

A second wind for Sarawak's growth

NST - 1/4/2006

KUCHING: The Ninth Malaysia Plan will provide a second wind to efforts to develop Sarawak.

This was how politicians and leaders of non-governmental organisations see projects in the plan, which are aimed at taking the State into a new phase of development.

Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam, who is also Modernisation of Agriculture Minister, said the move to upgrade Jalan Oya-Mukah-Balingian and Jalan Sibubawang Assan-Serdeng would enable the State Government to open up more land for agriculture, especially oil-palm cultivation, in coastal areas.

"We also welcome the move to reduce the digital divide between

urban and rural areas as we want to see the rural people becoming more information-savvy," he said.

State Housing Minister Datuk Seri Abang Johari Tun Abang Openg said the increase in allocations for development projects showed the Federal Government was keeping to its promise to develop the State.

Sarawak Teachers Union president William Ghani Bina praised efforts to upgrade the use of ICT in rural areas.

Sarawak Fishermen's Association deputy chairman Adeni Bohari said the development of the deep-sea complex at Tanjung Manis, Mukah, would raise the living standards of the fishing community in the State.

'Bumiputeras should lead'

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KUALA LUMPUR: It is high time for Bumiputera professionals to lead businesses instead of working for others.

Malay Traders and Entrepreneurs Association of Malaysia Datuk Moehamad Izat Emir is so happy the Government under the Ninth Malaysia Plan is committed to do just this.

"Since many Bumiputeras nowadays are professionals, they should be assisted to set up their own businesses.

"These Bumiputeras want to

open their own business, but many don't have the capital to do so. It takes too long for them to save.

"In this respect, banks should be more willing to give them loans," he said.

Moehamad Izat added that Bumiputeras should "regroup themselves" and take the next step propelling them to be on par with the other races.

"Bumiputeras must carry out their responsibilities with commitment and pride."