

Newspaper

The Star

Date

28 March 2016

'GST helped push projects'

Najib: Rural areas being developed and economy strengthened

The Star - 28/3/2016

By ANDY CHUA

andychua@thestar.com.my

KANOWIT: The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has allowed the Government to put into place development projects, including infrastructure for rural areas, says the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that without the GST, such projects would not be possible at this time due to the uncertainty in the world economy that followed a crash in the price for crude oil.

"So, do not simply condemn the Government for implementing the GST without realising the actual aim, which is to strengthen the country's economy.

"If we are to rely on the taxes collected, it will not be enough for the country's coffers as only 10% of the people are paying tax," he said.

"With GST, we can have the road from Kanowit to Kapit."

On the road from Kapit to Kanowit, which involved the construction of two bridges - Sungai Kanowit Bridge and Sungai Bungkang Bridge - costing RM800mil, he said this was a commitment by the Barisan Nasional government to improve infrastructure in the two areas.

The 102km road, he said, would not only provide accessibility for the people to native customary land but also open up their area for economic activities.

"I have visited the areas around Kapit to witness the development of the road, which is ahead of schedule.

"I visited the Ng Ngungun area, where the people were previously resettled due to the security threats they faced during the Communist insurgency.

"I saw that the place is undeveloped as there is no economic activity," he said, adding that he approved RM50mil on the spot for a gravel road to be constructed there.

The Government, he said, would also liaise with the state land authority to turn the 20km road linking Ng Jagau to Simujan into a dual carriageway.

"This will be undertaken by the military."



Brighter future: Najib watching children take part in a colouring competition during his tour of Taman Muhibbah as part of his official visit to Sibul and Kapit. — Bernama

On the missing link and bypass for the Kapit-Kanowit Road at Ng Temalat involving 15.9km of road, he said this would be completed in the middle of 2018.

"As the Government, we have

shown that we do not only talk but can bring development to rural areas like Kapit and Kanowit, which needed road connectivity and infrastructure projects to open up their areas for economic activi-

ty," he added.

The Kapit-Kanowit Road, he said, would be completed in two-and-a-half years.

"And, by then, the future would be bright for the two towns."