

**Special Conference Needed To Discuss Future Of Tamil Schools - PM  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- A special conference to discuss and formulate a new blueprint for the future of Tamil schools in the country must be convened, according to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the conference, which should involve Tamil school teachers, Parent-Teacher Associations and relevant non-governmental organisations, must discuss various aspects of the schools, including on whether remove classes were still needed at them.

"Other constraints faced by Tamil schools, including (shortage) of degree-holding teachers, design of the schools and school necessities, must also be discussed at the conference," he said when meeting with members of the Malaysia Tamil Schools Community at Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil Kinrara here Sunday.

Najib said resolutions arising from the conference could also be taken into consideration by the Education Ministry and the government to further develop the schools.

"The government is committed and sincere in developing Tamil schools, as well as other schools," said the prime minister, who also announced that the government had approved the construction of six more Tamil schools in Kedah, Perak, Selangor and Johor.

Three of the schools would be built in Selangor, namely in Taman Sentosa in Klang, Taman PJS1 in Petaling Jaya and Bandar Mahkota, and one each in Taman Keladi in Sungai Petani, Kedah, Heawood Estate in Sungai Siput, Perak and Bandar Sri Alam in Masai, Johor.

Najib said this was part of the government's recognition of the importance of Tamil schools for the Indian community in the country.

Apart from that, he said, the government was also giving attention to the situation in 15 Tamil schools reported to have less than 10 pupils each, to determine whether they should be relocated to other areas with higher population densities.

"This is one of the moves that will be taken by the government for the future of Tamil schools. What's important is that there exists close cooperation between the government, Tamil school teachers associations, Parent-Teacher Associations and the Indian community as a whole.

"We must take this as an integrated effort to achieve our common objectives," he said.

During the event, Najib also announced an allocation of RM3.5 million for Sekolah Kebangsaan Jenis Tamil Kinrara for the construction of its four-storey building.

Also present were MIC President Datuk G.Palanivel, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, MIC Deputy President and Human Resource Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, Malaysia's Special Ambassador to India and South Asia Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, PPP President Datuk M. Kayveas and Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister

Datuk Seri Noh Omar.

Over 3,000 members of the community attended the event, which was graced for the first time by the prime minister.

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