

Growth in Kelantan via Islamic model, vows PM

New Straits Times

7 September 2012

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MACHANG: PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak wants to see changes in Kelantan with Islam adopted as a model for development in the state.

He said although Pas kept harping that it was the champion of Islam, it was Umno and Barisan Nasional which brought development, changes and greatness on the basis of Islamic principles.

"We do not want hudud peddled as an election bait. We cannot buy and sell Allah's law. If they really want to form an Islamic state, why work with DAP?"

"(Former Pas deputy president) Nasharudin Mat Isa's meeting with me in Mecca to find a solution for the Muslim world has become a big issue and there are calls for him to be sacked," he told a crowd of more than 20,000 attending a "Come Celebrate Hari Raya With The Prime Minister" programme at SMK Hamzah here yesterday.

The prime minister also said Umno worked hard to uplift Islam but the opposition merely held rallies, which led some participants to misbehave like exposing their buttocks.

"What kind of values are these?" said Najib, referring to an incident at a Merdeka Day's eve gathering where a college student exposed his buttocks while other participants stepped on pictures of him, his wife and a top government official.

Najib, however, thanked Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat for not supporting such actions and said he had written a letter to Nik Aziz on the matter.

On the support for BN in Kelantan, he said the winds of change were very strong and that the people wanted to see changes.

"What do the people here want? Development, better water supply, a new stadium and highway?"

"We will include them in the manifesto and will deliver if we win because we honour all our promises."

At the event, the prime minister also approved an allocation to repair 200 houses belonging to the hardcore poor in the district, topping up the 100 houses requested by Machang Umno parliamentary coordinator Datuk Ahmad Jazlan Yaakob.

Earlier, in Setiu, Terengganu, Najib said Felda would share the cost of providing loans to children of settlers who wanted to pursue their education.

"This means half of the education loans (RM15 million) will be provided by Felda and the other half will be provided by the government through PTPTN (the National Higher Education Fund Corporation)," he said at a Hari Raya Aidilfitri gathering at Kampung Tasik Tok Lebai.

For the second year of implementation, the figure would be raised to RM30 million and in the third year, RM45 million.

Najib added that Felda had also decided to extend its skills training scheme to children of non-Felda settlers.

He said 2,000 of them would be given the opportunity to undergo skills training programmes such as the Malaysia Airlines Aircraft Maintenance Engineering training scheme and courses conducted by other institutions.

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Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/growth-in-kelantan-via-islamic-model-vows-pm-1.139043>