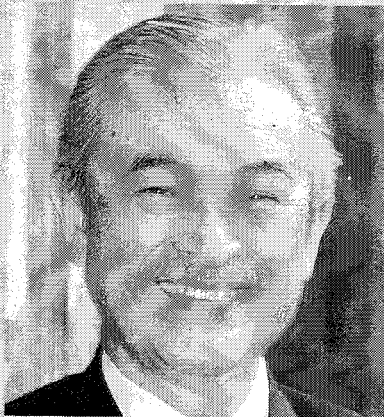




FOREWORD BY THE PRIME MINISTER



NST -

21/5/2006

SARAWAK under the Barisan Nasional's leadership has enjoyed continuous growth from the various national development plans since the formation of Malaysia more than four decades ago.

It is the cohesive partnership between the State and Federal leadership which has managed to champion the aspirations of the ethnic groups which make up Sarawak as the model state for the notion "Unity In Diversity".

Sarawak has and should always be BN's bedrock in the coalition. The Federal Government has and will continue to ensure a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state for the people.

Sarawak, in the able hands of Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, has undeniably achieved tremendous progress in the last 25 years and this momentum must be maintained and supported by all Sarawakians who aspire to be part of a developed nation by 2020.

The close co-operation between the State and Federal governments must be maintained to guarantee the successful implementation of the many development projects earmarked for the State under the 9th Malaysia Plan.

The BN's unique power-sharing concept is a model mechanism which is envied by many and we must promote and maintain our reputation as one of the most successful nations in the world today despite differences in terms of race, religion, ethnicity and culture.

It is this strength which has propelled us this far and we can only look ahead to greener pastures and not ruin what we have accomplished thus far.

Over the next five years, an allocation of RM15.1 billion will be set aside for numerous projects and programmes aimed at enhancing the quality of life and the future of the people of Sarawak.

The BN, in its focus of wanting to develop every inch of the nation, has never ignored or sidelined the rural population, who have been loyal and supportive of the coalition's struggles since day one.

On its part, the Federal Government will ensure a smooth and effective implementation of all projects specially tailored for the rural and lower-income groups.

This is our promise, because as a nation with many states, we do not wish to see any part being left behind in our march towards Vision 2020.

I pray that the BN team under Taib's leadership will be given the full mandate by the people of Sarawak to lead this blessed land to greater heights.

DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI