

**PM's 1Malaysia flags not enough in Padungan**  
**Malaysiakini.com**  
**April 7, 2011**

The BN Sarawak election campaign received its first big boost today with the Prime Minister making hotspot Chinese majority-area Padungan his first destination in his one-day visit.

Hitting the campaign trail in a walkabout at the area previously won by PKR, Najib Abdul Razak and his sizeable entourage of at least five bodyguards tried to shake hands with shopowners along the Padungan market street.

However, his visit, which was accompanied by about 150 spirited members of the 1Malaysia NGO and at least 50 press photographers, appeared to be more a media show than an opportunity to meet the people.

While most of the shop owners appeared happy to spend a few seconds with the nation's most powerful man, Najib was told off by one man for only bringing only 1Malaysia flags for the visit.

"Why are you only giving us this? We want money. It's election time, you often give us money during election time," he said leading to awkward chuckles from the premier who was quickly ushered away.

The visit, which included a quick stop at a low-cost flat where an estimated 80 percent of residents are Chinese, turned more colourful when Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng pushed through the crowd to say hello.

The CM could not get a word in as Najib's supporters chanted '1Malaysia' loudly at the sight of the DAP secretary general.

"I was in the area so as a sign of respect I came to greet the Prime Minister.

"But we only got to shake hands and say a few words before we were disrupted by the chanting," said a smiling Lim.

Lim was later seen having a light moment with the most middle-aged women from the 1Malaysia NGO who had asked him if it is true that he gives senior citizens RM100 in Penang.

Padungan is contested by DAP, BN and incumbent and now independent candidate Dominique Ng.

Najib will next head to the parliamentary seat of Malay-Melanau majority Pantai Damai where he is expected to address the press.

He is later moving on to Chinese-majority Kota Sentosa where DAP garnered a crowd of 5000 at their ceramah last night.