

# Abide by policy or quit, teachers told

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — Teachers who do not abide by the National Education Policy should leave instead of shirking their responsibilities and instilling in students hatred for the Government and leaders.

Education Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir said today teaching was a noble profession and teachers must be professional and sincere.

“It is their responsibility to instil in children the love for the country and leaders.”

He said being patriotic did not mean defending the country alone, but also preserving the environment.

“The country must be protected and preserved and made a better place to live in,” he said after launching the National Library’s Merdeka Month and *Bibliografi Kemerdekaan*.

He said children must be taught

from young by parents and teachers to love Malaysia.

“The present generation must also be told how our forefathers fought for independence, and the hardship and pain they went through.

“Only then will they understand the meaning of Merdeka and appreciate what the four Prime Ministers did in the last 46 years to make Malaysia what it is today.”

He said Malaysians would feel a big loss when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stepped down in October.

However, Malaysia had another very capable leader in Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to carry on and take the nation to greater heights, he added.

“Amidst the developments, the education system must remain strong, and for this the Government needs the support and co-operation of teachers.”

He plans to propose to co-curriculum division heads in the ministry to have the library’s auditorium on Sept 19 further incorporate activities to instil

patriotism in students.

He also suggested that the National Library set up a website known as Club Merdeka which has information on independence.

He said visuals on independence should also be put into VCDs and made available to the public.

National Library director-general Datuk Zawiyah Baba said it had started the Merdeka Quiz open to all on its website (from Aug 9-31). The first prize is RM500, second prize RM300 and third, RM200.

Among the activities lined up for the month is *Laungan Kemerdekaan* where people can come to the library and hear Tengku Abdul Rahman’s shouts of “Merdeka” (at 11am and 3pm daily until Aug 31).

Zawiyah said it was also holding a patriotic singing competition open to staff of the library, National Archives Malaysia, Museums and Antiquities Department, Sahabat Club and library members. It will be held

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