

LC to help ease Labuan hassles

Sohan Das

LABUAN: The Labuan Corporation (LC) has noted on complaint by the Labuan Chinese Chamber of Commerce that investor-unfriendly procedures of some government agencies on the island were undermining the economic development of the island.

LC's deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ibrahim Tambi cum head of development department had urgently called for a meeting Monday with Chamber Chairman Datuk Wong Kii Yii and five other senior members to discuss the issues that needed to be overcome to speed-up the development of Labuan.

After the meeting Wong said "we had a fruitful discussion and we are thankful to the CEO Dr Fary Akmal Osman to make the discussion possible, this is certainly encouraging and augurs well for the future of Labuan, it also showed that she was as much keen as us to remove the impediments to Labuan's progress".

Wong said during the meeting, he stressed that all submissions of development plans should be responded within a

reasonable duration and with comments or advice if any amendment were to be made.

In a report in *DE* on Jan 18 under the heading "Reason Labuan not pulling investors", the chamber complained the prolonged delay by some government agencies in endorsing the submitted plan alleging that it took about a month for each of the 13 departments to comment.

Indah Water Konsortium was on top of the list in this issue.

This had caused investors to be frustrated and thereby shy away from investing in Labuan as they felt they were better welcomed in Sabah or Sarawak.

He added that such unusual delay caused unnecessary additional expenses to the investors as he had to spend on office staff including professionals while waiting for the job to commence.

He said that it was good that LC had assured attention to the matter and he advised anyone having problem with LC to inform him or his office so that the matters could be sort out "as in some cases the head of the department may not be aware".



Wong (third right) handing a souvenir to Ibrahim after the meeting.