

**Solid Support Of Parents, Local Community Vital For Success Of National Education - Najib
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PEKAN, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Saturday the undivided support and contribution of parents and the local community are critical factors for the success of national education.

These are important inputs to evaluate the success of a school, both in terms of the academic and co-curriculum aspects, in churning out high quality human capital, he said.

"If we assume that education is a strategic discipline of the country, we have to accept the fact that pupils, students and youths are important assets of the country able to generate national wealth.

"In fact, it is a factor of production that is of greater value than the produce of the land, and as such all attention must be focused on the country's education sector.

"This should be synergised collectively, comprehensively and beyond the national level," he said at the presentation of the Standard Six Assessment Test (UPSR) 2014 excellence awards for the Pekan parliamentary constituency at the Sultan Ahmad Shah Convention Hall in Pekan.

Also present was Pahang State Legislative Assembly Speaker, Datuk Ishak Muhamad.

Najib said if the benchmark for developed countries was used, the people in the country would be able to see the role of parents and community was very outstanding in ensuring their children received learning from the best educational institutions.

"For example in a developed country like the United States, the role of parents are very outstanding, as those with wealth do not bequeath property to their children or wife.

"On the contrary their generosity is in the form of endowment to educational institutions such as Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) so that these institutions become more developed," he said.

While at the normal level, he said parents or corporate leaders in the West who could not afford to be philanthropy put other efforts to send their children to play American Football sports. They were willing to stay back until the games finished so that their children could attain their co-curricular standards and represent the institutions.

"If their children need equipment like Ipad and computer they also do not hesitate to buy these equipment which enable to stimulate their children to think and source the latest information and this a good benchmark.

"So not everything in the West is bad, there are some things that we can follow and this commitment of theirs has made institutions like Harvard and MIT being admired all over the world," Najib said.

Hence, he urged parents in the country to emulate such efforts by at least joining the parents and teachers associations (PTA) or other activities as a support to the schools attended by their children.

Najib said in this way, it showed that parents were more concerned with their children's development and, thus, they could grow up with love and become successful people who generated big income in time to come.

At the function, Najib presented cash contribution to 271 students who obtained 5As in UPSR 2014 results from 18 schools in the Pekan parliamentary constituency.

Meanwhile when officiating the opening of Hotel Ancasa Royale Pekan, the prime minister said the construction of the seven-storey hotel with 133 rooms was the result of tourism and economic transformation in the district.

"At one time previously, it is probably difficult to imagine that this town can have a four-star luxury hotel like this but UDA Holdings Berhad built it here because of its development and transformation.

"The decision to build this hotel is based on four factors, namely Pekan as the royal town, tourist destination, automotive town and educational town," he said.

He regarded the hotel as Pekan's new icon and as Finance Minister, he hoped UDA Holdings would continued to be in the forefront of the country's property sector.

Also present at the function were Pahang Tourism and Culture Committee chairman Datuk Seri Sharkar Shamsuddin and UDA Holdings chairman Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani.

Hotel Ancasa Royale is the fifth hotel of the Ancasa Hotel & Resort chain to be established under the UDA Ancasa Sdn Bhd's brand.

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