

PM: NO PROMOTION FOR PROBLEMATIC TEACHERS

Anwar says teachers who are negligent, have poor discipline not eligible for time-based promotions

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TEACHERS who have disciplinary problems and are negligent in their duties will not be eligible for time-based promotion, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said while he agreed on the principles of time-based promotion, they should not be applied to teachers who did not perform.

"If you don't have discipline, and you don't attend classes, I will cancel (your time-based promotion).

"We agree on the structure and principles of automatic promotion, but teachers who are negligent or have poor discipline must be excluded from it.

"So we have to be careful, but I believe 90 per cent of our teachers have no problem."

Anwar said that the National Union of Teaching Profession's (NUTP) golden jubilee celebration here.

Present were Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek, Public Service Department director-general Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz and NUTP president Aminuddin Awang.

Under the time-based promotion system, undergraduates who enter the profession at grade 41 will be upgraded to grade 48 after eight years.

After six years, they will be promoted to grade 52, and to grade 54 after the following three years.

Reflecting on his stint as education minister, Anwar said teachers were often blamed when children took drugs or performed poorly in their studies, but accepted it as part of their responsibility.

He said it was the teacher's job to educate children to ensure that they grew up to have humanity, so students must have a sense of respect and love for their teachers.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the National Union of Teaching Profession's golden jubilee celebration in Bangi yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"Whether it's Sekolah Cheruk Tok Kun, Bukit Mertajam Boys School, Malay College Kuala Kangsar or Universiti Malaya, I've never forgotten the contributions of my teachers.

"Because without them, other than my parents, it would not have been possible (for me) to have gained a foothold in my career if they had not instilled that spirit in me."

He added that with that in mind, the welfare of teachers should be protected.

Meanwhile, he reaffirmed his commitment to upholding Bahasa Malaysia, saying its status as the national language and national education policies should not be questioned.

He said as long as these principles were accepted, the use of other languages, such as Chinese, Tamil and Arabic, could be expanded.

"To improve our country's economy and development, we must also prioritise the English language.

"In this era of globalisation, digitalisation, energy transition, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, our mastery of English must significantly improve to compete with other countries. However, this does not mean that we are neglecting our national language."

The NUTP, meanwhile, backed Anwar's call to exclude teachers who were negligent or had poor discipline from time-based promotion.

Aminuddin said allowing only performing teachers to be given time-based promotion would ensure that only quality teachers received a salary scale upgrade.

He said the approach taken by the Education Ministry was to only automatically promote ed-

ucators who showed excellent performance.

"The number of service years is not the only factor for promotion.

"It also depends on teachers' excellence and performance evaluation scores. We support what the prime minister said.

"We, too, do not want low-quality teachers to be promoted in the same way as those who work hard."

Meanwhile, Anwar said the government's commitment to raise civil servants' salaries starting this December would be fulfilled.

He said the Public Service Remuneration System (SSPA) to be announced soon was among the best ever implemented by the government.

"Two sides are criticising the SSPA. Economists say Anwar is impractical and merely seeking popularity.

"He doesn't have the funds and yet is going to increase it (salary), involving a substantial sum. The other side (the opposition) says it cannot be done.

"But the Public Service Department is working hard to find ways to make it a reality. I don't want anyone to be left behind."

He said teachers had waited too long for a raise, adding that it was not their fault the country had debts.

"It is not teachers who built houses in London or Australia. It is not teachers who have caused the country to have huge debts. So why should they sacrifice?"

On Labour Day, he announced a more than 13 per cent increase in civil servants' remuneration.

The increase, effective Dec 1, marked one of the highest in Malaysia's history, with the last revision occurring 12 years ago.