

Najib: Blueprint for Indian community not empty talk
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PM says the Malaysian Indian Blueprint is a platform to achieve stronger leadership of the Indian community.

DENGKIL: The Malaysian Indian Blueprint (MIB) is not a fantasy or empty talk but a comprehensive plan for the advancement of the Malaysian Indian community, says Najib Razak.

The prime minister said his administration would ensure that the blueprint delivered the goods and in doing so reinforce the community's faith in the government.

"This is not a pie-in-the-sky plan or 'vetti pecchi (the same in Tamil) but the first realistic blueprint for the wellbeing of the Indian community.

"The MIB is a good platform to achieve a stronger and more unified leadership of the Indian community," he said at a plaque signing ceremony and launching of the "200 Years of Tamil Education in Malaysia" book at SJKT Taman Permata here today.

Also present were Education Minister Mahdzir Khalid, MIC president and Health Minister Dr S Subramaniam and Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Noh Omar.

On April 23, Najib launched the MIB as an official government document for the development of the Indian community in the country for the next 10 years.

Adding that the Indian community could grow stronger with good leadership, Najib said he did not want the community to be too fragmented in its representation.

"Once you are unified, once you have a leadership that transcends small groups or groupings, then I'm confident the Indian community can be a lot stronger in the future. There must be efforts to unify the Indian community," he said.

Commenting on the development of national-type Tamil schools (SJKTs), Najib said a total of RM900 million had been allocated for the schools nationwide since he took over the country's leadership in 2009.

"I did this because I believe this is how it should be done, to be fair to all. It does not stop there, we will continue to increase the number of SJKTs.

“In 2013, we promised to build six new SJKTs, bringing the total to 530 schools.

“Four schools are in the process of being constructed, one will be opened next month, and another at the end of the year. We have upheld all the government’s promises,” he said.

Najib said he also wanted to see each SJKT equipped with a kindergarten, and had approved the allocation for an additional 50 kindergartens this year.

The prime minister also encouraged the Indian community to continue to achieve excellence in education, saying there was no better method to alter the fortunes of a community.

“If a person is given knowledge and educated with moral values, when he or she becomes successful, they will also uplift the family and can help their parents, while other family members will also benefit,” he said.

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