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Transfer of teachers: `Do not interfere`

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today advised politicians not to interfere in the transfer of teachers.

The Prime Minister said teachers should discuss with the Education Ministry if they were unhappy with their postings.

Asked to comment on a news report today that shortage of school teachers in certain States was due to interference by politicians, Abdullah felt teachers should not bring their problems, which concerned the ministry, to politicians.

"We cannot interfere. If there are problems, refer to the Education Ministry, minister or deputy minister," he said after opening Galeria Sri Perdana, the residence of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Jalan Damansara, which has been turned into a museum.

Abdullah said if politicians interfered in the transfer of teachers, it would only complicate matters.

In the report, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin said interference by politicians and senior government servants was the reason behind a shortage of teachers in several States, most acutely in Selangor, Perak and Penang. But in other States, a surplus was reported.

Abdullah said that if there was a shortage, the ministry should give special attention to the problem and ensure that all schools had sufficient teachers.