

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF SABAH EXCELLENT UNDER MUSA

AG Ambrin: Sabah's success can be a benchmark for others

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KOTA KINABALU: The auditor-general has praised the Sabah state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman for its excellent financial performance.

The state government maintained its 'certificate without reprimand' for its financial statement for 12 years in a row from 2000 to 2011 and last year, it also achieved a good financial performance.

"It is among the best in the country and for certain, Sabah's success can be a role model or benchmark for other government departments and agencies," Tan Sri Ambrin Buang said at the presentation of Excellent Financial and Management Awards based on the Accountability Index of the National Audit Department 2011 here yesterday.

And, Ambrin also noted that state agencies

have filed their financial statements earlier than the fixed deadline.

"I have been told that so far, almost all state agencies in Sabah submitted their financial statements for 2011 to the Audit Department and most of them obtained the certificate without reprimand.

"Based on our record, 40 such certificates were issued to state agencies in Sabah for the 2010 financial year and from January 2011 till June 2012.

"This shows that the state government is responsive to the demand of financial governance," he stressed.

According to Ambrin, the number of Sabah agencies obtaining four-star rating has also increased significantly – from three in 2010 to six in 2011 and they were the State Secretariat, State Public Service Department, State Treasury, Government Printers, Kudat Town Board and Rural Development Corporation.

The Treasury Department, he said, succeeded in maintaining a four-star rating for four

years consecutively – from 2008 to 2011.

In 2011, he said 106 state agencies and departments were audited and each had shown that their financial management was at a good level.

He also said based on the achievement in 2011, the implementation of the accountability index rating has helped to create a work culture based on good practices and healthy competition.

"This shows that the government's endeavour to enhance integrity and accountability in the public service has been achieved. It also proves that achieving excellence in financial management is not something that is impossible," Ambrin said.

Ambrin also said as the government and public administration were constantly adopting good governance, he felt that it was important that all heads of department, agencies and state-owned companies ensure there was no delay in submitting their respective financial statements.



Musa (centre) presents a memento to Ambrin, watched by Sukarti (2nd left) Hassanel and others

"Perhaps, the state government could make this the KPI for them," he said.

And, on excellent work culture, Ambrin stressed the need for civil servants to improve their capability in planning, implementing and monitoring state programmes and projects to ensure they were "value for money" and have a positive outcome for the good of the people in Sabah.

Meanwhile, the auditor-general said excellence in performance is a must for each and every member of the country's civil service.

"Every sign that belongs to the government must be managed responsibly and carefully to prevent any misappropriation which could anger the people. This is why there are rules which must be complied with to ensure there are checks and balances," he said.

Also present at the event officiated by the Chief Minister yesterday were State Secretary Tan Sri Sukarti Wakiman, Finance Ministry's permanent secretary Datuk Pengiran Hassanel Pengiran Mohd Tahir and heads of departments.

State successfully maintained 'Unqualified Statement' for 12 years running since 2000

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KOTA KINABALU: The State Government has successfully maintained the "Unqualified Statement" for 12 years running since 2000.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman said it was a proud achievement that places Sabah among the best states in Malaysia in terms of accountability and financial management efficiency.

"It not only gives Sabah a positive image but also proves that we have succeeded in managing our resources well, efficiently and in an orderly manner which therefore counters negative views and allegations from certain quarters who always question the efficiency of our financial management," he said.

Musa was speaking at the Presentation of Awards of Excellence for Financial Management & Accountability Index for the year 2011 at the Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort here yesterday.

Also present were Auditor

General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang, State Secretary Datuk Sukarti Wakiman and Permanent Secretary of the Sabah Finance Ministry Datuk Pengiran Has-sanal Pengiran Muhamad Tahir.

Six State departments and agencies received the awards and these are the State Secretary Office, Public Services Department, State Treasury, Printing Department, Kudat Town Board and the Rural Development Co-operative or KPD.

Musa who is also the Finance Minister said he was delighted because some of the State agencies that have been audited showed improved financial management which enabled them to be independent and pay loans, hence allowing them to provide the State Government with dividends.

"It is a good and positive indication because allocations have been saved and the dividends paid out to the government enable the implementation of development programmes for the benefit of the people," he said.

The State government will continue to widen its sources of



Musa (seated fourth left) in a group photo with representatives of the State departments and agencies that received the Awards of Excellence for Financial Management & Accountability Index

income to further spur development in Sabah.

Musa also urged all civil servants to work together hand in hand with great commitment to transform Sabah into a progressive State in accordance with the Halatuju on Development & National Progress.

"I am confident we can im-

plement the programmes that have been planned in the spirit of cooperation but I would also like to point out that we must not at any point become complacent.

"We must continue working hard to make sure our achievements remain and become even better," he said.

Later, when speaking to re-

porters, Musa said he thanked the Auditor General for always giving advice and guidance to the State Government which enabled them to perform well in financial management.

"We are proud and we want all State Departments and agencies to continue improving their performance," he said.