

Ali Nuri
Dilahirkan A
26/5/14



Taib showing the amount of contribution from Shell Malaysia after witnessing the presentation by Lo (third left) to the government, represented by Datu Sudarsono Othman (right), permanent secretary to the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment. Adenan is at second right).

Shell donates RM5 mln to Piasau Nature Reserve

MIRI: Keeping true to their commitment of respecting protected areas, Shell Malaysia donated RM5 million to the state government for the development of the recently gazetted Piasau Nature Reserve on Saturday.

The momentous event was held at the former Piasau Camp near here, which was officiated at by Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and witnessed by Chief Minister Tan Sri Datuk Amar Adenan Satem.

In a press release, Shell Malaysia chairman Iain Lo said the RM5 million would be used for infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement to repurpose the land formerly used for staff housing into a nature reserve within city limits.

"This will enhance the quality of life, the benefit of which is to be enjoyed by all the people of Miri. This shared gift to the people of Miri and Sarawak is particularly

symbolic given that the logo for the nation's golden jubilee is the iconic hornbill," Lo said when speaking at the event.

"Sustainable development is about operating business in a manner that is attuned to community expectations and sharing responsibility with the government and society to help facilitate the development of strong and sustainable communities," Lo said.

He added that this continued the long tradition of positive contributions made by upstream operations in the state, stretching back over 100 years.

"At Shell, we are proud of our long history here in Miri.

"Over the years, we have been blessed to have recorded many technological and business firsts, and we are equally proud of the impact we believe we had had on the socio-economic landscape and the lives of people," Lo

added.

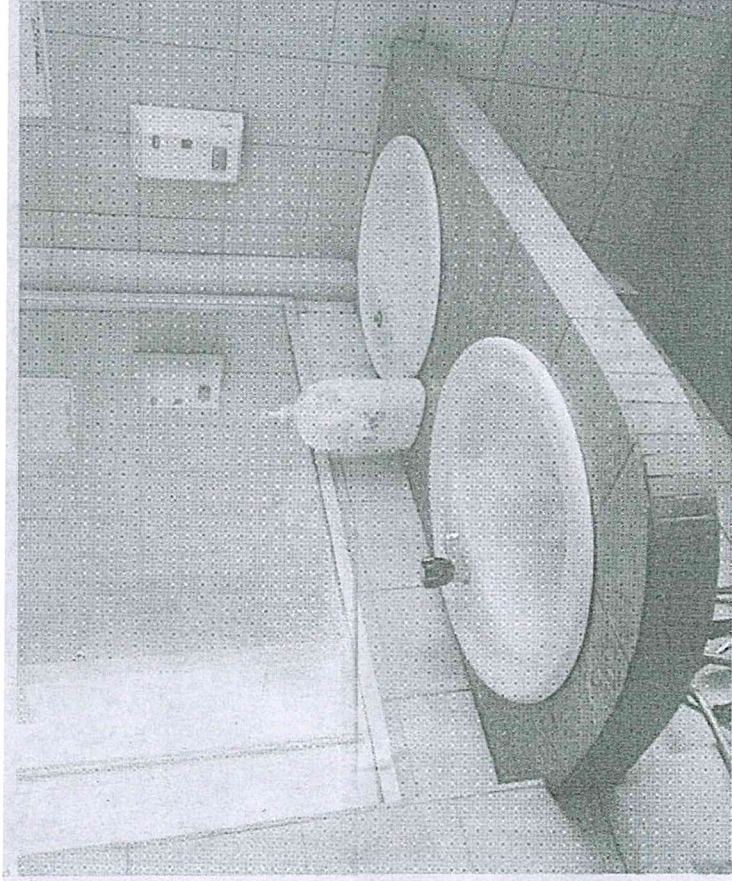
Also present at the event were Petronas president and CEO Tan Sri Datuk Shamsul Azhar Abbas along with cabinet ministers and community leaders.

Piasau Camp was officially approved to be gazetted as 'Piasau Nature Reserve' earlier this year on April 3 by the State Cabinet due to its ecological, aesthetic and historical importance.

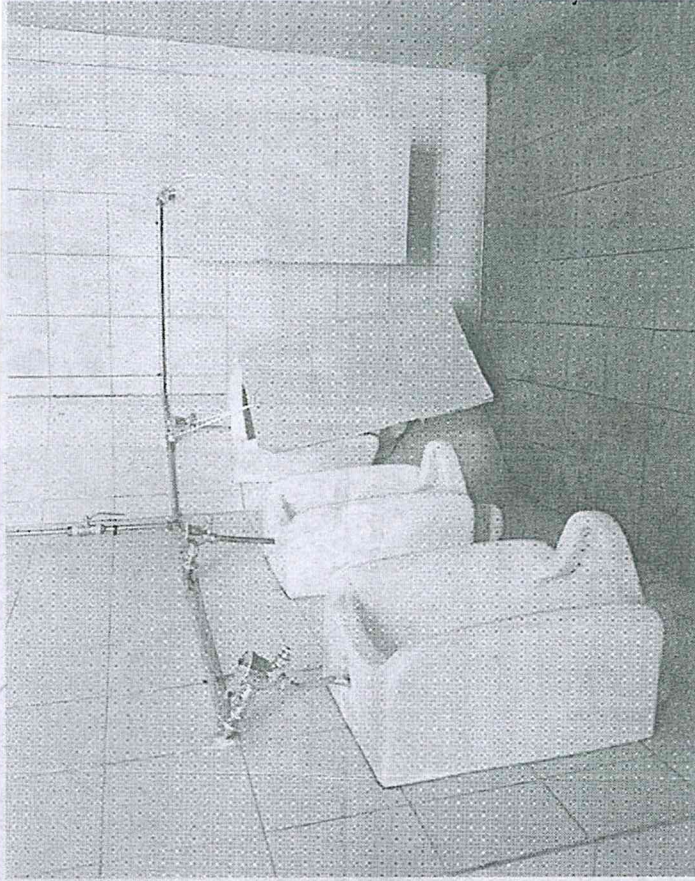
With a total land area of 88.5 hectares, Piasau Nature Reserve also serves as a green lung with recreational, scientific and educational values for the public and will help provide an environmental balance to the fast-paced development of Miri.

The official logo for the nature reserve was also revealed, featuring the iconic pied hornbill, thus prompting the government's initiative to turn the camp into a nature reserve and gazetting it as a totally protected area.

Wednesday, May 14, 2014



A sink in a public toilet is seen without a tap.



Two of the four urinals in this toilet are out of order, while the functional ones are foul smelling.

Poor state of Miri's toilets makes locals see red

MIRI: Members of the public are seeing red over the condition of public toilets here.

Faulty toilet bowls and urinals as well as taps coupled with filthy conditions are a far cry from the 'five-star' toilets of the past.

"If tourists were to use these toilets, probably he or she would be shocked to see the conditions," said retired civil servant Peter

Sawal.

He said it is sad to see the poor condition of the toilets, which have not been maintained regularly, spoiling the image of the city.

Peter said he was shocked to see that two of four urinals in a city centre public toilet have not been repaired for several months.

He added that one of the sinks is also missing a tap.

"I'm sad to see the condition of some of the public toilets in Miri, which are not up to the standard of a city," he said, urging the authorities to ensure that public facilities are clean and in tip-top condition.

He added that Miri is now celebrating its ninth anniversary as a city.

Meanwhile, Tan Ho Peng said Miri's public toilets were of five-

star standard in the past.

"Now you can see a lot of writing on the walls and some faulty toilet bowls or water taps.

"Can the authorities monitor and maintain these toilets as the public are paying 20 sen each time to use the facilities," he complained.

Tan said if the toilets are not properly maintained, the public will be the ones affected.

Sarawak nets RM7.163 bln in revenue last year — Wong

KUCHING: Sarawak registered RM7.163 billion in revenue in 2013 from the collection of compensation in lieu of oil and gas rights, interest and returns from investments, forest royalty and sales tax.

The budget for that year was RM5.236 billion, said Second Finance minister Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh in his winding-up speech yesterday.

The state spent RM5.037 billion on ordinary expenditure last year, as compared to RM4.619 billion in 2012.

"Of the amount expended in 2013, about RM1.737 billion was for operating expenditure and RM3.300 billion went to the development fund account to meet development programmes and projects implementation expenditures," he said.

"On development expenditure for 2013, we spent about RM3.383 billion or 92 per cent of the approved allocation of RM3.671 billion for the year."

Touching on the financial performance in the first quarter of this year, Wong said RM2.591 billion in revenue was collected, which represented 52 per cent of the estimated revenue of RM4.941 billion for the year.

"I am confident that the estimated revenue for the year is achievable in tandem with the expected favourable national and state economic performances."

On expenditures, Wong said RM1.227 billion of ordinary expenditure or 26 per cent of the approved annual allocation of RM4.683 billion had been expended in the first quarter of this year.

"Out of the total amount of ordinary expenditure expended during the first quarter of this year, RM477 million was for operating expenditures while the remaining RM750 million was appropriated to the Development Trust Funds."

Wong said RM1.268 billion, or 30 per cent of the approved annual allocation of RM4.276 billion had been spent on development expenditure in the first quarter of 2014.

Of the amount expended in 2013, about RM1.737 billion was for operating expenditure and RM3.300 billion went to the development fund account to meet development programmes and projects implementation expenditures.

Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh, Second Finance Minister

"Expenditure is expected to increase as activities pick up during the year."

Wong reminded all implementing agencies to monitor all projects closely in order to ensure that all projects were implemented as planned.

"Likewise, all programmes and projects, particularly those that have high impact and greater multiplier effect, must be implemented as scheduled to spur the state's economic growth to benefit the people."

Wong said the state government would continue to ensure that all projects under the state's 10th Malaysia Plan, Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) and the Federal Rolling Plan were implemented smoothly and completed as scheduled.

Elaborating on the performance of state-funded 10th Malaysia Plan projects, he said RM18,000 million were approved for the 2011-2015 period.

"Out of the 1,047 projects, 340 are physical projects while the remaining 707 are non-physical projects. In the first quarter of 2014, 114 projects or 33.5 per cent had been completed while 236 projects or 66.5 per cent are at various stages of implementation."

In terms of financial performance as at the first quarter of 2014, Wong said the state had incurred a cumulative expenditure of RM10.518 billion or 59 per cent of the 10th Malaysia Plan ceiling.

Export of Malaysian rubber products hit RM14.68 bln

By Norni Mahadi
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MIRI: Malaysia's total export of rubber products recorded a slight increase from RM14.53 billion in 2012 to RM14.68 billion last year.

Chairman of Malaysian Rubber Export Promotion Council, Ahmad Lai Bujang, said Malaysia had to do better to sharpen its competitive edge and maintain the country's position as world No 1 exporter of rubber gloves, condoms and catheters.

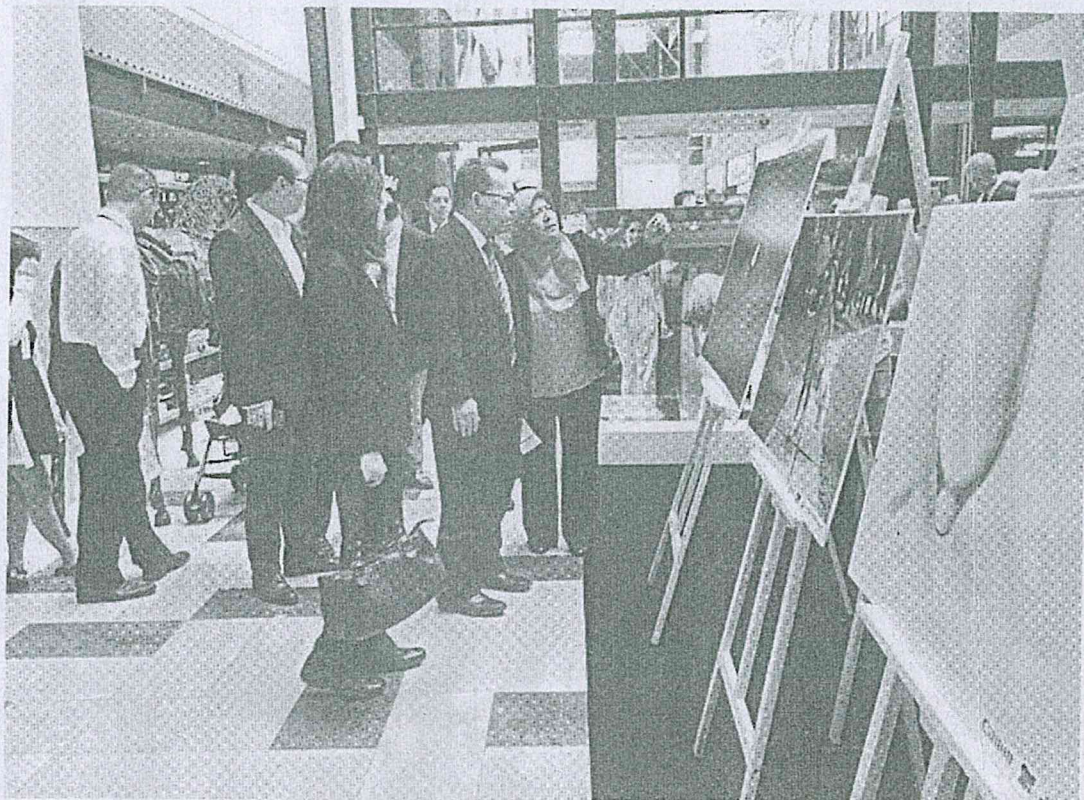
"More and more countries in the region such as Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam are fast becoming our competitors. Foreign investors are banging on their doors to exploit the new opportunities.

"We must now seriously take caution to ensure that we do not fall behind due to complacency and lack of capabilities, skills and innovation.

"To maintain an encouraging growth momentum, not only is there a pressing need for us to learn to compete in a world market place that is getting increasingly tougher, but we must go through a new process of re-learning and re-thinking and apply major paradigm shifts to be able to come up with higher productivity, higher product quality and the highest quality human resource," he said when officiating at the council's photography exhibition at Publika Shopping Gallery in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Ahmad Lai, who is also Sibuti MP, said there was an urgent to put our heads together and think of new ways to bring the Malaysian rubber industry to a greater height.

He said there was no more room for business as usual, and we must widen the net to increase the exports of Malaysian rubber



Ahmad Lai (second left) takes a closer look at some of the pictures put up for exhibit.

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Ahmad Lai Bujang, chairman of Malaysian Rubber Export Promotion Council

products to as many markets as possible.

He thus suggested that all Malaysian rubber product manufacturers capitalise on all the programmes planned by the council for the years ahead.

The council was established in April 2000 to assist the Malaysian

rubber industry in promoting Malaysian rubber products. The council has been successful in assuming its role of enhancing markets for the Malaysian rubber and rubber products globally.

It also has been carrying out many new market promotion activities both domestically and

internationally.

The MREPC Photography Exhibition is another milestone in the council's initiative to promote Made-in-Malaysia rubber products.

"In this exhibition, the council gives a breath of fresh air and artistic perspective to one of Malaysia's oldest industries – the rubber industry.

"We want Malaysians to realize that rubber products are an integral component of our daily lives – from every room in your house to more complex settings such as medical, automotive and engineering."