

**Development In Sabah, Sarawak Will Not Be Neglected - PM
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Sunday stressed that the federal government under his leadership would in no way neglect Sabah and Sarawak but instead would ensure balanced development for all states in Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said a compromise was reached to protect the interests of Sabah and Sarawak together with those of the Federation of Malaya in the formation of Malaysia.

He said autonomy rights and the position of the two states were stated in Article 20 of the Cobbold Commission.

"As prime minister, I am always making efforts to ensure there is equitable development for all states in Malaysia," he said in his latest posting in his blog www.1Malaysia.com.my in conjunction with Malaysia Day on Monday.

Najib said continuous efforts to develop the economies of Sabah and Sarawak were a priority of the federal government.

In fact, he said, the living standard of the people in the two states had seen a marked change since 50 years ago, in tandem with global development.

Najib said since 2010, the government allocated RM2 billion to implement 70 basic rural infrastructure projects in Sabah dan Sarawak.

He said, in 2012, a total of RM62.3 million from the RM2 billion was allocated to the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (Score) for several projects, including access and internal roads in the Tanjung Manis Halal Hub, water supply in Samalaju and feasibility studies for a Science Park in Mukah.

He added, a total of RM207 million was also allocated for the Sabah Development Corridor, to implement several infrastructure and agricultural projects.

Najib said this year was very historical for all Malaysians as on Monday the nation will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of Malaysia.

"The proclamation on the formation of Malaysia was made by Malaysia's first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj on that historic day (Sept 16) in 1963 at Stadium Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur," he said.

He said it was witnessed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Malay rulers, the governors of Penang, Melaka, Sarawak and Sabah and 30,000 citizens, which brought a new ray of hope for the people.

"At the time, the people, from various races and religions, dreamed of independence, freedom and prosperity in a sovereign nation," he said.

In conjunction with the 50th Malaysia Day, Monday, Najib called on all Malaysians to work together to advance the nation's economy, defend its sovereignty and preserve harmony.

"Although still at a young age, Malaysia has built a nation that is respected, whether in the aspects of politics, economy or social. The sacrifices and hard work by all parties in developing the country, safeguarding the peace and prosperity all is this while will always be valued," he added.

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