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WORK ON SABAH AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT TO BE EXPEDITED

KOTA KINABALU, April 4 (Bernama) -- Urgent steps will be taken to ensure that the innovation-driven, technology-led, agro-based development cluster known as the Sabah Agro-Industrial Precinct (SAIP) takes off this year or the latest by next year.

Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail said the establishment of SAIP was a commitment by the state government in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to give a new lease of life to the agricultural sector.

"SAIP will also spearhead the development of new industries, especially specialty natural products (SNPs) and food through research and development as well as the application of high-technology such as biotechnology," he said in his welcoming speech before chairing the first meeting of the SAIP Inter-Agency Coordination Committee (SICC) at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) here today.

Last week, Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat announced the formation of the SICC and appointed Rahim as chairman of the committee entrusted with expediting the implementation of SAIP.

SAIP will be developed on a 90ha plot off the KM55 Papar-Beaufort highway.

Rahim said that SICC was formed as a short-term measure to ensure the successful implementation of SAIP, a pioneer project of the state in its participation in the K-economy.

-- BERNAMA

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