

**Middle-Income People Also Gain From Economic Growth - Najib
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SABAK BERNAM (Selangor), Feb 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today people in the middle income and lower middle income groups also gain from the nation's economic growth through the various development programmes and direct aid from the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

The prime minister said these groups are not forgotten under the inclusive nature of the 1Malaysia concept.

"In any economic system in the world, it is normal for the rich to feel comfortable and the poor to receive aid, but many in the middle income and lower middle income groups are overlooked," he said.

Najib addressed a gathering of farmers, fishermen and smallholders from the Sabak Bernam parliamentary constituency in Bagan Nakhoda Omar here as part of his one-day visit to Selangor.

On the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M), the prime minister said the BN government shows no discrimination whatsoever in the matter because people who are not supporters of the BN also get the RM500 one-off payment for households with a monthly income of RM3,000 and less.

Najib said the people should continue to elect the BN as the ruling party for the sake of the future of the country and the generations to come.

He said the opposition pact faced with ideological conflicts should not be given the mandate to administer the country.

The BN has laid a strong foundation in terms of government administration and economic management which enable the channelling of various kinds of aid to the people, such as BR1M, early schooling aid and book vouchers for students as well as the 1Malaysia shops and 1Malaysia clinics, he said.

At the event, Najib announced a compensation of RM1.5 million for Sabak Bernam banana smallholders whose crop has been attacked by the Moko disease that makes the fruits turn black or brown.

The quantum of compensation, under a special allocation from the Prime Minister's Department, is based on acreage, with RM1,500 given for each hectare.

Najib also handed over BR1M to 20 people in the Sabak Bernam parliamentary constituency, RM322,400 in fishermen's cost-of-living allowance to the Sungai Besar Fishermen's Association, and machinery to five small and medium industry entrepreneurs.

Earlier, the prime minister opened the service centre of Sungai Air Tawar state

assemblyman Datuk Raja Ederis Raja Ahmad, and named it "Dewan Seri Peladang".

He also had breakfast with BN grassroots leaders.

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