

## Northern Coastal Highway Paving A Better Tomorrow

**Friday, 16 July 2021, Kuching** - More than just connecting people, highways are catalysts to the development and economic growth of the surrounding area. Such is the case with the Pan Borneo Highway Sarawak which the Northern Coastal Highway (NCH) strives to emulate.

Today's MConnects explores how highways spur development and benefit locals.

History has proven the importance of "roads" with the Silk Road and the Suez Canal being prime examples. The former connected the East and West while the latter enabled Europe to explore trade in Southeast Asia and contributed to Melacca's empire.

The Pan Borneo Highway Sarawak has resulted in a similar effect.

Following the commencement of the highway, many local upstarts (eateries and homestays) have thrived. It is not uncommon to spot local businesses bustling with customers prior to the pandemic. Such is why the locals of Limbang and Lawas are excited about the NCH.

Both districts have great eco-tourism potential given their strategic location and attractions such as the Merarap hot spring (Lawas) and Kampung Meritam's Mud Volcanoes (Limbang).

Additionally, highways also contribute to a better life quality by increasing accessibility to other location, supplies and services.

The NCH will link Miri, Lawas, and Limbang, resulting in a reduction of travel time and better access to necessities and services such as Healthcare. In circumstances where time is of the essence, the NCH will prove greatly beneficial for the locals.

### What is the current progress of the NCH project?

Currently, Maltimur is working towards concluding the Pre- VE, and VE for the NCH project. Stay tuned to follow the progress of the NCH – a project that is not only exciting for Maltimur but also our fellow Sarawakians!

