

Najib gets a feel of the city's woes



Passers-by and tradesmen along Jalan Masjid India gather round to greet Datuk Seri Najib Razak on his walkabout yesterday. — Bernama picture

Later, Najib inspected the long-abandoned Plaza Rakyat project, next to Puduraya, before leaving at 4.25pm.

Speaking to reporters later, Raja Nong Chik said the prime minister had voiced concern over the lack of facilities and congestion at these places and wanted urgent improvements made.

“Through the walkabout and by boarding the LRT with the people, he experienced first-hand what they have to go through daily, like jams and other difficulties, in congested areas.

“He said such problems did not augur well for our country, which is seeking to become a developed nation by 2020.

“He has instructed the Federal Territories Ministry and other relevant ministries to ensure the facilities are improved for the benefit of the public.”

On the Plaza Rakyat project, Raja Nong Chik said Najib wanted the developer to be given an ultimatum to complete it.

“The prime minister wanted us to give a deadline to the developer to complete the pro-

ject. If they cannot adhere to it, we will terminate the contract and look for other means.

“He wants the project to resume as soon as possible,” Raja Nong Chik said.

The project, which initially cost RM1.2 billion, was abandoned for 12 years after it changed hands many times. Its current developer is Global Upline.

Plaza Rakyat was supposed to comprise three high-rise buildings for offices, condominiums and a budget hotel.

On Kuala Lumpur City Hall’s upgrading plans to ease con-

and other upgrading plans for the area.

He spent about 30 minutes walking along the street where he also stopped to chat with business people and the public there.

Later, he took the crowded LRT (he had to stand) at Masjid Jamek station to the Plaza Rakyat station. From there, he walked to the infamous over-congested Puduraya, where the express bus terminal for the northern and southern zones is located.

Najib stopped by one of the stalls in the building for a cool drink.

Flanked by a phalanx of bodyguards and an entourage of officials, Najib attracted a large crowd of onlookers, who wasted no time in snapping photographs of the nation’s sixth premier.

An excited woman, armed with a camera phone and squeezing her way through the crowd, was heard saying: *Saya mahu ambil gambar perdana menteri saya* (I want to take pictures of my prime minister).

KUALA LUMPUR: Three weeks after Datuk Seri Najib Razak went down to the ground to visit three localities in the heart of the city, the prime minister sprung another surprise when he went on a walkabout in the bustling Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and Puduraya yesterday.

However, he was not happy with the congestion and inefficiency of public facilities during his one-hour inspection, according to Federal Territories Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin.

Najib, who was dressed casually in a brown shirt and beige pants, arrived at Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, near Semua House at 3.20pm, accompanied by Raja Nong Chik, his deputy Datuk M. Saravanan and Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail.

At Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, famed for its textiles and jewellery shops, Najib was briefed by Ahmad on a proposed multi-storey carpark to be located near Semua House,

gestion problems in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Ahmad Fuad said a project for a multi-storey car park was already in the pipeline.

He said the contract for the project on a 0.5ha plot of land (near Semua House) had already been tendered out and work was expected to begin soon.

“It’s a 13-storey building and is estimated to cost RM50 million. “It will house a multi-storey carpark, hawker and trader centres, a multi-purpose hall and office space.” — Bernama