

Winds damage costly Labuan decor

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LABUAN: Ferocious winds that lashed the island recently damaged the huge canvas Labuan tourism icons billboard that was sprawled on the massive facade of the abandoned Hotel Labuan.

The winds caused the canvas to be ripped running about two feet vertically and causing its edge to be folded, marring the classy image of the three-month old billboard.

Since the canvas was hung from the upper floor of the hotel it had been a talking piece with some wondering with the present Covid-19 pandemic whether there was justification for such a promotion exercise of Labuan's icons.

The cost of the project was also a hot topic in coffee shops.

A company executive, KC Tan, said: "My group members had all been curious on the cost of the work and installing it. The local authority should be transparent so

that there will be no wild guesses such as RM150,000 to RM200,000."

The hotel was closed in November 1997 by the then, local authority, Labuan Development Authority (LDA) on grounds that the building was structurally unsafe. It was a time when Labuan was enjoying from the boom of the Labuan International Business and Financial (IBFC) status.

A family-owned business, of Tan Sri Mohd Harris Salleh, he took the LDA to the court and after dragging for years the issue was settled with a reported out-of-court settlement of RM30 million.

Last September, the Labuan Chinese Chamber of Commerce offered to rebuild the hotel on a joint venture basis with Labuan Corporation.

It was earlier reported that the CEO of LC, Dr Fary Akmal Osman, had said a Request For Proposal (RFP) would be called by the third quarter this year.



The damaged canvas billboard.