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PM: RTC best describes BN family spirit

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VISION: Centre, like BN, offers integrated services to the people

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THE Rural Transformation Centre (RTC), which offers integrated services to rural folks, is the best analogy to describe the concept of "family spirit" fostered among the component parties in Barisan Nasional (BN).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also BN chairman, said the establishment of such centres nationwide had enabled agencies from the federal and state governments to come together and bring sustained development to people in rural areas.

He said the function of the centres reflected the relation and vision of the component parties in BN, which were always looking at ways to champion the people's struggles.

"The good ties between the federal and state governments have enabled the implementation of a number of projects, including the multi-billion ringgit Pan-Borneo Highway.

"When the federal and state governments are under one roof, everything that was deemed impossible can now be carried out," Najib said at the opening of the RTC here yesterday, which is one of eight such facilities nationwide.

Present were Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang, who represented Chief

Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem.

Najib said BN had more in store for Sarawakians, compared with the opposition.

Taking a swipe at DAP's "Impian Sarawak" (vision for Sarawak) initiative, he advised Sarawakians not to be gullible and accept the opposition's agenda.

Najib reiterated his commitment to stimulate development for Sarawak.

"As the *apai besar* (big father) of the country, I have another agenda that I will fulfil soon, which is to develop Sarawak so that the state will be on a par with other states in the country.

"I envision for the people of Sarawak to enjoy the same income that the people in the Peninsula have benefited.

"The reason why I frequent Sarawak is to ensure that I can fulfil this aspiration."

"In fact, this is my 50th visit to the state," he said to loud applause.

Najib also thanked Jabu, who had served as an assemblyman for nine terms but will not contest in the state election on May 7.

"I have come to Betong as I respect my old friend, Alfred Jabu.

"Although he will not contest again, I feel he has contributed much to BN.

"We must remember his deeds, contributions and sacrifices. Thank you, Jabu, for being a very loyal friend to BN."

In **Simunjan**, Najib said the government would loan laptops to Form Five students sitting the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination in Sarawak to bridge the digital gap and facilitate exposure to information technology.

He said the pilot project would benefit 33,000 students in 188 secondary schools statewide.