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PROTECTING CUSTOMERS' DATA

Sabah Net to boost state's cybersecurity

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah is aiming to become a centre of excellence for cybersecurity.

It hopes to achieve this through state-owned Information Communication Technology company, Sabah Net Sdn Bhd, which produces more cybersecurity professionals and jobs in Sabah for this purpose.

Its chairman, Datuk Mohamed Razali Mohamed Razi, said during the Covid-19 pandemic, technology had grown by leaps and bounds, with cybercrime also rising by 600 per cent over the past two years.

By 2025, global cybercrime is estimated to cost US$10.5 trillion annually, whereas the global annual cost of cybercrime is estimated to be US$6 trillion per year.

In Malaysia, the Malaysian Computer Emergency Response Team or MyCERT, reported 10,016 cyber-security related cases last year.

For the first five months of this year, there were 3,057 cases.

"Based on the exorbitant estimated cost, it cannot be denied that the importance of cybersecurity is enormous."

Razali said Sabah Net was taking a proactive approach to cyberse-

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>
> **DATUK MOHAMED RAZA-LI MOHAMED RAZI**
> Sabah Net chairman

curity by using a combination of industry-leading tools to provide top-level protection for customers' data and systems.

"I wish to thank award-winning security solutions company Fortinet Malaysia for allowing limitless opportunities to bring positive effects to east Malaysia through Smart Partnership with Sabah Net."

On Thursday, Sabah Net and Fortinet formalised the Smart Partnership at Sabah International Convention Centre here.

Present were the state Science, Technology, and Innovation Min-

istry permanent secretary Zainudin Aman, Sabah Net chief executive officer Chin Kah Yi, and Fortinet Malaysia sales director Abdul Aziz Ali.

Zainudin said the smart partnership was crucial to address the shortage of professional cybersecurity and create more jobs besides providing guidance on best cybersecurity practices.

He said Sabah having a centre of excellence for cybersecurity would protect sensitive data.

"This will enable government digital services to operate without disruptions."

Chin said Sabah Net looked forward to nurturing at least 100 certified Fortinet engineers in the next three to five years.

The Fortinet Network Security Expert Certification Programme is an eight-level training and assessment programme designed for customers, partners, and employees to help close the cybersecurity skills gap.

"These engineers shall not only come from Sabah Net in-house talents but also engineers from customers and local Fortinet partners in the state."