

**PM Announces RM500 Special Aid for Rubber Smallholders**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA KANGSAR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today announced a special aid of RM500 each to 388,111 smallholders in the country to help ease their burden due to the drop in rubber prices.

He said the one-off payment, involving RM194 million, would be disbursed to the smallholders beginning today.

"This aid is not because of the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary by-election as we have given it in 2013, 2014 and this is the third time.

"If there are people who said this aid (is given) because of the by-election, it is not true. This concerns the welfare of the rural community," he said at the presentation of the special aid here.

Out of the overall 388,111 recipients, 1,479 are smallholders from the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary constituency involving an allocation of RM739,500.

Elaborating, Najib who is also Finance Minister said from the 388,111 recipients, a total of 307,770 were owners, while the the remaining 80,341 comprised rubber tappers who did not own their plantations.

"The government is very concerned about the needs of the people, no matter where they are especially in rural areas who have always been staunch supporters of the present government.

"Despite the current world economic slowdown, no matter under whatever circumstances the government just cannot stand to see the people in times of hardship without helping them," he said.

Najib said as the head of the government, he and all Cabinet ministers would always make careful as well as systematic planning that could be implemented for the people.

The Prime Minister said the government would try its best to keep all its promises made to the people, unlike the opposition that was still unable to prove its capabilities to deliver on its promises.

"The opposition parties only know how to criticise but they have yet to prove their capabilities. Even states that are governed by the opposition are also dependent on the help of the federal government," he said.

In his speech, Najib also urged the people of Kuala Kangsar to support Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate Datin Mastura Mohd Yazid in the upcoming parliamentary by-election.

"I really hope that the people will consider my only wish...please support the BN candidate," he said.

The Kuala Kangsar parliamentary by-election will be held on June 18 following the death of its incumbent Datuk Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad in a helicopter crash in Sebuyau, Sarawak, last May 5.

The by-election will see a four-cornered fight between Mastura, who is also the wife of the late Wan Mohammad Khair-il, Dr Najihatussalehah Ahmad (PAS), Prof Dr Ahmad Termizi (Parti Amanah Negara) and Independent candidate Izat Bukhary Ismail Bukhary.

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