

08 JUN 1999
Najib-Smart
SMART SCHOOL PROGRAMME TO BEGIN BY YEAR END

MELAKA, June 8 (Bernama) -- The smart school programme will be implemented in 90 selected schools throughout the country by the end of this year after the Education Ministry has signed an agreement with a consortium picked for the project.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the agreement would be signed next month in Cyberjaya in conjunction with the International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to witness the signing.

"We will begin the programme with the four core subjects of Bahasa Malaysia, English, Mathematics and Science, and a lot of software will be developed," he told reporters after briefing more than 1,000 teachers and education service officers in Melaka at the Auditorium Al Azim here today.

Najib said the cost of the project and the consortium would be announced later.

He said supply of equipment to the schools would begin after the agreement was signed, but the development of software would take some time.

"What is special is that we will have a school management concept to be incorporated through the package, and will have an integrated model not found in other countries," he said.

Najib said a teaching force of more than 3,000 would be required for the development of smart schools.

The students of these schools were prepared for a new era of education based on the multimedia concept, he said.

He also said the Matriculation College in Alor Gajah near here would receive its first batch of 1,000 students on June 20 this year.

The RM100 million college, built on a 35-hectare site by Kumpulan Maju, has 40 science laboratories and is the most modern of its kind in the country.

Three more matriculation colleges being built in Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan; Pongsu Seribu, Pulau Pinang and Arau, Perlis can accommodate 10,000 students when they are completed by the end of this year.

In his speech, Najib stressed the need for teachers to be together with the government for the sake of students' future.

"Let's pool resources and share a vision to bring our new generations to greater heights," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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