

HMS has turned Sandakan — into vibrant centre

By JAMES LEONG

SANDAKAN: Harbour Mall Sandakan (HMS), the one and only state-of-the-art shopping mall of its kind in the east coast town celebrated its fifth anniversary yesterday.

In his address Lai said, HMS together with Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan is the final phase and the gem of the much bigger Sandakan Harbour Square development. It is to date, the largest art shopping mall of its kind in this east coast town celebrated its fifth anniversary yesterday.

The day-long programme held in conjunction with the occasion was officiated by Ireka Corp Bhd Group Managing Director Datuk Lai Voon Hon, ever urban redevelopment project in Sandakan.

"Since the completion of the first phase of Sandakan Harbour Square more than 10 years ago and the opening of HMS 5 years ago, this new commercial and shopping precinct has completely transformed the face of the old central business district of Sandakan," Lai said.

According to Lai, the Sandakan Harbour Square and HMS brought the old town centre out of the sleepy hollow into what is today a vibrant business, tourist, shopping and entertainment centre of Sandakan. It has to a certain extent allows Sandakan to reclaim back its old glory as the 'little Hong Kong'.

"The Harbour Mall Sandakan together with all the other components in the Sandakan Harbour Square has not

end, Lai said.

Meanwhile, guests and members of the public attending the anniversary celebration programme, were entertained by the lion dance troupe, performances from local singers and dancers, and also a lucky draw.

HMS offers 200,000 square feet of prime spaces for re-

tailers, aside from being a shopping haven for both locals and tourists in Sandakan.

Some of the established names at the mall are Lotus Five Star Cineplex, Popular Bookstore, Mr D.I.Y., McD, Kenny Rogers Roasters, Body Glove, Watsons, Guardian, Levi's, Jeans Club, and Hung Cheong

Shoes among others.

Also present at the programme were former Sandakan Member of Parliament Tan Sri Lau Ngan Siew, ICSD Ventures Sdn Bhd Consultant for Government Liaison and Public Affairs (East Malaysia) Thomas Lau and Harbour Mall Centre Manager Michael Chong.



Lai cutting the anniversary cake during the celebration yesterday

only provided the town with a truly iconic waterfront development that is an attraction for tourist and local alike, it has also provided thousands of employment opportunities for the Sandakan population," Lai continued.

Today, HMS welcomes more than 70,000 an average footfall each week. This is very encouraging as we are now just about 70% occupied with the target of 80% or more by year