

Najib Hands Out Aid To 300 Homeless City Folks
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today handed out aid and cash to homeless people in conjunction with the Nur Ramadan programme.

About 300 homeless people from around the city converged at the Temporary Service Centre for the Homeless in Lorong Medan Tuanku 2, Jalan Sultan Ismail here, where the distribution of the aid was held.

They received donations in the form of RM200 cash each, 'kain pelikat', 'kain batik', food pack for breaking fast and Aidilfitri gift, contributed by the Federal Territories Ministry, Kuala Lumpur City Hall and Sinotech Property Development Sdn Bhd.

Present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and his deputy Datuk Dr Loga Bala Mohan.

A woman, known as Sharliza, 30, could not hold back her tears because she never expected to celebrate this year's Hari Raya as a homeless because she ran out of all her savings after being cheated by her friend.

"Six months ago I came to Chow Kit from Penang to start a business with my childhood friend, but she disappeared after receiving the money to start the business," she said.

The mother of two boys, aged five and one, and who was recently abandoned by her husband was also touched by the concern shown by the government towards the homeless people.

"For me, there is no more Hari Raya after what had happened. I am still confused and do not know what I should do, I did not have the opportunity to further my study, but I will try to find the money too," said Sharliza who works as a dishwasher at a restaurant for RM5 a day.

Hanizah Udin, 57, a mother who was left alone by her son after he got married, hoped that she would meet him someday.

"I am grateful that there are still people who are concerned to provide assistance to people like us, six years to celebrate Hari Raya in the streets of Chow Kit is nothing interesting to me," she said.

For Zaleha Zakarian, 37, the cash received would be used to purchase essential items for Hari Raya such as new clothes for her five children.

Zaleha, who has been staying at Lorong Haji Taib Dua with her husband and children since

2001 said, she was excited and grateful to have the opportunity to meet and receive help from the Prime Minister himself.

The two-storey building is also used as a service and food distribution centre for the homeless people and provides facilities such as toilets and bathroom as well as a prayer room.

The project was developed by Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd (MRCB) as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) and coordinated by the Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and relevant government agencies.

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