

More progress if BN stays in power, says PM
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PEKAN: Malaysia stands to enjoy more development and progress if the people give Barisan Nasional the chance to administer the country for another five years, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said the people could see for themselves the "real changes" that are taking place over the last three years.

"This is part of our transformation agenda under the core philosophy and concept of 1Malaysia. One of the main principles of 1Malaysia is social justice, whereby the poor and the low-income earners are brought out of poverty," he said in his speech before presenting dividends from Risda amounting to RM314.6mil to 39,306 smallholders nationwide here yesterday.

Najib said Barisan always ensured that all segments of the society would benefit from the country's wealth.

Among them are the civil servants who received a half-month bonus with a minimum payment of RM500 and a special payment of RM500 for pensioners.

The other benefits were Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia payments for those earning RM3,000 and below, a windfall payment for Felda settlers while taxi drivers get to enjoy 1Malaysia tyre subsidies.

"Now, it is Risda smallholders who received dividends for their efforts. The Barisan promise is not merely political rhetoric. Imagine the benefits the people will get if we are given another five years to govern the country," he said to applause from the audience.

He also announced that 513 Risda community development officers would get an increase in allowance to RM300 per month from RM200 now, which would be backdated to January this year.

Najib later presented Risda a mock cheque of RM397mil in government grants to finance replanting schemes and other development programmes for the benefit of smallholders.

At a *buka puasa* event with Kampung Temai villagers here later, Najib said the welfare of the people was always the Government's priority.

"We need support so we can look after their welfare," he said.

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