

POIC Lahad Datu to cover 4,000 acres of palm oil industries



Ismaili (right) and firefighters from Kota Kinabalu and Tawau inspecting fire prevention equipment at the POIC Lahad Datu jetty last week.

LAHAD DATU: The POIC Lahad Datu, developed since 2005, will eventually cover some 4,000 acres of palm oil-based value-adding and related industries.

And, its port infrastructure, located on the shores of the park near here, includes a liquid terminal, a dry bulk terminal, a barge landing and a recently commissioned container terminal.

It has been described as the most comprehensive port strategically located in the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area) region and will in the future become a key port along the Lombok-Makassar shipping route.

Planners in POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd, the state-owned company which is developing POIC Lahad Datu, is leveraging on the importance of BIMP-EAGA as a resource centre and attract major investments in resource-based manufacturing.

"We want to be at our optimum in terms of our services, our equipment and safety because we look toward to becoming a regional port," said Chee Sai Kee, manager of the POIC ports.

A team of officers of the Fire and Rescue

Department from Kota Kinabalu, Tawau and Lahad Datu witnessed a test-run on POIC fire prevention system that included a comprehensive pump system capable of delivering water at high-pressure to auto-rotate sprayers.

It also has a sprinkler system along an array of pipes that move chemicals, crude palm oil and processed products between shore and ships.

"Except for some minor details, we acknowledge the readiness of POIC's fire-fighting capabilities," head of Tawau zone Ismaili Haji Ismail said, adding that he encouraged the inclusion of auxiliary police personnel in the fire-fighting and prevention detail.

Ismaili is one of the key persons in the formation of the POIC Emergency Mutual Aid (PEMA) since its start-up in 2014 - an outfit at POIC that brings together officers from among POIC investors in an emergency self-help community.

Ismail and his officers have been training PEMA members, which included officers nominated by their respective employers as well as members of POIC's auxiliary police force.