

SABAH PLANS HALAL PARK

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Chris Maskilone

KOTA KINABALU: A Halal Park has been planned in Sabah to cater for the Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei Darussalam market, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman.

He said the idea was mooted during the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines – East Asean Growth Area (Bimp-Eaga) meeting in Brunei recently in which Sabah was represented by Industrial Development Minister Datuk Raymond Tan.

“I think the meeting was fruitful as Brunei has expressed interest to come to Sabah to invest...there are a lot of things that can be looked into (in Sabah) such as the tourism and manufacturing industries,” he said.

Musa, who is also the State Finance Minister, was speaking to reporters after the official opening of Wisma FSM at Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP) in Sepanggar, near here, Friday.

He said the proposal was mooted because it was felt that a Halal Park in Sabah was appropriate to cater for the entire range of activities required for the production of *halal* products within the Bimp-Eaga.

Tan, who was also at the press conference, said the most probable site for the Park is Sepanggar due to its proximity to the Sepanggar Bay Container Port.

“However, further details would be furnished once we reaffirmed the plan,” he said.

The 14th Bimp-Eaga Ministers Meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan on Aug 8 and chaired by Brunei Foreign Affairs and Trade Second Minister Pehin Lim Jock Seng.

Earlier, Musa called on FSM to collaborate with the State Industrial Development Ministry to make the Halal Park a success.

He said FSM and the Ministry could form a collaboration to identify the right training courses to efficiently and effectively manage the Halal Park.

Apart from that, he urged FSM to explore opportunities in research and focus on training youths in specialised skills needed for the manufacturing sector.

Musa said the State Government was also seriously considering the setting up of a sizeable convention centre to support meeting, incentive, conference and exhibition (Mice) activities, including the Sabah International Exposition (SIE) and the Borneo International Trade Fair.

He said the State Government would fully support activities that generate economic activities and enhance bilateral ties.

In this respect, he said he was pleased that FSM had been playing a positive role in promoting the manufacturing sector and “placing Sabah on the map”.

“Together, FSM and the Malaysian International Chamber and Industry (MICCI) have successfully organised five SIEs – a premier trade fair that has attracted an increasing number of participation over the years.

“I urge FSM and MICCI to continue with this endeavour to put Sabah on the manufacturing map,” he said.

On the request by the Federation of Sabah Manufacturers (FSM) President Datuk Wong Khen Thau that the State Government provided the federation with a special grant, he said:

“I have told my new Minister (Datuk Raymond Tan) to take note about it just now,” he said, while assuring that the State Government would continue to provide whatever assistance necessary to FSM because it had been organising programmes that benefited the State and people.

Meanwhile, Musa said the official opening of the new headquarters marked another milestone for the federation.

Among those present were Industrial Development Minister Datuk Raymond Tan, the Ambassador of Republic of Slovak to Malaysia, Milan Lajciak, Assistant Minister of Youth and Sports, Datuk Jahid Jahim, and KKIP Chairman, Datuk Basali Abdul Hamid.