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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak wants Sarawak to become successful and one of the many leading states in the country.

To stimulate more growth for Sarawak, Najib also pledged his support to continue assisting the state government to help develop and prosper the state.

"As the head of the Federal Government, I would like to reiterate my commitment to continue helping Sarawak to emerge as a successful state in Malaysia.

"I see great potential in Sarawak and I can also feel the aspirations of the people here.

"One of the projects that is close to the people in the state is the Pan-Borneo Highway.

"The development of the project will begin soon.

"In fact, I had a discussion with the Chief Secretary to the Government (Tan Sri Ali Hamsa) and other agencies involved to ensure that the project could be imple-

mented as soon as possible," he said during a dinner held in conjunction with the Gawai celebration here last night.

Present during the dinner, which was hosted by the Dayak Bidayah National Association, were Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem and state Infrastructure Development and Communication Minister Datuk Seri Michael Manyin Jawong, who was the chairman for the working committee for the dinner.

Also in attendance was the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Najib, who is also finance minister, said he wanted to see a balanced development for Sarawak and the rest of the states in the country, which would be intensified following the recently unveiled 11th Malaysia Plan.

"It will take some time and bigger allocations (for the government to develop Sarawak).

"Rest assured, we do not want to see any divisions in the state being left behind in the government's development project.

"It is my duty to ensure social justice in the country. I know the people in Sarawak are very grateful and loyal.

"I am committed to helping Sarawak and all of you can count on me.

"I cannot be saying this as political rhetoric. I will walk the talk," he said.