

**YBK A Strategic Partner In Eradicating Poverty - Najib  
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SHAH ALAM, March 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan (YBK) can become a strategic partner of the Federal Government in its efforts to eradicate poverty.

The Prime Minister said this was because the foundation had proven its capability as a non-governmental organisation that could provide various forms of aid to the poor, in terms of education, finance and social services, not only in Selangor but also in other states.

"It is because of YBK's proven track record that the Federal government continues to support foundation," he said when launching YBK's five-year transformation plan in conjunction with its 22nd anniversary here Tuesday.

Najib cited as an example the building of Universiti Teknologi MARA's campus in Jasin, Melaka, which is being undertaken by YBK.

On the foundation's five-year transformation plan, the prime minister said the programmes under it would make a major impact on the target groups.

Among the objectives of the plan is increasing the capacity at the YBK students hostel in Serendah to 1,250 students by 2016 as compared to 1,000 students now and also raising enrolment at YBK's training centre from 1,161 trainees to 9,111 trainees in the same period.

Najib said the biggest stumbling block YBK faced in achieving its objectives was when 191 hectares of its land was seized while another 324 hectares was caveated by the PKR-led Selangor government, resulting in it not being able to do anything on them.

He said during his visit to Selangor some time ago, a group of tenants at the PKNS Complex here had asked the Federal Government to take over the complex following moves by its management to raise rents by as much as 100 per cent.

At the function, Najib also witnessed the exchange of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between Akademi Kemahiran YBK (YBK Skills Academy) and MIGHT METEOR Advanced Manufacturing Sdn Bhd and Akademi Mutiara YBK Sdn Bhd with A.H. Razali Sdn Bhd, Manpower Addition Sdn Bhd, R.B.H Enterprise, Pancaran Asas Sdn Bhd, BBS Tas Con Enterprise Sdn Bhd and Zedcon Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd.

The prime minister also witnessed YBK's subsidiary, YBK Usahasama Sdn Bhd, receiving an offer letter for the provision of a RM31.9 million financial facility from Malaysia Building Society Bhd to bear part of the cost of building Universiti Teknologi MARA's branch campus in Jasin.

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