

Najib goes down to the ground to understand Dayaks' grouses
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KUCHING, Nothing beats going down to the ground and understand the people's grouses, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"When I was in Ulu Kapit earlier today, for the first time I realise there is such thing as the missing link and that Kapit town is not connected by land," said Najib speaking at the Sarawak Dayak National Union 59th anniversary dinner at the Borneo Convention Centre here.

Earlier in his visit, Najib announced the RM87 million allocation for the 9.6km missing link from Nanga Ngemah to Nanga Telamat, the missing stretch which links Kapit to Sibul.

Najib, who believed that the road project is something needed in the Iban heartland, also said any community in the country, big or small, should not be neglected from bring part of the mainstream development.

"The Dayaks are also Malaysians, and I believe we must not put them in the sidelines.

"Since taking office, I learned through my walkabout, I understand that each community in the nation require different needs. And as for the rural people in Sarawak, they need more infrastructure developments."

"I know there are a few that have been done, but I strongly see that there are more that needs to be done in giving the rural people the sense of togetherness as one in the country," said Najib.

He also said he had listed down a number of requests from the people, which includes native customary land rights, education opportunities, entrepreneur opportunities for small holder farmers and also important positions in both government and private agencies.

"I have spoken with Sarawak Chief Minister (Tan Sri Adenan Satem) on issues concerning land and we will work together to ensure the Dayaks and other native landowners in the state get their land rights recognised," said Najib.

Meanwhile, Adenan said Sarawakians were thankful with Najib's focus on the state, unlike the premier before him.

"We, Sarawakians, know how to be thankful, unlike those in the peninsula who never stop criticising.

"Najib knows we are a little backward in development and he knows our situation.

“He has helped in bringing development to the rural areas for us and he has proven his word to us. With that it is right for us to give him the support he needs.”

“Through thick and thin, we are not fair weather friends, but we are also friends when the weather is bad,” said Adenan.

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