



Small-sized schoolboy gets a chair to help him in class

PEKAN: Seven-year-old Zulhanif Abd Halim can feel more comfortable now in class, with the aid of special chair.

Previously, the SK Sinar Mutiara pupil, who stands at 72cm and weighs only 7.5kg, struggled to see what was on the blackboard.

The chair, custom-made by the staff of Universiti Malaysia Pahang's mechanical engineering faculty, was designed to suit Zulhanif's size. It is electrically operated and costs RM12,000.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak handed the chair to Zulhanif yesterday.

Universiti Malaysia Pahang vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Said Mat Lela said

the idea of creating a chair for Zulhanif came about when a story about him appeared in *Utusan Malaysia* on Jan 4.

"His plight caught our attention and sympathy. This is our university's first success in innovating a chair

for a small-sized boy," he said.

Zulhanif's mother Zurinah Tabingin, 30, said her son and youngest daughter Zurin Hazlin were born prematurely.

"She too is small in size like

Zulhanif," she said.

Her eldest daughter Zurin Halia-yana, 10, was born normal.

Zurinah said Zulhanif could mix around with others well despite his small frame



Just for me: Zulhanif trying out his new chair in Pekan yesterday after Najib presented it to him. With them are (from second left) Zulhanif's father Abd Halim Sulaiman, Dr Mohamed Said and Universiti Malaysia Pahang mechanical engineering faculty dean Assoc Prof Dr Rosli Abu Bakar

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