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Abidin backs bilateral ties between KK - Rockingham

16th March, 2011

KOTA KINABALU: The twinning of Kota Kinabalu and Rockingham City has started a platform for both cities to execute the purpose of the Memorandum of Friendship Understanding signed in November 2007, said Datuk Abidin Madingkir, Mayor of Kota Kinabalu, yesterday.

"The commitment by both parties to execute the purpose of the memorandum has seen subsequent visits between the two cities that had also led to the setting up of the Sabah-Western Australia Trade Centre here in Kota Kinabalu," Abidin remarked in his speech on the occasion of the Rockingham City's seminar on investment and tourism.

As the new mayor of Kota Kinabalu, Abidin said he would give his full support to the success of bilateral trade relations between the Kota Kinabalu City Hall and the City of Rockingham.

He noted that this was the third official visit of the Mayor of Rockingham Barry W Sammels.

Later Abidin told a press conference that there would be more exchange of views and expertise between the authorities of the two cities.

On education, he said, "We are looking at all possibilities whether it is viable for a branch campus of Murdoch University in Kota Kinabalu as Curtin University had already a campus in Sarawak."

To a question on collaboration between the two cities, Sammels said, "We can learn a lot from Kota Kinabalu, and will also look at how we can assist our twin city.

With the friendship relationship, Sammels added, there would be more exchanges and interaction between both local authorities.

"The thrice weekly Kota Kinabalu-Perth flights," Abidin said, "would lead to the enhancement of a long-term trading relationship between Sabah and Western Australia."

The seminar attracted about thirty participants from the public and private sectors.

Verghese Jacob, regional director of Western Australia, gave an overview of Western Australia.

Rockingham City Councillor Deb Hamblin and its CEO highlighted the investment opportunities in Rockingham.

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