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Economy-Funds

SABAH WANTS STIMULUS PACKAGE TO REACH TARGET GROUPS

PENAMPANG, May 31 (Bernama) -- Sabah is preparing an action plan to ensure the recently unveiled economic stimulus package reaches groups who need assistance, its Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman said today.

Last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed announced the RM7.3 billion package to cushion Malaysia in the volatile economy and help the various sectors affected by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The comprehensive package was to help industry operators, businessmen and rural-urban communities, he said at the closing ceremony of the state level Keaamatan or harvest festival here today.

However, Musa said the people must pool their resources efficiently and be proactive to benefit from the package.

"The package is to stimulate the economy, so people must not misuse the assistance," he said.

In conjunction with the harvest festival, Musa urged padi farmers to adopt modernizing farming techniques to increase their productivity.

"The agriculture sector should enhance its capacity to produce a stable output. Besides, attention must also be given to increase value-added products by increasing quality of local goods," Musa said.

He said by improving the sector's efficiency, Sabah could reduce its dependency on food imports and solve the idle land problems.

The harvest festival could also help to develop the tourism sector, especially cultural tourism, and boost Sabah's economy, he said.

"In five years time, Sabah tour operators must target to attract 2.7 million tourists each year," said Musa.

This will boost the small and medium industries -- increase employment opportunities and people's income, and contribute to the state's economic growth, added Musa.

-- BERNAMA

MK VP