

Bank Utama has not given up hope yet

BANK Utama (M) Bhd has not given up hope of becoming the country's eleventh anchor bank although it has not fulfilled the criteria for an anchor bank set by Bank Negara

Sarawak Finance and Public Utilities Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan said the Sarawak based financial institution is still pursuing efforts to become an anchor bank

Whatever it is Bank Utama is still working towards becoming an anchor bank (in this country) Chan said in Kuching yesterday

He was confident that the bank the flagship of the Utama Banking Group will eventually come up with a solution to overcome its shortcoming to qualify as an anchor bank

Certainly Bank Utama will solve the issue and hopefully it will play a leading role in Sarawak in as far as the banking sector is concerned he said

During its financial year ended Dec 31 2000 the Utama Banking Group posted consolidated pre tax profits of RM105.8 million compared to RM57.9 million in 1999

Last month Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Bank Utama must first meet the criteria for an anchor bank