

**Najib: BR1M is not vote-buying**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
**25 Februari 2018**

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today shared with the people the background of the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M), following various allegations by the opposition, including that it is intended to buy votes.

Speaking before a crowd of about 2,000 BR1M recipients, he said, the aid was proposed by Bank Negara in an effort to enable targeted subsidy to be carried out.

"This (targeted) subsidy is better than one-off subsidy which has many leakages. For example, the possibility of the subsidy recipients selling it at the border.

"Secondly, the person who should receive the subsidy is relatively getting less compared with others, for example, RON95 petrol, people with big cars get more benefits from those who drive a Proton Saga or Myvi," he said at the launch of the national-level BR1M at the Sultan Ahmad Shah Convention Hall in Pekan today.

Also present were Pahang Menteri Besar Adnan Yaakob and Treasury secretary-general Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said it was therefore time for the government to make a policy change that gave huge benefits to the people through the distribution of BR1M.

He said BR1M was implemented in 2012 with aid of RM500 each for nearly 4.1 million recipients, before the amount was increased to RM1,000 in 2016 and RM1,200 in 2017.

"Our promise five years ago in the BN manifesto (was that) we would increase BR1M to RM1,200 and within that period, the promise was fulfilled. We will not make a promise if we think we cannot keep it.

"I'll not issue a statement that a certain manifesto has to be reviewed... some people make a statement, not to fulfil (the promises), (but) to review 60 percent of the manifesto. What's the use of a manifesto where the promises cannot be fulfilled," he said.

He said until today, the BN government had fulfilled 97.6 percent of promises in the last general election's manifesto.

## **'Not *dedak*'**

Najib said BR1M, over which questions were raised by social media users whenever he uploaded his status on his Facebook and Twitter accounts, also helped to stimulate the country's economy.

"Whenever we get BR1M, we use it to buy essential items like rice, sugar, milk and school uniform... this stimulates domestic economy," he said.

The prime minister also hit out at certain quarters who, he said, were only good at criticising BR1M, but did not give any suggestions on a better way to distribute the subsidy.

He said he was willing to consider any suggestions for implementation for the good of the people and the country.

"To say it (BR1M) is *dedak* (animal feed) or cash is king, it is nonsense because during his time it was not done. We are a government that is concerned about the people's welfare," he said.

Distribution of the 2018 BR1M, involving an allocation of RM6.3 billion for about seven million recipients nationwide, will be carried out in three phases.

The first payment will be disbursed beginning tomorrow, while the second and third in June and August, respectively.

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