

**Muhyiddin, teachers are not slaves**  
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**by Khairuddin Tajul Arrifin**

Dear Deputy Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, why do you treat teachers like slaves?

From past experience, everything the ministry has done will start with 'pilot project'. They will say, "A decision on whether to introduce it to the other states will only be made after the six-month trial period is over".

We have heard this before. Any pilot project will become a project and introduced. Just look at KBSR or KBSM pilot project previously; now that it has been introduced, everyone knows it's a failure.

PPSMI was a pilot project, then introduced and now a failure. The Education Ministry's word for 'done and dusted' is 'pilot project', and 'trial runs'.

Teachers have no holidays on Saturdays; apart from attending yearly courses on Saturdays, we never benefited from the government's implementation of off days on Saturdays like others in the government sector.

During school holidays, we invigilate students sitting for major examinations till mid-December. After that it is meetings after meetings before the start of a new term. We can't spend time with our family and friends like the others.

And now we are looking at nine hours of working time from 7.30am - 4.30pm. Does that mean we won't have to send students for tournaments or activities after 4.30pm, if we follow strictly to the new working hours! Or no more taking students for trips or anything else after 4.30pm?

Teaching is not like any other office job. It's utter nonsense to introduce 'projects' like this for the sake of introducing something new or to divert attention from other failed education policies.

It is a pity the union can't speak for the teachers. It's time for action from the teachers; I advise you to use your knowledge and rights properly.

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