

'S'wak can achieve high rice production with new technology'

Alleem Yap

KUCHING: Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg says he is determined to transform the rice farming landscape in Sarawak by leveraging advanced technology.

He said at present, Sarawak is importing rice despite having sufficient land and water to produce its own.

"The success of research conducted in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) at several locations, including Gedong and Lubok Punggor, have been successful.

"We started at Lubok Punggor in Gedong and our study with UPM using our new method has enabled us to produce eight tonnes of rice per hectare. The old method could only produce one tonne," he said in a post on his official Facebook page 'Sarawakku' yesterday.

He made the remarks at the Amanah Khairat Yayasan Budaya Melayu Sarawak (AKYBMS) Samarindok Aidilfitri dinner here Tuesday night.

According to the post, Abang Johari, who is Gedong assemblyman, also emphasised the need for a cultural shift towards technology among the community, especially the Malay community in the coastal



Abang Johari speaks at the AKYBMS Aidilfitri dinner. — Photo from the Sarawak Premier's Office

areas.

He said another initiative introduced was the efficient use of water resources in Stumbin, Lingga.

"We pump water from Batang Lupar to a high tank, install pipes and release water, and it will turn the dynamo. The turbine will produce electricity because it follows the theory of

gravity," he said.

Abang Johari explained that the water released could also be used to irrigate rice fields, creating an efficient and sustainable system.

"This can increase the income of our coastal people, most of whom are Malays. If we can master the technology, then our income can increase," he said.