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## RM175.61 million allocation for Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



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**KOTA KINABALU:** The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and its departments have been allocated RM175.61 million in 2023 State Budget.

"Of that amount, a total of RM79.46 million goes to the ministry's operation and acculturation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) including the development of STI Centre; organisation of Sabah Science Carnival; Sabah Astronomy Tour; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fiesta; ROBONEO; and PITCHBORNEO as initiatives to increase students' involvements in STI and STEM fields," said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor.

He reminded that human capital and ICT development are the main agendas of the Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

He also said that the State Government continues to be committed to improving its service by enhancing the administration equipped with digital appliances for public servants.

"For this purpose, the Sabah Computer Services Department is allocated a total of RM26.15 million next year for operation and development of State Government agencies application systems," he said at the State Legislative Assembly when tabling the 2023 State Budget on Friday.

Hajiji said that the Sabah Net will also continue upgrading the fibre network at all State Government premises with an allocation of RM32 million next year.

"Sabah Net will use the latest technology whilst becoming

a one-stop centre for public computerisation services to tighten cyber security.

"Sabah Net also plays a role in bridging the digital gap in rural areas by upgrading the internet network at e-Desa centres, to expand digital coverage and spur digital transformation in Sabah," he said.

He said that ICT development in Sabah is also supported by the Federal Government agencies through the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) with the construction of new towers, upgrading of existing transmission stations and Rural Internet Centres.

"The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will also install Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite facilities at 300 locations throughout Sabah that are not included under the JENDELA programme in year 2023," he said.

At the same time, Hajiji also announced that the Human Resource Development Department will be allotted a fund of RM26.25 million in 2023.

"This allocation will be used to conduct courses and skills training in technology, technical and trade. On top of the current implementation of Sabah Talent Entrepreneurship Programme and Career Carnival Programme, a new programme namely Train and Place Programme will be implemented," he said.

Hajiji said that the Sabah Skills & Technology Centre will be conducting the XR Development Programme (Extended Reality) which aims to develop and support digital industry development while continuing the Industrial Revolution 4.0

technology training throughout next year.

At the same time, the Sabah Creative Economic and Innovation Centre will also continue its programme, he said.

Meanwhile, the Sabah State Library is allotted RM43.51 million for the operation and management of libraries throughout Sabah.

"The construction of three branch libraries in Kunak, Tenom and Kota Marudu districts as well as the replacement of two rural libraries in Kg Entilibon, Tongod, and Kg Karakit, Banggi will be implemented. In addition, the Sabah State Library will continue other programmes to cultivate reading culture amongst Sabahans," he said.

A total of RM57 million is also allocated to the State Public Service Department, which is in charge of State scholarships, bursaries and financial assistance for students to provide opportunities for Sabahans to further their studies and training to a higher level.

He also said that another achievement in the efforts to develop Sabah human capital is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between University Technology Petronas and University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) on 11th October 2022.

"Both parties will collaborate, and UCSF will offer oil and gas based courses at its campus. UCSF is expected to produce more local students in various job fields in this sector," he said.

Aside from that, the State Government will continue to implement religious and spiritual programmes with an allocation of RM176.16 million.



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### SUMMARIES

KOTA KINABALU: The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and its departments have been allocated RM175.61 million in 2023 State Budget. "Of that amount, a total of RM79.