

North Borneo Blue Growth Initiatives to be launched to support SABAH MAJU JAYA's Goals (Integrated with Trade-Shipping Operation Information System, Health Information System and Security Mechanism to Support Trade and Tourism Industry in the Malaysian Marine Landscape in Sabah)

The recent remark by Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan about SAFMA urged to take steps, seize opportunities In Blue Economy is welcomed by Dr Raymond Alfred (Chairman of BIMP EAGA Business Council, Malaysia (Sabah) and Asso. Prof. Dr Rayner Alfred (Founder and director of the Creative Advanced Machine Intelligence Research Centre in Universiti Malaysia Sabah).

Safma urged to take steps, seize opportunities in Blue Economy



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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Fish Marketing Sdn Bhd (Safma), a company owned by the Sabah state government, is urged to take steps to seize various opportunities in the Blue Economy in tandem with the state government's policy to explore the sector to boost the state's economy.

Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said to realise this aspiration, Safma needs to amplify its focus on the Blue Economy, especially in the field of catching ocean fish in the C2 and C3 categories, in addition to implementing various joint ventures with potential investors.

"Cooperation and joint ventures with foreign investors through foreign direct investment (FDI) are highly necessary, not only in terms of financing

but also cooperation in terms of technology in the use of vessels and fishing methods," he said.

He said this in a statement yesterday in conjunction with his visit to the Safma Fisheries Complex here yesterday, which was also attended by Kota Kinabalu City Hall Mayor Datuk Seri Sabin Samitah and Safma chairman Mohammad Mohamarin.

Jeffrey, who is also Sabah's Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industry Minister, said the state government's efforts to empower the Blue Economy, specifically fisheries, are closely related to the government's focus on maintaining food security.

"The success of the Blue Economy is expected to further enrich fish resources while boosting processing activities, the production of downstream products, and expanding the

marketing area," he said.

He said the Blue Economy promises tremendous potential in various fields including fisheries and aquaculture, shipping and transport logistics, tourism, renewable energy, and marine infrastructure.

However, Jeffrey said that despite reaching 42 years since its establishment on Feb 5, 1982, the conditions and facilities of the Safma Fisheries Complex have not changed much.

He said with the age of Safma Kota Kinabalu's fish landing jetty exceeding 40 years, the physical capacity and existing facilities have declined and are approaching the end of their life cycle.

The Sabah fish landing data in 2022 showed that Kota Kinabalu received the largest landing of over 70,000 tonnes, fol-

lowed by Semporna with over 30,000 tonnes, and Tawau with over 29,000 tonnes, while 80 per cent of Kota Kinabalu's fish landing was done at the jetty.

"Several initiatives should be implemented in the next few years by any means. To succeed in this deep sea fishing effort, the facilities that support this venture should be developed, among them, a port or an integrated fish landing complex," he said.

Jeffrey said in the Sabah Maju Jaya initiative for Safma, the government implemented projects to upgrade existing facilities such as ice plants, processing areas and cold rooms. However, the project to add a new landing jetty and the procurement of a fishing vessel was delayed due to financial constraints. - Bernama

The Technical Implementation Action Plan (TIAP) for **THE NORTH BORNEO BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVES** is currently prepared By Dr Raymond Alfred (Chairman of BIMP EAGA Business Council, Malaysia (Sabah) and Asso. Prof. Dr Rayner Alfred (Founder and director of the Creative Advanced Machine Intelligence Research Centre in Universiti Malaysia Sabah) to provide the background, justification, and the overall goals of the Blue Economy-based Projects that will be implemented in BIMP EAGA Region especially covering Sabah Marine Landscape.

The Technical Implementation Action Plan covers the World Blue Economy Framework which emphasizes the potential contribution of the World Blue Economy and challenges undermining the blue economy. Blue economy contributes to food security, nutrition-health, livelihoods, mitigation of climate change, homes-shelter, sustainable economic growth, and trade to the world population. The Challenges undermining the blue economy, includes overfishing, habitat degradation, climate change related phenomena, unfair trade, ad hoc development, and complexity of Comprehensive Strategy. For example, coastal zone management efforts, or support to coastal fishers, are undermined by unbridled sand mining, ill-sited ports or aquaculture farms or unregulated tourism development. In coastal zones, declines in mangrove forest habitat

resulting from wood harvest, sea level rise, and changes in sediment and pollutant loading from river basins (due to plantation development or timber management at the upper catchment combined with land reclamation for agriculture or infrastructure) has negatively impact fisheries by reducing or degrading spawning and feeding habitats. Previous study shows that the Mangrove-rich areas produce an average of 71 percent more fish biomass than areas with few mangroves.

The Technical Implementation Action Plan also provides details information on Blue Economy Growth in the East Asian Seas Region. The East Asian Seas (EAS) region is recognized as the centre of marine biodiversity globally, being home to 31% of the world's mangroves, 33% of seagrass beds and a third of the world's coral reefs. Countries of the EAS region account for 80% of global aquaculture, and around 60% of the world's capture fisheries. Moreover, the region's seas serve as an important conduit for 90% of world trade through shipping. 75% of the East Asian Seas Region comprises of BIMP-EAGA Regional Marine Area (which includes islands and coastlines). BIMP EAGA, however faces natural and human-induced environmental threats, such as unsustainable practices in agriculture, industry, manufacturing, and services. It also needs to deal with changing land use patterns (due to oil palm plantation and timber operation at the upper catchment) including due to rapid urbanization and a growing population; unregulated illegal fishing; illegal conversion of forest lands into plantations; lack of capacity, especially among smallholder farmers, to effectively mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. The BIMP EAGA uses sustainable management approaches to economic development. These include the development of measures and action plan in promoting ecotourism, sustainable and climate-resilient farming and fishing practices, and clean and green production technology.

This The Technical Implementation Action Plan finally outlines at least 9 strategies to be delivered to support the Blue Economy programme which will contribute to BIMP EAG Areas, East Asian Seas Areas and to the World. Nine (9) Strategies development through project establishment includes.

1. Development and Establishment of Research-based Smart Farming (Land-based Aquaculture and Agriculture),
2. Development of Certified Marine Product Processing Hub, associated with Product Marketing Programme in BIMP EAGA Region.
3. Development of New Energy Sources or Technology (Renewable Energy-based) Programme to support Blue and Green Economy-based Industrial Programme,
4. Development of Community-based Eco-tourism project (New Product and new site),
5. Development of Roadmap for Green and Blue Ports in Sabah including Carbon Capture & Storage Initiative,
6. Development and Establishment of Halal Hub within the Blue Economy Landscape,
7. Community-based Terrestrial and Marine Habitat Restoration Programme,
8. Development E-Commerce AI Matching and Strategic Monitoring programme as a tool for Blue Economy Management in BIMP EAGA, and
9. Development and Establishment of Financing Mechanism to Support Human Capital Development, Establishment of Health Information System and Development of Socio-Economic Development Plan for Poor Community in 8 poor districts in Sabah and address future role of Stateless Society Community in Managing Green and Blue Economy in BIMP EAGA Region especially in Sabah.

Dr Raymond Alfred emphasize that the integration of the North Borneo Blue Growth Initiatives with Trade Information System, Health Information System and Security Mechanism to Support Tourism Industry is essential to ensure the sustainability of the trade and other related business operation (transport, tourism and industrial commercial park), and to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Discussion between MQuest (Singapore and Malaysia), UMS and BIMP EAGA Business Council (Malaysia, Sabah) on the development of Health Info System mechanism.



BIMP EAGA Business Council is planning to organise Meeting and Workshop with ESSCOM to discuss the existing issues, rules, regulations, and enforcements that may affect the future of trade activities in the Malaysian Marine Security Area in Sabah, Malaysia. The final out of the internal workshop is to have recommended solutions and a way forward strategy on how to address the current obstacles faced by traders and shipping industries that is presented in the workshop and also to identify the potential new technology to be used in order to enhance the monitoring of trade and ensuring the safety for the tourism industry.

Preliminary Online Meeting was carried out to organise the Meeting and Workshop on issues, rules, regulations, and enforcements that may affect the future of trade activities in the Malaysian Marine Security Area in Sabah, Malaysia



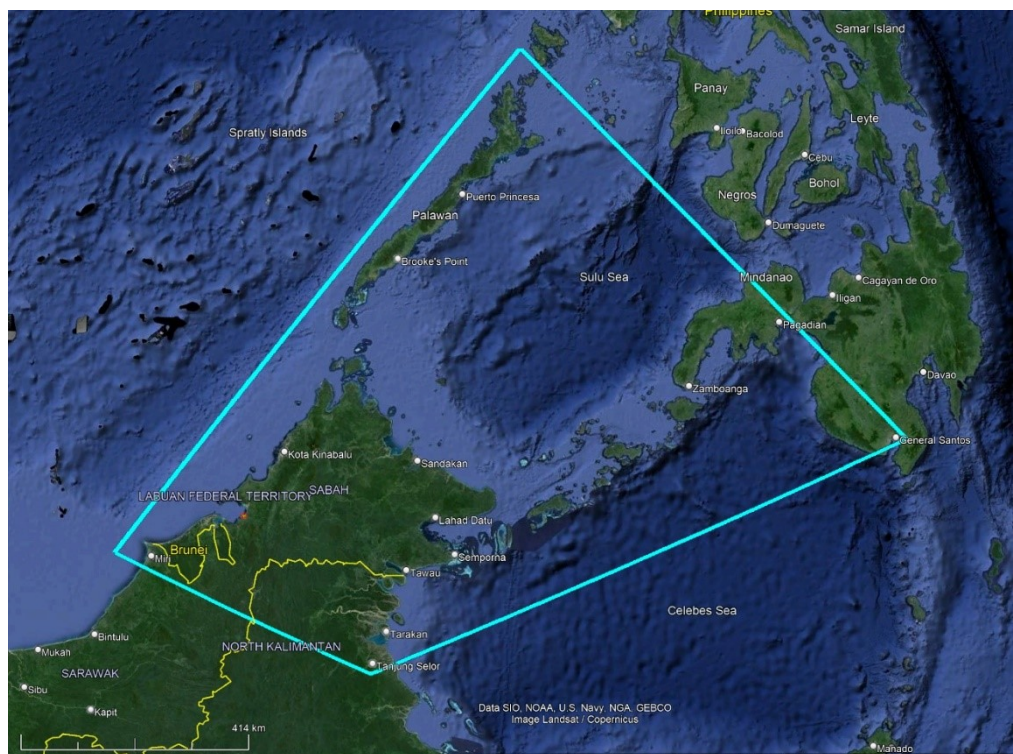
By the implementation of these 9 strategies (based on project), the overall Blue Economy requirement (including Green Economy) in the Sabah (at the BIMP EAGA Marine Landscape) can be fulfilled and goals can be achieved.

Dr Alfred said, with the support and leadership from the Special Envoy of BIMP EAGA Sabah, Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, BIMP EAGA Business Council can further contribute effectively on the ground within the North Borneo Marine Landscape.



Dr Raymond Alfred and Associate Professor Dr Rayner Alfred presenting THE NORTH BORNEO BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVES to Mr Hoong Cheong Hon (Potential Blue Economy Investors based in Singapore) and Hong Kong, Madam Aliah Liu (Managing Director for Nasar Group, Energy Sector Investor, and representing the Sino Infrastructure Hong Kong Oriental Times Limited (SIOT))

The following map shows the Boundary of the Proof of Concept (PoC) for the NORTH BORNEO BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE Programme. Lahad Datu, Semporna, Tawau, Sandakan, Bongao, General Santos, Pagadian, Zamboanga, El Nido, Puerto Princesa, Bataraza, Kudat, Kota Kinabalu, Kota Belud, Tuaran-Tamparuli, Kota Marudu, Pitas, Sipitang and Labuan F.T., Limbang, Miri, Tanjung Selor, Tarakan and Nunukan will become part of the Stakeholders for the PoC for this Blue Economic Programme.





Developing the Trade and Shipping Operation Information System will further assist BIMP EAGA (Sabah) to monitor the trade activities and ensuring the safety in the Malaysian Marine Landscape in Sabah.

This area may cover at least 30% of the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion and 15% of the Coral Triangle Initiative. The marine conservation programme is already in place, but there is a need to integrate the parameter on Blue Economy, Blue Growth and Circular Economic trend to ensure a balance business operation can address the economic, social, and environmental issues.

In order to assist the monitoring of trade activities and ensuring the safety for the tourism industry, including development of Healthcare Information System for BIMP EAGA Region (Covering North Borneo), BIMP EAGA Business Council with the endorsement by Special Envoy BIMP EAGA Sabah has appointed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ESSCOM, Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Mohd Ali and Dr Loriot Kenson as the Key Panel Advisor for the Security and Health Mechanism Management respectively for BIMP EAGA (Malaysia, Sabah).



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