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PM: I will continue to look after the people's interest

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KAPIT: The 11th Malaysia Plan and other transformation programmes give very important attention to rural development, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Speaking to about 3,000 people at a *Ngiling Tikai*, a ceremony to end this year's Gawai Dayak celebrations at the Bengau longhouse in Sungai Sut yesterday, he said he would continue to lead the country in looking after the interest of the people.

Najib said he had shown his sincerity in his leadership until "the people of Sarawak and the Chief Minister said I am the PM who has made the most visits to the state and implemented development needed by the people".

He said the state with three big dams - Bakun, Murum and Balleh which could produce up to 4,700MW of power - had big potential for growth, which needs to be tapped fully so that the people could reap

its benefits.

The Prime Minister said he felt at ease seeing elderly Dayak and Iban men and women carrying placards which said *Dayak sokong Najib* (Dayak support Najib) on his arrival at the longhouse.

"It is not that you are forced to support me and Barisan, but you want to continue to support me as you are able to assess my leadership.

"The policies I have implemented have also benefited the Dayak community," he added.

Najib later approved an allocation of RM80mil for the Song-Kapit trunk road's missing link of 9.6km between Termelak and Ngemah.

Once completed, the people from here and Song district could travel to Kanowit and Sibul by road.

Another project approved was the RM37mil construction of a feeder road linking Sungai Banyau and Jalan Nujong.

"With that, Kapit will be linked widely by road, where previously you could only use riverine transport," he added.



Closing ritual: Najib cutting open a young coconut during the 'Ngiling Tikai' ceremony to mark the end of the Gawai Dayak celebrations at Rumah Bengau in Sungai Sut. Looking on are Sarawak Housing and Tourism Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg (fourth from left) and Land Development Minister Tan Sri James Jemut Masing (third from left). — Bernama