

Headline	Mukah-Balingian set to spearhead region's economic growth		
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SIBU: Medan Mall - Mukah's very first modern shopping mall cum hotel complex - will open for business on April 16.

The six-storey commercial complex houses the Medan Supermarket, shops and food court on the ground floor, Medan Department Store and shops on the first floor and a two-star Li Hua Hotel with 113 rooms occupying the second to fifth floors.

Besides providing a refreshingly new one-stop shopping experience for local residents, it provides quality accommodation for visitors and tourists, said the press release from Medan Mall.

Meanwhile, Mukah Town has been evolving quietly from a small fishing village into a modern town serving as the administrative centre of the Mukah Division.

Since its elevation into a new division, Mukah has enjoyed fast paced growth.

In line with the state

government's vision to develop Sarawak and complemented by the commissioning of the Bakun Dam, a major economic corridor encompassing the central region of Sarawak has emerged and the Mukah-Balingian region is set to spearhead the development of this economic growth corridor.

Mukah is rich in natural resources such as sago, oil palm and fisheries.

"The demand for human resource has increased with the establishment of the Mukah coal-fired power plant, the aluminum smelting plant, palm oil plantations, aquaculture industries and Samalaju Industrial Park.

"Our government has thus set up the Mukah Polytechnic, MRSM and now, the new Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) campus which is under construction to provide long term needs for more technical and professional personnel," added the

press release.

Air transport to Mukah has been a hassle since only the 19-seater Twin Otter commercial aircraft could land in Mukah now and it is a norm for business travellers to fly to Sibu and then take a two-and-half-hour car ride to reach Mukah.

In order to improve air connectivity, the construction of a new Mukah airport is currently underway to allow for larger aircrafts to land.

Upon completion, it is expected to attract more local and international investors and promote the local tourism industry.

"The implementation of major development projects in Mukah has resulted in rapid population growth and the continuous improvement of all supporting infrastructure and facilities leading to a higher living standard," it noted.



A view of Li Hua Hotel, Mukah.

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Inside view of Li Hua Hotel, Mukah.



A view of Medan Supermarket, Mukah.