

Special focus on Sabah's progress for Vision 2020

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KOTA KINABALU: Special focus will be given to Sabah's development so that in 2020, it would have attained progress on par with Peninsular Malaysia States.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in giving this assurance, said Malaysia's quest for industrialised status in 2020 would ensure that no part of Malaysia was left out of progress

and that development was balanced.

Speaking at the close of the Tadau Kaamatan festival, he said while programmes were being formulated to bring progress, there was a need to develop human capital to bring about this change.

He said with its own university, the people of Sabah could be educated to participate in various sectors of the economy.

"Our advantage in Malaysia is we are a multi-racial nation. We

can receive the same education as others, such as in science and technology, but we also have strong culture. This is what makes us unique and this is what makes us Malaysians," he said.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman thanked the Federal Government for acknowledging the significance of Tadau Kaamatan on a national scale.

The national-level Tadau Kaamatan open house attracted a large crowd and was graced by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku

Syed Sirajuddin and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah.

They were received by Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah and wife Toh Puan Dayang Masuyah Awang Japar and Abdullah.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, who with other dignitaries wore the *sigah*, a Kadazandusun headgear, cut seven padi stalks, and later beat the gong seven times.

The King also presented donations to representatives from several welfare homes.