

Teacher Shortage: Give Government Chance To Implement Measures
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- The announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on efforts to solve the shortage of teachers in Chinese vernacular schools shows the government's seriousness in addressing the issue and the Education Ministry should be given the chance to implement the measures.

Deputy secretary-general of the Federation of Chinese Associations in Malaysia (Huazong) Dr Chin Yew Sing said Chinese educationists and associations should stop politicising the issue and allow the plan to be implemented without any hindrance.

"Now with the announcement by the DPM, the eight-point plan becomes official. It shows the seriousness of the government in solving the problem once and for all. Let's work together to implement it," he told Bernama, here, Thursday.

In a statement yesterday, Muhyiddin who is also Education Minister, announced various efforts under the eight-point plan to address the issues which included sending teachers who were not very proficient in Mandarin to teach in Chinese vernacular schools.

Muhyiddin said teachers with the minimum Chinese language qualification at the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) level would teach in grades A and B Chinese vernacular schools for Level One (Year One to Three), while teachers with the minimum SPM Chinese language qualification would teach in schools with a low enrolment.

Muhyiddin also announced long-term initiatives, including the Teacher Training Division and teacher training institutes drafting the Add-Option Intervention Programme to train teachers who did not have Bahasa Malaysia and English options and also those who have taught subjects other than the Chinese language for more than five years.

The training will be conducted by the end of this year so that the teaching and learning process in schools will not be disrupted while 105 graduate teachers with SPM Chinese language qualification will be posted to these schools.

Chin, who is also a member of the special committee chaired by Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong to address the teacher shortage problem in Chinese schools, said the announcement by Muhyiddin was the result of consultations with various stakeholders.

"This is a big step forward. Let's focus on efforts to improve the quality of education in all schools and be receptive to the short- and long-term solutions that have been agreed upon," he added.

Gerakan education bureau chairman Lau Chin Hoon hoped the announcement could help dispel doubts and scepticism of some quarters of the government's seriousness in solving the problem.

"Let's give this plan a chance to be implemented in full. We can't have the issues dragging

on forever," he said.

MCA Youth education bureau chairman Chong Sin Woon said the cooperation of all stakeholders had contributed towards the solution plan and it was only fair that those concerned to give the Education Ministry the chance to implement it.

"The plan announced by the Education Minister, complete with timetable to help resolve the problem, is pragmatic and sincere. However, its objective will only be achieved if all parties give their full cooperation.

"I urge those who are really concerned about the problem to work together to implement the plan. It should not be a political issue anymore," he said.

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