

Good Consultative Government Machinery Needed To Reach Out To Sarawakians - Taib
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KUCHING, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- There is a need for the Sarawak government to empower the lower level of its administration by providing a good consultative machinery to reach out to the people, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today.

He said plans were now underway to revamp the local authorities in all the 33 districts throughout the 11 divisions within the next five years in order to implement such a system of consultation.

"I am sure the civil service will put their thoughts together to help implement government policies by inventing new ways to tackle problems for excellent product and service delivery," he said when officiating at the Public Service Day 2011 assembly and presentation of awards.

Also present were State Secretary Datuk Amar Mohamad Morshidi Ghani and Federal Secretary Datuk Md Yahaya Basimin.

Abdul Taib said the government, through its various policies and programmes, needed to adjust to the changing times that also brought about many challenges because it would not be able to execute development programmes well unless the people responded to them.

Earlier, Mohamad Morshidi said a state consultative committee, consisting of members of the public and private sectors, had been formed to forge closer collaboration in improving the public service delivery and the state's business environment.

Also known as Pemudah at the federal level, it would also review the status of the public and private service delivery systems in terms of the processes and procedures while benchmarking the best practices to improve the ease of doing business, he said.

In emphasising the importance of good governance in the public sector, particularly the need for sound financial management at all levels, he was proud that Sarawak had been recognised as a financially well-managed state and accorded a "clean certificate" for its 2010 Public Accounts by the auditor-general for the ninth consecutive year.

At the function, the Sarawak Manpower Department, Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, Kuching Utara City Hall, State Treasury and Sarawak Islamic Council were awarded certificates for achieving a four-star accountability index for 2010 conducted by the auditor-general.

Four people received the Exemplary Public Servant Award 2011. They are paediatric surgeon at Sarawak General Hospital Dr Anne Rachael John (high management group), Miri Port Authority general manager Shebli Hairani (management and professional group), Health Department's medical assistant Marudi Gurong Wan (Support I group) and junior general administration officer at the Sarawak Land and Survey Department, Joshua Dang (Support II group).

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