



Headline	First smart township in state		
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First smart township in state

Johari: Strategically located Sibujaya set to enjoy high-speed wireless Internet

By PHILIP HII

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SIBU: Sibujaya, located about 26km from here is set to become the first smart township in the state to enjoy cloud computing services over high-speed Internet.

Housing Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg said yesterday that the developer HDCam Sdn Bhd (Housing Development Corporation and Amcorp Group) was working closely with Mimos Bhd to introduce the new wireless Internet to this vibrant township of about 25,000 residents.

Johari stressed that high-speed wireless Internet was important for Sibujaya, as it was strategically located within the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) and within very short distance of many facilities and amenities such as the Sibujaya Airport.

"Investors in SCORE will find Sibujaya attractive and conducive to live in with all the modern facilities and amenities available here," Johari said after performing the earth breaking ceremony of Pearl Avenue, which offered 170 units of double-storey terraced houses, priced at RM248,880 per unit.

He also said a road would eventually be built to link Sibujaya with Lanang Road and Lanang Bridge to better connect Sibujaya with Sibujaya and other nearby towns.

Johari also disclosed that a university was keen to set up its campus in Sibujaya, without mentioning its name.

"Sibujaya is emerging as a visually stunning and attractive twin town," Johari said, adding that it was the proud recipient of the prestigious Planning Excellence Award under the Community Development-Planning Achievement Category at the national level

competition organised by the Malaysian Institute of Planners.

He said Sibujaya was developed under the spirit of 1Malaysia where people of different cultural and religious backgrounds lived together in peace and harmony.

Johari said the developer also put great emphasis on the green environment concept, whereby a 16ha of land had been set aside for a "green belt" stretching up to 3.6km within the residential areas and 9.3ha for the development of a botanical garden to be planted with indigenous plants and trees.

An impressive 2km-long tree-lined boulevard, starting from the main entrance of Sibujaya, had also been completed.

Since its birth in mid 1990s, about RM470mil had been spent to develop 4,986 low to medium residential units, 174 com-



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mercial units and 96 industrial units on about 186ha of land.

“Based on the revised master plan, the whole township covering 566ha is expected to be completed by 2023 with a total population of 60,000 and an additional 5,600 medium to high-end residential units, 476 commercial units, 83 industrial units and four parcels of land for commercial buildings with a total gross development value of RM1bil,” Johari said.

On a different matter, Johari, who is also Tourism Minister said he would talk to local tourism industry players on the possibility of building a new cruise boat to replace *RV Orient Pandaw*, which would cease operation on the Rajang River in April.

“It will not be a big loss to Sibul and I don’t think it is too difficult to replace the *Pandaw* cruise,” he opined.



Urban project: Johari looking at the model of Sibu Jaya Township. At right is Housing Assistant Minister Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.