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STAKEHOLDERS' ROLE IMPERATIVE IN CONSERVATION OF SCCA

KOTA KINABALU, Wednesday : Stakeholders' role is imperative in conservation of Silam Coast Conservation Area (SCCA), said the Director of Yayasan Sabah, Datuk Sapawi Bin Haji Ahmad.

"Inputs from SCCA stakeholders are valuable and will provide positive impact to the formation of SCCA Strategic Management Plan. I hope that the local stakeholders will use this platform to provide feedbacks and recommendations to support our conservation efforts in Silam Coast," said Datuk Sapawi during the official opening of SCCA Stakeholders Forum held on 12 April 2016 at Shell Silam Coast Reception and Information Building, Silam, Lahad Datu.

Datuk Sapawi also urged local communities to work together with Yayasan Sabah Group to keep the Silam Coast beautiful coastal forest preserved for future generation.

Besides getting inputs from local communities, the forum was also organised to present researchers' findings during SCCA Scientific Expedition which was carried from 10 to 20 May 2015. Earlier on, the scientific expedition findings were discussed with fellow researchers during a seminar held on 20 August 2015 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

"Correct information on SCCA must be disseminated to local communities so that they are aware of Yayasan Sabah Group's effort in conserving SCCA," explained Datuk Sapawi.

The forum is also organised to unlock SCCA potentials as a studies centre focusing on marine research and mangrove forest secosystem. On top of that, Datuk Sapawi added, "SCCA beautiful beaches and surrounded by crystal clear water and coral reefs has great potential as an ecotourism site servicing Lahad Datu."

Apart from the forum, the official opening of Shell Silam Coast Reception and Information Building was also held. The building was officially opened by Datuk Haji (Datu) Nasrun bin Haji (Datu) Mansur, Member of Parliament of Silam P.188.

Shell Silam Coast Reception and Information Building was made possible with the funding of RM350,000 from Shell Malaysia. The building is equipped with office space for the management of SCCA and multipurpose hall for any programmes on environmental education activities. The funding was also used to carried out two SCCA activities namely Silam Scientific Expedition, Silam Scientific Expedition Seminar and SCCA Stakeholders Forum.

"Our sincere gratitude to Shell Malaysia for always been supporting our conservation efforts not only in SCCA but also in Maliau Basin and Danum Valley. We hope our collaborations with Shell Malaysia will continue with upcoming conservation programmes, including the construction of SCCA Studies Centre," expressed Datuk Sapawi.

The forum was attended by about 80 participants from government and private agencies, NGOs, academicians, researchers dan representatives from local communities. It was launched by the Member of Parliament of Silam Constituency P.188, Datuk Haji (Datu) Nasrun Bin Haji Datu Mansur. Also present were Lahad Datu District Officer, Encik Iman Ali, Lahad Datu OCPD, Encik Hamzah Ahmad, representatives from Yayasan Sabah Group and government agencies.

PIX 1 : Datuk Nasrun signing the plaque to officiate the opening of Shell Silam Coast Reception and Information Building. Also in the photo was Datuk Sapawi (second, right).

PIX 2 : The Acting Group Manager, Conservation and Environmental Management Division, Yayasan Sabah Group, Dr. Yap Sau Wai (third, left) explaining about SCCA to Datuk Nasrun (second, left) and Datuk Sapawi (second, right).

PIX 3 : Dr. Yap (right) explaining the SCCA 3D model to Datuk Nasrun and Datuk Sapawi.

PIX 4 : Giving thumbs up to Silam Coast Conservation Area.

PIX 5a, b and c : Silam Coast Conservation Area

PIX 6 : Mangrove forest at Silam Coast Conservation Area.

PIX 7 : Group photo at the Silam Coast Studies Centre Jetty after touring the area.

PIX 8a & b : Speakers during the forum.

PIX 9 : Q & A session.

PIX 10 : A view of Silam Coast Conservation Area.

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