

S'wak govt will enhance forest management policies, action plans – CM

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Abang Johari giving a speech during Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation 45th anniversary dinner at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching here last night.

KUCHING: The Sarawak government will continue to enhance its forest management policies and action plans in making sure that the state timber industry remains relevant in the ever changing domestic and global needs.

Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg reiterated that the commitment in preserving the timber industry is clearly manifested in the state forest management policies which encompass conservation and economic considerations

The recent Stakeholders Consultation on the Proposed Forestry Policies from Jan 22 to 23 was also organised to seek inputs from the industry players for the formulation of a more comprehensive and holistic forest and timber industry policies.

“These inputs are important for us to ensure that the policies formulated will be more holistic and pragmatic to enhance the growth of forestry sector and timber industry for the economic

development of the state,” said Abang Johari at the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) 45th anniversary dinner at Borneo Convention Centre Kuching which was officiated by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud last night.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan – who is also STIDC chairman – during his speech said the government had laid down effective policies to spur the growth of the downstream timber processing industry.

“Among others, the log quota policy, timber processing zones, royalty incentive, integrated timber complex and industry forest plantation were introduced,” he added.

Timber industry is a major contributor to the state economic development which created more than 100,000 job opportunities and chalking up a total export value of timber products of RM5.4 billion in 2018.

“STIDC will continue to carry out promotional activities especially timber selling missions and participation in international exhibitions in order to strengthen and expand our existing market as well as to develop new market,” he said.

Moreover, Awang Tengah said that ‘Pusaka Capital’ had been formed as an investment arm of STIDC to consolidate the investment activities of STIDC subsidiary companies.

To date, Pusaka Capital is involved in various investment activities ranging from petroleum and gas, pail oil industry cluster to airport management and the company will further expand its investment into bio-fuel and other economic sectors.

Awang Tengah said that STIDC will continue its existing path in integrating information technology to its work processes in line with the state government aspiration in leveraging on Industry 4.0 and digital economy.

Among those attended were Taib’s wife Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Ragad Kurdi Taib, Abang Johari’s wife Datuk Amar Juma’ani Tuanku Bujang and Minister of Local Government and Housing Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian.