," he said.

On whether the ministry would extend the one-month deadline for teachers to apply

for transfers from community religious schools to government schools, Musa said there would be no extension. (There are currently 74,000 students studying in 43 primary and 225 secondary community religious schools.)

"We think one month is long enough for these teachers to decide. If they apply after the Feb 28 deadline, they must give a good reason for doing so," he said.

On another issue, Musa said the committee headed by former director-general of education Tan Sri Murad Mohd Noor was different from the one chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Tan Sri Murad is heading a sub-committee which reports to the main committee chaired by the Prime Minister. The sub-committee has been asked to look into various aspects," he said.

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