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Teachers-SAR

SAR TEACHERS OFFERED TO JOIN GOV'T SCHOOLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR) teachers are given a month from Jan 27 to Feb 28 to accept the offer to serve in schools managed by the Education Ministry.

Director-General of Education Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat said today the offer was open to all SAR teachers without any age limit.

They were invited to serve as untrained attachment teachers, trained attachment teachers or for permanent appointment, he told reporters at the Education Ministry here.

He said the offer was based on the awareness that all teachers must receive quality and professional training and that their welfare was of concern to the ministry.

"For this reason, it is the ministry's hopes that all teachers in SAR throughout the country accept this offer with an open mind without prejudice," he said.

There are now about 4,000 fulltime teachers in 43 SAR (primary) and 225 SAR (secondary) with a student population of 74,000 nationwide.

Abdul Rafie advised SAR teachers who were keen to serve in the Education Ministry to submit their applications to the district/division education offices or the nearest State Education Department.

At the end of last year, the government decided to terminate the per kapita grants to SAR and made an offer to absorb SAR students in national schools.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, when visiting Kelantan last week, also said the government was prepared to absorb SAR teachers, including those who were untrained, into national schools and was prepared to give them training and pay better salary than what they were getting at the SAR.

Abdul Rafie said all State Education Departments, and education offices in the districts and divisions had been directed to accept all applications from SAR teachers.

He said all applications received would be scrutinised based on the candidate's qualification and all would undergo an interview by the ministry.

Asked whether there would be certain conditions that must be met, Abdul Rafie said: "We will send circulars containing the forms to all State Education Directors. It is open to all who teach fulltime at the SAR. Fill up the forms and submit the application and we will study the details in the applications."

Asked whether all teachers who apply would be absorbed, he said it depended on the number of applicants and the screening process.

"They must be screened, not all of them and we don't promise to give everyone. It's just that we (the ministry) are open and if all of them are eligible for acceptance, then we will accept," he said.

Earlier, the Kelantan Umno Youth movement led by its head, Mohamed Rujhan Salleh, handed a memorandum to Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad stating their support for the decision to accept SAR teachers and students into the national education system.

Musa said so far about 10,000 SAR students had moved to the national schools and the others still had time until Feb 6 to do so.

-- BERNAMA

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