

## **We've kept our promises to Sarawak, says Najib**

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*PROSPER TOGETHER: State's transformation to continue with more development*

KUCHING: PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has pledged to continue fulfilling the Federal Government's promises to Sarawak as it had been doing since the state joined Malaysia 49 years ago.

Najib said Sarawak's success transcended three generations -- dating to the moment the state along with Sabah achieved independence within the federation of Malaysia in return for the promise that it would not be left behind.

"Under Malaysia's principles and policies, which have ensured continuous development and growth, I am proud to say that we have kept that first promise to see Sarawak transformed and developed as it has now," he said when launching the Sarawak edition of Jelajah Janji Ditepati carnival at the Wisma Bapa Malaysia car park in Petra Jaya, near here, yesterday.

The two-day carnival, which Najib kicked off in Batu Pahat on April 7, is being held to showcase the various 1Malaysia products and initiatives under the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

Najib said his three-year administration had fulfilled its promises to improve the lives of the people in Sarawak.

This included spending up to RM2.25 billion on 313 development projects, out of which 248 have been completed, 43 were in progress, and 22 were in the works.

"If we can do that in three years, imagine what we can do in five more years," he told the crowd of 10,000.

In addition, Najib said, 80 per cent of Sarawak households would be supplied with clean water and 83 per cent supplied with electricity by year-end.

He said thousands of kilometres of roads had been built, including previously inaccessible areas in the interior such as Ba'Kelalan and Bario.

"I am glad to discover that the cost of an LPG tank has now dropped from RM80 to RM40 a tank because of these new roads."

The government had also implemented programmes to ease the people's burden, like the RM500 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M), provision of book vouchers for students, and setting up of 1Malaysia clinics and 1Malaysia outlets.

Other initiatives, he said, were the GTP which improved the delivery system and the ETP, which has seen per capita income rise from US\$7,000 (RM21,000) to US\$9,400.

"But we are not just limited to large or macro projects. We are a government that is ready to listen to the people."

Najib said he was considering expanding the BR1M programme to help those in need.

Present were Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, his wife Puan Sri Ragat Kurdi Taib, and deputy chief minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu.

Later, at the "1Malaysia social media convention", Najib called on social media practitioners to "grasp the challenge of propagating social media with both hands".

Najib urged them to see that the elected representatives, government and state agencies become more approachable and responsive to the rakyat through social media.

"And as for me, I have been using blogs, Facebook, Twitter and other online platforms throughout my time as prime minister.

"I see this as an important part of my job because I am able to feel the rakyat's sentiment directly. But there is always room to do more, and I am constantly looking for new ways to use technology to strengthen the relationship between the government and the people."

Najib, who is on a visit to the state from Thursday, started his day yesterday with a walkabout at the pasar tani in Matang in the morning before the Jelajah Janji Ditepati carnival, where he met with BR1M recipients and handed out Janji Ditepati booklets.

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