

**Leaders Must Be Bold Enough To Depoliticise Education For People's Future - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Leaders at all levels must have the moral courage to depoliticise education and be able to make decisions that can ensure a better future for Malaysian children and the nation, and not merely for populist intentions, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today.

The prime minister said educational considerations were national considerations and not partisan considerations, "and our objective is to ensure that every Malaysian child is able to realise his or her God-given qualities".

He said as a responsible government, the Malaysian government had always tackled education issues above politics, whereby in 2012, the government allocated a significant sum of RM37 billion for education in the national budget.

"This financial commitment clearly shows that the government is very committed to making education a national key area.

"We are not just looking at the quantitative aspect but also qualitative, while ensuring that every ringgit collected from the taxpayers is used in the best possible way to ensure that the nation and people get value for money (in education)."

Najib said this in his speech when launching the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 Preliminary Report at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, here.

Najib said the era of the "government knows all and has the monopoly of wisdom" had ended, and now the government always realised the people's rising expectations and hopes for the effectiveness of the education policy and improvements to the national education system to face the challenges of the 21st century.

"Society is now more aware of the developments happening around the world. They therefore have high expectations from the education system, they hope for good returns, that is, their children becoming useful individuals," he said.

Najib said the government's hope was for each Malaysian child to have the same access to quality education regardless of their socio-economic status, ethnicity, physical ability or background.

"The government will continue to work at providing the best education system for everyone. This is our responsibility. With each passing decade since independence, we have seen incomparable challenges in the field of education.

"As a nation, we have succeeded in tackling the challenges faced. The early days after independence had seen how we tackled illiteracy followed by how we dealt with an agro-based economy and then, industrialisation," he said.

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