

# Opportunity for Sabahans to invest in REIT industry

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Members of the Malaysian REIT Managers Association (MRMA) are in town to showcase the country's RM10 billion Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) industry to retail investors in Sabah.

REIT is an alternative investment tool to create wealth, said MRMA chairman & chief executive officer of Axis REIT Managers Berhad, Stewart LaBrooy during a briefing yesterday.

The REIT managers are having a free investor information and education outreach event at Kimanis ballroom, Hyatt Regency Kinabalu today (Saturday) from 8.30am to 1pm and members of the public are invited to attend their presentations.

And Kota Kinabalu is also their seventh and final stop in a series of nationwide roadshows.

"According to an industry research report, Kota Kinabalu has grown tremendously and is now home to about 48 per cent of the three million population of Sabah," said LaBrooy.

"The city accounts for about 26 per cent of Sabah's total GDP, and is projected to contribute about RM9 billion to Malaysia's GDP for 2010, ranking eighth among the country's urban areas," he said.

Sabahans are now ready to look into REITs as alternative investments, he added.

The main aim of the roadshow is to educate the public on the benefits of investing in REITs compared to the traditional method of keeping one's savings in fixed deposits. The investing public will also be informed how REITs can lower the risk of their investment portfolios while enhancing returns, he said.