

Pioneer Project On Proposed Daily Nine Hours' Work For Teachers To Discontinue - DPM
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LABUAN, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- The pioneer project involving teachers having to work nine hours daily, which was proposed for implementation in Melaka, Sarawak, Pahang and Johor, will not continue.

In announcing this Saturday, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the decision was taken to enable the government to first study and evaluate the report of a study done on the project which was started in Melaka.

"We don't want this to continue as a pioneer project without the teachers themselves understanding the objectives. Perhaps many quarters do not understand the goals to the extent that they think it will only add burden to teachers' work and responsibilities.

"That is why I have informed the Public Service Department (PSD) director-general that the study not be continued," he said after meeting with Labuan Barisan Nasional leaders at the VIP room of Labuan Airport today.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, was asked to comment on the reactions of various quarters who disagree with the proposed pioneer project to continue as they feel it will only further burden teachers.

He said the programme was not rightly perceived as it was aimed at strengthening the teaching profession in the country, and the matter had been decided by a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government together with the PSD director-general and Education director-general.

"The crux of the matter is, how do we strengthen the teaching profession, especially from next year under the new service scheme offered by the prime minister, whereby one of the areas in public service to be given focus is the teaching profession?

"Although they have begun the pioneer project in Melaka Central involving 19 schools, they could already get a picture of what could be done to enhance the teaching profession.

"The teaching profession is special...is different from the other professions in the public service sector as they teach and guide, fully spending their working hours in the classroom, and they also have a role to play outside the classroom and within their villages or housing areas," he said.

Therefore, Muhyiddin said, the public especially teachers should not be worried as the government always took into consideration the views of all quarters on whether to continue with the project.

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