

NS charts path to become developed state

NEGRI Sembilan is on the path to become a developed state as the performance of the state's economic sector continues to show a positive trend that has contributed to an increase in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Negri Sembilan Development Plan 2021-2025 (RPNS 2021-2025) which will soon be launched is a guide to bring a positive direction to the development of the state.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun said the RPNS outlines five main thrusts to strengthen economic growth, through the identification of high-value and strategic sectors.

He said stronger economic sector linkages and the encouragement of economic sector diversity will have a spillover effect on the economy.

"The second thrust is to increase the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises as growth leaders while the third is to generate new economic resources based on environmental sustainability.

"The fourth factor is improving the distribution of rural income through the empowerment of a more productive and technology-intensive agricultural sector, and the fifth is to empower human capital and talent to support economic growth."

The state government has also set a target to achieve the status of high-income developed state. To achieve this, he said the state needs its GDP to grow at a minimum rate of 5.5 per cent per year for the next 10 years.

Aminuddin said the areas of focus are expected to boost economic growth and development in the next five years.

According to him, the state's GDP is also expected to grow between 4.6 per cent and 5.5 per cent from 2021 to 2025, which is a better growth compared with 2.1 per cent for the period from 2016 to 2020.

"Overall, the performance of revenue collection until June 30 is better compared with the same period last year when it reached RM284.93 million, which is 65.96 per cent compared with RM234.93 million [52.44 per cent]," he said.

He said there was no denying that the pandemic had impacted revenue collection between 2020 and 2021, which was a problem faced by every state government.

However, he said revenue collection this year

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DATUK SERI AMINUDDIN HARUN
Menteri Besar



is expected to meet the state budget target of RM432 million.

"The state government is always committed and determined to empower the people and defend their livelihood.

"This can be seen from the State Legislative Assembly sitting on Aug 9 and 10 which passed a motion related to the increase in the cost of living which has caused stress for the people.

"It proves the commitment of the state government's leadership in helping and defending the fate of the people of Negri Sembilan," he said.

He said the special allocation of up to RM5 million to hold the Nismilan Prihatin Farm Price Sale initiative throughout all districts from Sept 1 to Dec 31 was also a sign of the state government's concern for the people.

Aminuddin said this initiative will consolidate cooperation with all parties whether producers, breeders, farmers and government agencies, so as to be able to sell some of the people's basic necessities at farm prices, thus eliminating the middlemen.

"This initiative is a two-pronged strategy that will have a positive impact and be enjoyed by the people as buyers as well as producers, breeders and agricultural entrepreneurs who are directly involved in supplying the product.

increase of 2.9 per cent.

"The inflation rate in Negri Sembilan so far is only at 2.9 per cent, which is lower than the national rate of 3.4 per cent," he said.

Meanwhile, based on the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) report for the first quarter of 2022, the total losses incurred by the state government due to the recent floods amounted to RM77.1 million.

"This includes the loss or damage of residences amounting to RM45.6 million, the destruction of vehicles (RM18.3 million), the destruction of business premises (RM12.1 million) and losses in the manufacturing sector amounting to RM1.2 million.

"However, the state government has distributed cash and equipment to flood victims, including farmers and ranchers," he said.

On the financial performance of the state government, he said it was running efficiently and effectively in ensuring that all budget deficits were utilised in a targeted manner.

He said, the results of the study found that generally every 1.0 per cent increase in the ratio of operating expenses tends to generate 1.3 per cent of the state's GDP.

"A 1.0 per cent increase in GDP has the potential to generate an increase in revenue of 0.8 per cent," he said.

Aminuddin further explained that the performance of the state's economic growth throughout the past year has showed encouraging progress, thus contributing to an increase in the state's GDP.

"Other initiatives by the state government include the Negri Sembilan Entrepreneurs Fund (TUNS) and TUNS Plus, Fishermen's Encouragement Incentive (InGEN), Young Farmers and Agricultural Graduates (Insist-9)," he said.

On the state's consumer index, Aminuddin said as of June this year, all states have shown an increase in inflation.

He said the consumer price index in the state also increased from 123.6 to 127.2, which is an



Aminuddin (centre) at the ground breaking for the Hamilton City Industrial park, which is located in Nilai.