

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	17/7/2014

'We will always support Palestine'

SOLEMN PLEDGE: Malaysia stands by their cause, says Najib
(NST-17/7/2014)

**BEN TAN
AND CHUAH BEE KIM**
JOHOR BARU
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA will continue to support the Palestinians and their struggle, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.

The pledge by Najib was based on the fact that Malaysia is considered among the Palestinian people's strongest supporters in their time of need.

"On the way here (Johor Bara), I was on the phone with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, in which I assured him that Malaysia will do all it can to assist and stand by their cause," he said during a state government-organised *buka puasa* event at the Persada International Convention Centre here yesterday.

Some 1,500 people attended the event, which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed

Khaled Nordin and government leaders.

On the opposition's claims that Israel had the right to defend itself, Najib said there was a disproportionate response in the war between Israel and Palestine.

"Gaza is raining bullets and bombs that have already killed innocent women and children."

Najib said in the month of Ramadan, the Muslim community should help those who were in need, including the Palestinians in Gaza.

Earlier, Najib launched a RM2.9 million "Bus Bandaraya" bus service in a bid to increase public transportation usage, ease congestion and enhance traffic flow in the state capital.

The service will pave the way for future projects, such as the rehabilitation of Sungai Segget, which will see the relocation of the existing bus stop along the busy Jalan Wong Ah Fook.

For a limited time, the service will be free of charge for people who have existing ManjaLink or

Johor Baru City Council Limited Edition Travel cards.

MBJB will bear the full cost of the service, which runs from Larkin to the Johor Baru city centre.

During the trial period, which extends from Aug 8 to Sept 7, the bus service will be open to the public, after which commuters will have to top up their ManjaLink cards or buy Travel cards at RM10 each.

The MBJB Travel card can also be used to travel to Singapore, as it is accepted on bus services which accept payment by ManjaLink.

However, consumers have to top-up their credit at ManjaLink counters at Giant Nusa Bestari, Gelang Patah Terminal, Jurong East Bus and MRT Interchange and JB Sentral.

In the afternoon, Najib attended a closed-door briefing on the state's level of development and progress at the Puteri Pacific Hotel here.

Johor planning unit (Unpen) director A. Rahim Nin gave a two-hour briefing.



Datuk Seri Najib Razak relaying Malaysia's commitment to the Palestinian cause to President **Mahmoud Abbas** via a phone call in Johor Baru yesterday. Bernama pic