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Salary-Study

STATE GOV'T TO STUDY SALARY REVISION FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

SIBU, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- The state government will conduct a study to revise the salary scheme of its community leaders such as the Tuai Rumah (longhouse chief), the Ketua Kampong (village chief), the Penghulu, Pemanca and the Temenggong next year.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said it was however not possible to go for a complete revision as many such leaders from rural areas lacked the necessary academic qualification.

He said for this reason too it was impractical for the government to adopt the same salary scheme used in Peninsular Malaysia where for instance a Penghulu needed to have qualification at diploma level.

Speaking at a dialogue session with 434 community leaders from the SibU, Sarikei and Kapit Divisions at a hotel here today he assured them their salaries would be revised from time to time.

He said the exercise would take some time in order to be as satisfactory and accurate as possible as there were more than 5,000 rural villages and longhouses in the states.

He said while it was not a problem to look for sufficiently educated candidates for the post in town areas, most rural leaders were appointed based on their popularity and the support of the people in their areas.

Abdul Taib also reminded the leaders it was part of their responsibilities to advise the people on the need to continue to support a government with very effective and good leaders.

Saying that the present state and federal governments had very good leaders, he said they deserved to be maintained as they had brought unprecedented development and progress.

"Such progress and development that you can see throughout the length and breadth of the county are not automatic.

"They are due to the efforts of our leaders who are not only well qualified but far-sighted as well," he said.

Elaborating further Abdul Taib said Malaysia, a fast-progressing third world country under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad had recorded outstanding achievements even by developed countries' standards in many fields

He said it was imperative that the people remained united and supportive of the government, particularly during the forthcoming general election so that the present progress and development could be enhanced.

He was confident the people could see through the lies spread by the opposition politicians that the leaders had done nothing much and would reject them.

--BERNAMA.

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