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Taib-BN

POWER SHARING HAS BROUGHT MUCH BENEFIT TO SABAH,SARAWAK- TAIB

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today the power-sharing concept practised by the Barisan Nasional has brought much benefit to Sabah and Sarawak.

Abdul Taib who is also President of the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) said the concept introduced by the country's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj had brought immense success to Malaysia.

He said the Tunku's attitude of not wanting power for only one race was the main factor which won the hearts of the people in Sabah and Sarawak and persuaded them to join Malaysia under the Alliance and now the Barisan Nasional.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the 50th anniversary of political power sharing among Barisan Nasional component parties at the Stadium Merdeka here.

Tracing the entry of Sabah and Sarawak into Malaysia, Taib said the power sharing formula practised by the then Alliance was the main answer given to the Cobbold Commission which was assigned to ascertain the wishes of the people in the two territories on the question of joining Malaysia.

"We have now benefited and attained progress in both states arising from this unique power-sharing formula," said Taib when speaking on behalf of the Sabah and Sarawak Barisan Nasional parties.

Abdul Taib also expressed thanks to BN and Barisan Nasional Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his immense contributions to Malaysia.

He said the people in Sabah and Sarawak would always have fond thoughts of Dr Mahathir. The Prime Minister retires at the end of next month.

He said the people of Sabah and Sarawak also welcomed Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who would take over the country's leadership.

"We in Sabah and Sarawak fully support the leadership of Datuk Seri Abdullah and are confident that he will continue with the power-sharing concept for the country's continued progress and prosperity," the Chief Minister said.

-- BERNAMA

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