

28 MAR 2004

Najib-Felda

NAJIB WELCOMES PM'S DIRECTIVE TO PLACE FELDA UNDER HIM

SEPANG, March 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak welcomes the decision by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to place Felda under his responsibility and vows to do his best in running its administration and management.

"My first mission is to look into reports and views of the Felda authorities before deciding on the best option available to enhance its success," said the Deputy Prime Minister at the KL International Airport upon his arrival from Singapore, here today.

He said the responsibility of overseeing Felda was in line with Abdullah's vision to further develop the rural areas.

He said Felda needed a new lease of life to ensure a more dynamic and successful rural land development programme.

Abdullah, who chaired the Terengganu Umno Liaison meeting in Kuala Terengganu today, announced that Felda would come under the Prime Minister's Department with Najib directly assigned to oversee the agency.

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

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.

However, in November, Abdullah postponed the listing to determine the benefits that Felda settlers would enjoy from such a move.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ JRL AO