SS: Efficient execution vital for policies’ success

BY HARUN JAU

KUCHING: Civil servants must be sensitive and responsive as well as proactive in implementing policies that had been decided by the government, State Secretary Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi Bin Abdul Ghani stressed.

He pointed out that no matter how good the policies formulated by the government, and no matter how much benefit was brought by those policies it would have no meaning if the implementation is not effective or efficient.

"The main mission of government agencies is to achieve our government's objectives through policy execution. Policy making and policy execution involve close interaction between political and public sector leaders like us," Morshidi said at a Majlis Bersama Setiausaha Negeri Sarawak (Gathering with the State Secretary) held at the Banquet Hall of the new State Legislative Assembly Complex at Petra Jaya here yesterday.

"Implementing or executing government policies requires civil servants to be disciplined in achieving the vision and long term goals of government policies.

"We must also be disciplined enough to be able to face the reality of the environment we are working in and respond in a positive manner. And most importantly, we must have the discipline or the commitment to follow through, to focus in deploying the people and organisational resources to implement the policy efficiently over a specified time, without unnecessary delay," he pointed out. According to him, in this context, the government at the National and State levels had set a clear vision for the country that is to be a developed nation with a high income economy by 2020.

"We have vested interest to ensure that we translate the plans and policies into reality. Therefore, we must give our total commitment because if we don’t the rakyat (people) will lose faith in us the public sector and the government as a whole and we only have ourselves to be blamed," he said.

Morshidi said Sarawak had achieved tremendous economic growth and development in the last 50 years and the State’s Nominal GDP had increased by more than 188 times from RM550 million in 1963 to RM107 billion in 2012.

"Our GDP per capita increased more than 57 times from RM688 in 1963 to RM39,847 in 2012. We managed to reduce the incidence of poverty from more than 30% in 1985 to only 2.4% in 2012," he said, adding that in 2010, Sarawak was ranked the 4th largest economy in the country with the Real GDP value of RM51 billion.

According to him, these achievements were made possible because of strong, foresighted and capable leaders, and not forgetting the roles of the civil service that was very efficient and effective in implementing the government policies.

He said everyone in the civil service agency has a role to play in developing all sectors of the state’s economy.

Some 400 heads of departments and senior officers from both the State and Federal departments and agencies attended the function.

Among the VVIPs present were Sarawak Federal Secretary, Datuk Haji Md. Yahya Basimin; Sarawak Attorney General, Dato Haji Abdul Razak Tredy; Sarawak State Financial Secretary, Dato Sri Ahmad Tarmizi Sulaiman; Deputy State Secretary (Operations) Datu Ose Murang and Deputy State Secretary (Administration, Security and Corporate Affairs), Datu Haji Misnu Haji Taha.

At the event, the State Secretary also launched a Manual on the Sarawak Civil Service Quality Award (AKPANS).

He also presented prizes to winners of the Logo Design and Song Writing Contest organised in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Sarawak Independence within Malaysia.

The winner of the Logo Design Competition was Vanden Michael, a UNIMAS student who received RM10,000 and a certificate while the winner of the Song Competition was Jerry Kamit, a musician from the Sarawak Cultural Village, who bagged RM30,000 and a certificate.