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Six schools to get facelift

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DERELICT: Move shows govt's commitment to improve facilities, says PM

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DERELICT schools in the country will receive much needed facelifts and upgrades starting with six schools in Sarawak.

The six schools are SK Pulau Seduku in Sri Aman, SK Nanga Pua in Selangau, SK Kampung Tanam in Dalat, SK Kalok Pusa in Betong, and SMK Sebuyau and SK Abang Man in Simunjan.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced this yesterday after visiting SJK (T) Dengkil which was upgraded through the Industrialised Building System (IBS), which is deemed to be fast and cost-effective.

IBS is a construction process which utilises techniques, products, components or building systems involving prefabricated components and on-site installation.

Najib said the six schools would be upgraded through IBS to ensure a conducive learning environment



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak reading with **Usha Arjun, 8**, at SJK (T) Dengkil yesterday. With him are Health Minister **Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam** (left), Deputy Education Minister **P. Kamalanathan** (right) and school principal **M. Tamilsekaran** (second from left). Pic by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

for the students.

"This shows the government's commitment towards improving the country's education facilities," he said.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, who was present, said the ministry planned to begin remedial works for the six schools immediately.

He said the ministry's officers

would meet relevant stakeholders, including the schools' heads at the end of the week.

Mahdzir said with the IBS, the government would spend only about RM2 million each to repair and upgrade the six schools, compared with the conventional method which could cost up to RM5 million. He said the cost to repair and upgrade SJK (T) Dengkil through IBS

was about RML.6 million.

However, he said the use of IBS depended on the location, building structure and space availability.

"There are about 10,000 schools in the country. Our focus is on schools that need critical repairs and upgrades," he said.

On SJK (T) Dengkil, Najib said he was ecstatic to see the vision he had for the school being realised. It was

his second visit to the school since October last year.

During the first visit, Najib had listed a to-do list for the school, including wiring, floor repairs for its two blocks, mending its fences and refurbishing the canteen.

"The school has undergone a huge transformation in such a short time as it has taken only 40 days under IBS to complete the remedial works and upgrades," he said.

The list also spelled out upgrades for the school's drainage system, resource centre, roofing, library and science and meeting rooms.

The once-derelict school has since been transformed into a modern and conducive learning centre for 280 students and 24 teachers.

Najib expressed hope that better facilities would lead to improved performance in the education sector and among students.

In his blog yesterday, Najib said it was the government's priority to monitor the welfare of students. He said the Education Ministry would carry out auditing at government schools, including Tamil schools, to ensure a safe and conducive learning experience.

"The government is looking into the welfare of students, especially in their early stages, as they are the country's future leaders.

"I believe with these improvements, along with the teachers' dedication, we will see better achievements from this school (SKJ (T) Dengkil) in the future, *insyaallah*."