

Federal Government's Close Working Relationship Key To Development In Sabah And Sarawak – Najib

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KOTA KINABALU, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- The close working relationship between the Federal government with Sabah and Sarawak is the key to the implementation of development programmes successfully in both states.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak it was also the basis and secret behind his ability to continuously make announcements related to Sabah and Sarawak.

"The current Federal government has a cordial working relationship with Sabah and Sarawak. I therefore, want the people in both states to maintain the close relationship," he said in his Malaysia Day speech at Padang Merdeka, here Wednesday.

Also present were Yang Dipertua Negeri Sabah Tun Juhar Mahiruddin, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, Sarawak Speaker Datuk Amar Mohamad Asfia Awang Nassar and cabinet ministers.

Najib said as the Prime Minister he would like to assure everyone that he would struggle to champion the needs of the people.

He said Sabah was important in the context of National unity because the stability of the country entirely depends on the participation of Sabah and Sarawak.

"The people of peninsula Malaysia dream of peace, harmony, basic necessities, job guarantee, high income and a quality lifestyle. The people of Sabah too have similar dreams.

"This is our goal, to move forward as one solid team. one heart one soul, in solidarity, Sabah achieved independence in Malaysia, Sabah will always succeed," he said.

Najib said the Federal government's devolution of power to Sabah which empowers the state to make autonomous decisions is a move in the right direction and must be carried out.

He said the Federal government understood and respect the rights of the states which reflects the desire of the people.

"We will listen to the people of Sabah and what they desire. The state government wants development projects to be carried out and the places that such projects will be carried out, we listen. This is what I say we must listen to the heart beat of the people," he said.

Najib said Sabah made the right decision to join Malaysia 52 years ago and the Barisan Nasional government has brought about tremendous changes to Sabah.

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