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FISHING INFRASTRUCTURE

PM launches Sg Sembilang hub to promote agro-tourism

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KUALA SELANGOR: A hub for the Sungai Sembilang fishing community was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak here yesterday.

Some 60 fishermen, three market traders and two restaurant owners would benefit from the 5,674 square foot centre, developed by the Fisheries Development Authority (LKIM) to promote agro-tourism, sport fishing and fishermen's activities.

The RM1.5 million project was approved in June 2015 and was built in the same year to upgrade the local fishing infrastructure.

At the event, Najib presented a mock cheque for RM3.2 million as an annual living allowance to Sungai Sembilang fishermen association chairman Kamaruddin Saraf.

A total of 951 fishermen in the district will each receive a RM300 monthly allowance.

Najib had a meet-and-greet session with fishermen and traders after breakfast with the villagers.

Federal village development and security committee chairman Mohd Radzi said the upgrade of the wooden jetty was timely.

Since the hub will increase activity in the area, Radzi, who met Najib during the event, requested for a rural transformation centre to be built



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak speaking to stall owner Junaidah Sukardi (second from right) in Sungai Sembilang, Kuala Selangor, yesterday. With him is Kuala Selangor member of parliament Datuk Seri Dr Irmohizam Ibrahim (left). PIC BY ROSLIN MAT TAHIR

in the area.

"We will see more fishermen and tourists coming in, so we need enforcement in the area against threats from illegal trawlers and thieves.

"Therefore, it would be ideal if there is a presence of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and the Fisheries Department," he said, adding that the area also needed tourist boats.

It is learnt that about 5,000 people from three villages in the area would benefit from the RTC.

Fisherman Samsudin Husin, 36, said the hub had transformed fishing activities there.

"We are grateful for this upgrade as it is more convenient to run our businesses now.

"Before the hub, our businesses were not organised. There was no dedicated premises for the market, which meant customers would be

scrambling at the jetty to buy seafood," he said.

Another fisherman, Mohd Azahari Aziz, 33, also suggested the authorities provide tourist boats as the number of local and foreign visitors had increased.

He said a popular destination among tourists was Pulau Angsa, which is a 30-minute boat ride from Sungai Sembilang.

At an event in Ijok later, Najib announced an allocation of RM1.5 million to construct the second phase of the fishermen's hub at Sungai Sembilang fishing port.

He said the area would be developed into a major agro-tourism hub.

Kuala Selangor, Najib added, had huge potential in agro-tourism, which could benefit not only the fishermen there but also the constituents.