

SHS to draw more tourists to Sandakan

By ROZZALIN HASHIM
rozzalin@newsabah-
times.com.my

SANDAKAN: Domestic and international tourists visiting Sandakan town will be encouraged to come back for the Sandakan Harbour Square (SHS), expected to be completed mid-year, which will see the opening of the Sandakan Harbour Mall and Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan Hotel that is expected to boost the seaside town.

As a show of pride and love towards the town which is known as an eco-tourism destination, Ireka Development Management Sdn Bhd and ICSD Venterus Sdn Bhd with the cooperation of the Sandakan Municipal Council (SMC) will host a Sculpture Competition which offers RM30,000 as a prize.

The winning sculpture will be placed in one of SHS' main development centres.

Ireka Development Management chief executive officer, Lai Voon Hon said the purpose of the competition was to create a sense of pride and love towards eco-tourism



An artist rendering of Sandakan Harbour Square.

and also to encourage the residents to create art born from the uniqueness of their district.

"The competition has begun from 1 March until this 16 April. We are offering a cash prize and attractive prizes to the winners where the first place winner will receive a

RM30,000 cash prize including a free stay at the hotel," he said to reporters at a press conference at SHS here, yesterday.

Also present were Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan Hotel general manager, Syntio Camilleri, SMC development and property officer,

Vun Soon Chong and Ireka Development Management government and public affairs negotiator, Datu Thomas Lau Chi Keong.

Meanwhile, Lai said the competition was open to all Malaysian citizens and the sketch entry can be submitted through mail or delivery to the address of the competition's manager, adding that his company has set aside RM100,000 for the design and build of the iconic sculpture.

After the press conference, the reporters were brought on a tour of the main development centre where the Sandakan Harbour Mall and Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan Hotel will be located and are currently in the final stage of completion.

The SHS project has four phases where the central market and shoplots, which are phase one and two, have been completed.

The shopping mall is under phase three and the hotel under phase four and is scheduled to be completed by next month and this June, respectively.