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Additional RM4.5b set aside for education

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Education Ministry has been allocated an additional RM4.5 billion under the Seventh Malaysia Plan, Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

The RM4.5 billion is part of an additional RM22 billion in public spending over the original Plan ceiling of RM67.5 billion to stimulate the economy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced this on Thursday at the Dewan Rakyat when tabling the mid-term review of the Plan.

Najib said this clearly showed that the Government continued to place priority on education.

"The allocation will be utilised to further the Ministry's development plans, which includes increasing places for higher education in the country," Najib said at the opening of the Cheras Umno divisional delegates meeting at Menara PGRM.

He said, for instance, the number of matriculation places for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia and SPMV holders at public universities is 41,000 for the coming academic session, a 15 per cent increase from last year.

Najib added that the establishment of private universities in the country was a further testimony on the Government's seriousness in providing sufficient places for Malaysians to pursue higher education.

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