**Rural Sarawakians Rally Behind BN, Understand BN Development Plan - Taib**
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KUCHING, May 31 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud on Friday thanked the people, especially those from the rural areas, for strongly rallying behind the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in the May 5 general election and for fully understanding that election promises will be fulfilled.

Taib, who is also state BN chairman, said the win strongly reflected the strong support of Sarawak towards Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as prime minster to continue leading the country.

"This is a sign of the strength of the Sarawak people who are united, stable and understand that more and more funds will come from the federal government to pave the way for more development for their benefit as promised (by the prime minister)," he said in his Gawai Dayak message.

In Sarawak, he said, the BN government allocated 70 percent annually to development from the overall budget to expand the development programmes, especially those in the rural sector as part of efforts to enhance the economy and eradicate rural poverty.

Taib was also very pleased to note that the people in the rural sector was aware of the importance of education, with the rural students achieving better results in the public examinations.

"These students will be the ones who will become highly educated to become future leaders to lead others towards better progress," he said, adding that the state needed more manpower and human resource, who were highly educated to meet the demand of jobs being offered in the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) and elsewhere statewide.

For this reason, he said, the government established six universities, technical colleges, vocational schools, training institutes, youth training centres with the private sector to provide technical education and trainings to the people.

Meanwhile Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu said he noticed that the rural community fully understood the need to strongly support the BN government, which had good programmes and strategy to develop the state and uplift the people's living standard.

It also ensured the young generation had the opportunity to be educated up to the tertiary level, including in technical education to guarantee their future.

"As our state is stable, I am very pleased that rural parents acknowledged the importance of continuous support to the government and thank you for the increasing support from the rural areas," he said in a similar Gawai Dayak message here.

The BN government would repay their good deeds with the relevant development plans and programmes for the people, who were very lucky to Najib and Taib, who were both talented and kind in the BN to understand the kind of hardship being faced by the people living in the rural sector.

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