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SARAWAK PRAISED FOR WISE DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES

Mahathir Sarawak

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MIRI, Sept 12 (Bernama) Wise deployment of natural resources as well as full utilisation of government's allocations contributed to Sarawak's rapid development for the past 10 years, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

It also made development in Sarawak among the most rapid in the country compared to other states in Peninsular Malaysia or Sabah, he said at an all community dinner, in conjunction with his two day visit to the state beginning today, at the Dewan Suarah here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was confident that Sarawak, under the leadership of Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, would continue to enjoy rapid development and would become the country's major tourist centre.

+I am also confident that Miri will, in 15 years from now, become a city because of its oil deposits as well as its natural attractions such as the Mulu Cave,+ he said.

He said all this would only be possible if the present government, which had proven that worked for the betterment of all races and the future generation, continued to govern the state. more.

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Mahathir Sarawak 2 Miri

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the Federal Government was always sensitive to the needs and wellbeing of the people including the question of education.

+We will study+ all requests including that for a full fledged university in Sarawak, he said.

In this connection, he said he would leave the matter to Education Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Haji Daud, who is a Sarawakian himself.

Minister in the Chief Minister's Office Datuk Dr George Chan Hong Nam, in his speech, said political stability had made Sarawak among the most harmonious states in the country.

This was due to dedication as well as outstanding performance of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government through its dynamic policy of development, he said.

However, he said Sarawakians should be wary of those who made empty promises as well as +wolf in sheep's clothing+.

Datuk Dr Chan also expressed confidence that Miri would attain city status in 15 years' time in view of its rapid growth and substantial allocation provided by the Federal Government for development of its infrastructural facilities.

Also present at the dinner were wife of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib and his wife Puan Sri Laila.

Tomorrow, the Prime Minister will visit Betong in Sri Aman Division where he will open a vocational school.

He will also join Muslims in performing Friday prayers in Kuching before returning to Kuala Lumpur. Bernama.

13/09/00 11MST