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POLICIES TO CONTINUE, THANKS TO CONFIDENCE IN GOVT

KUCHING: The Sarawak government will carry on implementing its policies and initiatives for the benefit of Sarawakians.

Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said the existing policies, initiatives and also assistance provided for the people during the COVID-19 pandemic would be continued.

"What we can see is that the people of Sarawak have shown their confidence in the government under Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) because of our leadership in looking after the people of Sarawak.

"And this is part of the people's trust in us to continue defending our rights under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) and Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) Report.

"Apart from that, we have a direction in bringing development to the people. As such, I think our big victory in the 12th state election is because of our policies, and these (policies) will continue," he said.

He was speaking at an appreciation dinner organised by Pertubuhan Anak Seni Bandarsah Kuching (PASBK) to celebrate the GPS victory at Grand Margherita Hotel on Sunday.

Among the initiatives, he said, were the RM1,000 Endowment



ABANG Johari (centre) presents a book entitled 'Bandarsah Gemilang' to Deputy State Secretary Datuk Dr Sabariah Putit while PASBK chairman Abdul Rahman Zainudin looks on. Photo: Ramidi Subari

Fund Sarawak (EFS) to every Sarawakian new-born, RM450 for post-natal care, providing education assistance and the recent RM10,000 deposit for B40 and M40 group to purchase houses costing RM350,000 and

below.

"The assistance is given regardless of buying a house developed by the government or the private sector," he said.

He added that for this purpose, the state government had

allocated RM10 million.

On another note, he said GPS appointed younger ones to lead so that there was continuity in leading and bringing development to the state.

"Therefore, when we say it, we

deliver it," he said.

He also took the opportunity to thank Sarawakians who had given their support and trust to GPS which won 76 out of 82 seats contested in the state polls.

Sarawak Metro's tender exercise gets good response

BY JACINTHA JOLENE

KUCHING: Industry players have responded positively to Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd's (Sarawak Metro) ongoing tender exercise for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project's System Package 1.

According to Sarawak Metro, a subsidiary of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), this was an expected outcome as there was a lot of interest generated from its rolling stock vendor registration exercise conducted in mid-2021.

"In the previous year, we advertised in both international and national magazines, inviting companies to register as rolling stock sellers and the reaction was extremely enthusiastic, with companies from all over the world participating.

"Sarawak Metro also anticipated that these businesses



THE hydrogen buses in Kuching.

will develop partnerships with local players, which would serve as a potential platform for the transfer of technology, where it would be beneficial to the state's industry," the company said in a statement yesterday.

System Package 1 of the KUTS project contains the supply of

rolling stock (Hydrogen Vehicle), Depot Equipment & Maintenance Vehicle, Signalling & Control System, and Automatic Platform Gate.

The company said contract for the winning bidder is likely to be issued in the second quarter of this year, with engineering works

on the KUTS project beginning in the third quarter.

It said the chosen bids would be extensively examined to ensure that the project's goals are met.

"Sarawak Metro is committed to conducting a thorough and comprehensive evaluation

process to guarantee that only the best are chosen to carry out this noble project which aims to relieve traffic congestion in Greater Kuching as well as modernise and decarbonise the city's public transportation system.

"It will be implemented in two phases, with Phase 1 involving the construction of two lines, the Samarahan Line (28 kilometres from Rembus to the city centre) and the Serian Line (24 kilometres from Batu 12 to the Isthmus).

"Currently, pre-engineering works for the KUTS project are still ongoing, which include traffic surveys, soil investigation, geotechnical works and underground utility mapping. The passenger service for the Automated Rapid Transit (ART) will be introduced in stages, starting from Q4 2025," the company said.