

# SABAH HIGHWAY EASTERN ZONE LAUNCHED

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Pan Borneo Highway project involves 3 packages over 58km costing RM877m, says PM

## KINABATANGAN

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday launched the Sabah Eastern Zone Pan Borneo Highway for the Sandakan-Kinabatangan-Beluran-Telupid alignment.

He said the project involved three packages over 58km at a cost of RM877 million.

Ismail Sabri said the scope of the project involved works to upgrade the road from a single to dual carriageway, construction of three bridges and a multi-level interchange.

"When completed, the route would provide a comfortable, efficient and safe land access to residents," he said at the launch at Dataran Tamu Pekan, Kota Kinabatangan here yesterday.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin, and Deputy Works Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup.

Ismail Sabri said construction had started this month and was scheduled to be completed in three years in October 2024.

He said the route would facilitate logistics and marketing of agricultural produce in Telupid and would help promote tourism around Sandakan.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob launching the Sabah Eastern Zone Pan Borneo Highway at Dataran Tamu Pekan in Kinabatangan yesterday. With him are (from left) Deputy Works Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup, Deputy Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili. BERNAMA PIC

"The implementation of the Sabah Pan Borneo Highway proved the commitment of the federal government in developing a planned, systematic and efficient road infrastructure network for the people here.

"It is to ensure better socio-economic development to benefit the people in this state in line with the 12th Malaysia Plan, which is the Malaysian Family — A Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Malaysia," he said.

On concerns of Internet access problems in the rural areas, he said under the National Digital Network (Jendela) programme, the government allocated RM3.5 billion to build 534 telecommunication towers in Sabah.

Ismail Sabri said the government gave an assurance the Jendela project would be completed in two years.

Meanwhile, Ismail Sabri said there were 105 new projects costing RM1.9 billion for Sabah,

among them upgrading roads, electricity supply and clean water.

He said also approved was the construction of a new multi-purpose hall in Kota Kinabatangan costing RM6 million, a RM3 million Kota Kinabatangan public market and a waste disposal centre in Kinabatangan costing RM3 million.

At the press conference after the ceremony, Ismail Sabri said the Private Finance Initiative

(PFI) was among the methods being studied to expedite the implementation of the Pan Borneo Highway.

"There are delays in the implementation (of the project) as the previous government cancelled the PDP (Project Delivery Partner) concept, therefore this time we must find a way to ensure the project is implemented fast for the people. Among them, PFI is being studied and discussed."

**Bernama**