

Newspaper	Malaysian Reserve
Date	31 March 2016

Najib: Low education major reason for cost of living pinch

Malaysian Reserve - 31/3/2016

Malaysians should plan their lives beyond SPM, says PM

by P PREM KUMAR

INADEQUATE educational qualification that leads to low financial capabilities is a major factor that causes the struggle among many Malaysians in coping with the rising cost of living.

Prime Minister (PM) Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak yesterday said that Malaysians should plan their lives beyond Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM).

"Without a degree, diploma or certified vocational training, we cannot get a job with a good salary package," Najib said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, replying to a supplementary question by Bagan Serai MP Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali.



Pic by Hussein Shaharuddin

We should think beyond the 11 years of schooling, says the prime minister

"We should think beyond the 11 years of schooling," Najib said.

He said the government aspires to produce more Malaysians with higher or additional qualifications, as that would ensure a brighter future, financially, for the people.

"When they have a higher educational qualification or

choose to become an entrepreneur, income would subsequently improve. This is what we must instill among the people so that they continuously explore opportunities to achieve higher qualification."

Answering the initial question from Pasir Mas MP Nik Mohamad Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz, Najib said the govern-

ment is aware of the concerns regarding the rising cost of living among Malaysians, especially the middle-income and low-income households.

The premier said the federal government maintains its caring approach as it gives importance on the people's wellbeing in all its development plans.

"Although Malaysia is facing a gloomy global economic scenario, we remain committed in enhancing people's lives and reducing the cost of living by implementing government's strategic plans and policies," he said.

Najib said the government is confident that various initiatives that have been taken to reduce the rising cost of living are showing positive results.

He added the government's short-term and long-term holistic approaches will also indirectly help to propel the domestic economic growth.