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Palestine Solidarity Week to go on, says Education Minister

By Hakim Mahari, AMALIA AZMI - November 2, 2023 @ 12:54pm



Education minister Fadhlina Sidek, said this when she stressed that the ministry would not allow irresponsible quarters creating a negative perception by politicising and reducing the programme into mere polemics. NSTP/ASWADI ALIAS

KUALA LUMPUR: The Education Ministry is standing by its decision to continue organising the Palestine Solidarity Week at schools and public education institutions despite mixed views and opinions over the implementation of the programme.

Its minister, Fadhlina Sidek, said this when she stressed that the ministry would not allow irresponsible quarters creating a negative perception by politicising and reducing the programme into mere polemics.

She also provided her assurance that there was nothing wrong with the guidelines for organising the programme in schools.

"Actually, there are no issues with the guidelines. It is meant for the schools' administrators and to be implemented within the educational community only.

"The controversy (surrounding the programme) arose because it was politicized and interfered with by external parties.

"The message is clear, and it takes into account the students' understanding level. Schools have their dynamics, and teachers are responsible for conveying the message appropriately," she told reporters after attending the launching of the Palestine Solidarity Week at SMK Dato Ahmad Razali, Ampang, today.

It was previously reported that an infographic on the guidelines for organising the programme in schools sparked online debate. It also received criticism from social media users for potential bias and appeasement of certain parties.

Fadhlina said the ministry is responsible for instilling the message of humanity through education.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that the message of humanity reaches our students. I will not allow anyone whoever attempts to divert or slander this issue.

"This programme planning and implementation have included administrative support and interventions in case any issues arise at the ministry level.

"Our goal is clear: to ensure that the message of peace, love, and humanity reaches everyone, especially in the education process," she said.