History
The Sabah Ports Authority (SPA) is a state statutory body established in 1968 under the SPA Enactment 1967 which was repealed and re-enact by the SPA Enactment 1981. The Authority (SPA) is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Sabah. SPA is by law empowered to exercise jurisdiction over 8 ports in Sabah and to coordinate all port activities and developments in line with the increasing and changing needs of the state.

Event
5th July 2002 State Government approval
23rd July 2003 Federal Government approval
23rd Sep 2003 Signing of SPA privatisation
1st Sep 2004 New roles of SPA as a Regulatory Authority
1st Sep 2004 Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd take over port operations

Vision
To ensure that all ports in the state of Sabah are competent, progressive and efficient Maritime centre in Malaysia

Mission
- To play its role as a regulatory entity in ensuring that international standard are met.
- To ensure that high quality of facilities and services are given to the port users.
- To ensure that the operation, development and expansion of the ports meet the vision target.

Roles & Function
- Acts as an entity, which coordinates, all port administration in any forum between ports in Malaysia and Ministry of Transport, Malaysia as well as Ministry of Infrastructure Development, Sabah.
- Responsible for planning of all ports in Sabah and to ensure the implementation of the 20 years Master Plan of Sabah Ports Authority to be materialized in line with the growth of port industry in the state and the nation.
- Study the proposal on port development projects in line with the priority of port progress/growth in our state as well as our nation.
- Acts as a regulatory authority to ensure port operator performs according to Privatisation Agreement.
- Responsible for setting up the benchmark and port performance standards in order to maintain the efficiency and the effectiveness of port operation.
- Acts as a middleman between the port users and terminal operator to solve port and shipping related problems.
- Regulating, enforcing and monitoring of other ports related matters including sufferance wharves.

Why is the supervision and monitoring of Sabah Ports Sdn. Bhd. necessary?
- Supervision and monitoring by SPA is essential to ensure that the port operator consistently provide port users with facilities and services which is in accordance with the performance standards established by the SPA.
- To ensure that services provided to port users and the public, is, at all times, efficient and customer-oriented.

What are the services provided by Sabah Ports Authority?
- Services provided by Sabah Ports Authority through its licensed port operator (Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd.) are as follows:–
  - All supporting services conducted within the Sabah Ports Limits.
  - Ancillary services such as ship handling, lashing/unlashing.
  - Stuffing / unstuffing, bunkering and stevedoring.
- Sufferance wharves operations (private jetties, and mid-stream/at anchor operation) and all related activities within the Sabah Water in accordance to Sabah Government Gazette (GN No. 16 of 1977).
- Serves as the enforcement agency to all ports, sufferance wharves and related matters in Sabah.
- Handles all complaints from the public regarding port operations and facilities.
- Being the landlord, SPA handles all transactions pertaining to its land within the port perimeters.
- Sets the performance standards expected from the port operator in order to ensure that an efficient level of services and facilities, on par with international port standards is maintained.
- Ensure the equitable implementation of the approved Port Tariffs under the Sabah Ports Authority (Scale of Dues and Charges) Regulation 1977 and its amendments by the licensed port operator upon port users.
- Sabah Ports Authority also gathers statistical information on the handling of cargo of Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd. This serves as a basis to evaluate the growth and development of the ports in terms of annual cargo throughput and port capacity.