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Najib: Sarawak has bright future

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SOLEMN PLEDGE:

PM, chief minister to work together for betterment of the people

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has pledged to work closely with the state government to develop Sarawak and improve the lot of its people.

Najib, who is also finance minister, assured the people that he would work together with Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem and the state administration to deliver his promise.

The prime minister said this when he related a story about a map which he received from Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu during the launch of the Sarawak Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) in Jalan Bukit Mata here last night, attended by more than 1,000 people.

"The map is two pages wide. On it is recorded every visit I had made to Sarawak since assuming the role of prime minister.

"After browsing the map, I noticed there was a place in the state I had visited about five times since 2009. This is a reflection of my

commitment as prime minister to work with the chief minister and leaders in the state for a better future in Sarawak," Najib said in a speech.

Present were Adenan, Jabu and federal cabinet ministers, including Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah and Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan. Also in attendance was Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

On the construction of the RM48 million Sarawak UTC, Najib described the project as a contribution by the Federal Government to the people of Sarawak.

"I was told this UTC received more than 260,000 visitors since it opened its doors to the public in September last year.

"I am also told that a childcare centre at the UTC is popular among Kuching folk," he said, adding the UTCs built nationwide were part of the government's efforts to transform the country into a high-income nation. We can look into the proposal by the chief minister to set up more UTCs in Sarawak."

The Sarawak UTC is the eighth centralised one-stop centre set up nationwide under the National Blue Ocean Strategy.

Earlier, Najib said the 1Malaysia Development Berhad Foundation would sponsor 200 imam and village security and development committee heads from Sarawak to



Datuk Seri Najib Razak signing a plaque for the official launch of the Sarawak Urban Transformation Centre in Kuching yesterday. Looking on are Sarawak Chief Minister **Tan Sri Adenan Satem** (second from right), Najib's wife, **Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor**, and Adenan's wife, **Puan Sri Jamilah Anu**. Pic by Nadim Bokhari

perform the Haj.

Najib began a three-day visit to the southern part of Sarawak last night. His first programme was a walkabout with 1,000 villagers in Kampung Gersik here.

He was presented with a special *kek lapis*, named after his father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein. The 12-layer *kek lapis* was specially made

for Najib by Mira Cake House.

He later spent time listening to the grouses of the people before taking a ride on a *penambang* boat, a common form of transport that ferries passengers across Sungai Sarawak, from the Kuching Waterfront to the village.

Today, Najib is expected to lay the foundation stone for the first

hospital in Sri Aman, before attending a community hall ground-breaking ceremony in Beladain.

He will then attend a Chinese New Year celebration in Jalan Padungan, here, after attending the official opening of a water treatment plant in Serian. **Additional reporting by Esther Landau**