

**Hardcore Poor Families Get 20KG of Rice per Month – Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- Every registered hardcore poor family will be given 20 kilograms of rice every month under the MyBeras Program until December 2016, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The initiative is part of the 2016 Budget Recalibration measures introduced to ease the burden of the poor families.

"The government is very concerned about the people affected by the rise in the cost of living especially the hardcore poor group," he said when tabling the budget adjustments at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), here Thursday.

In addition, the government will liberalise control on the import quotas (AP) for eight selected agricultural products temporarily to ensure consistent supply, in order to bring down the cost of daily essential items.

He said the agricultural products included raw coffee beans, buffalo meat, beef and mutton.

Najib said that at the same time, conditions on quality and safety compliance on imported items would continue to be emphasised.

The Prime Minister added that the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) would set up direct purchase markets or 'MyFarm Outlets' to sell items such as fish, chicken, meat, vegetables and fruits with the selling price being five to 20 per cent cheaper than the market price.

"Initially, it will be opened at Precinct 7, Putrajaya in March and will be extended to 10 locations in other urban centres nationwide this year," he said.

In order to ensure that the people enjoyed reasonable prices for goods, Najib said he had directed the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry (KPDNKK) to identify more fair price shops such as foreign and local hypermarkets.

"So, the number of Fair Price Shops will be raised from 640 units to 1,000 shops in total this year," he said.

At the same time, Najib wanted the KPDNKK to tighten up enforcement and take legal action against unethical traders who took the opportunity to indulge in profiteering.

In order to continue to champion the cause of the padi farmers and increase padi production, the government would provide additional cash of RM50 for every metric ton of clean padi as an incentive for padi production inputs.

"At the same time, the government will improve the implementation of actual quality of padi under the standard grading system," he said.

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