

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	24/4/2013



The RM60 million 1.1km bridge across Sungai Sitompok in Kuala Penyu, Beaufort, Sabah, is one of the numerous development projects brought by the Barisan Nasional government. It was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

# 'BN will continue Sabah's growth'

NS1-24/4/2013

**'AKUJANJI':** Najib says with new oil and gas production projects in the pipeline, Sabah can earn more from oil royalty

FARRAH NAZ KARIM  
AND ROY GOH  
KOTA KINABALU  
news@nst.com.my

**B**ARISAN Nasional will defend Sabah's safety, security and stability at all cost as the state is an integral part of a sovereign Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday said it would be impossible to pursue development and progress in Sabah without security and stability.

"The BN government will defend Sabah and ensure it remains free and progressive. Sabahans have witnessed for themselves the steady development, progress and success the state has attained and this is indisputable," Najib told the 5,000-odd crowd, who braved the downpour in Bongawan, at his second stopover in the state yesterday.

Najib, who is on a two-day visit to Sabah, said only the BN govern-

ment, which has put in place a strong police force and armed forces, could guarantee the state's continued peace and sovereignty.

"It is *wajib* (compulsory) in religion for us to defend our land and nation, and the BN government will continue to defend Sabah.

"The highest price has been paid for these (intrusions) and not even the wives of our national heroes regret that their husbands have sacrificed their lives so that Sabah can remain free and secure. A free and secure Sabah means more than anything else."

Najib, who is also BN chairman, said the government had not only worked diligently to bring about development in Sabah (and would continue to build infrastructure such as roads), but also stood by Sabahans during the intrusions.

"Yes, we can build roads, bridges, schools and hospitals, but who will stand by your side to defend your dignity and sovereignty — the opposition, which trivialised our security forces who gave their lives to defend this state?" he said to shouts from the crowd directed at the opposition.

Reminding Sabahans that the opposition had also failed to give a satisfactory explanation on secret meetings some of its leaders held in the Philippines prior to the intrusions in Lahad Datu and Sem-

porna in February that cost the lives of 10 security forces, Najib said the May 5 polls was not just another general election for the state.

"It is one that will determine the destiny of the state as well as the nation. This question must be asked: does Sabah want to remain safe and free from security threats or does it need a suspect opposition that is creating chaos in the country?"

Malaysia, under BN's stewardship, is highly respected by global leaders like United States president Barack Obama, former Chinese premier Wen Jiabao and Saudi Arabian king Raja Abdulah Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who viewed Malaysia as a peaceful, stable and strong nation.

He also pointed out that the government's strength and sound stock market performance had brought in huge investments, creating wealth that is channelled back to the people through various initiatives like IMalaysia People's Aid (BRIM).

Najib also commended the leadership of Sabah BN under Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman for administering the state's development well.

At the event, Najib also said Komanis would have its first bank and sports facilities for the youth if BN was given a fresh mandate.

Prior to Bongawan, Najib made

his first stopover in Kuala Penyu to launch the "Yayasan Sabah With the People Roadshow" as well as the RM60 million 1.1km Sitompok Bridge, the longest in Sabah.

He also symbolically announced a federal contribution of RM250 million for the construction of the RM500 million Sabah International Convention Centre.

Addressing a 10,000-strong crowd, Najib also touched on the opposition's call for Petronas to raise the current five per cent oil royalty to Sabah.

"Many plans are in the pipeline to boost oil and gas production in the state. On the way here, I saw many developments, such as the Sabah oil and gas terminal in Komanis, being undertaken.

"With all these in place, we can expect higher revenue from the oil and gas industry and, with that, Sabah can earn more from royalty. We will give back more to this state. We don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

Najib was accompanied by Musa, who is also Sabah BN chief, as well as BN candidates for Kuala Penyu (Limus Jury) and Klias (Isnin Aliasnih) and parliamentary candidate for Beaufort (Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun).

Najib said the poverty rate in Sabah had been reduced from 19.7 per cent in 2009 to 8.1 per cent last year under BN's leadership.

"BN's manifesto has been elevated to a promise (*akujanji*) to prove we aim to deliver on all promises if given the mandate".

At the gathering, Najib also received applications from 200 people, including those of former Sabah Progressive Party permanent chairman Datuk Rashid Gador and Beaufort PKR divisional chief Jarih Ukin @ Ramli, who is the younger brother of Beaufort incumbent Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin.

Rashid applied to join Upko while Jarih opted for Umno.

Najib also proceeded to Kota Belud but had to cancel his stopover there due to bad weather. He, however, spoke to the 10,000 people waiting for him through a telephone call that was broadcast to the crowd. He expressed confidence in BN winning in Kota Belud and called on the BN machinery to work harder.

Najib ended his first day with a dinner with members of 134 Chinese organisations here. **Additional reporting by Avila Geraldine**

**Page 1 pic:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak being greeted by people from all walks of life during a function organised by Yayasan Sabah at Padang Pekan Kuala Penyu yesterday as part of his two-day campaign trail in the west coast of Sabah. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

NST Digital Edition



For video, go to  
subscription.nst.com.my