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Mahathir-teachers

GOV'T WILLING TO TAKE IN SAR TEACHERS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- The government is willing to take in teachers from community-based religious schools or Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR), including the untrained ones to teach in national schools, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said they would be given training and paid salary, which would be better than what they were getting in SAR.

"We will take them in as temporary teachers first to find out if they are sincere or otherwise...the untrained ones, we will train them," he said at a meet-the-people session at Sekolah Kebangsaan Air Lanas, Jeli, near here today.

Dr Mahathir said they must prove that they were sincere in wanting to provide education to the young, not teaching them to hate others.

"And not also how to draw...at first take a plate, trace it to draw a circle and then colour it green. That is PAS's logo.

"This is bad intention, not sincere, the kind of teachers that we will not accept," he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed that the Barisan Nasional (BN) government had no intention to victimise anyone and what had been done was to ensure that the people achieved progress and led a happy life.

The government recently agreed to take in SAR students to national schools after it decided to suspend financial aids to these schools, some of which had been found to have indoctrinated the students to hate government leaders.

Asked to elaborate on his offer during a news conference at the Sultan Ismail airport here, Dr Mahathir said the government would give SAR teachers the opportunity to join national schools, depending on their qualifications.

"If we can train them, we will train them but they must carry out their duties properly," he said.

Asked about his meeting with the representative of Terengganu PAS government Datuk Mustafa Ali on the closure of the Maktab Rendah Sains Mara-Yayasan Terengganu (MRSM-YT), he said no decision was made at the meeting.

"I heard his views and he heard my views. No decision made," he said.

Yesterday, Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said a representative of the Terengganu government had held a meeting with Dr Mahathir on the closure of two Mara junior science colleges in Dungun and Besut.

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz announced last year the closure of the two colleges and the students transferred to other MRSM.

-- BERNAMA

SN ABG