

Teachers snub Muhyiddin's promise to re-examine school-based assessment system
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The Education Ministry's decision to re-examine the school-based assessment (SBA) system is mere lip service, said a teachers' pressure group.

They insist they will proceed with its planned demonstration later this month.

Suara Guru Masyarakat Malaysia spokesperson Mohd Nor Izzat Mohd Johari said the demonstration in Putrajaya on February 22 would proceed, ignoring Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's promise to study the efficacy of SBA.

"We do not want Putrajaya to re-examine the SBA. We want it abolished," Nor Izzat told The Malaysian Insider today, adding that the pressure group will heighten its campaign.

"We will heighten our campaign now to urge the government to abolish it, or we will proceed with the demonstration."

The group has been pressuring Putrajaya to end the three-year-old system before it was used on Form Three students this year.

SGMM alleged that SBA was not beneficial but had only added to teachers' workload.

Yesterday, Muhyiddin, who is also the deputy prime minister, announced that SBA would be studied after receiving negative feedback from teachers.

"The SBA will be relooked again as the ministry wants to implement the programme efficiently to improve the education system," Muhyiddin had said.

The pressure group, however, is not convinced.

"We do not want the deputy prime minister to issue such statements, without knowing the real issue. just to stop us from demonstrating. He should not offer us just lip service," said Nor Izzat.

It was reported earlier that SGMM hoped to attract about 200 teachers to join in what would be one of the rarest public shows of discontent by civil servants towards the government.

This is despite repeated assurances from Putrajaya that the SBA was necessary as part of reforms to the national education system and that kinks in the system would be worked out by April.

However, Nor Izzat said that he does not expect many teachers to attend the demonstration as most civil servants were afraid of voicing their opinions.

"We are teachers and tied to the bureaucratic system that exist in the Malaysian government.

"This means that many teachers are still scared. So it is impossible to expect teachers who have been closed up for so long to suddenly be open to this... So if I can get more than 10 people, it is good enough to make it symbolic," he added.

The SBA was implemented in 2011 starting with Form One students. It is part of Putrajaya's efforts to produce more well-rounded students instead of those who purely excel in studies.

There are no annual exams under SBA. Each day, teachers grade pupils on a subject based on a six-band spectrum starting from band one "understand" (the lowest) to band six "exemplary" (the highest).

The data has to be entered each day into a centralised computer system. – February 12, 2014.

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