

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **DEVELOPMENT QUICKENS AT POIC LAHAD DATU**

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. (23 Dec 2010) - Supporting infrastructure for the palm oil industrial cluster in Lahad Datu (POIC Lahad Datu) took another stride forward with the purchase of more land for industry and warehousing by a developer here.

Kota Kinabalu-based Bristeel Properties Sdn Bhd confirmed today the purchase of 8.15 acres of land at POIC Lahad Datu for the construction of 17 units of SMEs light industrial warehouses at a project called PortCity@POIC.

The sale and purchase agreement signed with POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd came less than three months after a successful introduction of 36 units of 3 & 4 storey shop/office in the Phase 1A portion of the project.

The S&P today covers land for Phase 1C. It was signed simultaneously with agreements that give Bristeel the first option to buy two adjoining lots of land totaling 14.75 acres for future development.

Bristeel Properties' managing director Mr William Chee represented his company in the signing, while Mr Michael Yong, the manager of finance and administration, signed for POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd.

Mr Chee said the signing today is a testimony of his company's confidence in POIC Lahad Datu and the future of Lahad Datu in general.

Due to this encouraging response Phase 1A launched in October 2010, Phase 1B consisting of 64 units of shop/ office & office complex was unveiled last Friday (Dec 17) at Hyatt Regency Kinabalu.

He said only 3 units in Phase 1A are still available. He described the response as 'unbelievable' and attributed it to the optimism of the investment and business community on the future of POIC Lahad Datu and oil palm-driven growth potentials in Sabah's east coast.

He said POIC Lahad Datu, which began in 2005, is set to grow rapidly in the coming years mainly because of national attention on developing the palm oil downstream industry. Oil palm is identified as one of the 12 national key economic areas and the sector's contribution to growth national income is expected to triple in the next decade.

POIC Lahad Datu has to date about 30 investors with a combined investment value of over RM2 billion. A cluster of seven fertilizer factories is being developed, making it the biggest cluster of its kind in Malaysia.

Zurex Corporation, a company with British interests, is commissioning its palm oil refinery this month, making it the first refinery to go into operation in POIC Lahad Datu. It has an annual capacity of 200,000 tonnes. A second refinery, owned by Singapore-based Mewah Oil, is due to begin operation in 2012. It is built to process up to 1 million tonnes of palm oil a year.

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Photo:

*IT'S SIGNED .... (from left) POIC Sabah's Michael Yong, Bristeel's Matthew Chan (executive director), William Chee (managing director) at the SPA signing yesterday.*