

For Immediate Release

NORTH BORNEO RAILWAY

Sutera Harbour Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, - The North Borneo Railway is a joint venture project between Sutera Harbour Resort and the Sabah State Railway Department (Jabatan Keretapi Negeri Sabah), signifying a historical collaboration between the private sector and the state government. The primary goals of the project are to enhance existing infrastructure as well as help in efforts to promote Sabah as a destination for domestic and international tourism. The North Borneo Railway was officially launched on 22nd January 2000 in honour of Kota Kinabalu achieving city status on 2nd February 2000.

The North Borneo Railway offers passengers an opportunity to experience the bygone era of British North Borneo while transporting passengers along the lifeline of Sabah. Refurbished to recreate the nostalgic romance of people travelling by steam train in the days of the Chartered Company and the British Colonial Office, both the exterior and interior provide an environment that would have been typical of stepping onto a train in the 1900s.

The exterior utilises the traditional deep green and cream of the original North Borneo Railway, with carved brass logos showcasing the original design of a tiger holding a rail wheel, standing on the royal crown. The interior highlights the natural woods of Sabah and unless the train is fully booked, passengers are offered free seating on one of the five colonial-style passenger train carriages.

Each carriage can accommodate 36 persons to provide a total train capacity of 180 passengers. Seating arrangements accommodate four passengers per set, with tables in-between to facilitate the on-board dining experience - a 'tiffin' meal served on the return journey. The tiffin lunch highlights a blend of Asian and continental cuisine, primarily focusing on a sampling of Malaysian delights.

Each carriage features a communal wash room, providing the amenities of a modern bathroom on-board the train. Windows remain open throughout the journey, and high-powered fans will line the ceilings to ensure maximum comfort. A British Pullman carriage is used as a functional kitchen car as well as a powerful generator to provide for all electrical and power requirements. The North Borneo Railway is built and operated to the highest of international standards and is fully compliant with modern safety standards.

The train runs every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday with the route running a return journey from Tanjung Aru to Papar. Arriving at the Tanjung Aru Station, passengers will be met by a train steward attired in period-style uniform. Its first whistle stop occurs as the train veers to hug the coastline of Kinarut. An colourful Buddhist temple appears near the foothills along the tracks. The train then passes through mangrove swamps and rice fields where water buffaloes meander in the fields along the tracks, and rustic village houses provide an insight into the way of life of Sabah's interior. The train crosses a steel trestle bridge over the Papar River into Papar and allows a 30-minute stop for passengers to experience the 'rice bowl' township before heading back to Tanjung Aru.

The Vulcan engine of the North Borneo Railway train is the last of a fleet of steam engines that have plied the tracks of Borneo since the last 1800's. Then, under colonial rule, land cultivation began vigorously for coffee, coconut, tobacco, ramin and cocoa, which prompted the development of infrastructure facilities from the interior of Sabah to the South China Sea. The rail road was built in 1896 to transport the agricultural wealth of Sabah to vessels waiting to carry the riches back to England. For many years, steam engines travelled between Jesselton (the old name for Kota Kinabalu) and Tenom.

After Malaysia was formed, the North Borneo Railway assumed the name of the Sabah State Railway Department and several changes were again made to improve passenger and cargo facilities. By 1971, technological advancement in the form of diesel and petrol-powered locomotives replaced the steam engines. The railway celebrated its centennial anniversary in 1996 as the oldest form of transportation in the state. The re-launch of the North Borneo Railway brings forth yet another phase of train development in Sabah.

The North Borneo Railway is available for private group and incentive theme parties. Offered seven days a week, reservations must be made 48 hours in advance. Destination options are between Tanjung Aru and Papar (66 km return), Tanjung Aru and Beaufort (170 km return), and Tanjung Aru and Tenom (268 km return) where the Beaufort to Tenom route is run via diesel engine. Functions can also be held at the railway station, which provides an interesting and versatile venue for any party or function. For more information, please log on to www.northborneorailway.com.my

Note to Editors:

Sutera Harbour Resort:

The Pacific Sutera. The Magellan Sutera. Sutera Harbour Marina, Golf & Country Club.

Strategically located in the heart of Kota Kinabalu, Sutera Harbour Resort's 384-acre property encompasses two 5-star hotels, an international spa, an award-winning golf and marina club. Also in the family are North Borneo Railway's vintage steam train and the island, mountain and nature eco-resorts of Sutera Sanctuary Lodges. Combining all avenues of leisure, entertainment and corporate business needs in an atmosphere that is refined yet relaxed; Sutera Harbour Resort is the ultimate lifestyle destination in Sabah, Malaysia Borneo.

Fast Facts on Sutera Harbour Resort: 956 Rooms. 14 restaurants & Bars. 2 Ballrooms. 28 Meeting Rooms. 27 Hole Championship Golf Course with Day & Night Golf. 41-Bay Two-Tiered Covered Driving Range. 104-Berth Marina. Mandara Spa. Covered/Outdoor Tennis Courts. Badminton Courts. Squash Courts. 12-Lane Ten Pin Bowling Centre. 2 Kiddies Clubs. 2 Fitness Centres. Olympic-sized Swimming Pool. Kid's Pool & Fun Pool. 2 Landscape Pools. Billiards Room. 100-Seat Movie Theatre cum Auditorium. Karaoke Lounge. Water sports. Steam Train. Island, Mountain & Nature Lodges.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Communications Department

Sutera Harbour Resort

Telephone: (60-88) 318 888 Ext. 3359

Facsimile: (60-88) 303 338 / 317 777

Email: communications@suteraharbour.com.my

Website: www.suteraharbour.com

– End –

Last Update: January 2007