

**Strong Domestic Economy Enables Payment Of BR1M, Says Najib  
Bernama  
January 6, 2012**

RAWANG, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the government is able to pay the RM500 to households earning RM3,000 and less a month due to a strong domestic economy and not by borrowing from the World Bank as alleged by certain quarters.

He said robust growth in the domestic economy will enable the government to see a RM22 billion increase in tax revenue last year over the RM86.4 billion in 2010.

He also said that the last time the government borrowed from the World Bank was in 1998.

"The latest allegation is that the government has to borrow from the World Bank to pay the 1Malaysia People's Aid (of RM500 per household), which is clearly another lie of the opposition parties," he said when launching the 1Malaysia Community programme in Bukit Sentosa in Hulu Selangor Friday.

Najib had announced when tabling Budget 2012 in the Dewan Rakyat last October that all households earning RM3,000 or less a month will be given a one-off RM500 payment under the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M).

Najib said that despite the BR1M programme, the country's deficit has reduced.

Countries in the West have slashed the salaries of their civil servants, but Malaysia has introduced a salary increase through the Public Service New Remuneration Scheme (SBPA), he said.

The allocations for education and development of those countries are being reduced but Malaysia is giving additional sums for the benefit of the people, he said, attributing it to experience of efficient management.

"Our decisions do not undermine the long-term interests of the country. A miscalculation can destroy in an instant everything we have built.

"As such, we cannot surrender the country to those who cannot manage as efficiently as the Barisan Nasional," he said.

Najib said the change introduced by the government is not change for the sake of change, but a total change from top to bottom for all the people through a national transformation.

Citing Egypt, he said that when the government there changed following demonstrations, the tourism sector was crippled and the country became unstable and this jeopardised security.

On the next general election, Najib said he could not say when it would be held, whether in April or July or at another time.

"However, we will decide when the time comes. The future of the country is only secure with the BN. We have the 1Malaysia concept, which is fair and inclusive and guarantees a place for every race under the Federal Constitution," he said.

Also present at the event were Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

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