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Rafie-Teachers

DON'T INSIST ON TOWN SCHOOLS ONLY, DG TELLS TEACHERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- New teachers should not insist on working only in town schools but instead be ready to serve in rural areas, said Education Director-General Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat today.

He said he was disappointed with teachers who came with appeals letters and wedding invitations in hope of avoiding transfers to schools in the interiors of Sabah and Sarawak.

"They should not choose to become teachers if they are not prepared to be transferred to rural locations," he said in his speech at the Maktab Perguruan Ilmu Khas (MPIK) convocation here today.

Teachers should focus on their jobs and welcome the challenges of outstation postings. Teaching in the interiors also provided good experience for teachers, he said.

He encouraged teachers to upgrade their skills in the English language and in information and communication technology to face global challenges.

There were many promotion opportunities for skilled teachers who fulfilled the conditions set by the Education Ministry, he added.

There are currently 300,000 teachers nationwide and 65 per cent of them are women.

Some 317 trainee teachers received degrees and diploma at the convocation today - 199 under the Malaysian Education Diploma course; 105 - post graduate teaching course; 13 - MPIK-United Kingdom twinning programme.

Bilong anak Ngerong, 23, from Sarawak received the 2003 Special Award for outstanding academic, sports and leadership performance.

Rafie said the ministry welcomed MPIK's efforts in offering special courses for teaching deaf and mute students.

There was also a Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL) twinning project with universities in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom.

The minister also placed 31 teachers from New Zealand, Australia and Canada as English coordinators in local schools, he said.

-- BERNAMA

SSA MFJ PC