

Education ministry reserves 30% teacher intake quota for Sarawakians – Bernama
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The Education Ministry has decided that 30% of all new teacher intake quota will be reserved for Sarawakians starting this year, Sarawak Welfare, Women and Family Development minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah (pic) said.

She said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also Education Minister, had announced this during a dialogue session with the state education fraternity last February 12 at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCCK).

"Earlier on, the state has been very concerned about the high percentage of non-local new teachers being posted to Sarawak, particularly this year with locals comprising only 624 (25.4%) out of 2,454 new teachers.

"This was then brought to the attention of Muhyiddin during the National Education Committee Meeting on February 9, this year," she said when winding up the debate on the motion of thanks on the Yang diPertua Negeri's address for her ministry at the state legislative assembly sitting in Kuching today.

She said to-date, out of 42,627 teachers serving in the state, 32,402 (76%) were locals while 9,440 (22.15%) were from the peninsular while another 785 (1.84%) were from Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan.

This distribution, according to her, was healthy as local students would be taught not only by local teachers but those coming from other states as well as from outside the country.

"They will benefit from the different experiences of these teachers who come from different education and socio-culture backgrounds," she said.

On a related issue, Fatimah said all expenses pertaining to the establishment of Community Learning Centre (CLC) to educate children of Indonesian plantation workers in the state would be the sole responsibility of the Indonesian government and the relevant plantation companies.

This matter, she said, had been agreed upon by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Indonesian president Joko Widodo recently.

On another pressing issue, Fatimah disclosed that Sarawak had the second highest record of teenage pregnancy in the whole country.

Statistics from the Sarawak Health Department 2014 indicated that Sarawak had 3,401 cases out of 16,787 cases for Malaysia, she said.

The national average is 24.2% and the state at 35.5%.

"If this is not dealt with immediately, it can lead to the destruction of the family institution and all kinds of social problems," she said, adding that various initiatives, carried out by the various government departments and agencies were now in place to deal with it. – Bernama, April 28, 2015.

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