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Najib: BN able to unite all races

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STRONG NATION:

Govt has proven its sincerity to work hard for the people, deliver on its promises

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THE ability and sincerity of the government to unite the various races has been the pillar of strength of the Barisan Nasional.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said although the Muslims, by virtue of them being the majority in Malaysia, could go it alone (in governing the nation), BN recognised and respected the need for all Malaysians, irrespective of

race and religious background, to work together.

"Our strength lies in our ability to bring all races together to form a strong nation," he said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Sabah Native Courts Training Institute at Kampung Kibabaig here and the opening of a new RM9 million bridge.

Present were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, Penampang member of parliament Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Tan Sri Richard Malanjum.

Hinting that he was ready to call the general election at any time, Najib said the people believed and had confidence in the ability of BN to continue to steer Malaysia to greater heights.

He said unlike the opposition, the BN government had proven its sincerity to work hard for the people and deliver its promises.

The Sabah Native Courts Training Institute, to be built at a cost of

RM33 million, was mooted under the National Key Results Area (NKRA) laboratory. It will provide training to staff of the 24 native courts throughout the state.

Najib said the people could make a comparison of the rapid development in states under BN and those run by the opposition.

"Ask the people in Selangor and Penang how many of the promises made by the state opposition government have been delivered four years after taking over power," he said, adding that the opposition was only good at condemning, instigating and making promises.

He cited the opposition in Sabah, which claimed that state rights had been eroded under the BN government, as an example.

"We (Federal Government) have never eroded any of the state rights, but instead we have given a lot to Sabah in terms of development."

The prime minister said the setting up of the native courts training institute showed that the govern-

ment was all for the protection and enhancement of the rights of the natives in Sabah.

"It is our hope that through the setting up of the institute, the native courts in Sabah will continue to be relevant and be brought to a higher level," he said, adding that he always had an ear for the leaders and people of Sabah.

Najib said he agreed to the formation of the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) to probe into the influx of illegal immigrants in Sabah following requests from Sabah BN component parties.

"We formed the RCI at the suggestion and request of Sabah BN leaders and not because we are under pffressure from the opposition."

The prime minister hoped that the illegal immigrant issue in Sabah would soon become a thing of the past once the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed the Malaysia-brokered peace accord in Manila tomorrow, which will be witnessed by Najib.

Many Filipinos had fled to Sabah over the last four decades because of instability and conflict in southern Philippines.

"I believe when there is peace and Mindanao is developed, they (Filipinos) will not come to Sabah again and those who are here will return to their country."

In **Kundasang** later, Najib said he was not worried about Sabah as he was convinced of the people's overwhelming support for BN.

Speaking at a gathering with the people at Mount Kinabalu National Park here last night, Najib said: "Karanaan assemblyman Datuk Masidi Manjun and Ranau division BN chairman Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin said the Dusun people in Ranau are sincere in supporting BN.

"With this kind of support, if say the election is held tomorrow, BN could surely win as the people's support is as high as Mount Kinabalu."

Earlier, Najib had a closed-door meeting and dinner with Ranau BN leaders.