



**KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Development Corridor (SDC) had contributed significantly to Sabah's economy in the last decade.**

Economist Dr Rafiq Idris (pic) who is a Senior Lecturer from the Financial Economics Program, Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) said projects by the SDC had contributed to the economy during the first 10 years of the SDC period.

Although he acquiesced that many other

# SDC contributes to Sabah's economy

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factors had contributed to the economic growth in the State, many good things have been brought to Sabah due to this national corridor programme.

"The SDC is an economic corridor program that is undertaken to further develop various areas in Sabah. It is one of the four other corridor programs in the country, namely the Northern Corridor Economic Region, East Coast Economic Region, Iskandar Malaysia and Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy," he stated.

"These five economic corridors program were initiated under Ninth Malaysia Plan to reduce development imbalances throughout the country."

According to him, consistent with national agenda, the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) and the National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs) that aimed to transform Malaysia into a high-income nation by the year

2020, the SDC had several key focus areas.

"This includes tourism, logistics and manufacturing, higher education, oil, gas and energy, agriculture and palm oil. In this regard, among the programs that fall under the SDC include Kinabalu Harbour Front and Gold Coast Enclave, consolidating logistics and transportation infrastructure," he said, adding that this also included the Sabah Agro Industrial Precinct as well as Sipitang Oil and Gas Industrial Park, Keningau Integrated Livestock Centre (KILC), and Marine Industrial Cluster (MIC) in Southern region.

There are also the Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC) and Sandakan Education Hub (SEH). As a result of some of these programmes, more downstream activities have been created under the SDC, he said.

In terms of infrastructure, in the past 10 years many are in the pipeline.

"For example, port transshipment hub in

Sepangar, Pan Borneo Highway, among others, shall definitely further improve the connectivity and logistical efficiency in Sabah," he said.

According to Rafiq, the Pan Borneo Highway for instance would improve the connectivity between the various economic clusters under SDC.

Besides that, it had the potential to lower the logistic cost and attract foreign direct investment, at least in the long run.

"When looking at certain macroeconomic indicators, data have indicated significant improvement. For instance, the poverty rate has reduced significantly within these 10 years. Poverty rate was reported to be 19.7% in 2009 and it has reduced to 2.9% in 2016."

In terms of income distribution, Sabah's distribution of income had improved, he stated.

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