



Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok Suh Sim (right) visiting the National Kenaf and Tobacco Board in Kota Baru yesterday.

PICTURE BY SYAMSI SUHAIMI

## PLANTATION AND COMMODITY

# Kok pledges support for sectors

**KOTA BARU:** Malaysia's commodity sector generated RM140 billion in exports last year, making it the second-largest income earner after the electrical and electronics sector.

Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok Suh Sim said the commodity sector had a huge impact on the country's socioeconomic development.

"The ministry will continue to focus on strengthening the development of the plantation and commodity sectors to empower smallholders and increase their income," she said at the National Kenaf and Tobacco Board's (NKTB) service excellence award cer-

emony, here, on Saturday.

Kok said the kenaf industry had huge potential and that the ministry, through NKTB, would continue efforts to spearhead and strengthen the development of the industry.

NKTB director-general Sam-suddin Noor said this year, it was aiming for the cultivation of 2,500ha of kenaf plantations compared with last year's 2,273ha, with yields of between eight and 10 tonnes per hectare.

He said NKTB would ensure the kenaf industry continued to grow and be export-oriented, with a target of 10,000ha plantations nationwide by 2025. **Bernama**