



SARAWAK

**PENYATA RASMI PERSIDANGAN
DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI**

Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Official Reports and Debates

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Second Meeting of the Fourth Session

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS
Nineteenth Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

MESYUARAT KHAS
Special Sitting

ISNIN

07 JULAI 2025

(11 Muharram 1447H)

KUCHING

Peringatan untuk Ahli Dewan:

Pembetulan yang dicadangkan oleh Ahli Dewan hendaklah disampaikan secara bertulis kepada Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak tidak lewat daripada **14 hari selepas persidangan**.

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SARAWAK
DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS

Penyata Rasmi

MESYUARAT KEDUA BAGI PENGGAL KEEMPAT

Isnin, 07 Julai 2025

Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.06 pagi

HADIR

Bil.	Nama	Konstituensi
1.	Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Asfia bin Awang Nasar P.S.M., D.A., P.N.B.S., D.S.A.P., D.I.M.P., P.B.K., P.C.E. (Emas) <i>Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak</i>	
2.	Yang Berhormat Dato Haji Idris bin Haji Buang P.S.B.S., D.I.M.P., A.M.N., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.C.D., P.J.P.N., P.T.E. <i>Timbalan Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak</i>	<i>N.16 Muara Tuang</i>
3.	Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg D.P., P.M.N., D.A., P.N.B.S., J.B.S., P.C.E., P.S.N.B., S.P.D.K. <i>Premier Sarawak</i> <i>Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru</i> <i>Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar</i> <i>Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar</i>	<i>N.26 Gedong</i>
4.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas D.A., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.C.E. <i>Timbalan Premier Sarawak</i> <i>Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua</i> <i>Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan</i>	<i>N.37 Bukit Saban</i>
5.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan D.A., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.M.N. <i>Timbalan Premier Sarawak</i> <i>Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua</i> <i>Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan</i>	<i>N.82 Bukit Sari</i>
6.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian D.A., P.N.B.S., P.J.N., P.B.E. <i>Timbalan Premier Sarawak</i> <i>Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan</i>	<i>N.14 Batu Kawah</i>
7.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.C.E. <i>Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti</i>	<i>N.56 Dalat</i>
8.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom P.N.B.S., P.J.N., A.B.S., P.B.E., P.C.E. <i>Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah</i>	<i>N.69 Kemena</i>

9. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan
Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan N.15 Asajaya
10. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin
P.N.B.S., P.J.N., K.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.B., B.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri Pengangkutan N.75 Senadin
11. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai
P.N.B.S., P.J.N., P.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri di Jabatan Premier N.60 Kakus
12. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Julaihi bin Haji Narawi
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.D., P.B.E.
Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi N.27 Sebuyau
13. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat N.20 Tarat
14. Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerawat Gala
P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., P.B.K.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Buruh, Imigresen dan Pemantauan Projek) N.78 Mulu
15. Yang Berhormat Datuk Francis Harden anak Hollis
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pembangunan Bakat) N.32 Simanggang
16. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Jerip anak Susil
P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Penerbangan dan Jalan Raya) N.19 Mambong
17. Yang Berhormat Datuk Liwan Lagang
P.J.N., P.P.N., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi) N.65 Belaga
18. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Rosey binti Haji Yunus
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak) N.71 Bekenu
19. Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., P.B.K., P.P.B.
Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar N.41 Kuala Rajang
20. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali
P.G.B.K., P.T.E., J.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) N.7 Samariang

21. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan N.34 Batang Ai
22. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail
P.G.B.K., A.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah (Industri Makanan) N.79 Bukit Kota
23. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi) N.55 Nangka
24. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Penguang Manggil
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.C., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kerajaan Tempatan) N.76 Marudi
25. Yang Berhormat Datuk Snowdan Lawan
P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan) N.30 Balai Ringin
26. Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Saidol
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.K., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Hal Ehwal Korporat dan Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak) N.42 Semop
27. Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew
P.J.N., D.I.M.P., A.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Pelancongan) N.73 Piasau
28. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur) N.24 Sadong Jaya
29. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Ripin bin Lamat
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., K.M.N., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Pembangunan Usahawan) N.72 Lambir
30. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar N.5 Demak Laut
31. Yang Berhormat Datuk Maclaine Ben @ Martin Ben
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah (Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah) N.22 Kedup

32. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti) N.35 Saribas
33. Yang Berhormat Dato Henry Harry anak Jinep
P.S.B.S., A.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Sungai dan Laut) N.2 Tasik Biru
34. Yang Berhormat Dato' Murshid DiRaja Dr Juanda bin Jaya
P.G.B.K., DATO' MURSHID DIRAJA, S.S.P.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Integriti dan Ombudsman) N.44 Jemoreng
35. Yang Berhormat Dato Gerald Rentap Jabu
P.S.B.S., A.B.S., P.P.N., J.B.K.
Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Pembangunan Belia dan Sukan) N.36 Layar
36. Yang Berhormat Dato Majang anak Renggi
P.S.B.S., P.B.K., A.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan) N.70 Samalaju
37. Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat
P.G.B.K., B.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera) N.63 Bukit Goram
38. Yang Berhormat Datuk Michael Tiang Ming Tee
P.G.B.K., P.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kesihatan Awam dan Perumahan) N.54 Pelawan
39. Yang Berhormat Dato Ibrahim bin Baki
A.B.S., J.B.S., P.S.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Utiliti (Sarawak Energy Berhad dan PETROS) N.8 Satok
40. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Tiong King Sing
P.J.N., P.N.B.S., D.P.M.K., D.P.M.K., S.S.S.A., D.S.S.A., J.P. N.52 Dudong
41. Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii
P.G.B.K., D.I.M.P., S.S.A.P. N.45 Repok
42. Yang Berhormat Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman
P.S.B.S., J.B.K., P.B.S. N.6 Tupong
43. Yang Berhormat Tan Sri William Mawan anak Ikom
P.S.M., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.D. (Emas) N.47 Pakan
44. Yang Berhormat Datuk Mong anak Dagang
P.G.B.K., J.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.D., P.B.K., P.B.E. N.31 Bukit Begunan
45. Yang Berhormat Dato Paulus Palu Gumbang
P.S.B.S., A.M.N., P.B.S., J.B.K., P.T.E. N.80 Batu Danau
46. Yang Berhormat Dato Dennis Ngau
P.S.B.S., J.B.S., P.B.S., P.T.E., B.B.S. N.77 Telang Usan

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|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 47. | Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor
P.T.E., P.B.S. | <i>N.29 Beting Maro</i> |
| 48. | Yang Berhormat Encik Chong Chieng Jen | <i>N.9 Padungan</i> |
| 49. | Yang Berhormat Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui | <i>N.10 Pending</i> |
| 50. | Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How | <i>N.11 Batu Lintang</i> |
| 51. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing
P.J.N., A.B.S. | <i>N.46 Meradong</i> |
| 52. | Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang
P.S.B.S., B.B.S., J.B.K. | <i>N.13 Batu Kitang</i> |
| 53. | Yang Berhormat Dato Mohd Chee bin Kadir
P.S.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.S., P.J.P.N., J.B.S. | <i>N.40 Kabong</i> |
| 54. | Yang Berhormat Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang
A.M.N., K.M.N., J.B.S. | <i>N.61 Pelagus</i> |
| 55. | Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.B.S., P.C.E. | <i>N.53 Bawang Assan</i> |
| 56. | Yang Berhormat Encik Miro anak Simuh
P.B.S. | <i>N.18 Serembu</i> |
| 57. | Yang Berhormat Encik John anak Ilus
P.B.S., A.P.S. | <i>N.23 Bukit Semuja</i> |
| 58. | Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris
P.B.S., A.B.S. | <i>N.25 Simunjan</i> |
| 59. | Yang Berhormat Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang
P.B.K. | <i>N.59 Tamin</i> |
| 60. | Yang Berhormat Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin | <i>N.48 Meluan</i> |
| 61. | Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi
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| 62. | Yang Berhormat Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad
J.B.K., P.P.B. | <i>N.43 Daro</i> |
| 63. | Yang Berhormat Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon
J.B.S., P.P.N., A.B.S. | <i>N.66 Murum</i> |
| 64. | Yang Berhormat Encik Allan Siden Gramong
P.B.S., A.B.S. | <i>N.50 Machan</i> |
| 65. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim
A.M.N., P.M.W. | <i>N.17 Stakan</i> |
| 66. | Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang
A.B.S. | <i>N.74 Pujut</i> |

67.	Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor P.B.S.	<i>N.28 Lingga</i>
68.	Yang Berhormat Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada A.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.21 Tebedu</i>
69.	Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang P.B.S., P.P.B.	<i>N.1 Opar</i>
70.	Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan P.B.S.	<i>N.3 Tanjong Datu</i>
71.	Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.12 Kota Sentosa</i>
72.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa J.B.S., P.T.E.	<i>N.33 Engkilili</i>
73.	Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian	<i>N.81 Ba'Kelalan</i>
74.	Yang Berhormat Encik Friday anak Belik A.B.K., P.P.S., P.P.B., P.B.K., P.P.C.	<i>N.39 Krian</i>
75.	Yang Berhormat Encik Anyi anak Jana P.B.K.	<i>N.49 Ngemah</i>
76.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek P.B.S.	<i>N.51 Bukit Assek</i>
77.	Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine J.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.57 Tellian</i>
78.	Yang Berhormat Encik Lidam anak Assan P.B.S.	<i>N.62 Katibas</i>
79.	Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai P.B.S.	<i>N.64 Baleh</i>
80.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming P.B.S.	<i>N.68 Tanjong Batu</i>
81.	Yang Berhormat Encik Iskandar bin Turkee	<i>N.67 Jepak</i>

TIDAK HADIR

(Kebenaran di bawah Peraturan Mesyuarat 81)

Bil.	Nama	Konstituensi
1.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi P.G.B.K., J.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E. <i>Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Penyelaras Projek untuk Agensi Pembangunan Wilayah, Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara dan Hal Ehwal Islam)</i>	<i>N.4 Pantai Damai</i>
2.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri P.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.38 Kalaka</i>

TURUT HADIR

1. Encik Nur Azhar bin Bujang
Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak
2. Encik Abang Mohammad Adib bin Abang Sallehadin
Pemangku Timbalan Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak
3. ASP Mohd Nur Fitri bin Mohd Idrus
Bentara Mesyuarat
4. Inspektor Eldino Erick Joss
Bentara Mesyuarat
5. Encik Nizle anak Junep
Bentara Mesyuarat
6. Encik Muhaimin Naqib bin Narudin
Bentara Mesyuarat
7. Encik Bryan Hansen anak Wennedy
Bentara Mesyuarat
8. Encik Abang Mohd Azamuddin bin Abang Yahya
Bentara Mesyuarat

PETUGAS PERSIDANGAN

PEGAWAI UNDANG-UNDANG DAN PEMBACA PRUF

1. Encik Syed Rezif Afham bin Wan Alwi *Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*
2. Cik Vanessa anak Jawa *Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*

PEMBACA PRUF

1. Encik Abdul Rasid bin Haji Subet *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*
2. Encik Shamsul Idzam Jamil *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*

JURUTRENGKAS

1. Puan Sharlina binti Mushar *Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri*
2. Puan Doris anak Francis Harris *Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)*
3. Puan Ratna Airwati binti Haji Md. Junaidi *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
4. Puan Sabtuyah binti Adeng *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
5. Puan Nori Othman *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
6. Puan Beatrice Dinus *Hospital Umum Sarawak*
7. Puan Nurhaida binti Amin *Hospital Umum Sarawak*
8. Puan Siti Rabiah binti Jili *Jabatan Kerja Raya, Bahagian Limbang*
9. Puan Dalina binti Dalil *Jabatan Kerja Raya Sarawak (JKR)*
10. Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
11. Puan Anieta Sylvester Pungga *Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*
12. Puan Juliana Lugom *Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*
13. Puan Azah Mohamad Jally *Kementerian Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak*
14. Puan Nur Izzatul Fatimah Abdullah *Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak*
15. Puan Rosline anak Dominic Maon *Kementerian Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak (MEITD)*

JURURAKAM PERSIDANGAN

1. Puan Nordiana binti Rabaee *Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*
2. Encik Vong Choon Chan *Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*
3. Puan Siti Nazilafatullaini binti Sukri *Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*
4. Encik Lee Chang Fu *Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*

JURUTEKNIK IT

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Encik Abang Hasmadi bin Abang Wahab | SAINS |
| 2. | Encik Azmuddin Yazid | SAINS |
| 3. | Encik Mohamad Fadzly bin Arfan | SAINS |
| 4. | Puan Kartini Asman | SAINS |
| 5. | Puan Natasya Abdullah | SAINS |

MESSENGER

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Encik Shah Riwandy Sia bin Ridzuan | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i> |
| 2. | Encik Mohammad Zaidi bin Rambli | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i> |
| 3. | Encik Lawrence Encharang | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i> |
| 4. | Encik Mohamad Zahari bin Hamden | <i>Pejabat Agama Islam Bahagian Kuching</i> |
| 5. | Encik Mohamed Nazeerudin bin Gulam Mohamed | <i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i> |
| 6. | Encik Fadillah bin Lokman | <i>Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian Kuching</i> |
| 7. | Encik Addison anak Fredrick | <i>Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian Kuching</i> |

SEKRETARIAT PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

1. Tuan Haji Abang Zaabar bin Abang Ballia
2. Cik Noria binti Suut
3. Puan Nur Azira binti Abdul Kadir
4. Encik Nurkhairudin bin Osen
5. Puan Rabiah binti Abdul Kadir
6. Puan Aisha Parveen binti Badron
7. Cik Genang anak Timbung
8. Puan Siti Norhiza binti Mohammad Yusri
9. Puan Hanisah Abdullah
10. Cik Siti Halimah binti Mohamad Nawawi
11. Puan Hasfarini binti Hassim
12. Cik Nurhaffizah Abdullah
13. Puan Natasha Nadia binti Mohd. Saidi
14. Puan Angela Lisa anak Mathew Linol
15. Encik Felix Aaron anak Michael
16. Puan Calista Abbie anak Sapa @ Patrick Sapa
17. Cik Sharina binti Sopian
18. Encik Awang Mohammad Asyrul Jaya bin Awang Putra
19. Puan Patricia anak Peter
20. Puan Norziana binti Haji Ahmad
21. Encik Mohd Hasfia bin Abdullah
22. Puan Nur Eliana Abdullah
23. Puan Nazmah binti Darham
24. Puan Tracy Lyana anak Bana
25. Encik Mohd Zulkhairi bin Mohammad Hejemi
26. Puan Jasmine Sinja anak Robinson
27. Cik Parcelia Renyelia anak Pamg
28. Cik Nur Zafirah binti Affendy Michael
29. Puan Deidre anak Wilson
30. Encik Muhammad Elliyas bin Matali
31. Cik Siti Nur Marsitah binti Abdullah
32. Puan Nur Amira Lystiani binti Poniman
33. Encik Alwie bin Haji Ali
34. Cik Hawa binti Morsad
35. Encik Razali bin Awi
36. Puan Nora binti Atem
37. Encik Zahari bin Bolhi

39. Encik Lukas Jammany anak Kated
40. Encik Hazrin Syah bin Hamzah
41. Encik Salman bin Jaya
42. Encik Romzi bin Bujang
43. Encik Musa bin Julai
44. Puan Suraya binti Hamden
45. Puan Noraisah binti Ahmad
46. Cik Siti Zalilah binti Samsawi
47. Encik Iz Mohd. Haiqal Hakeem bin Mahamud

PELAJAR PRAKTIKAL

1. Mohamad Aswan bin Ismail

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 9.06 pagi)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

DOA

PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER

Tuan Speaker: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Selamat pagi dan Salam sejahtera. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, Alhamdulillah. Bersyukur kita ke hadrat Illahi kerana dengan limpah kurnia-Nya maka kita dapat berkumpul di Mesyuarat Kedua bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Ke-19 atau dikenali sebagai Mesyuarat Khas. Saya mengucapkan selamat datang dan terima kasih di atas kehadiran Ahli-ahli Berhormat ke persidangan satu hari kita pada hari ini. Semoga kita dapat bersidang dalam suasana yang muhibah dan penuh bertatertib.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted leave of absence under Standing Order 81 to Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi, Deputy Minister in the Premier's Office and Honourable Member for N.4 Pantai Damai and Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri, Honourable Member for N.38 Kalaka for today's sitting.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, bagi pihak Dewan yang Mulia ini, saya ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi takziah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier Sarawak, serta seluruh anggota keluarga atas kembalinya ke rahmatullah Allahyarhamah Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang pada hari Isnin, 23 Jun 2025 yang lepas. Semoga roh Allahyarharmah dicucuri rahmat Allah S.W.T dan ditempatkan bersama golongan yang beriman. Sebagai tanda penghormatan kepada Allahyarhamah, saya menjemput Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dan semua yang hadir sama-sama berdiri dan menghadihkan *Al-fatihah* kepada Allahyarhamah dan bertafakur selama satu minit. Terima kasih.

(Bertafakur selama satu minit)

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI (COMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP) BILL, 2025

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): I beg to introduce the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025 to be read the first time.

Bill is read a first time

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): I wish to give notice that this Bill be read a second time today.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI (COMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP) BILL, 2025

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Terima kasih. Bismillahirrahmannirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. A very good morning to each and everyone of you today. Tuan Speaker, pursuant to Article 14 (1)(b) of the Constitution of

the State of Sarawak, the Dewan Undangan Negeri shall consist of such number of elected members as the Legislature may by law prescribed.

Currently, under the Dewan Undangan Negeri composition of Membership Ordinance 2014, Cap. 70. The number of elected members of this august House stands at 82.

Tuan Speaker, as the Legislative Authority in Sarawak the Dewan Undangan Negeri, we must remain dynamic and responsive to the evolving needs of our people. Over the years, we have witnessed significant demographic changes, urban expansion and growing demand for equitable representation. These developments necessitate periodic review of this august House's composition to ensure that it continues to reflect the voices and aspiration of all Sarawakians. When the first direct election to the Dewan Undangan Negeri which was then known as Council Negeri when it was held in 1969, the House comprises of 48 elected members. This number was increased to 56 in 1985 and subsequently to 62 in 1995. In the year 2005, the membership was increased to 71 and the latest increase was in the year 2014 bringing in the total number to the current 82 that we have in this august House presently.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill which I am tabling today is intended to increase the number of seats in the Dewan in this august House from 82 to 99 and to repeal the existing Dewan Undangan Negeri Composition of Membership Ordinance, 2014 [Cap.70].

Given the vast geographical expansion of Sarawak and the extensive areas that some ADUN or state representatives representing rural constituencies must cover, this proposed increase in the number of elected representatives is both reasonable and necessary. It will enhance accessibility to governance; it will ensure the needs and concern of the *rakyat* are more efficiently and more effectively addressed and improve serviced delivery through leadership that is closer and more responsive to the *rakyat*. This proposed increase is also in line with Article 113(2)(ii) of the Federal Constitution with allows for a review of electoral boundaries after an interval of not less than eight years. The last re-delineation process or re-delineation exercise in Sarawak was carried out in the year 2015, that was one year after it was endorsed, or the blessings given by this august House in 2014.

Since then, there has been a significant increase in the population and number of voters. Especially when eligible voters were reduced from 21 to 18. This again justifies the need for the creation of new constituencies to ensure that representation in this Dewan Undangan Negeri remains fair and reflects the current situation on the ground. Upon passing of this Bill, the new Ordinance shall come into force on a date to be appointed by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri and the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Ordinance, 2014, shall be repealed.

The new composition will be implemented in time for the next state election, *Insyah-Allah*, during which voters will elect 99 representatives to this Dewan. I firmly believe that this Bill is both timely and essential with our population steadily growing, with new townships emerging and the needs of our communities evolving. This change ensures that the Dewan remains responsive, relevant and ready to serve every corner of our beloved state with greater efficiency and inclusivity. With that, Tuan Speaker, I beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Kakus to second.

Menteri di Jabatan Premier; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.60 Kakus (YB Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai): I beg to second.

Tuan Speaker: Thank you. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat. Now, I shall call upon all members of this august House to debate on the Second Reading of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, under Standing Order 31(8), I hereby limit Member's speeches to a maximum of 15 minutes. I call upon Honourable Member for Balingian.

YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi: Tuan Speaker, Honourable Member, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate. Sir, first of all, on behalf of the people in Balingian constituency, we wish to extend our condolences to the Right Honourable Premier on the passing of his beloved wife, the late Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang, recently. Truly, this great loss is deeply felt by the people of Sarawak. I rise today to express my strong support for the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, a timely and constitutionally sound initiative aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and the fairness of representation in this honourable House.

This Bill is more than just a matter of redrawing electoral lines; it touches the core of our democratic system. The right of every Sarawakian to be fairly and effectively represented in this legislative chamber.

First, addressing voters' imbalance. Tuan Speaker, there exists a significant disparity in the number of voters between densely populated and sparsely populated constituencies across Sarawak. Some urban and semi-urban constituencies have tens of thousands of voters, while others, often in the rural areas, have only a fraction of that number. Yet, both return to one elected representative.

This creates a distortion in our democratic framework and goes against the fundamental principles of one person, one vote, one value, one value. Through this Bill, we aim to realign our state constituencies to ensure more equitable representation and uphold the democratic rights of all Sarawakians.

Second, responding to demographic and electoral growth. Sarawak's population has been growing steadily, and urban development continues to accelerate. Each year, approximately 40,000 students sit for the *Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia* or SPM examination and many of them will become automatically registered voters when they turn 18 the following year. Without timely re-delineation, these newly eligible voters will further congest constituencies that are already overburdened. The proposed increase in seats will help distribute representation more evenly and ensure that no waste is diluted in our democratic process.

Third, enhancing administrative efficiency. Tuan Speaker, we must also consider the geographic and administrative realities of Sarawak. Some constituencies, particularly in the interior, cover vast and challenging terrains. In contrast, constituencies in vast developing areas are dense and increasingly difficult for a single ADUN to manage effectively. By adjusting the number and the boundaries of the constituencies, we improve the efficiency of the constituency services, development planning and local governance. Importantly, I must emphasize that the increase in the state seats proposed under the Bill is confined strictly within the boundaries of the existing 31 parliamentary constituencies in Sarawak. This means no increase in Parliament seats, only better representation at the state level.

Fourth, fulfilling our constituency and legislative obligations. Tuan Speaker, the legal foundation for this Bill is clearly provided under the Sarawak State Constitution. Article 14(1)(b) states, "*The Dewan Undangan Negeri shall consist of such number of elected members as the legislature may by law prescribe, elected in such manner as may be provided by Federal or State Law*". Article 14(2) adds, "*Until the Legislature otherwise prescribe, the number of elected members shall be forty-eight*".

This means that the number of elected members in this Assembly is not fixed by the Constitution itself, but determined by the State Legislature, which can be amended by this House, as such, to increase the number of members, we do not need to amend the State Constitution. We

need only to amend the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Ordinance, 2014 [Cap. 70], which currently provides for 82 elected members.

The last time the Ordinance was amended was in 2014, when the number of DUN seats increased from 71 to 82. And this follows a long-standing legislative tradition. In 1985, we increased the number of seats from 48 to 56. In 1995, from 56 to 62. In 2005, from 62 to 71. And in 2014, from 71 to 82. Each change was made through legislation passed by this assembly, a process that is both legitimate and consistent with the constitution.

Fifth, strengthening democracy and public confidence. Tuan Speaker, we must also consider the broader democratic impact. A re-delineation exercise that is transparent, fair and constitutionally grounded will restore and reinforce public trust in our electoral system. It will protect against allegations of unfairness or political manipulation and demonstrate that our democratic institutions are functioning as they should in the interest of the people. When voters feel fairly represented, they are more engaged and confident with their government and that leads to greater political stability and legitimacy.

Tuan Speaker, the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Membership Composition) Bill, 2025, is a necessary and forward-looking measure. It is not about gaining political advantage. It is about keeping pace with Sarawak's development, respecting our constitutional mandate, and ensuring that every Sarawakian young or old, rural or urban is equally represented in this House. With that, I beg to support the Sarawak Legislative Assembly (Membership Composition) Bill, 2025. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Bukit Assek.

YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek: Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

On behalf of the people of N.51 Bukit Assek, I extend our heartfelt condolences to YAB Premier and his family of the passing of Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, which proposes to increase the number of elected members in this honourable House from 82 to 99.

This Bill is timely and necessary, and it is not just about increasing numbers, it is about enhancing representation, responding to demographic realities, and ensuring every Sarawakian has a voice in this legislature.

Population Growth & Electoral Expansion

Tuan Speaker, in the 2021 Sarawak State Election, we had 1,252,014 registered voters. After the implementation of Undi18 and automatic voter registration in early 2022, the number rose dramatically to 2,008,347 registered voters in January 2025 according to the data of the Malaysia Election Commission, a near 60% increase. This Bill answers a basic democratic principle and that is representation must grow alongside the population. With such a massive increase in voters, maintaining the current 82-seat configuration will dilute the effectiveness of representation, especially in rapid urbanizing or vast rural constituencies. By increasing the seats to 99, we are acknowledging the realities on the ground and ensuring that every Sarawakian voice has a better chance to be heard in this chamber.

Ensuring Effective & Responsive Representation

Tuan Speaker, the current 82 seats were introduced in 2014, more than a decade ago. Since then, the needs of the people, the volume of constituency work, and the complexity of policy matters have all grown.

Tuan Speaker, many State Assemblyman in large or densely populated constituencies are overstretched. When one ADUN has to cover tens of thousands of voters across scattered areas, it becomes harder to engage meaningfully with every community. This Bill ensures that our people are not only represented but are well represented. It brings governance closer to the people and helps ensure constituency service delivery remains efficient, timely, and people centric.

Pace of Development Requires Broader Representation

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is marching forward. With our push towards the digital economy, green energy, carbon trading, and regional economic corridors, development is no longer confined to urban centers. Remote areas that were once considered too inaccessible are now at the heart of infrastructure planning, education reform, healthcare delivery, and economic growth. But development without representation risks being uneven and unsustainable. Expanding our legislative body allows us to tailor representation more effectively, especially in underdeveloped and geographically challenging areas. It enables a stronger voice for the needs of different regions and communities, whether you are in rural, coastal, highland, or urban.

Legal Justification and Legislative Simplicity

Tuan Speaker, this Bill does not amend the state constituencies, the State Constitution. It merely repeals and replaces the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Ordinance, 2014, [Chapter 70], under the powers granted by Article 14(1)(b) and 14(2) of our Constitution. We are well within our rights, and indeed, our responsibility as legislators to update the compositions of this House in response to the evolving realities of our state. Sarawak future depends on our ability to evolve with the times. This Bill is about putting people first. It is about ensuring no community is left unheard, and no citizen feels unrepresented. I fully support the Bill and urge all Honourable Members of this House to do the same, and in doing so, support the people of Sarawak. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tamin.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Tuan Speaker, thank you for granting me the opportunity to participate in this important debate on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

Without of further transit, Tuan Speaker, I would like to extend our deepest and heartfelt condolence to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak on the passing of his beloved wife, Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang (Puan Seri). Our thoughts and prayer are with Yang Amat Berhormat Premier and his family during this time of sorrow. May God grant her soul eternal peace. From all of us in the Tamin constituency, we share in your grief and offer our unwavering support and sympathy in this difficult time.

Tuan Speaker, I rise in full support of this Bill, which seeks to increase the number of elected members in this honourable august House from 82 to 99, as provided under Article 14(1)(b) and 14(2) of the Sarawak State Constitution.

Legal and Constitutional Justification

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is legally sound and constitutionally grounded. Article 14A(b), (1)(b) clearly empowers this Legislature to determine the number of elected Member. The last such increase was in 2024. Since then, Sarawak has seen rapid, seen the rapid demographic and socio-economic change. This Bill, thus, this Bill is timely, necessary, and fully aligned with our constitutional duty to ensure that fair and effective representation for the *rakyat*.

Alignment with the MA63 and Equitable Development

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is not just an administrative exercise. It is a long-awaited move aligned with the principle of equitable development, effective governance, and the spirit of the Malaysia Agreement 1963 or MA63.

The addition of 17 state seat represents a critical recalibration of our democratic structure. I sincerely hope that a corresponding increase in parliamentary seat for Sarawak will soon be tabled in the Dewan Negara, Dewan Rakyat. As a founding partner in the Federation of Malaysia, Sarawak deserves fair and proportionate representation—not just in this august House, but also in Parliament. This is not merely about numbers—it is about constitutional justice and regional balance.

Population Growth and Constituency Challenges

Tuan Speaker, since the 2014 redeliberation exercise, Sarawak has experienced:

- (a) Significant population growth, especially in rural areas;
- (b) Accelerated infrastructure and economic development under the leadership of our YAB Premier and the GPS Government;
- (c) And the resulting strain on service delivery across the vast and often remote constituency.

Let me illustrate this way, this way my constituency, Tamin, which spans over 3,470 square kilometres and serves more than 23,000 voters, including many in rugged and hard-to-reach areas. Likewise, the Selangau parliamentary constituency now cover over 9,193 km² and encompasses more than 45,700 voters, making effective representation and delivery services increasingly challenging.

Proposals For New Seats in Tamin and Selangau Area

Tuan Speaker, to ensure that the new DUN, 17 DUN seat distributed fairly, I would like to highlight several proposals submitted by Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) through the GPS redeliberation committee namely:

- (a) Bukit Kelakang – carved from Bukit Begunan & Simanggang;
- (b) Mapai / Sibujaya – carved from Ngemah & Dudong;
- (c) Bukit Arip – carved from Tamin & Kakus;
- (d) Tubau – carved from Murum & Kakus;
- (e) Pengejau – carved from Bekenu & Marudi;
- (f) Medamit – carved from Batu Danau;
- (g) Anau – carved from Jepak & Kakus; and
- (h) Sungai Plan – carved from Samalaju

So, this proposal, in case, in the future, also I would like to request the one parliamentary seat to be held in Selangau, we name that namely Bukti Buan Parliamentary – carved from existing Kakus and Tamin within Selangau parliamentary boundary.

These proposals are based on:

- (a) Voter distribution;
- (b) Geographical remoteness;
- (c) The need for improved representation and development planning.

Improved Representation Means Better Governance

Tuan Speaker, the increase in elected representative will ensure:

- (a) A more equitable voice for all community;
- (b) Better outreach and service delivery, especially in the rural areas of Sarawak;
- (c) Strong democratic accountability and local empowerment.

This initiative directly supports the objective of Sarawak Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, this, this it is more than a legislative amendment—it is a reaffirmation of our shared destiny in Sarawak. Let this House be a mirror of our people's voices, from the hills of Ulu Baram to the shores of Tanjung Datu, Tanjung Manis. And to quote Abraham Lincoln, "*the ballot is stronger than the bullet*".

Today, we choose to strengthen the voices behind that ballot. Let us take this bold step forward to ensure that no *kampung*, no *rumah panjang*, no community is left behind. For that Tuan Speaker, I beg to support the *Rang Undang-Undang dibentangkan pada hari ini*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Murum.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Good morning, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam Segulai Sejalai.

Thank you for the honour and the opportunity given to debate on Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, tabled by Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya for the second reading.

My heartfelt, condolences and deepest sympathy to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier and his family on the recent loss of his beloved wife, her passing is a great loss to all Sarawakian, and my thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Tuan Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support for the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. This Bill is a strategic and vital step towards strengthening our legislative framework, promoting balanced development, and ensuring fair representation for all communities across Sarawak.

The Bill proposes to increase the number of elected members in the Dewan Undangan Negeri from 82 to 99. This is more than a mere numerical adjustment, it is a significant enhancement of our democratic process. By expanding the assembly, we are providing more voices, perspectives, and diverse opinions, ultimately fostering more inclusive decision making that benefits our entire community.

The provisions are firmly anchored in our constitutional framework, specifically Article 14(1)(b) of the Sarawak Constitution, which mandates the composition of the Sarawak Legislative Assembly. This Bill ensures full compliance with that constitutional requirement, reinforcing the rule of law and the integrity of our governance.

Tuan Speaker, we must consider the vast geographical landscape of Sarawak. Our state encompasses sprawling rural areas that remain sparsely populated yet rich in cultural heritage, and natural resources. Historically, these rural communities have faced challenges in voicing their needs within the legislative process, often overshadowed by densely populated urban centres.

The increase from 82 to 99 members aims to address this disparity. By expanding the assembly, we ensure that even remote and less populated areas are adequately represented. These fosters balanced development enabling policies that uplift rural communities, improve infrastructure, and promote sustainable growth aligned with our vision of inclusive progress for all Sarawakians.

Tuan Speaker, we must also acknowledge the demographic shifts brought about by recent policy reforms, most notably, the lowering of the voting age to 18, and the implementation of automatic voter registration. These measures have led to a substantial increase in eligible voters, especially among youth and first-time voters across Sarawak.

This growing voter base necessitates a corresponding increase in elected representatives to truly reflect the people's will. With more voters, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas, it is vital that our legislative body expands to ensure fair and effective representation. This guarantees that every voice, regardless of age or location is heard and contributes to shaping our state's future.

Moreover, this increase supports the principles of democratic fairness. It prevents over concentration of influence in a few densely populated areas and promotes equitable distribution of legislative resources and attention.

Tuan Speaker, a more representative legislative body enables us to address local needs more effectively. Greater diversity in our assembly leads to more comprehensive policies that reflect the varied interests of Sarawak's diverse communities, urban, rural, young, and old.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, the proposed increase in Dewan Undangan Negeri members is both timely and necessary. It aligns with our constitutional obligations, adapts to demographic realities, and promotes balanced development across Sarawak. Importantly, it ensures that rural communities are not left behind and that the voices of our young electorate are heard and represented.

I urge all the members of this august House to support this Bill as it paves the way for a more inclusive, balanced and progressive Sarawak, one where every community, whether rural or urban, is empowered and give a voice. With that, Murum beg to support the motion for the passage of this Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. May God continue to bless Sarawak. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Daro.

YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu Tuan Speaker, izinkan saya mewakili rakyat N.43 Daro, ingin menzahirkan rasa penuh dukacita mengucapkan takziah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier dan ahli keluarga di atas kembalinya isteri dan bonda tercinta Allahyarhamah Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang ke rahmatullah pada 23 Jun 2025 yang lepas. Semoga Allah SWT mencucuri rahmat ke atas Allayarhamah.

Assalamualaikum W.B.T, Salam Sejahtera, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terima kasih sekali lagi, Tuan Speaker, kerana telah juga memberi peluang kepada saya untuk turut sama-sama mengambil bahagian dalam membahas *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, yang telah dibentangkan oleh Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan, dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.15 Asajaya, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

Tuan Speaker, komposisi keanggotaan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak yang sedia ada sekarang telah pun diluluskan pada 11 November 2014 di Dewan yang mulia ini. Dengan kelulusan tersebut maka pihak Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR) Malaysia telah melaksanakan kajian persempadanan semula kawasan pilihan raya Dewan Undangan Negeri pada tahun 2015 di mana hasil daripada kajian tersebut SPR telah mewujudkan sebanyak 11 kawasan Dewan Undangan

Negeri yang baharu menjadikan jumlah keseluruhannya adalah 82 kawasan. Persempadanan Kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri yang baharu ini telah pun digunakan dalam Pilihan Raya Negeri Ke-11 iaitu pada tahun 2016.

Tuan Speaker, berdasarkan Perlembagaan Malaysia, Fasa (2), Perkara 113, urusan kajian semula persempadanan dibuat oleh SPR selepas selang tempoh lapan tahun. Bagi kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak, lat lapan tahun sudah pun berakhir pada tahun 2023. Ini bermakna adalah sewajarnya komposisi Keanggotaan Dewan Undangan Sarawak ditambah. Mengikut rekod-rekod yang terdahulu, komposisi keanggotaan Dewan Undangan Negeri sebelum ini dilakukan dalam tempoh lapan tahun dan yang paling lama adalah sembilan tahun, tetapi apa yang dilakukan kali ini adalah setelah hampir 11 tahun sejak tahun 2014.

Tuan Speaker, semenjak kelulusan pertambahan komposisi keanggotaan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak pada tahun 2014 serta pelaksanaan persempadanan semula kawasan pilihan raya Dewan Undangan Negeri pada Pilihan Raya Negeri Ke-11 pada tahun 2016 sehingga sekarang, didapati terlalu banyak perubahan yang telah berlaku sepanjang tempoh tersebut, terutamanya melibatkan pertambahan bilangan pengundi apabila kerajaan meluluskan pelaksanaan dasar umur layak mengundi diturunkan kepada 18 tahun selain daripada pendaftaran pengundi secara automatik.

Selain itu, perubahan dari segi faktor geografi dan demografi turut telah mengubah pola taburan pengundi di mana nampak sangat perbezaan dari segi jumlah pengundi khususnya di antara kawasan bandar dan luar bandar. Dengan pelaksanaan undi 18 pada tahun 2022 dan pendaftaran secara automatik umpamanya, telah meningkatkan jumlah pengundi Malaysia kepada 20.55 juta pertambahan sebanyak 5.61 juta berbanding hanya terdapat 14.94 juta pengundi berdaftar pada tahun 2018.

Daripada jumlah tersebut, Sarawak mencatat ketiga tertinggi jumlah pengundi baharu iaitu pertambahan sebanyak 665,543 dan mengikut pendaftar pemilih yang diwartakan pada 21 Mei 2025, Sarawak mencatat bilangan pengundi sebanyak 2,015,859. Melihat kepada senario ini, maka sewajarnya pertambahan kerusi Dewan Undangan Negeri dibuat susulan pertambahan penduduk dan keluasan kawasan pilihan raya, khususnya di pedalaman yang mana boleh menyukarkan rakyat ataupun menyukarkan wakil rakyat untuk memberi perkhidmatan yang terbaik.

Oleh itu, Tuan Speaker, meskipun kuasa untuk meluluskan Rang Undang-Undang ini tidak memerlukan dua pertiga Dewan, Ahli Dewan seperti yang termaktub di bawah Perkara 14(1)(b) Perlembagaan Negeri Sarawak, namun saya berpendapat pembentangan Rang Undang-Undang ini adalah sewajarnya disokong sebulat suara oleh semua Ahli Yang Berhormat di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini sebagai tanda solidariti dan komitmen kita untuk memastikan rakyat ataupun Sarawak yang kita sayangi ini akan terus maju makmur. Dengan kelulusan Rang Undang-Undang ini juga membolehkan SPR menjalankan kajian persempadanan baharu khususnya bagi kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak secepat yang mungkin.

Berdasarkan Perlembagaan Malaysia, Perkara 113, Perjalanan Pilihan Raya (2)(i) Tertakluk kepada Perenggan (ii), Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya hendaklah dari semasa ke semasa sebagaimana yang difikirkan perlu, mengkaji semua pembahagian Persekutuan dan Negeri-Negeri kepada bahagian pilihan raya dan mengesyorkan apa-apa perubahan mengenainya yang difikirkan perlu supaya dipatuhi peruntukan yang terkandung dalam Jadual Ke-13 dan kajian semula bahagian-bahagian pilihan raya yang maksud pilihan raya kawasan Dewan-Dewan Undangan hendaklah dijalankan pada masa yang sama dengan kajian semula bahagian-bahagian pilihan raya bagi maksud pilihan raya kawasan Dewan Rakyat.

Oleh itu, saya ingin mencadangkan supaya penambahan kerusi Parlimen khususnya bagi Sarawak dan Sabah ditambah kepada satu pertiga daripada jumlah keseluruhan kerusi Parlimen agar selaras dengan MA63 supaya hak dan keistimewaan Sarawak dan Sabah sebagai rakan membentuk Malaysia sepertimana yang termaktub dalam Perlembagaan terjaga dan terpelihara.

Tuan Speaker, kita sedia maklum kuasa untuk melaksanakan persempadanan semula kawasan pilihan raya adalah di bawah bidang kuasa SPR. Sebagai sebuah badan yang bebas dan berkecuali akan menentukan jumlah kawasan yang difikirkan perlu berdasarkan keperluan dan perkembangan semasa dan saya percaya mereka mempunyai kriteria-kriteria serta prosedur-prosedur yang tertentu dalam menentukan persempadanan semula. Walau bagaimanapun, perlu diingatkan bahawa persempadanan semula kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri dalam konteks Sarawak tidak dapat bersandarkan kepada prinsip satu orang satu undi atau bersandarkan kepada jumlah pengundi yang ramai atau sedikit semata-mata kerana kawasannya yang amat luas. Oleh itu, dalam konteks negeri Sarawak kajian persempadanan semula perlu mengambil kira faktor keluasan, geografi, logistik dan struktur pentadbiran negeri yang sekarang telah mempunyai 12 bahagian dan 45 buah daerah.

Kesukaran wakil rakyat untuk memberi perkhidmatan yang terbaik disebabkan kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri terlalu besar serta melibatkan beberapa bahagian dan daerah perlu dikaji. Bagi kawasan DUN N.43 Daro yang saya wakili sekarang umpamanya, merangkumi tiga buah bahagian iaitu, Bahagian Mukah, Sibul dan Sarikei dan empat buah daerah iaitu, Daerah Daro, Matu, Sibul dan Meradong. Untuk menjalankan tanggungjawab dan tugas sebagai wakil rakyat bagi kebanyakan kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri di Sarawak khususnya di kawasan luar bandar amatlah mencabar serta memerlukan masa yang panjang untuk memberi perkhidmatan kepada rakyat yang diwakili. Di samping itu, dalam usaha membawa pembangunan di luar bandar juga bukannya mudah kerana kebanyakan kawasan masih belum mempunyai akses dan perhubungan serta infrastruktur yang baik. Sebagai wakil rakyat yang bertanggungjawab kita tidak dapat meniadakan hak rakyat minoriti yang tinggal di luar bandar untuk menikmati kemudahan asas yang baik seperti bekalan elektrik, bekalan air bersih, jalan raya, telekomunikasi dan lain-lain lagi seperti mana di kawasan bandar.

Di kawasan bandar meskipun pengundinya ramai tetapi agak mudah untuk bertemu atau berjumpa dengan rakyat berbanding dengan kawasan luar bandar yang memerlukan masa beberapa hari perjalanan untuk dapat berjumpa mereka. Oleh itu, pertambahan kerusi Dewan Undangan Negeri adalah perlu bukan sahaja selaras dengan amalan demokrasi yang subur tetapi membolehkan kawasan khususnya di luar bandar yang mempunyai kawasan yang luas dapat diwakili dengan adil dan efektif.

Tuan Speaker, selain itu, nama-nama kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri baharu yang dicadangkan oleh SPR perlulah dibuat dengan teliti. Pandangan dan pendapat rakyat di kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri tersebut perlu diperolehi. Ini bagi mengelakkan sensitiviti dalam kalangan rakyat tempatan. Nama yang dicadangkan atau dipilih hendaklah sesuai dalam konteks negeri Sarawak yang terdiri daripada pelbagai etnik, bahasa dan budaya.

Tuan Speaker, aspek pembangunan ekonomi juga perlu diambil kira. Persempadanan semula populasi selalunya menghadapi halangan sistematik kepada peluang ekonomi, memperbesarkan lagi putaran kemiskinan dan menyisihkan sebahagian rakyat khususnya di luar bandar. Kalau tumpuan hanya diberi kepada rakyat di kawasan bandar sahaja kemungkinan tumpuan kepada pembangunan hanya berpusat di bandar manakala rakyat di luar bandar termasuk golongan etnik yang minoriti akan terus terpinggir. Oleh itu, elakkan pendekatan seolah-olah mendiskriminasikan rakyat bandar dan luar bandar. Sekiranya ini berlaku ianya boleh melemahkan keyakinan dan menjejaskan perpaduan rakyat yang terdiri daripada pelbagai etnik di mana di antaranya berada di kawasan-kawasan tertentu sahaja.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai penutup, saya ingin merakamkan ucapan tahniah dan syabas kepada Kerajaan Sarawak yang telah mengambil langkah yang tepat dalam mengusulkan Rang Undang-Undang ini sebagai tanda komitmen serta kesungguhan kerajaan GPS membawa Sarawak ke arah yang lebih maju makmur dan progresif.

Tuan Speaker, *bepanggai ke jaku, ya ke udah dibantai ke aku nya tadi, ditu aku pengari ari sitak DUN N.43 Daro nyukung enggau penuh ati Rang Undang-undang Dewan Undangan Negeri*

(Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025 dilulus ulih bala kaban kunsil ba Dewan ditu. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Tebedu.

YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada: Tuan Speaker, terima kasih kerana memberi laluan kepada saya, mewakili N.21 Tebedu untuk membahaskan *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, di Dewan yang mulia ini. Before I proceed further, I must extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak on the passing of his beloved wife. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time of sorrow. May you find strength in the love and support that surround you. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Syabas dan tahniah kepada Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya kerana berjaya membentangkan Rang Undang-Undang tersebut.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is a huge state, where geography, ethnicity and socio-economic conditions vary widely. Thus, governance must evolve in tandem with the population's growth and changing needs. One crucial step in this direction is the proposal to increase the number of seats in the Sarawak Legislative Assembly. This move brings with it several significant benefits, particularly in the areas of representation, governance, development and political stability. The move to increase the membership from the current 82 members to 99 members are reasonable and fully justified and must be fully supported by all members of this august House. The benefits and justifications are as follows:

(a) Improving Representation of Diverse Communities

Sarawak is home to a multi-ethnic population including Iban, Malays, Chinese, Bidayuh, Melanau, Orang Ulu and many more indigenous groups and communities of Sarawak has grown steadily. The total number of registered voters is growing too. Based on the feedback given by the SPR, there are 979,796 voters during the 2011 PRN, 1.138650 million registered voters for 2016 PRN and 1.252014 registered voters for 2021 PRN and currently the total stand at 2.015859 voters. These groups are spread across vast and often remote areas, making equitable representation a real challenge. Increasing the number of legislative seats would allow more constituencies to be created, giving smaller or previously underrepresented communities a stronger voice in this Assembly. This ensures laws and policies are more reflective of the state's diverse population and their specific needs.

(b) Enhancing Accessibility and Responsiveness of the Government of Sarawak

With more elected representatives, constituents will have better access to their assemblyman. This allows for more direct engagement with their leaders, enabling faster response to local issues such as infrastructure development, education, healthcare and environmental concerns. In rural areas like my constituency, N.21 Tebedu, where communities often feel disconnected from state level governance, having a nearby representative can bridge this gap effectively.

(c) Balanced Development and Resource Allocation for All Constituencies

Sarawak's development has not been uniform, with rural and interior regions often lagging behind urban centers like Kuching, Miri, Bintulu and Sibul. By increasing the number of seats, there can be more targeted development plans tailored to the specific needs of each constituency. This helps to ensure a more balanced allocation of resources, reducing regional inequalities and boosting overall economic growth in line with our Sarawak aspiration to achieve a developed status by 2030 as envisaged in our PCDS 2020.

(d) Strengthening of Democracy and Political Stability

Expanding the legislative assembly opens up opportunities for new leaders and political parties to emerge, thereby strengthening democratic processes. It encourages healthy competition, accountability and political innovation. Additionally, by ensuring that no group feels politically marginalized, the move to increase the composition from 82 to 99 members helps maintain social harmony and political stability in this beloved State of Sarawak.

(e) Future Proofing Governance

Sarawak's population and economy are both projected to grow. Anticipating future demands by increasing legislative seats now is a forward-looking strategy that prepares Sarawak for more complex governance challenges ahead. It provides the institutional capacity to manage a larger, more urbanized and more connected population in the years to come.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, increasing the number of seats in the Sarawak Legislative Assembly is not and must not be seen just a matter of administrative expansion. It is a necessary step towards more inclusive, efficient and equitable governance. By increasing representation, ensuring better access to elected leaders, balancing development and enhancing democratic participation, this move can lay a very strong foundation for Sarawak's socio-economic progress and political unity. As Sarawak continue to assert its unique identity within Malaysia, a more robust and systematic legislative framework will help to unlock the full potential of Sarawak.

With these justifications, Tuan Speaker, I hereby and Tebedu hereby beg to support the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. Thank you much.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Lingga.

YB Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam Sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Tuan Speaker, sebelum memulakan perbahasan, di kesempatan ini, mewakili rakyat di kawasan DUN N.28 Lingga, dukacitanya, kami ingin menzahirkan ucapan takziah kepada YAB Premier di atas pemergian isteri dan bonda tercinta, Allahyarhamah Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang. Kami doakan beliau tenang di sana dan ditempatkan di kalangan orang yang beriman dan beramal soleh.

Tuan Speaker, terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan jutaan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan yang penuh bermakna dan bakal mengukir sejarah negeri Sarawak iaitu *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, yang telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan merangkap ADUN N.15 Asajaya.

Tuan Speaker, seperti hujahan yang dikongsikan oleh rakan seperjuangan GPS, *Members of Backbenchers*, kita sudah pun faham tujuan utama perbahasan pada hari ini adalah untuk menambah bilangan Ahli-ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak daripada 82 orang kepada 99 orang. It is in accordance with the Federal Constitution, Article 113(2)(ii), which stated that after an interval of over eight years, the state can request the Election Commission for a review and to add number of seats in the Dewan Undangan Negeri. The last exercise done for Sarawak was in 2015, that is about 10 years ago.

Maka, Tuan Speaker, bangkit saya pada hari ini bukan hanya meminta sokongan rang undang-undang tersebut, tetapi malah menuntut ke atasnya. Ini adalah kerana *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, ini bukan alat politik, ia adalah kewajipan perlembagaan, keperluan demokrasi, dan keperluan pembangunan. Rang undang-undang untuk menambah keanggotaan Dewan Undangan Negeri daripada 82 kepada 99 ahli yang dipilih ini bukanlah cadangan yang tidak rasional. Ia adalah satu tindakan strategik tindak balas yang telah

lama tertunggak kepada realiti yang telah pun tiba dan berlangsung lebih cepat daripada yang kita boleh perundangkan.

Nombor Tidak Pernah Berbohong

Tuan Speaker, apabila jumlah semasa 82 ahli ditetapkan pada 2014, Sarawak mempunyai lebih 1.1 juta pemilih berdaftar. Pada tahun 2025, dijangkakan jumlah pemilih berdaftar di negeri Sarawak akan mencapai lebih daripada 2 juta (setakat Januari 2025) ini sudah bulan 7 iaitu peningkatan hampir 100% pengundi dalam masa lebih sedekad sahaja terutamanya di kawasan separa bandar dan luar bandar.

Struktur DUN, 82 kerusi masih digunakan sejak 2015, sedangkan beban pekerjaan dan keperluan pengundian telah berubah secara radikal dalam 10 tahun terakhir. Ketidakeimbangan dalam nisbah pengundi kepada wakil rakyat di kawasan pilihan raya tertentu mewujudkan ketidaksamaan dalam timbang berat demokrasi.

Peningkatan mendadak pengundi dan perubahan taburan penduduk mencetuskan beberapa implikasi utama iaitu:

- (a) Jurang representasi antara DUN luar bandar dan bandar kini melebar – contoh, luar bandar kekurangan ADUN yang mampu memberi tumpuan penuh kepada isu mikro masyarakat; dan
- (b) Tekanan infrastruktur dan perkhidmatan asas memacakkan kepentingan wakil yang lebih ramai terutama di kawasan pelosok negeri seperti Baleh, Belaga, Kapit, dan Telang Usan.

Oleh itu, penambahan 17 kerusi baharu adalah langkah strategik yang selari dengan keadaan semasa, untuk memastikan sistem perwakilan kembali adil, responsif, dan inklusif.

Demokrasi Berkualiti Memerlukan Wakil yang Inklusif

Tuan Speaker, demokrasi sejati tidak hanya bergantung kepada frekuensi pilihan raya. Ia dinilai daripada siapa yang diberi peluang untuk menjadi sebahagian daripada sistem perwakilan. Democracy begins with representation. But democracy thrives with inclusivity. Penambahan kerusi membolehkan:

- (a) Penyertaan lebih ramai anak muda dan wanita;
- (b) Wakil minoriti dari kawasan adat dan komuniti luar bandar dan juga; dan
- (c) Ruang untuk pemimpin akar umbi (orang tempatan lokal) yang lebih memahami denyut nadi rakyat setempat.

As we know, many formulas have been tried to meet the people requests, but at the end of the day it is still their *wakil rakyat* presence that the people prefer at their locality, and also as often as possible.

Pembangunan Pantas Memerlukan Perwakilan Responsif

Tuan Speaker, menurut laporan Astro Awani pada Disember 2024, Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak mengulas KDNK Sarawak diunjurkan meningkat melebihi 5% pada tahun 2025. Pada tahun 2023, KDNK per kapita Sarawak adalah RM72,411, iaitu melebihi KDNK nasional sebanyak RM54,612. Dengan itu, terbuhtinya Sarawak berada di landasan yang tepat untuk mencapai KDNK RM282 bilion menjelang 2030.

Dengan perkembangan ekonomi yang pesat, rakyat Sarawak dapat melihat sendiri pembangunan yang dibina dan dijana sendiri oleh Kerajaan Negeri seperti jambatan baharu, jalan baharu, bandar baharu, rumah baharu, sempadan yang diperluaskan, industri berkembang pesat—Sarawak bukan lagi sempadan yang berselerak. Sarawak adalah zon ekonomi yang dinamik dengan

keperluan yang kompleks dan pesat berkembang. Maka, jika Sarawak dan kami tidak meningkatkan lebar jalur perundangan kami, kami berisiko lumpuh perundangan.

Representation without proximity is representation in name only. When one assemblyman is expected to manage areas bigger than some entire peninsular states, accountability dies, and bureaucracy thrives.

Democracy is an Investment, Not an Expense

Tuan Speaker, democracy is an investment, not an expense. The Bill acknowledges financial costs, but these are long-term strategic investments. Shall I say, democracy is an investment, not an expense. What we're discussing here is a long-term strategic investment in Sarawak's future. The developmental dividends that spring from better governance will far outweigh the administrative costs, which, I might add, are phased and manageable under Sarawak's current strong fiscal position.

Let's be crystal clear; governance costs money. But bad governance costs far more. Under-representation leads to mismanaged development, duplicated projects and bureaucratic wastage; all of which are far more expensive in the long run. This Ordinance addresses that head-on. Some say it's just adding seats. But let's look at the numbers. This Bill only adds 17 new seats: an increase of just over 20% in members. Meanwhile, our voter population has doubled; a 100% increase. So, if cost is the real concern, I shall ask myself, what's more wasteful? Slightly more representatives or 82 overburdened ADUNs stretched to their breaking point, struggling to deliver efficient governance?

That's not leadership. That's mismanagement disguised as toughness. We don't ask doctors to treat 10,000 patients each; we hire more doctors. We don't ask one firefighter to manage ten districts; we stationed more. This logic of "*just work harder*" only leads to burnout, diluted effectiveness and unserved constituents. Let's stop romanticizing overwork and start investing in functional governance.

This larger Dewan isn't an extravagance; it's a crucial mechanism of oversight. It's about ensuring public funds are scrutinized with greater diligence, giving a stronger voice to the rural communities and leaving no constituency behind in our pursuit of progress. More representation means more targeted development planning and a sharper focus on resource allocation. Increased oversight enhances transparency and acts as a vital check on potential imbalances in executive power.

To avoid these changes with cost concern are not fiscal discipline, but (fiscal recklessness), "*Penny wise, pound foolish*" as the saying goes. I ask to consider, what is the *real* cost here? It is rural constituencies going decades without proper representation. It is a single ADUN trying to juggle the needs of 200 scattered villages because, we, in this House, refused to modernize our representational structure. And yet, we sit here in comfort, potentially denying these communities their voice simply to avoid the cost of another seat?

This is not bloated politics; it is rectifying a systemic imbalance, ensuring that all Sarawakians have a fair and effective voice in their government. Let's invest in our democracy, let's invest in our future, and let's support this Bill.

MA63 Autonomy

Tuan Speaker and Honourable Members, let us never forget a fundamental truth. We are not just any state, we are Sarawak, one of the three founding partners of this nation. The Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) is not merely a historical footnote relegated to history books. It is a sacred legal covenant; an agreement that guaranteed Sarawak distinct status, autonomous governance, and internal self-determination. It is the very bedrock upon which Malaysia was built.

And what precisely does the MA63 guarantee us as a founding partner? It guarantees political autonomy. Legislative independence. The unequivocal right to determine our own internal composition and representation. Therefore, when this Dewan seeks to increase its number of elected members, we are not begging for Federal permission, hat in hand. We are exercising a right that is enshrined in the very foundation of Malaysia's formation. We are acting within the bounds of our inherent authority.

Look around us. With the establishment of PETROS, DBOS, and State Immigration's autonomy, Sarawak is no longer merely a state conforming to a pre-set mould. It is proudly reasserting its distinct identity as an equal partner in this Federation. We are taking control of our own destiny. But let us know, greater autonomy requires greater internal capacity. More powers necessarily demand more lawmakers. More revenue streams demand more robust oversight. More autonomy, in its purest form, calls for a stronger, broader, and more representative voice right here in this Dewan.

If we can rightfully demand 20% of oil royalty under the MA63, surely, we can and indeed, we must accept 17 more voices in this very House to help responsibly steward that responsibility. This is not about greed; it is about governance. It is about fulfilling our duty to the people of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, to conclude, this Bill is the backbone of a stronger Sarawak. To those who fear this Bill, we would say, *"Don't fear more voices. Fear the silence of the unheard. Don't fear more representation. Fear a system that leaves people behind"*. This Bill is not about power, it's about presence. It's not about politicians, it's about people. It's not about control, it's about capacity.

Let it be recorded in history; in 2025, Sarawak did not shrink from its responsibility. It rose. It chose representation over stagnation. Inclusion over fear. Leadership over noise. Support this Bill, for the people, for the future of Sarawak. For Sarawak. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Opar.

YB Encik Billy anak Sujang: Tuan Speaker, terima kasih kerana memberi laluan kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan di Dewan yang mulia ini. Saya mewakili seluruh warga DUN N.1 Opar mengucapkan salam takziah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier atas pemergian isteri tercinta, Allahyarhamah Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang baru-baru ini. Semoga roh Allahyarhamah ditempatkan dalam kalangan orang-orang yang beriman.

Tuan Speaker, izinkan saya untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-Undang Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025, yang mencadangkan peningkatan bilangan anggota yang dipilih di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini daripada 82 kerusi kepada 99 kerusi, iaitu pertambahan sebanyak 17 kerusi baharu ataupun 20.7%. Ini menandakan langkah penting menuju ke hadapan dalam memastikan perwakilan yang berkesan untuk semua rakyat di wilayah Sarawak. Seperti yang dinyatakan dalam Artikel 14(1)(b) Perlembagaan Sarawak, Dewan Undangan Sarawak seharusnya terdiri daripada bilangan anggota yang ditetapkan melalui undang-undang. Pada ketika ini, jumlah kerusi Dewan Undangan Sarawak adalah sebanyak 82 berdasarkan kepada Ordinan Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2014. Dalam konteks pertumbuhan populasi dan keperluan pembangunan yang semakin pesat, adalah wajar untuk kita menambahkan bilangan kerusi sejajar dengan perubahan semasa yang berlaku di Sarawak ini.

Tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan yang juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya kerana telah dengan jayanya membentangkan Rang Undang-Undang Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025, tersebut sebentar tadi.

Tuan Speaker, selain daripada hujah-hujah yang telah pun dibentangkan oleh rakan-rakan daripada GPS sebentar tadi, saya ingin juga menyatakan di sini beberapa justifikasi tambahan menjurus kepada pertambahan kerusi kita pada hari ini.

(a) Mengatasi Pertumbuhan Penduduk dan Pertambahan Pengundi

Antara justifikasi utama untuk penambahan kerusi ini adalah terletak kepada peningkatan yang ketara dalam bilangan pengundi di mana telah berlaku hampir dua kali ganda, terutamanya selepas pelaksanaan undang-undang Undi18 dan juga pendaftaran secara automatik pengundi, yang secara automatik juga mendaftarkan warga negara yang berumur 18 tahun ke atas sebagai layak mengundi.

Dalam beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini, senarai pemilih Sarawak telah menyaksikan satu lonjakan yang sangat dramatik dalam pertambahan bilangan pengundi yang berdaftar. Ini bukan sekadar peningkatan statistik, tetapi satu perubahan asas dalam lanskap demokrasi di Sarawak. Kawasan-kawasan pilihan raya tumpuan seperti Kuching, Miri dan Bintulu telah menjadi terlalu padat, dengan bilangan pengundi jauh melebihi purata bagi setiap kawasan mengundi. Dalam beberapa kes, jurangnya lebih daripada dua kali ganda berbanding dengan kawasan di luar bandar.

Ketidakseimbangan ini telah merosakkan prinsip, "*satu orang, satu undi*". Tanpa membuat persempadanan semula atau menambah kerusi, nilai undi di kawasan bandar menjadi tidak seimbang ataupun tidak sebanding dengan undi di kawasan luar bandar.

Dengan peningkatan bilangan kerusi, kita dapat mengagihkan bilangan pengundi dengan adil bagi satu-satu kawasan yang diwakili oleh wakil rakyat dan dapat mengurangkan beban kepada wakil rakyat sedia ada yang dipilih, serta bagi memastikan rakyat diwakili dengan adil, saksama dan seimbang.

(b) Memastikan Perwakilan Berkesan untuk Semua Komuniti

Sarawak adalah unik dalam kepelbagaian etnik, budaya dan landskap geografinya. Dengan komuniti yang tersebar di kawasan yang luas dan sering kali sukar diakses, terutama sekali di kawasan pedalaman dan luar bandar, adalah penting bahawa setiap komuniti mempunyai suara yang kuat dan boleh diakses di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Beberapa kawasan pilihan raya sedia ada meliputi ratusan kilometer jaraknya untuk diterokai, menjadikannya sukar secara logistik bagi seorang wakil rakyat berkhidmat secara berkesan kepada semua pengundinya.

Dengan mencipta 17 kawasan pilihan raya baharu, kita boleh menggambarkan sempadan yang mencerminkan kumpulan komuniti yang sebenar, liputan yang lebih menyeluruh dan berkesan bagi membolehkan wakil rakyat mengakses dengan mudah dan responsif terhadap isu-isu tempatan.

Peningkatan ini bukan tentang keuntungan politik, tetapi tentang keterangkuman demokratik dalam memastikan tiada warganegara yang tertinggal akibat had pentadbiran dan juga geografi semula jadi di Sarawak.

(c) Menggapai Pembangunan Sosioekonomi Rakyat Sarawak yang Pesat

Sarawak sedang melalui satu tempoh pembangunan yang pesat, terutama sekali di bawah Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 ataupun PCDS 2030 yang sedia ada. Kita sedang menyaksikan antaranya:

- (i) Projek-projek infrastruktur besar-besaran, termasuk jalan raya baharu, jambatan, empangan hidroelektrik, taman industri dan inisiatif ekonomi digital;
- (ii) Populasi bandar dan separa bandar yang semakin meningkat, bersama dengan migrasi dalaman yang ketara akibat peluang pekerjaan dan taraf hidup yang lebih baik; dan
- (iii) Pengembangan dalam pendidikan, penjagaan kesihatan, perumahan dan projek tenaga yang boleh diperbaharui memerlukan pengawasan politik yang kukuh dan kepimpinan di peringkat tempatan.

Dalam konteks transformasi ini, tanggungjawab wakil rakyat yang dipilih telah berkembang melebihi peranan tradisional mereka yang selama ini. Wakil rakyat diharapkan untuk:

- (a) Memudahkan pelaksanaan Pembangunan;
- (b) Berinteraksi dengan agensi persekutuan dan negeri;
- (c) Menjadi pengantara di antara pihak berkepentingan; dan
- (d) Membawa suara akar umbi ke dalam pembentukan dasar kerajaan.

Peningkatan kerusi perundangan akan membolehkan pengkhususan yang lebih besar dan spesifik, penglibatan yang lebih baik dan menyeluruh dan juga respons yang lebih baik terhadap keperluan pembangunan di seluruh wilayah Sarawak yang kita cintai ini. Yang keempat, Tuan Speaker, adalah untuk menyelaras dasar, prinsip, demokrasi dan pertumbuhan masa depan. Ketika kita bergerak ke arah demokrasi yang lebih matang dan penyertaan yang menyeluruh, peningkatan kerusi ini adalah langkah proaktif untuk:

- (a) Bersedia menghadapi pertumbuhan populasi yang lebih besar selepas ini;
- (b) Memastikan integriti pilihan raya untuk tempoh jangka masa yang panjang; dan
- (c) Mengekalkan kepercayaan masyarakat umum terhadap institusi demokrasi di negara kita ini.

Ini bukan sekadar penyesuaian pentadbiran tetapi ia merupakan komitmen yang tinggi kepada tadbir urus yang inklusif, telus, adil dan saksama di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak melalui Kerajaan GPS sedia ada.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai kesimpulan, demokrasi bukanlah satu perkara yang statik ketika Sarawak sedang pesat dalam arena pembangunan, struktur perundangan kita juga harus bergerak seiringan. Penambahan 17 kerusi baru ini mencerminkan komitmen Kerajaan Sarawak terhadap sistem pentadbiran yang adil dan saksama, aksesibiliti yang menyeluruh dan tadbir urus yang berkesan.

Marilah kita menuju ke hadapan dengan Rang Undang-Undang ini, bukan sebagai agenda politik tetapi sebagai inisiatif progresif dan berorientasikan rakyat bagi memastikan setiap rakyat Sarawak dari pusat bandar hinggalah ke kampung-kampung di kawasan yang terpencil agar benar-benar didengar dan diwakili seadil-adilnya.

Tuan Speaker, dengan ini saya, N.1 Opar, menyokong penuh Rang Undang-Undang Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Tellian.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Selamat pagi, terima kasih Tuan Speaker, Salam Damai, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam Sarawakku Sayang. Terima kasih atas peluang kepada Tellian untuk turut serta sama dalam membahaskan usul yang cukup bersejarah pada Mesyuarat Khas pada kali ini.

Tuan Speaker, terima kasih dan tahniah diucapkan kepada Asajaya merangkap Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak yang membawa usul *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, dalam Mesyuarat Khas kali ini.

Usul ini dibentangkan bersesuaian dengan keadaan serta keperluan semasa yang merupakan aspek utama dalam memastikan kestabilan politik dan *game changer* dalam pembangunan Sarawak bagi jangka masa panjang. Rang Undang-undang ini mencadangkan penambahan jumlah keanggotaan DUN Sarawak daripada 82 kerusi kepada 99 kerusi yang melibatkan kenaikan sebanyak 17 kerusi baru bagi kawasan DUN di Sarawak.

Sejak tahun 1985, bilangan kerusi Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak telah mengalami beberapa perubahan penting dalam tempoh purata selang 10 tahun bermula pada tahun 1985, penambahan kepada 56 kerusi, seterusnya kepada 62 kerusi, 71 kerusi sehinggalah pada 2014 penambahan sehingga 82 kerusi.

Tuan Speaker, setiap perubahan ini telah dilaksanakan dengan mengambil kira keperluan semasa rakyat dan wilayah Sarawak secara dasarnya. Terdapat beberapa sebab utama mengapa bilangan ahli Dewan adalah wajar dan perlu untuk ditambah:

- (a) Ini adalah berkaitan dengan pertambahan bilangan pengundi

Dengan pertumbuhan penduduk dan pengundi yang semakin meningkat, adalah penting untuk memastikan setiap kawasan mempunyai wakil yang mencukupi bagi memberikan perkhidmatan dan perhatian yang efektif. Tambahan pula dengan pendaftaran secara automatik Undi18 yang telah berkuatkuasa dan mengubah landskap politik dan keperluan wakil rakyat di Sarawak. Dengan lebih ramai wakil rakyat, kawasan pilihan raya yang luas dan mencabar dapat diurus dengan lebih efektif, sekaligus meningkatkan keupayaan wakil rakyat untuk memberi perkhidmatan yang lebih dekat dan berkesan kepada rakyat dan kawasan;

- (b) Penambahan keanggotaan DUN ini akan memperkukuhkan perpaduan sosial dan politik dalam kalangan rakyat Sarawak yang berbilang kaum dan budaya. Ini sejajar dengan agenda perpaduan nasional yang menekankan kepentingan penyatupaduan dan kesepaduan sosial, di mana pemimpin di semua peringkat perlu menjadi teladan dalam memupuk keharmonian dan toleransi demi kestabilan politik yang berterusan;
- (c) Meningkatkan bilangan komposisi keanggotaan ini juga akan memastikan suara rakyat dapat disampaikan dengan lebih baik di peringkat legislatif, sekali gus memperkukuh sistem demokrasi dan kestabilan politik di Sarawak. Dengan kawasan yang lebih spesifik dan wakil yang lebih ramai, kerajaan sudah pasti dapat memberikan perhatian yang lebih khusus kepada pembangunan dan isu setempat, sekali gus meningkatkan kepuasan pengundi dan kestabilan politik melalui perwakilan yang lebih berkesan;
- (d) Dengan kestabilan politik yang kukuh hasil dari perwakilan yang lebih efektif dan inklusif, Sarawak akan dapat mempercepatkan pelaksanaan agenda pembangunan strategik seperti yang digariskan dalam PCDS 2030. Peningkatan bilangan wakil rakyat sudah pasti akan memperkukuhkan tadbir urus dan pengawasan pembangunan di semua kawasan, menjadikan proses pembangunan lebih menyeluruh dan berimpak tinggi.

Tuan Speaker, penambahan bilangan Ahli DUN Sarawak bukan sahaja memenuhi keperluan demografi dan politik semasa, tetapi juga menjadi instrumen penting dalam memperkukuh kestabilan politik serta menyokong agenda pembangunan holistik yang inklusif dan mampan demi kesejahteraan rakyat Sarawak secara keseluruhan.

Kestabilan politik adalah tunjang utama bagi memastikan pembangunan negeri berjalan lancar tanpa gangguan. Dengan komposisi Dewan yang mencerminkan kepelbagaian dan keperluan rakyat, kita dapat mengukuhkan perpaduan dan kerjasama antara wakil rakyat serta Kerajaan

Sarawak dan Kerajaan Persekutuan secara lebih erat. Di bawah kepimpinan berwibawa Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Sarawak ketika ini sedang berada di landasan yang tepat untuk mencapai visi pembangunan jangka masa panjang yang inklusif dan mampan. Dengan bilangan Ahli Dewan yang mencukupi, kita akan dapat memastikan setiap kawasan mendapat perhatian sewajarnya, sekali gus mempercepatkan proses pembangunan dan meningkatkan kualiti hidup rakyat.

Tuan Speaker, peningkatan bilangan keanggotaan ini juga diyakini akan memberikan impak yang signifikan terhadap pengurusan kawasan pilihan raya, khususnya dalam aspek-aspek yang berada di bawah bidang kuasa Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya.

- (a) Pembahagian kawasan pilihan raya yang lebih terperinci dan berkesan. Dengan lebih banyak ADUN, kawasan pilihan raya dapat dibahagikan dengan lebih adil dan spesifik. Ia membolehkan wakil rakyat memberi tumpuan yang lebih efektif kepada keperluan rakyat di kawasan masing-masing. Ini juga memudahkan pengurusan daerah mengundi dan logistik semasa pilihan raya diadakan;
- (b) Persempadanan semula kawasan pilihan raya. Penambahan ADUN biasanya disertai dengan proses persempadanan semula yang menyesuaikan sempadan kawasan mengikut pertambahan penduduk serta pengundi dan turut mengambil kira keluasan sesebuah kawasan itu. Ini bagi memastikan setiap kawasan mempunyai bilangan pengundi yang seimbang sekali gus mengelakkan ketidakseimbangan perwakilan. Saya tidak ingin menyebut persempadanan kawasan-kawasan yang terlibat. Kita serahkan kepada pihak SPR untuk tentukan dengan sewajarnya. Cuma saya ingin cadangkan persempadanan semula ini nanti wajib mengambil kira keluasan kawasan selain daripada jumlah bilangan pengundi;
- (c) Pengurusan pilihan raya yang lebih teratur. Peningkatan bilangan ADUN dan kawasan pilihan raya yang lebih terperinci sudah pasti membolehkan Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya SPR merancang dan melaksanakan proses pengundian dengan lebih sistematik termasuk pengurusan pusat mengundi, pengundian awal dan pengiraan undi akan dapat dijalankan dengan lebih teratur. Secara keseluruhannya ia akan menambah baik pengurusan kawasan pilihan raya dengan memastikan perwakilan yang lebih adil, meningkatkan kecekapan pentadbiran pilihan raya dan memperkukuh hubungan antara wakil rakyat dengan pengundi yang seterusnya menyumbang kepada kestabilan politik dan pembangunan berterusan di Sarawak. Tuan Speaker, peningkatan bilangan Ahli DUN Sarawak juga diyakini akan memberi impak positif terhadap pengurusan sumber dan pembangunan kawasan pilihan raya melalui beberapa aspek seperti berikut:
 - (i) Pengagihan sumber pembangunan yang lebih tepat dan berkesan. Dengan cadangan ini, kawasan pilihan raya dapat dibahagikan menjadi PDM yang lebih berfokus dan spesifik membolehkan wakil rakyat mengurus dan menyalurkan sumber pembangunan dengan lebih berkesan. Mengikut keperluan unik setiap kawasan, terutamanya bagi kawasan pedalaman. Ini secara langsung akan membantu mengurangkan jurang perbezaan pembangunan antara kawasan bandar dan luar bandar serta memastikan manfaat sosio ekonomi diagihkan secara lebih seimbang;
 - (ii) Perancangan yang kedua, perancangan pembangunan wilayah yang bersepadu dan inklusif. Peningkatan komposisi keanggotaan ini juga akan memperkukuhkan peranan Kerajaan Sarawak dalam merancang dan melaksanakan pembangunan setempat. Kerjasama yang lebih berkesan dengan agensi kerajaan dan komuniti akan dapat dicapai untuk mempercepatkan pelaksanaan projek infrastruktur, kemudahan asas dan aktiviti ekonomi yang sesuai dengan potensi dan keperluan kawasan masing-masing, terutamanya yang melibatkan kawasan luar bandar;
 - (iii) Peningkatan akses kepada kemudahan asas. Pengurusan kawasan yang lebih terperinci, membolehkan pembangunan infrastruktur seperti jalan raya, utiliti dan kemudahan sosial disesuaikan dengan keadaan setempat. Ini akan meningkatkan kualiti

hidup penduduk dan membuka peluang ekonomi baru, terutama di kawasan luar bandar dan sub-wilayah yang ketika ini sedang giat membangun; dan

- (iv) Pengurusan data dan perancangan berasaskan maklumat. Dengan bilangan ADUN yang lebih ramai, data sosioekonomi dan keperluan kawasan dapat dikumpul dan dianalisis dengan lebih terperinci. Ini membolehkan perancangan dasar dan pembangunan yang lebih tepat. Sasarannya, sekali gus meningkatkan kecekapan penggunaan sumber dan keberkesanan program pembangunan yang dirancang oleh kerajaan.

Tuan Speaker, kesimpulannya, peningkatan komposisi keanggotaan DUN Sarawak ini adalah sejajar dengan usaha Sarawak untuk mencapai pembangunan wilayah yang seimbang, inklusif dan mampan demi kesejahteraan rakyat secara keseluruhannya. Oleh itu, saya senada dengan rakan-rakan lain dalam memberikan sokongan padu terhadap usaha membina Ordinan Dewan Undangan Negeri dari sudut komposisi keanggotaan bagi memastikan bilangan Ahli Dewan bersesuaian dengan keperluan semasa dan selaras dengan kepentingan rakyat serta aspirasi pembangunan Sarawak. Dengan kerjasama dan komitmen semua pihak, sudah pasti Sarawak akan terus berkembang maju, stabil dan sejahtera. Tuan Speaker, Tellian menyokong penuh usul ini. *Nya aja jaku aku*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Bukit Semuja.

YB Encik John anak Ilus: First of all, on behalf of the people of Bukit Semuja, I render our heartfelt condolences to our YAB Premier and his family members on their recent deliverance. Salam takziah. Secondly, a sincere thanks to Tuan Speaker for allowing me to join with the other members of this august House to debate on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, that was tabled here this morning by our Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts and Member of Sarawak State Legislative Assembly, N.15 Asajaya.

The proposed increase in the Dewan Undangan Negeri seat from 82 to 99, an increase of new 17 seats, is legally sound and constitutionally mandated and it is in accordance with Article 14(1)(b) of the Sarawak State Constitution, which empowers the State Legislative Assembly to determine its membership composition. While under Article 14(2) such an increase must be enacted through a Bill passed by this Assembly like what we are doing here today.

It is very timely, and the increase is in accordance with the Federal Constitution, Article 113(2)(ii) which requires the Election Commission to review and recommend constituency adjustment at an interval of not less than eight years. Sarawak's class re-delineation was in 2015, which we consider already overdue. This is not a political indulgence, but it is a constitutional responsibility.

The support to increase from 82 to 99, Dewan Undangan Negeri seat is a necessary step for a growing Sarawak as it is a constitutional compliant and legislative authority as mentioned earlier. This will also help to safeguard Sarawak's long-term autonomy from being undermined politically and socio-economically and to face the challenging political landscape in the country.

Secondly, the vast land area and sparse population distribution, whereby Sarawak is the largest state in Malaysia, covering 124,450 square kilometres – comparable in size to Peninsular Malaysia, yet our representation is grossly disproportionate. That is 445 assemblymen to serve Peninsular Malaysia, while Sarawak has only 82.

Constituencies in Sarawak often span a remote interior zones, dense forests, rivers, mountains, and border regions. In some cases, a single YB may be responsible for a dozen of long houses scattered across hundreds of kilometres, accessible only by timber roads or boats.

Thirdly, bridging the rural and urban development gap, wherein many of the current constituencies blame urban as a growth centre with rural hinterland, resulting in rural voice being drowned out by urban voting patterns and policy priorities skewed towards urban issues such as infrastructure upgrades, basic rural needs like clean water, road access, and electricity remain underserved.

New rural focus could be to serve and ensure indigenous communities, especially the Dayak majority, will have a seat; we highly hope dedicated to address the unique challenges. This move directly supports Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030, which prioritises rural transformation, economic inclusivity, and spatial equality in development.

Another point is to improve governance and resource allocation as more are being elected to be their representative, the closer and more accessible to their constituents. This will be more focused and to avoid the oversight and ensure funds are used more effectively. This will lead to improved transparency, delivery and trust in the public institutions.

The fifth point that I would like to raise is the responding to the administrative and population growth. Since 2015, several new administrative districts and sub-districts have been formed, such as Beluru (formerly part of Baram), even in Bukit Mabong in Kapit and quite a number of others. Seeing rapid growth in administrative reorganisation.

Sarawak's population has grown to over 2.6 million, with significant internal migration, new settlements and economic corridors reshaping local demographics. On another note, with the inclusion of young and automatic registration of the number of voters, which increases every now and then. The increase in seats allows electoral boundaries to evolve with population trends, maintaining fairness and effectiveness.

The sixth point is the political stability and inclusiveness of development. Sarawak is a multiethnic, multi-regional state, and with the current 82-seat framework may over-concentrate political control in specific corridors leading to under-representation of minorities and inland communities, raising tensions over resources distribution and political voice.

By increasing to 99 seats minority ethnic groups such as Bibuka, Biramun, and all the Orang Ulu, even the subethnic of the Bidayuh can get more focused in representation. We avoid the risk of gerrymandering to ensure every region, such as the southern region, central region, northern, highland, and coastal, has proportionate voice. This will foster unity, reduce political marginalisation, and strengthen statewide stability.

Through historical precedent and national comparison, Sarawak last increased its DUN seat in 2015 from 71 to 82, an addition of 11 seats. At that time, the rationale was similar, rural coverage, administrative cross-restructuring, and constitutional compliance.

Compared with this Peninsular Malaysia, as I was mentioning just now, each state averages 40 to 60 representatives. In contrast, Sarawak's sheer landmass, as mentioned earlier, is significantly overburdened. So, the move to correct the historical under-representation and put Sarawak on a fairer footing compared to the other states.

Finally, the eighth point I would like to mention is to uphold the spirit of the MA63 and Strengthen Territorial Integrity. The Malaysian Agreement 1963 and the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) Report emphasised on the importance of internal self-government, regional autonomy, and adequate representation of Borneo states in the legislative bodies. Borneo State should be given sufficient authority and representation to safeguard their own interests. This IGC Report, 1962, Para 186.

So, a larger number of elected representatives will enforce Sarawak's ability to:

- (a) Govern efficiently within its own borders;
- (b) Advocate the rights and development of priorities in line with the MA63;
- (c) To ensure no part of Sarawak is politically or administratively left behind; and
- (d) This increase is not merely an expansion, it is a reaffirmation of Sarawak's sovereignty within the Federation.

The increase from 82 to 99 is also

- (a) Constitutionally valid and procedurally sound;
- (b) Practically necessary to meet the geographic, demographic and government needs;
- (c) Politically stabilising by ensuring inclusive representation;
- (d) Socially just for rural and minority communities; and then lastly
- (e) Strategically align with Sarawak's development goals and nation standing.

So, before I conclude, I would like to refer to a captioned in one of our papers recently as mentioned by the Deputy Minister in the Premier of Sarawak's Department (Law, MA63 and State - Federal Relationships) and Member for N.7 Samariang, *"One of the main parameters often emphasized by the Sarawak Government in any redelination proposal is the need to avoid imbalance between urban and rural areas, and to ensure representation that reflects vastness and multiracial composition of Sarawak"*.

Thus, I hope inclusivity is paramount. No more splitting or divide other ethnic or sub-ethnic group but to unite them to be represented, be heard and be part of nation building and prosperous Sarawak. So, we hope SPR will look into this seriously. With this, I support this Bill, thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, we'll have a break. Sitting resume at 11.20 a.m.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 11.01 pagi)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 11.36 pagi)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pelagus.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: A very good morning. Salam Sarawakku Sayang. Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Before I proceed, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak on the passing of his beloved wife. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi.

Tuan Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, which has been introduced by the Honourable YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Rahman Hamzah, Sarawak Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts also the Assemblyman for N.15, Asajaya.

I rise today to offer my considered views and in support to the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, which seeks to increase the number of elected members of this august House from 82 to 99. This move is not merely administrative, but it is constitutional progressive and absolutely necessary in ensuring Sarawak's democratic institution remains strong, effective and responsive to the needs of its people.

Constitutional Mandate and Legislative Authority

Tuan Speaker, Article 14 (1)(b) of the Constitution of Sarawak's State provides that *"the Dewan Undangan Negeri shall consist of such number of elected members as legislature made by law*

prescribed...". This Bill is introduced pursuant to Article 14(2) and is well within the Legislative competence of this Dewan.

It is worth noting that the current membership of 82 was fixed in 2014. Since then, Sarawak has undergone significant socio-economic transformation, demographic shifts and infrastructural expansion. The number of registered voters has increased considerably. Our urban and rural dynamics have evolved. Therefore, this Bill is a necessary legal response to a changing reality.

Ensuring Effective and Equitable Representation

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is the largest state or region in Malaysia covering over 124,000 square kilometers, an area larger than the entire Peninsular Malaysia. Yet, we only have 82 elected representatives, compared to 56 in Selangor, a State many times smaller than us geographically.

Many of our constituencies, particularly in the rural areas are vast, scattered and logistically challenging. One (1) Assemblyman may have to traverse rivers, hills, mountains and forests to reach multiple longhouses, villages and sub-districts, all within a single constituency. With the increase in population, voters and complexity of local governance, it is only fair that we create more seats to ensure every Sarawakians especially in remote rural areas is adequately represented. It is not about political advantage, but it is about political justice.

The additional 17 seats will enable greater proximity between representative and the people, improve policy outreach and allow for better service delivery. Smaller constituencies also mean more focus development, more meaningful engagement and ultimately more responsive government.

Reflecting Sarawak Rapid Development and Strategic Growth

Tuan Speaker, this Bill also reflects Sarawak's emerging role as an economic powerhouse and a major player in Malaysia's energy transition. Since 2014, Sarawak has embarked on bold strategic initiative – hydrogen development, green energy, digital economy, autonomous education policies and major infrastructure projects. Divisions and or districts such as Kapit, Bintulu, Mukah, Serian and many more have grown significantly in population, commercial activities and strategic importance. New townships and rural growth centres are immersing. It is, therefore, logical and justifiable that we recalibrate our electoral map to match these evolving realities.

Strengthening Democracy and Institutional Maturity

Tuan Speaker, expanding the Dewan is also an exercise in democratic deepening. A maturing society must be matched with maturing institution. The increase from 82 to 99 elected members allows for a more diverse range of views and representation. It empowers the people. It strengthens check and balance; it brings policy making closer to the ground. This is not about expanding, the size of government for its own sake. This is about enhancing legitimacy, inclusivity and democratic integrity.

Aligning Executive and Legislative Growth

Tuan Speaker, permit me also to raise a pertinent and related matter in tandem with the proposed expansion of this august House. I believe it is timely for us to revisit the composition of Sarawak's cabinet. If we bold enough to increase the number of seats in this Dewan to better represent our people then we must also bold enough to strengthen the engine of government, our Sarawak's cabinet. The current constitutional cap of 10 Ministers is an outdated legacy. It belongs to a time when Sarawak's economy was simpler, our challenges were narrow and our global footprint was smaller, that era is over. Sarawak today is leading in the renewal energy pioneering hydrogen technology, pushing digital frontiers, building infrastructure at an unprecedented scale and asserting more autonomy over health, education and natural resources.

To match these ambitions, we need a cabinet structure that is equally dynamic, forward-looking one that can operate with specialisation, agility and clarity of mandate. The time has come as well to amend the Constitution to increase the number of Ministers in Sarawak. This is not bureaucracy for the sake of bureaucracy, this is building a cabinet that matches the vision of a modern, sovereign and progressive Sarawak. Such an amendment also will allow the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier to establish more focused ministries, reduce overlapping jurisdiction, and improve executive efficiency.

To conclude, Tuan Speaker, this Bill is not just about numbers, it is about justice in representation, efficiency in governance, and faith in democracy. The people of Sarawak deserve a legislature that evolves with them. They deserve elected representatives who are not overburdened by geography or population, and they deserve a government that is structurally equipped to deliver on our shared vision for a prosperous and inclusive Sarawak.

I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to support the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. Let us take this important step together, not just for ourselves but for the future of every Sarawakian. With that, Tuan Speaker, I fully support this Bill. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Ngemah.

YB Encik Anyi anak Jana: Tuan Speaker, terlebih dahulu saya ingin merakamkan jutaan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberikan ruang dan peluang kepada saya untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-Undang Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025, yang telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak, di Dewan yang mulia ini pada pagi ini, 7 Julai 2025.

Sebelum meneruskan ucapan perbahasan ini, saya mewakili rakyat DUN N.49 Ngemah, mengucapkan salam takziah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg dan keluarga atas pemergian isteri tersayang, Allahyarhamah Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang.

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-Undang Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025, ini adalah atas usul untuk menambahkan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Sarawak merupakan satu langkah yang amat positif dan tepat pada masanya. Seperti Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat di Dewan yang mulia ini sedia maklum, peningkatan jumlah pengundi pada masa ini adalah hasil pelaksanaan Undi 18 yang mengubah secara signifikan landskap politik dan kawasan pilihan raya di Sarawak.

Kali terakhir Rang Undang-undang ini digubal ialah pada tahun 2014 iaitu daripada 71 keanggotaan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri kepada 82 Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri. Ini bermakna berlakunya pertambahan 11 kerusi Dewan Undangan Negeri pada masa tersebut. Justeru, usul penambahan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri pada masa kini adalah sangat tepat bagi mewakili suara-suara rakyat yang saban hari semakin bertambah.

Tuan Speaker, dari segi geopolitik, umpamanya dua (2) kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) iaitu di N.49 Ngemah dan N.50 Machan yang terletak di kawasan Parlimen 210 Kanowit atau terletak di Daerah Kanowit. Kedua-dua DUN N.49 Ngemah dan N.50 Machan mempunyai keluasan kira-kira 2,253 km persegi dan mempunyai titik tertinggi yang mencecah 942 meter.

Jika dibuat perbandingan dengan geopolitik di Semenanjung Malaysia, keluasan Daerah Kanowit adalah lebih besar daripada negeri Melaka, yang berkeluasan 1,658 km persegi, dan negeri Pulau Pinang, yang berkeluasan 1,033 km persegi sahaja. Begitu juga jika dibuat perbandingan dari segi jumlah Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri. Negeri Melaka diwakili 28 orang Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri dan enam Ahli Yang Berhormat Parlimen. Negeri Pulau Pinang pula diwakili 40 Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri dan 13 Ahli Yang Berhormat Parlimen. Sarawak boleh dikatakan sangat hebat

kerana hampir kesemua kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri dan Parlimen hanya diwakili oleh dua (2) orang Ahli Yang Berhormat Dewan Undangan Negeri dan satu (1) Ahli Yang Berhormat Parlimen.

Tuan Speaker, seperti yang Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat sedia maklum, Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah pimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, sangat menitikberatkan pembangunan yang seimbang dan setara di seluruh kawasan merangkumi kawasan bandar dan juga luar bandar. Ini mampu dilestarikan dengan penambahan keanggotaan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri berlandaskan pelaksanaan polisi pembangunan Kerajaan Sarawak yang baru dan telah tersedia. Tadbir urus dan pelaksanaan yang baik dalam bidang-bidang ini akan dapat memperkukuhkan visi dan misi Sarawak untuk menjadi masyarakat maju dan berpendapatan tinggi menjelang 2030.

Tuan Speaker, dengan penerangan yang serba ringkas, saya sangat optimis akan kejayaan Sarawak pada masa hadapan dengan penambahan keanggotaan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri sebanyak 17 anggota Dewan Undangan Negeri, daripada 82 orang kepada 99 orang, bagi melicinkan lagi urus tadbir pembangunan dan kawal selia di sesebuah kawasan dan konstituensi Dewan Undangan Negeri.

Oleh yang demikian, saya menyokong penuh Rang Undang-Undang Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025, yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak di Dewan yang mulia ini. Sekian, Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pending.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today to firmly oppose this Bill to increase the number of Sarawak State Assembly's seats from 82 to 99. This proposal is not only untimely, it is unfair, unnecessary, and politically motivated. At a time when many Sarawakians are struggling with the rising cost of living, inadequate roads, no electricity, no clean water supply and poor access to basic services, the GPS Government has chosen to prioritise adding more politicians instead of addressing the people's real needs. This move does not reflect the *rakyat's* demand. The people are not asking for more state seats. They are asking for fair policies, better governance and stronger representation, especially at the national level.

Tuan Speaker, since 1963 Sarawak has already undergone five (5) rounds of seat increase in 1969, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2015. And each time, the outcome has followed the same predictable pattern. Most new seats were created in rural or semi-rural areas particularly in zones already dominated by the ruling coalition Barisan Nasional before, and GPS today. This current proposal to create 17 more state seats continues with that same pattern, I predict.

Tuan Speaker, yes, our number of registered voters has surged. In 2015, Sarawak has around 1.14 million voters. As of 2025, that number has risen to slightly more than 2 million, a jump of more than 75%, thanks to automatic voter registration and *Undi 18*. But does this justify a sudden 20% jump in the state seats? The answer is a resounding, no, because the increase in voters is not evenly spread. It is concentrated in urban and semi-urban areas where people are migrating for jobs, education and opportunities. Yet, this Bill does absolutely nothing to address that under representation. Instead of redrawing boundaries to reflect these demographic realities, the proposals once again favour rural areas. This defies all logic and fairness. It is clear that the government is manipulating the system under the guise of representation. So, where is the principle one (1) person, one (1) vote? Out of our current 82 seats, only 12 are urban, just 15%. The other 70 seats, an overwhelming 85%, are rural and semi-rural seats. Let's take for example, urban constituencies like Pending, Batu Lintang, Kota Sentosa and Pelawan have three (3) to four (4) times more voters than rural seats like Gedong, Sadong Jaya or Lingga. Just to name a few.

In my own constituency, based on the 2021 registered voters' figures, Pending has nearly 30,000 voters. But as of today, it is about 38,000 voters in my area. Gedong, a rural seat, has less than 10,000 based on 2021 figures yet both elected one ADUN. This means a vote in Gedong carries almost three (3) times more weight than a vote in Pending. That is a direct violation of the demographic principle of equal representation. And what's worse despite urban voters contributing more taxes and economic activities, the only two (2) opposition held seats in the whole of Sarawak which are Padungan and Pending are denied constituency allocation. So, is this what "*representation*" means in the GPS's vocabulary? Rewards your safe seats, punish your critics? Is this the practice of the GPS? Let's not pretend that this is a neutral or act political exercise. In 2015, out of the 11 new seats PBB took the lion's share. The left over were shared by SUPP, PRS and PDP. And now, though the details have yet to be finalized, the words on the ground, is 10 out of the 17 seats will likely go to PBB, three (3) to SUPP and two (2) each to PRS and PDP. Even within the GPS, the distribution is lop-sided. What chances does the opposition, or any marginalized groups have? Let me give this House an example.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pending, are you taking point from...*(Interruption)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Siapa? Janganlah. Stop the clock, *jangan*.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member, are you taking points of clarification from Batu Kitang?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Ehh... *jangan*. Dia selalu *out of point* punya. *Jangan...jangan...wasting*. Sentiasa senget-senget punya. Tidak mahu *kasi*, tidak mahu *kasi*. Kalau lain bolehlah. Dia punya kualiti, aiyaaa... susah cakap. Susah cakap.

Okay, let us not pretend this is neutral or act political exercise. In 2015, out of the 11 new seats, PBB took the lion's share. Okay, this one I have already mentioned. Even within the GPS, the distribution is lop-sided. Let me give this House an example. If the GPS is going to propose two (2) new state seats within the parliamentary constituency of Petra Jaya, why not also two (2) more seats in Bandar Kuching or Stampin? All these three (3) adjacent and urban seats. Bandar Kuching and Petra Jaya have similar number of electors. Stampin has over 120,000 voters based on year 2022 numbers. So, why only favour Petra Jaya, in the event it happens? Why the special treatment for P194? What's wrong with P195 and P196? Is it because Petra Jaya is a PBB fortress, while Bandar Kuching and Stampin are oppositions stronghold?

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pending, are you taking?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Let me finish this paragraph. This is a textbook example of selective expansion where the aim is not equitable representation but to grow the GPS political territory. My last sentence. Let's call it what it is. GPS is adding new seats only where it can win, not where they are actually needed based on voters' numbers. This is gerrymandering dressed up as reform. Okay.

Tuan Speaker: Are you taking from Kota Sentosa?

YB Violet Yong Wui Wui: Apa *point*?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Point of...*(Inaudible)*...

YB Violet: I know the point. Which point?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: ... *(Inaudible)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Mana *point*? State your point first, Standing Order...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: The point is...*(Interruption)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: State your Standing Order before you speak.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: 34(2).

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Okay, what is it about?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Okay, let me complete then you can question me. Because I have been hearing you go on this political charade for the last 3 or 4 minutes. And I think it is not proper. I rise on the point of order and to strongly rebut the Honourable Member for Pending...*(Interruption)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Tuan Speaker, can u stop the clock?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: For her incessant theatrics and her repeated and deliberate disregard for the Standing Order of this august House. It is plainly evident that this Honourable Member for Pending has chosen to stray far beyond the scope of this Bill which concerns solely the increase in the composition of membership of the Dewan Undangan Negeri, a matter of constitutional representation and administrative necessity. Instead, she has embarked on exercise in political grandstanding, throwing around allegations and innuendo wholly irrelevant to the subject at hand.

Tuan Speaker, this is not check and balance that the Honourable Member for Pending pretends it to be. Let it be clear to the public; this is not accountability. This is a deliberate misuse of debate time to create false narratives and distract from the real issues that affect Sarawakians. It is the height of arrogance for any Member of this House to presume that by flaunting the standing order in this case 34(2) and hijacking proceedings for her political theatrics...*(Interruption)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Tuan Speaker, you should stop him.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: She somehow embodied transparency and democratic oversight. On the contrary, it is an insult to the dignity and purpose of this Dewan... *(Interruption)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Why got prepared text?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Standing Order 34(2).

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: You know, just now he said, he doesn't have anything to say. So now, why suddenly got prepared text? ...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: A Member shall confine to his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matters irrelevant thereto ...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: Okay. Member for Kota Sentosa. Kota Sentosa, okay.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Kota Sentosa, If I had gone overboard, the Speaker would have stopped me. Are you saying that the Speaker is not as capable as you? So, why are you trying to play the role as the Speaker?

Tuan Speaker: No, no. He is not playing the role of the Speaker.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: But he is saying, he is trying to tell you to stop me. He is directing you to stop me, Tuan Speaker.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: I am referring to Standing Order 34(2).

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: And some more have prepared text. Ask him to sit down *lah*. Tak mahu lah ini terlalu *over already*.

Tuan Speaker: This debate is about the composition of membership.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Yes. Correct.

Tuan Speaker: So, which part of this Bill are you against?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: I am against the increment, okay. But Pending is still within the 82. So, I have the right to speak.

Tuan Speaker: But you start mentioning this constituency, this constituency. Can you substantiate?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Substantiate what?

Tuan Speaker: This constituency is divided into this... *(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Of GPS... *(Inaudible)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Tuan Speaker, I just give an example to support my argument because it's a Bill. It is not Supplementary Bill. So, anything regarding the constituency, regarding the voters, regarding anything in my constituency's boundary, I can speak. So don't stop me *lah*.

Tuan Speaker: We are not dealing with delineation.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: I know.

Tuan Speaker: We are dealing with composition. We are dealing with composition. Can you substantiate?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Substantiate *apa*?

Tuan Speaker: That Petra Jaya split?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: I say, you want to bet, Tuan Speaker? You want to bet with me? You want to bet?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: This is not a casino. This is a Dewan.

Tuan Speaker: This is not a gambling house. This is not gambling house.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: I said, I just give an example. If you split Petra Jaya, you must also split Bandar Kuching and Stampin. That is my argument.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Your argument is on re-delineation which has nothing to do... *(Interruption)*...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: I just try to tell you the number of urban voters is that many and if you split that one for fair distribution and for fair delineation you have to split also Bandar Kuching and Stampin.

Tuan Speaker: Is delineation the authority of this Dewan?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: I tell you because you are going to increase the number. The SPR officers are here. So, you let me speak if I am wrong, let the Minister rebut me *lah*.

Tuan Speaker: No. Before he rebuts; you have to substantiate what you have alleged. You are making amendment allegations.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: No, I am substantiating with the number. I am not plucking the number. That is the number of registered voters in the SPR. So, why are you saying that I am plucking? I am just putting forth my argument from the past records. You see, Petra Jaya has 79,000 voters; Bandar Kuching also 79,000; Stampin have 121,000. I said, in the event if there is a likelihood of GPS or SPR splitting Petra Jaya, you must at the same time also add seats on Bandar Kuching and Stampin. Nothing wrong, I am not saying that it's a definite, I say yet to be finalized...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Tuan Speaker, I do not like to do this, but I proposed that you sanction the Honourable Member for Pending.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Can I move to the next point, Tuan Speaker?

Tuan Speaker: You move on.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Okay, Tuan Speaker, and perhaps the most...*(Interruption)*...okay boleh lah.

Tuan Speaker: No, no Pending, no, no. you. I will give you a chance afterwards. Pending. No, you move on. No, no... *(Interruption)*...

YB Voilet Yong Wui Wui: Okay, Tuan Speaker, and perhaps the most glaring issue of all, there is absolutely no public mandate for this Bill. There was no public referendum, no independent study, no open consultation, no town halls. They would never ask if they wanted more state assemblymen. They were never, the people were never consulted on whether this expansion would serve their interests. What evidence is there that this is a people's demand? Were they? Where are the surveys? Where is the data? Where is the consultation? The truth is, there is none. This is a political decision, met behind closed doors and presented as though it were in the public interest.

Tuan Speaker, let us not ignore the financial cost of this exercise. Creating 17 new seats will require millions annually for salaries, staffing, facility operations, and what do we get? More politicians, more chairs in these chambers. Meanwhile, our rural schools still lack electricity, clinics are underfunded or understaffed, many *kampungs* still wait for basic amenities.

Is this where our priorities lie? And let us not forget, many GPS who are appointed as Minister or Deputy Minister sitting on the opposite bench. You are drawing two salaries, one ADUN, one Minister's salary. You go and check, Batu Kawa, at least one month they are drawing itu RM50,000. RM15,000 ADUN, RM35,000 as a Deputy Premier. *Aiyo, banyaknya.*

Tuan Speaker: I think you are embarking on an irrelevant point.

YB Voilet Yong Wui Wui: No, no, okay. The damning truth is, after 62 years, oh no, what I am suggesting here is, they should forgo one salary *lah, jangan ambil dua lah.* Okay. Here is the damning truth, after 62 years under the Barisan National and now the GPS's rule, much of the rural Sarawak is still left behind with no clean water, no reliable electricity, poor roads, dilapidated schools, under-equipped clinics.

This is not just a failure of development, but more than that, a failure of leadership. If the GPS could not deliver meaningful progress with 82 seats in the last decade, what makes the people think 99 will suddenly do the trick? Throwing more chairs into this chamber wouldn't fix broken roads or bring clean water to rural homes. It won't light up schools still without electricity.

Sarawak doesn't need more politicians collecting allowances. Instead, Sarawak needs leaders who are competent, accountable, and truly committed to serving the people, not clinging to power. You know, in the last sitting, we even have ADUN sleeping in the chambers. That is the quality.

Siapa tu? Asajaya? You know *ha*? You know, you know, you know, you know right? Someone is sleeping in the last DUN sitting lah. Not you *ah*, I'm not saying you *lah*, but you know who *lah*. Okay.

Okay, Tuan Speaker, if the government truly cares about fair and meaningful representation, then it should first and foremost fight for an increase in Federal Parliamentary seats for Sarawak. At present, we have only 31 members of Parliament out of 222 in total. This is the real imbalance. That is where our voice is disproportionately small. And that is precisely where we need to strengthen, need to be strengthening our position at the national level, where decisions affecting the entire countries are met. Yet, instead of addressing this long-outstanding injustice, the Sarawak GPS Government has chosen to put the cart before the horse.

It seeks to increase that seats where it's already enjoyed a strong majority, without first correcting the greater structural inequality in Federal representation. This move prioritises political convenience over democratic fairness. Before we expand power where it is already concentrated, we should be fixing the area where Sarawak is still left behind.

What we want is for Sarawak to have more parliamentary seats, which is in line with our rights under the Malaysia Agreement 1963. What have our five Federal Ministers from Sarawak GPS done in Parliament to fight for more parliamentary seats for Sarawak? Why is there no visible push from them to demand what is rightfully ours, which is a stronger voice in the Dewan Rakyat? We have not seen any ministerial motion being tabled in Parliament to demand for more parliament seats despite having full back up from the people of Sarawak and close to the very heart of Federal decision-making. Their silence on this critical matter is deafening.

Sarawak's number of parliamentary seats can be increased without increasing its state seats. Article 46 of the Federal Constitution does not tie the number of Parliamentary seats to the number of state seats, meaning you can increase Parliamentary seats without increasing the number of state seats. This is allowed.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is not about democracy. It is about control. It does not serve the people. It protects the powerful. It does not correct injustice. It deepens it. It does not reflect public demand. It suppresses it. If GPS truly respected democracy, they would have fixed the imbalance, not exploit it. But today, Sarawak GPS has shown us exactly what they fear – a fair fight. If more state seats fixed problems, Sarawak would be a paradise by now. Or maybe GPS thinks development means developing more seats.

Just keep adding seats until everyone's got one. For decades, we have seen rural seats split again and again, while urban voices are stifled and sidelined. Until we fix this broken system, until we restore equal voice, equal vote, equal value to every Sarawakian vote, I cannot in good conscience support this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, before I conclude, I would also like to take this opportunity to raise a practical and recurring concern faced by our voters, particularly the elderly. I urge the Election Commission not to ignore this issue. It may seem like a small logistical matter to some, but to many elderly voters, it is the difference between being able to vote or being left out of the democratic process entirely.

In two polling stations under the pending constituency, namely Chung Hua Middle School No. 3 and SK Tabuan Ulu, elderly voters have repeatedly voiced their frustration. It is inconvenient, exhausting, and frankly dangerous for them to climb up stairs and when queuing on narrow staircase during long waits. I have received too many complaints about this over the years. This is not a difficult fix for future elections. Please ensure voting streams for voters aged 60 and above are located on the ground floor. Allow them to vote in a safe, accessible, and dignified environment, which is not one where they must struggle just to exercise their democratic right. With that, I conclude. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, this is my ruling. According to Article 113(2)(i), subject to Paragraph 2 (ii), the election commission shall from time to time as their deem necessary review the division the Federation and the state constituencies and recommend such changes as may be necessary, providing...No. This is the one. Because it's small print. Because it's small print. Providing the provision and the revision from time to time. As stated in Article 116, 117 of the second 13th Schedule, Part 1, Section 2, the following principles shall as far as possible be taken into account in dividing any unit of review into constituencies pursuant to the provision of Article 116 and 117. These are the rulings:

- (a) While having regard to the desirability of giving all electors reasonably convenient opportunities of going to the polls, constituencies ought to be delimited so that they do not cross state boundaries and regard ought to be had to the inconveniences of the state constituencies crossing the boundaries of the federal constituencies;
- (b) Regards ought to be had to the administrative facilities available within the constituencies for establishment of the necessary registration and public machines;
- (c) The number of electors within each constituency in the state ought to be approximately equal except that having regard to the greater difficulty of reaching electors in the country, districts and other disadvantages facing rural constituencies, a measure of weightage for area ought to be given for such constituencies;
- (d) Regards ought to be had to the inconveniences attendant to alteration of constituencies and to the maintenance of local ties.

So, this is provided under the 13th Schedule, Part 1, Section 2, having regards to the principle of Article 116 and 117. This is also, as I have mentioned just now, Article 113 (2)(ii). It is the SPR that conducted from time to time the delineation, the boundaries and not the GPS Government and not this Dewan. So, this is my ruling. If you go against this, I'll make sure I'll stop you because you are, this is unconstitutional, going against the Federal Constitution. If you pursue the argument against this, Article 113 (2)(ii) and 13th Schedule, Part 1, Section 2, Article 116, 117 of the Federal Constitution. Rural weightage is given and recognised by the Federal constitution. Regards have been given to that. You are going on your own. On a frolic of your own against the Constitution. If you pursue these, I'll stop you. Now, I'll give you, you speak. You speak, if you go against these, I'll stop you.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Oh, you are directing at me?

Tuan Speaker: Ya, I'm directing at you.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: You pre-empt what I'm going to say.

Tuan Speaker: Because you said...you have given your thought just now.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: No, I'm giving my opinion.

Tuan Speaker: You try, you try.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, okay, although I'm not fully prepared but I have prepared something, alright, Tuan Speaker, on the proposed Bill which is to increase the number of state seats from the existing 82 to 99. Tuan Speaker, cool down a bit don't look so angry. Cool down a bit it's not good for the heart. Nevermind, I'll continue. Just that, *tenang sikit, tenang sikit*. Don't be so up mind.

Tuan Speaker: This debate is about composition of membership in the DUN. You all are talking about electors how the life is gone.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, I haven't even spoken. Hear me out first. And you pre-empt and then you guys scold me and then you jump to the conclusion, how can you be a fair Speaker, Tuan Speaker?

Tuan Speaker: You have spoken just now. I'm giving you a chance, you speak.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Alright, alright. I will go on.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Ya, Tuan Speaker, a lot of you stand in support of this Bill to increase the number of Assembly Members in this House. In the past, there have been increases, yes, I do agree but this time the increases is 20% which is a huge jump. Right, the members on the other side who is trying to justify the huge increase that attribute it to the huge increase in voters and the number of voters because of the automatic registration of voters and the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18. Their argument is that, their narrative is that because there is a huge increase in voters therefore there is, we need to have a huge increase in the number of elected reps ADUNS in this House.

This argument is flawed, Tuan Speaker. Why I say so? Because the target of our service is not the number of voters, but the number of people. We serve the people, regardless of whether they are voters or otherwise. Unless GPS practises a different standard or a different guideline on service, you only serve the voters, which I don't believe so. Even kids at the age of 15, 16, 17 years old, they are not eligible voters. But we serve them when they have needs. We serve them when they have problems. So, there's no huge increase in population.

Yes, there are increases in voters, but the number of people that we serve only increase in the normal rate of increase of our population. That's point number one. Therefore, that narrative to justify the huge increase, 20% increase in the number of elected reps is flawed and it's not a good reason.

Tuan Speaker, let me share with this House some statistics of the number of populations, the land mass and the number of our Assemblymen and women and the ratio to it. Sarawak has a land mass of 124,450 square kilometres and a State Assembly and a population of 2.8 million as at 2024. Existing we have 82 elected reps in this House and on average, the ratio of member to population ratio is one Adun serving 34,000 people in our state.

The member to land mass ratio is one ADUN serving 1,517 square km. That is the figure that derived from the number of populations, our land mass and the number of State Assembly Members in this House. That ratio one serving 34,000 people, a person and one serving 1,500 square km.

Alright, how is the statistic like compared to other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth country? I take for example in Australia, which has a similar system than with our country. The Victorian state in Australia as of 2024 has 7 million population, land size 227,444 square km, which is almost double our size. They have 88 State Assembly members, slightly more than us. Their ratio member to number of members of state assembly to population, one serving 79,000. For land mass, one member serving average one serving 2,584 square km, almost double ours. New South Wales, 8.4 million population, land mass 800,000 square kilometres.

How many numbers of elected reps? 93, which means which gives us the ratio member to population 1 to 90,000. Ours is 1 to 34,000. And their member to land mass ratio is one member serving 8,690 square kilometres. Here existing with 82 members, one member serving 1,500 square kilometres. Theirs, one member serving 8,000 square kilometres. South Australia, 1.8 million population, 984,000 square kilometres.

State Assembly Members, 47, i.e. one member serving 38,000, roughly the same as ours. But their member to land mass ratio is one serving 20,000 square kilometres, which is almost eight times ours. Western Australia, 2.5 million population, 2.5 million square kilometres as well, land mass.

They only have 59 elected reps in the State Assembly Members. So, one serving 49,000 population and one serving 42,000 square kilometres of land mass. This is in Australia.

In Canada, the Ontario province in Canada, 16 million population, 900,000 square kilometres land mass. State Assemblymen, a bit more than us, 124. But that gives a ratio of one member of State Assembly serving 129,000 population. One member to land mass ratio, one serving 7,400 square kilometres. Quebec, population 9 million as of 2024, land mass 1.3 million square kilometres. State Assembly Members 1 to 5. It gives a member to population ratio 1 to 72,000. Member to land mass ratio, one serving 10,000 square kilometres. So, these are the examples, the statistics of a more developed country. Maybe you will say easier accessibility.

But if you look at a less developed country, country like South Africa. South Africa is less developed than us. They are also under the same British Parliament system, Commonwealth country before and they have also Federal Parliament and State Parliament. The province of Eastern Cape in South Africa, 7.17 million population, land mass 168,000 square kilometres, state assemblymen, 73. That gives the ratio of one ADUN serving 98,000 population and one ADUN serving 2,300 square kilometres. The province of Free State, 3 million population, almost the same land mass as ours, 129 square kilometres, almost the same population as ours. Guess how many members of state assemblymen they have? 30, three zero. So, one serving hundred thousand population. And one serving 4,000 sq km.

The Province of Limpopo in South Africa also one serving 100 thousand population, and the land mass, member to land mass, one serving 1,900 sq km. These are the statistics. These are the statistics and of the Commonwealth country. I believe our ADUNs are at par if not better than theirs. And why are there such grouses and the needs to increase the number of members while we are only, one ADUN serving 34,000 population only. And one covering on average 1,500 sq km. Whereas other state assemblies in other Commonwealth countries can do a lot better. So more developed country, less developed country, they all serve more people.

Each ADUN serve more people, each ADUN serve broader areas. And we are here, I hear a few lamenting that there are so many people to serve therefore we need to increase. Like what Pending has said, increasing the number of ADUNs will entail more costs. One ADUN average salary 20,000 per month. And 17 will be easily one year you are talking about few million additional and that does not include the pension for life that will be paid to the ADUNs. And with the advent of this new technology, there should be, we should be more effective in serving the population, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Padungan. Member for Padungan. Is Sarawak geographically located in Australia, Canada or in Malaysia?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, you can have your view. I have my view. Alright. So, we ...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: Ya. I'm asking you. Is Sarawak geographically located in Malaysia or in Canada or Australia?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, we are, we are in the same Commonwealth system. So, if you want to argue, you have to vacate the seat and come down we argue. Because it's not fair for me to argue, for you to argue with me and then when you can't win an argument, you stop my time, you cut my time, you stop my, you switch off my mic. No, no, you want to debate with me, you come down, we on equal footing, then we debate.

Tuan Speaker: Geographically. Geographically. Is Sarawak in Malaysia, or in Australia or Canada? That's all.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: (*Laughter*) Of course it's in Malaysia. Tuan Speaker, *ah ya*, that's why, why ask the obvious? But there are standards here, that we, that show us, Tuan Speaker, that one ADUN serving 34,000 is not very difficult, population. Alright you can do it. There's no point to increase the number to 99, which will give you one ADUN serving 35,000. You see, so you are paid 20,000 per month. So, buat kerja baik-baik lah. Jangan minta lagi lah, *okay?* So that's why, Tuan Speaker, what I said is that there's no need for us to increase the number of State Assembly, the composition of the State Assembly. Right, the second point that I would like to highlight is that, in tabling this Bill, here in the explanatory notes say that it provides effective representation for the people in the Legislature.

Alright, Tuan Speaker, as Pending has mentioned, the proportion of members representing the rural areas has outweighed, outnumber by far, the representation of urban constituencies. I acknowledge the fact that there are rural areas which is harder to access for voters and certain weightage must be given. Alright. And that is provided as Tuan Speaker has mentioned that it is provided in the Article, are in the Constitution. Nevertheless, there must be some index to guide how much weight should be given to rural population, how much weight should be given to a densely populated constituency. So far, I believe there is no. And SPR officers sitting back there, you should take note of that, come out with an index to allocate how much weightage for certain land masses with less population or how much weightage be given to the number of urbanities which have a very highly dense population.

This argument, this tussle will never end. It will always be there. But I think a guideline, a certain guideline, an index should be formulated to that, for that purpose. And Tuan Speaker, I think that is my proposal that a certain weightage be created, a certain weightage index be created so that we can more fairly allocate the number of seats in the urban area and the rural area.

And then lastly, I am puzzled by the objection raised by the Member for Kota Sentosa. He seemed to have opposed the idea of or the call by Pending to increase the number of seats in the urban area. I thought SUPP is more a party of the urban area. But why is he opposing that call for an increase of seats in urban area by Pending. He should be happy about it. Is it because he is so afraid of his boss in the PBB that he has to show something, to show something.

Tuan Speaker, lastly... (*Interruption*)...

Tuan Speaker: That is irrelevant.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, what the people want, is to increase Sarawak's representation in Parliament. Alright, in Parliament. And that I will call on the Government of the Day to capitalise your king maker position. Push for the increment of parliamentary seats from Sarawak and that I pledge my support together with all the five Sarawak MPs support in Parliament to increase the parliamentary seats in, at federal level.

The people want more Sarawak representation in Parliament. Not more politician to makan gaji Sarawak. It is so therefore, with that I clarify my position that while we support for more MPs, for more members of Parliament from Sarawak at to increase the number of in Parliament for Sarawak, I opposed this current Bill which is tabled here to increase the number of ADUNs in the House. Alright thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: I couldn't read properly just now, Article 113 because of a small print, now its bigger print. Article 113(2)(1) subject to paragraph 2, the Election Commission shall from time to time as they deem necessary review the division of the Federation and the state constituencies and recommend such changes thereon as they think necessary and come to comply with the provision in the Thirteenth Schedule and the review of the constituencies for the purpose of election to the legislature assemblies shall be undertaken at the same time as the reviews of the constituencies for the purpose of election of the House of Representative. So, its very clear, its the power of the Election

Commission under Article 113. Now, for the information of this House we are in Malaysia. We are not in Canada, India or Australia.

- (a) The Parliamentary Constituency of Hulu Rajang over 34,000 is the size of Perlis and Malacca combined;
- (b) The constituency of Baram 22,000 sq km bigger than the state of Perlis and Pahang combined; and
- (c) The constituency of Bintulu has the largest number of voters and under it is four elected State assemblymen.

These are all proof that the recommendation under the Thirteenth Schedule Part 1 Section 2 is a reality. So any argument against this will be considered unconstitutional and I will rule it as irrelevant. (*Applause*).

Tuan Speaker: Member for Engkilili ... (*Interruption*)... It is as clear as noon, daylight. You don't need. Must you use a torch to look for the sun? No. Member for Engkilili.

YB Encik Johnical Rayong anak Ngipa: Tuan Speaker, before I start my debate, I must extend my deepest sympathy on behalf of DUN Engkilili on the passing of the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier beloved wife. Our prayers and sympathy are with Yang Amat Berhormat Premier and his family during this difficult time. Her passing is a great loss to the people of Sarawak.

Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, kerana telah memberi ruang kepada saya untuk berbahas berkenaan dengan *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, yang baru sebentar tadi telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya. Saya ucapkan syabas dan tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri dan juga pucuk kepimpinan Kerajaan GPS yang dipimpin oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, seorang pemimpin kita yang berpandangan jauh demi masa depan Sarawak dan rakyatnya.

Saya selaku Wakil Rakyat ADUN bagi N.33 Engkilili amatlah mengalu-alukan *Bill* ini agar dapat diluluskan oleh kesemua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat termasuk ADUN Pending dan ADUN Padungan di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini, in *this august House*, supaya ia dapat direalisasikan bagi menambah bilangan keahilan Dewan Undangan Negeri pada masa sekarang yang berjumlah 82 kepada 99; *to increase the memberships of Dewan Undangan Negeri to 99 elected membership not the redeliation*, iaitu pertambahan sebanyak 17 kerusi ADUN Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak merupakan sebuah wilayah yang terbesar di dalam Malaysia. Saiznya ialah 124,450 kilometer persegi atau 48,050 batu persegi. Dan ini telah meliputi sekitar sekurang-kurangnya lebih 40% daripada keseluruhan tanah Malaysia.

Jumlah penduduk Sarawak Tahun 2024 dianggarkan sebanyak 2.937.85 orang dengan kepadatan penduduknya ialah 24 orang perkilometer persegi, maklumat yang diperolehi oleh saya daripada Wikipedia Bahasa Melayu. Jumlah penduduk sudah pasti telah meningkat setiap tahun, khususnya pada Mei tahun 2025 ini, bilangan pengundi berdaftar juga telah meningkat yang berdaftar sebanyak, mencecah 2.15,859 orang.

Sebelum Pilihan Raya Pertama tahun 1969, kerusi DUN Sarawak adalah sebanyak 48 kerusi, meningkat kepada 56 pada tahun 1985, meningkat lagi kepada 62, tahun 2005 kepada 71 dan 82 kerusi pada tahun 2014 sehingga kini. Ini adalah selaras dengan Perkara 113(2) Perlembagaan Persekutuan pindaan sedemikian boleh dilakukan selepas tempoh lapan (8) tahun seperti yang kita bentangkan pada hari ini.

Tuan Speaker, oleh itu pada masa kini penambahan kerusi DUN Sarawak sebanyak 82 kepada 99 amatlah sesuai dan harus dilakukan di atas beberapa faktor di antaranya seperti berikut:

(a) Keadaan faktor geografi Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, ini bukanlah Kanada, Australia ataupun mana-mana tempat, ini adalah Sarawak dalam Malaysia, saya setuju dengan Tuan Speaker. Dengan keadaan jumlah bilangan ADUN yang ada sekarang sudah pasti tidak dapat menumpukan 100% kawasannya memandangkan kawasan yang sangat luas dan di antaranya sukar untuk diliputi. Kos untuk seseorang wakil rakyat untuk melawat kawasan di luar bandar juga menelan belanja yang begitu besar sekali Tuan Speaker.

Jangan bandingkan kawasan luar bandar kita khasnya seperti apa diperkatakan oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat Padungan sebentar tadi. Ini adalah tidak adil kepada masyarakat luar bandar, khasnya kawasan di ulu sungai berdasarkan prinsip perwakilan. Untuk melawat kawasan luar bandar, boleh tanya semua ADUN di sini, wakil rakyat di sini, adalah menggunakan perbelanjaan dan kos yang begitu besar sekali;

(b) Untuk memberi keseimbangan khasnya pembangunan di luar bandar dan kawasan bandar. Ini bagi memastikan penyampaian perkhidmatan Kerajaan yang berkesan dan pertumbuhan ekonomi yang seimbang. Ini termasuklah infrastruktur, pendidikan, kesihatan, pendapatan ekonomi dan sebagainya; dan

(c) Selain daripada itu, faktor bertambahnya pemilihan berdaftar.

Kalau dahulu pemilihan berdaftar adalah yang berusia 21 tahun ke atas dan sekarang telah meningkat setiap tahun memandangkan yang berusia 18 tahun telah didaftarkan secara automatik sebagai pengundi berdaftar. Dengan peningkatan para pengundi berdaftar ini, bilangan ADUN Sarawak juga haruslah di tambah bilangannya kerana bagi menampung jumlah pengundi berdaftar yang tinggi yang semakin mendesak mahukan suara mereka didengar oleh kerajaan. Oleh itu, haruslah kita meningkatkan jumlah wakil rakyat kepada 19 orang.

Tuan Speaker, dengan kelulusan *Bill* ini yang disebut sebagai *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, ini nanti, terserahlah kepada pihak budi bicara pihak SPR (Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya) untuk membuat dan menjalankan siasatan yang rapi bagi mengenal pasti dalam usaha untuk mencadangkan pewujudan beberapa daerah baharu dan pusat mengundi baharu berdasarkan kepada faktor-faktor seperti yang dihuraikan oleh saya sebentar tadi.

Ini haruslah bagi mengambil kira sebagai garis panduan terutamanya dalam mengenal pasti penambahan kerusi DUN Sarawak yang baharu, khasnya bagi kawasan luar bandar dan bukannya semata-mata berdasarkan kepada jumlah penduduk dan pengundi yang banyak tetapi lebih menekankan mana-mana keluasan sesuatu kawasan DUN yang luas dan sukar untuk dihubungi contohnya seperti di kawasan DUN N.33 Engkilili.

Tuan Speaker, dengan ini saya menyokong *penuh Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Memberships) Bill, 2025*, untuk diluluskan. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Bawang Assan.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025 tabled by the Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan dan Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi N.15 Asajaya. Tuan Speaker, allow me first of all to convey my heartfelt condolence to our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier for the passing of his beloved wife and my sympathy goes to all members of his family.

Tuan Speaker, I stand here with a strong sense of duty and purpose to support the proposed Bill to increase the number of constituencies in Sarawak State Legislative Assembly from 82 to 99. This is not merely a matter of numbers or political calculations, it is a step forward in ensuring that the voices of our people in Sarawak are heard more fairly and they are better represented and more effectively served.

Tuan Speaker, the proposed increase is fully constitutional under the Sarawak State Constitution. The number of seats may be amended through a Bill by this honourable House, and this is what we are doing today. And under the Federal Constitution, the Election Commission is empowered to undertake a redelineation exercise which can include the revision of seat numbers.

Tuan Speaker, we are therefore acting within the law and more importantly we are acting in the spirit of justice and democratic progress. Tuan Speaker, you see, Sarawak's population has grown rapidly, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas such as Kuching, Miri, Bintulu and Sibu. In many urban constituencies, the number of voters has exceeded 30,000 while some rural seats have fewer than 10,000. In effect, this means one (1) vote in the rural areas carries three (3) times more weight than the vote in urban areas.

This margin of deviation challenges the principles of electoral fairness. One may say that the imbalance dilutes the value of voices and undermines the democratic principles. But Tuan Speaker, on the other hand, we must understand that there are valid reasons why our rural constituencies have fewer voters. Rural constituencies are vast in areas. Some of our current constituencies, particularly in the interior, as stated by you, Tuan Speaker, just now, are perhaps larger than some of the states in Peninsular Malaysia.

ADUNS in such areas must travel by boats, four-wheel drives, through plantation roads, through timber roads, or even on foot to reach their constituents. The role of our rural ADUNS is, in many ways, a great deal more demanding logistically than that of the urban ADUNS. These are valid concerns that rural seats tend to have fewer voters. Increasing the number of seats to 99 will allow fairer voter distribution and more equitable representation across both urban and rural areas.

Tuan Speaker, we can work on a more reasonable range of voters' difference, say a middle path, one that recognises the unique needs of our rural areas, but also restores more fairness in our local urban constituencies.

Tuan Speaker, by increasing the number of constituencies, we reduce the physical size of each constituency, making it more manageable, more accessible, more serviceable, particularly in our rural communities. More constituencies mean closer representation and more focused delivery of development projects. It means each YB can attend more directly to the needs of the people, from infrastructure to education, health, agriculture, and even economic empowerment.

Tuan Speaker, in areas where development has been slow due to logistical constraints, this change of number to increase from 82 to 99 will bring much needed visibility and attention to some of the constituencies. Moreover, Tuan Speaker, many of our administrative districts currently house more than one large constituency, while others are split awkwardly across boundaries. It is my hope that the proposed increase to 99 seats would allow us to align electoral boundaries with district and sub-district administration, streamlining governance, and providing public service delivery.

Tuan Speaker, in my constituency, N.53 Bawang Assan for example, some of the outlying polling districts, such as those in lower Batang Igan areas, come under Matu District. Those areas nearer to Sibu belong to Sibu Rural District Council. It is hoped that in the forthcoming re-delineation exercise, steps can be taken to align electoral boundaries with district administration to properly align governance with public delivery.

Tuan Speaker, other criterias that we should also bear in mind are the preservation of our community and ethnic cohesion. This is important, the preservation of community and ethnic

cohesion. We must know that Sarawak is a home to a rich mosaic of ethnic groups and indigenous communities. In the forthcoming re-delineation, we must ensure that no community is artificially divided, or its' voice diluted. Wherever possible, constituencies should reflect the cultural and community identity of the people Bidayuh Iban, Bidayuh Orang Ulu, Malay, Malanau or Chinese. In this re-delineation exercise, we should therefore, wherever possible, ensure the preservation of community and ethnics cohesion.

Tuan Speaker, the proposal in the increase in our state constituencies also reflect our continuing commitment to the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63). We in Sarawak have long called for a more equitable representation, not only in our State but also in Parliament. I totally agree with the Honourable Member for Pending and, what is that, Padungan, that we ought to fight for one-third (1/3) representation together with the Sabah state in Parliament.

You see, Tuan Speaker, to do that, in order to achieve one third (1/3) representation in the Federal Parliament we need to add the number of state seats, in order to give political and legal legitimacy to our claim of one third (1/3) representation in Parliament. This is important because the Election Commission, when it comes to re-delineate parliamentary constituencies, they may combine one (1) or two (2) or sometimes, or three (3) state constituencies into one (1) parliamentary constituency. If we have more, then more state seats, say from 82 to 99, then that will enable the Election Commission to add more parliamentary seats to the state of Sarawak.

You see, at the moment, I can see that Sabah and Sarawak, 31 plus 25, only 56 parliamentary seats out of a total of 222 parliamentary seats, that gives us something like 25%, far short of the one third (1/3) of the representation. And so, we need to probably have more to achieve if we can have, say 81, gives Sarawak another 15, Sabah another 10, meaning we add 25. That will give us 81 parliamentary seats, Sabah and Sarawak combined, out of 222, we can achieve 33% of the representation.

You see, in Sarawak, we now have 82 state seats, adding 17, make it 99 seats. Mind you, Tuan Speaker, we have an area much larger than Semenanjung Malaysia. Do you know how many ADUNs in Semenanjung Malaysia? They have 445 ADUNs in total in Semenanjung Malaysia. A size smaller than us, of course, and we only have 82. So, I think it is highly justifiable for us to increase from 82 to 99. That also would enable or give more legitimacy for the Election Commission to give us more parliamentary seats. So, I hope the Honourable Members for Pending and Padungan will understand this, it is highly important. Increase in the state seats will give us political and legal legitimacy to the increase in the parliamentary seats to enable us to achieve one-third (1/3) representation in Parliament.

Tuan Speaker, an expanded and more representative DUN is consistent with the spirit of the partnership and equality under the MA63, as I said it will strengthen our voice, and our autonomy as one of the founding regions of Malaysia.

Tuan Speaker, we believe that 99 is a balanced and practical number. It represents an increase of about 20%, which allow for meaningful improvement in representation without overwhelming the structure or resources of our State Assembly. It is enough to correct the existing imbalance, but not excessive to raise concerns about over-politicisation or administrative strain.

Finally, Tuan speaker, let this honourable House be remembered for having the courage and the foresight to take this important step. I would like to congratulate Honourable Minister for Tourism and also Yang Berhormat bagi Asajaya for his far-sightedness in tabling this Bill. Let us strengthen the democratic voice of our people, empower our communities, and enhance the governance of Sarawak. Let the number 99 stand not only for more seats, but for greater inclusion, better service, and let this number 99 stand for a stronger Sarawak for all.

Tuan Speaker, with the above observations, I fully support the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. Thank you. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Greater states seats will give leverage to have greater parliamentary seats. On that note, we have a lunch break. Sitting resumes at 2.30 p.m.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 1.09 petang)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 2.45 petang)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tupong.

YB Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, tabled by the Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry, and Performing Arts who is also the Honourable Member for N.15 Asajaya.

Tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat bagi Asajaya di atas pembentangan *Bill* yang begitu *significant* dan *historical* sekali. But first, I would like to start by bringing all of us to understand the spirit of the Bill and *our bidang kuasa kerana dua orang Ahli Dewan ini yang lagi lama daripada saya*. They seem to be confused parliamentarians. Mereka betul-betul *confused*, Tuan Speaker. Maka sebab itu lah *let us understand first the spirit and* bidang kuasa kita. Yang pertama, pada hari ini Yang Berhormat bagi Asajaya telah menbentangkan *Bill* di mana kita hendak meningkatkan kerusi Dewan daripada 82 ke 99. Itu sahaja bidang kuasa kita yang akan kita bincangkan pada hari ini. Tetapi ini disebabkan *delineation exercise* yang terakhir pada tahun 2014. Jadi, ianya boleh dilakukan selepas lapan tahun. Jadi, sekarang lebih daripada lapan tahun boleh *udah di embak* ke DUN untuk kita bincang dan kita putuskan bersama.

Pada hari ini kita akan membincangkan sama ada hendak meluluskan atau tidak. Itu saja. Tetapi apa yang berlaku selepas itu? Jika ianya diluluskan, maka kita akanewartakan kelulusan di DUN ini dan kita serahkan kepada SPR. Sudah di luar bidang kuasa kita dan apabila diserahkan kepada SPR, maka baru lah SPR mengeluarkan pemakluman dan warta notis satu. Dan di situ jika tidak berpuas hati, boleh bangkang lagi. Selepas itu, pemakluman dan warta notis dua, barulah ianya pergi kepada proses-proses yang seterusnya. Jadi, pada hari ini kita hanya bincangkan sama ada lulus ataupun tidak tetapi masalahnya Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pending dan Padungan, *it seems that they are jumping the gun. Belum agik* kita meluluskan *atau nisik, nya udah jumping the gun* menuduh *claiming that the GPS* hanya menambah kerusi ini *for GPS's advantage*. 17 kerusi ini hanyalah *advantage* kepada GPS dan kita mengamal *pattern-pattern* di mana kuasa masih dipegang oleh GPS.

Secara logiknya kita ada 82 DUN dan kita menambah 17 kerusi, sudah pasti ada di antara DUN-DUN ia *sik* terlibat dalam *delineation exercise* kerana hanya 17 kerusi. Mun 82 kerusi ditambah maka setiap DUN akan terlibat. *Bah, salah sapa DAP hanya ada duak kerusi? Bukan nya salah kita*. Itu adalah salah DAP sendiri kerana tidak mempunyai sokongan daripada masyarakat Sarawak. Maka sebab itulah mereka hanya ada *duak* kerusi *and if* SPR tidak mengambil kira kerusi mereka, apakan daya hanya 17 kerusi sahaja yang akan kita tambahkan. Itu no. 1. And what can we argue here in the Dewan? Sudah tentu *we argue whether we agree or not to agree*.

Yang Berhormat bagi Pending mengatakan kawasan beliau begitu besar, maka perlu dibahagikan dan perlu dipecahkan. Aih... beliau bersetuju untuk kawasan beliau dipecahkan tetapi beliau mengatakan beliau tidak setuju *Bill* ini diluluskan. A confused Parliamentarian. Satu lagi, beliau berkata penambahan parliamen sahaja dia sokong tetapi tidak penambahan kerusi DUN. Aih... *Confused* lagi *sidak Parliamentarians*. Jika kita hanya menambah kerusi parliamen hujung-hujungnya satu parliamen satu DUN jadinya. Tidak masuk akal *and it shows how confused they are*. Maka sebab itulah rakyat semakin menolak DAP *and we argued let's debate on whether to support this motion or not*.

Yang pertamanya mereka mengatakan, *one person, one vote*. Bagi pandangan saya, Tuan Speaker, *one person, one vote* dan mengambil kira juga keluasan satu-satu tempat tersebut. Kalau kita ambil contoh, Parlimen Ulu Rejang. Parlimen Ulu Rejang *tok* sama besar dengan Pahang. Sudah pasti tidak logik hanya mempunyai tiga DUN. Yang pastinya tanggungjawab kita di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini adalah yang satunya untuk kita meluluskan rang undang-undang ataupun membahaskan rang undang-undang dan membawa masalah rakyat ke dalam Dewan yang mulia ini. Jadi, *mun nya one person, one vote; yes, he will be carrying a lot of voices in the DUN*. Tetapi yakin lah, itu bukannya *our sole objective in this DUN*.

Sudah pastinya kita hendak membangunkan Sarawak ini setimpal ataupun selari dengan pembangunan di Semenanjung. Jika suatu kawasan yang begitu besar, maka sudah tentunya dengan logiknya *mun nya ada sorang YB*, maka peruntukannya dapatlah disalurkan kepada satu kawasan yang besar. *Mun nya dibahagi duak maka duak* peruntukan dapat disalurkan kepada kawasan yang lebih kecil. Jadi jelas ianya akan dapat memberi manfaat kepada kawasan DUN-DUN tersebut. *Eboh kita ngambik kira sikit gilak manusia di kawasan DUN ia*. Selagi kita tidak membangunkan satu kawasan tersebut, maka *sampe* bila-bila lah kawasan *ia sik* akan berkembang *population* nya. So, that's why we have to develop a certain place then only the population can develop. Maka sebab itu penting bagi kita mengambil kira keluasan satu-satu tempat tersebut *and this argument goes to the SPR*. *Ni* boleh kita menuduh *GPS madah kedak tok, madah kedak ia*. Kita hanya meluluskan penambahan, *the rest is up to SPR*. Jadi, seolah-olah Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi Pending dan Padungan *tok sik* yakin dengan SPR yang berada di bawah bidang kuasa Kerajaan MADANI. *Sik patut kedak ia*.

Kita patut yakin dengan Kerajaan Persekutuan, di mana SPR di bawah bidang kuasa mereka, mereka akan melaksanakan tanggungjawab mereka dengan baik. Waktu *sik puas hati* warta ia boleh kita buat bantahan. Senang ajak. Dan juga kalau kita lihat Semenanjung Malaysia *tok* besarnya, saya rasa Sarawak *tok* lebih besar kalau kita kira setiap negeri di Semenanjung Malaysia kira berapa DUN nya. Saya rasa lebih daripada 200, maka di Sarawak pun patutnya lebih daripada 200 DUN juak. Tapi *sik* lah kita *sampe* menuntut untuk ada *sampe* 200 DUN. Sekadar memadai untuk kita ada 99 DUN. Maka itulah yang kita bincangkan pada hari inilah dan itulah kelulusan yang perlu kita dapatkan itulah sokongan yang kita perlu daripada setiap ADUN dan ADUN daripada pembangkang pun madah menyokong jika perlu kawasan nya dipecah *duak*. Tetapi oleh kerana nya *confused* nya madah menyokong untuk dipecah *duak* tetapi nya *sik* menyokong penambahan kerusi.

Jadi, Tuan Speaker, selain daripada itu juga sudah tentu and lastly, I would like to stress on the importance of this re-delineation exercise and the impact it has to the partnership of Sarawak along with Sabah in the Federation and also for the past few years we have been pushing for better representation in the Federal Parliament whereby Sarawak as well as Sabah must have at least 1/3 of the seat. Itu juga Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pending *confused*. *Nya madah* kita tidak memperjuangkan objektif ini dan saya juga tidak pernah mendengar Yang Berhormat bagi Padungan menyebut perkara ini di dalam Parlimen. *Jadi, kita harap Yang Berhormat bagi Padungan juga fight for this cause, and I would wait to see him talk about this in Parliament*.

This is to restore the status quo of Malaysia and its partner during the formation for Malaysia whereby Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore represented 1/3 of the Parliament before Singapore left the Federation. So, this is a constitutional safeguard that was guaranteed through the Cobbolt Commission and report during Malaysia's formation, and this the first step for us to reach that objective *iaitu menambah kerusi DUN kita daripada 82 tok kepada 99* and it should be restored to ensure that we have a say in the laws that are pass in Parliament and to ensure that no laws are detrimental to Sarawak's rights and interest that can be bulldoze.

So, Tuan Speaker, I call upon the Election Commission, *ya bok betul*. We call upon the Election Commission. Jangan menuduh Kerajaan GPS, jangan menuduh satu-satu parti komponen parti, *trying to secure all the seats*. *Kedong ada 17 seats mungkin DAP boleh ambik 15 seats PKR ambik dua (2) seats ataupun nya ambik ke 17 seats ia*. It's up to you. It's up to us to decide jika ianya diluluskan nanti kami berbincang sesama kami untuk pembahagian kerusi itu. Please do not

interfere. Jangan masuk campur hal *urang* and I call on the Federal Government as well and the Parliament to approve this proposal.

Dengan itu, Tuan Speaker saya mohon menyokong. Sekian. Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah. Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Meradong.

YB Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

Tuan Speaker, before I proceed, I would like to on behalf of the people of Meradong express our deepest condolences to the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier on the passing of his beloved wife Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Tuan Speaker, under the Sarawak State Constitution, changes to the composition of the Legislative Assembly can be made after a minimum of eight years. The last time this august House passed the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Ordinance, 2014, was more than 10 years ago, on 11th November 2014. Since then, Sarawak has undergone tremendous transformation economically, socially and infrastructurally. Among the most significant changes was the introduction of automatic voter registration and the reduction of the voting age from 21 to 18, famously known as Undi 18.

This has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of registered voters and many young Sarawakians exercise their right to vote for the first time during the 2021 State Election and 2022 General Election, which marked a new era of youth participation in our democratic process.

Tuan Speaker, in view of these developments, it is timely and necessary for us to consider the introduction of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, tabled by the Honourable Member for N.15 Asajaya who also serves as the Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts and also Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development. The proposed amendment is crucial for several key reasons:

Oversized Constituencies

Tuan Speaker, some state constituencies cover vast geographical areas, making it difficult for elected representatives to efficiently serve their constituents and carry out their duties effectively.

Sudden Surge in Voters

Tuan Speaker, the implementation of automatic voter registration and lowering of the voting age has led to an unexpected and significant increase in voter numbers. Several constituencies now have an unmanageably large electorate, posing challenges to proper representation and engagement.

Sarawak's New Economic Status and Rapid Growth

Tuan Speaker, recognised by the World Bank as a high-income state, Sarawak's development is accelerating across its vast land mass. This necessitates the expansion of representation to ensure that government initiatives are properly planned, implemented and monitored. The formation of more development agencies will also require close collaboration with local representatives to ensure that every corner of Sarawak benefits from these efforts.

Inclusive Development through Effective Representation

Tuan Speaker, at the heart of good governance and sustainable progress lies effective representation. Ensuring every Sarawakians' voice is heard, and no community is left behind, must be our guiding principle as we move forward with our development agenda.

Tuan Speaker, I am not at all surprised Honourable Members for Pending and Padungan chose not to support the Bill just because it is tabled by a government minister. The Honourable Member for Pending should also know that the lack of clean water and electricity supply are mainly at rural or remote areas and with the increasing representation people in those areas can be better looked after and thus can help to solve those issues.

Tuan Speaker, with the additional state seats we have strong justification to request for increase in parliamentary representation and hopefully we can achieve one-third parliamentary seats together with Sabah in the near future which is truly under the spirit of the MA63 and IGC report.

Tuan Speaker, this amendment is not just timely it is imperative. It aligns with the evolving democratic landscape and the growing needs of our people. Let us work together to ensure that the voices of all Sarawakians regardless of geography, all generation are equally and effectively represented in this House.

With that, Tuan Speaker, I strongly support the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Lintang.

YB Encik See Chee How: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, instituted to make provision in respect of the composition of membership to increase the number of elected members of this august House to 99, pursuant to Article 14(2) of the Constitution of Sarawak.

In the explanatory statement, it is stated this new Bill is necessary and appropriate having regards to the increase in the number of electors and effective representation of the people in this legislature. Both of this are well covered by my honourable and learned colleagues. I will comment on the other rationale stated in the same statements that is I quoted, "*the accelerating phase of the development of Sarawak since 2014*", which I consider it a gross understatement and an appalling injustice to our present Sarawak Government and administration.

But then, we are taught to value terseness and understatements. Having said that and noting that we have the outstanding financial achievements in Sarawak that Sarawak has attained today as compared to 2014, I would just like to lay emphasis on the needs of this august House for institutional building and transformation to meet the ongoing devolution of administrative, legislative and fiscal autonomy to Sarawak and the imperative to generate the political momentum towards further devolution of those subject matters to Sarawak, in accordance with the Malaysia Agreement 1963, the Federal Constitution and our laws, and the government must better determine how the rights, interests and benefits should be delivered to all Sarawakians and to hold authorities accountable for their delivery. To cope with that "*accelerating pace of development of Sarawak since 2014*", we actually need more than 99 elected members in this august House but 99 is great as an immediate step forward.

The number counts. It is the duty and responsibility to make ourselves and the new number counts, to face the current challenges with the change of the political landscape in Malaysia, our region and the world. Incidentally and barely two (2) months ago, Singaporeans have gone to the poll and the unicameral Singaporean Parliament had elected 99 Members of Parliament, amongst them 97 were directly elected while two (2) Non-Constituency Members of Parliament (NCMPs) were declared elected to Parliament.

The provisions in the Constitution of Singapore and legislation governing the composition of membership in their Parliament are similar to our Article 14 (2) and the present subject Ordinance we are debating and seeking to enact. In Singapore, they can have at the moment, a maximum of 105 Members of Parliament.

I must declare and make clear from the outset that I am not saying that our Sarawak Legislative Assembly and Singaporean Parliament, nor Sarawak and Singapore, are identical though we do share some little historical, cultural, political and other attributes. Maybe I should say that their good governance, development, progress and good administration makes them one of those nation states that we can benchmark against or upon.

Many may be surprised to know that the small island nation has 99 Members of Parliament in their unicameral parliament, considering the total land area of Singapore is approximately 735.7 square kilometres as at end of December 2024 as compared to Sarawak which covers an area of 124,450 square km, we are 214 times larger than the size of Singapore.

If we are to take land size as comparison to determine the need for a nation state to determine their composition of membership in their legislature as our honourable Member from Padungan has suggested, one (1) Singaporean MP at the moment serves on average a constituency of 7.5 square kilometres. This, compare to our elected representative who serves on average a constituency of 1517 square kilometres. Should we therefore have 202 members in this august House or Singapore should have only member in their Parliament. Yes, those are factual data, but poor references used for determining of the composition of membership in a legislative assembly.

Similarly, just to enlighten the same Honourable Member. In Australia, 14% of the land area is deserted and 35% are arid or desert-like. Hence, in their country, 40% of the area is declared as “*uninhabitable*” due to harsh conditions like extreme heat and lack of water. However, and undoubtedly, the composition of membership of a Parliament and a State Assembly is one determining factor in the nation building of the particular nation state.

When Singapore was with us in the big family, in 1963 to 1965 their number of MPs was only 15 while we had 24 at that time. When Singapore took the inevitable step to take it upon themselves to build their nation-state, the very first step they took was to have a Parliament consisting of 51 members. It shows that it is the working of the composition of membership in the Legislative House that matters.

To keep up with “*the accelerating pace of development of Sarawak since 2014*” to particularly address the needs of our legislative arm for the institutional building and transformation to meet the ongoing devolution of administrative, legislative and fiscal autonomy to Sarawak and the imperative to generate the political momentum towards further devolution of those subject matters to Sarawak and to improve governance to invigorate and sustain development to bourgeon progress and instil best practice, responsibility and accountability in public administration the new composition of membership is key.

Beside the effective representation of the diverse Sarawakian communities in this Legislature, we need their involvement and participation in the decision making, policy making to address the needs and aspiration of Sarawak and all Sarawakians. The Members of this Honourable Dewan must also serve to examine all issues, scrutinize Government actions, provide detailed reports with recommendations to this august House to also ensure accountability and transparency in the government’s administration. Those are the roles and purposes of Parliamentary select committees which are crucial for a healthy democracy.

At the Westminster, these committees of the Parliament of the United Kingdom are made up of a number of Members of Parliament from the House of Commons or peers in the House of Lords or a mixture of both appointed to deal with particular areas or issues. The majority of the Parliamentary committees are select committees which are categorized as departmental, typical or

internal select committees and working within the ambit of the Standing Orders, investigate specific issues or scrutinise the work of the Government. The working of the select committees are also one of Parliament's mechanisms for holding the private sector to account. In Malaysia, 10 Parliamentary Special Select Committees (PSSC) were formed in our House of Commons to assist the Government in addressing issues across all 29 ministries.

For comparison, the Parliament of the United Kingdom has 20 departmental select committees that examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the government departments, numerous other general committees that primarily examine proposed legislation, grand committees, joint committees that consist of members from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords and other committees. Singapore has seven (7) Standing Select Committees, a Special Select Committee on Nominations for Appointment as Nominated Members of Parliament and 12 Government Parliamentary Committees (GPC) each of which is assigned a portfolio corresponding to one (1) or more ministerial portfolios for the GPC to examine the policies, programmes and proposed legislature of a particular ministry to provide the ministry with feedback and suggestions and is consulted by the Ministry on issues of public interest.

With the new composition of membership in our Honourable Dewan, this august House can undertake the necessary transformation and institutional reforms to strengthen our constitutional democracy, for the benefits and interests of Sarawak and all Sarawakians. In the same breath and based on the aforesaid, it is my hope that this Honourable Dewan may soon be presented, consider and approve a Bill under Article 6(3)(b) to increase the number of members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri to be appointed as members of the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri. Sarawak has turned a new leaf since 2014. It bears upon us in this Honourable Assembly to take Sarawak to a new, higher and better political plan. With that, I support the Bill. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Katibas.

YB Encik Lidam anak Assan: Tuan Speaker, first and foremost I would like to thank you for the opportunity to debate on this important Bill, Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, for our beloved Sarawak. Before I proceed, please allow me to convey on behalf of the people of Katibas. Our deepest condolences to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier on the passing of his beloved wife which is a great loss to the people of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, I rise to support this Bill to increase our Dewan Undangan Negeri Membership from 82 to 99 seats on the ground of fair and equitable to Sarawak and Sarawakians especially underdeveloped rural. I wish to congratulate Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya for successful tabling of this important Bill. Let me reaffirm, Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is in Malaysia not in South Africa and it is located in the North Western part of the island of Borneo, is the largest state in Malaysia. With its sparse land area of approximately 124,450 square kilometre, Sarawak alone a count for one third of Malaysia total landmass. Despite its size, Sarawak is home to just about 2.8 million people making it one of the most sparsely populated region in the country of 34 million people as registered in the DOSM 2020. Despite its size, Sarawak's population density is about 20 people per square kilometre compared to the national outrage of 90% per square kilometre, our neighbouring Sabah 44; Pahang 46 person per square kilometre.

Sarawak's sparse settlement means large swathe of rural and forested areas. Sarawak's population is remarkably diverse, consisting of more than 40 ethnic groups. The largest indigenous group is the Iban, Malay, Melanau, Chinese and the Orang Ulu. The natives/ indigenous communities occupy mostly in the rural areas. This mix of ethnicities has given us a rich cultural landscape with multiple languages, customs, and festivals coexist harmoniously. Sarawak is also known for its rich cultural diversity, abundant natural resources, and stunning biodiversity, all of which make it an important and unique part of Malaysia.

Tuan Speaker, as we all know the facts that we have only 31 parliamentary seats in that of 222 seats at Federal level despite our landmass. In that also our parliamentary and Sarawak Legislative Assembly have different sizes as our geography is also defined by long winding rivers such as the Rajang River and a rugged interior rainforest of Mount Mulu, Bukit Goram, Bukit Sepali in Ulu Katibas while some are densely populated Miri, Bintulu, Sibul and Kuching cities. Some parliamentary seats comprise of three State Assembly seats like our Kapit P215 which consists of Katibas, Pelagus and Bukit Goram.

While Sarawak is endowed with abundant natural resources, it also faces development challenges, especially in rural areas. Many rural communities still lack infrastructure such as roads, clean water, electricity, and internet connectivity. The Sarawak Government has made rural development a priority, investing in our education, healthcare, and digital infrastructure to close the gap between urban and rural populations. Of course, environmental protection is another challenge, as deforestation and land development continue to threaten the biodiversity. All of the above is enshrined in our PCDS 2030.

Tuan Speaker, today Sarawak Legislative Assembly has 82 seats. This number does not proportionate according to our land mass. It is therefore timely to increase the seats to ensure that:

- (a) We improve representation and oversights for marginalized remote communities. We can reach out for a better coverage to ensure no one is left behind. New constituencies can ensure these groups have direct political representation, making their concerns more likely to be heard in the legislative assembly;
- (b) The additional seats can serve better administrative convenience and governance. As areas also undergoing rapid development likewise the governance structure such as roads, schools, hospitals, etc. are becoming more complex are in need of more attention. It is, therefore, more effective and good governance as small areas comes with improved focus and coordination to manage, improve our accessibilities, improve our responsiveness and accountability of their elected representative;
- (c) The new additional seat will ensure balanced development as some rural areas are vast and underdeveloped. The new constituencies can help focus our development efforts which will provide fair allocation for development budgets to redress rural-urban balance development. This will be made possible as the elected representative will have smaller areas and more manageable populations to cater to, thus, reducing neglect. For example, Parliament seat P215 Kapit is a good example on why we should increase our state constituencies. With the land size of 6,300 over sq km, sparsely populated and unevenly distributed with the population of 43,000 people or we have only seven persons per sq km in our P215 Kapit;
- (d) Without redrawing or creating new constituencies, the elected representative may represent far more people than the others, leading to unequal representation and very unfair to those in rural due to its remoteness thus violates *the "principle of no one is left behind"* if we cannot reach out for everyone.
- (e) The new seat will also in support for social inclusivity and minimize development gap between urban and rural. By God's willing, we hope by 2030 all settlement areas will be fully connected by then there is no more term rural areas;
- (f) Tuan Speaker, in addition to the foregoing merits, it is obviously necessary and appropriate to increase our legislature from 82 to 99 with regards to having increase in our electors since (inception of 1828) which leads to overall need for effective representation for the people and the accelerating pace of development of Sarawak since 2014 under the stewardship of our YAB Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg under GPS teams;

- (g) Sarawak is a land of immense beauty, diversity, and potential. As the largest state in Malaysia, it plays a vital role in the nation's economy, culture, and ecological balance. Therefore, it deserves full autonomy in its representation to reach out at every corner of its border and oversight on every village in the remote areas.

In view of the merit of the Bill, for *Sarawak Maju Makmur, kitai Segulai Sejalai*, we must together push forward with Sarawak First, it is hereby Katibas beg to support the bills for the future of Sarawak and its people. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Baleh.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: Tuan Speaker, terlebih dahulu saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan terima kasih kerana memberikan peluang kepada saya untuk turut serta dalam membahaskan Rang Undang-Undang Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025, di Dewan yang mulia pada petang ini. Ribuan terima kasih juga kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif and Seni Persembahan Sarawak atas usul pindaan rang undang-undang ini. Saya mewakili rakyat N.64 Baleh merakamkan ucapan takziah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier dan keluarga atas pemergian isteri beliau pada 23 Jun 2025 yang lalu.

Tuan Speaker, dalam perbahasan isu rang undang-undang ini, saya sangat bersetuju dengan saranan usul yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak dengan Usul Penambahan Keanggotaan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri sebanyak 17 Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri daripada 82 Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri yang sedia ada kepada 99 Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri. Saya tak akan mengambil contoh negara ataupun negeri yang lain. Saya hanya mengambil contoh kawasan saya di DUN N.64 Baleh yang di dalam kawasan Parlimen 216 Hulu Rejang. Berikut merupakan beberapa faktor yang memerlukan penambahan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri.

- (a) Pertambahan penduduk.

Kawasan Baleh mengalami pertambahan penduduk dari tahun ke tahun termasuk peningkatan populasi di rumah panjang, penempatan baru serta kawasan luar bandar yang berkembang. Ini boleh menyebabkan ketidakseimbangan bilangan pengundi antara kawasan DUN yang sedia ada.

- (b) Keluasan Geografi yang Luas dan Sukar Diakses

Baleh merupakan kawasan yang sangat luas dan terdiri daripada kawasan pedalaman yang sukar diakses seperti Skim Penempatan Baharu di Tunoh, kawasan Sungai Mujong, dan kawasan Hulu Baleh. Kawasan ini memerlukan wakil rakyat tambahan untuk memberi perhatian lebih dekat kepada penduduk terpencil.

- (c) Kesukaran Perkhidmatan dan Akses Infrastruktur

Infrastruktur seperti jalan raya, sekolah, klinik dan bekalan asas masih memerlukan banyak pembangunan. Dengan lebih banyak kerusi, wakil rakyat dapat memberi fokus yang lebih tersusun dan berkesan terhadap pembangunan mikro di kawasan kecil di dalam Baleh.

- (d) Ketidakseimbangan Beban Tugas Wakil Rakyat

Dengan keluasan dan kepadatan penduduk yang semakin meningkat, seorang wakil DUN menghadapi kesukaran untuk memberikan perkhidmatan yang terbaik mencukupi kepada seluruh kawasan. Penambahan kerusi dapat membantu mengagihkan beban kerja dan tanggungjawab kepada wakil rakyat lain.

(e) Keadilan Politik dan Representasi Demokrasi

Penambahan kerusi akan memastikan wakil rakyat lebih mencerminkan suara rakyat di kawasan tersebut. Ini memberi peluang yang lebih adil kepada semua komuniti etnik dan lokaliti untuk bersuara dan menyumbang dalam proses membuat keputusan kerajaan.

(f) Perkembangan Ekonomi dan Projek Mega

Kawasan Baleh kini terlibat dengan projek besar seperti Empangan Hidroelektrik Baleh (Baleh HEP). Manakala, cadangan untuk membina sumber tenaga melata di Sungai Gaat kini masih dalam proses kajian kebolehlaksanaan. Ini menarik kemasukan tenaga kerja, kontraktor dan mewujudkan kawasan bandar baharu yang seterusnya menuntut pengurusan kawasan yang lebih efisien dari segi politik dan pembangunan.

(g) Pertambahan Pengundi Undi 18

Pertambahan jumlah pengundi khususnya yang melibatkan Undi 18 turut menuntut pertambahan kerusi di Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak ini. Menurut statistik perangkaan 2022, jumlah pengundi yang berumur 18 tahun ke 20 tahun adalah sebanyak 143,609 atau 20.9% dari jumlah pengundi berdaftar baru di Sarawak pada 2022. Dan, jumlah ini semakin meningkat setiap tahun melibatkan pertambahan pengundi di seluruh kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri.

Justeru, usul penambahan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri di Sarawak bukan sahaja tepat malah sangat bersesuaian dengan kehendak keadaan sosiopolitik dan geopolitik di Sarawak pada masa kini.

Tuan Speaker, justeru itu, dengan pembentangan hujah saya di Dewan yang mulia pada hari ini, saya dengan ini menyokong penuh usul penambahan 17 Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri berlandaskan Rang Undang-Undang Dewan Undangan Negeri (Komposisi Keanggotaan), 2025, yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Krian.

YB Encik Friday anak Belik: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, kerana memberi peluang kepada Krian untuk mengambil bahagian dalam membahaskan *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, yang dibentangkan oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat dari N.15 Asajaya sebelah pagi tadi.

Sebelum itu, Tuan Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues, on behalf of the people of Krian, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier and his entire family on the passing of his beloved wife the late Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill proposes to increase the number of elected members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak from the current 82 to 99. The enabling law, Article 14(i)(b) of the Constitution of the State of Sarawak provides that the Dewan Undangan Negeri shall consist of such number of elected members as the Legislature may by law prescribed. The proposed increase is also in line with Article 113(2) of the Federal Constitution, which states that after an interval of over eight years the state can request the Election Commission for a review and to add a number of seats at the Dewan Undangan Negeri.

This is also to comply with the Constitutional principle of *“One Person, One Vote, One Value”* requiring constituencies to be approximately equal in the number of voters. The last increase was made in 2014 whereby it was increased from 71 to 82. The proposed increase also reflects the commitment of the GPS Government to ensure that the people are well represented and its

development efforts commensurate with the current demographic landscape in the dynamics in the State. It will also ensure smooth, effective and more efficient administration to propel Sarawak towards a faster pace of development as contained in the PCDS 2030.

Tuan Speaker, the proposed increase in the number of state seat is most appropriate and very timely as Sarawak moves toward a new phase of development. With a size of 124,450 square kilometers, Sarawak need a more aggressive approach to enhance further its development efforts. The geographical and demographic outlooks also require a comprehensive planning to make sure that development are able to reach every nook and corner of the state. As it is now, there are some seats that are bigger than some of states in the Peninsular Malaysia. Therefore, it is imminent that some large state seat to be reviewed and to ensure better representation in the State Legislature.

Tuan Speaker, another factor that warrants an increase in the number of members in the State Legislative Assembly is the increase in the population of Sarawak which now stands at 2,939,785 (as of October 2024). With that the number of registered voters had also increased from 1,994,330 in June 2024 to 2,008,347 voters in January 2025. Therefore, the proposed revision will ensure that our populace *viz-a-viz* the voters will be equally and adequately represented and served.

Tuan Speaker, therefore, in conclusion, I pray that the agency concern while doing the redelineation exercise will be able to strike a balance between the urban and rural areas to ensure a fair distribution and avoid disparities between the urban and rural in terms of representation. This is in line with the government endeavour to bring more development and to transform the rural sectors in years to come. With that Tuan Speaker, I beg to support the Bill. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu.

YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to participate in the debate in support of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, tabled by the Honourable Member for DUN N.15 Asajaya and *tahniah* YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah. Before I proceed, allow me to represent the people of my constituency N.68 Tanjong Batu, Bintulu, in expressing our deepest condolences to the Right Honourable Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak on the passing of his beloved wife, Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang. Her loss is deeply felt by the whole state. Our thoughts and prayers are with YAB Premier and his family during this time of mourning. May they find strength and comfort in the love and support of the people of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate in support of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, tabled by the Member for N.15 Asajaya, YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill before us today is straightforward in its legal construction but monumental in its impact. It seeks to increase the number of elected members in this honourable House from 82 to 99.

And this move is not without precedent. Our Constitution under Article 14(1)(b), clearly provides that the number of elected members of this Dewan may be determined by laws passed by this very Legislature. Article 14(2) further provides that until such law is made, the number shall remain at 48. This means the legal mechanism for change has long existed, and today, we are simply exercising that right once again to meet current realities.

Tuan Speaker, allow me to briefly take this honourable House down memory lane. In 1985, we had 56 seats. In 1995, expanded to 62. In 2005 to 71 and then in 2014, to the current 82. Now, after more than a decade since the last revision, we are proposing an increase to 99 seats.

This is not just a numerical change. It is a strategic and forward-thinking step, motivated by very real and pressing factors:

- (a) The exponential increase in the number of electors. Sarawak has witnessed significant population growth over the last decade. With more voters comes the responsibility to ensure that every voice is adequately represented. Without increasing the number of constituencies, we risk overburdening existing representatives and diluting the power of democratic representation;
- (b) The accelerating pace of development. Sarawak is no longer what it was in 2014. The past decade has seen transformative economic progress with our cities expanding our rural areas being more accessible through connectivity initiatives and our economy diversified across sectors such as energy, technology, tourism, and green development. These advancements demand a corresponding enhancement in governance. More representatives will allow for a stronger and more localised presence of elected leaders who can ensure that no development initiative is left unchecked or unmonitored;
- (c) The impact of Undi 18 and automatic voter registration. The implementation of Undi 18 has brought in a significant rise of new, young voters into our electoral roll. This demographic shift not only increases the number of electors but also underscores the need for greater representation to ensure that the voices of our youth are heard and reflected in the legislative process. Our Dewan must evolve to reflect this new landscape of participation and social involvement;
- (d) To strengthen the legislative process and governance. We are a Legislature that enacts laws, approves budgets, debates policy and checks the Executive. As our population and development grows, the complexity of these duties also expands. More elected members mean broader expertise, richer debate, more thorough oversight and above all more effective representation.

Tuan Speaker, this move will also enhance inclusivity. Sarawak is a land of great diversity. Each new seat opens up an opportunity to represent underrepresented groups, marginalised communities or emerging urban centres that have evolved significantly over the years. Our goal is not only to add numbers but to add value, representation and legitimacy.

May I pose a rhetorical question to this august House if not now, then when? If not us, who will ensure Sarawak is prepared for the future challenges of governance and representation? If we truly want to secure Sarawak's rightful place and voice in the Federation, shouldn't we also aim for stronger representation in Parliament? Only when more DUN seats are created, can we justify more parliamentary seats ensuring Sarawak's voice is louder, stronger, and fairly represented in the national discourse.

It is worth remembering that this very Legislature, born from the aspirations of Sarawak's people and strengthened by the Malaysia Agreement 1963, has the duty to evolve in tandem with the *rakyat*. As we mark this milestone, let us reaffirm our role not only as lawmakers but as torch bearers of Sarawak's rightful place in the Federation. Of course, it is acknowledged that this expansion comes with financial implications. However, I believe the cost of effective democracy and governance is a worthy investment. The cost of poor representation of neglected areas, and of disconnected policy is far higher.

It is also important to note that this amendment does not involve changes to the Constitution of the State of Sarawak. The constitutional provisions already empower us to prescribe the number of elected members via legislation. Hence, what we are doing today is in full compliance with the legal and procedural framework established in our Constitution.

Tuan Speaker, let us not wait until disparity and discontent arise due to the under representation. Let us plan ahead. Let us ensure that governance in Sarawak remains people-centric, inclusive and responsive. This Bill is not just about numbers. It is about capacity, capability and commitment to serve every Sarawakian better. To close, allow me to share a local *pantun*:

*Burung kenyalang terebai pagi,
Begulai jinak ba dan tinggi;
Wakil rakyat nambah agi,
Sada rakyat manah agi.*

With that, I fully support the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. Thank you. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Telang Usan.

YB Dato Dennis Ngau: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, good afternoon to you. Thank you, Tuan Speaker, Sir, for giving N.77 Telang Usan the floor to partake in debate on the Bill, titled Dewan Undangan Kerajaan (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, tabled in this sitting today in the name of N.15 Asajaya. Foremost on behalf of the people of the constituency of N.77 Telang Usan and the entire population of P220 Baram wishes to offer and record our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to our beloved Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak on the untimely demised and called to be with her maker of his beloved wife, the late Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang recently. We pray that YAB Premier and his family be showered with strength and peace throughout their challenging times.

Tuan Speaker, Article 113(2)(ii) of the Federal Constitution allows for the review of State Constituencies after a minimum of eight (8) years after the last review or re-delineation. As we are all aware, the last review or re-delineation of Sarawak State constituencies was done in 2015 when the number of constituencies increased from 71 to 82. It has been 10 years since the last review of Sarawak's state constituencies and the Bill to increase the number of our state constituencies from 82 to 99 is in accordance to Article 113 (2)(ii) of the Federal Constitution and very timely.

Our Sarawak is the biggest region in Malaysia with a total size area of approximately 12 million hectares and a population of around three (3) million of which about two (2) million are registered voters as at January 2025 official Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia record. The federal law enables automatic registration of voters above 18 years old and eligible voters who did not register previously have resulted in a big increase in the number of voters in all constituencies since the law was implemented in our country.

Tuan Speaker, peningkatan jumlah pengundi yang sangat ketara lewat ini tanpa penambahan kerusi Dewan Undangan Negeri boleh menimbulkan ketidakseimbangan dari segi representasi politik sekali gus menjejaskan kecekapan penyampaian perkhidmatan oleh wakil rakyat. Sehubungan itu, cadangan penambahan kawasan DUN bukan sahaja merupakan suatu keperluan yang munasabah malah turut menjamin keadilan dalam sistem demokrasi serta memperkukuhkan keberkesanan pentadbiran dan perwakilan politik di peringkat akar umbi.

In addition, to the significant increase in the number of voters, some of the existing rural constituencies, in particular the constituency of N.65 Belaga, N.66 Murum, N.77 Telang Usan and N.78 Mulu cover large areas between 10,000 to 14,000 square kilometers compared to smaller urban constituencies. Article 117 of the Federal Constitution provides that State Constituencies shall be determined in accordance to the 13th Schedule of the Federal Constitution. Clause 2 (b) of the 13th Schedule provides the special weightage shall be given to large rural constituencies in the delineation exercise. I wish to remind Suruhajaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia, in the due process with our re-delineation to come must take this into strict account to ensure rural population of ours to get the fair share of the states and country development – in a faster manner.

Therefore, the proposed increase in State Constituencies from the current 82 to 99 is necessary due to the significant increase in number of voters arising from the automatic registration of those more than 18 years old as voters and also to rationalise the geographical size of rural and urban constituencies in order for elected representatives to effectively serve rural constituencies and voters. The final location and shape or boundary of the resulting 99 constituencies will be determined

by the Election Commission and is not within the purview of this august House. The increase in the number of constituencies from 82 to 99 will definitely give a stronger representation and voice for our electorates and will also provide a wider avenue for inclusivity and better delivery of service to the *rakyat*.

Tuan Speaker, dalam konteks lokaliti subjek ini iaitu P220 Baram merupakan salah satu kawasan Parlimen terbesar di Malaysia dengan keluasan mencecah 22,000-kilometer persegi iaitu lebih besar daripada beberapa negeri di Semenanjung Malaysia seperti Perlis dan Melaka jika digabungkan. Kawasan yang luas ini hanya diwakili oleh tiga (3) DUN iaitu N.76 Marudi, N.77 Telang Usan dan N.78 Mulu menjadikan tugas seorang wakil rakyat sangat mencabar dalam menyampaikan perkhidmatan yang berkesan kepada rakyat.

Sebahagian besar kampung dan penempatan di Baram hanya boleh diakses melalui jalan balak, sungai atau penerbangan kecil. Penduduk di kawasan pedalaman terpaksa mengambil masa berjam-jam malah sehingga 14 jam perjalanan menggunakan kenderaan pacuan empat roda menggunakan jalan balak untuk ke pusat pentadbiran ataupun mendapat kemudahan asas. Keadaan ini membuktikan bahawa skop kerja dan tanggungjawab tiga (3) ADUN ini masih tidak mencukupi untuk menampung keluasan geografi, keperluan infrastruktur dan kepelbagaian komuniti di kawasan Baram.

Oleh itu, penubuhan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) baharu di Baram amat diperlukan bagi memastikan suara rakyat di kawasan pedalaman dapat di dengar dengan lebih jelas, Pembangunan dapat diselaras dengan lebih terperinci, dan perkhidmatan kerajaan disampaikan secara lebih berkesan dan dekat kepada masyarakat luar bandar. Dan apa yang lebih besar impaknya nanti adalah, pengecilan saiz-saiz DUN di kawasan Baram nanti akan membolehkan peruntukan untuk pembangunan infrastruktur dan ameniti, seperti peruntukan *special funds* yang dulu kita panggil *Minor Rural Project* yang disalurkan selama ini mengikut DUN-DUN akan bertambah untuk kawasan Baram khususnya.

Tuan Speaker, namun percayalah saya dan rakan-rakan saya ADUN dan MP di Baram tidak pernah kompelin saiz Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak yang kami wakili sangat besar atau menjadi alasan tidak menjalankan tugas kami, sebabnya kami senantiasa berpendapat kami dan Parti GPSlah yang terbaik untuk mewakili rakyat kita di DUN-DUN ini. Namun, sebagai manusia biasa jauh di sudut hati kami berpendapat ada rakan-rakan kita dalam Dewan Undangan Negeri yang mulia ini bernasib baik kerana mewakili kawasan DUN yang tersedia agensi kerajaan untuk menyampai atau menjalankan tanggungjawab wajib kerajaan melaksanakan agenda pembangunan di kawasan-kawasan di bandar dan di bibir bandar kerana kawasan-kawasan ini adalah kawasan tumpuan negeri, tumpuan negara dan tumpuan dunia. *Mauk* tidak *mauk* kerajaan terpaksa menumpu pembangunan mewah di kawasan-kawasan ini. *Therefore, with one (1) additional (hopefully)* kawasan DUN di Parlimen P220 Baram sedikit sebanyak visi kita membangunkan kawasan Baram yang kita gelar "*The last frontier of Sarawak* " akan lebih cepat mendapat kemudahan asas seperti di kawasan lain di wilayah Sarawak ini.

Secara keseluruhannya cadangan penambahan satu lagi kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri di Baram merupakan langkah yang tepat dan strategik. Inisiatif ini bukan sahaja berupa menangani sebahagian cabaran berkaitan keluasan geografi, pertambahan jumlah pengundi serta kekangan pembangunan asas, malah turut menyumbang kepada peningkatan kecekapan tadbir urus dan ketelusan penyampaian perkhidmatan oleh wakil rakyat. Tambahan kerusi DUN ini juga sejajar dengan aspirasi Sarawak untuk memperkukuhkan autonomi negeri serta memperkasakan sistem pentadbiran tempatan yang lebih responsif dan inklusif terhadap keperluan rakyat Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, saya dan kawasan N.77 Telang Usan bertuah kerana telah menerima impak positif hasil persempadanan semula terakhir iaitu pada tahun 2015 di mana DUN Telang Usan yang sebesar negeri Melaka telah dipecah kepada DUN N.77 Telang Usan dan N.78 Mulu. Membolehkan pelaksanaan peruntukan tahunan *Rural Transformation Project* (RTP), (MRP) dan lain lain dapat

lebih fokus dalam kawasan DUN yang lebih kecil dari lebih 140 kampung dan rumah panjang ke kini 88 buah.

Tuan Speaker, I could see around this august House today, the house special sitting on the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, the subject is carried out with great confidence. My fellow member of Backbenchers spoke with the highest enthusiasm and high hopes for better Sarawak. Re-delineation is a subject is huge, far reaching and not-to-mentioned come huge responsibility and cost! But we are confidence, our state under the able-leadership of our the Right Honourable Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg our leader extraordinaire have got his concrete plan and strategy to ensure the state to have steady flow of income and revenue to meet the high demand or high expectation of our *rakyat* especially constituents at the 17 new state seats. As the in Chinese says..." *Kong pun Boyong ma*"... Imagine having 99 *wakil rakyat* all chasing after YAB Premier for development projects. But under Abang Jo... "*Kita yakin Sarawak boleh!*".

To conclude, I therefore together with all GPS Honourable Members of this august House give my full support for the Bill tabled by the Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts and Member for State Legislative Assembly DUN N.15 Asajaya. God blessed, thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Meluan.

YB Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. *Sebedau nerus ke jako aku, aku ngari ke rayat ari kawasan Meluan ngenatai ke penyinu ati ngagai YAB Premier ngau sida sebilik ka udah ditinggal ka urang ti ka disayau bersampi ke semangat ya diau ke selamat dalam syurga.* Again, thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me the opportunity to take part in this debate. The Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, proposes to increase the number of elected members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak from the current 82 to 99. I stand here joining my other GPS colleagues in this august House to support the Bill, as I feel and believed that it is timely and appropriate now the Bill to be introduced.

Tuan Speaker, I do not know exactly where the new Dewan Undangan Negeri is going to be, but I hope that SPR will focus on creating new seats in the rural areas especially in Meluan. Furthermore, the policy is still to give more focus on the development of the rural areas, that is to narrow the development gap between the rural and urban areas. Therefore, with more seats allocate to rural areas, these aspirations can be realised sooner.

It is in accordance with the Federal Constitution Article 113(2)(ii) which states that after an interval of over eight years the state can request the Election Commission for a review and to add a number of seats in Dewan Undangan Negeri. The last exercise done for Sarawak was in 2014. Indeed, it is the right time the Bill to be introduced.

There is an increase of the number of new voters in Sarawak over the year since the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019 which changed the minimum of age for voting from 21 years to 18 years old. We also have a number of state constituencies which are as big as the areas of some states in the Peninsular Malaysia.

By having a smaller in size constituency, one should put concentrated effort and able to focus more without wasting too much time on travelling within the constituency. Needless to say, the constituents will definitely benefit when their *wakil rakyat* will be allocated more fund to develop the areas especially in the rural areas.

The other aspect warrants this exercise to be implemented is the ability of the State Government to allocate fund to all the 99 constituencies later due to availability of the State Government having enough fund due to good governance and healthy finance, led by our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.

Based on the above reasons, I do not see why any Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House should oppose to the Bill tabled. We have to move forward to make sure that our beloved state will develop at least at par with our counterparts in the Peninsular Malaysia and the increase in the number of Dewan Undangan Negeri seat is one of the important factors in the quest of more development especially so to attain the status of *Sarawak Maju Makmur* by the year 2030.

Tuan Speaker, *sebedau aku nuduk kediri, aku berpesan nuju SPR, beratika menua kami ke agi tusah, baka N.48 Meluan bisi batang buah sungai ti besai ianya Sungai Julau, Sungai Kanowit, Sungai Ensiring, Sungai Entabai, Sungai Mujok, Sungai Lasi, Sungai Merurun. Enggau kawasan chukup besai tu minta SPR meri penyinu ati lalu meri ungkup, ngagai kami ke kawasan Meluan. Enggau tu, Tuan Speaker, aku nyukong Bill tu enggau penuh ati.* Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Kota Sentosa.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Tuan Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this consequential Bill to increase the number of seats in the Dewan Undangan Negeri to 99.

This proposal is not about drawing new boundaries. It is about ensuring the composition of this House evolves in step with Sarawak's growth in population, in complexity, and in aspiration. It is about honouring our responsibility to provide effective, fair representation to every Sarawakian, urban and rural alike. The power to determine the number of seats lies with this august House under Article 14(1)(c) of our Sarawak Constitution, not with the Election Commission. Let us not be confused on the difference between re-delineation with composition. Once this Bill passes, re-delineation will follow, in accordance with the constitutional process, public scrutiny, and democratic safeguards.

Tuan Speaker, the last increase in seats was over a decade ago. Since then, Sarawak's population has surged past three million, our cities have expanded, and our voter rolls have swelled, especially after the introduction of Undi 18 and automatic voter registration. In my constituency of Kota Sentosa, one of the most urban and densely populated in Sarawak, I feel the growing pressure firsthand. One elected representative serving nearly 50,000 voters is not just a statistic, it's a daily challenge in delivering services, solving problems, and responding to real human needs.

To those who say representation should not increase simply because our numbers have grown, I say this, representation is not a luxury, it is a pillar of democracy. When constituencies become too large, voices get drowned. And when urban areas are underrepresented, frustrations rise, not because of partisanship, but because people feel unseen and unheard.

Contrary to the cynical narratives by the Honourable Members for Padungan and Pending, this Bill is not about entrenching GPS political advantage. It is about equity. It is about modernisation. It is about Sarawak claiming its rightful say in how it is governed.

And since the Honourable Member for Padungan has chosen to raise the question of increasing parliamentary seats in this chamber, let me ask him directly. If he genuinely cares about increasing Sarawak's representation in Parliament, why did he not bring a motion in the Dewan Rakyat instead of making rhetorical noise here?

As the Member of Parliament for Stampin, he contradicts himself on the one hand insisting there is no need to increase state seats, yet on the other hand proposing to increase parliamentary seats. How do you increase parliamentary constituencies if you refuse to first expand and rationalise state seats that form their basis?

With 99 state seats, we can credibly fight for more representation in the Dewan Rakyat. If we take the principle that each parliamentary seat comprises roughly two Dewan Undangan Negeri seats, Sarawak could argue for 49 parliamentary seats up from our current allocation. But it appears

to me that the Member for Padungan is more interested in putting up confusing arguments to score political points rather than laying out a coherent, and constructive proposal.

Tuan Speaker, the Honourable Member for Padungan quotes examples from Commonwealth countries, Australia, Canada, South Africa but seems unwilling to compare Sarawak to West Malaysia or Malaya. Why not look at our own federation? Why ignore the fact that Sarawak's landmass is nearly the same size as the whole of Peninsular Malaysia, which has 505 state seats across 11 states. The Peninsular Malaysia is well developed and has robust infrastructure, yet it maintains more than five times the number of seats compared to our modest proposal to increase to 99. Why is the Honourable Member for Padungan so selective in his comparisons? Is he trying to divert attention and mislead the people of Sarawak?

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak's geography is vast. Our rural areas deserve a voice, no doubt but so too do our urban centres, where the majority of economic activity, population density, and service demands are concentrated. Maintaining outdated seat numbers in the face of such growth is not neutrality, it is negligence.

Tuan Speaker, let's be honest; urban constituencies like mine, Kota Sentosa have borne the brunt of population increases. We cannot keep ignoring this disparity while claiming to defend democratic values. If we are truly serious about addressing imbalances between urban and rural representation, then we must begin by expanding the size of this House.

To reject this Bill outright as the Honourable Members for Pending and Padungan have done, is not "*check and balance*". It is obstruction. It is political theatre at the expense of progress. You cannot fix the system if you won't even let the process begin.

Tuan Speaker, in Sarawak, a single urban representative can be expected to handle thousands of requests, complaints, and ground issues every month. More seats mean smaller constituencies, closer engagement, and better service delivery. That is not politics, that is practical governance.

To my constituents in Kota Sentosa, let me say this, I hear your concerns. I see your struggles. And I will fight to ensure this process results in fairer, more just representation for urban Sarawakians who have long felt overlooked.

To the House, I say, this Bill is not the end. It is the beginning of a more equitable political future for Sarawak. Let us not vote based on fear, but on faith in the process, in our people, and in Sarawak's right to evolve as a mature democracy within Malaysia.

Before I conclude, I must correct the Member for Pending for her fundamental misrepresentation of the Federal Constitution. The Member for Pending asserts that Article 46 alone empowers the increase of parliamentary seats without any reference whatsoever to Article 113. This is plainly inaccurate. While Article 46 sets out the total number and distribution of seats in the Dewan Rakyat, Article 113 is crystal clear that any change in the number of seats requires a re-delineation exercise by the Election Commission to bring it into effect. You cannot simply cherry-pick Article 46 in isolation and expect it to operate automatically. The constitution demands both provisions be read together in a coherent framework.

It would be ironic indeed if parliamentary constituencies were somehow created or increased without regard to existing state constituencies, potentially leading to federal seats that cut across state seat boundaries in an absurd and impractical manner. That is precisely why Article 46 must be read hand in hand with Article 113 to ensure any change is properly delineated, orderly, and constitutionally valid.

Furthermore, it is astonishing that the Member for Pending is attempting to confuse the issue when the Bill before this House concerns the composition of the State Legislative Assembly, not the

Dewan Rakyat. Her argument about parliamentary seats is therefore not only irrelevant to this debate but also reflects either a serious lack of understanding or a deliberate attempt to mislead the public.

Before making sweeping constitutional claims, the Member for Pending should take time to study the Bill thoroughly, rather than peddle half-baked interpretations that do no justice to the gravity and integrity of this House. I'm going to conclude now, and I have two *pantuns*, because I have never said a *pantun* before.

*Kota Sentosa makin berkembang,
Rakyat bertambah penuh harapan;
Kerusi ditambah demi seimbang,
Agar suara semua kedengaran.*

*Sarawak luas tanah terbentang,
Populasi pesat tidak terperi;
Perwakilan adil kita perjuang,
Demokrasi matang terus dihargai.*

Tuan Speaker, let us pass this motion and take one decisive step toward ensuring our Dewan Undangan Negeri truly reflects the Sarawak of today and prepares for the Sarawak of tomorrow. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Batu Kitang.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, first and foremost I wish to extend my sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak of passing of his beloved wife, Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'aini Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family during this time of profound sorrow. May her soul rest in internal peace.

Tuan Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to debate this important Bill tabled by the Member for N.15 Asajaya; Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; and Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development. I rise in full support of the Dewan Undangan Sarawak (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, to increase the number of elected members in this august House from 82 to 99 Under Article 113(2) of the Federal Constitution, a delineation exercise may be conducted once every eight years. Sarawak is now eligible. As our last exercise was completed in 2015, this Bill provides the legal foundation for the Election Commission to begin that important process.

This is the largest expansion in Sarawak's legislative history, a 20% increase in representation and it comes at the right time, reflecting the steady growth of our population, the pace of development and the evolving needs of our people across the region.

This Bill, made under Article 14(1)(b) of the Sarawak Constitution, empowers the Legislature to determine the number of elected members by law. Article 14(2) sets the number at 48 as the default, unless changed by law. And we have changed it many times, most recently in 2015, when we increased it to 82.

Today, we continue the same constitutional process, and this Bill does not require an amendment to the Sarawak Constitution. We are simply updating the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Ordinance, 2014, (Chapter 70) as we have done before. This Bill matters because it reflects real on-the-ground challenges. A steady increase in electors, the emergence of new semi-urban and remote communities and the rising public expectations for stronger, more accessible representation and service.

Tuan Speaker, in the PRN 2011, Sarawak had 979,796 registered voters. In PRN 2016, after adding 11 new seats, the number rose to 1,138,650. And by PRN 2021, it reached 1,252,014. And with the implementation of automatic voter registration, gazetted on the 17th of January 2022, the electoral roll surged to 1,927,750. And as of the most recent gazette on 21st May 2025, Sarawak now has 2,015,859 registered voters. This is more than 100% increase of registered voters in just over a decade. And yet, the number of seats in this Assembly has remained unchanged since 2014. It is clearly time for an update.

Tuan Speaker, I am extremely disappointed to observe that the Honourable Members for Pending and Padungan do not support this Bill and oppose the proposed increase in seats. This is astounding. It appears that Pending and Padungan do not seem to want Sarawak and Sabah to have one-third representation in Parliament in accordance to the MA63. Member for Padungan says he supports increasing Sarawak's parliamentary seats, yet he refused to support increasing the state seats right here in Sarawak...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: Proceed.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: It appears that how can we achieve demand for representation in Parliament if we won't even increase seat representation in our ADUN, in our DUN? To quote...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: Member for Padungan, no need to shout. He is rebutting your point. I rule. He is rebutting your point.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Tuan Speaker, it is obvious that Member for Padungan is trying to create havoc.

Tuan Speaker: You don't do that. You don't do that. He is rebutting your point. Proceed, proceed. You proceed.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Okay, I'm not giving way. I'm not giving way, Member for Padungan. I'm not giving way.

Tuan Speaker: No, you sit down. Proceed.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Switch his mic off. Switch off his mic. How can we achieve, how can we achieve demand for more representation in Parliament if we won't even increase seat representation in our own ADUNS? To quote the Member for Bawang Asan, "*there is no such thing as one state, one seat in Parliament*".

Tuan Speaker: If you continue to do this, I'll send you out. I'm sending you out. Okay, so send them out.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Once again, we see the typical double standard from the DAP. Their arguments are not only inconsistent, but they are also fundamentally flawed.

Tuan Speaker: I want him to be sent out. Send him out. Bawa dia keluar. You are obstructing. *Bak keluar. Bak keluar. Tarit nya. Tarit.* Proceed, Member for Batu Kitang. Proceed.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: I'll repeat, I'll repeat my statement again. Allow me, Tuan Speaker. It is extremely disappointing to observe that the Honourable Members for Pending and Padungan do not support this Bill and oppose the proposed increase in seats.

Astounding indeed. It appears that Pending and Padungan do not want to support Sarawak and Sarawak's one-third representation in Parliament, in accordance with the MA63. How can the Member of Padungan say he supports increasing Sarawak's seats, yet he refuses to support the

increased seats right here in Sarawak? Ridiculous. How can we achieve demand for more representation in Parliament if we won't even increase seat representation in our own DUNS?

To quote the Honourable Member for Bawang Asan, "*there is no such thing as one State seat, one seat in Parliament*". Once again, we see the typical double standards from DAP, and their arguments are not only inconsistent, but they are also completely flawed. Tuan Speaker, Member for Padungan's comparisons to Australia and Canada completely miss the mark as well. Australia and Canada do not have the MA63. (*Laughter*). And, they do not have the situation of Sarawak and Sabah. Australia and Canada are entirely different from Malaysia. Sarawak is not just another state. We are a founding partners in the Malaysian Federation, bound by the Malaysia Agreement 1963.

That agreement promised equal partnership and fair representation, not permanent under-representation. More seats mean better service, better delivery, faster response to community needs, and more local voices in law-making, not just more politicians. We are not copying Canada or Australia. We are responding to Sarawak's unique needs.

Tuan Speaker, in Sarawak, there are many rural constituencies the size of small states in Malaya, with poor road access, scattered longhouses, and limited telecommunication. One ADUN is expected to cover vast terrains, multiple languages, and serious development gaps. That is not the same as serving a rural seat in Alberta or Tasmania with paved roads, broadband internet, and fully funded public services. If the Member for Padungan truly believes in serving our people well, he should support what helps Sarawakians most, not cite foreign models to block local solutions.

Tuan Speaker, Member for Pending talked about more development, more facilities, but objected to more seats for Sarawak. Ridiculous indeed. For the information of the Member of Pending, Sarawak under our YAB Premier today has built more than 16 major bridges and hundreds of kilometres of roads costing billions of ringgit, despite curtailment of major allocations by PKR when they rose to power. And most corners of Sarawak now have water, and electric city supplies since GPS formed the backbone of this government. GPS has managed to tax PETRONAS, bringing in the biggest income to Sarawak compared to the rest of Malaysia. While the promises made by Member for Padungan to return the 20% oil royalty and 50% of all taxes collected, the return of autonomy on health and education to Sarawak is still a big joke and a big lie.

The GPS under YAB Premier has been pouring billions into our rural constituencies to bring about progress and development to all corners of Sarawak. It is therefore imperative for Sarawak to increase our numbers of ADUS, to serve the vast areas of Sarawak and most importantly, to achieve one-third parliamentary representation in the federal government. Here in Sarawak, fair representation must consider more than just numbers. We must also factor in geography, infrastructure, accessibility and the realities of serving remote populations. This increase to 99 seats helps address that imbalance. It ensures that most Sarawakians, especially those in hard-to-reach and undeserved areas, have a genuine voice in this House.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is not only lawful, it is necessary. It strengthens our democratic process, enhances representation and enables more effective governance. I fully support this Dewan Undangan Sarawak (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, and I urge all the Honourable Members of this august House to support it with unity and conviction. With that, thank you very much Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Stakan.

YB Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Saya ada ruang untuk mengulas ataupun *debate* dalam Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

Tuan Speaker, please allow me to debate the way that the *kampung* people can relate to, like the famous Frank Sinatra song, My Way. Saya tidak mahu mengulas atau mengulangi fakta atau isi-isi yang telah disebut oleh rakan-rakan saya sebelum ini berkenaan dengan penambahan Dewan

Undangan Negeri, fakta, tahun dan sebagainya, serta keluasan dan perkara-perkara lain. Tapi apa yang saya nak sebut di sini, Tuan Speaker, saya hendak bertanya apakah tujuan penambahan kawasan DUN untuk Sarawak? Sudah semestinya faktor keadaan keperluan untuk kemajuan negeri Sarawak.

Yang keduanya, apa implikasi kalau setiap DUN baru diwujudkan? Pertama, memudahkan pengurusan. Kedua, mempercepatkan pembangunan. Jadi, Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-Undang ini memperlihatkan keprihatinan Kerajaan GPS untuk lebih membantu rakyat negeri Sarawak. Saya hairan dan pelik kalau tidak ada orang yang mahu menyokong, meluluskan Rang Undang-Undang ini untuk mewujudkan lebih ramai lagi wakil rakyat di dalam negeri Sarawak. Kita *tok nak nambah* wakil rakyat. Kita hendak menambah jumlah kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri.

Dalam erti katanya, Tuan Speaker, kita *nak nambah* kuli kepada rakyat. Kita wakil rakyat adalah kuli kepada rakyat, hamba yang terhormat. Lebih jua orang yang boleh membantu rakyat secara asasnya. Dan secara dasarnya penyampaiannya lebih berkesan dapat diterima oleh rakyat yang kita wakili. Macam di dalam kampung *juak*. Analogi ini saya lebih suka menggunakan analogi yang mudah dipahami oleh rakan-rakan saya di luar sana. Macam di dalam kampung, apabila sebuah kampung terlalu besar, maka akan wujudlah ketua kampung yang baru. Kita sudah faham, di dalam kampung ada sebuah kampung di sebelah ulu, hilir, tengah dan itulah keperluan kita apabila diwujudkan ketua kampung untuk membantu rakyat di dalam kampung.

laitu memudahkan pengurusan, penyampaian, dasar daripada pihak kerajaan terus kepada masyarakat kampung. Perumpamaan ini seolah-olah macam wakil rakyat kita ditambah untuk kita memudahkan pengurusan dan membantu, seterusnya Tuan Speaker, untuk kita membuat ataupun mewujudkan, mempercepatkan kemajuan yang disalurkan oleh pihak kerajaan kepada masyarakat penduduk orang-orang Sarawak. Di samping itu juga, penambahan bilangan *tok kelak* secara langsung akan membantu setiap permasalahan serta memudahkan pengurusan di suatu tempat.

Tuan Speaker, kalau kita mempunyai sebuah kebun yang besar, kalau kita mempunyai tanaman-tanaman yang banyak, haiwan peliharaan yang banyak, sudah semestinya kita memerlukan lebih banyak pekerja. Kalau kita nak nebas pokok, nak nebas rumput, kita memerlukan mesin yang banyak. Jadi tidak salah apabila kita menambah mesin lagi supaya kebun *tok*, taman *tok* dapat diurus takbir dengan lebih jelas dan lebih cekap prinsip sehingga menghasilkan tuaian yang lebih banyak pada masa hadapan.

Tuan Speaker, peranan ini diambil oleh pihak SPR. Ini bukan peranan pihak GPS untuk menentukan kelulusan. Pihak GPS hari ini mencadangkan kepada pihak SPR supaya diadakan lebih banyak lagi kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri. Jadi, terpulang kepada pihak SPR. Jadi, sudah semestinya pihak SPR adalah satu agensi yang bertanggungjawab, sebuah agensi yang profesional, yang diguna pakai bukan hanya pada hari ini tapi diguna pakai sejak sekian lama. Kenapa kita harus tidak mempercayai SPR? Kerana SPR telah mempraktikkan cara pembahagian tempat tidak hanya untuk kawasan-kawasan tertentu sahaja.

Sebagai contoh, kawasan saya di Stakan hanya 100 km persegi. Ya memang kecil, tidak sebesar kawasan Baram, tidak sebesar kawasan-kawasan lain. Tetapi saya akur, walaupun penduduk kawasan saya, *population* pengundi saya besar, penduduk kawasan saya padat, tapi saya akur sekiranya kawasan saya tidak terpilih. Kerana saya yakin pihak SPR mempunyai kaedah yang terbaik untuk mewujudkan sesuatu kawasan demi kesejahteraan pembangunan di dalam satu tempat khususnya dalam negeri Sarawak yang kita cintai ini. Tuan Speaker, saya tidak bercakap banyak kerana waktu saya berlari tadi idea saya dah hilang. Jadi, masih lelah tadi (*Laughter*).

Saya memuji, menyokong pihak Yang Berhormat bagi Asajaya tadi kerana dengan begitu konsistennya mencadangkan supaya Rang Undang-undang ini dapat diluluskan. Maka dengan ini, Stakan mohon menyokong *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan.

YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, tabled by the Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah; Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; *dan juga* Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya this morning.

But before proceeding further, like the other Members of this august House on behalf of the people of the state constituency of Bukit Begunan, I wish to convey and express heartfelt condolences to the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier and family members on the passing of his beloved wife. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Foremost, Tuan Speaker, I wish to thank Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; whom is also the Member for N.15 Asajaya for tabling a very important and significant piece of Bill, the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Members) Bill, 2025, which seeks to increase Members of Dewan Undangan Negeri from currently 82 to 99 members.

I also wish to thank Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak for undertaking a very important step to increase the DUN Members to 99. With the passing of the Bill, it will make Sarawak Dewan Undangan Negeri the biggest in term of representations in the whole among the states of Malaysia. Syabas, Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.

Tuan Speaker, I wish to make general comments in support of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Members) Bill, 2025:

- (a) As had been said by the Honourable Minister, the Member of the DUN was last increased in 2014 to 82 members. The next review was supposed to be eight years after that. Hence, it is now overdue, and the tabling of the Bill today is timely and appropriate.

Tuan Speaker, the proposed increased in DUN or Dewan Undangan Negeri seats or DUN Members is indeed the good news for the people in the state particularly those in rural areas. The development of rural areas could be accelerated by increasing the state constituency as we all know the State Government under the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier has allocated substantial amount of funds for development purposes. Now, the more seats that we have, the more inverse that we have the same amount of fund that was allocated to each individual Member will be used or will be utilized in much or less, in the much smaller state constituency, so; and

- (b) I support the Bill. The voters have increased substantially from 1,138,650 million voters in 2016 to 1,927,750 million on 15th December 2024. The increased is due to lower voting age to 18 years and the implementation of automatic voters' registration. As of April 2025, the registered voters had further increased to 2,015,859 million.

Hence, it is appropriate to increase DUN Members to better serve the people in the state. DUN Sarawak remain dynamic in tune with the needs, aspiration of people and also the aspiration of government and in accordance with the Constitution.

- (c) Tuan Speaker, some Members of this august House serve the state constituency the size of nearly as large as some states in Semenanjung Malaysia which is not only challenging but a daunting task. Therefore, Tuan Speaker, it is in as far as possible I hope there will be a fair distribution of the new constituency. Taking into account the demographic breakdown and the state geographical situation. This ensure all parts of the state will benefit from this exercise; and

- (d) Tuan Speaker, with the proposed increased in the Dewan Undangan Negeri Members hopefully the various ethnic communities could be represented in the State Legislature to voice their needs and predicament.

This is important in the context of power-sharing as practiced by the GPS Government. Fair ethnic representation augurs well for unity and solidarity among diverse communities in the state.

So, the tabling of the Bill also reflects government firm commitment to better serve the people, that in as far as possible, all strata of society to benefit from the government policies. Next year marks the beginning of the 13th Malaysia Plan, thus the increase in the State seat is indeed done at the appropriate time.

With the above short comments, Tuan Speaker, I support the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Repok.

YB Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Salam sejahtera. Salam Sarawakku Sayang. Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk turut serta bersama Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dalam Dewan yang mulia ini bagi membahaskan *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*. Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin mengambil kesempatan untuk merakamkan ucapan takziah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier Sarawak dan seisi keluarga atas pemergian isteri Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang. Saya mendoakan agar Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak serta keluarga dikurniakan ketabahan dan kekuatan dalam menghadapi dugaan ini.

Tuan Speaker, pada tengah hari yang penuh bermakna ini, saya ingin merakamkan sokongan padu terhadap Rang Undang-undang yang dibentangkan. Unsur ini amat penting dalam memastikan kelangsungan serta keberkesanan urusan pentadbiran dan pembangunan negeri Sarawak yang kita cintai.

Kelulusan Rang Undang-undang ini akan memperkukuh keupayaan Kerajaan Negeri untuk melaksanakan tanggungjawab secara teratur, cekap dan berkesan. Seiring pertambahan jumlah penduduk serta keluasan geografi negeri, adalah wajar dan perlu untuk menambah jumlah Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri. Ini bagi memastikan beban tugas wakil rakyat diagihkan secara lebih adil dan seimbang.

Tuan Speaker, kawasan pilihan raya yang terlalu besar sering menyulitkan wakil rakyat dalam melaksanakan tugas, berhubung secara efektif dengan semua pengundi. Lebih-lebih lagi bagi wakil rakyat yang mewakili kawasan pedalaman. Mereka berdepan cabaran logistik dan akses fizikal yang ketara. Ini sedikit sebanyak telah menjejaskan pencapaian perkhidmatan yang lebih berkesan oleh ADUN kepada penduduk dalam kawasan masing-masing.

Jika kawasan dibahagikan kepada unit yang lebih kecil, wakil rakyat dapat menumpukan perhatian secara lebih fokus kepada keperluan rakyat setempat, terutamanya di kawasan luar bandar. Ini juga membolehkan pendekatan yang lebih tertumpu dalam pencapaian khidmat rakyat. Selain itu, dengan pembahagian kawasan secara lebih seimbang dana pembangunan dapat disalurkan secara lebih khusus, telus dan berkesan. Kawasan sebelum ini yang menerima agihan terhad kini berpeluang menikmati pembangunan setempat yang lebih menyeluruh dan lestari.

Tuan Speaker, pertambahan bilangan kerusi Dewan Undangan Negeri juga akan membuka lebih banyak ruang untuk pelaksanaan projek pembangunan berskala kecil tetapi berimpak besar.

Berdasarkan keperluan sebenar penduduk di setiap kawasan ini sejajar dengan aspirasi pembangunan seimbang antara kawasan bandar dan luar bandar.

Adalah amat signifikan bahawa majoriti kerusi baharu akan diwujudkan di kawasan luar bandar. Dengan perwakilan yang lebih seimbang, isu-isu berkaitan infrastruktur asas, kemudahan pendidikan, akses kesihatan dan keperluan ekonomi di kawasan pedalaman akan dapat diketengahkan dengan lebih efektif dan berkesan.

Tuan Speaker, saya menyeru agar semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dalam Dewan ini menyokong Rang Undang-undang ini secara sebulat suara demi kemajuan dan kesejahteraan rakyat Sarawak. Usul ini bukan semata-mata soal angka dan kerusi tetapi soal memperkasakan demokrasi merapatkan jurang pembangunan dan menjulang suara rakyat di setiap pelosok negeri. Dengan penuh keyakinan dan rasa tanggungjawab, saya menyatakan sokongan sepenuhnya terhadap *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pujut.

YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate on the debate of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, to increase the membership from the present 82 to 99.

Before I proceed further, and on behalf of my constituents N.74 Pujut and my family, I would like to express our deepest condolences to our beloved Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg on the passing of his beloved wife Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani Tun Tuanku Bujang on June 23rd, 2025. Our thoughts and sympathy are with our beloved YAB Premier and his family.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025. The rationale and justification for this Bill has been very well articulated by the Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah when he tabled this Bill this morning.

Tuan Speaker, over the years, the composition of the Dewan Undangan Negeri has been amended in response to the changing times and circumstances. The Assembly has 48 seats in 1969, 56 seats in 1985, 62 seats in 1995, 71 seats in 2005 and eventually 82 seats in 2014. And today, we are debating the Bill, Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, to increase the number of seats from 82 seats to 99 seats. The tabling of this Bill today is timely, strategic and necessary that reflects the growth, aspirations and also to address the present circumstances and environment.

Under the automatic voters' registration and the Undi 18, the lowering of the voting age from 21 years old to 18 years old, the number of the votes in Sarawak has a dramatic increase from 1,252,014 registered voters in PRN 2021 to 2,015,859 voters gazetted on 21st May 2025. This is an increase of 763,845 voters and that is 61% increase as compared to the numbers of registered voters at PRN 2021. Now, this Bill seeks the increase from 82 seats to 99 seats, that is 17 seats and a 20% increase.

Tuan Speaker, it is important to note that this Bill only enacts the composition of the membership of the Dewan Undangan Negeri meaning that the number of the seats for the Dewan Undangan Negeri. It does not deal with the delineation of the respective seats. The delineation of the respective seats falls under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission (SPR). However, it is expected that the delineation exercise will take into account both the number of voters as well as the size of the respective constituency in order to be fair, equitable and balanced.

Tuan Speaker, under the dynamic leadership of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak is forging ahead proactively and aggressively to develop Sarawak into the high-income state under

the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030). Therefore, one of the rationales for the increase in the number of seats from 82 to 99 is to ensure that development and services can be effectively delivered to the people on the ground so that no one is left behind.

Tuan Speaker, the bigger political perspective is that upon the amendment to Article 1(2) and Article 160(2) of the Federal Constitution 2021, Sarawak, Sabah and Malaya are now officially recognized as equal partners in the formation of Malaysia as originally intended under the Malaysia Agreement 1963, MA63. And it is under the MA63, that we are seeking together with Sabah to have 1/3 of the parliamentary seats and this increase of the number of seats in our Dewan Undangan Negeri will provide the legal and constitutional basis for the increase of parliamentary seats for Sarawak in the next, in the near future.

Tuan Speaker, I find the pontifications by YB Pending and YB Padungan most entertaining. I said entertaining because they are really meant for entertainment only. I would like to draw the attention of this Dewan that YB Padungan had once articulated so eloquently in this august Dewan that once Pakatan Harapan is in power at the federal level, Sarawak will get 20% of the oil and gas royalty automatically without begging. And what do we get? A big fat zero. There are so many more such theatrics that I do not need to elaborate here. As a matter of fact, there are hardly any issues articulated by them that have ever come to pass. Moreover, YB Padungan has predictably registered his opposition to the increase of the composition of membership of the Dewan Undangan Sarawak while expressing his support for Sarawak to increase the number of parliamentary seats.

There seemed that he has a disconnect because he failed to recognize that the relation between the state seats and parliamentary seats. There will not be an increase in parliamentary seats if there is no corresponding increase in the number of the state seats.

Tuan Speaker, with that, N.74 Pujut fully supports this Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, as a necessary and strategic move towards realizing the aspirations of our people, strengthening Sarawak's political standing, securing a future where Sarawak's people voices are heard, our rights protected, and our destiny shaped by ourselves, Sarawakians. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: I now call upon the Honourable Minister to do the winding up.

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Finally. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good evening. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. *Looking at the overwhelming number of* Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang telah berucap yang kebanyakannya menyokong, hampir semuanya menyokong Rang Undang-undang ini. Ini menunjukkan how important this particular Bill is.

Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan juga terima kasih kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang telah mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan dan sekali gus menyokong Rang Undang-undang kali ini. Saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, Bukit Assek, Tamin, Murum, Daro, Tebedu, Lingga, Opar, Tellian, Bukit Semuja, Pelagus, Ngemah, Pending, Padungan, Engkilili, Bawang Assan, Tupong, Meradong, Batu Lintang, Katibas, Baleh, Krian, Tanjong Batu, Telang Usan, Meluan, Kota Sentosa, Batu Kitang, Stakan, Bukit Begunan, Repok dan yang terakhir tadi Pujut. Kesemuanya 31 Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat telah berucap, membahaskan Rang Undang-Undang ini dan seperti apa yang saya telah maklumkan tadi, ini menunjukkan berapa pentingnya dan berapa rapatnya Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat berkenaan dengan isu dan juga apa yang hendak dibawa oleh Rang Undang-Undang ini.

Secara umumnya, semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bersetuju dan juga menyokong Rang Undang-Undang ini dan memahami hasrat dan juga tujuan Rang Undang-Undang ini digubal. Saya amat menghargai segala pandangan, cadangan dan juga idea-idea bernas yang telah dikemukakan oleh Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat di dalam perbahasan kali ini.

I wish to reiterate, Tuan Speaker, that this Dewan Undangan Negeri must remain dynamic, must remain responsive to the demographic shift development and the growing demand for more equitable representation in this august House. This is to ensure that it continues to reflect the voices and the aspirations of all Sarawakians. Will be quoting the Honourable Member for Bawang Assan in this debate on the Bill. The Bill is just not about numbers. The Bill is for Sarawakian to be well represented and well served. This is a constitutional exercise done in a spirit of justice. Correctly said by most of the Honourable Members that supported the Bill, this exercise is not about the delineation of constituencies. It is about increasing the composition in the number of ADUN or State Assemblymen or State Representatives in this august House from the present 82 to 99. And in this process for Sarawakians to be better served as opposed to the contention from the Honourable Members for Pending as well as Padungan who seems to imply and insinuate that it is meant to strengthen the present GPS Government.

GPS or this august House or the government of the day has no say whatsoever on where the delineation of the new 17 seats as it is entirely the prerogative of the Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR). The Suruhanjaya, SPR, is a commission set up to ensure fair and equitable operation in undertaking the election in Malaysia.

The members of SPR are appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, our King, who must consult with the Conference of Rulers before he named those who are going to sit in as commissioners or as *Ahli Lembaga* SPR. So, as it is, SPR is an impartial commission. It is not set up by the State Government and of course, accusing the state government or its august House as practising gerrymandering in this exercise or this delineation exercise doesn't amount to questioning or demeaning those that have been appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. As it is, it is SPR that will be doing that exercise. We have seen how the Honourable Members for Padungan as well especially Pending has mentioned about the exercise is untimely, is unfair, is costly, unnecessary as well as politically motivated. That what the State Government is doing, what this august House is doing don't amount to gerrymandering. It is uncalled for; it is slanderous and demeaning to the sincere effort of SPR which is an impartial entity.

On this note, before that, the Honourable Member for Padungan and Pending also raised among others on the issue of the increase of the parliamentary seats. They will only support if the bill or if the effort is to increase parliamentary seats but not state seats and it has been debated by Bawang Assan and a few other Honourable Members that it cannot be done that way. Parliamentary seats, if there is any effort or any request to increase the number of parliamentary seats, there must also be an increase in the state seats and hopefully with this increase and if it is adopted today and if it is adopted in Parliament later, it will also be reflected in an increase in the parliamentary seats and in our effort to increase the number of our percentage in the Dewan Rakyat as per our request that is for Sabah and Sarawak to be represented by one-third representation. We will leave it to the Election Commission to do the necessary pursuance to Article 113 of the Federal Constitution.

The process for delineation for the federal and state constituencies is to be done concurrently and this is in line with the procedures as set out in the 13th Schedule of the Federal Constitution. There is no doubt that the call for an increase in the parliamentary seats is among the key demands that the Sarawak Government has been vigorously pursuing.

The Honourable Member for Padungan also raised the issue on the ratio of population and the number of representatives. I wish to bring the attention of this august House on the example which is more familiar to us. In the year 2024, that is last year, the Wales Parliament has passed the Senate SAMRU or Members and Elections Act 2024 on 8th May 2024, which among others increased the number of constituencies in the Wales Parliament from 60 to 96. That is a huge increase from 60 to 96 which is an increase of 60%.

What was alleged by the Ahli Yang Berhormat, Honourable Member for Padungan, if I am not mistaken, this Bill that we are tabling today, which we are debating today, can amount to an increase of 20% and they alleged that it is very costly, it is a waste of money and why I bring this thing up is

to show that if there is a need for it to be increased, we will do it. Because it is not just us who is doing it, last year, the Wales Parliament increase the number of constituencies, as I had mentioned just now, from 60 seats to 96 seats. 60% increase from the existing number.

Geographically, Sarawak is approximately six times larger than Wales. If Wales was overlaid within Sarawak, there would still be room to accommodate five more additional seats or additional areas for Wales. It is worth noting that the estimated population of Wales and Sarawak are almost identical. There is 3.6 million in Wales and about 2.9 million respectively for Sarawak in 2024. Even their similar demographic and roles within the federal structure. It is reasonable to expect that Sarawak be afforded comparable representation, particularly considering the precedent set in Wales.

In light of this comparison, a proposed increase of only 20%, which we are doing today in the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly, especially when compared to Wales, then the 60% increase should not be seen as excessive and unreasonable. On this note, I wish to thank all Honourable Members for their participation in expressing constructive views and suggestions while debating this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, I feel very privileged being given the honour to table this Bill. I know the next tabling probably will be another more than 10 years from now. This is the largest increase that we have done. I think we have done it in any of the states of Malaysia. Well, I might not be able to see the next one. If it is more than 10 years away, probably a lot of us might not be around anymore. Ya ya... Sekali lagi, *saya ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier* for giving me the opportunity, the privilege to table this Bill and I wish to once again thank all the Honourable Members who have debated on this Bill and giving their support. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Motion standing in the Order Paper in the name of Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, and Member for N.15 Asajaya be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as are of the opinion say "Yes".

Government: Yes... (Resounding "Yes")

Tuan Speaker: As many as are of the contrary say "No". The "Yes" have it. The Motion is passed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Dewan shall now resolve into the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill which stands committed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE STAGE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now consider the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025.

Clauses 1 to 3

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that Clauses 1 to 3 are ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as are of the opinion say, "Yes".

Government: Yes... (Resounding "Yes")

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are of the contrary say "No". The "Yes" have it. Clauses 1 to 3 are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clauses and Title

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now resume.

HOUSE RESUMED

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): I wish to report to the Dewan that this Bill has been considered by the Committee without amendment. Thank you.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI (COMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP) BILL, 2025

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, be now read at third time and do pass.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025, be read a third time and do pass. As many of are of the opinion say "Yes".

Government: Yes... (Resounding "Yes")

Tuan Speaker: As many of as are of the contrary opinion say, "No". The "Yes" have it. The Bill is read a third time and passed.

USUL PENANGGUHAN

Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.55 Nangka (YB Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, kerana memberi ruang untuk saya membawa Usul Penangguhan kepada Mesyuarat Khas kita pada hari ini iaitu Mesyuarat Kedua bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas. I do accept that at 5 p.m., it is not easy for me to give a lengthy speech after the whole Dewan has debated the Bill and pass. But I will try, saving the best for last.

Tuan Speaker, hari ini adalah merupakan suatu hari yang bersejarah kerana kita telah meluluskan *Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025*, daripada 82 kerusi kepada 99, dan saya bersetuju dengan Asajaya, Undang-Undang ini berkemungkinan akan dibawa semula ke Dewan yang mulia ini tidak kurang daripada lapan (8) tahun daripada masa sekarang, *and most of us might not be around at that particular of time.*

Tuan Speaker: Don't be too pessimistic. (*Laughter*).

Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.55 Nangka (YB Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee): As a doctor, I speak based on the facts that at this age we might not go beyond what we

are now. *Whatever it is*, Tuan Speaker, sejarah ini amat penting untuk rakyat negeri Sarawak kerana pada hari ini, suara rakyat daripada setiap pelosok negeri Sarawak akan bertambah di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini.

Ini adalah penting dalam amalan demokrasi kita. Sebuah kerajaan yang berpaksikan demokrasi, iaitu kerajaan daripada rakyat oleh rakyat untuk rakyat. Ataupun apa yang disebut oleh Abraham Lincoln, "*the government of the people, by the people, for the people*".

Oleh sebab itu, saya bersetuju kepada seluruh Ahli Dewan pada hari ini, kecuali dua orang yang tidak menyokong Rang Undang-undang ini. Saya ucap syabas dan tahniah kepada semua Ahli-ahli Dewan Undangan ini. Lebih daripada itu, Tuan Speaker, mereka berbahas dengan penuh bertamadun. Tidak ada unsur-unsur berteriak, mencerca, mencaci, ataupun seperti monyet kena belacan, seperti yang berlaku di tempat-tempat lain dalam Dewan. Sekali lagi, saya ucap tahniah dan syabas kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat daripada GPS.

Yang paling signifikannya dalam perdebatan pada hari ini, ialah kebanyakannya daripada Ahli-ahli menyuarakan betapa pentingnya suara pelosok rakyat Sarawak mesti kita sama-sama bawa ke Dewan yang mulia ini. Ini menunjukkan bahawa Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat mementingkan politik ekuiti ataupun ekuiti of demokrasi. Tidak mementingkan semata-mata ekualiti ataupun kesamarataan. Ekuiti bermaksud *fairness* ataupun keadilan. Keadilan penting untuk mencapai kesamarataan.

Kita ada 27 *ethnic groups* di seluruh Sarawak. Kalau kita *one man, one vote, one value*, ini akan tidak memberi ruang sama langsung kepada kumpulan-kumpulan minoriti, dan akhirnya, majoritilah yang akan mentadbir secara *totalitarian*, dan ini tidak bagus ataupun tidak baik dari segi demokrasi. Saya ucap syabas kerana kita berjaya meningkatkan jumlah kerusi dan seterusnya akan pasti dapat memberi ruang kepada kumpulan ataupun *ethnic groups* yang minoriti supaya suara mereka juga berhak didengar di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Tuan Speaker, *one man, one vote, one value* tidak diguna di seluruh dunia ini. Malah di Amerika Syarikat, pemilihan presidennya tidak menggunakan prinsip tersebut. Mereka menggunakan *electoral college, winner takes all*. Malah ada dalam sejarah presiden dilantik tanpa memenangi *popular vote* pada tahun 2016. Jadi, apabila seseorang itu hendak mempertahankan prinsip *one man, one vote, one value*, hanyalah semata-mata tidak memikirkan kepentingan masyarakat lain.

Perkara kedua yang dibawa ialah mengenai isu *gerrymandering* yang berasal daripada dua cantuman ayat Elbish Gerry dan Salamander. Saya sebenarnya ada suatu contoh yang terbaik bahawa perkara ini tidak berlaku di negeri kita dan tidak juga mempengaruhi keputusan pilihan raya. Pada tahun 2016, DAP memenangi tujuh kerusi. Selepas itu pada tahun 2022, tanpa persempadanan semula, maksudnya tidak ada wujud *gerrymandering*, mereka kalah teruk dengan hanya dua kerusi iaitu Pending dan Padungan. Ini bukti yang jelas bahawa bukannya *gerrymandering* yang menyebabkan mereka kalah. Tetapi saya setuju dengan Tupong yang mengatakan bahawa *performance* mereka ditolak oleh rakyat ataupun *performance* GPS diterima oleh rakyat di bawah pimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier kita.

Tuan Speaker, dengan dua faktor yang saya sebutkan tadi, akhirnya saya hendak menyampaikan sesuatu yang dibawa, yang mengatakan bahawa dengan adanya penambahan kerusi ini, akan menambah bajet Kerajaan untuk membayar *allowance* Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat baharu, iaitu 17 orang. Kalau 17 orang ini, dia hanya memerlukan RM4.5 juta untuk bayar *allowance* tetapi 17 kawasan akan menikmati RM120 juta bajet kerajaan untuk pembangunan.

Adakah kita tidak mahu RM120 juta ini kepada rakyat disebabkan RM4.5 juta tadi? Jadi, ini suatu perbandingan yang tidak masuk akal, hanyalah untuk mengelirukan masyarakat kita di luar. Akhir sekali, saya sekali lagi mengucapkan berbanyak terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker dan juga kepada Asajaya dan seluruh yang berada di Dewan pada hari ini kerana kita telah berjaya

menjalankan suatu proses yang penting dengan penuh tatatertib dan dekorum. Dengan itu, saya ingin mencadangkan penangguhan mesyuarat khas kita pada petang ini. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, dengan ucapan usul penangguhan itu tadi, maka kita telah sampai ke penghujung Mesyuarat Kedua bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Kesembilan Belas. Alhamdulillah, persidangan yang berlangsung selama satu hari telah berjalan dengan lancar dan teratur atas kerjasama dan keprihatinan semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang menjaga ketinggian dan kemuliaan Dewan yang mulia ini. Saya berdoa agar semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat kembali ke kawasan masing-masing dengan selamatnya dan terus berkhidmat kepada rakyat.

Begitu juga kepada semua yang hadir, selamat pulang ke destinasi yang dituju. Bagi pihak Dewan Yang mulia ini, saya ingin mengucapkan jutaan terima kasih kepada semua pihak yang telah menjayakan persidangan ini. Bagi pihak Dewan Yang mulia ini juga, saya mengucapkan selamat menyambut Hari Sarawak. Semoga Sarawak Bumi Kenyalang terus maju Makmur. Selamat menyambut Hari Kebangsaan dan selamat menyambut Hari Malaysia. Ahli-ahli yang Berhormat, the House is now adjourned *sine die*.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 5.34 petang)

**LAPORAN TAHUNAN, PENYATA KEWANGAN, PENYATA RASMI; UNDI-UNDI DAN
PERJALANAN MESYUARAT; DAN PERTANYAAN-PERTANYAAN BUKAN LISAN YANG
DIBENTANG PADA 07 JULAI 2025**

PREMIER SARAWAK

75/2025	Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara – Penyata Kewangan bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2023
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DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

76/2025	Penyata Rasmi Mesyuarat Pertama bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas (19 – 28 Mei 2025)
77/2025	Undi-Undi dan Perjalanan Mesyuarat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Mesyuarat Pertama bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas (19 – 28 Mei 2025)
78/2025	Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Bukan Lisan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Mesyuarat Pertama bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas (19 – 28 Mei 2025)