

## Mayor calls for more green buildings

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KOTA KINABALU: Green building is the way to go for Kota Kinabalu as it strides forward to become a developed eco-tourism resort city, said Mayor Datuk Abidin Madingkir.

He said City Hall viewed green buildings as vital tools in supporting the State's effort to strengthen its tourism sector and will continue to emphasise on sustainable development by adopting the Green Building Index as its only green building rating standard.

"Sabah is proud to be bestowed with beautiful attractions and eco treasures, making every year a 'Visit Sabah Year'... It is our focus to maintain and oversee sustainable development statewide, to safeguard Sabah's rich floral and fauna heritage.

"At Kota Kinabalu City Hall, we view green buildings as a complimentary part of this effort. For sure, we can't do it alone. It requires collective effort and synergy from the private sector and the rakyat," he said.

Abidin stressed that much still needed to be done to spread awareness on sustainable development and lifestyle and the people should be convinced that going green is their inheritance for the present and future generation.

Entrepreneurs too must be encouraged and assisted to go green in managing their businesses, to be convinced of the benefits of such approach so that it can translate into lower cost and enhanced reputation.

"So far we only have one building accredited with GBI, which is the Sabah Art Gallery Conservation Centre. As such, I urge developers to take the initiative to stress more on green design in their projects," said Abidin.

He was speaking during his opening address at the 'Green Construction and Green Building Investment and Tax Incentives' Seminar held in conjunction with GBI Third Anniversary in Sabah here, yesterday.

Meanwhile, GBI Accreditation Panel Chairman, Ar Boon Che Wee, announced that 75 million square feet of green buildings have been certified to date, involving 182 projects.

He said these included 81 new non-residential buildings and 75 new residential buildings, as well as five existing buildings that will be green-retrofitted.

As of November 15, GBI has received 492 applications for registrations and has certified 37 per cent of them, which translates to over 320,000 CO2 emission reduction per year, based on electrical energy saving alone.