

Najib Announces RM235 Million Loan For Sabah To Build Keningau Water Treatment Plant
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KENINGAU (Sabah), June 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today announced the approval of a RM235-million loan to the Sabah government to build a new water treatment plant for the 200,000 people in Keningau.

The prime minister said the loan documents were being prepared and the project would be implemented soon after the paper work had been completed.

Najib said the project encompassed, among others, the construction of five storage tanks and a 42.8-km long transmission main, with construction work to take up to 35 months.

Speaking at the launch of the Sabah Handicraft Centre here, the prime minister said: "I have come not empty-handed. I have come because several months back Sabah leaders asked me to do something for Keningau. (Deputy Chief Minister) Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan made the proposal and was supported by Datuk Seri Musa Aman as the chief minister of Sabah.

"Each time I get into the helicopter with Pairin and Musa, they only convey this (to me). I told them to wait for my visit to Keningau, that I will make an announcement."

Najib said the project, which focused on a large target group, was a fine example of the close cooperation between the federal and Sabah governments which could translate decisions despite the magnitude of the projects.

He said the allocation also proved the capability of the government led by the Barisan Nasional (BN) in continuing to helm the country for the future of the nation and well-being of the people.

What the BN government did differed from what the opposition did because, while the government implemented the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) and there was a proposal for a second BR1M payment, the opposition was preoccupied with organising Bersih 2.0 and Bersih 3.0, he said.

When the opposition was causing destruction through street demonstrations, the BN government was undertaking charity work, he said, adding that he hoped that the people would be able to see the difference and make the right decision in picking a government at the next general election.

Najib said he was convinced that Sabah remained a fixed deposit of the BN and advised the people to continue to support the ruling government.

On the Sabah Handicraft Centre in Keningau, Najib said it was developed by the Sabah government through the Sabah Foundation at a cost of RM30 million while the federal government contributed the equipment and training facilities at a cost of RM20 million.

The project was also an example of the close cooperation between the federal and state governments in undertaking mutual exchange to provide adequate training and education to promote the creativity and arts of the Sabah people to the international arena, he said.

Najib said the government did not wish to see the high quality of Sabah's arts and creativity to stay put at the village or state level.

He said the government helmed by him had a major agenda and a clear and precise plan for Sabah in the government transformation programme aimed at bringing about a balance in urban and rural development as well as social justice for the people.

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