

**KK-Ranau Road Project Proves Government's Concern For People's Wellbeing -
Najib
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RANAU, April 24 (Bernama) -- The 82 km Kota Kinabalu-Ranau road project, which is featured in the Barisan Nasional (BN) manifesto for Sabah, proves the government's commitment in championing the people, particularly those in the rural areas, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The prime minister said since he took over the reins of government four years ago, he made every effort to transform the country through various stages, including planning, implementation and achievements.

He said Sabah had followed suit in championing the people's welfare as reflected in the state's report card.

"The people of Ranau and Sabah can read the report card and evaluate the success of the state BN government as well as mine.

"I want the people to gauge the BN government based on merit. I do not want the people to support BN because all the people are supporting BN.

"I do not want the people to support BN blindly. I want the people to support BN based on merit because we are the best party to lead Sabah and Malaysia," he said at the gathering of people at the Ranau Community Hall here Wednesday.

Najib said the opposition did not dare to ask the people to judge them on merit, but rather threw lies and tried to make them confuse.

"Their sweet-talk is laced with poison because they are trying to mislead the people of Sabah and Malaysia. We have introduced the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M), but they want to abolish it. In our pledge (aku janji), we promise to increase BR1M.

"They say they want to lower oil prices, but if oil prices are lowered, we've got to add a lot of subsidies which have already ballooned to RM23 billion a year. When we lower oil prices, the rich, tourists will benefit, but when we handed out BR1M, a lot of people benefited from it and our economy expanded.

"When we give out BR1M, the farmers' market in Ranau enjoys brisk business, vegetable sellers get profits and our economic grows because domestic demand increases," he said.

On the upcoming polls, Najib said the BN needed a strong mandate to ensure a stable government.

"This is the main question before us. Personalities and candidates are secondary.

"When the government is strong, God willing, we will be able to achieve a high-income developed country status," he said, adding that if a rousing welcome for him in Sabah was anything to go by, he was confident that the people would give the BN a strong mandate. Brushing aside the opposition's claim that they will capture Sabah, Najib said, "If the state BN government is on the verge of collapse, there must be some signals, perhaps when I travelled anywhere in the state, not many people come to meet me. If I were to extend my

hand to shake hand, not many people were interested to shake my hand. Maybe, when we shouted 'Tatap BN' (surely BN), there was hardly any response from the people.

"Instead, everywhere I go, the people come to shake my hand to the extent that some did not want to let go his hand and when we shouted 'Tatap BN, thousands of people shouted along," he said.

Present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, and BN candidates for the Ranau parliamentary seat Datuk Dr.Ewon Ebin, Datuk Masidi Manjun (Karanaan state seat), DUN Datuk Sirigan Gubat (Paginatan state seat) and Datuk Dr Joachim Gunsalam (Kundasang state seat).

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