

29 MAR 2004
Najib-Felda
NAJIB TO MEET KEY PEOPLE CONCERNING FELDA

KOTA BAHARU, March 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who has been given special responsibility to oversee the management and administration of Felda, said he would hold meetings with the relevant people, including elected representatives in Felda land schemes as well as settlers, as his first task.

The Deputy Prime Minister said he would not make any decision on the future of the agency responsible for developing land for settlers until he had received all information from the relevant groups, including the Felda management.

"I have already said that in the initial stage, I want to listen first before I make any decision or take any action," he told reporters here today.

Earlier, Najib was conferred the Ahli Yang Kehormat Yang Pertama (Seri Paduka) Bagi Darjah Kebesaran Mahkota Kelantan Yang Amat Mulia (SPMK) from the Sultan of Kelantan at Istana Negeri Kubang Kerian. He received the award in conjunction with the Sultan's 54th birthday anniversary tomorrow.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced that Felda would be placed under the Prime Minister's Department with Najib being given direct responsibility over the agency, in line with government efforts to lay emphasis on its development in the new era.

Felda was previously under the Land and Co-operative Development Ministry which was abolished by Abdullah when he announced the new cabinet on Saturday.

The restructuring of Felda, to be listed on the Malaysian Securities Exchange Bhd, was announced during the 2004 Budget by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Two months later, however, the listing was postponed by Abdullah on

grounds that he wanted to ensure that the interests and welfare of
Felda
settlers were protected.

-- BERNAMA

RAR AO