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# Help for underprivileged to pursue tertiary education

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**A BRIGHTER FUTURE:**  
PM launches programme to reach out to 150,000 school leavers

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has launched the Jelajah Pendidikan Bumiputera programme to offer 150,000 underprivileged school leavers a chance to pursue tertiary education.

The programme, a continuation of the Jelajah Destini Anak Bangsa 2014 and earlier programmes, is targeted at Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia and Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia leavers from underprivileged families, orphans, Felda settlers' children, farmers, fishermen and Orang Asli.

Ten institutions of higher learning and skills institutes are slated to be strategic partners of the programme. They are Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Kolej Poly-Tech Mara, National Agricultural Training Centre, National Youth Skills Institute, Giatmara, Mara High Skills College, Mara Skills Institute, community colleges and polytechnics.

In his speech during the programme's launch at SK Bandar Baru Kuala Selangor here, Najib said the target to reach 150,000 students could be achieved in a few years and the programme would empower them to escape poverty and succeed.

"We should not wait for people to come to us or knock on our doors.



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak** sharing a light moment with pupils of SK Bandar Baru Kuala Selangor at the launch of the Jelajah Pendidikan Bumiputera programme at the school in Kuala Selangor yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

We need to go to every corner of the country and as long as there is even one person who wants to study, the chance must be given to him or her.

"We will mobilise 500 young volunteers to go to rural, remote and poor areas to identify underprivileged students.

"What is the point of holding demonstrations or making declarations? This is the true citizens' declaration, and a meaningful one.

"We don't make declarations on paper but make one that can change the destiny of people through such programmes."

Najib said the programme had a 96 per cent success rate and it changed students' lives so that they could have a bright future.

"My biggest satisfaction is when I

see that those who were poor and destitute become successful."

Giving people access to education, Najib said, was vital if the country wanted to become a developed nation like South Korea and Japan.

"It is meaningless to have educational institutions if people do not have access to it. Thus, we need to ensure that education went beyond primary and secondary school."

The programme's committee chairman, Tan Sri Dr Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, said the first phase of the programme began in 2010 and was called Mengubah Destini Anak Bangsa.

"Within five years, 35,000 students enrolled in UiTM. Some 20,000 of them have entered the job market and some have become en-

trepreneurs," said Sahol, who is former UiTM vice-chancellor.

Najib also announced the setting up of a Rural Transformation Centre, a community college, a new school and a new district education office in the district.

He said RM3 million would be channelled to schools in the district to upgrade their wiring systems.

Present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, Kuala Selangor member of parliament Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim and Tanjung Karang member of parliament Datuk Seri Noh Omar.