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Najib-Strategy

NEW STRATEGY PACKAGE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

JOHOR BAHRU, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- The Education Ministry is preparing a new strategy package to increase the number of students in the science and technical education stream at secondary school level.

The minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the package involved a review of the curriculum, time allocated for science education, laboratory facilities, teaching method and prospects in that field.

A paper on the package once completed would be submitted to the Cabinet for approval, he said after launching a series of career education books here.

Najib said at present science stream students were looked upon as an elite group and it was the ministry's aspiration to also have mediocre students taking up pure science and additional mathematics.

"We want to correct the negative trend. In the 1970s the trend was one of science and technology and in the 80s it was one of arts and humanities and we now want to revert to the science trend," he said.

Najib said at present too many students were joining the arts stream and steps were being taken to have a balance in the situation.

Last year, only 21 per cent of the total number of secondary school students in the country took pure science.

"At present only the clever students took pure science. We want the majority of the students to feel at ease and take up science subjects," he said.

Najib said a comprehensive paper on the strategy was nearly ready with the target being at least 60 per cent of students taking up science and technical subjects.

This change was in line with the national education philosophy and Vision 2020 of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said.

Last year, the ministry had implemented its technical action plan to change the status of vocational schools to that of technical schools.

Najib also said he would make a statement on Friday pertaining to the promotion of Standard Three pupils to Standard Five following the Penilaian Tahap Satu (PTS) examination.

This was a double promotion based on the pupils' capabilities, he added. -- BERNAMA

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