

**Najib touts 'Sarawak Merdeka in Malaysia' after big win**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**Anne Muhammad**

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, after a big win in the Sarawak election, acknowledged the state's 'Sarawak for Sarawakians' sentiment and promised to initiate the second phase of autonomy negotiations between Putrajaya and the state government.

He said this will be within the context of '*Sarawak Merdeka dalam Malaysia*' (Sarawak independence within Malaysia).

"When there is 'Sarawak for Sarawakians' sentiment, it means Sarawak wants the federal government to consider its rights within the framework of the federal constitution.

"The principle is '*Sarawak Merdeka dalam Malaysia*,'" he said after the swearing in ceremony of Adenan Satem as chief minister at Wisma Bapa Malaysia in Kuching yesterday.

The phrase '*Sarawak dalam Malaysia*' is part of the state anthem.

Najib pointed out that Putrajaya had already commenced this in its phase one negotiations with Adenan prior to the state election, where the state was granted more administrative power.

Adenan had said the negotiations for autonomy will come in three stages and the following two will entail more powers for the state.

"In the second stage, we will look at what legislation and legal provisions can be considered by the federal government based on the consensus between the federal and state governments," he said.

He assured that Putrajaya will look closely into the wishes of Sarawakians.

Najib also hailed BN's victory as an indication of Sarawakians' confidence in Adenan's leadership.

He described the victory as a strong partnership between Putrajaya and Sarawak.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd  
Source: <https://www.malysiakini.com/news/340710>