

## **Loggers want Najib to help in RM63 million payout**

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A delegation of five investors handed over a memorandum to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today seeking his intervention to resolve a case of breach of contract by the Pahang government which failed to pay their company some RM63 million as ordered by the Kuantan High Court.

Representing Seruan Gemilang Makmur and led by shareholders Ramli Suleiman and Lee Sin, the group handed in the memorandum to Najib at the 1Malaysia Charity Ride for Education 2011, at the Penang Straits Quay today.

Ramli urged Najib (left) to ensure that the Pahang government make good their payment which has been delayed for four years.

He also pledged that the Kuantan-based company would donate about RM1.5 million for education, should it receive the money from the government.

"We are confident that Najib would try and help us as he seems to be concerned about the rakyat's problems," he told reporters, after Najib had left the event, where he announced RM15 million was collected for Chinese education.

"We also want answers from the Pahang government on why they have not complied with the court decision to pay the money due to us," he told the PM, who is Pekan MP.

Ramli said the group was going to be in Kuantan this week to try and meet with the state as they believed in negotiation and discussion.

They asked the Pahang government to emulate its Penang counterpart which recently forked out RM15 million to compensate businessman Tan Hak Ju.

Tan had sued the state government for not processing his land application properly and then cancelling it when it was found the land was owned by another party.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng who was present with Ramli urged the Pahang government to make good its payment as Penang had been able to do so as it "honours the rule of law".

The investors recently took turns to go on hunger strike in pairs until the Pahang government paid them the money, which is accumulating interest and may amount to about RM70 million.

Ramli, a retired UTK officer who had served as a bodyguard to the Sultan of Pahang for six years, claimed that Pahang Menteri Besar Adnan Yaakob and his administration were shunning their responsibilities and that was not the way to run the state.

### **Ride for charity**

Earlier, Najib announced that the charity ride had managed to raise RM15 million for 10 Chinese schools in Penang.

Najib expressed his recognition and commended the commitment of the Chinese community to education and their determination to raise funds for Chinese school.

He added that he was "immensely proud" of the role and contribution Chinese families are making for betterment of education in Malaysia.

Najib said this was not the only time he had supported Chinese education.

He said earlier when he was holding the education portfolio, he had sent a "strong signal" that he had always supported the spirit of Chinese education.

"When I was education minister we removed the power of the education minister to convert national-type schools into national schools," he said.

Thousands of people join the event today, sponsored by IMDB and co-organised with Kwong Wah Jit Poh, the most widely read Chinese language daily in the northern region.

Young school children donned in 1Malaysia white T-shirts lined the streets leading to Straits Quay today to welcome Najib.

Leaders from both sides of the political divide put aside their differences and cycled to raise RM15 million for Chinese education in Penang.

Federal minister Koh Tsu Koon, Tourism Minister Ng Yen Yen and state Umno liaison chief Zainol Abidin Osman were present at today's event while Lim and his team arrived in yellow T-shirts.

They rode alongside Najib and his team for about half an hour before the premier handed over cheques to the Chinese schools.

When asked why he wore yellow T-shirts at a 1Malaysia event, Lim said, "It is the Penang government's colour".