

**Najib wants Islamic religious schools to increase academic focus**  
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today the Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP) should make available teachers to teach academic subjects at financially lacking private "tahfiz" (Islamic religious) schools in Kuala Lumpur.

The prime minister said these schools needed assistance because the lack of finance was one reason they were unable to engage teachers of academic subjects.

He said he had discussed the matter with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, who is also chairman of MAIWP, so that the students could learn other subjects besides being enriched with religious knowledge.

"These students are intelligent. If they can memorise the Quran, they can also become science scholars or excel in other professions," he said at the presentation of MAIWP Aidilfitri contributions to the poor at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park in Serdang, Selangor today.

Najib said educating the students in a variety of subjects would enable them to excel in their careers and help fellow Muslims.

He said that besides developing the faith and morals of these students, it was equally important to teach them academic subjects because knowledge was key to strengthen Muslims.

At the event, Najib handed over MAIWP Aidilfitri contributions totalling RM18.27 million to 53,800 poor people from the Federal Territory. – Bernama, July 2, 2015.

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