

**Sarawak Has Undergone Tremendous Changes With Independence Through Malaysia - Najib Bernama
September 16, 2012**

SIBU, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today there was no necessity for the people to make an issue of Sarawak's autonomy over certain areas or the agreement on its independence through Malaysia.

This was because the federal and state governments already had a very good understanding on these, he said.

In fact, after Sarawak gained its independence through Malaysia, it had undergone tremendous changes, he added.

"We will help it to achieve even more (progress and development) as we have a partnership that has been very effective in doing so," he said at an Aidilfitri gathering for the Nangka state constituency at the compound of the An-Nur Mosque, here.

About 10,000 people thronged the event, which was also attended by Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife Puan Sri Ragad Kurdi Taib, and Nangka state assemblyman Dr Annuar Rapae.

Najib said the federal government had always been mindful and accommodative of Sarawak's needs and aspirations.

He said it had, for example, given its nod for priority in implementation of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (Score), the state's regional development corridor.

"Just look at Score. It has recently attracted over RM8 billion of new investments and its overall investment is now worth over RM30 billion.

"And, when Taib said he would want the power generated by the Bakun Hydro Dam to be used solely in the Score areas, we agreed and respected his wish even though initially it (Bakun) was to supply to peninsular Malaysia as well," he said.

Najib said the people should be wary of those making all sorts of promises or some kind of declaration to purportedly help Sarawak have even greater autonomy and enjoy even greater development and progress.

"We, in the Barisan Nasional, when we make promises, we are rather apprehensive for fear that we will be punished for not being able to fulfil them. The hallmark of the BN is we will deliver what we promise," he said.

Najib also reminded Muslims to always remain united.

"If we are divided or disunited, we will be weak and certain quarters may want to take advantage of the situation. But if we are strong, we should be fair to the others, especially those in the rural areas still needing our assistance and our non-Muslim brethren, as God had wanted us to always do so," he said.

He said this principle was also practised in his 1Malaysia concept which was largely based on social justice for all.

Najib said the wealth and prosperity of the country must be shared by all and, for this reason, the federal government was always giving special attention to Sabah and Sarawak.

At the function, Najib announced a government aid of RM1 million to upgrade facilities at the An-Nur Mosque and for its beautification project.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=695027>