



Musa (centre) with his wife (right of Musa) and Affendi (left of Musa) during the launching ceremony of LFS Cinema.

# Modern cineplex opens in Sandakan

By Rebecca Chong

**SANDAKAN:** Sandakan residents finally get to enjoy movies at a modern cineplex when the Lotus Five Star (LFS) Cinema was officially launched by the Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Aman, here on Saturday night.

Musa said he was very happy with the opening of the cinema which would give joy and entertainment to the people here. "I welcome this type of development. Sandakan has to be developed because it has a lot of potential. It is still one of the most important cities in Sabah. This cinema is surely going to bring entertainment to the people. Friends and families could come to this cinema and it is a good place to release stress," he said in his speech during the launching ceremony of the cinema.

The new cinema located at the 11th floor of Harbour Mall Sandakan, was modern design built with seven digital screens,

1,000 seats and equipped with the most advanced audio and visual technology for the comfort of moviegoers. According to LFS Cinema Management director Datuk Mohd Affendi Datuk Haji Hamdan, the cinema which was planned two years ago has created 60 jobs for the youths here.

"This cinema would also be a catalyst to the economic development of Sandakan as people from Beluran, Telupid and Kinabatangan also come to the cinema for the movies," he said.

Ireka Corporation board of director chairman, Lai Voon Hen, on behalf of Harbour Mall Sandakan, said that they had been looking for interested candidate to operate a cinema in Sandakan since three years ago before LFS Cinema came along.

"A lot of people were reluctant to open a cinema in Sandakan. After three years, we finally found the right partner who shares the same view that Sandakan is ready for a modern cineplex," Lai said.

The Chief Minister's wife, Datin

Seri Panglima Faridah Tussin, LFS Cinema chain owner, Datuk Renah Doraisaggam Pillay, assistant minister of Local Government and Housing, Datuk Zakaria Edris, deputy president of Sandakan Municipal Council, Haji Hamsan Awang Supain, also attended the launching ceremony.

Meanwhile, a local resident, Hing Dick Khiang, when met at the cinema, said that the cinema is a development that the people of Sandakan have long awaited for.

"For years we (people of Sandakan) had no choice when it comes to watching movies and had to go to a cinema that is very old, rundown and poorly maintained.

"We envy the people of Kota Kinabalu for having high-end and well maintained cineplexes. Now, we too can get to enjoy better quality movie time with our friends and family.

"I hope that this place will be well maintained and kept modern so that we can continue to enjoy this entertainment outlet," he said.