

**Najib: RM1.2 Billion To Provide Quality Pre-School Education**  
**Bernama**  
**September 28, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- A sum of RM1.2 billion will be allocated to various government agencies in the effort to provide quality pre-school education, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

The agencies include the Social Welfare Department, Education Ministry, Permata Negara and Department of National Unity and Integration which involve directly in providing pre-school education.

"In addition, RM380 million will be allocated to the Education Ministry for placement of kindergarten teachers," he said when tabling the 2013 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat, here, today.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said the government also proposed several incentives to ensure children receive proper care while nurturing positive mental development.

He said the incentives included RM10,000 launching grant to assist operators of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) private centres in opening new pre-schools of high quality.

About 1,000 new private ECCE centres would benefit from this initiative, he said.

Najib said employers would also be given a double deduction on the allowance or subsidies provided to the employees and expenses for the maintenance of childcare centres.

He said income tax exemption for five years and industrial building allowance at the rate of 10 per cent a year will be given to operators of pre-school and private childcare centres, as well as to operators of private pre-schools.

The prime minister also announced that the government would implement a pilot project for Taska OKU (pre-schools for disabled children) in six categories, namely Down's syndrome, autism, blind or partially sighted, hearing and speaking disabilities, physical disability and learning difficulties.

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