



Ng (sixth right) presenting the mock cheque to Dr Rossita for the Seagrass Transplantation Project.

Resiting cargo terminal to boost Sabah tourism

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Locksley Ng

KOTA KINABALU: Suria Capital Holdings Bhd's relocation of its general cargo terminal at Kota Kinabalu port will boost development in the tourism industry.

Suria Capital Holdings Bhd and Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd Managing Director Ng Kiat Min said the current location of its general cargo terminal is between various landmarks in the city, including shopping malls, Jesselton Point and its Ferry Terminal, Sabah International Convention Centre, and Yayasan Sabah.

"We are creating a new focus in the city to boost the State's tourism initiative.

"The area is busy with international convention delegates as well as tourists and locals in commercial areas filled with high-end residences and hotels," she said.

She said after the general cargo port operation is relocated to Sepanggar Bay, Suria Group will then be undertaking the construction of a dedicated international cruise terminal at Kota Kinabalu Port, which will serve as the second entry point to the heart of the city.

The dedicated cruise terminal at the city will also complement other Suria Group developments such as Jesselton Quay and One Jesselton Waterfront.

"We hope to receive more tourists from international cruises in our ports since it isn't as developed in the region at the moment.

"Hopefully, this will help improve the employment and economic growth in the future as well," she said after the Seagrass Transplantation Cheque Handover Ceremony at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), here, Tuesday.

Earlier in the programme, Ng presented a mock cheque for RM20,000 as a contribution to the Seagrass Transplantation Project for the Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI).

She said the project entails transplanting seagrass population found within the development boundary to a new location as an effort to conserve the site's environmental contribution.

The biologically-rich precinct is expected to be impacted by development and degrade, unless sustainable and pro-

ductive steps are taken.

She added that SPSB has been collaborating with the BMRI on various projects since 2012 which includes the safeguarding of coral reef ecology, coral conservation in Sepanggar, and the completion of the Sabah Ports funded study on the status of heavy metal pollution in coastal sediments of Sepanggar Bay and Kota Kinabalu.

"Our main objective is to safeguard Sepanggar Bay's biological inheritance as well as comply with any environmental pre-requisites in regards to Sabah Ports' future plan to develop Sepanggar.

"Even with our relocation and expansion of the general cargo terminal, we must ensure we are progressing ethically and environmentally responsibly," she said.

Also present at the programme were SPSB General Manager Siti Noraishah Aziz, BMRI Director Professor Dr Rossita Shapawi, Deputy Director Associate Professor Dr Sitti Raehanah Shaleh, and Seagrass Transplantation Project Leader Dr Ejria Saleh.