

04 AUG, 2025

Highest econ output of RM84.3bil

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia



C CHIEF Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor launching the National Month, Sabah Day and Fly the Flag Campaign 2025 at The Magellan Sutra Resort in Kota Kinabalu on July 31.



C CHIEF Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor accompanying Sabah Head of State Tun Musa Aman in a visit to the Sabah Police Museum during the 2025 State-level Warriors Day celebration at Sabah Police Contingent Headquarters in Kepyayan, Kota Kinabalu, on July 31.



FINANCE Minister Datuk Seri Masidi Marjun greeting Borneo Rhino Alliance Executive Director John Payne during representing the Chief Minister at the Asean Sustainable Forestry Summit 2025 held at Shangri-La Tanjung Aru in Kota Kinabalu on July 29.



C CHIEF Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor being introduced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during the Prime Minister's visit to the 13th Malaysia-Indonesia Annual Consultation Meeting at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta on July 29.



CHIEF Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor (middle) witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK) and Petco Trading Labuan Company Ltd to develop a biogas energy complex at Kayu Madang landfill site at Pacific Sutra Hotel in Kota Kinabalu on July 30.

CHIEF Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK) and Alpha Ocean Resources Berhad (AORB) to develop a Kota Kinabalu European Union (EU)-standard port specifically for the landing of tuna and other deep-sea fishery products at Pacific Sutra Hotel in Kota Kinabalu on July 30.



SCIENCE, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Mohd Arifin Mohd Arif representing the Chief Minister in presenting awards at the Sabah Education Department's 13th Academic Excellence Recognition Ceremony (Mekar) at Sabah International Convention Centre (SiCC) in Kota Kinabalu on July 29.

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CHIEF Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said Sabah recorded its highest-ever economic output of RM84.3 billion in 2024, continuing a strong upward trend since 2022. "The total trade value has also exceeded RM100 billion for three consecutive years, peaking at RM118 billion in 2022, proving our increasingly expanding global connectivity," he said at the Malaysia Co-Investment Fund (MyCIF) Roadshow at Le Meridien Kota Kinabalu in Kota Kinabalu on July 31. His speech was read by Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Datuk Phosong Jin Zhe.

The Chief Minister said Sabah's economic transformation has been remarkable. "From an economy rooted in primary sectors, we have evolved into a multi-sector powerhouse. Sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and services have now become our core and future."

"In line with Malaysia's broader economic goals, our commitment to growth remains steadfast and is reflected in the five-year Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) development blueprint launched in 2021, built upon three main pillars: agriculture, industry and tourism," he said.

Hajiji said Sabah is now shifting its focus to downstream processing and value-added industries. This includes the historic Commercial Collaboration Agreement (CCA) with Petrosas, which gives Sabah greater participation and equity in the oil and gas sector, along with the development of new industrial parks in Kota Belud, Beaufort and Kudat for the Blue Economy Industrial Park, which is expected to attract major investments.

He said agriculture remains a key pillar and Sabah is currently expanding paddy

cultivation, introducing crop takaful schemes and focusing on high-value crops such as MD2 pineapples.

"Our new plan, the Rural Agricultural Economic Revolution (Raer) 2025-2030, with an initial allocation of RM10 million, is specifically designed to boost the rural economy, diversify income sources and reduce unemployment through opportunities in the agricultural sector," he said.

Hajiji also highlighted that Sabah is actively promoting the Blue Economy, including the exploration of marine resources, ocean-based renewable energy such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) and marine biotechnology.

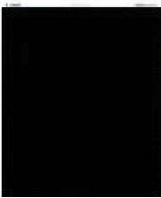
In addition, he said there is huge potential in green technology and the digital economy, with major investments such as the RM1 billion E-Seed Sabah project.

"Despite our impressive progress, we recognise that many micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) still face challenges in accessing capital to innovate, grow and fully leverage available opportunities."

"Traditional financing models, while important, can sometimes present obstacles such as collateral requirements, lengthy processes or a lack of understanding of the unique and innovative businesses in Sabah's landscape," he said.

"Improving access to alternative financing is key to overcoming these limitations, including bridging funding gaps by providing easy access to capital and financing as an alternative to traditional bank loans."

This also involves encouraging local entrepreneurs to tap into the MyCIF co-investment model to expand their businesses.



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### Lifeline for rural traders

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“With easier access to financing, it becomes a lifeline for businesses in rural areas or niche sectors like ecotourism and small-scale sustainable agriculture, which often struggle to secure traditional loans,” he added.

Hajiji said alternative financing is also well-suited to Sabah’s young and innovative entrepreneurs in the digital and creative sectors who require agile funding to realise their ideas, in line with the State Government’s aim to diversify the economy.

“We are witnessing the rise of a new generation of Sabah entrepreneurs, particularly in the digital and creative fields, who need responsive and flexible financing. Importantly, these platforms enable Sabahans and local investors to directly support Sabah businesses, strengthen the local economic ecosystem, and ensure that wealth creation benefits our communities.

“Expanding access to alternative financing can unlock economic value across the supply chain, from food security to ecotourism,” he said.

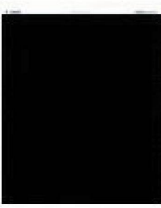
He said MyCIF is a key national initiative that regulates alternative financing platforms. “It represents a commitment to de-risk and stimulate private investment in our businesses. This means when investors invest in Sabah businesses through ECF (equity crowdfunding) and P2P (peer-to-peer lending), MyCIF also co-invests in those businesses.

“This amplifies the impact and helps businesses

reach their funding targets faster. This initiative reflects strong cooperation between the State Government and federal agencies such as the Securities Commission. Together, we are building an ecosystem in which every Sabah entrepreneur has the opportunity to succeed,” he said.

He urged every business owner, aspiring entrepreneur and investor in Sabah to learn about these alternative financing channels.

“It’s not just about financing; it’s about nurturing communities, empowering local talent and driving shared prosperity. Let’s build a resilient and prosperous Sabah together,” he said.



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### SUMMARIES

#### ACTIVITIES OF LEADERS AND MINISTRIES THE PAST WEEK

CHIEF Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor launching the National Month, Sabah Day and Fly the Flag Campaign 2025 at The Magellan Sutera Resort in Kota Kinabalu on July 31.