

Laid-Back Sipitang Town Braces For Najib's Historic Visit On Thursday
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Preparations are being made at feverish pace to welcome Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who will perform the ground-breaking for Petronas' RM4.5 billion Sabah Ammonia Urea (SAMUR) project in Sipitang on Thursday.

Petronas will build a world-class fertilizer complex in Banting through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Petronas Chemicals Group.

The massive project is slated for completion in two years.

Sipitang residents are in for immense economic spin-offs from the massive project.

Arrangements are being made to accommodate VIPs, guests, visitors and media crew converging in Sipitang.

Restaurants are preparing for brisk business with outsiders flocking to Sipitang to witness the monumental event in Sabah's development history.

The mega ammonia-urea plant, expected to be operational in 2015, will spur mass economic activities and downstream industries in and around the sleepy-hollow town.

With the majority of the populace still engaged in traditional farming and fishing, the 35,000-odd Sipitang folk will eventually reap the benefits just like what the people in Terengganu are enjoying now.

Petronas' petrochemical complex in Kerteh has transformed Kemaman into a vibrant city with more hotels, restaurants, new townships, schools, hospitals, clinics and tourist spots.

Besides creating jobs for the locals, SAMUR will create opportunities for industrious Sabahans to venture into ammonia-related businesses like melamine and adhesives.

SAMUR will produce 1.2 million tonnes of granulated urea a year, thus transforming Sabah into one of the region's largest fertilizer producers.

Fertilizers from the facility will be exported to lucrative overseas market while a sizeable volume will still be made available locally to serve Sabah's rapidly-growing agriculture sector.

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