

Najib Announces RM15,000 Windfall For Each Settler Family
Bernama
May 8, 2012

JERANTUT, May 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today announced a windfall not only to the Felda settlers but also their wife and children as well as the staff of the land development agency.

The windfall for the settlers would involve a total of RM1.689 billion to be distributed to 112,635 settlers throughout the country in conjunction with the listing of Felda Global Ventures Holdings (FGVH) on Bursa Saham.

The Prime Minister said the windfall would be paid out in three phases with the first amounting to RM5,000 for the head of the family, phase two of RM5,000 for the wife of the settler, and phase three amounting to RM5,000 for the second generation of Felda settlers.

Making the announcement before almost 50,000 people at Felda Jengka 8, near here, Najib said Felda was now entering a new transformation following the listing of FGVH.

At the event, the Prime Minister also announced a bonus of two-and-a-half months salary for Felda officers and staff.

Also present at the event were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, and Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad.

Speaking to reporters after the announcement, Najib said the first phase would be disbursed within two to three weeks from today.

"Payment would be made in cash and the second phase would be disbursed as soon as the first phase had been paid out while the bonus to Felda staff would also be paid out in the near future," he said.

At the function, Najib also announced another three incentives namely a trust fund, the 'blue form' for FGVH shares for the settlers and an additional aid for the Felda Foundation fund to assist in the programme to repair the old and traditional villages in Felda areas.

On the trust fund, Najib said 20 per cent of the trust fund was provided in conjunction with the listing of FGVH and if the FGVH made profits, a dividend would be paid out to every settler.

"Next year, we are expecting a profit of RM1.5 billion and if the quantum is maintained like last year, each settler will receive more than RM1,300, and if the profit is higher, the settlers would receive even more," he said.

The Prime Minister said every settler would receive the 'blue form' to get the FGVH shares and he strongly hoped that the settlers would not sell the shares.

At the function, Najib also lashed out at those who opposed the listing of FGVH including a small section of the settlers as well as the opposition who tried to confuse the people.

Najib said the windfall was perceived to be most meaningful to the settlers who had made

much sacrifice to develop the land schemes which were originally jungles.

"This aid is not like the 1Malaysia Aid (BR1M), merely RM500. This is not BR1M, but BROOM," he said in jest.

Najib said Felda, which started at Bilut Valley in 1956 has now entered the final phase of the 21st century and could now stand strongly to participate in the world economy.

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