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RM12.5b Sarawak highway project

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> Eight packages launched by PM is part of 11 for 1,089km Pan Borneo initiative

MIRI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak yesterday launched eight packages of the Pan Borneo Highway, costing a total of RM12.5 billion.

The eight projects, part of 11 packages for the 1,089km Pan Borneo Highway in Sarawak, are the Sematan-Sungai Moyan Bridge (95km), Pantu Interchange-Batang Skrang (89km), Batang Skrang-Sungai Awik Bridge (68km), Sungai Awik Bridge-Bintangor Interchange (64km), Sungai Kua Bridge-Sungai Arip Bridge (64km), Sungai Arip Bridge-Bintulu Interchange (65km), Bakun Interchange-Sungai Tangap (77km) and the Sungai Tangap Interchange-Pujut Link Road (80km).

Najib said they formed the first phase of the Pan Borneo Highway involving a total cost of RM16.5 billion and is expected to be completed in 2021.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem, who was also present, expressed gratitude to the federal government for building the highway.

At another event in SADONG JAYA, Najib officially opened the RM231 million Batang Sadong bridge.

He said the 1.48km bridge was completed two weeks earlier than planned while its cost was RM12 million less than initially announced.

To complete the coastal route alignment, Najib said another bridge costing RM1 billion would be built across Sungai Batang Lupar, with the



Najib looking at a model of the bridge with (from third left) Abang Johari, Fadillah and Nancy.

construction expected to start in 2018, adding that the 5km bridge, to be jointly built by the state and federal governments, would be the longest in Sarawak, Bernama reported.

He said other bridges being planned or already approved to complete the coastal route alignment include the Batang Samarahan bridge (estimated to

cost RM112m), Batang Igan (RM300m) and Batang Rambungan (RM130m).

Among those present at the bridge opening ceremony were Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Abang Johari Abang Openg, Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.