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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

**MEDIA STATEMENT
FOR REGIONAL TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNT SABAH 2022**

Sabah's Tourism Industry recorded RM13.0 billion in 2022, contributing 10.7 per cent to state economy

PUTRAJAYA, 21 DECEMBER 2023 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) for the first time published the **REGIONAL TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNT (RTSA) SABAH 2022**. The launching ceremony for this publication was held in Kota Kinabalu today, 21 December 2023. The ceremony was launched by YB Datuk Joniston Bangkuai, the Assistant Minister represented Minister of Tourism, Culture & Environment of Sabah and also attended by YBhg Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician Malaysia.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "The success of the compilation of RTSA Sabah 2022 is a collaboration between DOSM and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Environment (KePKAS) & Sabah Tourism Board (STB)". RTSA Sabah provides comprehensive indicators and statistics related to tourism in a single publication. RTSA is a framework to measure the development of the tourism industry and its contribution to Sabah's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The re-opening of the national border has positively impacted and encouraged the recovery of Sabah's tourism sector. In 2022, the number of visitor arrivals to Sabah reached 1.73 million people, an increase of 365.5 per cent compared to only 0.4 million people recorded in the previous year. The relaxation of travel restrictions in most countries and the country's transition to the endemic phase is a very suitable time for RTSA Sabah 2022 to be implemented. The findings from RTSA Sabah 2022

can be used to review the structure of tourist movement, as well as to look at the characteristics and performance of tourism after the pandemic, especially in Sabah.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin explained, "Sabah's Gross Value Added of Tourism Industries (GVATI) in 2022 recorded RM13.0 billion with a contribution of 10.7 per cent to Sabah's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Sabah's GVATI contributes 5.2 per cent to Malaysia's GVATI and 0.7 per cent to Malaysia's GDP. Meanwhile, Tourism Direct Gross Domestic Product (TDGDP) recorded RM3.2 billion with a contribution of 2.6 per cent to Sabah's GDP. The performance of Sabah's tourism industry in 2022 was propelled by the state government's efforts, including the continuation of inbound flight services to Kota Kinabalu International Airport (KKIA) such as from Singapore, South Korea and Thailand, as well as domestic flights from Terengganu to Kota Kinabalu."

Meanwhile, inbound tourism expenditure in Sabah recorded RM2.7 billion in 2022. Visitors from Peninsular Malaysia are the main contributors to inbound tourism expenditure spending with a contribution of 63.7 per cent (RM1.7 billion). Visitors from abroad and Sarawak contributed 23.0 per cent (RM0.6 billion) and 13.2 per cent (RM0.4 billion) respectively in the same period.

Furthermore, the performance of Sabah's tourism industry is driven by tourism expenditure by Sabah residents, recording RM3.5 billion. This significant achievement of domestic tourism expenditure contributed 56.5 per cent to the total consumption of internal tourism which includes inbound and domestic tourism expenditure. In terms of employment in the tourism industry in Sabah, it recorded the involvement of 427 thousand persons working in 2022 and contributed 22.8 per cent to the total employment in Sabah.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also shared his expectations for the tourism industry in Sabah, stating, "Based on the current scenario and with the efforts implemented by the government towards boosting the tourism industry such as the Community-Based Tourism Roadshow, it is predicted that visitor arrivals to Sabah in 2023 will continue to increase and will indirectly give contribution to Sabah's economy. In the first ten months of 2023, there were 2.11 million visitor arrivals to Sabah, an increase of 56.1 per cent compared to the same period in 2022 (1.36 million).

The publication of RTSA Sabah 2022 can be downloaded for free at the Department of Statistics Malaysia portal (www.dosm.gov.my).

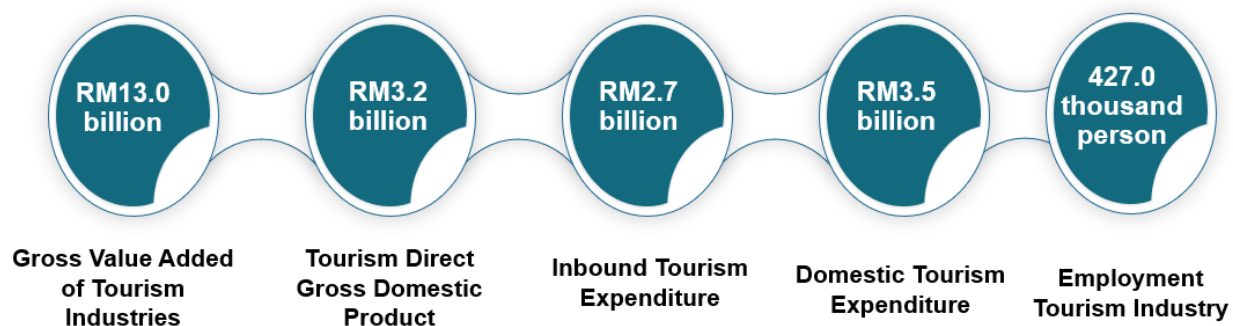
The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalog of data and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis of various data and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

DOSM will conduct the Agricultural Census in 2024. Please visit <https://www.myagricensus.gov.my/> for more information. The theme is "Agriculture Census, Key to Agricultural Development."

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20th each year. MyStats Day theme is "Statistics is the Essence of Life".

Exhibit: Highlights of Regional Tourism Satellite Account Sabah 2022

Tourism industry contributed **10.7%** to the Sabah's economy



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