

NCR issues will be solved, says Najib
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today promised that Sarawak's long-standing issue of native customary rights (NCR) to land will be solved by the BN.

He said the government has already allocated a "large sum" of RM80 million, dedicated to solving the land ownership issues that have plagued Sarawak natives for years.

"We have already approved millions (of ringgit) last year. This year RM30 million, next year another RM30 million... so altogether it is RM80 million," he told some 2,000 people during a visit to Spaoh in Betong.

Najib (wearing cap), who is on a campaign tour of Sarawak, also pledged that the "present government" will solve 90 percent of the state's basic infrastructure needs by next year, including roads and water and electricity supply.

Earlier in his speech, the premier threw in a variation of his "I help you, you help me" lure - citing three "surat cinta" (love letters) - in reference to applications for projects or allocations.

"Today, I have three 'love letters'. I will consider them after April 16, is that all right? I want to see this area flooded with votes.

"Can or not?" Najib asked, to cheers of "boleh" (can) from the crowd.

Spaoh is one of several stops for the prime minister on a "site visit" to several interior areas under the Betong division.

Earlier, he had visited the Sri Aman division, some 300km from the state capital of Kuching.

PM goes PKR-bashing

Najib also took the opportunity to take potshots at PKR, hurling names at them such as parti mata satu (one-eyed party), parti keluar beramai-ramai (mass exodus party) and parti anak-beranak (family party).

"They are a parti anak-beranak... as prime minister, I did not appoint my wife as deputy prime minister," he said, adding that his wife Rosmah Mansor is only involved in welfare activities for the disabled and in pre-school education.

On arrival at Spaoh, Najib was "welcomed" by a group of around 30 PKR supporters bringing their own banners and flags.

The group were seen heckling the prime minister, once in a while interjecting his speech by making noise and shouting "Reformasi". There were no untoward incidents throughout Najib's visit.

The Betong parliamentary constituency is a Malay-majority area with three state seats under it - Layar, which is seen as a BN stronghold, and Saribas and Bukit Saban, which are

considered unsafe seats for the ruling coalition.

Najib started his six-day whirlwind tour of Sarawak yesterday, when he announced that Taib "promised" that there will be a succession plan for the state's top post.

In his first large-scale event held at the Kuching South City Council indoor stadium, he rebutted Pakatan Rakyat's many claims against BN and also accused its leader Anwar Ibrahim of being a liar.

"He promised to take over the federal government on Sept 16 (2008). But he lied. Correct?" said Najib, eliciting a loud "Yes" from the crowd during the evening function.

Najib's event however was marred by the 2,000-strong crowd itself.

Clad in 1Malaysia t-shirts, they sparked a near riot as hordes of people rushed in to grab the goodies bags given out, which included Tupperware bottles emblazoned with the 1Malaysia logo.

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