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KOTA KINABALU: The Entrepreneur Development and Cooperative Ministry (KUSKOP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sabah Electricity, making it the first anchor company in Sabah to join the ministry's Vendor Development Programme (PPV).

Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick said the ministry provides support grants of up to RM1.2 million under the PPV to vendor companies that secure contracts or procurements from anchor companies through the Vendor Innovation Development Programme and the Vendor Capacity Development Programme.

"As of today, Sabah Electricity is the 39th company to sign an MoU with the ministry.

"This MoU reflects the success of the Domestic Look East Policy that I introduced to address the unique entrepreneurial needs of Sabah and Sarawak.

"The ministry is now in talks with Sarawak Energy, and we hope they will also sign this MoU to become the 40th company and the first from Sarawak to join the ministry's anchor programme," he said.

He told reporters this after officiating Sabah Electricity Vendor Day 2025 at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) here on Thursday.

Through the MoU, Bumiputera vendors registered with Sabah Electricity will receive various forms of support, including

training, technical development, entrepreneurial advisory services, as well as research and commercialisation assistance under the Vendor Capacity Development Programme (PPKV) and the Vendor Research and Commercialisation Grant (GPPV).

Ewon said that during the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP), the ministry channelled PPKV and GPPV grants to seven Bumiputera companies in Sabah that served as vendors to five existing anchor companies.

"For the Thirteenth Malaysia Plan (13MP), the ministry targets 120 Bumiputera vendor companies nationwide to benefit from these grants, including 15 companies from Sabah," he said.

He added that Sabah Electricity qualifies for the Double Deduction Tax Incentive after being appointed as an anchor company under the PPV.

"The Entrepreneur Development and Cooperative Ministry remains committed to driving entrepreneurship development in Sabah and Sarawak so that entrepreneurs become more competitive, innovative, and capable of penetrating both national and regional markets," he said.

Also present were the ministry's Secretary-General, Dato' Sri Khairul Dzaimie Daud; Chairperson of Sabah Electricity, Saadiah Aziz; and senior officials from the ministry and Sabah Electricity.