

Najib dangles carrots at Kapar voters
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By Clara Chooi

KAPAR, Aug 17 – The gloves have come off in Selangor ahead of the coming polls with Datuk Seri Najib Razak pledging tonight to prioritise the land woes of hundreds of poor families in the opposition-held constituency here if they were to vote for Barisan Nasional (BN) in the coming polls.

The BN chairman however made the promise through a subtle offer, suggesting a “solution” to the families on how to resolve their land problems.

The prime minister claimed that with Selangor still under Pakatan Rakyat (PR), resolving land issues would pose “a bit of a problem”.

“When it comes to land matters, we have to hand it over to the state government and there, we do not know what will happen.

“So there is one solution that you will have to use when the time comes. I believe you understand what I mean,” he told the crowd, smiling.

Najib (picture) said if the “solution” was taken up by voters here, he would place the people’s land woes in BN’s manifesto.

“Including the issues involving KTMB (Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd) land... we will resolve it for the good of the people,” he promised.

Najib was responding to several requests listed by Sementa assemblyman Datuk Abdul Rahman Palil on behalf of the residents during his speech at the function earlier.

Abdul Rahman had lamented about the 343 title deeds to a 63.5 acre piece of land near here belonging to KTMB that had earlier been approved in Cabinet to be handed over to local residents.

“But in 2008, the polls results did not favour us. So if we hand over the deeds, it will be to the state government. They may do something else with it,” he said.

“We also made compensation arrangements for a 66-acre piece of land in Kampung Sungai Sireh... Residents agreed to the compensation but that was under a previous government. We have actually resolved three quarters of land issues here but 2008 happened,” he said.

He also urged the government to help with the maintenance costs of the Seri Perantau flats, which was built on KTMB land here, explaining that the building was presently facing problems with its Certificate of Fitness.

“BN wanted to ensure comfortable housing for the people so at the time, PKNS (Selangor State Development Corporation) built this but now, KTMB has yet to hand over the land and we are facing problems with the CF and the maintenance. We urge the government to help,” he said.

Selangor, the country’s richest state, was among BN’s most prized possessions until it lost to PR during the Election 2008 tsunami.

Umno strategists recently claimed it has gained significant ground in Selangor, expressing confidence that it could recapture the state with a comfortable majority in the coming polls.

Both parties have since launched their pre-polls blitzkrieg, each attempting to make full use of the Ramadan month to campaign for the rural Malay vote, seen as a key factor for BN in the coming polls.

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