

## **Hundreds of teachers-to-be protest policy change**

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Several hundred education degree students from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) protested yesterday over the uncertainty of their posting.

NONEThe protest was organised by Gabungan Bertindak Mahasiswa and Muslim Undergraduates' Movement (Gamis), Federation of Peninsular Malay Students Union (GPMS), Legasi Mahasiswa Progresif, Gabungan Graduan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Pendidikan and UPSI's student representative council.

The protest which started at 11:30am stretched for four hours with speeches from several student leaders demanding for their rights to placement in the education system.

NONEThis comes following an announcement by Deputy Education Minister Wee Ka Siong that some 7,902 untrained temporary teachers have been absorbed into the school system as permanent teachers, with another 7,508 to follow suit.

When contacted, Legasi Mahasiswa Progresif coordinator Adam Adli said the protest was further fuelled by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's statement that they should find work elsewhere.

Ministry scholarship holders given priority

Muhyiddin had last Sunday on TV3 said that teachers under Education Ministry scholarship would get priority for placement in the national school system, while other education graduates may need to apply elsewhere.

NONE"Why are they absorbing untrained teachers without degrees? We have degrees but we are not being absorbed... We want to make teaching a professional career, but how is this being professional?" Adam lamented.

He added the over 7,000 places given to untrained temporary teachers could have resolved the unemployment problem of private students with education degrees.

NONEDuring the protest, the students also submitted a seven-point memorandum to the university demanding that the Education Ministry allocate sufficient placement for education degree students and reduce the intake of untrained temporary teachers.

Adam added that the students' coalition has collected some 6,000 signatures for a petition over the issue and is targeting 10,000 signatures before handing it to Muhyiddin.

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