

**Government To Spend RM2.2 Billion To Upgrade MADA Area Within 10 Years –
Najib
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ALOR SETAR, July 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced Thursday that the government would spend RM2.2 billion within 10 years to upgrade the Muda Agriculture Development Authority (MADA) area.

He said the Mada area rehabilitation project would begin this year and the allocation would be used to repair and upgrade infrastructure like canals and farm roads, and to acquire land.

"For this year alone, the federal government has allocated RM45 million for land acquisition and restoring infrastructure," Najib said in his speech at a "jamuan rakyat" (people's feast) with over 15,000 attendees at a public field, in Guar Chempedak, near here.

The prime minister said the huge allocation for the MADA area was aimed at increasing padi production from 6.5 tonnes to over 10 tonnes per hectare by 2020.

"Each year, a farmer gets a subsidy of RM2,500 for each hectare. When there's a flood, we give some more (contribution)...and even mattresses.

"Who help (them)?....we...the federal government," said Najib whose assurance that the federal government would continue to help farmers improve their lot was followed by thunderous applause from the crowd.

The prime minister also drew attention to the presence of over 15,000 Barisan Nasional supporters at the event which was more than the number of demonstrators at the Bersih-initiated illegal rally in the federal capital on July 9.

"They (demonstrators) showed a video clip on YouTube showing Mat Sabu (PAS deputy president) injured after being beaten and roughened up by police.

"Don't 'kelentong' (lie)....it's all 'temberang' (bluff). Then he (Mat Sabu) was pictured seated on a wheelchair. He can be given an Oscar for acting. The truth is, he was not at all beaten or roughened up by police," he said.

Najib said that according to political theory, "public perception is difficult to change if they are repeatedly shown images of incidents that can gain their sympathy".

Therefore, he said, the public must be made to understand the issue being played up by certain quarters for them (public) to see the truth.

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