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S'wak-LNG

S'WAK TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FED GOVT TO ACHIEVE VISION 2020

BINTULU, May 8 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak government will work closely with the federal government to spearhead Vision 2020 to attain a developed nation status, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today.

He said that such strong relationship would further enhance the development growth in Bintulu which today saw the opening of the RM16.6 billion Petronas MLNG3 complex by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdul Taib expressed confidence that the completion of the RM9 billion Bakun hydroelectric project (BHEP) and the RM7.6 billion aluminium and smelting plant in Similajau would further spur Bintulu's development growth.

"I want to thank the federal government and especially Petronas for bringing the development to Bintulu which in the past was a small fishing village with 5,000 people and now turned into an oil and gas hub with a population of 150,000," he said.

Abdul Taib said that with several mega projects in place, Bintulu needed to cope with demand for skilled, technical and managerial workers.

He said that Sarawakians working overseas armed with technical expertise could come back to work in Bintulu.

On the national oil corporation's role in developing the state, he said: "Petronas has done well in building the technical workforce in Sarawak."

Abdul Taib said Petronas had helped transformed Bintulu to be among the country's important industrial and trading hub.

As for local participation, he advised the people in Bintulu to gear themselves to face challenges brought about by greater development.

"We should give our support to the federal government. We want to emulate your (Dr Mahathir's) continuous superb vision that has transformed the country into what it is today," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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