

**Najib Wants Felda Settlers To Master Technology**  
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KOTA TINGGI, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak told settlers Sunday night that they must master knowledge and technology to handle future challenges.

Failure to do so could lead to the same kind of fate that befell the Malay Sultanate, the Prime Minister said.

"Tomorrow, August 15, exactly 500 years will have passed since the Melaka Malay Sultanate fell to the Portuguese. We should look upon the event as a lesson to us," he said at a "blessings of Ramadan" function at the Ayer Tawar Felda 2 scheme here.

Najib said the fall of Melaka in 1511 was due to disloyalty and the failure of the Sultanate to acquire up-to-date knowledge and expertise on warfare.

He said that Melaka was using spears and keris against the cannons and other firearms of the Portuguese.

Also present at the breaking of the fast with about 7,000 warga Felda settlers were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ahmad Maslan.

Najib spoke of the joy he felt when he visited a family at the Felda Tunggal scheme in the afternoon.

He said the bungalow that the family live in would cost more than RM 1 million in Kuala Lumpur. To Najib, it symbolised the progress of the settlers.

Najib said the success of Felda had enabled it to pay the salaries of 23,000 employees, and give bonuses and Hari Raya money as well as RM40,000 loans without interest to settlers to repair their houses.

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