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Chinese schools here to stay, vows Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: The future of Chinese education will continue to be safeguarded.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, assuring that Chinese schools were here to stay, said it was not Barisan Nasional's policy to abolish national-type schools, as BN's principles were based on multiculturalism and multilingualism.

"That is why we must go back to our country's foundation, which is to work together to build trust between the communities in this country.

"If there are quarters that say we should abolish national-type Chinese schools and only have single-stream schools, that is not BN's policy.

"That was not decided by me, but by the country's forefathers," said Najib, drawing applause from the 2,300 delegates at MCA's 62nd annual general assembly at the party headquarters here yesterday.

Najib, who is also BN chairman, said Malaysia had achieved a lot and had become a source of envy for other countries.

Earlier, MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the party would not submit to any quarter demanding for the elimination of Chinese schools. Liow, who is also transport minister, said the multi-stream system had been in place since the formation of Malaysia and calls to abolish it were unacceptable.

"We have achieved a great deal of progress in the education sector through the multi-stream system.

"These accomplishments prove that the system is effective. We are against the destruction of this system."

Liow thanked Najib, who during his tenure as education minister removed Section 21(2) of the Education Act 1961, for ensuring the continuity of the development of Chinese schools.