

Barisan won't neglect the poor and hardworking, says PM

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By LEE YEN MUN

PUTRAJAYA: Poor and hardworking Malaysians will not be neglected by the Barisan Nasional government, said the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak recounted a poignant visit to a village called Kampung Bantal, Pahang, where residents took home low wages and survived on basic necessities.

"As its name suggests, people who pass through the village travel a long distance on foot, and before they can continue their journey further, they will "rest" fully in Kampung Bantal.

"As a responsible Prime Minister, I must never allow people like the folks in Kampung Bantal to be left out from the country's development," Najib said in a blog posting yesterday.

He listed the Government's initiatives under the National Key Results Area (NKRA) to tackle the cost of living, with RM36.7bil spent in subsidies for essential goods from 2010 to 2011.

"The Cost of Living NKRA is thus my way of making sure that the rakyat's bread and butter issues are taken care of.

"Hardworking Malaysians should not be punished by the escalating cost of living.

"Stay with me, and let's work hand-in-hand to take the country to greater heights," said Najib.

He added that subsidies included those for liquefied petroleum gas, sugar, flour and petrol.

Najib also spoke of the one-off Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) aid of RM500, which had benefited an estimated 4.78 million households.

The Government had also pumped RM530mil back to the pockets of the rakyat through the RM100 aid for each schooling child, Najib said.

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