



Masidi discussing with Boon while Abdul Ghani, Ilyas and Johnson Koh look on.

Only energy-efficient future Sabah buildings

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KOTA KINABALU: The State Tourism, Culture and Environment Ministry may propose to the Cabinet to ensure future government buildings comply with the Green Building Index (GBI) regulations.

Its Minister Datuk Masidi Manjun said present buildings like Wisma Tun Fuad Stephens where his office is situated are not energy efficient unlike in other countries where aspects like air-conditioning are prioritised.

"In Japan, during certain seasons, the building temperature is kept at around 26 degrees but you go to my office, you will be freezing. How can you work when you need to wear warm clothing?" he said.

Such situation could not be helped for old buildings, he said, but that he would be more than happy to propose to the Cabinet that all government buildings (in the future) be GBI compliant.

Meanwhile, Masidi commended the developer of Kota Kinabalu City Waterfront (KKCW), Sunsea Development Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Waterfront Urban Development Sdn Bhd (WUD), which is working together with City Hall on the Go Green Campaign for the mega project launched on Friday.

It made KKCW the first property development in Sabah to be built in compliance with the GBI regulations and Masidi hoped other property development companies emulate the move to

comply with GBI regulations.

GBI is Malaysia's very own rating for Green Buildings.

Masidi said the project was initially shrouded in controversy and it took two years for him to be convinced.

"I'm a bit difficult to deal with but I believe in certain principles and disciplines ... I am glad to hear that the KKCW project is going green. You have done more than what I have asked," he said.

"This building was shrouded in controversies but (now) we can eventually say it can be an icon," he said, adding that, "there is money to be made from green."

According to him, to create a city its buildings must have character in order to leave behind a legacy for the future.

"There will be more buildings coming up in the future but they must comply with the law, there are no two-ways about it.

"We have to change our mindset when developing something for the people and not just keep thinking of profits. At the end of the day, it is all about the quality of life," he said after launching the KKCW Go Green Campaign at Le Meridien.

Masidi also commended Mayor Datuk Ilyas Ibrahim for setting a high benchmark for future Mayors to follow.

"I am glad City Hall has started the ball rolling and hopefully other municipalities in Sabah will follow," he added.

GBI must from now: Mayor

NEW buildings in the city, especially mega projects, will soon need to obtain GBI (Green Building Index) accreditation to ensure the Kota Kinabalu environment was protected.

"We have been telling everyone that Kota Kinabalu is a nature resort city. We will soon require buildings to be eco-friendly, including planting trees surrounding projects," said Mayor Datuk Ilyas Ibrahim.

WUD chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Abdul Rashid said the company felt responsible for ensuring Kota Kinabalu preserves its natural beauty with the two kilometre waterfront boardwalk being built.

"We are helping to develop Kota Kinabalu as a nature resort city, as more often than not, it is the first entry point into the State. We have to show that while developing this project, the natural surroundings are also being preserved," he said.

Abdul Ghani said the boardwalk would be constructed with techwood planks made of rice husk and recycled plastic.

He also said the KKCW would use a rainwater harvesting system to reduce tap water consumption to water the landscape.

Other energy efficient technologies include the

use of a thermal insulated glass facade to reduce solar heat and reduce energy cost for air-conditioning and a Concealed Refuse Compaction System for its waste management.

GBI Director, Boon Chee Wee said during the last four months since its launch, it had received over 30 applications for projects to be rated by GBI and KKCW's was the first from Sabah.

The first green building in Malaysia - the Malaysian Energy Centre in Bangi, Selangor - was certified by GBI in July this year.

He said green building ratings were conceived to assist architects, engineers, designers, builders, developers, owners, users and policy makers to understand the choices that can be made in the design of buildings, to reduce negative impacts on the environment.

Under the GBI, the projects would be assessed and rated based on energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, sustainable site planning and management, materials and resources, water efficiency and innovation.

Apart from certifying green buildings, GBI also trains building professionals to be GBI facilitators, and works with governments on incentives to green building owners. - CM