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Abdul Aziz-Doa

STANDARDISE THE "DOA" FOR ACCEPTANCE BY ALL RACES - ABDUL AZIZ

SEREMBAN, July 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsudin today urged that the "doa" recited in schools be standardised to be accepted by all ethnic groups.

"There should be one standard doa, when it is heard by the Chinese, they feel secure, when it is heard by the Indians, they too will feel secure and any ethnic group that hear the doa will feel secure.

"If anyone feels threatened, then the doa is certainly meaningless. That's why every school, education department and Education Ministry must think of an approach that can be adopted with regard to this thing (doa)," he told reporters after presenting medals and certificates to outstanding students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Puteri in the last Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR), here.

He said the Religious and Moral Education Department (Japim) in the Education Ministry and the Director-General of Education must find a way to implement the standardisation.

He said the proposal on the standardisation had been discussed in January at a meeting which was also attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, three Menteri Besar, Director-General of Education Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat and several top officials from the Education Ministry.

A newspaper on Wednesday published a letter in the readers' column on the demonstration by a DAP representative and several Chinese parents in front of the Sekolah Convent Light Street, Penang protesting the move by the school's principal to have the doa recited every morning for Muslim students.

This prompted the school's Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) to decide that the doa should not be continued except during religious class.

Meanwhile on another development, Abdul Aziz said applications to attend the Malaysian Diploma of Education Course (KDPM) or Post Graduate Teaching Course (KPLI) from untrained temporary teachers who had been serving a long time should be given priority by the selection board.

"I respect their dedication. I hope when there is a selection, take them first if they have equivalent and good qualification," he said.

The Education Ministry was recently reported to have suggested that these temporary teachers be emplaced for three years before being accepted as trained permanent teachers.

It is learnt that the Education Ministry is still discussing the matter with the Public Service Department and it is expected to be carried out early next year.

--BERNAMA

APG AO