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TV-Reaction

SABAH AND SARAWAK LAUD MOVE TO SET UP PRIVATE TV STATION

KUCHING, July 9 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud today welcomed the move to set up a private television station here, saying its airing of programmes nationwide will enhance national integration.

"Sarawak welcomes the decision and wishes to thank Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for giving it the opportunity," he said.

By disseminating information to various parts of the country, the station would promote national integration and understanding of the state, he said.

Taib was speaking to reporters after opening a one-day seminar on "Propelling Sarawak Towards a Premier State in Malaysia Through Unity - The Foundation to Harmony, Stability and Prosperity" which was organised by the Sarawak Unity Foundation and Sarawak Backbenchers Club.

He hoped the station would give priority to local interests, particularly in terms of job distribution.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat today announced that Kenyalang Jasa Sdn Bhd, a company owned by Sarawak businessman Datuk Effendi Norwawi, has been granted the licence to operate Sarawak's first private television station which will air its programmes nationwide.

In Kota Kinabalu, the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) also lauded the government's decision, saying it is a timely move to enhance national integration.

"The television network is a giant leap forward for Sabah and Sarawak in projecting its rich history, culture and development to the nation," SAPP information chief Richard Yong said in a statement.

The station could also help attract investment to the two states, he said.

Yong said the people of Sabah had been asking the government to allow the establishment of such a station for a long time. -- BERNAMA

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