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Hi-Tech

SABAH TO EMBARK ON HI-TECH INDUSTRIES

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 29 (Bernama) -- Sabah is planning to embark on high-technology industries, including the production of computer software, to complement the growth in other industrial sectors.

Industrial Development Minister Datuk Tham Nyip Shen said today that under the Sabah Industrial Master Plan (SIMP) approved by the state cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday, the state would also look into developing the electronics sector and woo foreign investors into this area.

"We are well-centred in the East Asean Growth Area (EAGA) and we could well be the manufacturing base to serve the region," he said when entertaining the mass media at a Chinese New Year-cum-Hari Raya open house here.

He said Sabah possessed abundant natural resources that could support the growth of a multitude of industries to put it on par with other states.

Tham said the state would pursue industrial growth in earnest, now that its industrial master plan had been formulated and approved.

The SIMP, covering a period of 15 years starting this year, was in line with the Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park development launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said: "The SIMP provides a framework for Sabah to surge forward in industrial development and its content is dynamic, such that it will be improved to meet the current situation."

With the SIMP, the state could coordinate the development of the various industrial sectors to ensure their steady growth, he added.

"During its implementation stage, my ministry will coordinate with the resource-based agencies such as the Forestry and Agriculture Departments and later on with the human resources-based agencies to develop the human resources," he said.

Sabah would also work with the Federal Government to make ensure that the state could play its part and place itself in the right position in the international trade arena, he added. -- BERNAMA

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