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Sarawak set to benefit from Cabinet line-up, says expert

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KUCHING: The appointment of seven full ministers and four deputy ministers from Sarawak is expected to benefit the state in terms of social-economic and infrastructure development, said political scientist Dr Jeniri Amir.

He said as full ministers they could ensure all important projects that had been approved in Sarawak were implemented.

Being Sarawakians, the full ministers also understand the needs of Sarawak and its people very well and thus will try their best within their capacity to bring development to the areas.

"Sarawak is still backward in terms of infrastructure development compared with Peninsular Malaysia and with Datuk Fadillah Yusof being made Works Minister, I believe he knows the places that need development in Sarawak," said Dr Jeniri.

This is the first time a Sarawakian has been appointed as Works Minister.

"I believe the Prime Minister appointed him because Najib wants to make sure Sarawak and Sabah are on par with the peninsula in terms of infrastructure," Dr Jeniri told *The Star* yesterday.

He said the appointment of Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas and Datuk Rohani Abdul Karim as Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister and Women, Family and Community Development Minister respectively also showed that the Prime Minister wanted Sarawak and Sabah to benefit in terms of socio-economic development.

Overall, he said the appointment of more Sarawakians and Sabahans to the Cabinet also reflected the Prime Minister's recognition of the contribution and support of voters from these two states to Barisan Nasional.

Dr Jeniri, however, said that Sarawakians must not have too high expectations, as the ministers and deputy ministers were not only looking after Sarawak but the whole country.