

# PM: Federal Govt and Sabah to work together for economy

**KOTA KINABALU:** There is stiff competition among nations to entice investors and only those that are really persistent and have the substance will land the deals, says Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said both federal and state governments must do their part to clinch investments that would help rebuild the economy in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Muhyiddin said he was upbeat about the prospects for further investments in Sabah due to the strong relations between the federal and state government, with political stability attracting foreign and local investors.

On tourism in Sabah, he said he was aware that the industry had been badly hit by the pandemic.

However, he expressed confi-

dence that with all the initiatives to revive the industry in place as well as the vaccine and other developments, the sector would yield better prospects soon.

Muhyiddin also commended the Sabah Maju Jaya economic plan as a systematic mechanism to boost the state's economy.

As the Prime Minister wrapped up his first official visit to the state since Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) took over the government last year, he also launched the multibillion-ringgit Lok Kawli resort city development project.

He also witnessed the signing of memoranda of understanding (MOU), including one for a copper foil manufacturing plant.

The MOU for the factory was signed between South Korean company SK Nexilis and KKIP Sdn Bhd.

The project is worth RM2.3bil and is expected to create some 500 jobs in its early phase.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin said the GRS collaboration - between Perikatan Nasional, Barisan Nasional and Parti Bersatu Sabah - was the best political model to follow for the country, describing Sabah as "pretty special".

"By avoiding too much politicking and instead focusing on what the people want and what Sabah needs ... it is not about being popular or which party is better," he said at the Sabah International Convention Centre.

"Thus, I support efforts by (Chief Minister) Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, (Deputy Chief Minister) Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin, (PBS president) Datuk Seri Maximus Ongkili and (Deputy Chief Minister) Datuk Seri

Dr Jeffrey Kitingan and others, including the collaborations with PAS and MCA.

"This is a classic example of focusing on the main agenda, which is to help the people," Muhyiddin added.

He said this when asked to comment on Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's statement that there had been early discussions between PKR and Umno, the latter part of the Perikatan Federal Government, and how this would affect the political affiliation in Sabah.

Asked if there were any discussions on the next general election during his two-day working visit here, Muhyiddin said there was nothing specific as he wanted to focus on Sabah's development since the state elections last September.

"I didn't even use the word 'election' while I was here. Sabah has just concluded its state polls and I don't think Hajiji is even thinking of the general election.

"The mandate has been given by the people and now it is time to execute the manifesto.

"When the time comes, there will be more serious discussions (on the general election)," he added.

Earlier in the day, Muhyiddin paid a courtesy call to Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Juhar Mahiruddin at his residence at Istana Negeri.