

**Federal Gov't Wants To Reduce Kuching-Lawas Land Travel – Najib
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LIMBANG, April 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Malaysia will discuss with Brunei to find a suitable way to shorten travel from Kuching to Lawas with the construction of the RM16-billion Pan Borneo Highway.

The Prime Minister said the Kuching-Lawas land trip took 20 hours due to the immigration checks at the Malaysia-Brunei borders.

"We will discuss with Brunei to determine if we can shorten the Kuching-Lawas travel time by 12 or 14 hours," he said when launching the Limbang Sejiwa Senada programme at the Limbang Sport Complex today.

There are four customs and immigration check points at the Malaysia-Brunei borders, namely, Sungai Tujuh, Miri and Kuala Belait, Brunei as well as Tedungan, Limbang and Kuala Lurah, Brunei

Najib said the Kuching-Miri travel time could be reduced to nine hours from 14 hours, without stopping, when the project is completed.

Najib reiterated his assurance that toll would not be imposed on the Pan Borneo Highway project because it is the main route for road users in the state.

In this regards, he said, the people of Sarawak must pick candidates from the Barisan Nasional (BN) to ensure the continuity of development in Sarawak.

"What is important is to pick BN which uses the scale symbol and not other symbols at the coming state election," he said.

He criticized the action of DAP which lied by claiming the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate would be raised from six per cent to 10 per cent after the state election.

"DAP is lying to the people of Sarawak, don't worry the GST rate won't go up," he added.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem, who also delivered a speech, gave his assurance the oil royalty talks between the state and federal governments would be continued.

"The prices of oil are still going down but negotiations will be resumed when prices go up so that we can get the amended royalty of 20 per cent," he said.

The Sejiwa Senada programme which was first launched in Miri City on Jan 8 to 10, is a going-down-to-the-field public service initiative of the state and federal governments, government linked companies, statutory bodies, non-government organizations and private sector companies.

Limbang is the seventh location with three more such programmes to be held in Sri Aman on April 8

to 10, Samarahan (April 15 to 17) and ending in Kuching (April 22-24).

For the Limbang programme, there were 155 participants with 200 exhibition booths provided at the Limbang Sport Complex.

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