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PM celebrates birthday with 25,000 Felda settlers

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak celebrated his 64th birthday with 25,000 Felda settlers.

The Prime Minister who was at the Felda Settlers Day was all smiles when the crowd sang "Allah Selamatkan PM" (God save the PM) and "Happy Birthday".

As he cut the *pulut kuning* (yellow glutinous rice), the guests cheered and moved forward to the stage to take photographs.

It was obvious that the settlers are with the Prime Minister as even

a downpour failed to distract them.

Najib was in the middle of his speech when it began to rain heavily. But the crowd did not budge from their seats although some of them got wet.

Felda settlers who attended the celebration welcomed the incentives given by the Government.

"It is a great relief that the Government wants to help us settle our loans. This will ease our financial burden," said national settlers chief Samsudin Othman.

Another settler Abu Hassan Ashari said the RM5,000 cash incentive comes as good news to settlers.

"I am sure most of the settlers are happy with this news from the Prime Minister.

"This shows that the Government has always taken care of the Felda community, and it has always been that way over the years," said Abu Hassan, who is from Felda Lok Heng Selatan in Johor.

Popular singer Mawi said he was proud to be a product of Felda.

"They gave land and opportunity for many families to start a meaningful life and I hope the second generation appreciates this. I know my family owes a lot to Felda," said the singer who hails from Felda Taib Andak in Kulai, Johor.

Actor and comedian Jalil Hamid also pointed out the importance of supporting the Felda cause which has proven to be successful.

"I'm speaking from experience. The settlers from Felda Cahaya Baru in Masai, Johor, where I come

from decided to get out of Felda. In the end they were left with nothing," he said.

Najib also received birthday greetings via social media, including from Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa.

Through his instagram account @dralihamsa, he said: "The warmest birthday greetings to YAB PM @najib_razak who always inspire us with determination and energy. Happy Birthday Sir! from us in the civil service."