

Schools to get RM200m aid from next week

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PUTRAJAYA: Some 1,870 government-aided schools will benefit from the additional RM200 million allocated under the RM7 billion stimulus package for next year.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, at a special meeting recently, directed that the allocation be distributed fairly among the schools, particularly those deemed to be unsafe, old or which had not received any allocation from the government.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein yesterday said Najib, who is

also finance minister, wanted the allocation to give optimum benefit to targeted schools, which also included Chinese and Tamil schools.

Hishammuddin said the allocation would be distributed from next week when the new school term begins.

"This financial aid will be channelled consistently and in stages to all the schools throughout next year.

"To prove the government's commitment in the development and progress of such schools, the deputy prime minister has agreed to be present at functions where he would give away the money to the schools."

About RM50 million has been set aside for each category of school — religious, missionary, Chinese and Tamil.

Other primary and secondary schools aided by the government will also receive the same amount.

About 400 missionary schools, 888 Chinese schools, 371 Tamil schools, 134 primary and secondary schools, and 78 religious schools would benefit from the allocation.

The government had allocated RM100 million for government-aided schools under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

With the additional RM200 million and another RM50 million set aside under the

Mid-Term Review, Hishammuddin said the total allocation now stood at RM350 million.

"This is the highest allocation ever set aside for government-aided schools throughout the implementation of the Malaysia Plans," Hishammuddin said.

Under the Eighth Malaysia Plan, only RM50 million was set aside for government-aided schools.

Hishammuddin said the additional allocation was in line with the government's strategy to assist schools of various mediums as outlined under the Education Development Master Plan 2006-2010.

Types of schools	Number to benefit from government funding
Missionary	400
Chinese	888
Tamil	371
Primary & secondary	134
Religious	78

