

24 SEP 2001  
Sarawak-Bruit  
PULAU BRUIT TO BE A PROGRESSIVE PLACE

SEMOP (Sarikei Division), Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Pulau Bruit, a quaint fishing and farming village of about 13,000 people, is set to be transformed into a progressive place within seven years from now.

The area is the most backward in the state with 60 per cent of its population are living in poverty because of its isolation.

However, since 1990 the state government had been attempting to make the village accessible by bringing in road projects.

"In three years from now with the federal government's assistance, Pulau Bruit will be linked to other places in the state by roads," said Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud.

He was speaking at the opening of a RM55 million water supply project for the area by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He said it would be linked to nearby Tanjung Manis timber-based industrial and deepsea fishing area as well as the state's first commercial padi plantation area of Paloh.

He said the government was also trying to bring water and power supplies to more places on the island.

"This must be done if we are to invite investors to the place which has great potential for agriculture because of its very fertile land," he said.

In his speech, the Barisan Nasional (BN) incumbent for the Serdeng which includes Pulau Bruit, Datuk Mohd Asfia Awang Nassar said Serdeng and nearby constituencies of Matu-Daro and Belawai had been traditional strongholds of the BN.

On behalf of the people, he expressed gratitude to the government for the water supply project as well as for declaring Pulau Bruit as a rural growth centre in the state on June 25.

The declaration enables it to receive special attention from the government in development matters.

--BERNAMA  
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