

Najib scores an 'A'
New Straits Times
22 October 2012

EDUCATION VOW: Delegates give PM top marks for pledge on vernacular education

KUALA LUMPUR: MCA leaders welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's pledge to ensure that Chinese education remains part of the country's education system.

Najib had in his speech at the 59th MCA annual general assembly reiterated that under Barisan Nasional, Chinese schools would never be in danger of being closed down or downgraded.

MCA Youth Education Bureau chairman Chong Sin Woon said Najib's efforts to look into the development and continuation of Chinese-medium schools was timely.

"While I applaud the prime minister for recognising vernacular schools as part of mainstream education, I also would like to appeal to the government to first relieve the schools' financial burden.

"From my discussions with Chinese educators, they ask for nothing but enough funds to keep these schools free from financial encumbrances.

"These schools have been given a new lease on life recently after the government announced a RM100 million allocation in the 2013 Budget."

Delegate Datuk Yee Shan Kon urged the government to engage Chinese education stakeholders to better understand their needs.

"I believe a majority of the Chinese education community would like to see the government recognise the Unified Education Certificate (UEC).

"If it does get recognised, it will prove that the nation's acceptance of Chinese education is complete."

Yee, who is Cameron Highlands division chairman, added that one of the best ways to regain the support of Chinese voters was to recognise UEC.

MCA central committee member Datuk Ti Lian Ker stressed that Najib held true to his mission to accommodate multiculturalism by recognising vernacular education.

Copyright © 2012 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/politics/najib-scores-an-a-1.160340>