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Farmers get PM's attention

GOOD NEWS
WAITING: He will consider 6 requests of agricultural association

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Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** attending the opening ceremony of the **National Farmers Organisation's 42nd annual general meeting** at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by **Abdullah Yusof**

FARMERS can expect to hear good news in next year's budget, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday at the National Farmers Organisation's 42nd annual general meeting and dinner.

The announcement came as the association's chairman, Datuk Seri Saipolbahari Suib, delivered a sbt-point request during the dinner.

Najib said he would consider the requests.

"I will make an announcement during the coming budget," he said.

Najib will table the 2016 Budget in Parliament on Oct 23.

Top on the association's wish list is a RM500 aid for each member.

The association also requested for permits to export rice, an RM10 million allocation for farming activities, a monthly quota of 1,000 tonnes of cooking oil for members to sell, 28 vacancies to be reserved for its members every year and one senatorship seat.

Najib thanked the association's members for their support.

"I really appreciate the support of members of the association. I know this is an unconditional support, even though there are requests from the association."

Najib said the association was set up in 1967 by his father, as farming was crucial to the country's economy. The prime minister called for eff-

icient use of land to boost farming.

"We can use abandoned land for agriculture, as land is scarce."

He also told the farmers to use technology and quality seeds to produce food at reasonable prices.

The food industry was also told to look at teaming up with foreign hypermarket chains to increase exports to the Middle East.

Najib also wanted Agro Bazaars, such as the one in Kuantan, Pahang, to be developed to increase the income of farmers and attract more tourists.

Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek was present at the event.

Najib saddened by discovery

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak expressed sadness over the discovery of the bodies of two Orang Asli pupils, who went missing in the jungles of Kelantan since Aug 23.

In his Facebook update yesterday, Najib said he was grateful that two other girls in the group were found safe.

"Two of the seven missing SK Tohol pupils were found safe, Al-

hamdulillah. But at the same time, I also feel the sadness of the families of the two other pupils who were found dead. May their souls be blessed," he posted.

Najib also said the search and rescue team would continue looking for the remaining missing pupils and asked all Malaysians to pray that the children would be found safe. Bernama