

Najib Gets Briefing On Kapit-Kanowit Road Project

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KAPIT (Sarawak), March 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak attended a briefing on the construction of the 102-km Kapit-Kanowit Road on the second day today of his two-day working visit to the Sibu and Kapit divisions in Sarawak.

After arriving here, he proceeded to Nanga Yong 10km away to attend the briefing given by Public Works Department regional manager John Aten.

The Kapit-Kanowit road project, which started two years ago, is one of the Sarawak central region's biggest infrastructure projects.

Kapit is currently accessible only by water transport on the Rejang River.

Sarawak Minister Land Development Tan Sri Dr James Masing; Federal Minister of Rural and Regional Development Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakub and Federal Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi accompanied Najib on the visit.

John told reporters that the government was constructing only 82 kilometres of the 102-km road because a road existed between Majau and Poi.

He said the project was divided into nine packages and 34 kilometres of road had been completed.

"Construction is ongoing for another 36 kilometres. We expect the whole stretch from Kapit town to Song town to be ready by July 2018.

"The remaining stretch is from Nanga Ngemah in Kanowit to Nanga Temalat near Song over a distance of 15.9 kilometres (inclusive of some variations). It is under tender process," he said.

He said another 30 months would be needed to construct this stretch at a cost of RM150 million and for Kapit to be finally connected to the rest of the state.

John said the first eight packages had cost the government about RM610 million. Later, Najib went on a walkabout and had a closer look at the construction of a bridge and a stretch of road at the Seturak Camp near Song.

A phase of the 5.5-km Jalan Song-Sungai Yong makes up a stretch of the Jalan Kapit-Song-Kanowit-Sibu. It also involves the construction of a bridge across Sungai Katibas.

John briefed Najib on the progress of the RM71.5 million project which will take 30 months to complete.

The project, which began on Sept 8, 2014, is 44.9 per cent complete and is ahead of schedule. It will benefit 100,570 people in the Kapit, Kanowit and Song districts.

Najib also exchanged greetings and chatted with the people in the area who came to meet their prime minister. Some of them snapped photographs with him.

The prime minister joined community leaders from around Song town at a reception after which he and his delegation went on a driving tour of the town.

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