

The tide has turned: Musa

CM Datuk Seri Musa recalled that when he was appointed the State's Finance Minister, many government agencies were incurring losses with some not even being able to pay staff their salaries.

"Thankfully, after I gave them my advice and views, these agencies were slowly able to pay their loans and subsequently dividends," he said. Some, like the Sabah Credit Corporation (SCC) went on to win awards.

Six State departments and agencies, namely the State Secretary's Office, Public Service Department, Treasury Department, Printing Department, Kudat Town Board and Rural Development Cooperative (KPD) each received a plaque and RM10,000.

Musa said if this is achieved, the State's financial performance would become more efficient and thus enhance its competitiveness.

With regards to the financial management accountability index excellence awards, he

said, it was conducted to create awareness and also to give incentive to the government departments and agencies that have attained four-star status.

He said it also to enable them to work more diligently, dedicatedly and become role models to other agencies and departments.

At the same time, the award is to inform the people that the State Government manages the State's funds with sincerity and determination so that it is not wasted but based on the existing regulations. But he said they should not be easily satisfied or comfortable with the achievement thus far.

"What's important is that we continue to enhance our efforts to enable this achievement to be maintained and enhanced so as to support the various development activities at all levels," he said.

And thus, he said, prudent financial management ought to be part of the organisations' culture and daily practices.

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Barnard Yaang

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah continues to be among states with an excellent financial management record and can be a role model to other states, Auditor General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang, said, Monday.

He said the State's financial management under Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman has improved over the last few years following the responsiveness of government departments and agencies to the demand of financial governance.

"Sabah has proven that excellence in financial management is not impossible if serious in implementing them.

"For certain, Sabah's success can be a role model or benchmark for other government departments and agencies," he said at the presentation of the Excellent Financial Management Accountability Index Award of The National Audit Department 2011, here.

Musa, who is also State Finance Minister, was present at the event.

Ambrin also said Sabah has maintained its "certificate without reprimand" for filing its financial statement on time for 12 years running.

He advised civil servants in the State to improve their work culture by implementing and monitoring government projects carefully.

"We must ensure that the implementation of projects are viable with the investment made and give benefits to the rakyat," he added.

At the presentation ceremony, six State departments and agencies were accorded four-star rating. They were the State Secretariat, State Public Services Department, State Treasury, Government Printers, Kudat Town Board and Rural Development Corporation.

According to Ambrin, the number of State government departments and agencies accorded the highest star rating has increased compared with three the previ-

ous year

He said 106 State departments and agencies were audited last year and each had shown that their financial management is at a good level.

Meanwhile, Musa said the unqualified statement quashed the negative notion and baseless allegations from certain quarters that often dispute the efficiency of the State's financial management.

"We are very proud of this success because this is the twelfth time we achieved it since 2000 that at the same time has placed Sabah as among the best in Malaysia in terms of accountability and efficient financial management," he said, adding that is an indicator that brought a positive image to Sabah.

Musa expressed delight that half the State's agencies that were audited by the department showed improvement in their performance in financial management.

He said this enabled some of the agencies to be independent while others to repay their respective loans and also give dividends to the State Government.

"It is a good and positive indicator because the allocation that was prudently saved and also dividends enable the government to implement various development programmes for the overall benefit of the people," he said.

Musa said the State Government would continue to expand its revenue sources so that the development that is actively implemented by the ministries, departments and agencies throughout the State would continue to be enhanced so that the people of all levels would benefit.

He called on the civil service to strive together with the government to turn Sabah into a developed State in line with the development halatuju and national progress.

He said all the planned programmes would be implemented with strong and firm cooperation from all quarters including the civil service in Sabah.

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