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Taib stresses education at convention

SANTUBONG, Fri. - Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu president Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud today said the party will stress the importance of science and mathematics upon Bumiputera students in order to enable them to catch up with the more advanced communities.

Urging parents to support the party's stand, Taib said PBB had, through the Dayak Cultural Foundation and Yayasan Melayu Sarawak, been stressing upon Bumiputera students to take the subjects more seriously.

"Gone are the days when we aspired to be office boys or a mere typist after completing our secondary education," he said in his presidential address at the party's convention.

Dwelling at length on education, Taib, who is also the Chief Minister, said he would like to see parents encouraging their children to expand their scope of studies, including taking up Information Technology and Japanese language.

He said only those who were better equipped with skills and training were expected to go higher in society.

"There are vast job opportunities in the State awaiting those who are qualified and possessing the necessary technical skills," he stressed.

Challenging PBB members to promote education among rural parents, Taib said he was sad that 40,000 children dropped out of schools annually.

Describing the figure as very high, he said there was no reason for parents to stop their children from going to schools.

He also wanted PBB members to help rural and poor parents who had gifted children in schools.

On the party election, scheduled for tomorrow, he urged the delegates to make the proper choice in electing candidates for the various posts.

"Elect only those who are able to carry out the party's struggles and programmes into the next century," he said, adding that the delegates should consider the election as a family affair.

"The candidates you elect must be able to work with other party leaders, including myself, Tan Sri Alfred Jabu, Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, Datuk Celestine Ujang, Datuk Adenan Satem and Datuk Abang Johari Tun Openg."

Earlier, he said PBB looked upon Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a model for its struggle for a better future for all races in the state.

The Prime Minister's unique ability to come up with innovative ideas during the last 17 years had given the State's leadership the necessary inspiration to tackle many challenges head on.

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