

Adenan gets good report card

> DPM gives Sarawak chief minister thumbs up

KUCHING: Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem (pix) has a very good report card to show to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak since taking over the state leadership almost a year ago on Feb 28, 2014.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the support of the people from the state towards the Barisan Nasional (BN) government "is very good".

Muhyiddin, who is on a two-day visit to the state from yesterday, told a news conference here there had been very encouraging response towards Adenan's policies and tough stance on major issues like fighting corruption and illegal logging.

"I hope the trend will

continue until Sarawak holds its next state election on a date to be determined by Najib and Adenan," he said.

He said he discussed with Adenan and leaders of state BN component parties on the preparations for the coming state election.

"We want to ensure all promises on projects officially made in the last general and state elections are implemented soon, especially those that are delayed," he said, adding that there would be technical and contractors' problems contributing to the delays.

He said they have asked all state elected representatives to submit their lists of outstanding projects to the state and then the federal BN secretariats.

"From there, we will verify with the respective ministries when these projects can be implemented and the sooner, the better for us," he said. - Bernama



Najib, Tengku Adnan and Tan during the Cheras Education Foundation 15th anniversary celebration at Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

'Govt will support education sector'

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government will continue to support efforts in enhancing the education sector, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

In his opening speech during the 15th anniversary celebration of the Cheras Education Foundation (YPC) at Berjaya Times Square Hotel, he also commended YPC chairman Datuk Seri Syed Ali Alhabshiee for his efforts in establishing the foundation and focusing his efforts on education for the

benefit of the Cheras community.

He said the Cheras Umno division, of which Syed Ali is chief, had done well in creating a joint-venture degree programme between its Kolej YPC and Liverpool John Moores University in the UK.

Najib later announced that SMK Cheras would be allocated RM100,000 to send some of its students to Turkey for a cultural performance.

He also presented "Best Teacher Award" certificates, a Samsung Tab 4 and RM1,000 each to 37 teachers as appreciation for their dedication.

Five other teachers received

the "Education Development Award", while another two received the "Leadership Award" and one teacher received the "Special Education Chairman Award".

Four schools were presented with special parent-teacher awards.

The event was also attended by Berjaya Corporation Berhad founder Tan Sri Vincent Tan, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Agriculture and Agro-based Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Education Minister II Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

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Najib: Asean can become new economic power

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said further integration in Asean will lead to the world witnessing the emergence of a new economic power in Southeast Asia.

"I say new, because although our economies have been trade and commercial hubs for centuries, we are today creating an economic union unlike anything since the days of empire," he said.

Therefore, he said Asean's priority must be to ensure that integration leads to equitable wealth creation and distribution as well as deepen financial integration and inclusion.

"We must ensure that all sectors of our economies are fully engaged in the Asean Community," he said in his keynote address at the Asean CAPro CEO Summit here yesterday.

Najib said an economically integrated Asean benefits all of its member states with freer movement of goods, services, skilled labour and capital.

He said Asean is projected to have 125 million households with an income of over US\$7,500 (RM26,826) in the next 10 years, and would be the seventh largest economy in the world, with a combined gross domestic product expected to reach US\$4 trillion by 2020, if it were a single country.

The establishment of Asean as a single market and production base would also unlock the potential to level the playing field with the world's biggest economies, he said.

Najib said Malaysia, as chairman of the association this year, will continue to work closely with other member states to ensure that Asean delivers on key initiatives.

Malaysia will be recommending at the 26th Asean Summit in April that an enhanced Asean secretariat be deployed to ensure member states work together to craft and implement its post-2015 agenda.

"Malaysia will play a key role in building a stronger, more prosperous, more open Southeast Asia," Najib said. - Bernama

Former Kelantan MB, Nik Aziz, 84, dies

KOTA BARU: Former Kelantan menteri besar and PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat (pix) passed away at his house in Pulau Melaka, Kota Baru, last night.

His son, Nik Mohamad Abduh, said when his father Nik Abdul Aziz, 84, passed away at 9.40pm, his family members were by his side, reported Bernama.

Nik Aziz, who is also Chempaka state assemblyman, had returned home from Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital in Kubang Kerian at 8.40pm where he had been receiving treatment for prostate cancer since Jan 19.

His health had deteriorated in December when major floods hit Kelantan.

Nik Mohamad said his remains will be taken to the Pulau Melaka Mosque for

prayers at 10.30am today.

Affectionately known as "Tok Guru", Nik Abdul Aziz, was popular among PAS members due to his clean image and upright leadership.

Nik Abdul Aziz was born on Jan 10, 1931, in Pulau Melaka, Kota Baru, and was the second eldest of five siblings.

Nik Aziz married Tuan Sabariah Tuan Ishak and had 10 children, one of whom is Nik Mohamad, the Pasir Mas.

He was also able to converse in Arabic, English, Tamil and Urdu.

Nik Aziz, who suffered from various ailments, decided to step down as MB after the 13th general election last year, although he retained his Chempaka state seat.

