

Government Bent On Freeing Fishermen From Grip Of Middlemen - Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- The government, through the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, is bent on helping fishermen free themselves from the clutches of the middlemen in the fisheries products trade, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The prime minister said the government had outlined eight major strategies in the effort to achieve the mission, which included taking over - through the Malaysian Entrepreneur Group Economic Fund (Tekun) - the RM40 million that the fishermen owed middlemen.

"I believe that with a comprehensive approach, we can help the fishermen raise their income," Najib said in his latest post on his Facebook account.

The Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry yesterday launched a 'jihad' (holy war) by way of eight major strategies to free fishermen from the clutches of the middlemen.

The minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, said Tekun would pay off the middlemen the money owed to them by the fishermen and the fishermen would then pay back to Tekun.

A study estimated that most of the 47,000 Zone A and Zone B fishermen had debts with the middlemen and they were bound to sell their produce to them.

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