

**BN Manifesto Continues To Ensure Tamil Schools Thrive - Academician
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) manifesto presented last Saturday, is committed to ensure national-type Tamil schools continue to thrive in the country.

Coordinator of the Action Plan for Future of Tamil Schools, Prof Dr N. S. Rajendran said the continuous special allocation was testimony that the government had not forsaken the Indian community and wanted to improve the infrastructure of Tamil schools nationwide.

"It is a very happy news as the PM (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak) has given a big assurance. For the community, such continuous improvement of Tamil schools is a positive move empowering schools to produce excellent students.

"With that, in another five years, most problems involving infrastructure and facilities faced by Tamil schools will be solved," he told Bernama when contacted Friday.

Rajendran was commenting on continuing special allocations to all types of schools, including Sekolah Kebangsaan, Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (SJKC), Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil (SKJT), Sekolah Agama Bantuan Kerajaan, Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM), Sekolah Berasrama Penuh and Mission Schools, as stated in the BN manifesto.

He said the government, under Najib's leadership, had allocated more than RM500 million to develop Tamil schools from 2009 to 2013, through its Special Plan packages.

He said since 2009, from that amount, the federal government had spent RM340 million on developing infrastructure for over 250 Tamil schools nationwide.

"The prime minister has also initiated the Tamil Schools Future Action Plan and, recently, the government approved the licence for seven new SJKT. Of that, one has been under construction since last year while the rest would be built later this year or early next year," he said.

On April 1, Najib approved another allocation of RM20 million to build or repair 13 fully-aided national-type Tamil schools nationwide.

In welcoming Najib's caring gesture with regard to Tamil schools, Batang Kali Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) chairman Datuk B. Omapparao praised the prime minister for bringing the much-needed transformation for Tamil schools in the country.

"The prime minister has made the right decision at the right time by forming the Action Plan for the Future of Tamil Schools since the conditions of Tamil schools are a major concern to the community.

"Now, we can breathe easy as the PM has resolved it, once and for all, by assisting to eradicate issues and improve the Tamil education for future generations to benefit," he said.

MIC Youth deputy chief V. Mugilan reminded the community to play its part by putting aside all differences in the best interest of Tamil schools, and support this initiative.

"Everyone in the community can come forward to share their views and suggestions. We have to do our part to safeguard our mother tongue and Tamil schools in Malaysia. We must work together with the Government to achieve this," he said.

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