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Home thanks Najib for aid

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CARING: PM pledges RM70,000 a month for Pusat Jagaan Al-Fikrah's upkeep

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PUSAT Jagaan Al-Fikrah in Kajang will receive RM70,000 a month in aid from the government over the course of one year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who announced this during a walkabout at the home meant for the elderly and disabled youth here yesterday, said he had visited the centre a month ago and found it was in need of help, as well as an upgrade.

"I had, among others, asked iM4U (iMalaysia for Youth) to help through voluntary efforts so that upgrading efforts can be carried out."

Najib thanked Kolej Komuniti Hulu Langat, the Kajang Municipal Council and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia for their assistance and contributions.

Najib said the first RM70,000 had been disbursed.

"I believe that this monthly funding can bring a lot of relief to its chairman, Mohd Azmi Md Zin, who has shown exemplary service and contribution, together with his friends, who have given a meaning to the occupants' lives.

"I hope that in time, the facilities here can be upgraded so that they (the elderly who make up a ma-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak with Pusat Jagaan Al-Fikrah occupants in Kajang yesterday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

jority of the occupants) can spend the remaining years of their life in comfort and cheer."

The home has 70 occupants, with two-thirds of them aged above 50. A number of them are bedridden or wheelchair-bound.

Azmi said iM4U members had repaired the ventilation and air conditioning systems in the semi-wooden centre, easing the effects of the heatwave on occupants. They offer physiotherapy and hair cuts for occupants, besides keeping the elderly company.

Azmi said he did not expect Najib to visit the home again so soon, let alone give generously to the centre.

"This helps alleviate our burden as we are always in need of funds," he said, adding that the centre's operation fee cost RM45,000 a month. The home also raised funds

by rearing chicken and fish, and growing vegetables.

He said all this would not have been possible without Najib's intervention.

He hoped for more support from outsiders, especially corporate companies, to help run the centre.

During his visit yesterday, Najib was warmly greeted by the centre's occupants. Ahmad Shukor Ng Abdullah, 70, who greeted Najib like an old friend, said he was happy to see him again.

The former teacher, who is estranged from his children, said while the occupants lived like a family, everyone needed some personal attention.

Meanwhile, in a Facebook posting later, Najib said he was proud to see volunteers taking their time and energy to help the home's occupants.

He said their attentiveness was extremely meaningful to the occupants, who were lonely and needed company.

"I am satisfied to see the house is in far better condition than it was in my previous visit.

"In only one month, the centre has been equipped with an air turbine and a new fan. The air-conditioning has also been replaced, and the electrical wiring at the centre was done to guarantee their (occupants) safety," he said in congratulating the volunteers.

He added that the volunteers had taken the initiative to help till the home's land.

Najib also pledged that he would ensure that the occupants interests would be safeguarded.

Those who wish to contribute to the centre can call Azmi, at 016-3355960.