

## **Strong, Functional Government Needed To Sustain Economic Progress In Sabah**

**BERNAMA**

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KOTA KINABALU, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- UMNO Papar divisional chief, Datuk Seri Abdul Rahim Ismail said Sabah needs a strong and functional government that can provide sustainable development progress and economic prosperity to its multiracial population.

"The UMNO-led State Barisan Nasional (BN) government, under Chief Minister Tan Sri Musa Aman, has delivered with a strong financial and moral support from the federal BN government, especially under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"Development for the urban and rural areas in Sabah are well taken care of because of the mutual understanding and good relationship between the state and federal leaders.

"The government has implemented many high impact, poverty eradication federal-funded programmes, including Mini Estet Sejahtera (MESEJ) and Communal Grants,"he told Bernama.

Abdul Rahim, who is also Sabah Land Development Board (SLDB) chairman, believed the people in Sabah have more confidence in the BN when it comes into administering the state.

"While we acknowledged that a new political party is desperately trying to make its presence felt but at the end of the day the ultimate goal is to provide a better future for the people and the state.

"In this sense, the BN government has a proven track record in terms of socio-economic development, economic progress which has reduced poverty incidents in the state.

Hence, he said it was sad that the opposition seemed to be more engrossed in political rhetoric and making false and baseless attack on BN rather than providing a clear direction on how they were going to look after the people's interest and run the state.

According to Abdul Rahim, Sabah had learned a bitter lesson in the past, where divisive politics had brought about hardship, as well as economic and political instability to the state.

Abdul Rahim, who is also Sabah State Assembly Backbenchers Club chairman, attributed the state BN's success to Musa's humble but effective leadership through his friendly but proactive approach in dealing with the federal leaders.

"Musa managed to get significant funds from the federal government through proper approach and not through confrontation.

"Most importantly, the Sabah UMNO-BN under his stewardship has delivered a strong performance during last general elections, making the state the BN's 'fixed deposit',"he added.

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