

Najib Praises Johor For Creative Approach In Building Religious Schools
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JOHOR BAHRU, March 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak praised the Johor state government for its creative approach in building religious schools in the state within a short space of time.

He said the method, that calls for close cooperation with the private sector and receiving funds from financial institutions, was most appropriate in view of the increasing number of parents wishing to send their children to the religious schools.

"This is more significant if we look at the normal method that takes quite a long time (to build religious schools), furthermore the number of pupils in the state has reached 220,000," he said.

Najib said this in his speech when opening the Sekolah Agama Taman Molek at Taman Molek, here.

The school, costing more than RM2 million, has eight classrooms and is capable of accommodating about 700 pupils who would begin their morning and afternoon school sessions in April.

The school is one of the 121 religious schools to be opened throughout the state by the year 2013 costing RM294 million.

The project was funded from a loan provided by an Islamic financial institution, Kuwait Finance House (Malaysia) Berhad (KFHMB), while construction work was carried out by Mysysnet Development Sdn Bhd.

Ninety-six schools under phase one to phase four would be completed this year while the rest would be built under phase five and are scheduled to be ready by October next year.

Responding to a reporter's question, Najib said the creative method used was subject to the viability factor in order to get loans from the financial institutions, priority values and the objective desired by the government.

He said that the federal government allocated RM100 million under the Education Ministry this year to make improvements on religious schools nationwide.

In addition, the per capita grant which had been delayed for five to six years had been revived where the government provides an allocation of RM95 million annually to finance religious schools.

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