

UNDP planning three major projects in Sabah

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By JASON JACK EBIT

KOTA KINABALU: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is looking forward to teaming up with the Sabah government involving various matters such as providing job opportunities and conserving biodiversity and wildlife.

UNDP Resident representative of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Niloy Banerjee (pic) said UNDP plans to implement three major plans in the state which focus on conserving environment and wildlife, youth empowerment programmes, and developing eco-friendly city and districts.



He said expertise would be brought into some local areas with the funding of US\$15 million to US\$ 16 million to implement these plans.

"It is for the area-based

programmes – biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection, and strengthening the local government and empowering youths," he said when met by reporters.

Niloy said this after paying a courtesy call to Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal at the Sabah Administrative Centre (PPNS) on Monday.

"One of the future areas where jobs will have to be quite sensitive is how to keep the economic activity going while also being environmentally friendly, especially in a fragile ecosystem.

"Here (in Sabah) we have very precious biodiversity and marine resources so we have to be careful where both jobs

and development happen in a way that is not destroying these natural resources," he said.

He said, his team has been working extensively for Sabah in its conservation and biodiversity which includes conducting research with local institute Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on undocumented people.

"UMS is helping us to do the study but data has not come in yet. It's not ready yet, but when we have it, we will be really keen to see what we can do with the undocumented people," he added.

Niloy also revealed that there have been seven pilot researches conducted so far.