

PM ATTENDS MA63 MEETING

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim shaking hands with representatives from Sabah and Sarawak at the Malaysia Agreement 1963 Implementation Action Council Meeting at the Sabah International Convention Centre in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. BERNAMA PIC



NATIVE CUSTOMARY RIGHTS LAND

‘Govt, Felda to discuss return of Tambisan land’

LAHAD DATU: The federal government will discuss with the state government and Felda to enable native customary rights (NCR) land in Tambisan to be returned to the rightful owners.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor had told him about the residents’ appeal for the return of their NCR land.

“There are about 400 acres (161.87ha) of NCR land in Tambisan. Some of them are Felda’s. I will ask Felda to discuss this immediately with the state government.

“I agree that the land should be returned (to the rightful owners) after proper discussions and a land survey are conducted by the state government and Felda,” he said when launching the “Segalanya Felda” Carnival in Felda Sahabat here yesterday.

Anwar said governments come and go, but the residents in Tambisan had been waiting for decades for the NCR land to be returned to them.

As such, he assured the people

that the government would get it done soon.

“Like I said in Kota Kinabalu, I don’t want problems to take too long to be solved. If I announced it today, the work should start next week, and within a month or two, the NCR land issue in Tambisan should be solved,” he said.

In another development, the prime minister approved an allocation for the establishment of a dialysis centre in Felda Sahabat.

He said the overall needs of Sabahans, including issues related to electricity and water supply, had been discussed with the state government.

“Addressing these issues requires substantial funding from the federal government, so do not listen to those with dissenting viewpoints. To ensure the welfare of the people of Sabah, good co-operation between the state and federal governments is essential.”

Anwar also paid tribute to Felda’s early settlers, saying that the pioneers’ efforts had benefited today’s generation.

He praised the pioneers for their resilience in clearing vast jungles to establish Felda settlements, saying their efforts were no small feat.

“We must also remember that the initial plans were very different from what we see today. There were no roads, no schools, nothing of that sort. They (settlers) had to clear the thick jungles themselves.

“These are the sacrifices of our forefathers and mothers, the original settlers. We owe them our gratitude and respect.”

Anwar said from the settlers’ early sacrifices, Felda had progressed, with its land producing high-quality products recognised globally.

He also paid tribute to former prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, whose vision for Felda lifted many out of poverty.

“Back then, the poor had no land or jobs.

“They were given land and employment, but the project had to start with loans from the bank.”Bernama