

Newspaper	The Star
Date	6/7/2014

# GST gains for rural folk

*The Star - 6/7/2014*

## Najib: They will benefit from additional funds in Govt coffers

By SIMON KHOO

simonkhoo@thestar.com.my

**PEKAN:** Rural folks will stand to gain from the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) next year, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

With additional revenue in the country's coffers, Najib said the Government would look into ways at how to spend the money.

"The Opposition will create issues on the GST but never divulge full information on the real situation. In fact, GST is not a new tax but will be replacing the existing sales and services tax.

"Not all items will see an increase in prices. (The prices) of some products will come down and others will remain status quo," he said before presenting dividends to Risda smallholders here yesterday.

Najib said it was not accurate to say that the people would be burdened by the GST because some sectors would stand to gain.



**Reaping benefits:** Najib handing out dividends to smallholders in Kuantan as Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal (left) looks on. — Bernama

Priority, he added, would be given to rural folk, especially smallholders with higher allocation channelled for their benefit.

"These groups are the engine and pulse of the rural economy besides being loyal supporters of

the Government.

"We want to see a balanced, fair and inclusive development in line with the country's policy and expenditure that benefit all."

On the Risda dividends, Najib said RM164.9mil would be distrib-

uted to 32,238 participants involved in nationwide integrated and commercial replanting schemes this year.

A one-off special aid of RM500, he said, would also be given out to 260,000 smallholders affected by the drop of rubber prices in the global market.

"This year, an additional 48,872 rubber tappers who are working for others will be entitled to this aid. An allocation of RM154mil has been approved by the Cabinet for these recipients," he said.

Najib also reminded both Risda and smallholders to focus on good practices to increase productivity and meet stipulated targets.

"Just like the Brazilian and German teams who won their World Cup matches, the winners today are the smallholders.

"The Government will come up with long-term measures to help in the development of smallholders for their hard work. This is our commitment," he said.