

P M: New scheme being drawn up to promote teachers

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SHAH ALAM, Sun. — The Public Service Department is drawing up a new scheme to allow teachers to be promoted without having to stop teaching.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at present, good teachers were promoted to administrators, which was a loss to teaching.

"The Public Service Department is looking into this now and I hope it can be implemented as soon as possible. After all, I made the suggestion in 1984 when I was the Education Minister," he said.

Abdullah said the proposed pro-

motion opportunities for those in the teaching profession would require the establishment of higher posts in the present service scheme.

"It will not involve a major restructure of the service scheme," he said at a Press conference after launching the 33rd national-level-Teachers' Day celebration at Stadium Malawati here.

Under the new promotion concept, headmasters who have reached their highest level could be appointed to oversee other headmasters and help upgrade education and teaching in their respective schools.

The schools run by these exemplary headmasters could also enlist trainee teachers for practical

training.

Abdullah said the Government was aware of teachers who were not keen to become administrators, but preferred to continue teaching.

In his speech, Abdullah expressed dissatisfaction with the level of achievement of the country's universities and hoped efforts would be made to achieve better results.

He said excellence must be achieved at primary, secondary and tertiary levels for the country to produce human capital capable of overcoming challenges.

"For the country to achieve developed status, we need to have manpower that is capable, disciplined and knowledgeable. There-

fore, whatever measures can be taken to raise the educational level in the country must be implemented."

Abdullah said serious attention must be given to producing excellent teachers.

He also urged the ministry, schools and other relevant authorities to do their utmost to fight crime in schools and among schoolchildren.

"We must strive to eliminate crime in the schools as much as we strive to eradicate poverty."

He said the fact that criminal activities involved only 2.1 per cent of the country's four million students should not be an excuse not to pay attention to the problem.