

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	30 MARCH 2015

Longhouse treat awaits Najib

NST- 30/3/2015

PROUD COMMUNITY: PM to launch water supply projects as part of his 2-day trip to Sarawak

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RUMAH Henry Nuni, a 53-door longhouse here, which is an hour's drive from Bintulu town, will host a gathering that will be attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today.

The longhouse hosted the third prime minister Tun Hussein Onn's visit to Bintulu more than 30 years ago.

It is a challenge to get things done on time, particularly when it in-

volves 613 people. But the residents are unfazed.

"We have completed our preparations and got everyone organised weeks ahead. We will give him an experience to remember," said villager Ensuna Bujang, 48.

"We have electricity and good mobile coverage, although there is no running water. We rely on Sungai Sebauh and rainwater.

"We keep everyone in the village informed of our plans through Facebook and WhatsApp."

Najib is expected to launch water supply projects for the villages in the area. Water mains have already

reached the villages here.

The villagers have been staying in the longhouse for 28 years and are proud of their community.

"Although this is an Iban longhouse, we are a multiracial community that includes Malays, Chinese and Indians," Ensuna said.

There are 20 Malays, 13 Chinese and five Indians living among 565 Ibans in the longhouse. Most of them are teachers.

Solomon Peter Siew, 28, said the teachers' training helped them to get things organised.

"I am a trainee teacher but I grew up surrounded by teachers, which

taught me how to get things organised. With today's technology, we can achieve more than what they could back then."

Rumah Henry Nuni will be the prime minister's first-stop during his two-day visit which ends tomorrow.

Najib, who is also finance minister, and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, are expected to attend a dinner with state and federal ministers, and industry players in Bintulu.

He is scheduled to launch the Pan-Borneo Highway project at the Bakun junction rest and recreation

area, located at Km32 of the Miri-Bintulu trunk road.

Najib will also visit the Samalaju Industrial Park to check on the progress at the area.

Bintulu Port Holdings Berhad chief executive officer Datuk Mior Ahmad Baiti Mior Lub Ahmad said the prime minister would be briefed on the development, infrastructure and progress of the new Samalaju township.

"The port, which will have a 80-tonne capacity, will boost the import and export of goods from the heavy industries in Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy."