

Najib promises lower tax, targeted BR1M handouts of RM1,200
Malaysian Insider
April 6, 2013
By Ida Lim

BUKIT JALIL, April 6 — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today promised an eventual cash payout of RM1,200 to each low-income family, aiming at the economic needs of voters as he seeks a stronger mandate for the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition in Election 2013.

Najib tonight said the popular Bantuan Rakyat 1 Malaysia (BR1M) scheme, where families with a monthly income of less than RM3,000 currently receive RM500, will be continued if BN wins.

"The BR1M amount will be increased further gradually to RM1,200," he told a crowd of cheering BN supporters in uniform blue in a live television address here.

He said that BR1M was not "vote-buying", but a better way of helping out low-wage earners, pointing out that blanket subsidies would also benefit the rich.

He said that BN plans to gradually decrease the tax imposed upon individuals and companies.

The BN chairman said that the coalition would seek to attract investments worth RM1.3 trillion that would in turn create 3.3 million jobs, with 2 million of them in the high-income sector.

In addressing the rising cost of living that analysts say is the key concern of voters, Najib pledged to build one million affordable houses in the next five years.

During his hour-long speech, Najib slammed the federal opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) for allegedly failing to fulfil the promises they made in Election 2008, while reminding Malaysians watching the live telecast of BN's achievements during his four-year rule.

He spoke of initiatives under his administration's "1 Malaysia" brand that offered subsidised goods and services, including clinics, grocery stores, bookstores and clothes, saying that these cheaper alternatives will be continued under a BN rule.

Najib said the BN administration could provide for higher BR1M and book vouchers' amount because of the country's strong economic growth, appearing to dispel possible criticism over the increased spending even as Malaysia continues its run of huge government debts.

He said that the handouts would also help stimulate the local economy.

The leader who took over the country's reins in 2009 reminded voters of Malaysia's impressive economic growth at 5.6 per cent last year, a relatively low inflation rate of 1.6 per cent and an unemployment rate at three per cent, adding that hardcore poverty has been virtually eradicated.

"If that is our performance in four years, try and imagine if BN is given a strong mandate, what will be done in the coming five years," he said when pushing for yet another BN win in the polls.

Najib said BN's election manifesto, which carried the theme of "Rakyat Didahulukan" (People

First) and is titled "Menepati Janji Membawa Harapan" (A Promise of Hope), contained pledges covering 17 areas including rural development, fulfilling the aspirations of the youth, education and the fight against corruption and crime.

He pledged to build surfaced roads in Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia with lengths of 2,500km, 2,800km and 6,300km respectively.

In a stadium where the women's wing of Umno in their trademark red headscarves made up close to a third of the crowd, Najib acknowledged that women have always been the "backbone" of BN.

He told them that BN would push for 30 per cent female representation in both the public and private sectors.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/najib-promises-lower-tax-targeted-br-1m-handouts-of-rm1200/>