Media Release: 2017 Budget Focus Group Meeting: Sabah **Development**

Thursday, Aug 25 2016

2017 BUDGET FOCUS GROUP MEETING: SABAH DEVELOPMENT

Date: 25 August 2016 Time: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Venue: Dewan Persidangan, Tingkat 8, Menara Hasil, Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Chairman: YB Dato' Lee Chee Leong Deputy Minister of Finance II

Since early August, the Ministry has launched a series of Focus Group meetings with the relevant stakeholders to deliberate on specific issues for more perspectives and recommendations for the 2017 Budget, which is expected to be tabled in the Parliament on 21 October. The Focus Group meeting on the development in Sabah was chaired by Deputy Finance Minister II, YB Dato' Lee Chee Leong on 25 August with participation from the Federal and state government agencies, statutory bodies, commerce chambers, academia as well as NGOs.

Sabah with an estimated population of 3.8 million this year, contributed about 6.5% to the overall Malaysia's GDP growth or equivalent to RM66 billion in 2014. With its great abundance of natural resources as well as its strategic position in East Malaysia, Sabah has lot of potential in expanding its economic growth. Furthermore, the Pan-Borneo Highway, which begins in the district of Sematan in Sarawak, and passes through Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman, Sarikei, Sibu, Bintulu, Miri, Limbang, Lawas, Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan dan Tawau, will increase access to areas of economic growth and accelerate further development in both states.

With four years remaining for Malaysia to become a high-income and developed nation by 2020, greater efforts are needed to properly address growth challenges, to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in Sabah. The projects implemented in the regions of Sabah and Sarawak along with ongoing programmes under the GTP, ETP and RTP as well as initiatives announced in the annual budgets are expected to generate more vibrant economic growth and job creation. The Government will also continue to ensure balanced and equitable development for all states.

Ministry Of Finance Putraiava 25 August 2016



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