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SS: Vital for regulators to carry out reforms

BY ALEXANDRA LORNA

KUCHING: The state government in collaboration with Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) will embark on strengthening the rule-making process.

This is as part of moving closer towards good regulatory practices and reducing uncertainties in the implementation of regulatory reform principles.

This was pointed out by State Secretary Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani at the 2nd Asian Public Governance Forum on Regulatory Reforms at Kuching Hilton here yesterday.

“Thus, we need to do capacity building programmes such as Regulatory Impact Analysis and Public Consultation to assist rule-makers and regulators to ensure that they are aware of the need for high quality regulations.

“Sarawak must strive to continuously enhance its regulation quality for the benefit of the people and business communities,” he stressed.

Morshidi added that the forum was an effort to develop capacity to make use of good regulatory

practices.

“Regulations assume an important role in protecting public health, welfare, safety and our environment, but they can also impose significant burden and costs,” he said.

He also said that the people should be careful not to impose unjustified regulatory requirements.

“Unnecessary regulations reduce productivity and increase cost of doing business so it is particularly important for regulators to introduce reforms.

“Meanwhile, regulators should continuously analyse existing regulations to examine whether they remain justified and whether they should be modified or streamlined in light of changed circumstances, including the rise of new technologies,” he said.

Morshidi also said that to promote the goal, Malaysia had introduced three programmes namely improving World Bank ease of doing business indicators, reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on business and Modernising Business Licensing

(MBL).

“Apart from that, the state government together with MPC has completed a project on MBL and during the recent review process, four ministries, 18 agencies and four district offices with 152 licences have been reviewed by the MBL team.

“A total of 88 business licences have been reformed through reduced processing time, eliminate unnecessary supporting documents and overlapping requirements towards better business environment,” he pointed out.

Morshidi said that the project was estimated at generating about RM10 million in regulatory cost savings from the implementation of the recommended changes.

The forum themed, ‘Improving Productivity through Regulatory Coherence and Good Proactive’ is held from 29-30 March.

Also present were Director-General of Public Governance Programme, OECD Korea Policy Centre, ParkDeokSoo and Deputy Director-General of Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), Dato’ Abdul Latif Abu Seman.

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TAN Sri Datuk Amar Mohamad Morshidi Ghani (front, 2nd left) in a light moment with Director-General of the Public Governance Programme, OECD Korea Policy Centre, Park Deok Soo (left) while Deputy Director-General Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), Dato' Abdul Latif Abu Seman (right) and other speakers of the 2nd Asian Public Governance (APG) Forum on Regulatory Reforms look on.