

Accelerating progress

October 21, 2015, Wednesday



Adenan (fifth left, front row), flanked by Awang Tengah (on his right) and Manyin, poses with BN supporters in Limbang.

LIMBANG: The construction of Sungai Limbang bridge at Pabahanan and supporting infrastructure will be the catalyst for greater economic and physical development for this district.

It will also cut travel time to Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei to barely 45 minutes from one and half hours and shorten the distance to the border with Brunei to less than 20 km compared to the present long route through Batu Danau to Tedungang that is 50 km, Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem said yesterday.

He was speaking when officiating the earth-breaking ceremony of the proposed Sungai Limbang bridge which was attended by Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Minister of Infrastructure Development and Communications Dato Sri Michael Manyin, Limbang MP Hasbi Habibolah, Bukit Kota assemblyman Dr Abdul Rahman Ismail and Batu Danau assemblyman Paulus Palu Gumbang.

The bridge is part of the rural development drive by Adenan who sought an additional RM500 million from the State Legislative Assembly to ramp up development of critical infrastructures and provision of services in the rural areas.

He had approved the construction of bridges in Long Lama, Limbang, Bako and Sibuti, slashed ferry service charges to only RM1, abolished tolls and introduced a raft of people-centric measures.

The RM150-million second bridge across Limbang river near the town will be the new landmark when it is completed, providing linkage to Malay villages across river who depend on ferry and boats to reach the town.

“This is the real rural development, unlike the Opposition which is fond of saying they would do this and that if they are the government. We deliver rural development without so many ‘ifs’,” he said.

At the same time, the chief minister sought a strong mandate of five years from the people to continue his agenda of people-centric development and fighting for the best interests of the state and her people, saying two years was insufficient.

“I will do the best I can. I only ask for five years and a strong mandate so that KL will listen to Adenan as he speaks for Sarawak people behind him,” he said.

“Sarawakians understand and know what is best for Sarawak. That is why we do not want DAP, PAS, PKR and Semenanjung-based parties here, including Umno, and the Prime Minister fully understands this as PBB has taken good care of Sarawak,” he pointed out.

He stated that he would leave at the end of the new five-year term as he would be 76 years old by then.

He commended the big crowd of 5,000 at the function yesterday despite it being a working day and the haze, saying it showed their solidarity and support for his leadership.

He told the crowd that in the past two years, among the many decisions he made were protecting freedom of worship, reducing the burden of the people by slashing power tariffs and abolition of tolls.

He said he would always stand up for the state’s rights, citing the RM2.1 billion worth of contracts from Petronas for Sarawakian firms, more commitment from Petronas to corporate social responsibility projects and negotiation for the upward revision of oil and gas royalty from the present five per cent as among the matters he had pursued.

With seven of the present federal cabinet members from Sarawak, he said the state was now in a stronger and better position in the federal government.