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Najib: Don't sell out

> PM tells Iban community not to fall for monetary offers to vote for Opposition

SRI AMAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak yesterday urged voters in Simanggang not to "sell" their rights for money but to retain their votes as a prized possession that could be used to decide their future.

Najib said votes were the rights of the



people to determine their future by choosing the right candidate to ensure development in their area.

"They (voters) must think of long-term development in their areas and not look for short-term gains by selling their votes to those willing to offer money," he said in his speech at the Jegai Anak Jawa Longhouse in Kampung Purai, an Iban village in Undop, about 40km from here.

Earlier, Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for Simanggang, Datuk Francis Harden Hollis, who is also the incumbent, had claimed he received information that voters were being paid to not vote for BN in the May 7 polls.

Francis Harden claimed voters were offered RM100 before going to the polls and promised another RM200 if the BN

candidate lost.

Najib, however, was confident that the Iban community in Simanggang would wisely turn down such offers and not be fooled by attempts to buy them out.

"The Iban people are warriors with high dignity and patriotism. They will not certainly 'pawn' their future away," he said.

Francis Harden is facing a three-cornered fight which features DAP and an independent candidate.

At another event at the Faizal Anak Edmund Minit Longhouse in Engkeramut, about 40km from here, Najib told residents that Sarawak needed candidates with calibre and commitment to bring about changes and development to the people and state.

"The election in Sarawak is serious and needs candidates who are ready to serve the people, not 'parachute candidates' or 'fly-by-night candidates'," he said in his speech.

"To form a strong government we need candidates who are serious, not fancy free or half-hearted," said Najib, who was accompanied by BN candidate for Bukit Begunan, Datuk Mong Dagang, who will be challenged by PKR's Jubri Atak. - Bernama

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