



# RM100m Community Chest

> Gaming profits, donations to be channelled to Chinese, Tamil and mission schools

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** A minimum of RM100 million from gaming profits and other donations will be channelled to Chinese, Tamil and mission schools annually through "close consultation" with the government.

The funds will be managed by Community Chest, a non-profit establishment set up by the private sector that focuses on education.

The Community Chest will play a big role in raising the quality of education in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said at its launch at SJK (C) Confucian in Sungai Besi here yesterday.

"The distribution of funds will be conducted through close consultation with the government and the amounts will be exempted from tax."

Najib said Barisan Nasional component parties and non-governmental organisations will also be consulted before funds are awarded to needy schools to ensure the "distributions are fair and transparent".

It is managed by a board of trustees comprising among others Genting Group executive chairman Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay,



Najib poses with SJK (C) Confucian, Sungai Besi pupils after launching the Community Chest at the school. Also present is Lim, who is Community Chest board of trustees chairman.

deputy chairman Tun Mohd Hanif Omar, Westport chief executive officer Tan Sri G. Gnanalingam and Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation vice-chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam

Thye.

"The chest will initially be supported by contributions from the profits of Pan Malaysian Pools Sdn Bhd (PMP), or better known as Da

Ma Cai, and the investment returns from the funds.

"However, we hope to receive strong support of donations from the public," said Lim.

He said PMP was acquired by Jana Pendidikan Malaysia Sdn Bhd, which had pledged to donate to the chest all the dividends it receives from PMP after meeting its own expenses and debt obligations.

Stressing that the chest does not intend to rely on the government for any funding, Lim said: "We hope to contribute to rather than share with the government."

This year, the chest funded RM26.1 million to 61 vernacular and mission schools and pledged to channel a minimum of RM100 million annually beginning next year.

Lim said with the government setting the annual target at a minimum RM100 million, the chest will have to work harder to pump in the funds and get public donations.

"To maintain full transparency and accountability, the chest has set up a subsidiary, Pusat Pengurusan Pendidikan Malaysia Sdn Bhd, entrusted with the proposing and implementing of its initiatives and activities," he said.

Vernacular and mission schools can visit [www.comchest.com.my](http://www.comchest.com.my) to apply for funds according to the given procedure.

Lim said the funds can also be given out as scholarships soon to the very needy with stringent requirements.