

15 SEP 2001

Taib-IT

SARAWAK STUDENTS MUST MASTER IT SKILLS, SAYS TAIB

SIBU, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Sarawak students must make every effort now to master information technology (IT) skills, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today.

He said this was because its fate in future would depend on them having the ability to use high technology in all fields.

Half of the jobs then would require such skills, he said at a mass gathering to celebrate the 80th birthday of Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Abang Muhammed Salahuddin Abang Barieng at the Tun Zaidi Stadium here.

"Hence, we need to fine-tune our education system from now to getting our young people computer literate and to gain more technical, electronic and scientific knowledge," he said.

Abdul Taib said the state was thankful to the federal government for agreeing to set up 200 smart schools statewide.

"I have approval from the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to start six within this year of which one is already in existence and operation since last week in Kuala Oya," he said.

He described such assistance as most timely and fitting in very well with its aspirations.

Abdul Taib urged parents and community leaders to persist with instilling among students undying love for learning and being always curious about new things.

On development, he said the problem of the very scattered nature of its rural population was the reason why certain areas such as the central region had been more backward in comparison.

For this reason it would try the new approach of coming up with regional development in areas from Balingian to Selalang and from Entabai to Kanowit, he said.

"Hopefully this approach will help to speed up our efforts in developing them," he added.

-- BERNAMA

ESS RM