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RM30m hostel for street children

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UNIQUE SCHOOL:
PM praises
dedication of HM,
teachers in
educating the kids

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday visited Sekolah Bimbingan Jalinan Kasih, the only school in the country for street children, and approved a RM30 million allocation to build a hostel there.

He said the future of the children at the school, which is located in Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz, Kampung Baru, would be more assured with the presence of a hostel.

"The future of the children at this school is unique and challenging.

"As such, the government has decided to build a hostel for the school," he said.

SBJK provides free education to children aged four to 19. It was established as an initiative of the Education Ministry to provide access to education to street children in Kuala Lumpur.

Najib was impressed with the commitment shown by the school's principal, Zulkernai Fauzi, and the teachers in educating the children.

"They are doing something that goes beyond their scope of duties, for the sake of giving these children an education," he said.

The prime minister also praised the teachers for their efforts in seeking out street children and getting them admitted to the school.

In a speech earlier, Najib said the school, which has 143 children, was unique in Malaysia and was probably the only one of its kind in the



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, speaking to the pupils of Sekolah Bimbingan Jalinan Kasih in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. (Inset) Najib mingling with the locals at the Jalan Raja Alang Ramadan Bazaar in Kampung Baru yesterday. Pix by Saddam Yusoff and Bernama



world. He said the school helped these children receive a complete education so that they would have a brighter future.

He also advised the children to study hard and realise their dreams.

"I hope all of you will study hard to realise your ambitions. You have to study hard.

"Do not skip school.

"Just now, my wife (Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor) asked what you wanted to be when you grew up.

Some of you said you wanted to become doctors, bank officers, teachers and footballers. Some of you said you wanted to be the prime minister. Whatever your dreams and ambitions, you must study hard," he said.

At the event, Najib handed over Hari Raya Aidilfitri goodies to the children. He also announced the appointment of show host Datuk Aznil Nawawi as the icon and mentor of the school.

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