

Ex-settlers get paid for land

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AFTER a 15-year wait, some 100 former settlers of Felda Sungai Buaya have received RM50,000 each from the Federal Government as the initial payment in compensation for land acquired from them. They each received RM49,000 by way of a bank draft and RM1,000 in cash.

"We have fulfilled our promise to the people. We deliver what we promise and this is a token of our sincerity that we will keep our pledges.

"We are not like the opposition, which is only good in making promises but not in delivering them," said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in his speech at a school field near Bukit Beruntung.

The event at SK Sungai Buaya saw the presentation of the payments to the former settlers and the handing over of a cheque for the construction of an interchange at Sungai Buaya, as well as donations for mosques and a surau in Hulu Selangor.

Najib said some quarters were alleging that the government was giving out financial assistance to win over support for the by-election tomorrow.

"They are claiming this is a game, a drama. But I will like to assure the people here that BN keeps its promises and we will continue to do so, including all that we have pledged in the run-up to this by-election."

Najib expressed his hope that the people in Selangor would return the state to Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

"By doing so, you would gain more development.

"I want to announce that if this happens, we would build a Universiti Institut Teknologi Mara branch in Serendah on land given by Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan.

Najib said that the former Felda settlers in Sungai Buaya would be given an Islamic insurance policy of RM10,000, which would be given to their families in the event of their deaths.

On BN candidate P. Kamalanathan, Najib said everyone he had met had praised him as someone who was friendly.

"I assure you that he will be an effective Member of Parliament if he is elected tomorrow. He speaks fluently in

Bahasa Malaysia, smiles a lot and from afar we can see his white teeth.

"We can rely on him to be a good MP for the people here."

On the Sungai Buaya tiered interchange, Najib expressed his hope that concessionaire Projek Lebuhraya Utara Selatan (PLUS) would fulfil its promises to build the interchange.

"As finance minister, I will monitor them personally and if they do not keep their promise, action will be taken against them, including cancelling their licence. I assure you this.

Building of the Sungai Buaya tiered interchange, which will provide more than 100,000 motorists access to the development areas of Sungai Buaya, Sungai Choh, Serendah and north Rawang, is expected to start in the first quarter of next year.

The tiered interchange will be built at Km436 of the North-South Expressway between the Rawang Tiered Interchange (at Km444) and the Bukit Beruntung Tiered Interchange (at Km428).

It is expected to cost RM90 million (excluding the cost of land acquisition). PLUS will fund it.

Later, during a walkabout in Ulu Yam town, the prime minister stopped by Weng Heng restaurant where he spoke to a group of Chinese residents.

"The 1Malaysia concept is a very popular brand. It is far more popular than 100 Plus," he said, holding a can of the 100 Plus drink.

"1Malaysia is one people, one nation and one dream. This is unlike the opposition, where Pas, DAP and Parti Keadilan Rakyat have different dreams.

"We are a united country and there is peace and stability. That is most important.

"I appeal to the people here to support our candidate Kamalanathan, who is Mr Hitam Manis. He is handsome and he has promised me to work hard day and night."

Najib also approved an allocation of RM90,000 to the local Chinese association to improve the road leading to the cemetery in the area.

"I want the people in Hulu Selangor to make a major change on Sunday. I want our country to continue to develop. I want all the races -- Malay, Indian and Chinese -- to work together as 1Malaysia. We will work for the people and continue with this transformation."

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