

## **Malaysia: Padang Sanai settlers want compensation for rubber crops**

KUALA NERANG: A group of 19 settlers who have been cultivating the land on a hillslope at Padang Sanai, near here, are appealing to the federal government to negotiate with the company that had acquired the land to pay them compensation. Their representative, Mat Saman Harun, 70, said this was because they were totally dependent on the produce from the land they had been working on for the past 29 years as a source of income. They had appealed to the state government to negotiate with the company concerned, but there had been no development to date, he told reporters at the Sebaping rubber plantation, Padang Sabai, yesterday. He said although the court had ruled that the land belonged to the company concerned, the company should consider their efforts in working on the jungle which had now turned into a plantation. Another settler, Che Kasa Awang, 55, said he had discussed with the company on the compensation in July 2009, and it had agreed to pay RM7,000 because the rubber trees he had planted on a four-hectare plat were still young and could not be tapped. “But until today, they have not given any compensation although all the rubber trees have been felled. They said they would pay compensation after all the rubber trees have been felled, but to date no compensation has been paid,” he said. Che Kasa said because the agreement had not been fulfilled, he and the other settlers gathered to obstruct the company from clearing the area yesterday until the compensation had been paid. — Bernama