

**Give Bigger Mandate To Najib For Continuity In Nation's Transformation Programme, Says Awang Tengah Bernama
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KUCHING, April 6 (Bernama) -- It is imperative that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak be given a bigger mandate in the 13th General Election (GE13) to enable him to continue leading Malaysia and to ensure continuity in his transformation and development programmes.

Sarawak Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment, Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan said since Najib became the prime minister, Sarawak thus far had been receiving higher allocations for development.

"In the 1960s, Sarawak only had about 800km of road network and by 2008, it increased to 18,000km due to the excellent state-federal relationship.

"And for the 2013-2016 development budget, Sarawak was given RM2.5 billion for infrastructure alone," he said at a special interview with the media held at his office at Wisma Sumber Alam, here, recently.

Awang Tengah, who is also PBB senior vice-president, said under the National Key Result Areas (NKRA), the budget for Rural Electricity Supply (RES) was RM1.75 billion, benefiting some 77,000 households which pushed the RES supply between 87 percent and 90 percent in the state.

"For clean water supply for the rural areas, Sarawak was given RM1.77 billion, benefiting 93,000 users or 82 percent of the population but the more important fact was that the rural areas were also experiencing transformation more so with good economic performance.

"Touching on communication, the minister said the federal allocation for communication tower was RM400 million to narrow the digital gap between rural and urban people," he said.

Awang Tengah, who is also Minister for Public Utilities and Minister for Industrial Development, said as such, the people could see for themselves what had been done by the government in the transformation programme to uplift their living standard.

Meanwhile, when asked on the native customary rights land issue, Awang Tengah said the perimeter survey to date had covered 328,696 hectares of the land based on individual ownership.

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