



Felda settler Isnin Puasa showing his MyKad at his home in Kuala Pilah yesterday. PIC BY AMRAN YAHYA

Today is a significant day for Isnin Puasa

KUALA PILAH: Ramadan starts today and for a Felda settler here, the day is more significant than ever.

Isnin Puasa, 74, said this was because the first day of Ramadan this year fell on a Monday, or *Isnin* in the Malay language, just like his name.

He said the name was given by his father, Puasa Sabtu. He said he never asked his father why he was given the name as he felt that it was special.

"When I was in school, my friends often made fun of my name but I never took it to heart. Isnin is a common Malay name, but when it is combined with Puasa, it becomes something else," he said at his home in Felda Kepis here yesterday.

He said some of his family members had unique names too.

"My grandfather's name is Sabtu, while my father's name is Puasa. So I am Isnin bin Puasa bin Sabtu. Even my mother's name is unique — Pon Jambol."

He said the last time he cel-

ebrated the first day of Ramadan on a Monday was in 2016.

Isnin's wife, Mariah Ibrahim, 64, said names like Ahad, Isnin, Khamis, Jumaat and Sabtu, were common in her hometown in Melaka.

"When I first met my husband, I did not find anything strange about his name. But others might think of it as peculiar," said the mother of seven.

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris's Faculty of Language and Communication senior lecturer Associate Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Rosli Saludin said people in the past preferred nature-inspired names.

He said some used the names of plants, objects and days.

"Isnin Puasa is a combination of the day and month. It might have been inspired by the date of birth. Nowadays, people prefer to name their children according to foreign customs. Some even use religious names."

Rosli said the younger generation might feel that old-fashioned names were outdated.