

# RM117m windfall for Felda settlers next year

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Felda settlers will receive RM117 million in incentive bonuses next month as a recognition of their contribution to the country's economy.

More than 90,000 settlers are expected to benefit from this windfall, which is the highest incentive payment so far.

It is also about RM20 million more than the previous incentive, which was paid out last year.

This is the third time Felda, or the Federal Land Development Authority, is paying out bonuses to its settlers, having paid out sepa-

rate incentive payments of RM39.47 million and RM97.09 million last year.

The first payment saw 112,775 settlers receiving RM350 each while 77,882 settlers shared the second payment.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the latest bonus payment would see settlers receiving between RM400 and RM1,500 each in the first week of January.

"With the new school year about to begin, this money would help them to meet the expenses for their children's schooling," he said at a Press conference at the Defence Ministry in Jalan Semarak

yesterday.

Settlers who will benefit from the incentive bonuses are those participating in the replanting scheme with Felda Technoplant Sdn Bhd; those in the Felda rehabilitation scheme and productivity scheme; and settlers in Felda Chuping in Perlis.

More than 43,000 settlers involved in the replanting scheme would share RM65.43 million in incentive bonuses, while over 44,000 settlers in the productivity scheme will share RM48.5 million.

The balance will be divided among 2,160 settlers participating in the rehabilitation scheme

and 447 settlers of Felda Chuping.

"The government is confident that payment of the incentive scheme will spur the settlers to continue their productivity," Najib said.

The overall productivity, he said, had risen by 20 per cent and he attributed this to the incentive scheme.

Najib said palm oil prices was also quite stable this year with the price of crude palm oil fluctuating between RM1,400 and RM1,600 per metric tonne.

On average, the price of crude palm oil this year is RM1,472.82 per metric tonne as compared to last year's price of RM1,394.