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Teachers, pupils urged to help cut expenditure

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PEKAN, Sun. - Teachers and students have been urged to help the Government overcome the current economic problems by minimising their schools' expenditure.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that a circular on this had been recently issued to all schools asking them to plan their spending so as to avoid any unnecessary expenditure.

"Schools can do their part towards helping to reduce management and administrative costs by avoiding unnecessary use of water, electricity, telephones and even paper," he said.

Najib said this after a meet-the-people session at Sekolah Kebangsaan Pahang Tua here today.

"With the weaker ringgit and the current economic problems facing the country, schools should take this matter seriously and work together with other Malaysians to solve it."

He added that the Government and the nation were confident of the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in tackling the country's economic problems.

"Malaysia has grown from an agricultural-based nation to an industrialised one and is now making preparations to venture into information technology.

"The current economic problems and the drop in the ringgit has nothing to do with the development of the country. Furthermore, the measures taken by Dr Mahathir in overcoming this problem has amazed the world."

He also urged the public not to be misled by rumours regarding the ability of the Government and its leaders. "We must be united in supporting them to tackle the economic problems."

"The political stability in our country is very important as it contributes to the development of our nation and also in facing future challenges."

Earlier, Najib called on youths in Felda schemes to help the Government overcome the shortfall in the country's workforce.

"Most school-leavers in the Felda settlements prefer to spend their time loafing when they can work and not only earn a living for themselves and their families but also help the Government reduce the number of foreign workers.

"There are about 1.7 million foreign workers in the country and with a little effort from the people we will not only help stem the outflow of the ringgit to other countries but also overcome the labour problem."

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