

Dr Karim (second left), Dr Shahril (second right) and Dr Mohd Isa (right) exchanging documents, witnessed by Musa (third right), Dr Maximus (third left) and Pang (left)



Musa (fourth left) witnessing the exchange of documents between Dr Yaakub (second left) and Dr Nazlee (right)

## Musa: Biotech can be medium for Sabah's economic growth

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KOTA KINABALU: Biotechnology has potential to become the "medium" for economic growth and generate new wealth for Sabah.

It can also increase the income of the people, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman said.

He said through the Halatuju, the State government has outlined the need for the benefits of science and technology, especially biotechnology to boost Sabah's development.

"As such, the government has introduced various initiatives to facilitate our participation in bioeconomy with focus on knowledge," he said in his speech at a briefing on Bioeconomy in Sabah Development Corridor (SDC) here yesterday.

Musa who is also Finance Minister added that in developing Sabah, the government has initiated the SDC focusing on infrastructure, tourism, manufacturing and agriculture including biotechnology.

"These efforts and initiatives reflect our commitment, determination and earnestness via the Economic Transformation Programme which is the catalyst for economic growth," he said.

He said he believed this would create more job opportunities and change the economic scenario of the State.

Musa also said the implementation of SDC's phase two investment spearheaded by the private sector, also played a role including in bioeconomy development.

"There is a need to change the way we think and act so as to move with the times. We must be open-minded, think creatively and be receptive to new ideas.

"I am confident we are capable of translating concepts and policies with good ideas into concrete action in our efforts to develop a bioeconomy," he said.

Musa added that with an abundance of natural resources, ethno-botanic knowledge and a clean environment, Sabah has great potential to attract the biotechnology industry to develop the economy to a higher level.

Musa meanwhile hailed the co-operation between BiotechCorp and SEDIA (Sabah Economic Development & Investment Authority) in supporting the bioeconomy initiative in Sabah.

And he also stressed that the State government would ensure the envi-

ronment was protected in its endeavour to bring further development to Sabah.

At the function yesterday, the Chief Minister witnessed the signing of three agreements.

The first agreement was signed between SEDIA and BiotechCorp. Seddia was represented by its chief executive Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Haji Johari while Biotechnology by its chief executive officer Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal.

The other two agreements were between Institut Bioteknologi Kebangsaan Malaysia (NIBM), Yayasan Sabah (YS) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) as well as between SEDIA BiotechCorp and Tera Garden Biotech.

NIBM was represented by chief executive officer Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Isa Abd Majib, YS by its group corporate secretary Dr Karim Samsuri and UMS by its deputy vice chancellor (research & innovation) Prof Dr Shahril Yusof.

Also present were Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan, Federal Science, Technology & Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili and Youth & Sports Minister Datuk Peter Pang En Yin.