

Sabah no longer poorest state, says PM
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LAHAD DATU: Sabah, which for the most parts was governed by the Barisan Nasional (BN), experienced major changes in its development and economic landscape since it attained independence through Malaysia in 1963, said [Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak](#).

He said Sabah was no longer the poorest state in the country and in fact had huge potential to surge forward.

"Then (in 1963) probably more that 70 per cent of the people could be said to be poor, hardcore poor and destitute. However, Sabah now is no longer the poorest state in the country.

"According to statistics, the average per capita income of Sabah now lies in the middle when compared to the richest and poorest states," he said during a visit here.

Najib said this was the outcome of the national development agenda which was clear and effective and now included the National Transformation Programme that would bring about a brighter future for the people.

"We launched the National Transformation Programme because we wanted to change everything, like this Kampung Nala (which previously was only a mangrove swamp)," Najib said.

"We will not stop here...we will continue until we completely eradicate hardcore poverty. Before, there were about 30,000 people in Sabah who were poor but now there are only about 7,000 (still poor)," he said.

Najib said although there were some people who were still poor, the success of the BN government in tackling poverty could not be understated.

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