

Sabah Still BN's Fixed Deposit, Receives Overwhelming Support In Interior Areas, Says Najib
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TENOM, April 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, continuing his whirlwind tour of Sabah districts on the second day today, said Sabah was still the Barisan Nasional's (BN) "fixed deposit".

Najib, who is also BN chairman, visited Kuala Penyu, Beaufort, Kimanis and Bongawan yesterday. Bad weather prevented him from flying to Kota Belud but technology saved the day.

He spoke on his telephone to Kota Belud BN candidate Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan and his message was amplified for the benefit of the 10,000 people present there.

"Sabah is still the BN's fixed deposit. The 13-member coalition receives overwhelming support, including from people in interior areas," he said.

Najib said the BN government was strong and has the capacity to propel Sabah to greater heights and to balance the development between the state and Peninsular Malaysia.

"Sabah still remains as the BN's fixed deposit. However, if we have a fixed deposit in a bank, once in a while we have to check.

"Yesterday, I went to many places, to Kuala Penyu, Beaufort, Kimanis and Bongawan, but I could not make it to Kota Belud, but I was told 10,000 people were waiting for me there.

"Today I'm in Tenom. I was told our fixed deposit is still strong," he told a "leader-with-the-people" gathering at the Tenom public field.

Also present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman and BN parliamentary candidate for Tenom Datuk Raimee Unggi, state seat contender Datuk Radin Malleh (Melalap) and Senator Dr Lucas Umbul.

Refuting claims that the Sabah fixed deposit was weakening, Najib said the opposition would not be able to capture Sabah.

Addressing about 8,000 people at the gathering, the prime minister said the BN had unveiled its manifesto themed "Promises Fulfilled Giving Hope" for the next five years.

He said the opposition pact had spoilt the true meaning of manifesto to merely a blank piece of paper.

"In four years, the people can see and feel everything around them, the BN has brought changes in the economic management even by going against the norm.

"When the International Monetary Fund chief executive Christine Lagarde met me last year, she said Malaysia is the only country in the world that the IMF has to revise upwards its growth rate from the initially expected rate," he said.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said the healthy developments in Malaysia's economic landscape were among the government's testimony in managing and expanding the

economic pie and returning the "spinoffs" to the people.

The Opposition's economic projections would render Malaysia bankrupt, he said. Najib also promised to bring more prosperity to Sabah and expressed support to the communal grant concept, an initiative by the BN state government, which guarantees a bright future for the rural folk in the state.

"On giving land to Sabahans, I support 100 per cent. Tenom and Pensiangan are blessed with fertile land. The areas can be transformed into agriculture hubs to provide food supplies to the country's national food security programme.

"We want to issue permanent land titles to people awarded land by the state government," he said, drawing reference to the 500,050 hectares of land allotted to people living in interior areas.

Najib reminded the interior folk to make a wise decision by supporting BN candidates in the May 5 general election for a bright future to them and to the state.

At the gathering, Najib also unveiled the Sabah BN's supplementary manifesto, which among others, pledges a RM11 million allocation to upgrade infrastructure facilities in and around Tenom town and the district.

The 2,238km Tenom district has about 35,000 people, majority of whom are Muruts.

In this election, Raimee is facing PKR's Masdin Tumas, SAPP's Jaineh Juaya @ Jimmy Jawatah, STAR's Hasmin @ Azroy Abdullah and KITA's Mutang @ Selvester Dawat.

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