

PM PROPOSES SCHOOL FOR KIDS FROM HARDCORE POOR FAMILIES

It will comprise a science secondary school with boarding facilities

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THE government is planning to introduce a new type of school for students from hardcore poor families.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said its framework would encompass that of a science secondary school with boarding school facilities.

The proposed school, he said, was aimed at enabling the target group to have access to education, even if their examination results were less than encouraging.

"This (proposal to introduce a new type of school for the hardcore) will give them meaning and justice. Access and opportunities (need to be provided) equitably so that no group is left out.

"We have democratised the quality of education to enable ev-

eryone to have the right (to get an education).

"Right now, (all parties) are entitled.

"Only by name (they) are entitled, but schools in Manik Urai, Kelantan, Kapit in Sarawak, Penang and the Malay College Kuala Kangsar in Perak still have an imbalance," he said when asked about the education direction over the next few years during the "Temu Anwar" programme here yesterday.

Asked if the quota system would be abolished, he said the issue should be understood through the lens of the social contract history.

"Nevertheless, we are always ready to treat everyone fairly."

He acknowledged that there was a development gap between urban and rural schools, such as those in Manik Urai, Kelantan, and Kapit, Sarawak.

He said education was the best way for people to escape the poverty cycle, adding that it was a key step in elevating social mobility. He said a change was needed in the education sector to improve standards.

"To make this a success, we need full cooperation from students and teachers."