

# Govt must approve hike

STAR - 09/07/2007

## Najib to find why price of rice is up



**Slick:** Boys demonstrating silat moves to welcome Najib to the Batu Kawan Umno division general meeting in Prai yesterday.

**BUTTERWORTH:** The price of rice should not be increased indiscriminately without the Government's approval, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said rice was considered a "sensitive" commodity and any increase would have an adverse effect on the price of food and other products.

"We want to find out why there was a hike in the price of rice.

"We want the relevant authorities to give us feedback on the issue and hope to get it within the next two days," he told reporters after opening the Batu Kawan Umno general meeting at here yesterday.

Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin will brief the Cabinet on the matter in its next meeting,

he said when asked to comment on the increase in rice prices by Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas).

On the Broga incinerator issue, Najib said the Government had not rejected the use of incinerators for future management of solid wastes.

He added that the Government had only cancelled the RM1.5bil Broga incinerator project due to high cost and maintenance as it did not want to burden the people with high taxes by the local authorities and district office where the project was sited.

He said the Government might build an incinerator that would be within the Government's budget, was made using high technology and did not cause problems to the surrounding areas and the environment.