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Seberang Perai the catalyst for future growth of Penang, says Chow

Bernama / Bernama

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GEORGE TOWN (June 3): The Penang government will always strive to ensure Seberang Perai becomes the catalyst for growth of the state in the future, said Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

He said his administration would focus on balanced development of both the island and Seberang Perai, where the Penang Development Corporation (PDC) had implemented strategic plans for growth of new development areas based on the "green and smart city" concept and an increase in asset value.

"Batu Kawan is one of the areas that is a catalyst for rapid growth of Seberang Perai and, as such, many industries are focused in that area. The state government, through PDC, is developing this area as the main industrial area like the Batu Kawan Industrial Park, Batu Kawan East and South Penang Science Park.

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"The development plans in the Bandar Cassia Technology Park and Batu Kawan Industrial Park 3

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electrical and electronics, electronic manufacturing services, semiconductors, automotive and others,” Chow said during the winding-up session of the Penang State Legislative Assembly here on Friday (June 3).

He said that PDC will also carry out studies on the development of the Penang Science Park South as an area for general industries and food (a halal hub), which would involve the development of a logistics hub in the Seberang Perai area.

Apart from that, the Bandar Cassia Development Master Plan would feature a combination of mixed and integrated developments involving housing, commercial, education, medical and industries.

Although Seberang Perai is rapidly developing, Chow said the state government does not deny that there are problems like traffic congestion, waste management, river pollution and water supply issues, which still exist and had turned into "growing pains".

He added that the state government had approved an allocation of RM316.13 million for the implementation of development projects this year, taking into account the needs of critical and high-impact projects.

“However, this allocation alone is insufficient to upgrade the facility and requirement network in Seberang Perai, and we need a bigger allocation to improve facilities and amenities,” he said.