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Taib-Development

SARAWAK REVISES POLICIES TO INCLUDE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

KUCHING, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak government is revising its administrative policies to incorporate smart partnership with the private sector in efforts to expedite the pace of development in the state.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today the success of development plans depended not only on the government machinery but also the degree of participation between the civil service and the people.

"As such the government ought to change its style of governance to enable the private sector to take responsibility without infringing too much on their profit motivation," he said when opening the Sarawak International Quality Congress '99, here.

About 300 participants from throughout the country as well as Indonesia, the United States, Dominican Republic, Mexico and the Philippines are attending the three-day congress held in the state for the first time.

However, he said that in Sarawak, the private sector needs to understand that it had to transform the people's mentality to respect it as an engine of growth.

Abdul Taib said among the areas of profitable cooperation was in the improvement of quality management through the attainment of the ISO 9000 certification to compete in the open global market.

So far, 229 organisations in the state's public and private sectors were striving to obtain the status with 10 government agencies and two private firms already having achieved it, he said.

On quality management, he said given that the ISO 9000 status was a dynamic concept, civil servants should be imbued with such an attitude.

He said in Malaysia, for example, the government, labour movement and corporate sector were working closely to ensure that quality workers were produced through quality management.

The government on its part had slowly but steadily built on the understanding to make it a profitable cooperation by providing allocations for the training of human resources, he said.

He said the bigger firms had also taken on such an idea very willingly by being sensitive to the constant changes in society.

Later, when speaking to reporters, Abdul Taib, who is also the state Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, said that all the BN component parties were gearing up for the BN's 25th anniversary celebrations on Oct 24.

He said he would represent the Sarawak BN in a video conferencing between the various BN state leaders with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur on that day.

"In the case of Sarawak, we will have a simultaneous celebration at the state-level involving all the leaders and grassroots leaders of all BN parties," he said.

The state BN comprises the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) and the Sarawak National Party (Snap).

-- BERNAMA

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