

## **Muhyiddin should revoke teacher's transfer order, says DAP**

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**OLEH THE MALAYSIA INSIDER**

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (pic) should take immediate action to revoke the transfer order issued to teacher Mohd Nor Izzat Mohd Johari, who had spearheaded a protest against the school-based assessment (SBA) system, DAP said.

Its adviser Lim Kit Siang said although Muhyiddin - who is also Education Minister - had denied that he had a hand in the transfer order, he had not done anything to "countermand or revoke the mean, petty and punitive directive" issued to Nor Izzat.

"What has Muhyiddin done in the past week to countermand Nor Izzat's punitive transfer?"

"I have been informed that Muhyiddin has done nothing and Nor Izzat's 24-hour transfer directive has not been countermanded," Lim said in a statement today.

Nor Izzat, who heads the Suara Guru Masyarakat Malaysia (SGMM), received a 24-hour transfer order last week to a rural school some 80km away from his previous school in Jerantut, Pahang.

The sudden transfer is believed to be over Nor Izzat's vocal criticism of the SBA system and is seen as an attempt to clamp down on SGMM's protest last weekend.

Lim, who is Gelang Patah MP, said while Putrajaya, under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, prides itself on its efficiency and "People First, Performance Now" slogan, nothing has been done to help Nor Izzat in this matter.

"Instead of thanking Nor Izzat for his contribution in forcing the ministry to face up to the crisis faced by teachers, as a result of the dismally conceived implementation of the SBA, Muhyiddin is allowing the 'Little Napoleons' in the education department a free hand to penalise Nor Izzat and other teachers for their courage and conviction in speaking up about the SBA weaknesses," he added.

Following SGMM's protest last week, the ministry announced that the SBA has been put on hold until it is reviewed and amendments made to it.

Education Minister II Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said that the ministry had decided to postpone its implementation for improvements to be done, adding that they would go on with the SBA system as this was what "the people wanted".

"Nor Izzat and others who have stood their ground to point out the weaknesses in the SBA system had performed an important national service and should be commended and rewarded for their conviction and tenacity to act in the interest of the teachers and more important, the students," Lim said.

"It has been suggested that Nor Izzat should be conferred the 'Tokoh Cikgu' for the Year 2014. Muhyiddin should give this proposal serious consideration," he added.

The Malaysian Insider had earlier reported that teachers and school administrators, who found it hard to cope with the SBA to track pupils' performances, had fallen back on examinations.

This has led to a situation where many schools have two systems. On the surface is the SBA, which is done to please officials in Putrajaya, but beneath that is the old annual examination system, SGMM said.

The examination system is being implemented by individual schools without the knowledge of Putrajaya.

Using two systems, SGMM said, was causing a lot of strain on teachers and school officials.

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