



CM Datuk Seri Musa Aman presenting a cheque for RM10,000 to State Secretary Tan Sri Sukarti Wakiman (right) during the National Audit Department's Financial Management Accountability Index Excellence Award presentation yesterday. Also seen are Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang (second right) and State Finance Ministry Permanent Secretary Datuk Pangeran Hassanel Pangeran Tahir (left). — Bernama photo

## Keep up good work, CM urges state govt agencies

**KOTA KINABALU:** Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman has advised state ministries, departments, agencies as well as statutory bodies which have received good ratings from the National Audit Department not to be complacent with their achievements.

They should work hard to maintain the good rating, Musa said after presenting the National

Audit Department's Financial Management Accountability Index Excellence Awards here yesterday.

The State Secretary Office, State Treasury and Koperasi Pembangunan Desa attained a four-star rating respectively in the index while State Civil Service, Government Printing Department and Lembaga Perbandaran Kudat, were each

accorded three-star by the National Audit Department.

They each received RM10,000 incentive, a plaque and a certificate which were presented by Musa who is also Finance Minister.

Musa congratulated the six departments, agencies and ministry and urged them to continue the good work.

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## Work hard for rating — CM

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"To those who have yet to be accorded a four-star rating, work harder so that you can also be given the high rating," he said, adding that they must show good financial management so that the people know that the state's money was spent properly.

In his speech earlier, Musa congratulated the state's civil service for being awarded the 'Sijil Tanpa Teguran' (Unqualified Statement) from the National Audit Department for 12 years in a row making it one of the best throughout the country in terms of accountability and financial management.

This is not only an indicator that brought a positive image to Sabah but also proof that the state has successfully managed the state's products in a good, efficient and orderly manner.

At the same time it dispels all negative assumptions and baseless accusations by certain quarters who are constantly questioning the state government's efficiency in financial management, he pointed out.

"I am happy with the improved performances of the state's agencies which have been audited as it has allowed some of them to be independent as well as being able to repay their loans and pay dividends to the government.

"This is a good and positive indicator as the dividend and allocation can be utilized by the government for development plans and programs that will benefit the rakyat overall," Musa said.

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# Sabah's edge in finance

**STELLAR PERFORMANCE:** Six depts get auditor-general's Unqualified Audit Certificate

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**S**ABAH continues to be one of the best financially-managed states in Malaysia.

Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang said under the stewardship of Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, Sabah has yet again demonstrated sound financial management last year to maintain its record of efficient and prudent handling of its finances over the last 10 years.

"Sabah has been very focused in its financial management and as a result its financial standing has improved tremendously over the years," he said at the presentation of the auditor-general's Unqualified Audit Certificate (UAC) to six state departments and agencies in Sabah.

The six are the State Secretary's Office, Treasury, Public Service Department, Printing Department, Rural Development Corporation and Kudat Municipal Council.

Lauding Sabah for setting the trend in sound financial management, Ambrin noted that the recipients of the UAC in Sabah for last year had doubled compared to that in 2010.

He also said that 34 state ministries, departments and agencies had shown exemplary financial management with six of them awarded a four-star rating and 21 with three-star rating.

The auditor-general also praised state departments and agencies in Sabah for being prompt in submitting their statement of accounts to



*Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman presenting an award to Tan Sri Datuk Sukarti Wakiman of the State Secretary's Office. At centre is Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang. Pic by Edmund Samunting*

his office every year.

"This shows that Sabah under the leadership of the Datuk Seri Musa as the chief minister has been practising good governance," Ambrin said.

Since Musa, who also holds the finance portfolio, took over the helm of the state government in

2003, Sabah's reserves had increased to a whopping RM4 billion.

Thanking Ambrin for relentlessly imparting advice and guidance on sound financial management to departments and agencies in Sabah, Musa said putting Sabah's finances on a strong footing

had been among his top priority when assuming the state leadership.

"I believe we have proven our success in managing our state resources and finances, contrary to claims by certain quarters who have been questioning our capability and efficiency," Musa said.

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# Sabah's financial management among the best, says Auditor General

By Nancy Lai

**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah's good financial management has made it among the best throughout the country, Auditor General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang said.

"I have been making an observation over the years and noticed the improvement in the state's financial management," Ambrin told a press conference after witnessing the National Audit Department's Financial Management Accountability Index

Excellence Award presentation by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman here yesterday.

The improvement Sabah showed couldn't have come without real focus on how to manage the finance of the state, he pointed out.

He added that it requires a lot of effort in terms of competency, diligence and most important is compliance with the rules and regulations.

"So this is the duty of the government officers as it is the trust that is given to them...we notice that

the financial position of Sabah has strengthened over the years, that is why I say Sabah is among the best in terms of overall financial management," he said.

In his speech earlier, Ambrin disclosed that Sabah managed to obtain the "Sijil Tanpa Teguran" (Unqualified Statement) from the National Audit Department for 12 years in a row making it one of the best throughout the country which is something that the state can be proud of.

He also said the six state government departments, agencies and statutory bodies which received the Financial Management Accountability Index Excellence Award yesterday can be the benchmark or role model for good practices in all aspects of financial management.

Ambrin said since 2007 to 2011, 106 state ministries, departments and agencies had been audited based on the accountability index and that based on the audit carried out, the overall performance is good and has shown improvements.

In 2011, a total of 34 state ministries and departments were audited and six departments/agencies were accorded four-star recognition for their excellent financial management, 21 received three-star rating and seven were at the satisfactory level.

"I am happy to see the performance of Sabah ministries, departments and agencies in financial management as the number of those accorded four-star had doubled from three in 2010 to six last year.

"I also noted that the State Secretary's Office has attained a four-star rating for the fourth year in a row while it is the first time Koperasi Pembangunan Desa obtains the high rating. The three departments that were accorded with three-star were the State Civil Service, Government Printing Department and Lembaga Perbandaran Kudat," he said and expressed hope that the good work as well as achievement can be maintained and improved.

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## Innovation introduced by National audit dept produces encouraging results

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Ambrin further pointed out that the vast achievements recorded especially in 2011, the implementation of the Accountability Index rating had helped to produce a work culture based on good practices and healthy competition among ministries, government departments and agencies from the aspect of financial management.

Encouraging results can be seen from the innovation which was introduced by the National Audit Department in 2007 as officers and heads of departments as well as agencies are paying more serious attention to financial management.

Indirectly, the government's efforts to improve integrity

and accountability in the civil service have been successful, Ambrin said adding that success in financial management is not impossible.

He pointed out that the number of state departments, agencies and ministries which obtained the 'Sijil Tanpa Teguran' (Unqualified Statement) from the National Audit Department had increased from 14 in 2010 to 40 last year.

"To ensure that the state government and civil service continue practising good governance, department and agencies heads as well as the statutory bodies must not be late in submitting their accounts to be audited. Maybe the state government can make this its KPI (Key Performance Index)," he said.