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SAR teachers receive less pay in Kelantan

KOTA BARU, Mon. - There is a wide disparity in salaries received by teachers on the Education Ministry's payroll and their counterparts in People's Religious Schools (SAR) in the State.

State Education director Datuk Shafii Ismail said national school teachers with an honour's degree earn RM2,045 per month while those with a similar qualification but taught in SAR earn RM1,221.

"The starting salary for general degree teachers in national schools is RM1,888 compared with RM1,155 in SAR," he said.

National school teachers with a diploma draw RM1,374.57 compared with RM612 in SAR.

National school teachers with Sijil Tinggi Ugama/Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia certificates receive RM1,098 and RM1,053 respectively compared with RM616 and RM550 paid by SAR.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said during a meet-the-people session in Ayer Lanas, Jeli on Jan 16 that the Government would absorb SAR teachers, including those unqualified, into national schools and pay them better.

Shafii said the State Education Department had made available about 1,600 application forms for primary and secondary SAR teachers who wanted to teach in national schools. He said they could collect the form at the department or district education offices.

He said they should contact the department's liaison officers at 09-7418000. The closing date for sub-mission of forms is Feb 28.