

PM to Indians: Walk with me, I've kept my promises
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By Nigel Aw

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today called on the Indian community to walk with him as his administration has proven that it can deliver.

Touting the government's record of spending about RM440 million since 2009 to upgrade Tamil schools, Najib said the government has met its pledge to ensure quality education for the community.

"The government has promised this in 2009 and now, nearly three years later, I would like to categorically state that we have fulfilled our promise.

"The proof is in nearly 400 Tamil schools around the country where we have seen real improvement on the ground," at the 30th anniversary celebration of the education NGO Sri Murugan Centre in Petaling Jaya.

Najib adds that this move has also seen a 47 percent rise in straight-A students in Tamil schools last year.

"If I have fulfilled the promise, if the government has fulfilled the promise, imagine what we can do with five more years for the Indian community," he told the more than 3,000 people at the event.

Brandishing his administration's performance further, Najib said the venue where they stood, SJK(T) Vivekananda had also benefited from the funds - RM3.3 million of which was used to construct its new blocks.

'Don't let me walk alone'

The premier adds that this is not an election ploy as the government has spent the last three years delivering and will continue to do so.

"I make this commitment (but) as your prime minister I cannot do this alone, I cannot walk this journey alone, I must walk with all of you to make this journey and to achieve what we set out to do...," he said.

Najib also announced an addition to the existing six Tamil schools which will be built under the budget 2012, the new SJK(T) Tan Sri Manickavasagam will be established in Taman PJS1.

The country's top 100 first class honours Indian students in public universities, he said, will also be awarded full scholarship to further their studies at public universities.

The increasing trust of the Indian community towards, Najib adds, is a direct result of the government's sincere efforts to help them.

"We will build on this new beginning and we will ride into the following chapters with an increasingly strong relationship with hope and trust in better times to come," he said.

Najib has been working hard in recent years to shore up support from the Indian community which mostly voted against BN during the 2008 general election.

Of late, he has urged the community to place their trust, often by using the Tamil term "nambikei", in him during his high profile visits to Hindu functions.

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