

PM: Develop caring touch
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DO YOUR WORK: Taking care of the people is paramount, says Najib

KUCHING: DATUK Seri Najib Razak last night reminded Barisan Nasional leaders at all levels, particularly elected representatives, that if they want the people to continue supporting them, they must take care of the rakyat.

"This is key. We must take care of the people," the prime minister said when joining Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, members of the state cabinet, BN elected representatives and community leaders in breaking fast at the state legislative assembly yesterday.

Najib, who jetted to Sarawak with wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor yesterday afternoon, said all BN members must cultivate "a caring touch" for the people.

He said with that touch and a lot of hard work, "there is no reason why you cannot succeed (in winning the support of the people)".

"The underlying message is that we must be a caring government."

The prime minister reminded them to use their "touch points allocation" to the fullest.

He said financial allocations could be used for anything from buying simple things like a pair of spectacles to making false teeth or dentures that some people just could not afford.

Najib quoted once famous pro golfer Gary Player, saying: "The harder I work, the luckier I get."

He added if all BN leaders hold on to Player's philosophy, they could get luckier too.

"Even during this fasting month, there is no reason for you not to work hard."

He said as a matter of fact, he found his routine during the fasting month busier than in other months.

The prime minister also said he believed Sarawak would again be a BN fortress in the coming general election.

"If we continue to stay united, I believe we can again be successful in the election."

Earlier, in a blog posting, Najib said Sabah would continue to be a top priority in Malaysia's development.

He said he hoped that Sabahans would continue supporting him in this goal.

"When the sun rises over Malaysia, it shines first on Sabah. Just as my father was committed to bringing North Borneo into the fold for mutual benefit, I am committed to repaying the goodwill that my eastern brothers have shown the country," he said.

The posting was made in conjunction with his working visit to the land below the wind today.

Najib said Sabah had contributed much to Malaysia's growth in the last 49 years.

He said tourism to the state provided almost RM5 billion to the country last year, with over 2.8 million tourist arrivals -- a 13.6 per cent rise from 2010.

"The country at large owes much to their contribution, and the government has in turn prioritised its welfare through the Government Transformation Programme," he said.

Najib said under the government's persistent efforts within the Rural Infrastructure National Key Results Areas, roads in East Malaysia already accounted for 54 per cent of the nation's total road length -- making education, jobs and trade much more accessible for millions of locals.

He said the government was also working towards increasing electricity supply.

Najib added the rural poor also received thousands of new or restored houses.

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