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Musa: State's future great with Najib at helm

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TAWAU: Sabah will progress further with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the helm of the country.

In an emotional speech here yesterday, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said Najib understood the needs of the people.

"He always remembers us and each time he comes here, he delivers, and this is why I wish to declare that the people of Sabah will always be grateful," he said to a roar of approval from the crowd.

Musa said the people of Sabah were sincere and loyal to those who delivered on their promises.

"If our leaders are good to us, we will be good to them," he said, but noted that to those who treated them badly, the people would respond accordingly.

"We were in Kota Belud earlier to launch a project to build 1,000 affordable homes.

"Two days ago, I went to Kalabakan with the works minister (Datuk Fadillah Yusof) to open the Sapulut-Kalabakan road.

"These are developments that will benefit the people of Sabah and there are many more that have been delivered by the government," he said at the Solidarity Gathering with the People of Sabah.

The event drew 40,000 people, who came in droves from noon for the gathering.

Najib had earlier launched the People's Housing Project in Kampung Pirasan, Kota Belud, before flying here to attend the gathering.

The 145km Sapulut-Kalabakan road, built at a cost of RM900 million, was launched by Musa.

Musa said in the budget this year, RM4.07 billion was allocated by the Federal Government for the state, while for the Pan-Borneo Highway,

RM27 billion would be spent in stages.

"Esscom (Eastern Sabah Security Command) will receive RM70 million to ensure better security for people in the state, especially those living in its east coast.

"When we ask, he (Najib) delivers. Earlier this year, when we were hit by floods and landslides, RM200 million was approved to help the people."

Musa said the prime minister had appointed six ministers from Sabah in appreciation of the resounding support from the state in the last election.

In **Kota Belud**, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said support for Najib in Sabah would not wane as he had worked hard to fix issues concerning the state.

Rahman, who is also Kota Belud member of parliament, dismissed those who criticised Najib's administration, adding that the prime minister had visited Sabah countless times to listen to the plight of the people.

"This is why we have projects, such as the Sabah Oil and Gas Terminal, Sabah Ammonia Urea Project and the Pan-Borneo Highway, to bring development to the state," he said at the launch of the Kota Belud People's Housing Project here.

Rahman said Najib had worked hard to better the lives of Sabah folk through programmes and that he was the first prime minister who spent time visiting the district.

"The former prime minister who criticised Najib never once came down to the district.

"The previous leader doesn't like to be criticised, but has started to

criticise," he said, in reference to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Najib, on the other hand, has given space for democracy to be practised, as he allows people to criticise him."

He said Najib showed strong leadership in fixing Sabah issues, such as becoming a mediator between the Philippine government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the Bangsamoro peace deal.

Najib had also approved the establishment of the Royal Commission of Inquiry on immigrants in Sabah and set up Esscom to safeguard the state from intrusions.

"The prime minister had appointed six ministers and four deputies from the state after the last election.

"This speaks volumes of the trust he has in us in Sabah."

He said Sabah would return the favour by supporting Najib.