

'Return Selangor to BN for us to help poor'

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Poverty foundation's plans uncertain if PKR in power, says Najib

SHAH ALAM: PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday called on the people of Selangor to help Barisan Nasional to regain the state administration to ensure the realisation of Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan's (YBK) five-year transformation plan.

This was because the foundation's comprehensive plan to assist the poor was "conditional" unless the Parti Keadilan Rakyat-led state government returned the land it had seized from YBK and lifted the caveat it had placed on the rest of YBK's land.

"The plan is on land seized from YBK and land on which the state government had placed a caveat. Therefore, it seems to me that this five-year transformation plan is conditional.

"If the plan is to become a reality, YBK has to get back the 473 acres of land and more than 800 acres, which the state government has placed a caveat," said Najib in launching YBK's transformation programme in conjunction with its 22nd anniversary, here.

Najib said based on what had happened to YBK since Pakatan Rakyat took over the state administration, one could surmise that it all started after Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim failed to become the foundation's chairman.

"We don't have to be a nuclear scientist to conclude that YBK's transformation plan is closely linked to political transformation in Selangor."

Najib said YBK's uncertain future was similar to that faced by tenants of the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) Complex who faced a 100 per cent rental hike and pleaded to the Federal Government to take over the building.

"I will repeat what I have said to them: It would be so much easier for us to just take over the Selangor state government.

"YBK's future depends on us taking over Selangor," he said.

In 2010, the PKR-led state government rejected the application by YBK to build a Universiti Teknologi Mara campus on a piece of land in Serendah as the foundation failed to pay RM5.5 million in quit rent.

The project has been shifted to Jasin, Malacca.

Also present were Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar, Selangor BN coordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed, Selangor MCA chief Datuk Donald Lim Siang Chai and YBK chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Sakom.

Najib said based on YBK's track record, he was confident that the foundation could be the government's strategic partner in alleviating hardcore and relative poverty.

He said although hardcore poverty had almost been eliminated, there might be those who would fall back into the category and would need government help.

YBK is a non-governmental organisation established in April 1990 to carry out poverty eradication programmes in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur and provide aid in education and finance, among others.

Its 2012-2016 transformation plan is to ensure that it remains relevant and responsive to its target group as poverty issues keep changing in magnitude and scale.

Ever since its establishment, YBK has charted an exemplary record in poverty eradication through its scholarship, human capital, social and economic development programmes.

The foundation has helped more than 50,000 people through its programmes, leading some of them to become doctors, engineers and army officers.

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