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Najib: Dr M knows *The Star* BR1M *- 4/2/2017* is a good thing

PETALING JAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has no choice but to backtrack on his stance about the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) because he knows that the monetary aid is being spent wisely for family welfare, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"First of all, he already knew through a study by the World Bank and Stanford that monetary help would usually be spent wisely on family welfare and not cause recipients to be lazy like he claimed," he said.

Najib said that giving out monetary aid was a practice widely carried out in countries all over the world and it was even approved by economists as a method to support the economy.

"Thirdly, this *pemimpin lama* (former leader's) own Opposition friends practise something similar to BR1M such as Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali who gives school money to Selangor children as well as Lim Guan Eng who gives money to the poor in Penang," Najib said in a podcast at www.najibrazak.com.

The Barisan Nasional president said BR1M was given to the lower income group regardless of political ideology.

"We don't ask for them to vote for Barisan; unlike the coupons that Azmin handed out which had his face on them.

"In fact, the Selangor state government gives out a lot of financial incentive," he said.

Najib said these four factors had led to Dr Mahathir changing his stance.

"We all know this is not the first U-turn by 'U-turn Mahathir'," he added.