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INDEPENDENCE MEANS OUR PROGRESS IS IN OUR OWN HANDS- CM TAIB

KUCHING, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud has said that independence places the responsibility for the people's progress and development in their very own hands.

Compared to certain other countries embroiled in economic crisis or dependent on aid from the big powers, Malaysia need not seek permission to conduct its own affairs, he said.

"Now the oars are in our hands and we can row the boat at anytime. This is independence," he said at the signing of the patriotic pledge in conjunction with the visit of the Merdeka Convoy to Sarawak at the Kuching Waterfront here.

The Chief Minister also presented the Jalur Gemilang to the head of the delegation and president of the Malay Journalists Association of Malaysia Yazid Othman, who will hand it over to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 31, National Day in Putrajaya.

Malaysians had the will to succeed in whatever they did as they had the freedom and awareness that this was their own country.

He said Malaysians should realise their good fortune since gaining independence.

Sarawak is the second state after Sabah being visited by the Merdeka convoy involving 40 members of the association as well as 47 motorcycles.

-- BERNAMA

CJ CJ AAM