

**More assistance for those in low-income group**  
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PM'S PROMISE: BN puts people first and this is reflected in BR1M aid

SENAI: THE people can expect more financial assistance for the low- and middle-income groups in the form of the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) 3.0 and also 4.0.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced this at the state-level Chinese New Year celebrations at the Econsave supermarket grounds here yesterday.

He said BR1M 3.0 and 4.0 would be extended from the present group of those eligible to include those who are single, below 21 and earning less than RM2,000 a month.

"Barisan Nasional (BN) as a government has always put the people first. We need to be inclusive not only to investors, but the people as well."

Najib said the government had felt the pulse of the people, thus BR1M was born to offer financial aid to the needier segments of society.

He said in order for this benefit to continue, the people must give BN the mandate to form the next government.

Najib said BN, as a responsible government, did not make empty promises.

"We don't tell the public that we can get rid of tolls, PTPTN (National Higher Education Corporation Fund) loans or reduce the price of fuel.

"This is because we make promises based on reality.

"There is no such thing as a free lunch," he said, adding to do so would cause others to bear the cost and the government would find it difficult to obtain revenue.

Najib said such popularist promises by the opposition were not possible as in reality they were not feasible.

He added that a planned and systematic change was what BN was doing for the benefit of the people.

"If we get a strong government, then we can go towards a brighter future for the country."

Najib said BN needed the support of the rakyat to continue the country's development plans.

"We need to achieve the country's progress through the inclusion of all races.

"This is what 1Malaysia is all about."

Najib gave an example of the development taking place in Kulaijaya, as part of the Iskandar Malaysia development region.

This included the second phase of the Johor Premium Outlets, which will start soon.

Najib was given a rousing welcome by about 10,000 people who had waited for his arrival hours before the celebrations began.

He joined Johor BN leaders, including Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, in performing the yee sang ceremony to usher in the Chinese New Year.

Najib also said Iskandar Malaysia, since it was launched in 2006 until the end of last year, had attracted RM106 billion in committed investments.

"On Feb 19 (Tuesday), my Singapore counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, and myself will visit Iskandar Malaysia to launch the Wellness Township project."

The project, a joint venture between Khazanah Nasional Bhd and Singapore's Temasek Holding Ltd, will be a township offering medical services, holistic services and alternative medical treatment.

Those present were entertained to a multicultural performance, which included the lion dance, a Chinese drum performance and zapin.

The crowd gave a huge cheer when a video of the prime minister playing Chinese drums and wishing Gong Xi Fa Cai was played on the screen behind the main stage.

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