

25 AUG 2001

Bajau-Mahathir

SABAH'S BAJAU COMMUNITY APPRECIATES DR M'S ASSURANCES

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Bajau Community today expressed its appreciation for the Prime Minister's assurance that the interests of minorities in the country including those in Sabah and Sarawak will not be neglected in national development.

President of the Sabah Bajau Arts and Cultural Association, Datuk Salleh Tun Said said as one of the minority races in the country, the Bajau community counted itself fortunate that it was able to enjoy the prosperity of the country and contribute towards its development.

"We are fortunate in having the Prime Minister as our leader as he has not neglected the interests of the Bajau community in the various fields," he said when opening a seminar on the Bajau Identity here.

The Bajaus strongly supported the leadership of the Prime Minister, he said.

When visiting Sabah last month, Datuk Ser Dr Mahathir Mohamad had assured minorities in the country including those in Sabah and Sarawak that they would enjoy equal place and attention.

Salleh, who is also Sabah Minister of Local Government and Housing, said the Bajaus who formed a section of the voice of the Sabah people would work hard to realise the ultimate vision of the Prime Minister.

He reminded the Bajau community of the importance of focusing on the question of education and knowledge.

"These two aspects are vital keys to enable us to compete in the globalised world. It will also determine our survival as a race in the new and challenging millennium."

"Without knowledge and education we cannot master technology let alone control the world," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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