

Proposal To Allow Group A Teachers Join Politics Gets Mixed Response

KUALA LUMPUR, March 29 (Bernama) -- The proposal by Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein to allow group A teachers to be involved in politics has met mixed response from various quarters.

Some were all for it while others were against the idea fearing it would affect teaching and students as some teachers might be influenced by the opposition.

National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP) president Hashim Adnan welcomed the proposal, as it would allow more professionals to be directly involved in politics.

"If possible, let it be only for teachers and not group A officers as it can lead to problems," he told Bernama here, Sunday.

Hashim did not deny the risks involved and proposed that a clear guideline be issued on the matter.

Peninsular Malay Students Federation (GPMS) secretary Mohd Nardin Awang also supported Hishammuddin's proposal saying it was good for teachers.

"Teachers had played an important role in the history of Umno as they have an influence on the people's thinking.

"It just needs a change as presently, teachers are not allowed to be actively involved in politics," he said.

Ex-Education Officers Association information officer Abdul Karim Abdullah disagreed with Hishammuddin's proposal as it would only create problems.

"I am worried that teachers will lose focus if allowed to join politics. Education nowadays is different from the past.

"Moreover, we don't know whether the teachers are pro-government or anti-government and this will make students victims," he said.

Abdul Karim wanted the proposal studied and discussed with the grassroots, as it was not a trivial matter.

Hishammuddin made the proposal when winding up debate on education at the Umno general assembly yesterday.

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