

Headline	Yussibnosh toughened up by hardship		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	17 Mar 2014	Language	English
Circulation	95,860	Readership	236,000
Section	Local News	Color	Black/white
Page No	L-22	ArticleSize	259 cm ²
AdValue	RM 4,208	PR Value	RM 12,624



Yussibnosh toughened up by hardship

PEOPLE-CENTRIC: BN candidate says he will follow Taib's 'development politics'

DENNIS WONG

AS a boy, Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for the Balingian by-election, Yussibnosh Balo, climbed coconut trees and sold corn by the roadside.

The son of a sago tree cutter would do odd jobs during weekends to make ends meet in Tellian here and walked 5km to get to his school.

During his university days, all he could afford to spend on his daily meals was RM3, which was for roti canai and water.

Hardship toughened him up and turned him into a people-centric individual once he joined the state civil service in 1998.

It eventually led him to his last posting as Dalat district officer here.

On Saturday, BN picked the 47-year-old Melanau to defend Balingian in the by-election slated for March 29, banking on his experience as an administrator to woo support from the people.

The seat was vacated by Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who was appointed the Yang Dipertua Negeri following his resignation as the chief minister and Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu president last month.

Nomination for the candidates will be held today.

Yussibnosh said he would have big shoes to fill in the Melanau majority constituency.

"Mukah has turned into a bustling district, from the laidback sago and fishing village in the past, thanks to Taib.

"He helped children from poor families including myself, to succeed in life.

Life was tough back then for us and ed-



Yussibnosh Balo says Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud has helped many people

ucation was our only way out of poverty.

"He (Taib) taught us that and brought in 'development politics' which had helped a lot of people. He is my idol."

Recounting his days growing up in his sago-producing village, Yussibnosh said it made him appreciate the efforts of the government to help the people.

"In those days, a metre-long block of sago fetched only RM1.90.

"Much of the area was swampy and life was hard. But a lot has changed since then."

He vowed to hold on to the principle of development.

A father of seven, and married to Elizabeth Nelson, Yussibnosh, a Catholic, has a degree in Public Administration from Universiti Utara Malaysia, Kedah.