SUCCC: Obey foreign workers hiring policy

SANDAKAN: The Sabah United Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SUCCC) is asking palm oil industry players in Sandakan to obey the existing government's policy on hiring of foreign workers.

Its president, Tan Sri Andrew Liew, said that the affected palm oil industry players in Sandakan could voice out their opinions and problems through the Sandakan Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SCCC), given the SCCC is also willing to comply with the existing rules.

"Sandakan district is dominated by palm oil cultivation. Given the demand for labour is high and at the same time insufficient, it is only natural to rely on foreign labour.

"However, SCCC should pay attention to the government's policy involving registration of foreign workers. With SCCC being cooperative to the government, our Chinese merchants can use SCCC as a platform to voice out our problems and views so that we could get pragmatic and effective solutions from the government in this industry.

"We cooperate and coordinate with each other, and work as a team," he said.

Liew who is also a member of the Sabah Economic Advisory Council said this in his opening remarks during the 72nd SCCC Inauguration Ceremony in Tiong Hua Hall here last Saturday.

He said as one of the earliest Chinese business organisations established in Sabah, SCCC has been serving as a bridge between the Chinese community and the government.

"SCCC serves its role to deliver the government's policies to the Chinese businessmen here, while reporting its needs and demands to the attention of the government so that the government's policies can be strengthened and improved; it is a win-win situation for both parties," he said.

Liew also said that SCCC has not only been leading the Chinese businessmen and Chinese communities in Sandakan, but has been actively participated in social development and community building activities organised by the government.

"SCCC has also contributed to the education sector of the district through its contribution to the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tiong Hua Sandakan," he added.

Liew also said that he is happy that the Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor is determined to develop Sandakan's economy and hopes that the government will help Sandakan to restore its former glory economically.

The SCCC Inaugural Ceremony saw Chia Hock Ak sworn in as Chairman of SCCC, Chong Chang Hing as Deputy Chairman, and Lim Vui Khing, Khoo Huai Liang and Liaw Hen Kong as Vice Chairman.

Liew (centre) witnesses as Chong Chang Hing (left) hands over the position as Sandakan Chinese Chamber of Commerce chairman to Chia Hock Ak.

(From left) Fung, Fong, Melissa and Chu show a model of i·PARK.

i·PARK Light Industry launched

PENAMPANG: Alpha Land Development Sdn Bhd, through its subsidiary Starworld Development Sdn Bhd, has embarked on its second project – i·PARK Light Industry – comprising eight exclusive double-storey commercial units with innovative flexible space concept.

Alpha Land's first project was Riveria Villas, a low-density housing estate consisting 30 units of three-storey terrace homes at Jalan Bongoon Kodundungan Ganang in Kepayan, which was well-received by buyers.

Riding on the success of Riveria Villas, Alpha Land director Edwin Fong said the company decided to launch its second project in Sabah, i·PARK, located opposite SJK(C) Yue Min in Penampang.

He said i·PARK is situated strategically near the Pan Borneo Highway and connected to Jalan Penampang and Jalan Bundusan. The light industrial area is also adjacent to Donggongon Avenue and in close proximity to Donggongon township, Penampang Baru, Beverly Hills, T1 Bundusan and other commercial centres in the area.

More importantly, he said the project is built on higher ground and will not be flooded.

"Apart from its location advantage, i·PARK is designed to cater to the needs of light industrial small and medium enterprises (SMEs) operating in the digital era, including as warehouse for businesses and courier companies, bakery, central kitchen, frozen food processing factory, automobile spare parts distribution or repair," he said to the media after the groundbreaking ceremony of the project here on Monday.

He said the project capitalizes on the current trend by combining retail and light industrial activities under one roof that is suitable for various business sectors, such as food and beverage (F&B), homeware, gymnasium, pet store, lighting store, bridal shop and hardware.

Fong said i·PARK is divided into two rows, each row having just four light industrial units.

"i·PARK is one of the few low-density light industrial areas in Penampang."

The built-up area of the units range from 2,029 square feet (sq ft) to 2,923 sq ft, while the land size range from 2,266 sq ft to 5,841 sq ft.

He said i·PARK features a contemporary design with flexible space concept by offering different built-up and land sizes so that clients could customize the space based on their needs.

"Coupled with broadband and smart devices, operators will be equipped with a competitive edge that enables their business to stand out in the market."

Furthermore, Fong said i·PARK offers 20-foot high ceiling on the ground floor, which is suitable for retail, showroom, manufacturing, refrigeration and warehousing purposes, while leaving ample space for extension on the sides and back.

The 27 feet wide front porch provides sufficient parking space for two vehicles or a heavy-duty lorry.

Meanwhile, the 12-foot high space on the upper floor can be subdivided into smaller rooms, such as a reception, office, meeting room, accounting department, research and development department.

Fong said i·PARK is priced from RM1.6 million onwards, while the booking fee is RM10,000.

"To date, we have sold 30 per cent of the units," adding that the project is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2023. Aside from early bird offer and giving away smart devices, the developer is offering flexi down payment package, subject to terms and conditions. Fees for sales and purchase agreement and loan agreement are also waived.

For more information on Riveria Villas or i·PARK, visit Alpha Land's office at Plaza 333 or call 088-721087 or 017-820 2788. Also present at the groundbreaking ceremony were Alpha Land sales and marketing manager Aaron Chu senior quantity surveyor Ben Fung, project director Lio Meng Check and director Melissa Lio.

Srikandi members urged to master knowledge, skills on social media

KOTA KINABALU: Srikandi Bersatu Sabah chief Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun urged the movement's members to master their knowledge and skills on social media technology so that they can apply it to their work for the party.

Azizah said that without skills in the world of digital technology which is now dominating many aspects of life, those who do not keep up will be left behind.

She said that in order to improve these skills, the movement's information chiefs as well as its training and communication bureau need to organise relevant programs to help members master digital technology.

"Reaching out to the public nowadays is done not only through meeting face to face but can also be strengthened through increasingly sophisticated virtual systems. The relevant bureau needs to regularly implement courses related to social media, applications and networking methods using Facebook, Page, Instagram, Twitter and even TikTok which is becoming increasingly popular today.

"They also need to be exposed to content that meets the tastes of the various target groups today. To reach out to the public, any method should be utilized as much as possible," she said.

Speaking at the Srikandi Bersatu Sabah's special meeting with its training and communication bureau last Saturday, Azizah, who is also Beaufort Member of Parliament, said social media has not only made the dissemination of information easier but also enabled leaders to know about issues that arose at the grassroots level.

"Through social media we can not only control the information to be conveyed but also receive information about issues that need to be given attention. In this case, we can identify the issues that arise in the 25 divisions that we have," she said.

Azizah pointed out that since social media has a great influence on the public and the thinking patterns of the people, the Srikandi machinery should have the ability to control any propaganda that is spreading around. In fact, they should be able to educate social media users to make the social media platform a catalyst for economic progress, she said, adding that if used to disseminate good information, as a platform for business, she believes the use of social media can be a catalyst for the economic progress of society.

"Therefore, we can no longer be left behind and need to be leaders in this virtual world community.

"We cannot just be followers, we need to be the ones to provide appropriate content, build minds, increase understanding of government organizations and policies as well as various other knowledge," she added.

Also present were Srikandi Bersatu Sabah information chief Anna Bell Perian, Srikandi deputy information chief Liza Din as well as information chiefs from 25 divisions throughout Sabah.

Form strong local alliance — LDP president

KOTA KINABALU: Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president Datuk Chin Su Phin has reiterated his call for Sabah-based political parties to form a strong local alliance.

He said local party leaders should put aside their differences and unite to form a formidable political front, which when coupled with Sarawak's political alliance, would rise to become a powerful force that could change the political landscape of the country.

"Unity among local parties will enable us to pursue better interests for the wellbeing of East Malaysians, especially Sabahans."

He said the recent Sarawak state election has sent a strong message that majority of Sarawakians chose local parties. "People in Sarawak have firmly backed local parties in the state election. Of the 82 state seats, local parties have won 80 seats, including 76 by Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) and four by Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB), while Pakatan Harapan-Democratic Action Party (PH-DAP) only won two. "I believe Sabahans will emulate their Sarawakian counterparts in supporting local parties in the next general election."

Chin said East Malaysians have become weary of the political culture of peninsular parties, in which racial extremism, infighting and political squabbles were a common occurrence.

He said people in Sabah were also upset about various federal issues, among others, unfair allocation of budget, delay in the Pan Borneo Highway project, restriction on the sale of beer in business premises, racial bias in primary history textbooks, which would affect the cohesiveness of the diverse society in Malaysia.

Chin said Sabahans and Sarawakians have co-existed peacefully for decades, irrespective of race and creed.

"We will not tolerate any attempt by racial or religious extremists to destroy racial harmony," he said when chairing the first meeting of the Supreme Council 2021-2024 here on Sunday.

On the other hand, he said more than 90 per cent of the Supreme Council positions were filled by young leaders, in line with LDP's goals to rejuvenate and reform the party. He said the move would strengthen the organization and attract more young bloods to join the party.

The Supreme Council has also appointed former party president Datuk Seri Panglima Teo Chee Kang JP as honorary president; Tan Sri Lau Ngan Siew JP, Datuk Lau Yick Chiang, Datuk Elbert Lim Yu Min JP, Datuk Lai Vai Ming JP, Datuk John Su Haw Tieng, Datin Wong Ing Huong @Mary Su, Datuk Ho Jia Lit @ Charlie, Datuk Albert Ngan Yun Kiang, Fong Keng Sin JP And Goh Chit Yong JP as honorary advisors. Chin expressed his gratitude to former presidents and Supreme Council members for their contribution and hoped that they would continue to provide invaluable suggestions to the party.