

Govt, private sector cooperation vital

14th November, 2015

By ERIC BAGANG Eric@newsabahtimes.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: The government and the private sector need to work together to find ways to make green buildings economically affordable and educate the public on the advantage of living green, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman.

"A green building or sustainable building refers to the use of processes that are environmentally responsible and resource efficient throughout the lifespan of the structure.

"Such buildings often include measures to reduce energy and water consumption which are key objectives in sustainable building.

"I must congratulate the chairman, board of directors and the management team of Hap Seng Group of Companies for having the foresight to come up with this concept of a green building.

"The fact that Shell is an anchor tenant in this plaza fits in well with this oil and gas giant's sustainability efforts. Shell's presence in such a landmark location in Kota Kinabalu is also testimony of the importance of the oil and gas sector in growing Sabah's economy," he said at the opening ceremony of Plaza Shell here yesterday.

Musa also commended Hap Seng Group of Companies for taking the initiative to make its presence felt through the building.

According to him, as a company that has key operations in Sabah including in oil palm, Hap Seng in some ways is giving back to the society through this landmark.

"I urge other plantation companies operating in Sabah to emulate Hap Seng by building or renovating structures into eye-catching corporate offices that reflect your presence in this State.

"I wish to take this opportunity to encourage plantation companies to carry out more corporate social responsibility programmes and to work towards safeguarding the environment," he added.

Speaking of Hap Seng Group of Companies, Musa said that it started its business with a grocery store in Tawau before venturing into timber, and other businesses as opportunities came along the way.

Today, he said, the company which was founded by Tan Sri Lau Gek Poh and developed by his nephew, Tan Sri CK Lau, is well established in Malaysia with interests ranging from plantations, property investment and development, credit financing, trading, automotive (Mercedes Benz) building materials and stone quarries.

"This company has created many job opportunities for Malaysians and is also playing a significant role in stimulating the economy.

"Apart from being well known as a successful businessman, Tan Sri Lau Gek Poh also has a legacy in philanthropy. "The Lau Gek Poh Foundation which was set up in 1991 is principally engaged in charitable work and has tax exempted status.

"The foundation has donated and contributed greatly towards several charities, welfare homes and has played a role in the development of education in Sabah especially Chinese schools," added Musa.

Also present were Deputy Chief Minister-cum-Industrial Minister Datuk Seri Raymond Tan Shu Kiah, Tourism, Culture & Environment Minister Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun, Hap Seng Consolidated Berhad chairman Datuk Jorgen Bornhoft, Shell Malaysia chairman-cum-Sarawak Shell Berhad & Sabah Petroleum Co Ltd managing director Datuk Iain Lo and Hap Seng Plantations Holding Berhad director Datuk Amat Asrie Abdul Kadir.