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Najib-English

NAJIB STRESSES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MASTERING ENGLISH

TAIPING, June 25 (Bernama) -- There are some students in the country who regard English only as their third language and others who feel they need not learn the language, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

Urging teachers to correct the misconception, he said mastering English was important especially in realising Malaysia's dream of becoming an industrialised nation by 2020.

"If the people, especially students are not serious in mastering the language, the country's development will be affected," he said when launching the "Self-Access Learning" programme at SRK Kamunting near here.

Najib, however, added that the people need not fear that the drive to achieve excellence in English would affect the position of Bahasa Melayu.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had repeatedly stated that the policy of stepping up the usage of English among Malaysians was part of the move to develop the national language because English was needed to bring progress to the people, especially Bumiputeras.

The use of English to bring progress to the race cannot be avoided because present times require the people to equip themselves with knowledge especially in the field of science and technology, said Najib.

"We also cannot be satisfied with the current success, and efforts must be taken to produce quality students with high level thinking skills," he said.

This is to ensure that the coming generation is able to cope with the information explosion and the increasingly sophisticated technological development, he added.

On the Self-Access Learning programme, Najib said it is aimed at encouraging students to learn English according to their abilities in relation to any skill or subject matter of their choice.

The trial project, launched in 152 primary schools nationwide, has shown an improvement in English usage among participating students, especially in rural areas, he said.

Two schools in Selangor have also introduced the programme for other subjects such as Bahasa Melayu and mathematics. -- BERNAMA.

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