

THE BORNEO POST

'Green' benchmark for KK

City Waterfront development boasts innovative conservation features

By Sandra Sokial

KOTA KINABALU: With innovative conservation features, Kota Kinabalu City Waterfront is targeted to be the first property development in Sabah to attain the Malaysian Green Building Index (GBI) accreditation.

Based on energy and water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, sustainable site planning and management, materials and resources, and innovation, the GBI is a rating tool jointly developed by the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) and Association of Consulting Engineers Malaysia (ACEM).

It aims to promote sustainability in the built environment and raise awareness among the property development and construction fraternities as well as the public at large about environmental issues.

Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun, who officiated at the launch of KKCW Go Green programme here yesterday, gave the thumbs up to the effort and reminded that our action today will affect the decisions tomorrow.

"It is our decision on what legacy we want to leave to our future generations," he said.

Masidi said although development is crucial for the State, the people should not lose sight of the importance of conserving and preserving nature and environment.

He said environment conservation in the City would help to improve the quality of life of those living in the area.

While complimenting KKCW developer Sunsea Development Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Waterfront Urban Development Sdn Bhd (WUD), for its decision to go green, Masidi urged more developers as well as government departments and agencies in the State to do the same.

"When one talks about green technology in buildings, it adds value to life, not just to the structure," he said.



Masidi checks out the model of the proposed 'green' KK City Waterfront as Lee (second right), Iliyas (second left) and Abdul Ghani (left) look on. - Photo by Aniq Azrael.

"I am indeed elated that KK City Hall is working towards ensuring that buildings in the city are environmental-friendly."

Masidi said that in developed countries, energy saving is one of the priorities.

"Normally when we walk into the offices here, it is either too hot or too cold, we will see people wearing warm clothing. Isn't it better if we can lower the air-conditioning

and keep the office at a temperature that would make everyone comfortable? It would surely help conserve energy," he said.

He described the WUD's Go Green programme as "great" and "timely".

After all those nagging about conserving the environment, the effort by WUD is meaningful to my life. Finally a company is willing to take up this tough challenge and

apply environmental-friendly technology," he said.

WUD chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Abdul Rashid, in his speech, said the Go Green programme is part of Kota Kinabalu Nature Resort City and Sabah Development Corridor to promote tourism.