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# PM: 1MDB helped Sarawak folk

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## MANY INITIATIVES:

It improved living conditions in rural areas, says Najib

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**1** MALAYSIA Development Bhd (1MDB), via its agencies and foundations, has introduced initiatives to improve the living conditions of Sarawakians, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said it was sad that the strategic development company was turned into a political punching bag by certain quarters, even though it was established to help people, especially those in rural areas.

"The micro-hydro electric project, which was implemented by the 1Malaysia Foundation (established by 1MDB), is among the many examples of initiatives that have improved the livelihoods of the people. The micro-hydro electric initiative has changed the way people live at this longhouse.

"The electricity generated by the project has provided a more comfortable life for residents," he said during a meet-the-people session at a longhouse here.

He was accompanied by Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi and 1Malaysia Sarawak Advisory Council (IMSAC) chairman Datuk Joseph Salang Gandum.

Najib, who is also finance minister, praised 1M Sarawak for introducing initiatives that include fire extinguisher supply, house repair assistance, solar-power generator and school adoption programmes.

1M Sarawak is a social develop-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak declaring his support for Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem at the Sejwa, Senada programme in Saratok yesterday. Bernama pic

ment initiative led by IMSAC, which was formed to advise Najib on the needs and aspirations of the state's communities.

"1M Sarawak has implemented 1431 programmes for people, especially rural folk."

On another matter, Najib said he would hold a discussion with Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein to upgrade roads connecting the town to SK Nanga Jambu and SK Nanga Kemalih under the armed forces' Jiwa Murni programme.

Later, Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, flew from Sibu to Kuching to visit Kampung Rantau

Panjang, which was one of many areas ravaged by the floods.

The hour-long walkabout brought cheer to villagers.

They cheered and applauded when Najib and Rosmah emerged from their car. Some shook hands with Najib and requested selfies with him.

Najib said the Federal Government would explore all avenues to provide aid to Sarawak.

This, he said, was not a promise for the Sarawak election but for the betterment of the state.

"We will continue to do it (to assist Sarawak) because we want the state to be more prosperous and success-

ful. All these are not promises for election but for the state and the people."

At SK Rantau Panjang, which was badly hit by the floods, Najib said the Federal Government would relocate the school to safer ground.

"The condition of the school is (also) not ideal as it is small, with old school blocks and the road leading to the school is narrow. It's not suitable. We will look into this," he said.

Najib said the Federal Government would come up with an allocation once the state government had identified land for the relocation of the school.

Built in the 1970s, SK Rantau Pan-

jang, located near the river, has more than 180 pupils and 20 teachers. It is often flooded during the rainy season.

Present was Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang and his wife, Puun Sri Empiang Jabu.

Earlier, Rosmah, who is also the Global Children's Wellbeing Fund patron and Welfare Association of the Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers president, handed a cheque for an undisclosed amount to Sarawak Ministers' and Assistant Ministers' Wives Welfare Association deputy president Empiang to help flood victims in Kuching.