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PRIME NEWS

# Najib shares historic pics

**IMPORTANT:** Images of Cobbold Report, Tunku Abdul Rahman depict the first steps to the formation of nation

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**D**ATUK Seri Najib Razak yesterday took to social media to share a historic document related to the formation of the country, a day before he joins thousands of Sarawakians to celebrate Malaysia Day.

The prime minister posted on Facebook a picture of the Report of the Commission of Enquiry, North Borneo and Sarawak, 1962, also known as the Cobbold Commission Report.

"An important document related to the formation of the nation is the Cobbold Commission Report. This photo from the National Archives shows a portion of the report, which served as a reference and proof that the majority of the people in North Borneo and Sarawak agreed to form Malaysia," he said.

The commission was formed on Jan 17, 1962 as a result of negotiations between the then Federation of Malaya government and the British government in November the previous year.

According to the official portal of the National Archives, former prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman had

highlighted the importance of formulating and establishing a plan aimed at fostering political and economic cooperation among Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo (Sabah, as it was known then), Sarawak and Brunei.

Najib also shared a picture, also from the National Archives, of Tunku Abdul Rahman at the Adelphi Hotel in Singapore on May 27, 1961, where he gave a speech during the Conference of Foreign Journalists' Association of Southeast Asia.

"This photograph depicts the first step towards the Malaysia that we all know today. It was the first time the idea to form Malaysia was announced by our Father of Independence on May 27, 1961 at Adelphi Hotel, Singapore," he said in a Facebook post on Tuesday.

In conjunction with Malaysia Day, several leaders in the state called on citizens to continue fostering unity and work together in developing and prospering the country.

Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr James Jemut Masing urged leaders to set aside political differences and ensure the country was on course to become a developed nation by 2020.

"It will not serve anybody if we continue to pursue personal agendas, which would only tear this na-



**Former prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman giving a speech at the Adelphi Hotel in Singapore on May 27, 1961. This was the first time he announced the idea of forming Malaysia. Pic from PM's Facebook**

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tion apart. No one's interest is above that of Malaysia as a nation. Let us set aside our personal agenda and work towards making Malaysia a great nation," he said.

State Assistant Housing, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah called on Malaysians to embrace the spirit of patriotism and make the country a place where everyone felt proud to be Malaysian.

"My hope is to see a more united country with less politicking and racial and religious extremism. We should all aspire for Malaysia to become a country administered and managed with dignity, respect and tolerance."

State Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian called on the people to appreciate the spirit and vision of the nation's founding fathers.

"As we pursue a better future, let us appreciate the spirit and vision of

our nation's founding fathers when they got together as co-founders to a progressive, modern 'start-up' nation called Malaysia," he said in a Facebook post.

Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, are expected to arrive in Bintulu, which is this year's venue for the Malaysia Day celebration, today.

Upon arrival at the Bintulu Airport, Najib will join a congregation of Muslims to perform Friday prayers at As-Syakirin Mosque in Bintulu.

Najib and Rosmah will then join Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife, Toh Puan Raghad Kurdi Taib, and an estimated crowd of 30,000 for Malaysia Day celebrations at the old Bintulu Airport tonight.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem and his wife, Puan Sri Jamiilah Anu, are expected to attend, as well as officials from the state and federal governments.

