The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC) is planning to turn Betong and Narathiwat Airports into international airports to accommodate business and economic growth.  

**BETONG International Airport**

Will open for service in June 2020

To accommodate the rising demands from Thai, and international tourists from Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore can visit various tourist attraction. This project is part of the development model of 'Triangle of Sustainability, Prosperity and Sustainability'.

**NARATHIWAT Airport**

Aims for renovation and upgrading

To an international airport by 2021, after which pilgrimages to Mecca will be substantially shortened. To accommodate the rising number of passengers, all roads leading to the airport will also be expanded and improved.

**Greater market access for seasonal agricultural products**

The government and private agencies are assisting fruit farmers in terms of marketing and other measures - including the expansion of distribution channels in order to cope with the problems of over-supply and price slump. Tourists travelling from Narathiwat Airport can check up to 30 kg of their favorite fruits at the airport and bring them on board their flights.
Pattani organised ‘Innovative Thai Language Day’

30 July 2019

The SBPAC organised the Innovative Thai Language Fair to enhance Thai language teaching and learning in the province. This event is in line with the Government’s National Strategy and policy to improve education, the quality of teachers and local students’ ability to listen, speak, read and write the Thai language in order to promote social cohesion.

Yala marathon

25 August 2019

More than 5,000 runners took part in the annual Yala ‘The Charms of Bird City’ marathon. Yala’s Muang District organised the marathon to promote the province as a lively city full of flavourful local fruits. This event is in line with the Government’s goal to show the other side of Yala as a culinary heaven and picturesque city. The marathon was also organised to promote the importance of exercise and good health among the local population.

SBPAC have established a Coordinating Centre for Women and Children in the Southern Border Provinces

Launched on 7th August 2019, this is a joint effort between the SBPAC, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and civil society to establish a platform for exchanging ideas on how to improve the lives of women and children. Regarding policies on the Southern Border Provinces, the SBPAC places emphasis on the prevention of child marriages and the promotion of government’s guidelines on how to treat women and children under the Special Laws.

"Sapa Santisuk Tampon"

An Inclusive Management Style

"Sapa Santisuk Tambom", sub-district councils composed of government officials and representatives from civil society, have been established to improve the working of the SBPAC at the grassroots level. This new agency will expedite the attainment of the Triangle of "Security, Prosperity and Sustainability" by closely evaluating the real needs of local communities and allocating suitable resources.

Creating industry for the future

The SBPAC has designated ‘the model city of Futuristic Industrial Development’ as the main development blueprint for the Southern Border Provinces to promote growth in the private sector. Aimed at creating new jobs, additional projects like the integration of the energy sector and the promotion of local small and medium size businesses by the National Innovation Agency are concrete examples of strides towards this goal.
Pattani

- Thanks a large number of Muslim visitors since 2017, Pattani has become a centre of Halal food production.
- The province is home to an integrated agricultural produce processing centre.

Yala

- The most notable and lucrative industry is the rubber industry, which generated more than 17,000 million baht in 2017.
- Currently, more than 1.3 million acres of lands have been converted into rubber plantations – which is the largest in Thailand.
- The combined value of the wood processing and the electricity production industry total at 5 billion baht.

Narathiwat

- A Special Economic Zone (together with Songkla Province) covering 140,000 acres in 5 districts and sub-districts, which gives investors special privileges, in accordance with the Government’s policy.
- There is a plan to build an industrial complex to invigorate the rubber and renewable industries.

Tourism

**Total Number of Tourists**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Locals</th>
<th>Foreigners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>665,069</td>
<td>930,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>706,512</td>
<td>954,625</td>
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