

**PKR vows higher household income, settlers to own Felda**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

JOHOR BARU, Nov 26 — PKR announced strategies to raise disposable income for all Malaysians and hand over Felda to its settlers which, it said today, will be “the weapon most feared” by Barisan Nasional (BN) ahead of a general election expected soon.

President Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail told some 2,000 delegates at the PKR national congress here that “at the end of the battle ahead, our main duty is to implement a minimum wage of RM1,100 (per month) as promised.”

Dr Wan Azizah speaking at the PKR national congress in Johor Baru on November 26, 2011.  
— Picture by Choo Choy May

“This is our main strategy to raise the minimum household income to RM4,000 in five years. Keadilan is the first party to target (this).

“This shift in mindset is the weapon most feared by the ruling elite, as they know this will break their race-based economic strategy,” Dr Wan Azizah said in her policy speech this morning.

She said the second strategy is to match the economy and human resource through education reforms “so that each family will have more workers.”

The wife of Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the third strategy is to hand over Felda to settlers and their families, reported to number over two million, as outlined in the party’s Janji Palong.

Janji Palong proposes that Felda Plantations be dissolved and its 830,000 acres be offered to second- and third-generation settlers.

PKR also pledged to cancel all debt and share profits among settlers under the plan launched on Tuesday.

Felda settlements in 54 federal constituencies have proven to be a key vote bank for BN.

In her speech, Dr Wan Azizah said 342,198 Malaysians were unemployed as of August, 90 per cent of whom were under the age of 30 and more than half had tertiary education.

She cited a World Bank report which said seven out of 10 employers cited poor English and IT skills for rejecting job applications.

She said PKR would replace “the obsolete economic programme that cheats the public” and guarantee equal opportunities for all.

Cost of living is expected to be a major election issue after inflation hit a two-year high of three per cent in March and continued to rise over the next six months.

The BN administration has also allowed prices of fuel, electricity and sugar to rise, citing a subsidy bill that would otherwise double.

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