

[The Star Online](#) > Nation

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Community Chest dishes out RM38.3mil to 196 vernacular, mission schools

By REGINA LEE



Najib poses with representatives of the recipient schools on Thursday

AMPANG: Independent charitable organization Community Chest has dished out RM38.3mil to 196 Chinese, Tamil and missionary schools so far this year.

One of the most successful private sector initiative to raise funds for education so far, this latest effort brings their total allocation to RM100.2mil handed out to 302 such schools around the country since its launch in September last year.

"The Education sector always takes up the largest chunk of the national budget, but sometimes we don't have enough to spread it around all the schools in the country.

"So we need additional resources and I am very happy with this Government and private partnership in the Community Chest," said [Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak](#) before presenting mock cheques to 78 of the 196 recipient schools in SJK(C) On Pong here Thursday.

"However, this does not mean that the Government will not give more attention to vernacular and mission schools," he said, adding that since 2009, some RM1.2bil have been allocated to such schools.

The Community Chest is founded by a group of prominent contributors led by some of Malaysia's most successful and distinguished entrepreneurs.

It is funded predominantly from the profits of horse race betting company [Pan Malaysian Pools Sdn. Bhd.](#) (PMP).

"I hope that the Community Chest can be a growing concern with more profits every year to be channeled to the fund, if we can suppress illegal gambling," said Najib.

It is managed by a Board of Trustees including [Genting Bhd](#) deputy [chairman Tun Mohammed Hanif Omar](#), [Genting Group chairman Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay](#), [Lion Group chairman Tan Sri William Cheng](#) and [Hong Leong Finance Berhad chairman Tan Sri Quek Leng Chan](#).

Also at the function were MCA [president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek](#), Minister in Prime Minister's Department [Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon](#) and [Deputy Education Minister Datuk Wee Ka Siong](#).