

POIC LD road repairs, upgrading kicked off

LAHAD DATU: Repairs and upgrading of roads in the POIC Lahad Datu Industrial Park, here, kicked off with the arrival of the first batch of machinery, Wednesday.

POIC Sabah Chief Executive Officer Datuk Fredian Gan said the first phase works, scheduled for completion in one year, will address all manners of wear and tear on roads within the State-owned industrial project, developed since 2005 by POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd.

"We are grateful for the funding from the State Government which enables us to uphold our promise to our investors," he said when witnessing the delivery of the machinery.

"Road users, especially our investors, should be pleased to know that potholes and impassable stretches will soon be a thing of the past."

Roads within POIC Lahad Datu have deteriorated over the years and have particularly impeded the smooth movements of heavy trucks carrying raw material and finished products.

An estimated RM3 billion has been invested in POIC Lahad Datu in infrastructure and factories, which include a cluster of fertiliser plants which combine to form



Gan (fifth from left) on the site to observe road repair and upgrading works in POIC Lahad Datu.

the biggest cluster of its kind in Malaysia.

For a long-term solution, Gan said the company is working towards handing over the roads within POIC Lahad Datu to Lahad Datu District Council within a year after completion of the repair and upgrading.

"The handover is a normal process of changing jurisdiction. We were delayed by various technicalities. We hope to soon complete the process."

Meanwhile, Gan said POIC Sabah has been working with other government institutions to seek upgrading in services and utilities expected by investors.

He was pleased to learn that the upgrading works for the Segama water treatment plant is targeted for completion in 2023 as this would be able to address water supply inadequacy for the short to mid-term.