

**Chinese schools here to stay, says Najib**  
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**By Eileen Ng**

Chinese schools are here to stay, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, amid calls from certain groups for vernacular schools to be abolished in favour of a single stream education system.

"There are voices that said we should abolish SJKC and create a single-stream education system. That is not Barisan Nasional policy," he said, referring to Chinese schools by their Malay acronym.

"Barisan Nasional stands for policies that are based on multiculturalism, multi-lingualism, (and which are) ethnic and multi-religious. This was decided by our forefathers," he said at MCA's 62nd annual general assembly in Kuala Lumpur today.

Earlier, MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, vowed that his party, a senior member of the ruling BN pact, would not allow Chinese schools to be shut down.

"Malicious calls to eliminate this system are unacceptable as this will only serve to undermine the foundation of our nation's education system.

"MCA stands firm and will not submit to any party calling for the elimination of Chinese schools. The topic of eliminating SJKCs must not arise, let alone be questioned by any quarters," Liow said.

At the September 16 "red shirt" rally, some protesters were seen carrying racially charged banners bearing the words "Hapuskan SJKC" (abolish Chinese schools). – October 11, 2015.

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