

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	18 DECEMBER 2016

Najib: BR1M an economy booster

Nst 18/12/2016

PROSPERITY:
'RM31.5m aid for
Pekan folk spurred
economic activities'

**HIDIR REDUAN
AND T.N. ALAGESH**
PEKAN
news@nst.com.my

THE 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) is not only a welfare assistance programme for the people, but also an economy booster.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the RM31.5 million aid disbursed to 43,729 recipients in the district here last year spurred economic activities.

"From the government's hands, who received the RM31.5 million?"

"Traders, vendors and school uniform sellers, among others," he said to cheers from his constituents in Kampung Nenasi here yesterday.

Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament, said this in his speech at a meet-the-people session.

He said BR1M, from an economic theory perspective, was an injection to advance the economy.

"If there was no RM31.5 million (in BR1M), would there have been prosperity among the traders here?"

"BR1M is the government's assistance to the people."

Najib hit out at certain quarters that criticised BR1M, the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project and the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project, labelling them *penghasut* (instigators).

"When we give aid to the people, they (certain quarters) labelled it *dedak* (animal feed), despite *dedak* being only for animals.

"When we bring in investment from China, they said we sold our sovereignty."

He said the MRT project generated jobs for the people, especially youth from rural areas, who became tech-

nicians and held other positions related to the project.

He said the ECRL project, which aims to link the Klang Valley and parts of Pahang, like Temerloh and Kuantan, before ending in Kelantan, would contribute 1.5 per cent to the state's economy.

Najib announced allocations for several projects, including RM50 million to boost clean water supply here, RM5 million to tackle erosion at a beach in Kampung Nenasi and RM500,000 for fishermen to buy new freezers to store their catch.

Present was Bebar assemblyman Datuk Mohammad Fakhruddin Mohd Ariff.

Earlier, Najib went down to the ground to witness the impact of the beach erosion.

He was briefed on the erosion, which occurred less than 100m from SRJK (C) Kee Hwa, by state Irrigation and Drainage Department director Datuk Shaharuddin Ibrahim.

Shaharuddin said RM5 million had been approved under the 11th Malaysia Plan to tackle the problem, and that Najib wanted the project to begin immediately.

Meanwhile, a single mother's dream to own a house became a reality yesterday, when she was among 21 villagers chosen to receive three-bedroom units under the Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme.

Rohayati Ishak has been renting a house in Jalan Rompin Lama for more than 20 years and lives with her four children.

A helper at a welfare home, the 52-year-old said buying a house was beyond her means and she could only pay rent of RM250 a month.

"From next month, I can save the money that I allocate for rent. I hope to get some furniture.

"I am grateful for what the government has done.

"It serves as motivation for me and my children to work harder for a better future," she said after receiving her house key from Najib in Kampung Pulau Jawa here.