

**New centre for hawkers is a promise kept, says Najib**  
**New Straits Times**  
**30 September 2012**

SEREMBAN: The 40-year-old renowned Ampangan Hawkers' centre here will be demolished and rebuilt with a new centre.

The old centre, which had been housing 66 hawkers, would undergo a major uplift under the Warga Bina Dinamik project.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arrived at the site at 9.40am to officiate at the groundbreaking ceremony.

His presence attracted more than 10,000 people from all walks of life, who were ecstatic about the prospect of meeting the prime minister.

Najib said his visit to the centre had given him opportunities to meet and shake hands with hawkers.

"From the number here, we get the impression that the hawkers here are ready to give their support to Barisan Nasional," he said to applause and cheers from the crowd.

Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said the government was the only administration which had kept to its promises.

"The construction of a new building for the traders is one proof that we have always kept to our word."

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

The new centre would be named Medan Selera Ampangan. At a cost of RM8.9 million, it could accommodate 600 customers compared with only 200 at the old centre.

It would also be equipped with 120 parking bays and 60 stalls.

The architecture of the building was inspired by Istana Seri Menanti in Kuala Pilah.

Refurbishment work began on Sept 24 and the new building was slated for completion on May 24, 2014. Ampangan Hawkers' Association chairman Azman Mohammad, 51, described the people's response as extraordinary.

He said he did not expect the huge crowd to throng the centre to enjoy the food served in conjunction with the groundbreaking.

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Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/new-centre-for-hawkers-is-a-promise-kept-says-najib-1.150346>