

Opposition's oil pledge does not hold water'
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SIPITANG: The Opposition's promise of increasing the royalty of oil producing states from 5% to 20% is unrealistic and an empty promise, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said the Opposition's offer did not make economic sense and was just its usual gimmick to woo voters.

"You can't look at the oil royalty in isolation, It must be looked at in the context of government revenue," Najib said.

"If you take away 20% or 50%, does it mean allocations meant for Sabah will be cut?" he said to reporters after the ground-breaking ceremony for the RM4.6bil Sabah Ammonia and Urea (Samur) plant at Kg Banting here, about 160km from Kota Kinabalu.

The Prime Minister was responding to a question on Pakatan Rakyat's promise to increase the royalty to 20% for oil producing states.

"The Opposition is promising oil royalty, reduction of petrol prices, wiping out outstanding PTPTN loans worth about RM40bil and ending toll collection, which will cost millions.

"Where do they think they will get the money (revenue) to run the country?" Najib asked, adding that the Opposition's *Buku Jingga* made promises worth about RM100bil if one added up all the figures.

Najib said the Barisan was focused on realistic and real development and the state received huge Federal development allocations that benefited the people.

He said projects like the Samur and the Rapid oil and gas development under Petronas were major economic transformation projects outlined under the National Key Economic Areas.

He said Samur would export 1.2 million tonnes of granulated urea a year after it starts operations in 2015 and would be able to bring in US\$4.5bil (RM13bil) annually.

Petronas Chemicals Group Bhd chairman Datuk Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin said Samur was part of the company's plans to grow its fertiliser business to ride on the agricultural growth in Asia-Pacific.

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