

09 OCT 2001

Sabah-Stimulus

SABAH RECEIVES RM100 MIL FROM STIMULUS PACKAGE

KOTA KINABALU, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- Sabah has received a total of RM100 million from the RM4.3 billion stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month, making it the largest recipient under the package.

Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said that this allocation would be fully utilised to implement infrastructural projects on the ground.

He said the state government was aware of the woes faced by the local business community regarding inadequate infrastructural facilities in the state.

"The government realises the need to have improved infrastructural facilities in airports, ports and all the others," he said in his address at the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MICCI) Sabah branch annual luncheon here today.

Chong said the government's current focus for the state was to create a conducive and stable political environment so that investors would have the confidence to come to Sabah.

In return, Chong advised members of MICCI Sabah to form alliances and networking system with key players in Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak.

Earlier, MICCI Sabah branch chairman Andrew Lo said MICCI hoped that steps would be taken to upgrade various facilities such as the Kota Kinabalu International Airport (KKIA) including having a larger passenger lobby, more aerobridges, parking bays and taxiways.

The current facilities at the airport were already overloaded, he said.

"They are designed to handle 2.1 million passenger traffic per year but the passenger traffic has already reached 3 million a year. These facilities are therefore 50 per cent under capacity," said Lo.

In the agricultural sector, infrastructural facilities in the east coast do not expand in line with the growth in the oil palm industry, he said.

"Port facilities in handling shipment of fertilisers and bulking installations are limited," he said.

It is hoped that measures were taken to upgrade and extend these facilities, Lo added.

-- BERNAMA

HAK RM