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'Federal, state govts should be the same party'

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SERIAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the people should choose a common party for the federal and state governments for the sake of development.

He said if both governments were from the same party, it would facilitate the implementation of projects.

"In 2011, I came to Serian and announced that the government would build a water treatment plant. After that, (Rural and Regional Development Minister) Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, through the Rural and Regional Development Ministry, and with the cooperation of the state government, realises the project.

"Today, I am here again to say that commitment has been met. This cooperation is proof that if both governments are from the same party, development projects for the people will be easier to implement," he said when opening the RM116.5-million Serian water treatment plant yesterday.

Present were Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang, Shafie, Works Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusof, state Infrastructure Development and Communications Minister Datuk Seri Michael Manyin Jawong, state Public Utilities Minister Datuk Awang Tengah

"The Federal Government will ever forget the contributions of Sarawak which had led the formation of Malaysia." Datuk Seri Najib Razak



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak tossing 'yee sang' with state dignitaries last night. Among them are Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem (fifth from left) and Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang (third from left). Pic by Che Rani bin Che Din

All Hasan, and Human Resources Minister and Serian member of parliament Datuk Seri Richard Riot.

Work on the plant started in 2011, and was completed on March 28, 2013. It benefits more than 4,400 people from 815 households.

On his visit to several areas in Sarawak, Najib, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said it was not just an ordinary working visit, but also to announce development projects for the benefit of the people, who had been supporting the ruling coalition.

Najib said: "The Federal Government will never forget the contributions of Sarawak, which had led to the formation of Malaysia. The (people of) Sarawak have also become strong supporters of BN.

"We appreciate what Sarawak has done for the Federal Government, and we will repay the contributions

by fulfilling all promises and implementing projects that benefit the people.

"With the solid support of the people of Sarawak to the BN government, I am confident that we can work on more projects. And we cannot deny that it is easier to implement projects when the federal and state governments are from the same party."

Najib, who is also Anance minister, said the Federal Government was committed to implement more infrastructure projects in the state as the country progresses towards being a high-income nation.

"Although there are many projects and allocations distributed to Sarawak, I believe that they are not enough for the entire state because of its size and geographical location.

"This is an agenda that needs more time. However, I would like to assure the people that this agenda will remain our priority," said Najib.

Jabu, in his speech, said Sarawak had received RM1.76 billion, under

the National Key Results Area, for 476 water supply projects benefiting 89,000 families.

He said Sarawak was seeking RM8 billion under the 11th Malaysia Plan, which is expected to be rolled out next year, to fund basic infrastructure projects in remote areas.

Last night, Najib attended a Chinese New Year event in Jalan Padungan in Kuching.

He commended Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem for his efforts to curb corruption and illegal logging in the state, and congratulated Adenan for having served one year as Sarawak's fifth chief minister.

"I was told that tomorrow (today) is Tan Sri Adenan's one-year anniversary as chief minister. He has his own, unique style. When he delivers his speech, Adenan speaks the language of the people. He is simple and down to earth," Najib said.

Adenan was sworn in as chief minister on Feb 28, last year, taking over from Tun Abdul Taib Mahmud.