

IPOH, Tues: The Education Ministry has been allocated RM45.56 million this year to provide teachers with proper and adequate training in various skills.

Its minister, Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, said today the allocation is more than double that of last year, and the training will equip teachers with leadership qualities, community values and professionalism.

The increased allocation shows the government's com-

mitment towards increasing teachers' prestige, knowledge and skills.

The ministry has also increased the academic qualifications of teachers through its graduate and doctorate programmes, and 549 teachers were given approval for such programmes this year, he said.

Musa was speaking at the 29th national-level Teachers Day celebration themed *Together to Strengthen the Teaching Profession*, which

was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the state secretariat here.

To increase the nation's educational quality, the government will also provide incentives to excellent teachers.

Under the scheme, teachers who show excellence are upgraded, and so far, this has involved 1,366 of them nationwide, he said.

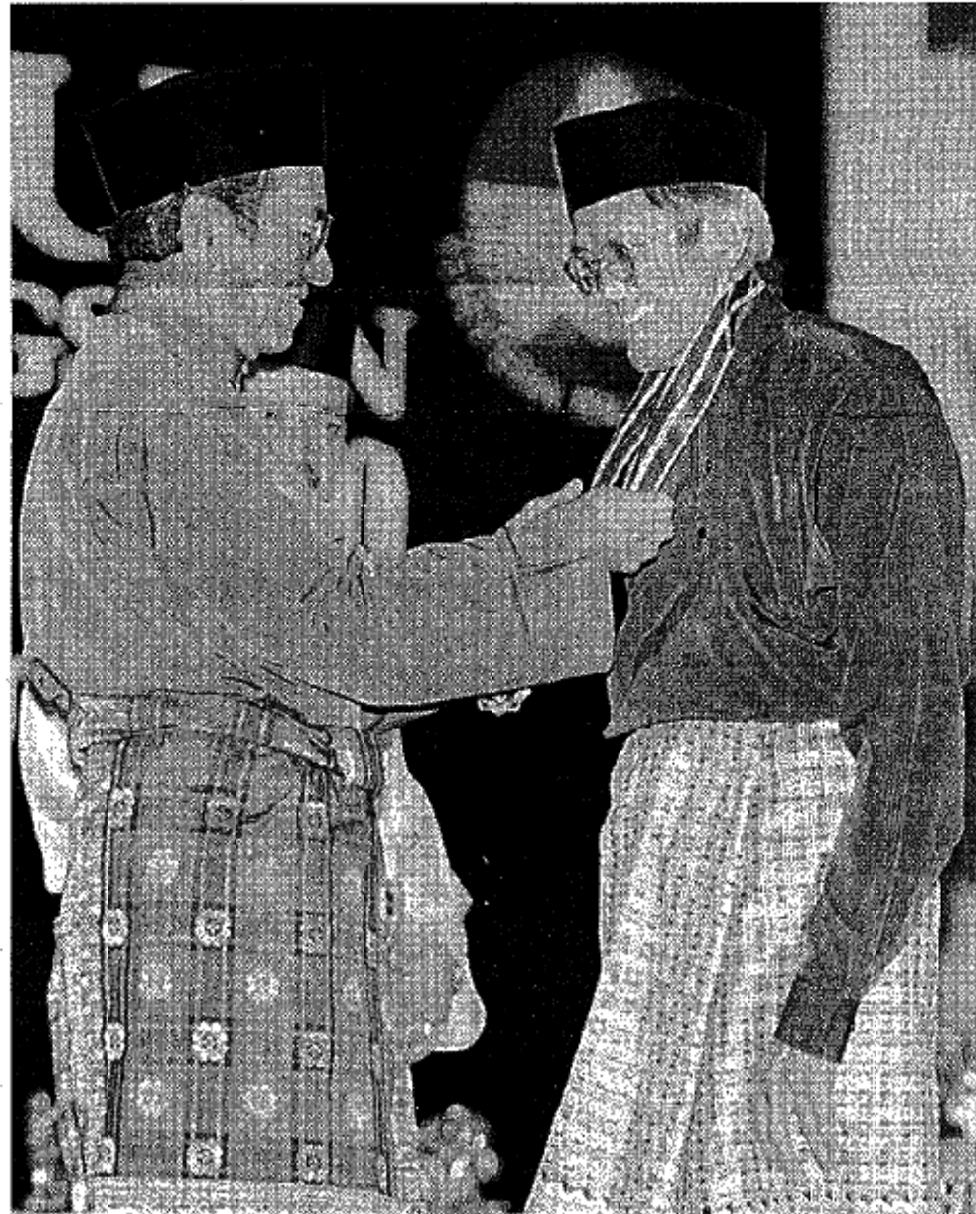
Long-serving teachers, under the DG3 and DGA6 categories, will also be upgrad-

ed based on their years of service under the "time-based promotion" scheme.

About 3,550 graduate teachers and 6,745 diploma-level teachers have been upgraded under the "time-based promotion" scheme so far.

On teachers' welfare, Musa said the government has allocated RM430 million for them to build homes in towns and rural areas under the 7th Malaysia Plan and the ministry plans to seek increased allocations under the 6MP.

Five former teachers get Tokoh Guru awards



Mahathir presenting the Tokoh Guru award to Ghani from Sabah yesterday. — SUNPIX

IPOH, Tues: Five former teachers received their Tokoh Guru awards from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

They include former inspector of schools Nik Faizah Mustapha, the first woman to hold the post.

She is now a member of the Education Service Commission.

The others are Malacca's Tokoh Guru 1999 Tawi Yaakub, Penang's Tokoh Guru 1999 Cheong Yong Kwong, Sabah's Tokoh Guru Abdul Ghani Wahab and Inti College's English language lecturer Dr Seenivasagam Muthukumar Ponniah.

Abdul Rashid Abdul Latif, 44, received the Guru Cemerlang 2000 special educational award.

He is the coordinator of special classes for children with learning disability at SK Taman Koperasi Polis 2, Kuala Lumpur.

He successfully introduced various innovative methods for the educational improvement of disabled students at the school, including therapy through horse riding, swimming and cycling.

The Guru Inovatif 2000 went to Rosni Abdullah of SK Anak-Anak Angkatan Tentera in Tok Jalai, Jitra, for her choral speaking programme.

SM Tanjung Pauh, Jitra, won the Sekolah Harapan Negara 2000 award in the rural secondary school category while SK Tok Jiring, Kuala Terengganu, won in the rural primary school category.

SM St Joseph, Kuching, won in the urban secondary school category while SK Sungai Rokam, Ipoh, won the award in the urban primary school category.