



S A R A W A K

PENYATA RASMI PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI

Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Official Reports and Debates

MESYUARAT PERTAMA BAGI PENGGAL KELIMA

First Meeting of the Fifth Session

11 MEI 2026 – 20 MEI 2026

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS

Nineteenth Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

SELASA

12 MEI 2026

(24 Zulkaedah 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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Penyata Rasmi

MESYUARAT PERTAMA BAGI PENGGAL KELIMA

Selasa, 12 Mei 2026

Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.05 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., S.P.D.K. (Sabah), D.A., P.N.B.S., J.B.S., P.C.E., P.S.N.B. (Brunei), Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (Japan) <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> | N.69 Kemena |
| 9. | Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E.
<i>Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan</i>
<i>Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan</i> | 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.
<i>Menteri Pengangkutan</i> | N.75 Senadin |
| 11. | Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai
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<i>Menteri di Jabatan Premier</i> | 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.
<i>Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi</i> | 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.
<i>Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat</i> | N.20 Tarat |
| 14. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerawat Gala
P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., P.B.K.
<i>Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Buruh, Imigresen dan Pemantauan Projek)</i> | N.78 Mulu |
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| 16. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Jerip anak Susil
P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.E.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Penerbangan dan Jalan Raya)</i> | N.19 Mambong |
| 17. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Liwan Lagang
P.J.N., P.P.N., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.B.E.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi)</i> | 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.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak)</i> | 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.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar</i> | N.41 Kuala Rajang |

20. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Penyelaras Projek untuk Agensi Pembangunan Wilayah, Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara dan Hal Ehwal Islam) N.4 Pantai Damai
21. 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
22. 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
23. 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
24. 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
25. 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
26. 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
27. 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
28. Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew
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29. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwo
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur) N.24 Sadong Jaya
30. 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

31. 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
32. 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
33. 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
34. Yang Berhormat Datuk Henry Harry anak Jinep
P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., A.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Sungai dan Laut) N.2 Tasik Biru
35. Yang Berhormat Datuk 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
36. Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerald Rentap Jabu
P.G.B.K., 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
37. Yang Berhormat Datuk Majang anak Renggi
P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., P.B.K., A.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan) N.70 Samalaju
38. Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat
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Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera) N.63 Bukit Goram
39. 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
40. Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Baki
P.G.B.K., A.B.S., J.B.S., P.S.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Utiliti (Sarawak Energy Berhad dan PETROS) N.8 Satok
41. Yang Berhormat Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman
P.S.B.S., J.B.K., P.B.S. N.6 Tupong
42. 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
43. 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
44. Yang Berhormat Dato Palu @ Paulus Palu Gumbang
P.S.B.S., A.M.N., P.B.S., J.B.K., P.T.E. N.80 Batu Danau

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| 46. | Yang Berhormat Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor
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| 47. | Yang Berhormat Encik Chong Chieng Jen | <i>N.9 Padungan</i> |
| 48. | Yang Berhormat Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui | <i>N.10 Pending</i> |
| 49. | Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How | <i>N.11 Batu Lintang</i> |
| 50. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing
P.J.N., A.B.S. | <i>N.46 Meradong</i> |
| 51. | Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang
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| 53. | Yang Berhormat Dato Miro anak Simuh
P.S.B.S., P.B.S. | <i>N.18 Serembu</i> |
| 54. | 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> |
| 55. | Yang Berhormat Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin
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| 56. | Yang Berhormat Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang
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| 63. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim
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| 64. | Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang
A.B.S. | <i>N.74 Pujut</i> |

65.	Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor P.B.S.	<i>N.28 Lingga</i>
66.	Yang Berhormat Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada J.B.K., A.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.21 Tebedu</i>
67.	Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang P.B.S., P.P.B.	<i>N.1 Opar</i>
68.	Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan J.B.K., P.B.S.	<i>N.3 Tanjong Datu</i>
69.	Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.12 Kota Sentosa</i>
70.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri P.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.38 Kalaka</i>
71.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa J.B.S., P.T.E.	<i>N.33 Engkilili</i>
72.	Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian	<i>N.81 Ba'Kelalan</i>
73.	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>
74.	Yang Berhormat Encik Anyi anak Jana P.B.K.	<i>N.49 Ngemah</i>
75.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek P.B.S.	<i>N.51 Bukit Assek</i>
76.	Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine J.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.57 Tellian</i>
77.	Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai P.B.S.	<i>N.64 Baleh</i>
78.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming P.B.S.	<i>N.68 Tanjong Batu</i>
79.	Yang Berhormat Encik Iskandar bin Turkee P.B.S.	<i>N.67 Jepak</i>

TIDAK HADIR

(Kebenaran di bawah Peraturan Mesyuarat 81)

Bil.	Nama	Konstituensi
1.	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.	<i>N.52 Dudong</i>
2.	Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii P.G.B.K., D.I.M.P., S.S.A.P.	<i>N.45 Repok</i>
3.	Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris P.B.S., A.B.S.	<i>N.25 Simunjan</i>

4. Yang Berhormat Encik Lidam anak Assan
P.B.S.

N.62 Katibas

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. Inspektor Nelson anak Ensit
Bentara Mesyuarat
4. Inspektor Eldino Erick Joss
Bentara Mesyuarat
5. Penolong Superintenden Hadyan bin Abd Rahman
Bentara Mesyuarat
6. Penolong Superintenden Cornelius anak Philip Aso
Bentara Mesyuarat
7. Penolong Superintenden Lydwilkyn Andar anak Umbau
Bentara Mesyuarat
8. Inspektor Bryan Hansen anak Wennedy
Bentara Mesyuarat

PETUGAS PERSIDANGAN

PEGAWAI UNDANG-UNDANG DAN PEMBACA PRUF

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Encik Adam Huang Tung Kai | <i>Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak</i> |
| 2. Puan Beatrice anak James | <i>Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak</i> |

PEMBACA PRUF

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Puan Dorensia Dyonie Dominic | <i>Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak</i> |
| 2. Puan Saidatul Faiqah binti Samasu | <i>Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak</i> |

JURUTRENGKAS

(Dikendalikan oleh Persatuan Setiausaha Profesional dan Pentadbir Sarawak (SSS))

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Puan Nurul Izza binti Jem | <i>Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri</i> |
| 2. Puan Sharlina binti Mushar | <i>Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri</i> |
| 3. Puan Malin anak Arit | <i>Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri</i> |
| 4. Puan Nur Afizah binti Raduan | <i>Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri</i> |
| 5. Puan Nur Izzatul Fatimah @ Patricia Abdullah | <i>Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak</i> |
| 6. Puan Siti Noraishah Amalina binti Kaderi | <i>Kementerian Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak</i> |
| 7. Puan Nor Shila binti Shamsuddin | <i>Kementerian Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak</i> |
| 8. Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin | <i>Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak</i> |
| 9. Encik Camillus Andreason anak Nicholas Mijer | <i>Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak</i> |
| 10. Puan Hazreena binti Hussien Ali | <i>Jabatan Kehakiman Syariah Sarawak</i> |
| 11. Puan Yarosa Tunggi | <i>Unit Audit Dalam, Jabatan Premier Sarawak (UAD)</i> |
| 12. Puan Pamela Mae anak Laweng | <i>Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak, Jabatan Premier Sarawak (UKAS)</i> |
| 13. Encik Mohd Alfadger bin Tuah | <i>Pentadbiran Bahagian Kuching</i> |
| 14. Puan Nurzatul Atikah binti Sahak | <i>Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak</i> |

15.	Puan Nurhanisah Nadiah bt Mohamad Terki	<i>Jabatan Wanita dan Keluarga Sarawak</i>
16.	Puan Sophia anak Rangim	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
17.	Puan Mariadiba Naliza binti Marzuki	<i>Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak (JAIS)</i>
18.	Puan Sylvia anak Chichik	<i>Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia</i>
19.	Puan Nur Syakila binti Kasdinata	<i>Majlis Keselamatan Negara Negeri Sarawak</i>
20.	Puan Siti Aisyah Abdullah @ Rosemary Langub	<i>Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak (STIDC)</i>
21.	Puan Dayang Duraiza binti Haji Awang Jangka	<i>Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak (NREB)</i>
22.	Puan Zuriawati binti Haji Mohd Laili	<i>Pustaka Negeri Sarawak</i>
23.	Puan Margaret anak Francis Bohui	<i>Lembaga Penyatuan dan Pemuliharaan Tanah Sarawak (SALCRA)</i>
24.	Puan Anieta anak Sylvester Punga	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (SEDC)</i>
25.	Puan Nurul Hafizha binti Osman	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (SEDC)</i>
26.	Puan Nursurfina binti Blassan	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (SEDC)</i>
27.	Puan Ratna Airnawati binti Md. Junaidi	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan (HDC)</i>
28.	Puan Sabtuyah binti Adeng	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan (HDC)</i>
29.	Puan Khalida binti Mohd Mahali	<i>Majlis Islam Sarawak</i>
30.	Puan Meri binti Sabas	<i>Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)</i>
31.	Puan Lilian Bian	<i>Pihak Berkuasa Penerbangan Awam Malaysia (CAAM)</i>
32.	Encik Azhwan bin Bujang	<i>Persatuan Setiausaha Profesional dan Pentadbir Sarawak (SSS)</i>

JURURAKAM PERSIDANGAN

1.	Puan Nordiana binti Rabae	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
2.	Puan Siti Nazilafatullaini binti Sukri	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
3.	Encik Lee Chang Fu	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
4.	Encik Shaharuddin bin Abdul Ra'afup	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
5.	Encik Fareez Azizi bin Zakeria	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>

JURUCETAK

1.	Encik Mohd Nor Majidi bin Marekan	<i>Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad</i>
2.	Encik Byreen anak Rona	<i>Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad</i>

JURUTEKNIK IT

1.	Encik Abang Hasmadi bin Abang Wahab	<i>SAINS</i>
2.	Encik Mohamad Fadzly bin Arfan	<i>SAINS</i>
3.	Puan Zuraidah binti Zaidi	<i>SAINS</i>
4.	Encik Ahmad Akmal Afiq	<i>SAINS</i>
5.	Encik Azmuddin Yazid bin Jemat	<i>SAINS</i>
6.	Encik Siddeq Harris Chiew	<i>SAINS</i>

MESSENGER

1.	Encik Mohamed Nazeerudin bin Gulam Mohamed	<i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i>
2.	Encik Andy anak John	<i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i>

3.	Encik Mohammad Zaidi bin Rambli	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
4.	Encik Lawrence Encharang	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
5.	Encik Helmy bin Abdul Rahman	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
6.	Encik Shah Riwandu Sia bin Ridzuan	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
7.	Encik Erdy Nurwiranata bin Eden	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
8.	Encik Mohamad Zahari bin Hamden	<i>Pejabat Agama Islam Bahagian Kuching</i>
9.	Encik Addison anak Fredrick	<i>Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Sarawak</i>
10.	Encik Fadillah bin Lokman	<i>Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian Kuching, Sarawak</i>

SEKRETARIAT PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

1. Tuan Haji Abang Zaabar bin Abang Ballia
2. Encik Nurkhairudin bin Osen
3. Cik Noria binti Suut
4. Puan Nur Azira binti Abdul Kadir
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. Puan Hasfarini binti Hassim
11. Cik Nurhaffizah Abdullah
12. Puan Natasha Nadia binti Mohd. Saidi
13. Puan Angela Lisa anak Mathew Linol
14. Encik Felix Aaron anak Michael
15. Cik Sharina binti Sopian
16. Puan Patricia anak Peter
17. Encik Awang Mohammad Asyurul Jaya bin Awang Putra
18. Sarjan Terence anak Jayan
19. Puan Norziana binti Haji Ahmad
20. Puan Nur Eliana Abdullah
21. Puan Nazmah binti Darham
22. Puan Tracy Lyana anak Bana
23. Encik Muhammad Elliyas bin Matali
24. Encik Mohd Zulkhairi bin Mohammad Hejemi
25. Puan Dayang Nazira binti Abang Martaza
26. Puan Jasmine Sinja anak Robinson
27. Puan Dayang Noorazilla binti Jasni
28. Cik Parcelia Renyelina anak Pamg
29. Cik Nur Zafirah binti Affendy Michael
30. Puan Deidre anak Wilson
31. Cik Siti Nur Marsitah binti Abdullah
32. Puan Nur Amira Lystiani binti Poniman
33. Encik Razali bin Awi
34. Puan Nora binti Atem
35. Encik Zahari bin Bolhi
36. Encik Lukas Jammany anak Kated
37. Encik Ruzaimy bin Muhammad
38. Encik Hazrin Syah bin Hamzah
39. Encik Salman bin Jaya
40. Encik Alwie bin Haji Ali
41. Encik Romzi bin Bujang
42. Encik Musa bin Julai
43. Puan Suraya binti Hamden
44. Puan Noraisah binti Ahmad
45. Cik Siti Zalilah binti Samsawi
46. Encik Iz Mohd. Haiqal Hakeem bin Mahamud

PELAJAR PRAKTIKAL

1. Cik Tania Adilla binti Hamka
2. Encik Jefrey Jerry anak Juki
3. Encik Mohamad Ainul Hakim bin Mustapha

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada jam 9:05 pagi)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan mesyuarat]

DOA

PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER

Tuan Speaker: Bismilahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum W.B.T, selamat pagi dan salam sejahtera. Honourable Members, under Standing Orders 12(1)(2), Government's Business shall take precedent of a Private Member's business and government business shall be set down in such order as the government team fit and communicates to the Secretary four days that is today, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week are set aside for the daily one hour question time. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week shall be devoted to debate on Head of State's address. The Ministers replies shall take the remaining three days next week. That is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), I have appointed the following Honourable Members to be members of the Standing Orders for the Selection Committee for this session.

- (a) Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr. Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg;
- (b) Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas;
- (c) Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan;
- (d) Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr. Sim Kui Hian;
- (e) Yang Berhormat Datuk Sri John Sikie anak Tayai; and

I, as the Speaker shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted leave of absence under Standing Order 81 to Yang Berhormat Datuk Sri Huang Tiong Sii, Honourable Member for N.45 Repok for today and tomorrow's sitting and Yang Berhormat Awla bin Haji Idris, Honourable Member for N.25 Simunjan for today until 15th May 2026.

PERTANYAAN-PERTANYAAN BAGI JAWAPAN-JAWAPAN LISAN

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad N.43 Daro

YB Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: Assalamualaikum W.B.T, salam sejahtera, salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Alhamdulillah, pertama kali, sudah nak habis penggal kedua saya mendapat soalan nombor satu. Mohon Menteri menjawab. Terima kasih.

Pelaksanaan Skim Pendidikan Tertiari Percuma (FTES)

(1) YB Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad bertanya kepada Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat: Pada tahun 2006, Kerajaan Sarawak telah melaksanakan Skim Pendidikan Tertiari Percuma (Free Tertiary Education Scheme, FTES). Berapakah jumlah pelajar yang telah menerima manfaat daripada skim tersebut setakat ini, serta apakah pecahan jumlah tersebut mengikut empat institusi pengajian tinggi milik Kerajaan Sarawak?

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 Haji Rapa'ee): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih kepada Yang Berhormat bagi Daro. Tuan Speaker, tahun 2026 merupakan tahun bersejarah bagi rakyat Sarawak kerana pada tahun ini bermulalah suatu impian, iaitu untuk memberi pendidikan tertiar secara percuma untuk anak Sarawak...*(Applause)*...

Ini merupakan sejarah yang paling besar untuk negeri Sarawak. Oleh sebab itu pada tahun ini seramai 4,694 orang pelajar dari empat institusi pengajian tertinggi di Sarawak telah ditawarkan pendidikan secara percuma ini. Jumlah ini termasuk pelajar-pelajar yang sedia ada ataupun *existing student* dan juga pelajar-pelajar yang mendaftar sebelum 31 Mac pada tahun ini. Mengikut pecahannya, Tuan Speaker, bagi Universiti i-CATS, Universiti Kolej i-CATS terdapat 172 orang pelajar yang ditawarkan. Sementara Universiti Curtin Malaysia di Miri telah menawarkan seramai 543 orang pelajar dan Swinburne Kuching telah menawarkan seramai 1,959 orang pelajar secara percuma ini dan Universiti Teknologi Sarawak di Sibu pula menawarkan 2,020 orang pelajar pendidikan secara percuma pada tahun ini. Jumlah ini pasti akan meningkat apabila enrolmen Jun ataupun September ini bertambah dan kita menyasarkan seramai 10,000 pelajar di seluruh Sarawak akan menikmati pendidikan secara percuma ini mulai tahun ini. Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat.

YB Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: (*Soalan Tambahan*) Terima kasih kepada Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri atas pencerahan dan jawapan yang telah diberi. Alangkah untungnya anak Sarawak. Tuan Speaker, saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Memandangkan jumlah yang begitu banyak dan ia juga akan diteruskan pada masa akan datang, jadi bagaimanakah Kerajaan Sarawak dapat memastikan kelestarian FTES ini untuk anak Sarawak? Dan soalan saya yang kedua.
- (b) Adakah terdapat pelajar-pelajar yang layak mendapat FTES ini tetapi menolak? Dan jika ada, berapakah...berapa ramaikah yang menolak dan apakah sebab mereka menolak? Terima kasih.

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 Haji Rapa'ee): Terima kasih Yang Berhormat, soalan pertama amat penting sebab masyarakat kita mahu mengetahui bagaimana Kerajaan memastikan dasar ini akan sentiasa berterusan. Untuk pengetahuan Yang Berhormat, saya akan menjawab soalan ini berdasarkan kepada tiga perkara.

- (a) Kedudukan kewangan negeri;
- (b) Kita menyimpan untuk masa depan; dan
- (c) Dari sudut ekonomi.

Yang Berhormat, mengikut data, GDP Sarawak ataupun Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar sentiasa meningkat dari semasa ke semasa. Pada tahun 2024, ia menunjukkan peningkatan 148 bilion dan ini menjadikan GDP per kapita 73 hingga 80 ribu per kapita. Apabila kita mencapai tahap tersebut, Bank Negara mengisytiharkan kita sebagai wilayah yang berpendapatan tinggi.

Oleh sebab itu, kedudukan kewangan kita mendapat pengiktirafan antarabangsa daripada *Moody's* yang memberi A3 ataupun *stable outlook* dan juga *Standard Poor's* memberi *A minus standard outlook*. Apa maksudnya ini, Yang Berhormat? Maksudnya ialah kita mempunyai *very strong fiscal reserve*, kita mempunyai *prudent financial management* dan yang paling penting kita mempunyai *consistent surplus budget* untuk memastikan skim ini berterusan.

Yang kedua, pada tahun 2022, kerajaan menubuhkan apa yang dinamakan sebagai *Sarawak Sovereign Wealth Future Fund*. Kita menyimpan untuk generasi masa depan, secara spesifiknya tidak menyebut untuk pendidikan tetapi inilah tujuan kerajaan untuk memastikan anak-anak Sarawak di masa depan mempunyai cukup untuk pendidikan dan juga dari segi ekonominya.

Yang ketiganya. Yang Berhormat; dari segi ekonominya apabila kita melabur untuk pendidikan, pulangnya adalah jangka panjang, anak-anak Sarawak akan dapat pendidikan ataupun ilmu yang tinggi dan mereka mempunyai ilmu untuk memantapkan lagi ekonomi kita dan seterusnya pulangan ekonomi tersebut dijadikan *revenue* kerajaan untuk memastikan bahawa skim ini dapat berterusan.

Secara kesimpulannya, Yang Berhormat bahawa FTES ini akan dapat kita pastikan berpanjangan atas sebab apa yang selalu dikatakan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Premier jika kerajaan mempunyai pendapatan yang lebih kita harus pulangkan kepada rakyat, inilah dasar ataupun konsep dimana pendapatan lebih dipulangkan kepada rakyat dalam bentuk *Free Tertiary Education Scheme ini... (Applause)...* dan yang paling penting akhirnya, Tuan Speaker, ialah kita mempunyai kestabilan politik, apabila kita mempunyai kestabilan politik, tumpuan kita adalah untuk membangunkan ekonomi dan seterusnya meningkatkan pendapatan negeri kita.

Yang kedua, soalan daripada Yang Berhormat, memang betul ada dari setengah pelajar iaitu seramai 1,433 orang, mereka tidak mahu menerima FTES ini, bukan mereka tidak suka ataupun mereka menolak, mereka mempunyai alasan yang cukup baik. Ini adalah di kalangan *existing student* di mana mereka di peringkat tahun akhir, tahun hadapan sudah tamat pengajian, mereka mempunyai kontrak ataupun perjanjian dengan pihak-pihak biasiswa, di mana mereka tidak dapat *breach the contract* sebab itu mereka menolak FTES ini tetapi jika mereka menolak, ini akan memberi peluang lagi kepada pelajar-pelajar lain untuk menikmati FTES ini. Sekian, terima kasih Yang Berhormat.

Tuan Speaker: Question number 2 by YB Encik Awla bin Idris, Member for N.25 Simunjan. I stand down. Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang, Batu Kitang.

Status of Strata Titles Issuance for Taman Flora Indah

(3) YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang to ask the Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development: What is the current status of the issuance of strata titles for Taman Flora Indah at Arang Road in N.13 Batu Kitang?

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. A very good morning and I have a *pantun* to share.

*Saya tinggal di Batu 3,
Office saya pun berada di Batu 3,
Terletak di Tingkat 3,
Jarang saya tidur pukul 3, jarang-jarang
Soalan saya nombor 3... (Laughter)...*

YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh: *Saya pun sik dapat nak jawab pantun ya.* Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang, pengeluaran surat hakmilik strata bagi Taman Flora Indah belum dapat dimuktamadkan kerana ia nya masih di peringkat teknikal iaitu *Type B Survey (Stage 2)*.

Bagi Taman Flora Indah 2 yang melibatkan *Lot 3848 Blok 128 Kuching North Land District, Type B Survey* telah diterima daripada pihak perunding dan sedang dalam proses semakan oleh Jabatan Tanah dan Survei. Manakala bagi Taman Flora Indah 1 melibatkan *Lot 3847 Blok 128 Kuching North Land District* dan Taman Flora Indah 3 pula melibatkan *Lot 3849 Blok 128 Kuching North Land District* yang juga di *peringkat Type B Survey (Stage 2)* yang sedang dimuktamadkan oleh pihak juruukur perunding. Terima kasih.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: *(Soalan Tambahan)* Terima kasih Menteri Muda. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) What efforts have been implemented by the government to improve compliance by developers and consultants with the technical requirements for strata titles?
- (b) What are the main factors causing delays in the issuance of strata titles?

Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.41 Kuala Rajang (YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh): Terima kasih kepada Ahli

Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Untuk menjawab soalan nombor 1 dari Yang Berhormat Batu Kitang, bagi memastikan kelancaran proses pengeluaran surat hak milik strata dan meningkatkan tahap pematuhan, pihak berkepentingan di bawah *Strata (Subsidiary Titles) Ordinance, 2019*, beberapa langkah telah dilaksanakan seperti berikut:

- (a) Sesi Libat Urus dilaksanakan secara berkala bersama pemaju dan perunding bagi memberi penjelasan, keperluan di bawah *Strata (Subsidiary Titles) Ordinance, 2019* serta membincangkan isu berbangkit untuk meningkatkan pematuhan dan kualiti permohonan;
- (b) Garis Panduan dan Senarai Semak Standard disediakan bagi memastikan keperluan teknikal dan dokumentasi dipatuhi sekali gus mengurangkan kesilapan dan mempercepatkan proses semakan; dan
- (c) Taklimat Teknikal diadakan bagi memberikan penerangan aspek teknikal, mengemaskinikan keperluan semasa dan meningkatkan keupayaan perunding dalam menyediakan permohonan yang lengkap.

Untuk soalan kedua, faktor utama kelewatan pengeluaran surat hak milik strata ialah kegagalan pemaju menyiapkan pengukuran skim strata dalam tempoh masa yang telah ditetapkan. Pembangunan skim strata melibatkan dua peringkat pengukuran iaitu *Survey Type A* dan *Survey Type B*.

Survey Type A merujuk kepada pengukuran sempadan *parent lot* dan peletakan tapak pembangunan untuk skim strata manakala *Survey Type B* pula merujuk kepada pengukuran *parcel* yang terletak di dalam bangunan skim strata.

Selain itu, faktor lain yang turut menyumbang kepada kelewatan dalam pemprosesan hak milik strata khususnya diperingkat *Strata Title Application* (STA) adalah berpunca daripada beberapa perkara seperti berikut:

- (a) Dokumen tidak lengkap dan tidak mematuhi keperluan termasuk isu berulang dalam senarai semakan teknikal;
- (b) Pembinaan bangunan yang tidak memenuhi pelan bangunan yang telah diluluskan;
- (c) Kelewatan pihak pemaju dalam membuat bayaran pengukuran;
- (d) Pertukaran reka bentuk dan jenis petak oleh pihak pemaju selepas pelan diluluskan;
- (e) Struktur bangunan menceroboh atau terkeluar daripada sempadan lot iaitu *structure encroachment* yang turut menjejaskan kelancaran proses permohonan; dan
- (f) Kelewatan pengeluaran surat hak milik parent lot berpunca daripada kegagalan, pematuhan, kelulusan perancangan dan pembayaran premium oleh pemaju.

Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor, Beting Maro.

YB Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya nombor 4.

Usaha Mengurangkan Kos Input Pertanian dan Penternakan

(4) YB Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor bertanya kepada Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah: Memandangkan kenaikan kos input pertanian yang membebankan petani, apakah perancangan kerajaan untuk mengurangkan kos input pertanian terutama baja dan makanan ternakan? Adakah kerajaan bercadang meningkat pemberian subsidi input pertanian terutamanya kepada petani?

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (Industri Makanan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.79 Bukit Kota (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji

Ismail): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan juga Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro, berdasarkan peruntukan tahun 2026, Kerajaan Sarawak menggariskan beberapa pendekatan bagi mengurangkan kos input pertanian secara langsung, dan tidak hanya bergantung kepada peningkatan subsidi secara langsung. Antara pendekatan itu adalah:

- (a) Memberi penekanan kepada pelaksanaan amalan pertanian baik ataupun *good agricultural practice* sebagai asas bagi meningkatkan produktiviti dan kecekapan penggunaan input pertanian;
- (b) Menggalakkan penggunaan baja alternatif berasaskan konsep *waste-to-wealth*, termasuk penghasilan baja organik daripada sisa pertanian, sisa ternakan dan juga bahan buangan industri agro;
- (c) Memperkasakan penggunaan teknologi moden dan ICT yang dapat meningkatkan kecekapan, mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada tenaga buruh serta menurunkan kos operasi keseluruhan; dan
- (d) Meningkatkan khidmat sokongan berkaitan penggunaan keupayaan tanah (*soil capability*) melalui penyediaan khidmat nasihat teknikal, pemetaan kesesuaian tanah, serta cadangan jenis tanaman optimum mengikut ciri tanah setempat.

Tuan Speaker, secara keseluruhannya, Kerajaan Sarawak menumpukan kepada pendekatan yang lebih mampan dan menyeluruh melalui peningkatan produktiviti, pembangunan infrastruktur, penerapan teknologi moden serta pembangunan sumber input alternatif tempatan.

Pendekatan ini diyakini lebih berkesan dalam mengurangkan kos pengeluaran serta memperkukuh daya tahan sektor pertanian dalam jangka masa yang panjang. Walau bagaimanapun, pada masa yang sama, Kerajaan akan terus melaksanakan program bantuan kepada golongan sasar yang memerlukan. Terima kasih.

YB Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor: (Soalan Tambahan) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih kepada Datuk Timbalan Menteri. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Apakah pendekatan yang diambil oleh Kerajaan Sarawak untuk memastikan khidmat sokongan berkaitan keupayaan tanah dapat membantu petani meningkatkan hasil serta mengurangkan pembaziran input pertanian?
- (b) Apakah usaha kerajaan dalam memperkukuh amalan pertanian baik (GAP) bagi meningkatkan produktiviti dan kecekapan penggunaan input pertanian?

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (Industri Makanan) dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.79 Bukit Kota (YB Datuk Dr. Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail): Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat. Untuk jawapan yang pertama, antara pendekatan yang diambil oleh kerajaan ialah melaksanakan pemetaan kesesuaian tanah secara terperinci yang membolehkan pengelasan kawasan berdasarkan potensi agroekologi masing-masing. Hasil pemetaan ini digunakan sebagai asas dalam menentukan jenis tanaman yang paling sesuai untuk ditanam di sesuatu kawasan. Selain itu, kerajaan turut menyediakan khidmat nasihat teknikal secara berterusan kepada petani termasuk mencadangkan kadar penggunaan baja yang tepat mengikut keperluan tanah sekali gus mengelakkan penggunaan input secara berlebihan yang boleh meningkatkan kos pengeluaran. Pendekatan ini turut disokong melalui penyebaran maklumat serta pemberian bimbingan lapangan oleh pegawai teknikal bagi memastikan setiap keputusan penanaman dibuat berdasarkan data dan bukti saintifik.

Bagi jawapan soalan yang kedua, kerajaan memberi penekanan kepada pelaksanaan *good agricultural practices* sebagai asas dalam meningkatkan produktiviti serta kecekapan penggunaan

input pertanian. Pendekatan ini dilaksanakan melalui program kesuburan tanah dan nutrisi tanaman serta program pemuliharaan tanah dan agroekosistem yang menumpukan kepada pengurusan tanah lestari, penggunaan input secara tepat serta pemeliharaan keseimbangan ekosistem pertanian. Amalan ini bukan sahaja dapat meningkatkan hasil malah mengurangkan pembaziran dan kos pengeluaran dalam jangka masa yang panjang. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang, Pelagus.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, my question is number 5.

Pelan Transformasi Mahkamah Bumiputera

(5) YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang bertanya kepada Premier Sarawak: Apakah status Pelan Transformasi Mahkamah Bumiputera agar ia setaraf dengan Mahkamah Sivil dan Syariah?

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera); Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.63 Bukit Goram (YB Datuk Jefferson Jamita anak Unyat): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pelagus. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pelagus, kajian yang dijalankan pada tahun 2020 untuk menstrukturkan semula dan menaik taraf Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak telah siap pada Februari 2023. Laporan akhir kajian tersebut telah dibentangkan kepada Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) pada bulan Julai 2023. Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) pada dasarnya telah meluluskan hasil kajian, "*Masterplan for the Transformation of the Native Courts of Sarawak*".

Berdasarkan Pelan Induk Transformasi ini, Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak akan membuat pindaan kepada *Native Courts Ordinance, 1992*. Jadi, bagi membolehkan penstrukturkan semula ini, *Native Courts Ordinance, 1992* yang sedia ada perlu dimansuhkan (*repeal*) dan diganti dengan Ordinan Mahkamah Bumiputera yang baharu atau *New Native Courts Ordinance*. Oleh itu, satu Rang Undang-undang Mahkamah Bumiputera atau *New Native Courts Bill* sedang dirangka dan akan dibentangkan di Dewan Undangan Negeri.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pelagus, penstrukturkan semula Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak di bawah Rang Undang-undang yang baharu nanti akan melibatkan perubahan dalam struktur pentadbiran dan bidang kuasa mahkamah. Sekian, terima kasih.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: (Soalan Tambahan) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker and terima kasih, Timbalan Menteri. Saya ada soalan tambahan, dua.

- (a) Berapa banyakkah kes pertikaian tanah adat bumiputera yang masih tertangguh perbicaraan di Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak?
- (b) Apakah langkah-langkah yang diambil oleh Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak untuk mempercepatkan penyelesaian kes-kes di Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak?

Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera); Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.63 Bukit Goram (YB Datuk Jefferson Jamita anak Unyat): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pelagus *for your* soalan tambahan. Yang pertama, setakat 1 Mei 2026, sejumlah 4,755 kes yang melibatkan pertikaian tanah adat bumiputera yang didaftarkan di Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak. Kes-kes mahkamah ini dibicarakan di tiga peringkat Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak, iaitu di Mahkamah Bumiputera Daerah, Mahkamah Bumiputera Residen dan Mahkamah Rayuan Bumiputera Sarawak. Status terkini kes berdaftar yang masih belum selesai adalah sebanyak 1,316 kes di peringkat Mahkamah Bumiputera Daerah, 187 kes di peringkat Mahkamah Bumiputera Residen dan 92 kes di peringkat Mahkamah Rayuan Bumiputera.

Jadi, manakala untuk menjawab soalan tambahan yang kedua, Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak telah melaksanakan pelbagai langkah pendekatan yang strategik dan berterusan bagi mempercepatkan penyelesaian kes-kes yang didaftarkan.

Antara langkah utama ialah pelaksanaan *Capacity Building Programme* (CBP) yang melibatkan pegawai tadbir, kerani dan peon mahkamah, dan setakat 30 April 2026, program telah dilaksanakan di Sri Aman dan Sibu, iaitu melibatkan peserta dari bahagian Kapit dengan penyertaan seramai 40 orang peserta.

Selain itu, Mahkamah Bumiputera Sarawak turut melaksanakan sesi libat urus dan sesi dialog di peringkat daerah bagi memberi bimbingan secara langsung kepada kerani dan peon mahkamah serta Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum (KMKK). Setakat 30 April 2026, program ini telah dilaksanakan di Selangau, Sibu dan Limbang melibatkan penyertaan seramai 70 orang peserta.

Pendekatan strategik ini meningkatkan kefahaman terhadap pengurusan dan prosedur mahkamah serta memperkukuhkan keyakinan Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum (KMKK) sebagai pegawai pengetua, termasuk pegawai tadbir, kerani mahkamah dan peon mahkamah dalam melaksanakan tanggungjawab masing-masing. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How, Batu Lintang.

YB See Chee How: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. My question is question number 6.

Sarawak's Hydrogen Energy Development & Offtake Agreements

(6) YB Encik See Chee How to ask the Ministry for Energy and Environmental Sustainability: The current outlook of Sarawak's drive to transform the state into a clean hydrogen energy powerhouse and the progress in securing long-term international offtake agreements for our hydrogen outputs.

Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.5 Demak Laut (YB Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Lintang, Sarawak remains firmly committed to developing a clean hydrogen economy as part of our broader ambition to position the state as a regional clean energy powerhouse, guided by the Sarawak Energy Transition Policy and the Sarawak Hydrogen Economy Roadmap.

Our approach is structured and phased, focusing on strengthening the entire hydrogen value chain from production to midstream processing, domestic utilisation, and future export opportunities. For export, to advance this agenda, PETROS, through its partnership with China Jiangsu International Economic and Technical Cooperation Group Ltd., is developing the Kuching Low Carbon Gas Hub, which forms a key part of the midstream segment, which potentially includes hydrogen as its derivatives. This is complemented by Sarawak Petchem's low-carbon methanol project in Bintulu which further strengthens midstream capabilities and serves as a practical demonstration of Sarawak's readiness to support a viable hydrogen ecosystem. Together, these initiatives enhance Sarawak's credibility in engaging and securing long-term international offtake arrangements.

For the domestic market, the government is stimulating domestic demand through catalyst projects such as the Kuching Urban Transportation System, which will utilise hydrogen-powered Autonomous Rapid Transit and feeder buses.

The Rembus Hydrogen Plant in Samarahan will produce 1 tonne of hydrogen per day by the first quarter of 2027, 2 tonnes per day in Phase 2 and another 2 tonnes per day in Phase 3.

Overall, Sarawak's hydrogen development is being implemented in a practical and progressive manner, balancing export readiness with domestic market development, while building local capabilities and creating sustainable long-term value for Sarawak.

YB See Chee How: (*Supplementary Question*) Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Datuk Timbalan Menteri. I have two supplementary questions.

- (a) What are the potential downstream green products that will be produced for my green hydrogen?
- (b) What is the government plan to reduce dependency on conventional energy source or fossil fuel, example coal?

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.5 Demak Laut (YB Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. For the first question, apart from being used as transportation fuel, electricity and heat generation, green hydrogen can also be utilised as a source of feedstock to produce products such as green chemicals example ammonia and methanol, e-fuels or synthetic fuels while at the same time act as the source of fuel to decarbonise industries related to metal processing and glass manufacturing. It can be used in shipping, synthetic jet fuel, heavy transport, synthetic diesel, aluminium, iron, steel and cement.

For the second question, the overall generalise approach would be through renewable energy, energy efficiency, electrifying the transport system, to develop green industries, more research and development, more supportive policies, circular economy and international and regional co-operation. Example for coal. Coal plays a role in ensuring grid stability and reliable power supply. Nevertheless, Sarawak has taken clear steps to reduce its dependence on coal. Natural gas, as a lower-emission transition fuel, will increasingly support the generation mix, with Sarawak Energy Berhad working closely with PETROS under the Sarawak Gas Roadmap.

Importantly, the Balingian Coal-Fired Power Plant, commissioned in 2019, will be the last coal-fired project in Sarawak for the future, and plans are underway to progressively retire ageing coal plants. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming, Tanjong Batu.

YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming: Thank you, Tuan Speaker and good morning to everyone in this august House. My question is number 7. Thank you.

Plans for Elderly Day Care/ Recreational Centres in Bintulu

(7) YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming bertanya kepada Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak): With an ageing population in Bintulu, are there plans to establish elderly day care or recreational centres to better support senior citizens' wellbeing?

Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak) dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.71 Bekenu (YB Datuk Hajah Rosey binti Haji Yunus): Thank you, Tuan Speaker and thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Datu, Tanjong Batu not Tanjong Datu. For the information of the Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu, in the efforts to support the wellbeing of senior citizens in the Bintulu division, being implemented now are two dedicated centres, namely the Senior Citizens Activity Centre (PAWE – *Pusat Aktiviti Warga Emas*) in Tatau and the Senior Citizens Service Centre (PPWE – *Pusat Perkhidmatan Warga Emas*) in the Bintulu division. These centres provide structured

programmes and support services aimed at promoting active ageing, social participation and overall wellbeing among older persons.

There are currently 30 PAWE and eight PPWE operating throughout Sarawak. This reflects the Sarawak Government's continuous commitment to strengthening care and support services for the senior citizens, while ensuring that opportunities for meaningful social engagement are accessible across all divisions in Sarawak.

In addressing the growing needs of an ageing population, our ministry recognises the importance of expanding elderly day care services as part of Sarawak preparedness towards becoming an ageing state by 2028. As of April 2026, a total of 12 elderly day care centres are being operated by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and private individuals throughout Sarawak, comprising of eight centres in Kuching, two in Sibu, and one respectively in Samarahan and Miri.

In this regard, our ministry welcomes and encourages greater participation from NGOs, private organisations and interested individuals in the Bintulu division to take the initiative in establishing elderly day care centres and other community-based support services for senior citizens. Such initiatives would complement the government's existing efforts in enhancing care options and improving quality of life for the older persons.

At the same time, our ministry recognises that the success of such initiatives depends greatly on strong collaboration at the community level. Therefore, the support of community leaders is essential in raising awareness, encouraging community participation and fostering a shared responsibility in ensuring the wellbeing, and the dignity and also the social inclusion of the senior citizens. Thank you.

YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming: (*Supplementary Question*) Thank you, Tuan Speaker and thank you, Yang Berhormat Datuk Deputy Minister. I have two supplementary questions here.

- (a) What are the criteria for establishing an elderly day care centre?
- (b) What are the criteria to apply for the establishment of a PAWE or PPWE?

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak) dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.71 Bekenu (YB Datuk Hajah Rosey binti Haji Yunus): Thank you, Tuan Speaker, and thank you again to the Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu, operators who intend to establish an elderly care centre, whether under the residential or day care category, first of course, do visit our nearest JKM (Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat) to obtain preliminary advice and the guidance from the authorized officer. The operator will then be provided with user ID and password for the myKendiri system, together with a referral letter to facilitate the process of obtaining approvals or support from the relevant technical agencies.

The technical agencies are Land and Survey Department, the Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA), the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH), and the relevant local authorities. Upon obtaining the necessary support or approvals, the operator is required to submit the application online through the myKendiri system together with complete supporting documents from the relevant technical agencies as I had mentioned just now.

Thereafter, an inspection of the care centre will be conducted by the Authorized Welfare Officer to ensure compliance with the requirements and the standards prescribed by the Social Welfare Department. The inspection report will then be uploaded into the myKendiri system before the

application is submitted to the Director of the Social Welfare Department for consideration, approval, and later issuance of care centre registration certificate.

And for the second question, there are five criterias actually in the establishment of a PAWE or PPWE, one of it is:

- (a) First is the population requirement, where there must be a sufficient number of senior citizens in the area, preferably in high-density communities;
- (b) The location must be strategic, accessible, and senior-friendly, with nearby public facilities;
- (c) There must be involvement from a committed local NGOs or voluntary organisation to manage the daily operations;
- (d) And the local NGOs of course, the fourth one, must be registered with Registry of Societies; and
- (e) Lastly, consultation and support from the Social Welfare Department are required to ensure proper implementation.

Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Tuan Kennedy Chukpai, Murum.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Selamat pagi, Salam Sarawak Maju dan Makmur. Soalan saya nombor 8, minta Yang Berhormat Datuk Menteri menjawab.

Pembangunan Pelabuhan di Sarawak

(8) YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon bertanya kepada Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan: Apakah langkah dan perancangan strategik kerajaan dalam memperkasa pembangunan pelabuhan di Sarawak?

Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.70 Samalaju (YB Datuk Majang anak Renggi): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Murum. Untuk makluman Yang Berhormat bagi Murum, Kerajaan Sarawak kini sedang giat merancang serta melaksanakan pembangunan dan inisiatif pelabuhan yang komprehensif selaras dengan sasaran pertumbuhan ekonomi di bawah *Post COVID-19 Development Strategy* (PCDS) 2030. Dengan penubuhan Sarawak Ports Authority, Kerajaan Sarawak sedang mengambil beberapa langkah strategik seperti berikut:

Pemindahan Fungsi Kawal Selia Pelabuhan-pelabuhan di Sarawak

Sarawak Ports Authority akan berperanan sebagai badan pengawal selia tunggal bagi semua pelabuhan negeri, menggantikan pihak berkuasa pelabuhan sedia ada, termasuk Pelabuhan Bintulu setelah penyerahan rasmi daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan kepada Kerajaan Sarawak dimuktamadkan.

Pengkorporatan Lembaga-lembaga Pelabuhan

Ini membolehkan semua pelabuhan di Sarawak dikendalikan sebagai entiti komersial yang mengamalkan tadbir urus korporat, kecekapan operasi, pengukuhan keselamatan dan pengurusan kewangan yang kukuh. Proses pengkorporatan pelabuhan di Sarawak dilaksanakan secara berfasa.

Pelan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Bersepadu

Sarawak Ports Authority berperanan untuk merancang dan menyelaras pembangunan pelabuhan negeri dengan melaksanakan pelan pembangunan pelabuhan yang menyeluruh. Dalam hal ini Yang Berhormat, pendekatan yang berasaskan pengelompokan iaitu *port cluster*, akan dilaksanakan bagi mengoptimumkan fungsi selia bagi setiap pelabuhan mengikut kelebihan dan peranan masing-masing. Ini bertujuan mengurangkan pertindihan fungsi serta memperkukuh rangkaian logistik dan menggalakkan pembangunan kawasan *hinterland* iaitu kawasan pedalaman atau kawasan sokongan di sekitar pelabuhan utama.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Murum juga, antara langkah-langkah lain yang sedang dilaksanakan ialah, “*The Dredging and Training Bunds Construction Project*” di Kuala Baram oleh Lembaga Pelabuhan Miri. Projek ini dijangka siap pada Oktober 2026. Dalam masa yang sama, penubuhan, “*Borneo Oil and Gas Supply Base*” merancakkan lagi Bintulu sebagai hub utama dan lokasi strategik bagi menyokong pertubuhan industri minyak dan gas di Sarawak.

Selain itu, projek mega di Tanjong Embang melibatkan pembinaan pelabuhan laut dalam dan terminal gas sedang giat dirancang oleh Kerajaan Sarawak dengan kerjasama PETROS. Fasa pertama dijangka akan mula beroperasi pada tahun 2032.

Kerajaan Sarawak juga turut melihat keperluan membangunkan kawasan Zon Bebas di Kuching, Bintulu, Samalaju dan Miri. Ini diyakini akan meningkatkan lagi aktiviti nilai tambah (*value added*) dan mampu menarik pelaburan dalam industri berorientasikan eksport. Terima kasih.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: (*Soalan Tambahan*) Terima kasih, Timbalan Menteri atas jawapan. Tuan Speaker, saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Apakah Kerajaan Sarawak mempunyai perancangan untuk menambahkan pelabuhan darat (*inland port*) di kawasan sempadan?
- (b) Apakah status terkini pelaksanaan pembangunan kawasan zon bebas kawasan pelabuhan di Sarawak?

Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.70 Samalaju (YB Datuk Majang anak Renggi): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih Yang Berhormat bagi Murum atas dua soalan tambahan. Untuk menjawab soalan tambahan pertama, Kerajaan Sarawak sememangnya melihat potensi pembangunan pelabuhan darat atau *inland port* sebagai salah satu pendekatan jangka panjang bagi memperkukuh rangkaian logistik serta menyokong pertumbuhan dagangan rentas sempadan. Buat masa ini, Kerajaan Sarawak dan Persekutuan terus mengadakan rundingan dengan Pihak Berkuasa Indonesia dalam usaha menormalisasi dan pengukuhan aktiviti ekonomi dan dagangan rentas sempadan di Kompleks ICQS Tebedu di Entikong.

Untuk mewujudkan sebaran pelabuhan darat di wilayah sempadan negara adalah sangat bergantung kepada keperluan sebenar dan bertujuan memaksimumkan potensi ekonomi sesebuah kawasan. Fokus utama Kerajaan Sarawak kini adalah untuk memperkukuhkan kerjasama ekonomi dua hala dengan negara jiran melalui platform seperti BIMP-EAGA dan Sosek-Malindo bagi menyelaras dasar prosedur dan kemudahan rentas sempadan merangkumi aspek perdagangan logistik dan juga keselamatan.

Bagi soalan tambahan kedua, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Murum, status terkini pelaksanaan zon bebas di Sarawak adalah seperti berikut:

- (a) Pelabuhan Samalaju. Permohonan diluluskan oleh Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia (MOF) pada 14 April 2026; dan
- (b) Pelabuhan Miri. Permohonan telah dikemukakan kepada Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia (MOF) pada 12 Februari 2026 dan kini dalam proses pertimbangan. Manakala pula bagi Pelabuhan Kuching dan Pelabuhan Bintulu, masih dalam proses perincian.

Sekian, terima kasih, Yang Berhormat.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul bin Pehin Sri Adenan, Tanjong Datu.

YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan: Soalan saya soalan nombor 9.

Penglibatan Komuniti dalam Industri Kreatif Berasaskan Warisan

(9) YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan bertanya kepada Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan: Bagaimanakah kementerian menyokong penglibatan komuniti dalam menukarkan naratif warisan tempatan kepada produk industri kreatif yang mampan?

(58) YB Encik Anyi anak Jana bertanya kepada Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan: Apakah langkah yang diambil oleh kementerian untuk memastikan penglibatan aktif komuniti luar bandar dalam industri kreatif Sarawak?

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.30 Balai Ringin (YB Datuk Snowdan Lawan): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Datu.

Tuan Speaker, izinkan saya juga untuk menjawab soalan nombor 58 daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Ngemah mengenai isu yang sama, iaitu *creative industry*.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Datu dan Ngemah, kerajaan menggalakkan penglibatan komuniti luar bandar mahupun komuniti bandar dalam pembangunan industri kreatif. Bagi tujuan ini, kementerian membuka ruang dan memberi peluang kepada komuniti tempatan untuk mempamerkan persembahan seni muzik, tarian dan teater. Ini termasuklah dalam penganjuran pesta dan acara kebudayaan seperti Festival Kesenian Sarawak pada 14 ke 16 November 2025, di mana pelbagai kumpulan etnik mempersembahkan tarian tradisional masing-masing. Komuniti etnik tempatan juga diberikan peluang untuk menyertai program Malam Budaya Sarawak sempena Regatta Sarawak setiap tahun dan program Sarawakku Sayang.

Melalui pemberian Skim Galakan Kesenian Geran MySeni, kerajaan melalui Majlis Seni Sarawak turut berjaya memelihara dan mengangkat tarian tempatan seperti Tarian Ngoncong dan Tarian Totong oleh Bidayuh Salako serta memelihara Instrumen Sape Lutong bagi Kumpulan Etnik Orang Ulu. Terima kasih.

YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan: (Soalan Tambahan) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balai Ringin. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Apakah langkah yang telah dilaksanakan oleh pihak kementerian bagi memastikan penggiat seni kreatif luar bandar tidak terpinggir daripada cabaran yang disebabkan oleh logistik dan rangkaian perhubungan?
- (b) Bagaimanakah kerjasama dengan komuniti setempat boleh menukarkan aset warisan yang pasif kepada produk industri kreatif yang aktif?

Terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.30 Balai Ringin (YB Datuk Snowdan Lawan): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Datu, kementerian kita melalui agensi-agensi di bawah kementerian, sekarang telah melaksanakan pelbagai inisiatif strategik yang merapatkan jurang di antara penggiat seni dari luar kawasan dan bandar.

Selain daripada Hub Pengumpulan Kraf di Kuching, Sarawak Craft Council (SCC) turut memberi fokus kepada pembangunan kraf di luar bandar melalui penubuhan Hab Pengumpulan Kraf di Tatau, Belaga dan Kanowit. Melalui hab seperti ini, pihak SCC dapat memastikan pengusaha kraf luar bandar terlibat secara langsung dari proses pembuatan sehingga ke pemasaran produk kraf tersebut ke pasaran luar.

Kementerian turut memastikan penggiat seni di luar bandar mendapat peluang untuk mempamerkan bakat dan kreativiti melalui pendedahan di luar negara. Beberapa kumpulan telah diberi peluang untuk membuat persembahan di luar negara seperti Hari Malaysia di Manila, Filipina, *Budayaw Festival* di Palawan, Filipina dan *Seorak Festival* di Korea Selatan. Selain itu, kementerian turut memperkukuhkan inisiatif promosi serta platform digital. Salah satu inisiatif utama ialah *Sarawak Creative Industry Directory 1.0* yang mengandungi maklumat lebih daripada 3,300 pemain industri kreatif di seluruh Sarawak. Direktori ini meningkatkan keterlihatan pemain industri kreatif serta menyokong peluang padanan perniagaan jaringan dan kerjasama dalam ekosistem industri kreatif.

Bagi soalan tambahan kedua pula, kementerian kita komited dalam memastikan aset warisan bukan saja dipelihara sebagai aset sejarah tetapi juga turut dapat dikomersialkan. Di antara inisiatif adalah *Old Kuching Smart Heritage* (OKSHE) yang merupakan model strategik yang menukarkan warisan daripada sekadar bahan pameran pasif kepada komuniti ekonomi yang aktif. Aset pasif seperti kemahiran menenun atau menyulam yang dahulunya hanya dilakukan sebagai hobi di rumah kini dijadikan industri profesional warisan seperti keringkam dan songket Sarawak dinaik taraf daripada pakaian tradisional kepada produk gaya hidup seperti beg tangan, aksesori dan hiasan dalaman yang mempunyai nilai pasaran ribuan ringgit.

Aset warisan yang pasif dapat dipromosikan melalui naratif penceritaannya. OKSHE menggunakan teknologi untuk menghidupkan naratif ini. Papan tanda bagi tapak warisan di sekitar kawasan Kuching turut mempunyai QR code bagi penceritaan sejarah lokasi tersebut. Lukisan semula mural di rumah kedai di Jalan Gambir, *Main Bazaar India Street* dan *Carpenter Street* dapat membangkitkan nostalgia dan sejarah di kawasan tersebut. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Ada soalan tambahan dari Ngemah?

YB Encik Anyi anak Jana: (Soalan Tambahan) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Apakah inisiatif yang dilaksanakan oleh kerajaan untuk menggalakkan penglibatan komuniti tempatan dalam industri kreatif?
- (b) Apakah usaha kerajaan untuk memastikan komuniti turut diberi peluang untuk mempromosikan warisan tempatan?

Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.30 Balai Ringin (YB Datuk Snowdan Lawan): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Ngemah. Kementerian menyokong penuh penglibatan komuniti dalam industri kreatif melalui penyaluran geran dan penganjuran bengkel yang berterusan. Kementerian melalui Sarawak Craft Council pada suku

pertama 2026 telah berjaya melaksanakan sebanyak lapan bengkel yang melibatkan seramai 149 orang peserta bagi meningkatkan kemahiran artisan tempatan.

Kementerian turut bekerjasama rapat dengan komuniti melalui geran acara bagi menyokong penganjuran festival-festival seperti Kapit *Cultural Festival*, Festival Budaya Seni Warisan, Baram Miri dan *Bung Bratak Day* demi memacu ekonomi kreatif dan pelancongan di peringkat akar umbi. Selain itu, Kementerian turut membangunkan *Sarawak Creative Industry Directory 1.0* yang menghimpunkan lebih daripada 3,300 orang pemain industri kreatif di seluruh Sarawak. Inisiatif ini membantu meluaskan jaringan komuniti kreatif, membuka peluang kerjasama serta menghubungkan penggiat seni dan komuniti tempatan dengan agensi industri serta pasaran yang lebih luas.

Bagi soalan tambahan kedua pula, kerajaan memberi peluang kepada komuniti tempatan untuk mempromosikan warisan tempatan di dalam mahupun di luar negara melalui pelbagai medium. Ini termasuklah melalui penglibatan persatuan-persatuan komuniti dalam membuat persembahan kebudayaan di luar negara secara fizikal seperti persembahan sempena Hari Malaysia di Davao dan Manila, Filipina, Ankara, Turkiye, Dongdaemun di Korea Selatan dan Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. Komuniti tempatan khususnya bakat seni tempatan turut diberi peluang untuk membuat persembahan dalam acara-acara produksi dan konsert berskala besar seperti Konsert MeleTOP TVS dan Konsert Berkat Gawai-Kaamatan yang disiarkan secara meluas melalui pelbagai platform. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, question time is up.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (2025) BILL, 2026

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Good morning, Tuan Speaker. I beg to introduce the Supplementary Supply (2025) Bill, 2026 to be read a first time.

Bill is read a first time

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I beg to give a notice that the Supplementary Supply (2025) Bill, 2026 be read a second time on Thursday, 14th May 2026.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading of the Supplementary Supply (2025) Bill, 2026 is set on Thursday, 14th May 2026.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (2026) BILL, 2026

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce the Supplementary Supply (2026) Bill, 2026 be read a first time.

Bill is read a first time

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I beg to give a notice that this Supplementary Supply (2026) Bill, 2026 be read a second time on Thursday, 14th May 2026.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading of Supplementary Supply (2026) Bill, 2026 is set on Thursday, 14th May 2026.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

SARAWAK PADI AND RICE BOARD BILL, 2026

Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom): A very good morning, Tuan Speaker. I beg to introduce the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 be read a first time.

Bill is read a first time

Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom): I wish to give a notice that this Bill be read a second time today, 12th May 2026.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

PERBADANAN PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI SARAWAK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 be read a first time.

Bill is read a first time

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I wish to give a notice that this Bill be read a second time today, 12th May 2026.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

SARAWAK PADI AND RICE BOARD BILL, 2026

Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. A very good morning to all.

Tuan Speaker, food security remains one of the most critical priorities for any nation, as access to sufficient and stable food supply is essential to the well-being and livelihood of the people. In

Malaysia, the agrofood sector plays a central role in sustaining this security. With rice serving as the nation's primary staple food, as such ensuring a consistence, adequate and reliable supply of rice is vital to strengthening food resilience in reducing dependency on external sources, particularly in Sarawak.

In this regard, we have taken a significant step to strengthen Sarawak's control over the paddy and rice industry. This Bill is designed to empower Sarawak to manage, develop and sustain its paddy and rice industry for the benefit of our people. Both now and for the generation to come. The paddy and rice industry at the national level is currently governed under the Padi and Rice Control Act 1994. With the policy and regulatory oversight by the Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan and operational support by the Padi Beras National Berhad (BERNAS). I wish to emphasise that the provisions under this Bill are intended to complement the existing the federal framework particularly in strengthening the state's role and development coordination and enhancement of paddy and rice industry within Sarawak. Recognizing the importance of regulating this industry, Sarawak seek to establish a dedicated state agency to oversee and drive their sustainable development of paddy cultivation and rice production.

This Bill introduces a comprehensive legal framework to facilitate the state's late transformation of the paddy and rice industry, to share resilience features of the Bill.

Tuan Speaker, I wish to highlight resilient provision of the Bill:

(a) Definition of Paddy or Rice

Firstly, the Bill provides a comprehensive definition of paddy or rice. It includes paddy or rice of any species. Paddy or rice of any species or varieties, derived their form in any form it includes any rice product. Secondly, the Bill defines paddy product or rice product to meet any product obtained directly from paddy or rice as well as any product that is wholly or partly manufactured or derived from such product or from paddy planting material. These definitions are crucial in ensuring that scope of the Bill sufficiently wide to cover not only raw paddy or rice but also downstream product within the paddy and rice value chain.

(b) Establishment of the Board

The Bill establishes the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board as a body corporate with perpetual association and corporate seal capable of suing and be sued enquiring, owning, holding leasing or disposing of property both movable and immovable and doing such other act or thing, as body corporate may lawfully do. The Board shall for the purpose of the land code be deemed a native.

(c) Board Composition and Governance

The Board comprises a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Key Government Officials and not more than five other members with appropriate experience, knowledge and expertise in the paddy and rice industry from the upstream and the downstream sector of the industry. The Bill is also provided for the appointment of a General Manager who will be responsible for the proper administration a day today management of the Board function and affairs. Thereby, ensuring the effective implementation of the Board's mandate.

(d) Powers and Functions

The Board shall subject to any return law have power to issue licences collect fees appointed agent and experts, promote research, develop marketing strategies, commercialise the research finding, protect the interests of paddy and rice industry and advice the government on policy matter.

(e) The Committees

Tuan Speaker, the Board may establish committees to assist in performing its function it may delegate power to these committees. The general manager or other officers of company incorporated under the Board.

(f) Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Fund

Part four of this Bill make provision for the fund and financial management of the Board and dedicated fund to be known as the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Fund will be established which shall be controlled and ministered by the Board, subject to the direction of the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri. All money received, raised or own by the Board shall be paid into this fund which will be utilized for the implementation of the board plan, scheme and project. The discharge of its function and powers and the payment of remuneration fees, loan and other operational expenses. The fund may also be applied for lawful investment and acquisition of asset, necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(g) Paddy Development Area

Tuan Speaker, the Bill for the provides that the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) may by order publish and the gazette declare any area of the state land as a paddy development area, subject to such term and condition, as it may deem fit to impose. The Board may either by itself or in collaboration or engagement any party is charge its function to develop such paddy development area in accordance with this ordinance or its regulation.

(h) Enforcement and Prosecution

The Bill also provide for enforcement and investigation powers, whereby authorise officers may enforce the provision of this ordinance by investigating offences accessing computerise data, seeing and disposing of paddy rice or related equipment. Offences include among others. They are making of false information and obstruction of authorise officer the Bill for the empower the Board, or any authorise officer to compound any offence committed by any person under this ordinance its regulation.

In addition, the Bill provides for the prescription of offenses penalties for abetment or attempt in a general penalty for offenses where the penalty is not expressly provided. Bodies corporate may also be reliable under certain circumstances or specified in this Ordinance.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion this Bill is intended to operate in tandem existing legal regulatory framework complementing current laws and policies an advancing National Food Security. With particular and precise on the needs for Sarawak. It is shall not contravene, I repeat it's shall not contravene or supersede any provision of federal law, and it is design to function within the State Constitution and legislative competent focusing areas such as production, production planning, distribution management, farmer development and monitoring system. The Bill provides a legal platform for the state to emphasize this function and may, where appropriate accommodate the delegation of the power from the Federal Government. In doing so, its ensure that Sarawak can exercise meaningful control over its paddy and rice industry without infringing upon federal authority while providing legal certainty and clarity for the state-led initiative.

And I, therefore, Tuan Speaker, urge all the Honourable Members, on this august House to support this Bill. I, therefore, beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second.

Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.56 Dalat (YB Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah binti Abdullah): I beg to second.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, under Standing Order 21(8), I hereby limit the speeches to debate on this Bill to 20 minutes. I call upon the Member for Beting Maro.

YB Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum W.B.T dan salam sejahtera. Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving Beting Maro the floor to participate in the debate on the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026.

First, I would like to congratulate YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Honourable Member for N.69 Kemena, Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development, for tabling this Bill before this august House. The Bill comes at the right time, as Sarawak places greater emphasis on food security, domestic production, and the orderly development of the Sarawak's paddy and rice industry. The ministry has stated that the proposed board will spearhead and regulate the industry while coordinating the supply chain.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill ought not to be regarded merely as the establishment of another statutory body. It is, in substance, an effort to strengthen the supply of a staple food and place Sarawak's paddy and rice industry on a firmer, more coherent, and more sustainable farming.

Its success lies not in establishment alone but in whether the Board can function effectively, regulate with integrity, support industry with competence, and deliver measurable, lasting progress. For that reason, the powers conferred under this Bill must be matched by accountability, expertise and implementation capacity equal to the responsibility carried.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak has set itself the target of achieving 60% rice self-sufficiency by 2030. Currently, Sarawak's rice SSL is only 21%. To reach that target, Sarawak would require approximately 23,600 metric tonnes of paddy, equivalent to about 142,000 metric tonnes of rice, together with around RM1.2 billion in new and upgraded paddy infrastructure, including 4,500 hectares of new areas and 8,800 hectares of the existing DID schemes.

That requires Sarawak to move beyond traditional practices towards larger-scale, more efficient, technology-driven agriculture, including smart farming, digital systems, mechanisation and drones. The SSL question is therefore not merely about acreage. It is about systems, water, mechanisation, data, delivery models, and above all, institutional capability.

Tuan Speaker, among the most consequential provisions in the Bill is the power that enables the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Sarawak to declare any area of the state land as paddy development area. It provides a clearer statutory basis for the development of identified areas in a more structured, integrated and coordinated manner. Its values lie in the integration of land, irrigation, infrastructure, mechanisation and management into a single development system. If used well, it can support the emergence of larger and more productive paddy zones, sustained by more reliable water, more modern irrigation and more consistent implementation. A paddy development area should therefore become the basis of a functioning granary under a disciplined coordination.

Tuan Speaker, the principal weakness in Sarawak's paddy and rice industry today is not the absence of vision. The real gap lies in the institutional capacity and in the fragmentation of effort. Land, irrigation, infrastructure, seeds, mechanisation, storage, logistics and market access still move separately. As a result, we may have targets, but we yet to have a unified machinery to bring them into one functional industrial system.

Tuan Speaker, if Sarawak is serious about increasing paddy production, then several fundamentals must be acknowledged. First, land alone is not enough. The paddy industry requires a stable and reliable water supply, backed by a modern drainage and irrigations system that works. Field channels and proper water systems must be treated as core infrastructure. In paddy cultivation, water is not merely a component. It is one of the conditions of yield. Second, Sarawak must be more decisive towards mechanisation and technology adoption. Third, the paddy and rice sector must be

treated as a complete ecosystem and supply chain, from seeds, inputs and production upstream to harvesting, milling, storage, logistics, and distribution downstream.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak should also learn from the national experiences. The successful paddy-producing regions of the country were not built on land alone but on disciplined water management, dependable irrigation and drainage, and an organised production model.

Sekinchan, for instance, is often cited for yields reaching as high as 12 metric tonnes per hectare, compared to 4-5 tonnes national average, by utilising advanced technology and mechanised farming, advanced five-season techniques, supported by effective water management and field operations. This high efficiency, "*smart farming*" model has made the area a model for national agricultural replication.

The MADA area in Kedah shows how large-scale water infrastructure (through Muda, Pedu and Ithning Dam) can sustain one of the nation's principal rice granaries, contributing about 43% of Malaysia's rice production, or approximately one million metric tonnes each year.

SMART SBB does points that in the same direction, showing that when fragmented cultivation is brought under more structured management with modern inputs and technical support, output can improve in measurable and scalable ways.

The lesson for Sarawak is in the staple food sector, stability and productivity do not arise by chance, nor from acreage alone. They require institutional capacity to bring water control, infrastructure, production, farmer support, investment, private sector participation, pricing, and market coordination into one coherent framework.

Tuan Speaker, there are also useful lessons from successful rice-exporting countries such as Vietnam and Thailand. Vietnam, through its 1-million-hectare programme for high-quality, low-emission rice production developed with IRRI, has pursued not only scale but also quality, efficiency, profitability, and resilience.

Thailand, meanwhile, exported 9.94 million tonnes of rice in 2024 and continued in 2025 to defend their markets through product differentiation, value addition, branding, and market positioning. Together, they show that a serious rice institution must think not only about producing more but also about improving quality, organising efficiently, marketing intelligently, and competing strategically.

Sarawak, to its credit, has already begun to lay some of the necessary foundations for such transition. The M-FICORD has stated that Sarawak has identified approximately 15,000 hectares for commercial paddy development under a public-private delivery model, with about 6,100 hectares already approved for implementation in areas such as Tanjung Purun, Lingga Banting, Stumbin Bijat, Seduku, Selepong, Limbang and Sundar. The state has also gone beyond broad intention by committing substantial resources towards drainage improvement, irrigation development, land preparation, varietal enhancement, technical training and structured cultivation support.

These are significant steps. They show that Sarawak is no longer speaking of paddy development only in the language of aspiration but has begun to invest in the physical, technical and institutional foundations of a serious rice economy.

Yet, once land has been identified, the harder task begins. The true measure of commitment lies not in identification alone, but in whether each new area is properly studied, prepared and organised before cultivation is scaled up. The Government must therefore determine, with precision, what each site requires to become genuinely suitable for paddy cultivation. That includes hydrology, soil suitability, irrigation, drainage, salinity management where relevant land levelling, access, and a sound operating model capable of sustaining commercial yields over time.

Tuan Speaker, I also wish to emphasise the importance of research and development, agronomy, and seed systems. The Bill empowers the Board to conduct, assist and promote research and development, commercialise research findings, provide technical and consultancy services, and prescribe standards and grades, including paddy planting material. Without better seeds, suitable varieties, sound agronomic practices, and effective technology transfer, productivity in the field will remain difficult to improve.

Wuhan and Hubei Provinces, are leading hubs for rice seed R&D in China, specializing in hybrid rice and developing advanced rice varieties designed to enhance yield and improve grain quality. Their seeds are export globally.

Tuan Speaker, there is one further point that deserves careful attention. Where many functions are house within one institution, the need for clear separation between developmental function and regulatory or enforcement functions becomes more important to avoid conflict of interests.

Tuan Speaker, when all is considered, the most important issue in this Bill is not the establishment of the board alone but the clarity of its direction and operating mandate. First, it must have a measurable mandate grounded in a roadmap capable of annual evaluation. Second, it must possess adequate technical capacity and function as a true center of industry coordination. Third, its reporting and operations must be directed towards measurable industrial progress across the full paddy and rice value chain.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I believe Sarawak genuinely requires an institution that is more focused, more knowledgeable, more capable and more accountable in developing Sarawak's paddy and rice industry. At the same time, I believe the House is right to insist on one basic principle, that power must come with accountability, vision must come with capacity, and targets must come with a measurable plan. With these observations, I beg to support. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tamin.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I rise today to express my full support for the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026, tabled by the Honourable Member, Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom in this august House.

Tuan Speaker, I view this Bill not merely as an ordinary agricultural legislation. This Bill is about the future survival resilience and food sovereignty of Sarawak. Today, the world is facing growing uncertainty in global food supply due to climate change, geopolitical conflicts, supply chain disruptions, rising import costs and global economic instability. We have witnessed how some countries have begun restricting their own food exports in order to protect their domestic supply. In such circumstances, Sarawak cannot continue to rely excessively on imported rice.

Tuan Speaker, food security is no longer merely an agricultural issue. It is now an issue of sovereignty, strategic security and long-term economic stability. That is why I believe the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is both timely and necessary. More importantly, this Bill is fully aligned with the aspirations of the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030, or PCDS 2030, which aims to transform Sarawak into high income and developed state driven by innovation, sustainability and economic inclusivity.

One of the core pillars of PCDS 2030 is economic prosperity through sustainable development and food security. Therefore, the establishment of this Board is not merely about rice production, it is about building a resilient and sustainable economic ecosystem for the future of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, one of the most major significant aspects of this Bill is that the Board is empowered not merely as an administrative body, but as a strategic development institution for the state. The Board will have powers to plan and develop the paddy and rice industry, manage funds,

provide loans, undertake investments, establish companies, declare development areas, carry out enforcement, and collect comprehensive industry data.

This clearly demonstrates that the Sarawak Government is serious about transforming the food sector into a strategic pillar of the state's economy. Sarawak has already emerged as an energy powerhouse. Now, we must move forward to become a food security powerhouse. This is also very much in line with the PCDS 2030 agenda which emphasizes digital economy, modern agriculture, environmental sustainability, and inclusive rural development.

Tuan Speaker, as a representative from a rural constituency, I see this Bill opening tremendous opportunity for the people in rural and the interior areas. Areas such as Tamin, Selangau, Mukah, Kanowit, Kapit, and other interior regions possess vast land and enormous potential for the modern agricultural development. However, many small farmers continue to face challenges such as limited market access, lack of capital, insufficient technology, inadequate infrastructure, and low productivity. With the establishment of this Board, I hope the government will expand modern irrigation systems, introduce smart farming, promote drone technology, strengthen mechanism, establish collection centres, and enhance research into high quality paddy seeds. This transformation is critical if we truly want rural communities to participate meaningfully in the economic growth envisioned under PCDS 2030. No community should be left behind in Sarawak's development journey.

Tuan Speaker, I also like to emphasise the importance of youth participant. Today, many young people still perceive agriculture as a sector without a future. This perception must change. Agriculture today is no longer about traditional farming alone. It is now about technology, innovation, artificial intelligence, automation, digital economy, and agro-entrepreneurship. This is precisely the direction envisioned under the PCDS 2030, transforming traditional sectors into high-value, technology driven industries. I, therefore, propose the Board to introduce youth agriculture training programmes, young agropreneur schemes, start-ups grants, modern agricultural technology training, and entrepreneurship opportunities for Sarawakian youth. If this sector is modernised properly, I believe agriculture can become a new source of wealth for the rural communities and create a new generation of modern agropreneurs in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, I also welcome the Board's power to collect industry data. Today, data is power. Without accurate data, we do not know the actual level of production, we cannot identify the most suitable areas, we cannot determine subsidy requirements, and we cannot strategically plan long term food security for the state. With a proper data management system, Sarawak will be able to plan self-sufficiency targets, strategic reserves, demand forecasting, and long-term food supply management. This data driven governance approach is also consistent with the smart governance principles outlined under the PCDS 2030.

Tuan Speaker, at the same time I hope governance and accountability will be given serious attention because this Board is granted substantial financial powers, including the power to borrow, to invest, and to establish companies. Therefore, I hope regular annual audits, transparent reporting, performance monitoring, and also strong management integrity will become the key priorities to ensure that the Board truly benefits the people. Good governance is essential to ensure that the aspirations of PCDS 2030 can be implemented effectively and sustainably.

Tuan Speaker, I believe this Bill represents the strategic and important step towards building a more resilient future for Sarawak. We do not want a situation where the people may, may have money, but insufficient food supply. This is why I firmly believe food security is national security and for Sarawak, oil and gas may strengthen our economy, but rice secures the survival of our people. This Bill is not merely about agriculture, this Bill is about securing the future of Sarawak in line with the vision of the PCDS 2030, a prosperous, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient Sarawak for the future generations. With that Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Sarawak Bill and Rice Board 2026. Thank you Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Meluan.

YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin: Thank you Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to participate in the Bill of Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026, tabled by the Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Minister for Food Industry Commodity and Regional Development, M-FICORD Sarawak and State Assemblyman for N.69 Kemena. Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, *Salam Segulai Sejalai*.

Tuan Speaker, today I rise in this House, in this august House, to express my full support and strong endorsement for the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. This Bill is not merely about establishing another statutory body. This Bill is about safeguarding the future of food quality in Sarawak. It is about protecting the welfare of our farmers, it is about strengthening our economy, most importantly it is about ensuring that the people of Sarawak will continue to have access to stable, sufficient and affordable rice supplies for generations to come.

Tuan Speaker, rice is not just another commodity. Rice is the staple food for majority of our people, it is deeply connected to our culture, our daily lives and the survival of rural communities throughout Sarawak. For the decades, Sarawak has depended heavily on imported rice and external supply chains. While imports have helped us to meet our needs, recent global events have shown us that overdependence on external food supply carries significant risks.

The world has experienced food crises, climate disruptions, geopolitical tensions, rising transportation costs and export restrictions imposed by producing countries. This development have affected the stability of rice supply and caused fluctuations in prices worldwide. We have seen how global uncertainty can threaten local food availability. Therefore, Sarawak can no longer rely solely on external sources for our food security.

The establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is a bold, timely and strategic move by the Sarawak Government to strengthen the state's control over rice production, distribution, planning and long-term food sustainability.

Tuan Speaker, I would like to commend the visionary leadership of the Sarawak Government under the leadership of the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak for introducing this important Bill. This initiative reflects the State Government serious commitment towards:

- (a) Strengthening food security;
- (b) Modernizing the agriculture sector;
- (c) Increasing rice self-sufficiency;
- (d) Empowering local farmers; and
- (e) Ensuring sustainable economic growth for Sarawak.

The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will become a central coordinating agency responsible for planning, regulating, developing and managing all matters related to paddy and rice within the state. This is an important step because currently, many aspects of rice production and support are fragmented. Farmers face challenges such as inconsistent support, high production costs, limited infrastructure, lack of access to technology, unstable market prices and insufficient irrigation systems. With the establishment of this Board, Sarawak will have a dedicated institution capable of coordinating policies, assistance programmes, incentives, infrastructure development and research initiatives in more systematic and effective manner.

Tuan Speaker, allow me to highlight several key benefits and advantages of establishing Sarawak Padi and Rice Board.

Strengthening Food Security in Sarawak

First and foremost, the Board will significantly strengthen food security in Sarawak. Food security is national security. A state that cannot guarantee sufficient food supply for its people will always remain vulnerable to external pressures. By establishing the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board, Sarawak will be able to:

- (a) Increase local rice production;
- (b) Reduce dependency on imported rice;
- (c) Improve reserve stock management;
- (d) Stabilize rice supply during emergencies; and
- (e) Ensure price stability for consumers.

This is especially important for rural communities and low-income families who are highly affected by sudden increases in rice prices. The Board will allow Sarawak to develop a long-term strategies rice reserve system and improve monitoring of supply chains throughout the state. This proactive approach will help protect the welfare of the *rakyat* during times of global uncertainty.

Empowering Farmers and Rural Communities

Tuan Speaker, the second major benefit is the empowerment of farmers and rural communities. Our farmers play a critical role in feeding the people of Sarawak. Yet many of them continue to face economic hardship. Some farmers struggle with:

- (a) Limited access to quality seeds;
- (b) Rising fertiliser costs;
- (c) Lack of mechanization;
- (d) Poor irrigation facilities;
- (e) Limited market access; and
- (f) Low and unstable income.

The establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will provide more organised and comprehensive support system for farmers. The Board can;

- (a) Provide subsidies and incentives;
- (b) Facilities access to modern farming technology;
- (c) Coordinate training and capacity-building programmes;
- (d) Improve irrigation and drainage systems;
- (e) Support mechanization initiatives; and
- (f) Assist in marketing and distribution.

This will directly improve farmers' productivity and income. More importantly, it encourages younger generations to participate in agriculture. Today, many young people are leaving rural areas because they see agriculture as unprofitable and labour-intensive. Through modernisation, innovation and better support systems, the Board can transform farming into a more attractive and sustainable economic sector. This is crucial for the future sustainability of agriculture in Sarawak.

Increasing Rice Self-Sufficiency Level

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak has vast land resources and strong potential to increase rice production. However, our rice self-sufficiency level remains relatively low compared to our overall consumption needs.

The establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will help the state develop a more focused strategy to increase rice production through:

- (a) Expansion of paddy cultivation areas;
- (b) Adoption of high-yield seed varieties;
- (c) Precision farming technologies;
- (d) Smart agriculture systems;
- (e) Better water management;
- (f) Research and development initiatives; and
- (g) Improved farm management practices.

With the proper planning and investment, Sarawak has the potential not only to achieve higher self-sufficiency but also become a major rice-production region in Malaysia. This would strengthen Sarawak's economic resilience and reduce exposure to global supply disruptions.

Promoting Modern Agriculture and Technological Innovation

Tuan Speaker, the agriculture sector must evolve. Traditional methods alone are no longer sufficient to meet growing food demands and modern economic challenges. The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board can become a catalyst for agricultural transformation by promoting:

- (a) Smart farming technologies;
- (b) Drone technology;
- (c) Merchandised harvesting;
- (d) Digital monitoring systems;
- (e) Data-driven agriculture;
- (f) Climate-resilient farming practices; and
- (g) Agricultural research collaborations.

This transformation will improve efficiency, reduce production costs and increase productivity. The use of technology will also help farmers better manage pests, disease, fertiliser application and water usage. At the same time, technological advancement can create new employment opportunities in areas such as agricultural engineering, agribusiness, research and digital farming services. This aligns with Sarawak's aspiration to become a developed and high-income state driven by innovation and sustainability.

Stimulating Economic Growth

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will also contribute significantly to economic growth. Agriculture is an important economic sector that supports thousands of livelihoods. When the paddy and rice industry becomes stronger, the positive impact will extend across the entire economic ecosystem. The development of the industry will:

- (a) Generate employment opportunities;
- (b) Stimulate rural economic activities;
- (c) Encourage downstream industries;
- (d) Increase business opportunities;
- (e) Strengthen agro-based entrepreneurship; and
- (f) Attract investment into the agricultural sector.

We must recognise that agriculture is not merely about farming. Agriculture involves logistics, processing, packaging, transportation, machinery supply, retail businesses, research education and export potential. A stronger paddy and rice sector will create multiplier effects throughout the state economy.

Reducing Rural Poverty and Improving Living Standards

Tuan Speaker, one of the most meaningful impacts of this Board is potential to reduce poverty in rural areas. Many paddy-growing communities are located in rural and interior areas where

economic opportunities remain limited. By increasing agriculture productivity and improving farmers' income, the Board can help uplift the socio-economic status of rural communities. Improved income means:

- (a) Better education opportunities for children;
- (b) Improved healthcare access;
- (c) Better housing conditions;
- (d) Greater financial stability; and
- (e) Higher quality of life.

This reflects the Sarawak Government's commitment towards inclusive development whereby no community is left behind.

Enhancing Coordination and Governance

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of the dedicated Board will also improve governance and coordination. Currently, various agencies and stakeholders may operate independently and overlapping responsibility. The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will provide:

- (a) Better policy coordination;
- (b) More effective implementation;
- (c) Clearer accountability;
- (d) Faster decision-making;
- (e) Improved data collection; and
- (f) More strategic long-term planning.

A centralized body will ensure that all efforts related to paddy and rice development are aligned with the state's long-term vision. This will improve efficiency and maximise the impact of government initiatives.

Strengthening Sarawak's Autonomy and Strategic Capacity

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of this Board is also significant from the perspective of Sarawak's autonomy and strategic governance. Sarawak understands its own geographical conditions, agricultural landscape and local needs better than anyone else. Through this Board, the State Government can design policies and strategies that will specifically be tailored to Sarawak's unique circumstances. This allows Sarawak to:

- (a) Respond more effectively to local challenges;
- (b) Develop customised agricultural programmes;
- (c) Prioritise rural infrastructure needs;
- (d) Strengthen local decision-making; and
- (e) Build greater resilience in food management.

This initiative reflects Sarawak's proactive leadership in managing strategic sectors to the benefit our people. Tuan Speaker ...(Interruption)...

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat, I have taken over from Tuan Speaker for a while...(Interruption)...

YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin: Oh, sorry.

Timbalan Speaker: I think for the purpose of record for the Hansard, the recorders will automatically ...(Interruption)... correct. Thank you.

Ensuring Sustainable Agricultural Development

YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin: I'm sorry, I just keep on reading looking back at the seat of the Speaker. Sustainability must remain at the heart of our development agenda. Climate change, environmental degradation and changing weather patterns are major threats to agriculture worldwide. The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board can promote sustainable farming practices such as:

- (a) Efficient water management;
- (b) Environmentally friendly farming methods;
- (c) Soil conservation;
- (d) Climate adaptation strategies;
- (e) Sustainable land use planning; and
- (f) Reduced wastage throughout the supply chain.

This will help protect our environment while ensuring long-term agricultural productivity. Sustainable agriculture is essential to safeguard food supply for future generations.

Building Confidence among the People

Finally, the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will strengthen public confidence. The *rakyat* want to ensure that the government is taking serious steps to protect food security and improve the welfare of farmers. The Board sends a strong message that the Sarawak Government is committed to:

- (a) Protecting the interests of the people;
- (b) Securing long-term food supply;
- (c) Supporting rural communities; and
- (d) Building a resilient economy.

This is a responsible and forward-looking policy.

As we debate this Bill today, we must think beyond immediate concerns. We must think about the future of our children and grandchildren. We must think about how Sarawak can become stronger, more self-reliant and more resilient in facing future global challenges. The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is not just an institution.

- (a) It is an investment in the future of Sarawak.
- (b) It is an investment in food security.
- (c) It is an investment in rural development.
- (d) It is an investment in economic sustainability.
- (e) It is an investment in the welfare of the *rakyat*.

I firmly believe that this Bill will bring long-term benefits to Sarawak and its people. The establishment of Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will strengthen our agricultural sector, empower farmers, stabilise food supply, stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life for many communities across the state.

Therefore, I stand here today to fully support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. I urge all the Honourable Members of this House to support this Bill wholeheartedly for the prosperity, security and future of Sarawak. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan. Next, with respect may I call Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, please.

YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. It is an honour for me that you allow me to speak in this august House together with fellow Honourable Members on the importance

of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. I rise today to give my full support to this Bill. This Bill is not merely about establishing another statutory body. It is about securing Sarawak's future food supply, protecting our farmers, modernising our agricultural sector and strengthening our resilience against global uncertainties.

Over the past few years, the world has witnessed how fragile food supply chains can become. Pandemics, geopolitical conflicts, climate change and rising transportation costs have disrupted global food markets and affected millions of people. These developments have taught us one important lesson; food security is national security.

For Sarawak, rice is not just another commodity. Rice is a basic necessity in every household. It is part of our daily life, our culture and our social stability. Yet today, despite our vast land resources and agricultural potential, we still depend heavily on imported rice.

This dependency exposes us to risks beyond our control — price increases, supply shortages and external market instability. Sarawak cannot rely forever on the rice bowls of other countries. We must strengthen our own rice bowl, empower our own farmers and secure our own future. That is why the establishment of Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is timely, strategic and necessary.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill provides Sarawak with more coordinated and focused framework to manage and develop the paddy and rice industry. Under the Bill, the Board will be empowered to formulate policies, coordinate development programmes, regulate industry activities, promote investment, undertake research and development and strengthen the overall administration of the sector.

More importantly, this Bill is about giving direction and long-term planning to an industry that is directly linked to the wellbeing of our people. For long, many of our farmers have struggled with low productivity, ageing infrastructure, inconsistent irrigation systems, rising production costs and limited access to modern farming technology. Some still rely on traditional methods with minimal institutional support. This must change.

Our farmers are not asking for sympathy. They are asking for opportunity, support, and proper coordination. With a dedicated Board, Sarawak can formulate long-term strategies to improve paddy yield, expand suitable cultivation areas, strengthen irrigation systems, encourage mechanization, and attract younger generations into modern agriculture.

We must transform paddy farming from a subsistence activity into a modern, productive, and sustainable economic sector. Tuan Speaker, one issue that deserves serious attention is the gradual loss of established paddy lands.

Today, many traditional paddy cultivation areas are being converted into oil palm plantations and other developments. While oil palm has undoubtedly contributed significantly to Sarawak's economy, we must also recognize that food-producing land is a strategic asset that cannot simply be replaced once lost. If we fail to protect our paddy lands today, future generations may inherit economic growth but face greater food insecurity.

That is why the provision under this Bill allowing the declaration of "*Paddy Development Areas*" is extremely important. It allows the State Government to identify, preserve, and develop suitable areas specifically for paddy cultivation in a more organized and sustainable manner. This is not only about agriculture. This is about safeguarding Sarawak's long-term food security.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill also recognizes the importance of research, innovation, and technology. Climate change is already affecting rainfall patterns, water supply, and crop productivity. The Board is empowered under the Bill to conduct assist, and promote research and development activities, as well as commercialize research findings for the benefit of the industry. This is the direction we must move towards.

Digital agriculture, precision farming, drone technology, smart irrigation systems, and climate-resilient rice varieties should become part of Sarawak's agricultural transformation agenda. Agriculture today cannot remain dependent solely on traditional methods. If we want our younger generation to return to agriculture, we must show them that modern farming can be profitable, technology-driven, and full of future potential.

Tuan Speaker, at the same time, development must remain inclusive. Rural communities, especially in the areas with strong agricultural potential, must benefit directly through better infrastructure, more employment opportunities, improved incomes, and stronger economic activities. The success of this Board should not only be measured by reports and statistics. It must be measured by the real outcomes that people can feel:

- (a) Higher rice production;
- (b) Better farmer welfare;
- (c) More stable rice supply; and
- (d) Reduced dependence on imports.

Transparency and accountability are equally important. The Bill contains provisions relating to financial procedures, auditing, annual reporting, and ministerial oversight to ensure proper governance in the management of the Board and its funds. Public funds allocated for food security and agricultural development must be managed efficiently, responsibly, and for the benefit of the *rakyat*.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill reflects Sarawak's determination to become more resilient, self-reliant, and forward-looking. Sarawak has the land. Sarawak has the resources. Sarawak has the capability. What we need is strong coordination, long-term commitment, and political will to prioritize food security for our people. The Sarawak Padi & Rice Board can become a catalyst for transforming our agricultural sector if implemented effectively, guided by sound governance, supported by all stakeholders.

Therefore, with confidence and hope for a stronger and more resilient, and more food-secure Sarawak, I fully support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Balingian. I would like to respectfully call Yang Berhormat Tellian, please.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker di atas peluang kepada saya, kepada Tellian untuk turut serta dalam perbahasan. *Selamat suab*, salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah kepada Kemena merangkap Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah selaku Menteri bertanggungjawab yang membawa usul *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026* dalam persidangan kali ini.

Rang Undang-undang ini bukan hanya sebagai satu dasar baharu, tetapi ia merupakan satu langkah yang amat strategik, tepat pada waktunya dan berpandangan jauh yang dibawa oleh kerajaan Sarawak dalam memastikan masa depan keterjaminan makanan wilayah ini terus terpelihara.

Tuan Speaker, Tellian turut serta perbahasan pada hari ini adalah untuk menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap keyakinan Rang Undang-undang, "*Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026*" yang dibentangkan di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Penubuhan "*Sarawak Padi and Rice Board*" sudah pasti akan menjadi satu titik perubahan besar kepada pembangunan industri padi dan beras Sarawak. Ia membuktikan bahawa Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier bukan sahaja melihat isu makanan

sebagai keperluan semasa, tetapi sebagai agenda strategik jangka masa panjang yang berkait rapat dengan kestabilan politik, ekonomi, keselamatan wilayah dan sudah semestinya kesejahteraan rakyat.

Hari ini dunia sedang berhadapan dengan pelbagai ketidaktentuan global seperti konflik geopolitik, perubahan iklim, gangguan rantai bekalan makanan, peningkatan kos import serta ketidakstabilan ekonomi dunia. Dalam keadaan sedemikian, mana-mana wilayah yang bergantung kepada import makanan akan terdedah kepada risiko besar yang akan memberikan kesan langsung kepada kehidupan rakyat.

Justeru, tindakan Kerajaan Sarawak membawa Rang Undang-undang ini jelas menunjukkan kebijaksanaan kepimpinan kerajaan GPS yang sentiasa membuat perancangan lebih awal demi melindungi kepentingan rakyat dan masa depan Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, apa yang menjadikan Rang Undang-undang ini begitu signifikan ialah pendekatannya yang menyeluruh dan progresif. Ia tidak lagi tertumpu kepada penanaman padi secara konvensional, tetapi turut merangkumi aspek penyelidikan, pembangunan teknologi, pelaburan, logistik dan pemasaran, pembangunan kawasan jelapang padi, penguatkuasaan serta pengkomersialan hasil penyelidikan.

Ini amat penting kerana industri pertanian hari ini tidak lagi boleh bergerak secara tradisional semata-mata. Dunia sekarang sedang menuju ke arah *Smart Agriculture dan Precision Farming* yang menggunakan *Artificial Intelligence (AI)*, *Internet of Things (IoT)*, dron pertanian, automasi serta analitik data bagi meningkatkan produktiviti dan kecekapan pengurusan sektor makanan.

Tellian yakin Lembaga ini bakal menjadi pemangkin utama kepada transformasi sektor pertanian Sarawak ke arah industri agro moden berteknologi tinggi selari dengan agenda digitalisasi dan ekonomi baharu yang sedang dipacu oleh Kerajaan Sarawak ketika ini.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak mempunyai tanah yang luas. Sumber air yang mencukupi serta potensi besar untuk muncul sebagai antara hab pengeluaran makanan utama di rantau ini. Namun selama ini, pembangunan industri padi masih berhadapan dengan pelbagai cabaran seperti kekurangan penyelarasan, tahap produktiviti yang rendah, penggunaan teknologi moden yang masih terhad, kekangan pelaburan serta masalah pemasaran.

Dengan kewujudan "*Sarawak Padi and Rice Board*" ini, Tellian percaya dengan usaha pembangunan industri padi akan dapat disusun dengan lebih sistematik, terselaras dan efektif. Lebih penting lagi, Lembaga ini memberi ruang kepada Sarawak untuk membentuk dasar dan pendekatan yang lebih sesuai dengan realiti serta cabaran unik wilayah kita sendiri. Sarawak mempunyai keadaan geografi, logistik dan struktur luar bandar yang berbeza dengan negeri-negeri yang ada di Semenanjung Malaysia.

Oleh itu, pendekatan "*one size fits all*" tidak lagi sesuai. Atas sebab itu, Tellian melihat penubuhan Lembaga ini sebagai langkah yang sangat tepat bagi memastikan dasar pembangunan pertanian Sarawak benar-benar berpaksikan keperluan rakyat Sarawak sebagai keutamaan. Pendekatan yang lebih bersesuaian dengan keperluan Sarawak amatlah diperlukan agar Kerajaan Sarawak dan Persekutuan dapat saling melengkapi antara satu sama lain dan bersama-sama memperkasakan industri ini. Tidak akan timbul isu percanggahan undang-undang antara Sarawak dan Persekutuan dalam cadangan ini, malahan dengan kewujudan Lembaga ini nanti, kemajuan sejagat akan lebih mudah dicapai bersama-sama. Sarawak Maju, Malaysia pun akan turut maju.

Tuan Speaker, Tellian juga amat tertarik dengan penekanan terhadap aspek penyelidikan dan inovasi dalam Rang Undang-undang ini. Inilah antara elemen paling penting untuk memastikan industri Padi Sarawak benar-benar mampu berkembang secara lestari dan berdaya saing. Sarawak perlu memberi fokus kepada pembangunan *variety* padi tempatan yang tahan cuaca ekstrem, tahan

kesan bencana, mempunyai hasil tinggi serta sesuai dengan keadaan tanah Sarawak termasuk kawasan tanah gambut.

Sehubungan itu, Tellian ingin mencadangkan supaya pada masa hadapan Kerajaan Sarawak mempertimbangkan penubuhan sebuah institusi khusus seperti *Sarawak Rice Research Institute* di bawah Lembaga ini. Institusi ini boleh menjadi pusat kecemerlangan penyelidikan dalam bidang teknologi pertanian moden, pembangunan benih padi, mekanisasi, *Smart farming AI* dalam pertanian serta pembangunan modal insan dan bakat agro moden dalam skala yang lebih besar. Jika kita mahu Sarawak menjadi peneraju industri makanan masa hadapan, maka pelaburan terhadap penyelidikan dan inovasi harus bermula dari sekarang.

Tuan Speaker, selain itu, Tellian juga berharap Lembaga ini dapat membuka lebih banyak peluang dan ruang kepada penglibatan golongan muda dalam sektor pertanian. Hari ini masih ramai anak muda melihat pertanian sebagai sektor lama dan kurang menarik. Namun hakikatnya, apabila sektor ini digabungkan dengan teknologi digital *Artificial Intelligence (AI)*, dron, automasi dan inovasi moden, ia sebenarnya mempunyai potensi ekonomi yang sangat besar. Kita mahu melahirkan lebih ramai agropreneur muda Sarawak yang bukan sahaja mampu meningkatkan pengeluaran makanan, tetapi turut menjadi pencipta teknologi, usahawan moden dan pemain industri agro bertaraf antarabangsa.

Tuan Speaker, Tellian juga ingin mencadangkan agar Lembaga ini pada masa hadapan turut memberi perhatian terhadap Skim Perlindungan Petani Kecil, Insurans Tanaman, Jaminan Harga Minimum, Pembangunan Sistem Dasar Industri Secara Digital serta *Dashboard Food Security Sarawak* secara *real-time* bagi membantu kerajaan membuat keputusan yang lebih pantas dan tepat.

Hakikatnya, isu keterjaminan makanan hari ini bukan lagi sekadar isu pertanian. Ia merupakan isu strategik yang berkait langsung dengan kestabilan ekonomi, kesejahteraan rakyat dan keselamatan sesebuah wilayah. Jika Sarawak berjaya memperkukuh industri padi dan beras secara lestari, Tellian percaya Sarawak bukan sahaja mampu mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada import, malah berpotensi menjadi pengeluar makanan penting di rantau ASEAN pada masa hadapan.

Tuan Speaker, akhir sekali Tellian ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan tahniah kepada Kerajaan Sarawak atas keberanian, komitmen dan visi jauh ke hadapan dalam membawa Rang Undang-Undang ini dalam persidangan Dewan yang mulia ini pada hari ini. Tellian yakin *Sarawak Padi dan Rice Board* akan menjadi *game changer* kepada transformasi industri padi Sarawak daripada sektor tradisional kepada industri agromoden berteknologi tinggi yang lebih kukuh, berdaya saing dan kompetitif di peringkat antarabangsa. Ini bukan sekadar pelaburan untuk sektor pertanian, tetapi pelaburan untuk masa depan Sarawak dan generasi akan datang.

Dengan penuh keyakinan dan rasa tanggungjawab terhadap masa depan rakyat Sarawak, maka Tellian menyokong sepenuhnya Rang Undang-Undang, *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026*. *Nya aja jaku aku*. Terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Tellian. Seterusnya, dengan hormatnya saya mengundang Yang Berhormat Pelagus.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Bill, 2026 which has been introduced by our Honourable Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak, Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom as the Assemblyman for N.69 Kemena.

At its core, this Bill is not merely about establishing another statutory body. This Bill is about food sovereignty, economic resilience, rural development and strategic state-building for the future of our beloved Sarawak. For far too long, it has been treated rice merely as a commodity. But recent

global events have taught us a very important lesson, food is no longer is about agriculture, food is about security, stability, sovereignty. The COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain disruptions, export restrictions by rice-producing countries, climate change and geopolitical uncertainties that exposed how vulnerable food-importing regions can become, and Sarawak cannot afford to remain overly dependent on external supply forever.

Tuan Speaker, rice is the staple food of our people. Hari-hari mesti mahu cari nasi. Makan nasi baru perut kita *happy* kan? Where in Kuching, in Kapit, in Limbang, in Lawas, Betong, Mukah or Baram, every household depends on rice. Therefore, ensuring a sustainable and strategic rice ecosystem is not merely an agriculture agenda. It is a strategic Sarawak agenda. That is why we welcome this Bill.

This Bill establishes the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board as a dedicated institutional mechanism to regulate, coordinate, develop and modernise the paddy and rice industry in Sarawak. And importantly, this Bill gives the Board not only administrative functions, but also strategic economic powers. Under Clauses 7 and 8 of the Bill, the Board is empowered to regulate the industry, formulate development plans, promote investment, conduct research and development, commercialise research findings, coordinate marketing strategies, provide financial assistance, prescribe standards and promote quality control.

This is extremely important because agriculture today can no longer remain traditional and fragmented. If Sarawak truly wants to become a high-income and developed region under the PCDS 2030, then agriculture must evolve into a modern economic sector driven by technology, commercialization, data, investment and supply-chain management.

Tuan Speaker, one of the strongest aspects of this Bill is that it moves beyond merely planting padi. It addresses the entire ecosystem. The Bill covers planting, production, processing, manufacturing, storage, distribution, grading, export, import, marketing and commercialization. This is the correct approach because the real value in agriculture is not only at the farm level, but across the value chain.

If properly implemented, this Board can become a catalyst for:

- (a) agriculture-processing industries;
- (b) downstream rice products;
- (c) seed technology;
- (d) food manufacturing;
- (e) export-oriented products;
- (f) logistics;
- (g) packaging; and
- (h) rural entrepreneurship.

What does this mean? This means jobs, this means investment, this means rural economic circulation, and this means where the Bill becomes highly relevant not only for farmers but for Sarawak's wider economy.

Tuan Speaker, as someone from rural Sarawak, specifically from Kapit, I particularly welcome the provisions relating to development areas and coordinated development planning. Clause 34 of the Bill empowers the Sarawak Government to declare any area of State Land as a "*Paddy Development Area*". This provision is strategic because many rural areas in Sarawak possess large tracts of land suitable for agricultural expansion, but remain underdeveloped due to lack of coordination, infrastructure, irrigation systems, financing and technical support.

With this Board in place, development can become more structured, centralized and strategic. And importantly, rural communities can finally be integrated into a larger economic ecosystem instead of operating individually in the isolation.

Tuan Speaker, I also commend that the Bill because it recognizes that agriculture today must be knowledge driven. The Board is empowered to conduct research, promote innovation, commercialize research findings and develop human capital. This is critical.

We cannot continue relying solely on conventional farming methods while other regions are moving into precision agriculture, climate-smart farming, AI-driven monitoring, smart irrigation, high-yield seed technology and agricultural biotechnology. If Sarawak is serious about becoming a food-producing powerhouse, then investment into agricultural sector, agriculture science and modernization is no longer optional, it is a necessary.

Tuan Speaker, without enforcement, any regulatory framework becomes ineffective. Therefore, I also support the enforcement provisions under Part VI of the Bill. The powers relating to licensing, investigations, seizure prosecution and penalties are necessary to protect the integrity of the paddy and rice industry. This is especially important in ensuring quality control, lawful distribution, proper grading standards, compliance with regulations and prevention of manipulation within the supply chain.

Tuan Speaker, ultimately, the success of this Bill will not depend merely on legislation. It will depend on implementation. Therefore, moving forward, I hope the Sarawak Government will seriously consider several important priorities:

(a) Infrastructure

Paddy development cannot succeed without proper roads, irrigation systems, drainage, electricity and logistics connectivity.

(b) Youth Participation

We must make agriculture economically attractive and technologically advanced so that Sarawakians see agriculture is as a future industry not merely a traditional occupation.

(c) Marketing Security

Farmers must have confidence that their products can be marketed efficiently and profitably.

(d) Inclusivity

The benefits of this Board must reach rural communities, smallholders, native landowners and interior regions, not only large commercial players.

(e) Long-term food security planning

Sarawak must gradually strengthen its self-sufficiency capacity and reduce strategic vulnerabilities relating to food imports.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill reflects something larger. It reflects Sarawak's growing confidence to shape its own development agenda based on our own realities, geographies and priorities. Sarawak is no longer thinking merely about administration. Sarawak is thinking strategically about economic resilience, resource governance and future sustainability. And this Bill is part of that larger direction. At the end of the day, a strong rice industry is not only about agriculture. It is about protecting our people. It is about empowering our rural communities. It is about strengthening our economy, and it is about ensuring that future generations of Sarawak will never face insecurity over something as fundamental as food itself.

With that, Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Pelagus. Next, I would like with respect called upon Yang Berhormat Lingga, please.

YB Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum W.B.T., Salam sejahtera dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

First, I would like to thank Tuan Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Second Reading of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026, which was presented by the Honourable Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development and Member of State Legislative Assembly N.69 Kemena.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today not only as a member of this august House, but also as the representative of the people of N.28 Lingga, a constituency whose *rakyat* understands very deeply the meaning of land, agriculture, rivers, hard work, and survival.

For the people of Lingga and the greater Batang Lupar area, this Bill is not merely another government policy. This Bill is very close to the heart of our *rakyat*. Because for generations, many families in our rural communities live connected to the land and agricultural activities. The story of paddy cultivation in Batang Lupar is not new. It is part of the hopes and aspirations of the people for many years.

According to the development history of the Batang Lupar Integrated Agricultural Development Area, IADA, serious discussions to position Batang Lupar as one of Sarawak's future *jelapang padi* regions began around 2010 and were later strengthened under the National Key Economic Area (NKEA) Agricultural Initiative through EPP 11 around 2011 and 2012.

Tuan Speaker, for the *rakyat* of Lingga, this journey is not theoretical. It is personal. Many villages have seen abandoned lands gradually being revived, irrigation systems slowly improving, smart farming technologies becoming part of rural development discussions.

The aspiration to transform Batang Lupar in one of Sarawak's major rice granary regions gives hope to many rural communities who for years felt left behind by mainstream development. That is why this Bill carries emotional significance for the people in my constituency.

Because this Bill represents hope, hope that rural communities can become contributors to Sarawak's future economy, hope that agriculture is no longer associated with poverty, and hope that our children will one day see agriculture not as hardship but as opportunity.

Tuan Speaker, today the world is facing multiple crises simultaneously. Geopolitical conflicts, climate change, global inflation, supply chain disruptions, and food insecurity. These are not assumptions. These are realities already affecting the global economy. The Russia-Ukraine war disrupts global grain and fertiliser supply chains, affecting wheat and food prices worldwide.

The conflict in the Red Sea and Middle East, shipping routes increase international logistic and transportation costs. Climate-related disasters such as floods in Pakistan, droughts in Thailand and Vietnam, and extreme weather patterns across Asia have reduced agricultural productivity in major food-producing countries. More significantly, according to international reports, in 2023, India, one of the world's largest rice exporters, imposed restrictions on rice exports to protect its domestic supply. That single decision caused global rice prices to increase sharply and create serious concern among importing regions worldwide.

Tuan Speaker, these global events are not distant international stories. They directly affect the price of rice on the dining tables of ordinary *rakyat*. They affect food affordability for rural families. They affect low-income households, and they teach us one more important lesson. When crises happen, every nation will protect its own people first.

Therefore, Sarawak must strengthen its own resilience. We cannot continue depending entirely on external food supply forever. Rice is not merely a commodity. For many rural families, rice symbolises security, dignity and survival. That is why the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is timely, strategic and necessary.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is also not being introduced in isolation. It forms part of the broader strategic vision of the Sarawak Government under the leadership of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak. According to the official statement reported by the Premier's Department Sarawak and UKAS in August 2024, the Premier outlined Sarawak's ambition to produce 240,000 metric tonnes of paddy and position Sarawak as a net food exporter by 2030. The same report also stated that Sarawak currently records a food trade deficit of approximately RM5.6 billion.

Tuan Speaker, that figure should concern all of us. Because every ringgit spent importing food represents wealth flowing out of Sarawak. But every ringgit generated through local food production strengthens our farmers, our rural economy, our supply chain and our economic resilience. Therefore, this Bill is not merely agricultural legislation. This is also an economic resilience strategy, a rural transformation strategy and a long-term security strategy.

Tuan Speaker, under Section 3 of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026, the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is formally established as a body corporate responsible for regulating, coordinating, promoting and developing the paddy and rice industry statewide.

This institutional reform is extremely important because currently the sector remains fragmented across multiple agencies and implementation structures. Under Section 6 of the Bill relating to the functions of the Board, the Board is empowered to formulate strategic policies, coordinate development programmes, facilitate investment, support research and commercialisation, regulate standards, improve marketing system, provide technical and consultancy services, and strengthen sustainability throughout the paddy ecosystem. I strongly support these provisions because Sarawak food security challenge requires centralised coordination, strategic planning and long-term implementation.

Tuan Speaker, I would also like to draw the attention of this august House specifically to the development experience of IADA Batang Lupar itself, because this is an important lesson for us when we debate this, Bill. According to the official IADA Batang Lupar development presentation, the overall planned paddy granary development area covers approximately 5,100 hectares, involving Lingga/ Banting 2,100 hectares, Seduku 1,500 hectares, Bijat 700 hectares, Stumbin 550 hectares, Gran 140 hectares and Entulang 110 hectares. This clearly shows that Batang Lupar possess enormous strategic potential to become one of Sarawak's important food security hubs.

However, Tuan Speaker, we must also honestly acknowledge that the current production of performance of IADA Batang Lupar still remains lower at 3.43 metric tonnes per hectare in 2023-2024 for *musim utama*, while *luar musim* production reached 4.47 metric tonnes per hectare, compared to more established rice-producing areas such as Lubok Punggur, Tanjung Purun and other states. According to the IADA Batang Lupar Development Plan 2021-2030, one of the major focuses identified is *Pembangunan Infrastruktur Pengairan dan Saliran yang lengkap secara berfasa*. This itself proves that infrastructure remains one of the critical weaknesses affecting the success of the project.

The report also clearly shows that several major infrastructure projects remain under phased implementation across RMK-12 and RMK-13, involving irrigation system, tertiary drainage, farm roads, pumping system and water management infrastructure. Even more concerning, according to

the development plan for Bijat/ Stumbin Phase 2 involving Seduku, the report stated that parts of the project remain under design review with expected completion only by 2030.

Tuan Speaker, this is exactly the concern of the *rakyat*. The *rakyat* have waited too long. The land exists, the farmers are ready, the potential is proven, the productivity data is improving, but delays in infrastructure implementation continue slowing down the full realization of the project. And when infrastructure is delayed, planting schedules are disrupted, water management becomes inconsistent, drainage problems occur, mechanization becomes difficult, operational costs increase and investor confidence weakens.

Eventually, public confidence may also be affected. Therefore, the people of Batang Lupar place great hope that this initiative will continue, progressing successfully and ultimately emerge as one of Sarawak's proud food security success stories. Tuan Speaker, that is why I strongly believe this Bill is important because Sarawak now requires stronger direct state involvement in coordinating and accelerating the implementation of food security infrastructure projects.

This cannot rely solely on fragmented implementation mechanism anymore. The Sarawak Government must play a more direct strategic leadership role because food security today is no longer merely an agricultural issue. Food security is an economic issue, a strategic issue, a geopolitical issue and sovereignty issue.

Tuan Speaker, under Section 6 of the Bill relating to the functions of the Board, the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is empowered to coordinate development programmes, infrastructure planning, technical services, commercialization and industry development. Therefore, I humbly suggest that the Sarawak State Government, through this Board, takes a more direct coordinating role in major infrastructure implementation for the Batang Lupar including Bahagian Sri Aman and Bahagian Betong granary development areas. This includes irrigation infrastructure, drainage system, water retention system, farm roads, pumping stations, mechanization facilities and integrated logistics system.

At the same time, financing and strategic collaboration can continue to be jointly support by both the Federal Government and the Sarawak Government. This is important because the Granary Development Area is not only important to Sarawak, it is important to Malaysia's future food security agenda. I also wish to emphasize that the development of the paddy industry must be implemented through a complete business ecosystem approach, not merely focused on planting activities alone.

If we truly want Batang Lupar and Sarawak to succeed as a modern rice granary region, the entire value chain must be developed comprehensively from upstream to downstream. This includes seed research and development, irrigation and infrastructure, mechanization and smart farming technology, input and harvesting management, storage and processing facilities, packaging and branding, logistic and distributions, market access and export potential, as well as agropreneur and youth entrepreneur development. Because if farmers focus only production without proper downstream support, they will continue facing unstable prices, middleman dependency, post-harvest losses and unsustainable income.

That is why the powers under Section 6 relating to commercialization, investment facilitation, research and marketing systems are extremely important. This Board must not only increase paddy production, it must build a complete agricultural economy that truly uplifts the *rakyat*. Tuan Speaker, another major challenge we must honestly address in the declining interest among youth towards agriculture.

Agriculture has long been associated with what many describe as 3D jobs, dirty, dangerous and difficult jobs. For many young people today, agriculture is viewed as physical exhausting, risky, low-paying, lacking prestige and disconnected from modern aspirations.

But Tuan Speaker, today's youth are not rejecting hard work. They are rejecting industries that appear to offer no future. Therefore, we must transform agriculture from a “3D industry” into a “4D+ industry”. Digitalised, decent, data-driven, dynamic and future-oriented.

This is where modernization becomes critical. Through the integration of Industrial Revolution IR4.0 and disruptive technologies including smart farming, drone system, AI power monitoring, mechanization, precision agriculture and digital supply chain, Sarawak has the opportunity to transform agriculture into a high-income, technology-driven economic ecosystem that is modern, resilient, global competitive and capable of producing a new generation of agripreneurs for the future economy.

Tuan Speaker, today, this august House is not merely debating a Bill. Today, we are deciding whether rural communities will finally rise with dignity after waiting for so many years. The *rakyat* have waited long enough. They have seen plans. They have attended briefings. They have heard promises. Now they want results. The land is ready, the farmers are ready, the technology already exists. The potential has already been proven through the data. What the *rakyat* need now is decisive leadership, efficient coordination, accelerated implementation, and genuine political commitment.

Tuan Speaker, if we succeed, Sarawak will not merely become a *paddy* producing area. As it will become a symbol of rural transformation, a symbol of Sarawak's resilience, a proof that when government agencies, political leadership, farmers and *rakyat* move together with one vision, impossible things can become reality.

One day, perhaps the children of Lingga, Seduku, Bijat, Stumbin and Batang Lupar will no longer leave their villages searching for opportunity elsewhere because opportunity itself will exist in their own homeland. And when that day comes, the success of this Bill will not only measure in metric tonnes of paddy; it will be measured in the dignity restored to our farmers, the income earned by rural families, the confidence of our youth and the hope returned to the *rakyat*.

That, Tuan Speaker, is the true meaning of food security. That is the true meaning of development and that is why I wholeheartedly give my full support to the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Lingga. Seterusnya, kita dengan hormat memanggil Yang Berhormat Murum. Silakan.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Salam Sarawak maju dan makmur. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk turut mengambil bahagian dalam membahaskan Rang Undang-Undang, *Sarawak Padi and Rice Bill, 2026* yang telah dibentangkan oleh Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena. Saya berdiri pada hari ini untuk menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap Rang Undang-undang ini kerana saya percaya penubuhan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak merupakan satu langkah yang strategik, progresif dan tepat pada masanya dalam usaha memperkukuh agenda keselamatan makanan negeri Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, dunia hari ini sedang berdepan dengan pelbagai cabaran global seperti perubahan iklim, ketidaktentuan geopolitik, gangguan rantaian bekalan makanan serta peningkatan kos pengeluaran. Semua faktor ini memberi kesan langsung kepada kestabilan bekalan makanan dunia termasuk bekalan beras yang merupakan makanan ruji rakyat. Kita telah melihat bagaimana konflik antarabangsa, sekatan eksport dan ketidakstabilan ekonomi global telah memberi tekanan besar kepada pasaran makanan dunia. Dalam keadaan sebegini, kebergantungan yang terlalu tinggi kepada import makanan adalah satu risiko yang tidak boleh dipandang ringan. Atas sebab itu, Sarawak perlu bergerak lebih agresif, lebih tersusun dan lebih strategik dalam memperkukuh keterjaminan makanan atau *food security* negeri kita.

Tuan Speaker, saya melihat Rang Undang-Undang ini bukan sekadar untuk menubuhkan sebuah lembaga baharu semata-mata, tetapi lebih besar daripada itu. Ia adalah satu langkah strategik Kerajaan Sarawak untuk membina satu ekosistem pembangunan industri padi dan beras yang moden, berdaya saing, efisien dan mampan. Penubuhan lembaga ini amat penting kerana ia mampu meningkatkan tahap *Self-Sufficiency Level* (SSL) atau tahap sara diri beras Sarawak secara lebih sistematik dan berfokus. Pada hari ini, Sarawak masih bergantung kepada bekalan beras import bagi memenuhi keperluan rakyat. Keadaan ini menjadikan kita terdedah kepada risiko gangguan bekalan, ketidakstabilan harga dan tekanan pasaran antarabangsa.

Justeru, Sarawak memerlukan sebuah badan yang khusus, fokus dan berkeupayaan untuk merancang, menyelaras serta membangunkan industri padi dan beras secara menyeluruh. Melalui Rang Undang-undang ini, lembaga diberi kuasa dan fungsi yang luas, antaranya menubuhkan jawatankuasa, melantik pegawai dan penasihat teknikal, mengumpul data industri, melaksanakan penguatkuasaan serta menubuhkan syarikat atau subsidiari bagi tujuan pembangunan industri. Saya percaya pendekatan ini amat penting supaya pembangunan industri padi di Sarawak tidak lagi bergerak secara berasingan atau *fragmented*, tetapi diselaras secara lebih profesional, cekap dan berimpak tinggi.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak mempunyai potensi yang besar dalam sektor pertanian khususnya industri padi dan beras. Kita mempunyai keluasan tanah yang besar, sumber air yang mencukupi serta kawasan yang sesuai untuk pembangunan pertanian moden. Namun begitu, tahap pengeluaran semasa masih belum mencapai potensi sebenar yang kita miliki. Masih banyak kawasan luar bandar dan pedalaman mempunyai potensi pertanian tetapi belum dibangunkan secara optimum. Dalam masa yang sama, ramai petani kita masih menggunakan kaedah tradisional dengan tahap produktiviti yang sangat rendah.

Oleh itu, saya berharap lembaga ini nanti akan memberi fokus kepada pembangunan teknologi moden dalam penanaman padi, mekanisasi pertanian, pembangunan sistem pengairan yang lebih cekap, penggunaan benih berkualiti tinggi, penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) serta latihan dan pemindahan teknologi kepada para petani. Dengan pendekatan ini, saya yakin produktiviti dapat dipertingkatkan dan seterusnya membantu meningkatkan SSL Sarawak secara berperingkat.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga berharap lembaga ini akan memberi perhatian serius kepada penglibatan generasi muda dalam sektor agromakanan. Hari ini ramai anak-anak muda melihat sektor pertanian sebagai sektor tradisional dan kurang menarik. Sedangkan realitinya, jika sektor ini diurus secara moden dengan penggunaan teknologi, automasi, dron, kecerdasan buatan (AI) dan sistem pintar, ia sebenarnya mempunyai potensi ekonomi yang sangat besar.

Kita mahu melahirkan lebih ramai *agropreneur* muda yang bukan sahaja mampu meningkatkan pengeluaran makanan tetapi juga menjana pendapatan yang lebih tinggi dan mewujudkan peluang ekonomi baharu di kawasan luar bandar.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga ingin menarik perhatian Dewan yang mulia ini mengenai peruntukan yang membolehkan Kerajaan Negeri mengisytiharkan kawasan tertentu sebagai "*Paddy Development Area*". Peruntukan ini amat penting bagi memastikan pembangunan industri padi dapat dirancang secara lebih tersusun, strategik dan berimpak tinggi.

Namun begitu, saya berharap dalam pelaksanaannya nanti, hak dan kepentingan rakyat tempatan, khususnya berkaitan tanah NCR hendaklah sentiasa dihormati dan diberikan perhatian sewajarnya. Pembangunan yang dilaksanakan mestilah bersifat *inclusive* dan memberi manfaat langsung kepada komuniti setempat.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga menyambut baik peruntukan yang memberi kuasa kepada lembaga untuk mengumpul data dan maklumat berkaitan industri padi dan beras. Pada hari ini, data merupakan aset strategik dalam merancang dasar dan pembangunan. Dengan data yang tepat dan menyeluruh, kerajaan dapat merancang pengeluaran secara lebih efektif, memantau bekalan

makanan, mengawal kestabilan harga, mengenal pasti kawasan berpotensi serta menggubal dasar yang lebih efektif dan tepat sasaran.

Tuan Speaker, dalam masa yang sama, saya berharap aspek tadbir urus, integriti dan akauntabiliti diberikan perhatian serius dalam pelaksanaan lembaga ini. Rang Undang-Undang ini melibatkan implikasi kewangan tambahan kepada Kerajaan Negeri. Oleh itu, setiap perbelanjaan dan pelaksanaan program mestilah benar-benar memberi impak kepada pembangunan industri serta manfaat langsung kepada petani dan rakyat. Kita mahu melihat hasil yang nyata, peningkatan pengeluaran, peningkatan pendapatan petani dan peningkatan SSL Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga ingin mencadangkan supaya pembangunan industri padi dan beras di Sarawak dilaksanakan secara menyeluruh merangkumi keseluruhan rantai nilai. Kita tidak boleh hanya fokus kepada penanaman semata-mata. Sebaliknya, kita perlu membina satu ekosistem lengkap melibatkan pengeluaran, pemprosesan, pembungkusan, pemasaran, logistik, penyelidikan dan pembangunan produk hiliran.

Sekiranya ini dapat dilaksanakan dengan baik, industri padi dan beras bukan sahaja mampu meningkatkan keselamatan makanan negeri, malah boleh menjadi sumber pertumbuhan ekonomi baharu kepada Sarawak. Ia juga mampu membuka lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan, meningkatkan pendapatan masyarakat luar bandar dan membantu mengurangkan jurang pembangunan antara bandar dan luar bandar.

Tuan Speaker, akhir sekali, saya berharap penubuhan *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board* ini akan benar-benar menjadi pemangkin transformasi sektor agromakanan Sarawak ke arah yang lebih moden, mampan dan berdaya tahan. Yang paling penting, manfaatnya mesti dirasakan oleh rakyat di peringkat akar umbi, khususnya petani kecil di kampung-kampung, rumah-rumah panjang dan kawasan-kawasan luar bandar.

Saya yakin dan percaya dengan komitmen Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak, negeri ini mampu menjadi lebih berdikari dalam pengeluaran makanan serta lebih kukuh dari segi keselamatan makanan pada masa hadapan. Dengan itu, Murum menyokong Rang Undang-Undang *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026*. Sarawak Maju Makmur. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih Yang Berhormat bagi Murum. Seterusnya saya ingin memanggil Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Semuja. Tapi sebelum itu saya mohon Yang Berhormat untuk bersedia memberi ucapan mereka. Selepas Bukit Semuja, saya ada merakamkan dalam senarai Yang Berhormat Krian, Yang Berhormat Pending, Yang Berhormat Bukit Assek, Yang Berhormat Tanjong Batu dan Yang Berhormat Baleh.

Okay, lagi sekali. Selepas Yang Berhormat Bukit Semuja, kita ada Yang Berhormat Krian, Yang Berhormat Pending, Yang Berhormat Padungan, boleh? So that you can rebut...(Interruption)... To be fair, okay? Because there are only two of them, only two of them. And then, after that, Bukit Assek, and Yang Berhormat...(Interruption)...Kota Sentosa, no, no...(Interruption)... Batu Kitang. Then Yang Berhormat Tanjong Batu, then Yang Berhormat Kota Sentosa, Yang Berhormat Daro, Yang Berhormat Kalaka, anymore? I think the rest will follow later on...(Laughter)... Otherwise, the list will go haywire. So, we have to stop at about 1:00 p.m. for lunch break and then we resume at 2:00 p.m. because of the number of speakers that are waiting, ya. Yang Berhormat Bukit Semuja, silakan.

YB Encik John anak Ilus: Thank you and a very good morning. Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawakku Sayang, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, Salam Segulai Sejalai and *Salam Indi Awang Indi Asung*.

First of all, I would like to thank Tuan Speaker for allowing me to join the other members of this august House to debate on this Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 that was tabled here this

morning by the Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development (M-FICORD) Sarawak, who is also the Member for the State Legislative Assembly for N.69 Kemena.

It is very timely for the Sarawak Government to look at the present situation on paddy and rice in the state and especially on what had happened when we were affected by COVID-19 pandemic. With the lockdown everywhere, the pandemic had affected almost everything in aspect of production in agricultural activities and its supply chain.

A research paper by the Khazanah Research Institute, Kuala Lumpur entitled, "*The Padi and Rice Industry of Sabah and Sarawak, Status and Potential*" had mentioned, amongst others, the study that shows the volume and the self-sufficiency level that what the states and national is actually having and it's forecast and the time frame required and all depends on the other issues which is definitely affect directly or indirectly on what the government is planning to do and its executions.

Tuan Speaker, soon, on 1st June, or every 1st June every year, the Dayak communities are celebrating the *Gawai Dayak* festival. And what is *Gawai Dayak* festival meant to them? The *Gawai Dayak* festival is a celebration to mark the end of the rice harvesting season and the beginning of a new farming year. It is a thanksgiving festival for a bountiful harvest, serving as a time for family reunions, reconciliation and honouring cultural tradition and heritage of the community.

Paddy farming is central to the cultural identity, livelihood, and social structure of the Dayak people especially in Borneo, deeply integrating ecological knowledge with traditional rituals. While many engage in, or are moving towards, wet rice cultivation, traditional upland hill paddy farming or shifting cultivation, it is widely practiced, often involving community cooperation to clear forest and cultivate rice. Their livelihood is either affected or related to paddy farming activities directly or indirectly.

Back to history, as a Bidayuh, in the olden days, a self-subsistence agricultural system where parents used to have more children to show how prosperous they are and by having more siblings, the children are able to help in opening new areas or land for planting paddies. By having big size or more farms, plenty of paddy produced, good harvest and more rice, reflects that the person is well respected by the community. So, paddy is everything to them. If there is no money, they will sell it in exchange for other needs, and in some cases, parents will sell their paddy in order to send their children to school, those are a few examples.

Tuan Speaker, in recent years, paddy farming is getting less popular, challenges like lack of man power or leave it to the older generation to men the farm, negative perception on job as farmer, low income or low paddy rice, land is getting scarce for shifting cultivation, restriction and policies by authorities which include the shifting to focus on other commodities such as pepper, cocoa, oil palm, rubber and many others commercial crops.

With the Self Sufficiency Level of roughly 21%, leaving a significant 68% dependency on imports from countries like Vietnam and India. In order to achieve the target of 60% by 2030, the state needs new and well-irrigated land for cultivation and continue with the rehabilitation of existing irrigation schemes. Intervened by introducing smart farming with modern facilities and well managed farm and better paddy varieties to meet the needs and target.

Tuan Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to urge the government through this Board, if once the 'Paddy Development Area' has been identified, especially those near or within the surrounding areas of the community, please consider and to look into the Dayak community and other natives communities as mentioned earlier through its organizations, through its associations, or any set up to be given the opportunities to be part of this development programs. Being closely knit to land itself, having vast NCR land and as a paddy farming communities, I believe they will maximize their resources and manpower. The sense of ownership, sense of belonging, sense of responsibility and the intrinsic value within will definitely; will spur them to be successful for the community in general. It is also part of the state inclusivity policy by creating opportunities in the

form of economic development and jobs creation. So, with this Tuan Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih Yang Berhormat Bukit Semuja. Seterusnya, Yang Berhormat Krian. After that Yang Berhormat Pending. Silakan.

YB Encik Friday anak Belik: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving Krian the opportunity to participate in today's debate on the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. First and foremost, Krian would also like to record my highest appreciation and sincere congratulations to the Honourable Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak, also the Member for Kemena for successfully tabling this very important and strategic Bill in this august House.

Tuan Speaker, looking at the current situation of the paddy and rice industry in Sarawak, it is clear that several longstanding and fundamental challenges continue to require more comprehensive and systematic attention. Among the key challenges are relatively low productivity, the continued reliance on traditional farming practices, and the limited adoption of modern technologies at the farm level.

Many of our farmers still operate on a small scale and depend heavily on labour-intensive practices, while facing rising production costs and returns that often do not reflect the level of effort and resources invested. These challenges have inevitably affected the overall efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainability of the industry.

Tuan Speaker, in this regard, the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is indeed a highly significant and forward-looking initiative. Krian views this Board as the central coordinating agency and a key driver in spearheading the transformation of Sarawak's paddy and rice industry.

The Board will not only serve as an administrative institution, but more importantly, as a catalyst for change towards a more modern, efficient and integrated agricultural ecosystem. Through the establishment of this Board, Krian is confident that initiatives such as farm mechanization, the adoption of smart agricultural technologies, modern irrigation systems, and automation in paddy field management can be implemented more effectively, systematically and comprehensively. This will accelerate the transition from conventional farming practices towards a more modern, productive and competitive agricultural sector.

Tuan Speaker, the impact of this transformation will not only be reflected at the macro level but will also bring direct and meaningful benefits to the farmers and local communities. The adoption of technology and mechanization will help reduce the physical burden on farmers, lower production costs, and improve productivity.

And, also most importantly, this transformation will reposition the paddy and rice industry as a modern and attractive industry for the younger generation. We do not want agriculture to continue being perceived as an outdated or less competitive sector. Instead, it must be recognized as a strategic, technology-driven and high-value sector with strong future potential.

Tuan Speaker, Krian would also like to emphasise the importance of strengthening the entire value chain of the paddy and rice industry. At present, we continue to face various challenges in post-harvest management, including collection, milling, storage, logistics and distribution.

In efficiencies within this value chain can affect the quality, pricing and stability of rice supply in the market. Therefore, with the establishment of this Board, Krian is confident that a more organized, integrated and value-added ecosystem can be developed. This will ensure that the farmers' produce is managed more efficiently, minimize post-harvest losses, and provide consumers with a more stable supply of high-quality and competitively priced.

Tuan Speaker, in the long term, our primary objective is clear, namely; to strengthen Sarawak's rice self-sufficiency level. This is in line with Sarawak Government's aspirations to enhance food security and reduce dependence on external imports, which remain vulnerable in global risks such as supply chain disruptions and geopolitical uncertainties.

We have witnessed how global crises can directly impact food supply and market prices especially after the pandemic, COVID-19 in the year 2020 - 2022. Therefore, strengthening domestic production is no longer merely an option, but a long-term strategic necessity.

Tuan Speaker, Krian also sees the establishment of this Board as a major opportunity for Sarawak to move further forward. Rather than, merely, being a consumer of rice, Sarawak has the potential to emerge as a more competitive producer at the regional level. With a strong production foundation, an efficient value chain system, and the support of modern technology, we are capable of elevating the competitiveness of Sarawak's agri-food sector to greater heights.

Before I conclude Tuan Speaker, I would like to echo and share the same concern which was mentioned by my colleague from Balingian, whereby many of our Paddy Planting Scheme before to name quite a few, we have a Tanjung Bijat in Sri Aman area and in my own area we have the Sebetan Scheme area, we have in Kabong, Lubok Nibong Paddy Scheme and Jelupang in Roban. All those areas before produced paddies but now the farmers have abandoned paddy and switch to oil palm planting. So, this is a very great concern because if we see what happened in the last pandemic we may face the same problem in the future.

So, with this Board in placed I believe that the Board can really focus to see all those areas I mentioned earlier on, be revived or rehabilitated plus the new areas that members have mentioned earlier on including in my own area. I will propose a few areas for paddy planting in the future.

So, in conclusion, Krian firmly believes that the establishment of the Sarawak Paddy and Rice Board represents a major step forward in transforming the paddy and rice industry in Sarawak. It is not merely the creation of a new statutory body, but the foundation for building a more efficient, modern and sustainable system that is from the paddy fields to the consumers' table.

Therefore, Tuan Speaker, Krian wishes to express my full support for this Bill, as it serves as a vital foundation for food security, rural development and a long-term transformation of Sarawak's agricultural sector. With that Tuan Speaker, I beg to support. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Krian. Yang Berhormat Pending, silakan.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Sarawak Paddy and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Tuan Speaker, the establishment of this Board is indeed a significant step. On paper, it proposes a centralised "*command centre*" for our paddy sector. However, we must be very clear, a new building, a new institution and a new letterhead do not automatically grow more rice. Therefore, I wish to focus on few key areas which in my view will ultimately determine whether this Board becomes a genuine instrument for food security and farmer empowerment or merely another policy ambition that fails to deliver tangible outcomes for our farmers and the State's rice security.

The Reality of the Rice Gap

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak's current rice self-sufficiency level stands at approximately 34% to 38%. This means that we are still heavily dependent on imported rice from Vietnam and Thailand to feed our Sarawakians and that is acknowledged by GPS State Representative in this House when I heard them speak just now. Therefore, this Board must not operate on vague aspirations. It must clearly set out a concrete roadmap towards at least 60% self-sufficiency, with measurable year-on-year targets, not merely broad statements of improvement. Tuan Speaker, that 60% target cannot remain abstract. It must be anchored in real production geography and proper planning. Sarawak

has already identified several key paddy production zones that must form the backbone of this strategy.

These include Stumbin Bijat in Sri Aman, Tanjung Purun in Lundu, Lubok Punggor in Gedong and Tanjung Sebekut in Betong. In addition, the Rejang Delta covering Buit, Daro and Matu, as well as the northern regions of Lawas and Limbang, have been identified as critical expansion zones. Sri Aman remains our traditional rice belt, particularly Tanjung Bijat, Stumbin and Lingga. Gedong and Simunjan, especially through the Mid Sadong 1 Rehabilitation Scheme in Lubok Punggor and AgriHub at Gedong, represent modern transformation efforts aimed at increasing yields. Lundu's Tanjung Purun is being developed into a large-scale farming area using hybrid seed systems and integrated high-yield farming technologies. Betong's Tanjung Sebekut in Spaoh has been positioned as a future double harvest hub. Meanwhile, Meradong continues peat soil cultivation efforts, while Serian contributes to mixed production zones. These are not isolated projects. They represent the actual geography of Sarawak's rice future, and this Board must integrate them into a single coordinated production system.

However, Tuan Speaker, we must be honest with ourselves. It would be inaccurate and premature to present all these areas as established success stories. Some of these are long standing traditional paddy belts, such as Stumbin, Tanjung Bijat and Lingga in Sri Aman, where cultivation has existed for generations, but productivity outcomes remain mixed and far from transformative. Others, such as Lubok Punggor through Mid Sadong 1 and AgriHub at Gedong are still better described as flagship pilot transformation models rather than proven statewide successes. Even government statements have repeatedly framed them as test cases to determine whether similar models can later be expanded elsewhere.

Likewise, Tanjung Purun in Lundu and Tanjung Sebekut in Betong are still largely in stages of development and infrastructure preparation, particularly involving irrigation, drainage and farmer participation. The Rejang Delta areas of Buit, Daro and Matu, together with Lawas and Limbang, are important strategic expansion zones, but expansion zones must not be confused with proven output centres.

Tuan Speaker, identifying land on a map is one thing. Producing rice at scale consistently and sustainably is another. This is precisely why the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board cannot merely function as a planning body issuing ambitious announcements.

The Board must publish transparent performance indicators, including acreage utilisation, actual yield per hectare, farmer participation, irrigation readiness, cost-effectiveness and measurable contribution towards Sarawak's self-sufficiency target. Otherwise, we risk celebrating policy ambitions while still importing rice to feed our own people.

Infrastructure Beyond the Last Mile

Tuan Speaker, development is not achieved through policy documents alone. It requires water, access and logistics. There is why the Board must have a direct coordination mandate with agencies such as DID and Regional Development Authorities, because drains, irrigation and rural roads determine whether farmers succeed or fail.

Granary zones such as Lingga and Batang Lupar, for example, must be strengthened for double-cropping capability, not left at subsistence levels. A Paddy and Rice Board that has no authority or coordination power over physical infrastructure is a Board that manages symptoms, and not solutions.

Logistics Cost and NCR Realities

Tuan Speaker, in Sarawak, logistics itself is a structural burden. In some interior areas, such as Long Semadoh, the cost of transporting fertiliser alone can exceed the cost of the fertiliser itself.

The reality demands subsidised logistics hubs and structured rural distribution systems. At the same time, many paddy fields exist on Native Customary Rights (NCR) land, where farmers continue to face barriers to financing due to the absence of formal land titles.

If this Board is serious about inclusion, it must ensure NCR farmers are not excluded from loans, subsidies and agricultural assistance simply because they do not fit conventional land administration frameworks.

Protecting Sarawak's Agricultural Identity and Genetic Sovereignty

Tuan Speaker, this is where we must proceed carefully, because we are not merely dealing with production. We are also dealing with heritage, biodiversity and long-term resilience. In Sarawak, we have approximately 20 to 30 local paddy varieties, including traditional strains that form part of our agricultural identity. These include heritage rice such as Bario, Biris and Bajong, often regarded as our agricultural "*black gold*".

However, we are now seeing a gradual shift towards a narrower range of promoted commercial varieties, accompanied by a broader push for large-scale *Gelombang* Paddy and Smart Farming Systems targeting higher yields. And this is where concerns have been raised by NGOs advocating for farmers' rights. Increasing control over seeds and agricultural input systems may slowly reduce farmer autonomy and varietal diversity, replacing it with dependency on a limited number of approved systems.

We must understand the consequences of this shift. If only limited number of paddy varieties are promoted over time, we are not merely changing agricultural policy. We are reshaping genetic diversity itself. And when genetic diversity narrows, systemic risk increases. We become more vulnerable to pests, diseases, climate shocks and large-scale crop failures. This is not progress. That is fragility disguised as modernisation.

The concern here is therefore not merely economic. It is structural, economical and long term. We risk moving forwards a system where seed choices become increasingly controlled, fertiliser inputs increasingly prescribed, traditional seed-sharing practices gradually discouraged, and crop diversity slowly narrowed. In that process, farmers are no longer independent producers. They become dependent participants in a tightly managed input ecosystem.

Tuan Speaker, to safeguard against this, the Board must establish a state seed bank, a heritage rice registry and formal protection for traditional seed-sharing practices that have existed for generations. Seed sharing must not be treated as a regulatory problem. It is part of our agricultural civilisation.

Input Cost, Monopoly Risk and Hidden Control

Tuan Speaker, one of the most persistent burdens faced by farmers today, is rising input costs, particularly fertiliser and agricultural materials. And here, we must be cautious. Because if seed selection, fertiliser specifications and input packages become overly centralised under approved system, we risk creating a controlled dependency structure within agriculture itself. This is not reform. This is restructuring dependence.

Instead, the Board must ensure open competition in input supply, encourage local production of organic and bio-fertilisers and leverage Sarawak's biomass resources to reduce costs in line with our Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 Green Economy goals.

Strategic Positioning: Competing Through Value, Not Volume

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak, cannot compete with major rice-exporting countries purely on volume. Instead, we must adopt a high-value, low-volume strategy focused on premium rice markets

such as Singapore, Hong Kong and the Middle East. This is where Sarawak's specialty rice varieties and premium cultivation zones can command real value, rather than competing in mass commodity markets.

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, Sarawak has the land. We have the water. We have clearly identified production zones, hardworking farmers and a rich agricultural heritage. What we have lacked is a truly coordinated, farmer-centric ecosystem that connects Stumbin to Lawas, Gedong to Limbang, and the Rejang Delta to Betong into one integrated system.

If this Board is designed to empower smallholders, strengthen production hubs, protect genetic diversity, reduce costs, modernise agriculture and strengthen rural livelihoods then it deserves support. But if it merely becomes another structure that centralises control, increases dependency through narrow systems of seeds and inputs, or gradually sidelines farmer autonomy in favour of rigid standardisation, then we are failing the very people we are meant to serve.

Let us ensure that food security begins with farmers' security and farmers' security begins with freedom, diversity and resilience. With that, I conclude. Thank you Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Pending, thank you. Yang Berhormat Bukit Assek, followed by Yang Berhormat Padungan if we have the time, alright? Dipersilakan.

YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek: Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026.

This Bill is timely, strategic, and necessary for the future of Sarawak. In recent years, the world has faced food supply disruptions caused by climate change, geopolitical conflicts, rising logistics costs, and export restrictions by producing countries. These developments have reminded us that food security is no longer merely an agricultural issue, it is an issue of economic resilience and public security.

Sarawak still depends heavily on imported rice. Therefore, the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is an important step towards strengthening our food self-sufficiency and reducing overdependency on external supply chains.

Tuan Speaker, I support this Bill because it creates a centralized statutory authority to coordinate and strengthen the entire paddy and rice industry in Sarawak. Based on the Bill, the Board will have the powers to regulate activities, coordinate development, promote investment, conduct research, collect industry data and implement development programmes. This will provide better policy coordination and more effective implementation.

And at the same time, I also welcome the Board's role in modernising the agriculture sector. The Bill empowers the Board to promote research, technical services, human capital development and efficient marketing strategies. This is crucial because the future of agriculture must move towards mechanization, smart farming, automation and technology-driven productivity. If agriculture remains traditional and labour-intensive, the younger generations will continue to participate and avoid the sector.

I support the Sarawak Government's approach of using designated state land for paddy development. As quoted by the Honourable Speaker, Tan Sri Datuk Amar Mohamad Asfia Awang Nassar in Sarawak Tribune on 9th May 2026, *"The land that will be developed for paddy cultivation will involve designated state land so there will be no dispute over the ownership."*

I believe this is a very important approach because it minimizes land ownership disputes and allows for more organized and efficient large-scale agricultural planning. With proper infrastructure and irrigation systems, Sarawak has the potential to significantly increase the rice production capacity by the ministry.

Tuan Speaker, while I support this Bill, I would also like to highlight two matters which require careful attention. First, the governance and the accountability must remain transparent. Since this Board will have significant financial powers, including the ability to manage funds, borrow, invest and establish subsidiary companies, the strong monitoring mechanisms are necessary. Annual reports, financial transparency and measurable outcomes must be emphasized to ensure public confidence and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.

Second, the development of the paddy industry must also benefit local farmers and not only large corporations. Smallholders and rural communities must be included through the technical assistance, the financial support, the training opportunities and the fair participation within the supply chain. The food security must be people-centred and inclusive.

Tuan Speaker, overall, I believe that this Bill reflects Sarawak's long-term vision in safeguarding food security and building a more resilient future economy. It is not merely about planting rice; it is about ensuring that Sarawak has the capability to feed its people in times of global uncertainty. With that, I fully support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat. May I call upon Yang Berhormat bagi Padungan, please.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me this opportunity to debate on this Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Tuan Speaker, the purpose of setting up this Bill is to increase our self sufficiency ratio in rice for Sarawak. At present, the national rice self sufficiency ratio stands at around 53% - 56% whereas in Sarawak it was quoted by, I quote the statement of the Yang Berhormat Minister, Member for Kemena on 26th April, *"the self sufficiency ratio of rice in Sarawak stands at around 21%"*.

Given the landmass of Sarawak which is 124,000 square kilometers roughly the same as Semenanjung Malaysia, but our population is approximately 3 million and the population in West Malaysia is about 26 million. With such a huge difference, yet I would assume that we can have higher self sufficiency level in rice than our counterpart in West Malaysia, but that is not to be. The fact, the figure, the statistics shows that we are half the self sufficiency level or ratio compared to West Malaysia. What has gone wrong? Something must have gone wrong; it is not that the government all this while neglecting the development of agriculture and rice.

Before I proceed further to debate, let me jog your memory, Tuan Speaker and the memory of this House about what has been said in this very House by the Menteri Pemodenan Pertanian on 27th November 2013, 13 years ago in his winding up speech and I will quote here. *"NKEA EPP 11 – Padi Batang Lupar" that was what he said. "Under NKEA the Ministry of Modernisation and Agriculture, Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture is a superintending officer for NKEA EPP11 – Batang Lupar. I have reported that the project was involved in developing an area of about 5,100 ha to double and single cropping of paddy. This project costs RM950 million and will benefit 5,167 farmers in Batang Lupar. The project areas include paddy land along Batang Lupar stretching from Entulan to Seduku which is referred to as The Bijat-Stumbin portion and along Sungai Lingga stretching from Lingga to Banting"*.

Tuan Speaker, back in 2013, an allocation of RM950 million as announced in this very House for the development of paddy, and what has become of that allocation and that development project? I've heard the cry of Lingga, Member for Lingga just now when she debated. The *penduduk* there, the people in Lingga has high expectation when this announcement after announcement was made to make Batang Lupar the *Jelapang Padi* of Sarawak and yet they are disappointed again and again, and today she's hoping that with the setting up of this Board, things may change and she has said that she expect, she hoped that in her life time, people in the area can see some fruits of the development.

Tuan Speaker, my question is what has become of this RM950 million allocation? It's not a small sum. RM950 million is close to RM1 billion and in 2013 the value now would be RM2 billion, Tuan Speaker at the very least.

Tuan Speaker, right after the announcement of Batang Lupar project as *jelapang padi* of Sarawak, in 2015, another announcement was made and this time it's about the *cadangan Jelapang padi di Lembah Sungai Limbang*. Now, it refers to northern side of Sarawak.

Untuk makluman Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Kota, cadangan untuk membangunkan Jelapang Padi di kawasan Lembah Limbang telah dibentang dalam perbincangan kerjasama ekonomi antara kerajaan Brunei Darussalam dan negeri Sarawak, dua blok dengan jumlah keluasan 3,000 hektar di persekitaran persempadanan Brunei-Limbang telah dikenal pasti untuk tujuan tersebut. Another announcement of 3,000 hectares of paddy development and cultivation as announced and what has become of that announcement?

Recently, Tuan Speaker, Yang Berhormat Menteri has made an announcement that Sarawak is going to target 14,000 hectares of paddy granary by 2023. This is a very bold ambition. Tuan Speaker, I would like to know how the government plans to execute or carry into effect that target of 14,000 hectares of paddy. Why I'd say so? Why I'd say so?

For the 5,100 hectares of paddy cultivation land that was announced back in 2013, how many hectares have actually been developed? Recently, when the Timbalan Perdana Menteri visited, not recently *lah*, two years ago, when the Timbalan Perdana Menteri visited Sarawak, he announced that a total of 4,500 hectares. No. No. He announced that Sarawak and Sabah, the government is developing, he announced that the government is developing 4,839 hectares in Sabah and Sarawak for paddy cultivation. The plan, I'm sorry, Tuan Speaker, this was said in the Dewan Rakyat by Timbalan Perdana Menteri and Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said it would involve 2,159 hectares in Beluran and Kota Belud in Sabah and 2,380 hectares in Batang Lupar, Sarawak. Therefore, my question is that 2,680 hectares in Batang Lupar, Sarawak in part of the 5,100 hectares that was identified in 2013 by the, then, Deputy Chief Minister, who is the Minister for Modernisation of Agriculture.

Tuan Speaker, as we stand here to debate on this Bill, I highlighted what has the government done in the past; not with the view to ridicule, but to highlight to bring to the attention to the Minister that what about the policy of the ministry in the past and that policy did not bear fruit and this Board that is to be set up will be under the same ministry. So, my question is what would be the change of policies and implementation methods that will ensure that the failure will not be repeated and 13 years later, the government will be faced with the same plight of low Self-Sufficient Level in rice?

Tuan Speaker, just a few figures which is a bit mind boggling. It was said by the minister that; at the moment the demand for rice in Sarawak is 450,000 metric tonnes and the paddy production, including hill paddy in Sarawak is around 80,000 metric tonnes. And the government is targeting the production of 60% Self-Sufficiency Level, which would be around 24,000 metric tonnes, 26,000 metric tonnes and that would mean that in the next four years from now, 2026 until 2030, the government has to increase the production by at least 190,000 tonnes. 190,000 metric tonnes of rice. How is the government going to achieve that target? Hundreds and, when the minister, the Honourable Minister had announced that targeting, that the government targets to turn 14,000 hectares of land into paddy cultivation. 14,000 if you do a simple mathematics, 190,000 metric tonnes divide by 14,000 hectares, you need a production of 13.5 tonnes; 13.5 metric tonnes per hectare per year.

And a currently our production efficiency level is around six, seven metric tonnes per year per hectare. Although he has mentioned also Henan from China; the seedlings the trade for paddy trip from Henan produce 15 metric tonnes per year. But we are to take into account, climate difference, soil difference, method of funding different are we are we is government targeting 13.5 metric tonnes

at least per hectares for all these 14,000 hectares of rice cultivation. Otherwise, I would suggest that let us be more realistic in our target in setting our Self-Sufficiency Level for rice.

And lastly, Tuan Speaker, the having ask this question whether we support this Bill for the creation of the board will depend a lot on how the reply from the Honourable Minister on the question raised on the particularly 950 million that was announced RM950 million that was announced back in 2013. How the money was spent, whether it was actually spent, and if it is spent, why is the target not achieved? And also, how this Board, after it is formed and how it is going to implement what policy it will have? The reason being, the Board will still be under the oversight or the control of the same Ministry that has failed a decade or two decades ago. So, what policy change, shift, that would be made and that would be implemented by the Board and that would that is what we would like to know before we congratulate the Minister for tabling this Bill and for being this establishing this Board. With that I conclude my debate. Thank you Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Padungan. We have a lunch break. The Dewan stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Thank you.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada jam 1:08 petang)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada jam 2:36 petang)

[Timbalan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Timbalan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, kita teruskan dengan perbahasan. Yang Berhormat Tanjong Batu dan diikuti dengan Ahli Yang Berhormat Kota Sentosa, Ahli Yang Berhormat Daro, Ahli Yang Berhormat Batu Kitang, Ahli Yang Berhormat Kalaka, Baleh, Bukit Begunan, Ba'Kelalan dan Engkilili.

YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming: Good afternoon, thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in this debate on the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. First of all, I wish to record my appreciation to Yang Berhormat ADUN Kemena, the Honourable Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development, for successfully tabling this important Bill before this august House.

I rise today to give my support to the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. This Bill seeks to establish the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board as a statutory body to regulate, coordinate, promote and develop the padi and rice industry in Sarawak.

At first glance, some may ask why should the representative of N.68 Tanjong Batu, an urban constituency in Bintulu, speak on a Bill about paddy and rice? My constituency has no paddy field. Tanjong Batu is not a paddy-growing area. We are urban constituency. We are part of Bintulu town, which is an industrial town, a port town, a town of workers, families, small traders, coffee shops, restaurants, supermarkets, schools, residential areas and businesses.

But that is exactly why this Bill is relevant to my constituency. Because rice is not only a farmer's issue. It is related to household issues, cost-of-living issues, food security issues and a small business issue. And rice is on the dining table of almost every family in Bintulu.

The *rakyat* of Tanjong Batu may not plant paddy, but they buy rice. They may not own paddy fields, but they feel the burden when the price of rice increases. They may not be involved in rice production, but they are affected when rice supply becomes uncertain. Therefore, this Bill is not only important to rural constituencies. It is also important to urban constituencies like N.68 Tanjong Batu.

Tuan Speaker, the timing of this Bill is important. Around the world, food security is no longer something we can take lightly. Climate change, droughts, floods, export restrictions, rising cost, conflict and supply chain disruptions have all affected global food supply. Rice, in particular, is not

just an ordinary commodity. It is a staple food. When rice supply is stable people may not talk about it. But when supply is disrupted, every household feels it immediately. In Malaysia, our rice Self-Sufficiency Level has remained around 52%. This means we still depend heavily on imported rice to meet our national needs.

For Sarawak, the situation is even more serious. Sarawak's rice sufficiency level was reported at only 21% in 2024. With production of about 51,000 metric tonnes. At the same time, Sarawak has set an important target to increase our rice self-sufficiency level to 60% by 2030. So, this Bill is not coming too early, it's timely, in fact, it is necessary.

If Sarawak wants to strengthen food security, we cannot depend only on general policy statements. We need a proper institution and proper coordination. We need data and development planning, we need standard research enforcement, we need a board that can look at the whole paddy and rice industrial from up string to down string. That is why I support the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board.

Tuan Speaker, for an urban constituency like Tanjong Batu, the first benefit is supplying stability. Urban people are highly dependent on supply chains. Most families in town do not grow their own food. They depend on the market. Any disruption in supply will be felt very quickly in urban areas. When the supply of rice is affected, the urban poor, B40 families, workers, young parents and senior citizens will feel the pressure. Even a small increase in food prices can affect the monthly budget of ordinary families.

This Bill may not reduce the price of rice overnight. We must be honest about that. But it creates the foundation for better planning, better coordination and stronger long term food security. If we want stable rice supply tomorrow, we must build the system today. If we want to protect urban consumers in the future, we must strengthen production, storage, distribution and regulation now.

Tuan Speaker, the second benefit to Bintulu is to our small businesses. In Bintulu, many people earn their living through food businesses. Rice is one of their most basic inputs. When the price of rice goes up, small traders suffer. If they absorb the cost, their profit becomes smaller. If they increase their prices, the consumers suffer. So, when we talk about the rice industry, we are not only talking about farmers. We are also talking about hawkers, shopkeepers, restaurant owners and ordinary workers who eat outside every day. A more organised rice industry, with better standards, better supply management and better data, can help create a more stable food business environment.

Tuan Speaker, the third benefit is Bintulu's potential role in the wider rice supply chain. Bintulu may not be a paddy producing area, but Bintulu has strategic advantages. We have two deep-sea ports; we have a logistics capacity. We have industrial infrastructure and warehousing potential. We are a growing urban market serving workers, families and industries. Therefore, I believe Bintulu can play a supporting role in Sarawak's rice ecosystem.

When we talk about the paddy and rice industrial, it's not just about paddy fields. There are also storage, processing, packaging, warehousing, distribution, logistics and retail. In the bigger picture, Bintulu should not be left out. I respectfully suggested that once the Board is established, the government may also study the role of strategic urban and industrial centre such as in Bintulu supporting the downstream, storage and distribution side of the rice industry. This will ensure that food security planning is not only production-based but also supply-chain-based.

Tuan Speaker, of course, our first priority must be to strengthen Sarawak's own rice self-sufficiency. Before we speak of export, we must first ensure that the rice needs of our own people are secure. However, if in the future Sarawak is able to raise rice production, achieve a stronger self-sufficiency level, and eventually produce surplus rice or rice-based products, then Bintulu should be considered as one of the strategic gateways for this industry. With the Bintulu Port, our logistic network, warehousing potential and industrial capacity, Bintulu can support not only domestic

distribution, but also for future export opportunities. This is why I say this Bill is also relevant to an urban and an industrial constituency like Tanjong Batu. We may not produce paddy in the field, but we can contribute to the value chain when Sarawak's rice industry grows.

Tuan Speaker, another important aspect of this Bill is a data collection. The Board will have the power to gather information, collect reports and keep records relating to the paddy and rice industry. This is important because good policy cannot be based on guesswork. We need to know how much rice Sarawak produces, how much we consume, where the gaps are, where the storage capacity is, how the supply moves, where the weaknesses are, and what kind of intervention is needed. For Bintulu, that is also important. Bintulu is growing. Our population, our industrial workforce, our food demand are all growing. If we do not plan properly, our urban food demand may grow faster than our supply system. Therefore, reliable data is not just a technical matter. It is the basic of proper planning.

Tuan Speaker, I also support the provisions in the Bill relating to the research and development. Sarawak cannot develop its rice industry using old methods alone. We need better seeds, planting techniques, better machinery, better irrigation, better soil management, better processing, better packaging and better marketing.

Research and development must eventually benefit not only farmers, but also consumers and businesses. If Sarawak can produce better quality rice and stronger rice-based products, then there will also be downstream opportunities for towns like Bintulu in packaging, logistics, retail and food processing. I also note that the Bill allows the State Government to declare any area of the state land as a Paddy Development Area. This is an important provision because Sarawak need properly planned areas for paddy development.

Although my constituency may not be directly involved in such development areas, the people of Bintulu will still benefit if Sarawak can increase local rice production. When rural production become stronger, urban supply becomes more secure. When farmers are supported, consumers are protected. When Sarawak becomes more self-reliant, every household benefits. This shows that rural development and urban wellbeing are connected.

Tuan Speaker, while I support this Bill, I wish to offer three humble suggestions. First, the Board should ensure that its work covers the whole supply chain, not only production. Storage, processing, packaging, logistics, distribution and market access are equally important.

Second, the Board should engage not only farmers, but also millers, wholesalers, retailers, transporters, restaurants, hawkers and consumer representatives. Rice affects many layers of society, so consultation must be broad.

Third, the Board should ensure that regulation and enforcement are practical and fair. Licensing, standards, and enforcement are necessary, but they should not become a burden to genuine small farmers and small traders. The purpose of the Board should be to strengthen the industry, not to make life harder for ordinary people.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 because this is a forward-looking Bill. It gives Sarawak a dedicated institution to coordinate, regulate and develop the paddy and rice industry. It strengthens our food security frameworks, supports better planning, better data, better standards, better research, better enforcement, and better long-term resilience.

Most importantly, the Bill reminds us that rice is not only about agriculture. Rice is about daily life. For the people of Bintulu, the Bill matters because it is connected to food supply, cost of living, small businesses and urban resilience. We may not have paddy fields in Tanjong Batu, but we have dining tables. We may not plant rice in Bintulu town, but our people depend on rice every day. Izinkan saya menutup ucapan saya dengan dua rangkap pantun.

*YB DAP ketuk pintu,
Tin milo dipegang dalam tangan;
Tabung harapan konon nak bantu,
Rakyat tertipu dalam kenangan.*

*Dua tiga kucing berlari,
Manakan sama Pending dan Padungan;
Bila nak janji harus ditepati,
Jangan selalu beri bayangan.*

With that, I fully support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Tanjong Batu. Walaupun pantun tak seberapa, minta maaf. I don't appreciate that *pantun*. You try better next time, Yang Berhormat. Anyway, congratulations for trying. Yang Berhormat Kota Sentosa, please.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I rise to participate in this debate not only as a legislator, but as a representative of an urban constituency whose residents feel the direct impact of rising food prices every single day. And while paddy fields may be far away from our city centres, food security is not a rural issue alone. It is an issue that affects every urban household in Kuching, Sibu, Bintulu, Miri and every urban setting or family struggling with the rising cost of living. The aspiration to achieve 60% rice self-sufficiency by 2030 is therefore not merely an agricultural target. It is about ensuring that ordinary Sarawakians can continue to put affordable food on the table. When global supply chains are disrupted, when import prices rise, it is the urban consumer who immediately feels the burden through higher food prices in markets, restaurants and hawker stalls.

Tuan Speaker, I support the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board in principle. However, as representatives entrusted with safeguarding public funds, we must ensure that this Board delivers tangible results and not become another layer of bureaucracy. The State Government has committed RM1 billion for infrastructure and development. This is a significant investment of public money. Urban taxpayers, just like our rural communities, deserve assurances that every ringgit spent will translate into measurable outcomes — increased production, reduced dependency on imports, and stable rice prices for consumers.

Therefore, I propose that the Board adopts a transparent Performance-Based Monitoring System with publicly reported milestones. The *rakyat* should be able to see how much land has been successfully cultivated, how much output has increased annually, and whether the investments are actually lowering vulnerable supplies.

Infrastructure alone cannot guarantee success. We have seen projects elsewhere fail because maintenance, coordination and local participation were neglected. We cannot afford expensive facilities that eventually become underutilised or unsustainable. And I would like to share with this august House, on a study conducted by our very own local university, UNIMAS, and the title of this study which was published in the Journal of Borneo Kalimantan criticized the Bario Rice Project's top-down approach noting a significant lack of transparency regarding key performance indicators (KPIs) and a failure to meaningfully engage the local Kelabit community. And they also highlight that it was failed modernization because they did the research and the research highlighted that while RM30 million was invested, modern machinery often sat idle due to unsuitable soil conditions and field contours that did not accommodate heavy equipment.

Tuan Speaker, as an urban representative, I also wish to emphasise that food security must go hand in hand with affordability. If increased production does not ultimately stabilise prices for consumers, then the objective of food security remains incomplete.

Tuan Speaker, I am sure that you are aware that urban families today are already burdened by inflation, rental costs, transportation expenses and education costs. Rice is not a luxury item. It is

a basic necessity. Hence, the success of the Board should not only be measured by tonnes per hectare, but also by whether ordinary Sarawakians can continue to purchase rice at reasonable and stable prices.

Tuan Speaker, at the same time, we must ensure inclusivity in this transformation as expounded in our Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030. The move towards SMART farming, mechanisation and modern agriculture is necessary. However, technology must empower local farmers, not marginalise them. Small farmers should not be left behind due to high costs of machinery, hybrid seeds or specialised inputs. The Board must therefore prioritise training and technical assistance, accessible financing, and cooperative models that allow smaller farmers to benefit from economies of scale.

This is not only just about productivity. It is also about creating sustainable livelihoods and preventing excessive concentration of control within large corporate entities. So, I hope that the Board, once established, will ensure that there will not be any monopoly by a single entity.

Tuan Speaker, another important point that I want to highlight is value creation. Sarawak should not merely aspire to produce more rice. We should aspire to build a recognised Sarawak rice brand with premium quality and international market potential. Our indigenous and heritage rice varieties possess unique identity and cultural value. These products can become high-value exports and agrotourism attractions if properly marketed.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Board once established to establish a unit, a dedicated unit for preservation of indigenous rice varieties, research and branding, and downstream commercialisation. This is how we can combine economic growth with cultural preservation.

Tuan Speaker, finally, the Board must remain lean, efficient and outcome driven. The *rakyat* do not want over-lapping agencies or unnecessary administrative expansion and I hope that the Minister will ensure that once the Board is established, we will ensure that the bulk of the allocation would be used for capital expenditure rather than being used for operating expenditure. I think as Sarawak moves forward, Sarawakians want to see stronger food security, they would also want to see better income for farmers, stable supply chains, and most importantly affordable prices for consumers and if implemented properly, the Board can become more than just an agricultural institution. It can become a strategic pillar of Sarawak's long-term economic resilience and self-reliance. With those remarks, I support the Bill. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Kota Sentosa. Next, I would like to humbly call Yang Berhormat Daro, please.

YB Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: Assalamualaikum W.B.T., Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam Segulai Sejalai. Terima kasih Tuan Speaker kerana telah memberi saya peluang untuk memberi bahagian dalam perbahasan *Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak, 2026* yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah merangkap Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi N.69 Kemena.

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-undang ini merupakan satu instrumen penting yang mencerminkan kedaulatan negeri kita. Ia bukan sekadar satu penyelarasan pentadbiran, tetapi merupakan satu deklarasi strategik terhadap kebebasan dan autonomi pertanian Sarawak. Sekian lama sektor padi dan beras kita tertakluk di bawah Akta Kawalan Padi dan Beras 1994 di peringkat Persekutuan. Walaupun akta tersebut mempunyai peranannya pada suatu ketika dahulu, ia gagal mengambil kira keunikan landskap Sarawak daripada isu tanah Hak Adat Bumiputera ataupun (NCR) hinggalah kepada cabaran logistik yang khusus di negeri ini.

Hari ini, kita mencadangkan satu kerangka kawal selia yang diterajui Sarawak melalui penubuhan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak bagi mengawal penggunaan tanah, menguatkuasakan standard kualiti, serta mentadbir pelesenan dalam sempadan negeri kita sendiri.

Ancaman Geopolitik dan Keselamatan Makanan

Tuan Speaker, kita perlu melihat melangkaui sempadan negara untuk memahami keperluan mendesak terhadap Rang Undang-undang ini. Rantian bekalan makanan global kini semakin rapuh. Laporan terkini menunjukkan bahawa ketegangan berterusan di antara Amerika Syarikat dan Iran sedang menolak industri beras ke arah satu krisis yang besar.

Seperti dilaporkan oleh *the Business Times* di Vietnam, kos pengangkutan laut telah meningkat antara 25 hingga 35%. Di Thailand pula, eksport beras terganggu kerana kapal tidak dapat melalui Selat Hormuz dengan selamat. Lebih membimbangkan, kenaikan mendadak harga bahan api dan baja menyebabkan ramai petani di Thailand dan Vietnam mempertimbangkan untuk memberhentikan penanaman padi kerana mereka tidak lagi mampu menampung kos pengeluaran.

Apabila jelapang padi Asia Tenggara sendiri berada dalam keadaan terancam, Sarawak tidak boleh terus menjadi pemerhati pasif. Tahap Sara Diri beras Sarawak pada masa ini hanyalah sekitar 21%. Berdasarkan laporan *the World Bank* menerusi pangkalan data *World Integrated Trade Solution* (WITS), pada tahun 2024 negara kita membelanjakan RM2.02 bilion bagi mengimport beras dari Vietnam dan RM667.5 juta dari Thailand.

Kebergantungan sepenuhnya kepada mekanisme Persekutuan menyebabkan kita terdedah kepada kejutan luaran ini. Rang Undang-undang ini menyediakan asas perundangan bagi pelaksanaan intervensi bekalan kecemasan dan stok penimbun yang strategik demi memastikan rakyat Sarawak terus mempunyai bekalan beras walau apa jua konflik global yang berlaku.

Realiti Geografi dan Demografi Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak meliputi kawasan lebih daripada 124,000km persegi dengan penduduk luar bandar yang berselerak di kawasan pedalaman dan persekitaran sungai. Pendekatan “*satu penyelesaian untuk semua*” ataupun “*one size fits all*” di peringkat persekutuan sering kali tidak berkesan di Sarawak disebabkan kos pengangkutan yang tinggi serta keterbatasan jaringan perhubungan.

Melalui Rang Undang-undang ini, kita dapat melaksanakan langkah kawal selia yang disesuaikan dengan keadaan tempatan, termasuk penyimpanan stok secara setempat dan rangkaian pengedaran yang lebih efektif bagi menjamin kestabilan pasaran sehingga ke kawasan paling terpencil di negeri ini.

Melindungi Petani Kecil dan Tanah NCR

Tuan Speaker, kira-kira 80% petani padi di Sarawak terdiri daripada petani kecil-kecilan dan sebahagian besar daripada mereka mengusahakan tanah NCR. Undang-undang persekutuan tidak mengambil kira secara khusus kerumitan berkaitan tanah NCR dan amalan pertanian tradisional masyarakat tempatan.

Rang Undang-undang ini menutup ruang tersebut. Di bawah Fasal 3(2), Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak (SPRB) diiktiraf secara sah sebagai satu entiti “*native*”. Ini merupakan satu langkah legislatif yang amat strategik kerana ia membolehkan Lembaga mengurus dan membangunkan tanah NCR bagi tujuan penanaman padi secara moden, tanpa menjejaskan hak adat masyarakat asal. Kita sedang mengangkat sebenarnya, mengangkat tanah warisan nenek moyang kita menjadi satu aset yang bernilai tinggi.

Menyelaras Pelaburan Negeri dan Ekonomi Baru

Tuan Speaker, kita telah mengenal pasti beberapa zon pembangunan berpotensi tinggi seperti di Sri Aman, Mukah termasuk Daro, Kapit dan Limbang. Namun, undang-undang Persekutuan tidak memberi kuasa secara langsung kepada Sarawak untuk menyelaras inisiatif-inisiatif ini. Rang Undang-undang ini mengubah keadaan tersebut. Ia memberi kuasa kepada Kerajaan Negeri untuk:

- (a) Menggembeleng sumber secara lebih cekap merentasi pelbagai agensi;
- (b) Menarik pelaburan swasta melalui Fasal 31 yang membolehkan Lembaga menubuhkan Syarikat serta membentuk Kerjasama Awam-Swasta atau *Public-Private Partnership* (PPP); dan
- (c) Membolehkan sektor ini selaras dengan agenda PCDS 2030 melalui penggunaan pemantauan rantai bekalan berasaskan Kecerdasan Buatan ataupun AI, serta penerokaan penggunaan jentera berkuasa hydrogen hijau, sekali gus meletakkan Sarawak sebagai peneraju pertanian mampan dan sifar pelepasan karbon.

Memperkukuh Autonomi Dalam Kerangka Persekutuan

Tuan Speaker, saya melihat Rang Undang-undang ini sebagai pelengkap, bukannya bercanggah dengan undang-undang Persekutuan. Fokusnya tertumpu kepada bidang kuasa negeri seperti perancangan pengeluaran, pelesenan tempatan dan pembangunan petani.

Di bawah Fasal 8(i), pembangunan bakal akan dihubungkan dengan inisiatif Pendidikan tinggi percuma Sarawak. Sebenarnya kita bukan sahaja menanam padi, tetapi kita sedang melahirkan generasi baharu "*agropreneur*" yang mahir dalam pertanian berasaskan *robotic* dan kecerdasan buatan ataupun AI.

Tadbir Urus, Akauntabiliti dan Pelaksanaan Bertanggungjawab

Tuan Speaker, walaupun saya menyokong Rang Undang-Undang ini, saya juga ingin menegaskan bahawa penubuhan mana-mana badan berkanun yang baharu, mestilah disertai dengan komitmen kukuh terhadap tadbir urus yang baik. Kuasa tanpa akauntabiliti akan menghakis kepercayaan rakyat dan undang-undang yang bercita-cita tinggi tanpa pelaksanaan yang berdisiplin jarang sekali mencapai matlamat yang dihasratkan.

Penyata penjelasan Rang Undang-Undang ini sendiri mengakui bahawa pelaksanaan Rang Undang-Undang ini akan melibatkan tambahan perbelanjaan kerajaan. Walaupun jumlah sebenar belum dapat dipastikan pada masa ini. Oleh itu, sejak dari awal lagi kita mesti memberikan penekanan kepada:

- (a) Pengurusan kewangan yang telus;
- (b) Penyediaan anggaran tahunan dan akaun audit yang teratur;
- (c) Pemantauan prestasi yang jelas melalui KPI yang boleh diukur; dan
- (d) Sistem integriti serta pencegahan rasuah yang mantap.

Dalam pada masa yang sama, pegawai yang diberi kuasa di bawah Bahagian VI akan mempunyai kuasa penguatkuasaan yang besar termasuk kuasa penyiasatan dan akses kepada data berkomputer. Walaupun kuasa-kuasa ini perlu bagi memastikan keberkesanan penguatkuasaan, ia mesti dilaksanakan secara bertanggungjawab profesional dan telus.

Prosedur operasi standard ataupun SOP, latihan yang mencukupi serta mekanisme aduan yang jelas perlu diwujudkan supaya tindakan penguatkuasaan ini dapat meningkatkan, bukannya menjejaskan keyakinan rakyat terhadap lembaga ini nanti. Pendek kata, kredibiliti Lembaga Padi

dan Beras Sarawak bukan sahaja bergantung kepada kekuatan mandatnya, tetapi juga kepada disiplin dan dalam pelaksanaannya.

Tuan Speaker, dunia hari ini telah berubah. Rantaian bekalan global yang sebelum ini berasaskan konsep "*just in time*" kini telah berubah kepada realiti "*just in case*". Kita tidak lagi boleh menyerahkan keselamatan makanan kita kepada ketidaktentuan pasaran luar atau keterbatasan pengawasan berpusat di peringkat persekutuan.

Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak, 2026 merupakan benteng pertahanan kita. Ia adalah pelan hala tuju kita menuju tahun 2030 dan ia juga memastikan Sarawak mempunyai kawalan yang lebih bermakna terhadap masa depan keselamatan makanannya, sambil menyediakan masa depan yang lebih makmur dan berdaya tahan kepada komuniti luar bandar melalui institusi yang berakuntabiliti, berdisiplin dan diyakini rakyat. Dengan itu, Tuan Speaker, Daro menyokong Rang Undang-undang ini. Terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Daro. Seterusnya, I humbly called upon Yang Berhormat for Batu Kitang, please.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. First and foremost, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation and congratulations to the Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak, Yang Berhormat Member for N.69 Kemena, for tabling the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026.

I rise to express my full support for this Bill because I firmly believe that this legislation represents a timely, strategic and forward-looking step towards strengthening Sarawak's food security and transforming the padi and rice industry into a more resilient, modern and sustainable sector for the future.

Tuan Speaker, we are currently living in an increasingly uncertain global environment. The COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, climate change, disruption in international trade and instability in global food supply chains have shown us one very important lesson, food security can no longer be taken for granted. Rice is not merely another agricultural commodity. It is a strategic necessity. For that reason, Sarawak cannot continue to rely excessively on imported rice, while global supply system becomes increasingly unpredictable.

Today, Sarawak's rice self-sufficiency level remains relatively low. This means that we are still vulnerable to external supply disruptions, price volatility, and international market uncertainties. Therefore, effort to strengthen local rice production and improve Sarawak self-sufficiency level are no longer optional. They are necessary.

Tuan Speaker, the Honourable Members for Pending and Padungan questioned why this Board is necessary. With respect, the answer is very simple. The very weaknesses highlighted by the opposition are precisely the reasons why this Board must be established. They spoke about fragmented implementation, insufficient coordination, weak monitoring, irrigation challenges, logistic problems, low productivity and the need for better long-term planning.

Exactly, precisely that is why Sarawak now requires a dedicated institutional framework, focused specifically on the paddy and the rice industry. The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will provide stronger coordination, integrated planning, clearer accountability, more focused implementation, and long-term institutional continuity...*(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: Do you give way to the Yang Berhormat for Padungan, Yang Berhormat?

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Yes, please.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, the Honourable Member for Batu Kitang.

The Honourable Member for Batu Kitang, firstly, we did not question the need of to set up this Board, Number 1. Number 2, you are saying that the need to set up this Board is because, you need a more focused institution to develop this padi cultivation and development? My question is are you saying that previously the ministry is disfocused, not focus on their job enough that is why the paddy cultivation and programmes are unsuccessful and have failed. And another thing is that my question on RM950 million allocation announcement. What do you have to say on that?

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat...*(Interruption)*...

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, the Honourable Member for Padungan. RM900 million, all these were years ago. If I remember correctly, all this money came from the Federal Government for Sarawak because agriculture was under the Federal Government. And, *ya*, that was your question, *ya*? What was, that one was the first question.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Are you saying, the Ministry is not focused enough previously?

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: Same answer.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: But not focused *lah*.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang: No, because it was under the Federal Government before. Today is different. Today is under GPS Government.... *(Applause)*...Under Abang Jo is entirely different. Thank you for answering that question for me, Honourable Member for Padungan.

This Bill is not merely creating another office or another letterhead. With respect to the Honourable Member for Pending, no one in this House has claimed that a Board alone magically increases rice production. The purpose of this Board is to establish a dedicated institutional mechanism capable of planning, monitoring, infrastructure coordination, irrigation integration, stockpile planning, data management, farmer support and long-term food security governance.

Without a dedicated coordinating institution, development efforts become fragmented across multiple agencies without unified accountability and continuity. The Honourable Member for Pending also raised concern about centralisation and dependency. But with due respect, the paddy and rice sector has long operated within highly centralised federal regulatory and administrative structures.

What Sarawak is doing today is not excessive centralisation. Sarawak is strengthening our own local institutional capacity so that decisions involving Sarawak's food security can be coordinated more effectively based on Sarawak on needs, geography and realities. It is therefore somewhat contradictory to raise concern about centralisation when Sarawak seeks to strengthen its own institutional role in protecting our food security.

Tuan Speaker, it is also important to clarify that this Bill operates in tandem with the existing federal legal framework under the Paddy and Rice Control Act 1994. This Bill does not contravene or supersede federal law. Rather, it strengthens Sarawak internal institutional capacity to plan, coordinate and develop the paddy and rice industry within our own constitutional and administrative competence. This is practical and responsible approach towards strengthening Sarawak food resilience.

The Honourable Member for Padungan referred extensively to announcements and programmes from many years ago, including projects dating back to earlier periods. However, many of these programmes existed under earlier agricultural structures and broader federal-driven frameworks at that particular point and time.

Much of what the Honourable Member for Padungan described, weak implementation, inconsistent coordination, low self-sufficiency, fragmented planning and unfulfilled agricultural targets. They occurred under arrangements where major agricultural regulation, assistance and coordination were still largely under broader federal structures as I have mentioned before.

Today, Sarawak is strengthening our own institutional capacity in a more coordinated and focused manner. If previous implementation face limitations, then the answer is a stronger coordination, better governance, improved monitoring, clearer accountability and a more focused institutional capacity. This is what, this is precisely what this Bill seeks to achieve.

Therefore, with respect, Members for Pending and Padungan cannot spend their entire speeches explaining why previous arrangements were insufficient and then question Sarawak's effort to build a stronger system and moving forward.

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, the Honourable Members for Pending and Padungan spent much of their speeches highlighting irrigation challenges, logistics weaknesses, fragmented implementation, insufficient monitoring, low productivity, and the need for strong coordination.

With respect, these are not arguments against this Bill. These are the strongest arguments in support of this Bill. This Bill is not about pretending that all problems have been solved. This Bill is about recognising the challenges honestly and building the institutional capacity needed to solve them.

Food security cannot depend on fragmented short-term approaches. It requires long-term planning, institutional continuity, technological upgrading, coordinated governance, and strategic commitment. The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board represents an important step in that direction.

Tuan Speaker, I firmly believe that this Bill will strengthen Sarawak's food resilience, modernise our paddy and rice industry, empower our farmers, and build a stronger and a more sustainable future for Sarawak. With that, I fully support this Bill. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Batu Kitang. Seterusnya, Yang Berhormat dari Kalaka.

YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Terima kasih Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam Perbahasan Rang Undang-Undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak 2026.

Assalamualaikum W.B.T, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam *Segulai Sejalai*. Saya berdiri pada hari ini untuk menyokong Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak, 2016 yang telah berjaya dibentangkan oleh Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom, ADUN N.69 Kemena. Pada hemat saya, pembentangan Rang Undang-Undang ini bukan sekadar memperkenalkan sebuah lembaga baharu, tetapi menjadi penanda aras yang penting dalam sejarah pembangunan agro makanan Sarawak, khususnya dalam memperkukuhkan agenda keselamatan makanan negeri dan negara.

Selama ini kita sering mendengar ungkapan "*beras adalah nyawa rakyat*". Maka apabila Sarawak tampil dengan pendekatan lebih agresif dan tersusun terhadap pembangunan industri padi dan beras, ini menunjukkan Kerajaan Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) benar-benar serius dan tidak lagi mahu bergantung sepenuhnya kepada bekalan luar. Bak kata peribahasa Melayu "*sediakan payung sebelum hujan*". Dalam dunia hari ini yang semakin tidak menentu akibat daripada perubahan iklim, konflik geopolitik serta gangguan rantaian bekalan makanan global, Langkah menubuhkan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak adalah tindakan yang tepat dan berpandangan jauh.

Tuan Speaker, saya yakin inti pati utama Rang Undang-undang ini iaitu penubuhan *Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak 2026* amat signifikan. Ini kerana ia bakal menjadi badan khusus yang mempunyai kuasa dan fungsi jelas dalam merancang, menyelaraskan serta memperkukuh pembangunan industri padi dan beras negeri Sarawak. Malah, penubuhan lembaga ini akan membolehkan Sarawak menggubal dasar dan perundangan berkaitan industri padi dan beras secara lebih fokus dan berkesan.

Dewan juga dimaklumkan bahawa Rang Undang-undang ini melibatkan pewartaan tujuh kawasan tanah Sarawak sebagai kawasan pembangunan penanaman padi. Saya percaya bahawa kawasan-kawasan tersebut akan menjadi *anchor* atau pemangkin utama dalam merealisasikan hasrat Sarawak mencapai tahap sara diri beras yang lebih tinggi. Namun begitu, saya ingin mencadangkan agar kawasan-kawasan lain yang mempunyai potensi besar turut dipertimbangkan untuk dimasukkan ke dalam pelan pembangunan masa depan. Contohnya, di kawasan DUN Kalaka terdapat beberapa kawasan yang saya percaya sangat berpotensi untuk dibangunkan sebagai kawasan pengeluaran padi moden. Antaranya, Kampung Kaba, Lubok Nibong, Jelupang di Daerah Kecil Roban.

Untuk makluman Dewan yang mulia ini, di Kampung Kaba sahaja terdapat lebih 30 hektar kawasan yang bakal menjadi perintis projek pengeluaran padi dan beras secara besar-besaran di Daerah Saratok menggunakan teknologi moden. Kerajaan Sarawak melalui Agensi Pembangunan Bahagian Betong (BDDA) telah memperuntukkan keseluruhan sebanyak RM4.8 juta bagi menyokong usaha ikhlas ini. Hasrat kita jelas iaitu menjadikan Kampung Kaba sebagai kawasan pertanian moden dengan sasaran hasil tuaian sehingga lima kali dalam tempoh dua tahun dan sehubungan dengan itu, selaras dengan penubuhan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak kelak, kita mahu memanfaatkan sepenuhnya kawasan tersebut dengan penambahbaikan *infrastructure* saluran, pembinaan kilang pemprosesan beras dan penyediaan kemudahan sokongan yang lain.

Daripada jumlah keseluruhan peruntukan tersebut sebanyak RM2 juta diperuntukkan bagi pembinaan kilang memproses beras di Skim Padi Kampung Kaba oleh Jabatan Kerja Raya Sarawak, RM2 juta bagi menaik taraf sistem saluran dan pengairan yang dilaksanakan oleh Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran dan RM800,000 lagi untuk pemasangan kabel bervoltan tinggi 11,000kV termasuk *overhead line* serta *transformer* 50kVA oleh Kementerian Utiliti Telekomunikasi menerusi *Sarawak Energy Berhad*.

Tuan Speaker, begitu juga pembangunan kawasan Lubok Nibong yang suatu ketika dahulu pernah menjadi jantung penanaman padi di kawasan Kalaka. Saya percaya bukan kawasan itu sahaja yang berpotensi dibangunkan, malah banyak lagi kawasan di Daerah Saratok yang boleh diusahakan menerusi konsep taman agro dan pertanian moden seperti di Kampung Perpat, Kampung Kupang serta Kampung Paloh. Sesungguhnya, Rang Undang-undang ini amat relevan kerana tanaman padi bukan sekadar aktiviti pertanian biasa. Ia berkait langsung dengan keselamatan makanan, kelangsungan ekonomi rakyat, warisan budaya dan kedaulatan sesebuah negeri. Bak kata orang tua-tua "kalau tidak dipecahkan ruyung, manakan dapat sagunya". Jika kita mahu melihat Sarawak menjadi kuasa baharu pengeluaran beras negara, maka kita mesti berani melaksanakan perubahan besar mulai hari ini.

Perkara pertama yang saya ingin sentuh ialah berkaitan dengan tahap sara diri atau *self-sufficiency ratio (SSR)*. Kita sedia maklum bahawa Malaysia sebelum ini lazimnya hanya mencapai SSR beras sekitar 71% dan kini dilaporkan menurun kepada kira-kira 53% seperti yang pernah dinyatakan oleh Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu. Ini menunjukkan negara masih bergantung kepada import beras luar. Justeru, pembukaan lebih banyak kawasan penanaman padi berskala besar di Sarawak merupakan langkah yang amat tepat dan strategik. Jika kawasan berpotensi dapat dibangunkan secara sistematik, saya percaya Sarawak mampu membantu negara mencapai SSR beras sehingga 80%.

Tuan Speaker, kedua, Sarawak mempunyai potensi sangat besar untuk muncul sebagai pengeluar beras utama negara. Kita masih mampu, kita masih mempunyai keluasan tanah yang

luas, sumber air yang mencukupi serta ekosistem pertanian yang sesuai. Kawasan delta, tanah rendah dan sawah tradisional yang sebelum ini kurang dibangunkan boleh dijadikan jelapang padi baharu secara moden dan tersusun. Tambahan pula, permintaan terhadap beras tempatan kini semakin meningkat. Rakyat semakin menghargai produk tempatan seperti Beras Adan Bario dan *variety* tradisional yang lain yang mempunyai nilai premium. Tidak kurang juga beras wangi dari kawasan rendah yang mempunyai kualiti dan rasa yang sangat baik seperti beras bali. Ini membuka peluang besar kepada petani untuk meningkatkan pendapatan melalui pengeluaran beras berkualiti tinggi.

Tuan Speaker, ketiga ialah aspek teknologi moden. Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak sering menekankan kepentingan pertanian moden dengan penggunaan teknologi dalam sektor pertanian. Ini menunjukkan Sarawak kini berada di landasan tepat menuju transformasi pertanian pintar. Penggunaan dron, sistem pengairan pintar, mekanisasi, teknologi satelit, *Internet of Things (IoT)* serta automasi pertanian mampu meningkatkan hasil pertanian pada masa sama mengurangkan kos operasi.

Justeru itu, saya berharap melalui Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak kelak, kawasan-kawasan penanaman padi di DUN Kalaka tidak akan tercicir daripada menerima manfaat teknologi moden ini. Kita mahu penggunaan dron untuk pembajaan dan semburan, aplikasi pemantauan sawah, data cuaca masa nyata (*real-time*) serta automasi pertanian menjadi norma baharu dalam sektor penanaman padi di Sarawak termasuklah di Daerah Saratok. Dalam masa yang sama, aspek penyelidikan dan pembangunan juga mesti diperkukuhkan. Kerjasama di antara kerajaan, universiti dan institusi penyelidikan perlu diperluas bagi menghasilkan benih padi yang lebih tahan penyakit, tahan cuaca serta mempunyai hasil yang lebih tinggi.

Tuan Speaker, penubuhan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak juga diharap mampu mengatasi cabaran yang masih membelenggu sektor ini. Diantaranya ialah kekurangan infrastruktur pertanian seperti sistem pengairan, jalan ladang, saluran dan kemudahan logistik. Akibatnya, produktiviti petani rendah dan kos pengeluaran yang meningkat. Masih ada juga petani yang bergantung kepada kaedah tradisional kerana kekurangan akses kepada mesin moden. Justeru itu, saya berharap lembaga ini kelak dapat menjadi agensi penyelaras utama yang benar-benar melengkapkan apa yang kurang dan memperkukuhkan apa yang lemah. Lebih-lebih lagi dunia hari ini berhadapan dengan perubahan iklim yang semakin serius. Fenomena banjir, cuaca yang tidak menentu, kemarau serta serangan penyakit tanaman semakin memberi kesan kepada hasil padi. Tanpa sistem pertanian yang lebih tahan iklim (*climate-resilient agriculture*), hasil pengeluaran akan terus terjejas.

Tuan Speaker, selepas kita membahaskan perkara ini hari ini, saya percaya masa hadapan industri padi dan beras Sarawak sebenarnya cukup cerah. Apa yang penting ialah keberanian politik, dasar konsisten dan pelaksanaan yang berkesan. Dalam hal ini, saya melihat penglibatan generasi muda amat penting. Jika kita mahu mempercepatkan pembangunan jelapang padi moden lengkap dengan pengairan pintar, pusat penyimpanan, dan pusat pemprosesan dan mekanisasi penuh, maka kita memerlukan golongan muda sebagai penggeraknya. Kita perlu menjadikan sektor pertanian sebagai sektor berpendapatan tinggi dan berprestij. Berikanlah insentif kepada belia seperti geran permulaan, latihan teknologi pertanian, akses pembiayaan dan peluang penggunaan tanah secara lebih mudah. Oleh yang demikian, saya pernah mencadangkan supaya dibina sebuah Kolej Pertanian Vokasional menjadi satu realiti di Kaba dan dapat dibina dalam masa yang terdekat. Kita mahu melihat lebih ramai graduan usahawan muda tampil sebagai *agropreneur* moden bak kata peribahasa melayu "*pemuda harapan bangsa, pemuda tiang negara*". Merekalah kelompok paling sesuai untuk memacu revolusi pertanian moden Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, kita mahu supaya Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak memberi penambahan baik kepada *marketing facilities*. Ianya bertujuan supaya pihak kawal selia padi dan beras bagi menilai semula kaedah pemberian lesen membeli padi dan memberi kelonggaran syarat-syarat pemilikan lesen dan menyediakan setiap kawasan perlu diwujudkan pusat belian padi. Akhir kata, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier

Sarawak serta Kerajaan Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) di atas komitmen, sokongan dalam usaha merealisasikan penubuhan Padi dan Beras Sarawak 2026. Kerajaan Sarawak telah menunjukkan kesungguhan memperkukuhkan sektor agro makanan melalui pembangunan jelapang padi, bantuan input pertanian, subsidi serta latihan kepada petani. Hari ini tanaman padi bukan dianggap satu isu kecil masyarakat luar bandar semata-mata. Sebaliknya ia adalah soal masa depan, keselamatan makanan dan kedaulatan negeri. Jika kita gagal bertindak sekarang, generasi yang akan datang terus bergantung kepada bekalan luar. Namun jika kita merancang dengan baik, melaksana dasar secara konsisten dan memanfaatkan teknologi moden, saya percaya Sarawak bukan sahaja mampu mencapai satu, mencapai tahap sara diri beras, malah berpotensi menjadi hab pengeluaran beras moden utama di rantau ini. Dengan itu, Kalaka menyokong *Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak 2026*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Kalaka. Seterusnya, Yang Berhormat Baleh. Silakan.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kerana memberi ruang dan peluang kepada saya untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak, 2026 di Dewan yang mulia ini. Saya juga ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak atas pembentangan Rang Undang-undang ini. Pembentangan ini jelas mencerminkan komitmen berterusan beliau dalam memperkukuhkan agenda keselamatan makanan serta memodenkan sektor pertanian negeri Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, saya berpandangan bahawa Rang Undang-undang ini merupakan satu langkah yang amat penting, relevan dan strategik dalam usaha Kerajaan Sarawak memperkukuhkan keselamatan makanan serta membangunkan industri padi dan beras secara lebih moden, sistematik dan berdaya saing. Kita harus sedar bahawa isu keselamatan makanan bukan lagi satu pilihan tapi satu keperluan yang mendesak. Dunia hari ini berhadapan dengan pelbagai cabaran termasuk perubahan iklim, konflik geopolitik, gangguan rantaian bekalan global serta kenaikan harga makanan yang memberi kesan langsung kepada rakyat.

Pada masa ini Sarawak hanya mampu menghasilkan sekitar 30,000 tan metrik beras setahun. Sedangkan keperluan negeri dianggarkan mencecah 450,000 tan metrik. Ini menjadikan tahap sara diri SSL Sarawak hanya sekitar 21%. Sekali gus menunjukkan kebergantungan yang tinggi kepada import luar. Oleh itu saya menyokong penuh sasaran Kerajaan Sarawak untuk meningkatkan SSL beras kepada 60% menjelang tahun 2030.

Sasaran ini bukan saja realistik tetapi amat penting dalam memastikan keselamatan makanan negeri dalam jangka panjang. Tuan Speaker, penubuhan *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board* melalui Rang Undang-undang ini akan membolehkan pembangunan industri padi dilaksanakan secara lebih tersusun dan berfokus. Lembaga ini akan memainkan peranan penting dalam menyelaras dasar, pembangunan tanah, penyelidikan pertanian, latihan petani, penggunaan teknologi moden serta pengurusan rantaian bekalan beras negeri.

Saya difahamkan bahawa Kerajaan Sarawak telah mengenalpasti sekitar 14,000 hingga 15,000 hektar tanah berpotensi untuk dimajukan sebagai kawasan penanaman padi. Ini merupakan satu langkah yang amat positif dan membuktikan kesungguhan kerajaan dalam memperkasa sektor pertanian makanan.

Sebagai wakil rakyat bagi kawasan Baleh, saya ingin melihat kawasan seperti Tunoh turut diberi perhatian sebagai kawasan baharu penanam padi berteknologi tinggi. Kawasan ini mempunyai potensi besar dari segi keluasan tanah, sumber air serta kesesuaian untuk dibangunkan dengan pendekatan pertanian moden sekiranya disokong dengan infrastruktur dan teknologi yang mencukupi.

Tuan Speaker, saya percaya pembangunan kawasan seperti Tunoh dan juga kawasan lain bukan saja dapat meningkatkan pengeluaran padi negeri malah mampu mengubah landskap

ekonomi masyarakat luar bandar melalui pembangunan pertanian moden. Peluang pekerjaan baharu dapat diwujudkan kepada penduduk tempatan khususnya golongan belia. Saya juga berharap Kerajaan Sarawak memberi penekanan kepada penggunaan teknologi moden seperti dron pertanian, sistem pengairan pintar, mekanisasi ladang, teknologi pemetaan tanah serta penggunaan benih padi berkualiti tinggi.

Penggunaan teknologi ini akan meningkatkan produktiviti, mengurangkan kos pengeluaran serta menjadikan sektor pertanian lebih cekap dan kompetitif. Selain itu, usaha ini juga berpotensi menarik minat golongan muda untuk menceburi bidang pertanian moden. Kita perlu mengubah persepsi bahawa pertanian adalah sektor tradisional semata-mata sedangkan hakikatnya ia kini berasaskan teknologi, inovasi dan pengurusan profesional yang mampu menjana pendapatan yang lumayan.

Tuan Speaker, dalam usaha membangunkan sektor ini, kebajikan petani dan pesawah juga perlu terus diberi perhatian. Bantuan subsidi, latihan kemahiran, akses pembiayaan serta jaminan pasaran perlu diperkukuhkan bagi memastikan mereka terus berdaya saing dan bermotivasi meningkatkan pengeluaran. Di samping itu penggunaan infrastruktur luar bandar seperti jalan pertanian, sistem saliran bekalan elektrik dan capaian internet juga amat penting bagi memastikan pelaksanaan projek pertanian dapat dijayakan dengan berkesan.

Saya yakin sekiranya semua usaha ini dilaksanakan secara menyeluruh dan bersepadu, Sarawak bukan saja mampu mencapai sasaran SSL 60% menjelang tahun 2030 malah berpotensi menjadi antara pengeluar beras utama di rantau ini pada masa hadapan.

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-undang ini jelas mencerminkan komitmen Kerajaan Sarawak dalam memastikan keselamatan makanan negeri sentiasa terjamin. Ia bukan saja memberi manfaat kepada sektor pertanian malah menjadi pemangkin kepada penggunaan ekonomi luar bandar serta peningkatan taraf hidup rakyat. Dengan penuh keyakinan dan harapan demi masa depan rakyat Sarawak saya Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak N.64 Baleh menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak, 2026 ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Baleh. Seterusnya, Yang Berhormat Bukit Begunan, silakan.

YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang: Thank you very much, Tuan Speaker. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026* tabled by the Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Minister for Agriculture, Food, Commodity and Regional Development which also ADUN for N.69 Kemena.

I do not wish to dwell in details of the Bill, Tuan Speaker, but I would like to make general comments and suggestions in support of the Bill. Rice is our staple food thus it is of paramount importance for the state to produce sufficient supply of rice to meet the demand of the people. It was reported that the state is producing approximately 21% rice needs and the remaining slightly over 70% are imported. This is a cause for concern Tuan Speaker, for in an event of crisis, be that natural disaster or conflict affecting the producing country, it will directly affect Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, let us look at the statistic to see how far the supply production paddy and rice in Sarawak had dropped. Tuan Speaker, statistic from the *'Booklet Statistic Tanaman 2025, Bahagian Perangkaan Pertanian Statistik, Jabatan Pertanian Malaysia'*. It shows a declining trend in paddy cultivation and production for Sarawak.

Now, let's look at the total acreages planted and paddy production from 2020 to 2024. In 2020, 90,865 hectares of land were planted with paddy and in 2022 it dropped to 77,943 hectares and in 2024 it further reduced to only 45,269 hectares. There was a 50% drop in areas being planted within, spend just four years.

Similarly, it was reported in 2020, Sarawak produced 167,589 metric tonnes of paddy. I am talking, I am mentioning paddy, Tuan Speaker. 77,943 metric tonne in 2022 and 45,269 metric tonne in 2024. Tuan speaker, there are many reasons for reduction in paddy cultivation and production. As we all know, paddy farming or paddy cultivation in rural areas involved family members, mainly on a plot of NCR land. Paddy grown were mostly for own consumption and not for commercial purposes. Only popular local varieties such as *Beres*, Mamut just to name a few are sold in small quantity as a niche product directly at the local market and these are the paddy varieties that could be further developed later on.

Secondly, land once planted with paddy is now being planted with oil palm which give better economic returns to farmers. Hence, land for paddy planting is getting less and less. Similarly, younger generation tends to shy away from farming. So, in the rural areas, farming activities were mostly done by the elders or the older people. Therefore, the board should look into this problem and find ways and means to address these issues.

Tuan Speaker, the introduction of the Bill is indeed appropriate and timely to revive the once and important activity among the rural community. Employing people who are experts in the field, I am optimistic the board can revive paddy industry towards technology-driven and mechanization.

Tuan Spealer, Kedah, for example, which is known as the rice bowl of Malaysia, it is one of the areas in Malaysia with the biggest granary areas, covered an area of approximately 1,200, 1,200, 100,000, 25, 125,000, sorry, Tuan Speaker, 125,987 hectares. Now, the success of Kedah rested on one agency known as Muda Agriculture Development Authority or MADA, which was formed in 1970 with the vision as a leading agency in the development of modern, efficient and stable rice industry, the prime mover in the sheer socio-economic development of the farming community in the areas within each authority.

Now, Muda also covers an area of approximately over 20,000 hectares of land in Perlis. Our neighbour, Sabah, is also modernising its paddy industry with the launching of Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sabah in May 2025 and reported full operational by January 2026. So other states like Sabah is taking bold steps to boost rice production to avoid over-dependence on imported rice. This emphasizes the importance of food security, not only for the whole country, Malaysia but the state as well.

Tuan Speaker, with the establishment of Sarawak Padi and Rice Board, which among others to regulate the development of paddy industry. I believe the state should be able to achieve targeted 60% rise self-sufficiency level by 2030, is outlined in Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030. We have visionary leader Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, who are focused on his vision, has set target of about 40,000 hectares of paddy granary by the year 2030.

A pilot project in Gedong using modern techniques is an example in stepping stone towards developing other areas utilizing modern farming method. The SMART Large-Scale Rice Field Programme pilot project in Tanjong Bijat, Sri Aman under IADA Batang Lupar Granary Area, has proven its effectiveness when it successfully boosted paddy yield which means the increase in paddy yield per hectare.

For the information of this august House, IADA Batang Lupar Granary Area, which was mentioned by several Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House, is a federal owned and funded project in which the overall development is rather slow. Correct me if I am wrong, funded for the project stopped or ceased in 2018 when there was a change in the Federal Government.

In 2018, Pakatan Harapan took over the Federal Government. This has caused a disruption in the development of the area until today. With sound planning and management, the paddy industry can be developed into an important sector that will provide an opportunity for local farmers to improve their income.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak has diverse varieties of traditional local paddy for both wet and hill paddies. Over the years farmers have opted for commercial rice varieties which give better yield. Hence, I believed most of these traditional local varieties may have gone extinct.

Therefore, Tuan Speaker, I would like to propose that the Sarawak Paddy and Rice Board should consider create a paddy seeds bank. A seed bank is a secure facility that preserves seeds from a wide variety of plants species in the dormant state to protect genetic diversity. Its purpose is to serve as a critical backup against extinction, natural disaster in agriculture collapse.

To undertake the tasks, the Board could consider a collaborate with the Agriculture Research Centre Semenggok. We have quite good scientist at the research or even we have local university. The preserved seeds will be good source of reference for future research and scientific study.

Similarly, the Board should also consider setting up seedling production facility. Quality seeds are equally important to ensure only selected, certified and proven high yield, disease resistant paddy seeds are used and distributed or supply to local farmers and granary areas. Presently, our local farmers depend on imported seeds.

With the above comments, Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Yang Berhormat for Bukit Begunan. We have so far 20 Ahli Yang Berhormat who have spoken. They are another seven to go. So, all together will be 27 speakers. So, that is just for your information so that some of you will not have to repeat the points given by the earlier speakers, to shorten your debate because there will be another Bill coming up that is the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and well for time management, I think I just mentioned this so that you all know what to do.

Next, can I humbly request Yang Berhormat for Ba'kelalan, please.

YB Encik Baru Bian: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to debate on this timely Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 tabled by the Honourable Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Yang Berhormat for N.69, Kemena.

Tuan Speaker, I believe this is a pivotal piece of legislation that promises to reshape the future of agriculture in our beloved State of Sarawak. The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 is not just another law; it is an opportunity for us to empower our farmers, secure our food supply, and promote sustainable development in the padi and rice industry.

As the representative for Ba'kelalan, I am immensely proud to represent a constituency blessed with some of the most fertile land in Sarawak. The lush fields of Ba'kelalan, Long Semadoh, Long Sukang, Long Luping, Pa'Berunut and the surrounding areas, and the unique adan rice variety cultivated in our region epitomize the agricultural potential that this Bill aims to harness. This is not merely about financial gain; it is a commitment to self-sufficiency and food security for our communities.

Tuan Speaker, the Board's powers and functions outlined in this bill provide a robust framework for advancing our padi and rice industry. From the authority to issue licenses and permits to the ability to collect fees and engage in commercial activities, we are establishing a Board that can act decisively and effectively. This will enable us to formulate well-thought-out plans and projects tailored to the unique characteristics of our land and our people.

Additionally, the emphasis on research and development is crucial. By supporting innovative practices and technologies in padi and rice cultivation, we can enhance the quality of our produce, making sure that our farmers remain competitive in both local and international markets. The Board's

responsibility to advise and recommend strategic objectives will ensure that the needs of our producers, particularly the Lun Bawang community, are at the forefront of our agricultural policies.

Tuan Speaker, Ba'kelalan's proximity to Indonesia's new capital, Nusantara, presents us with an unprecedented opportunity. As this new urban centre arises, our region can become pivotal in supplying food to its population. We must capitalize on this geographical advantage by ensuring that our production is efficient, high-quality, and capable of meeting market demands.

Tuan Speaker, furthermore, the functions of this Board, such as coordinating activities related to planting, distribution, and marketing, will enhance the resilience of our rice industry. This integrated approach will not only ensure that our farmers receive the support they need but also facilitate better conditions for every stakeholder in the rice supply chain.

It has come to my attention, Tuan Speaker, that the federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) submitted to the International Union For The Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) 1991 Convention, Secretariat in Geneva, in September 2025, a draft bill proposing amendments to Malaysia's Protection of New Plant Varieties (PNPV) Act 2004 (Act 634). This effectively allows a foreign body to review and influence national and state-relevant legislation before Sarawak and other states have even been provided with the full text of the proposed amendments.

Tuan Speaker, UPOV 1991 is not merely a technical standard, it is a rigid intellectual property regime that prioritises commercial breeders through long-term monopoly rights, often at the expense of indigenous communities and small farmers who sustain local food systems. The proposed amendments could significantly weaken our ability to protect indigenous knowledge and ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising from the use of genetic resources. They may also undermine farmers' traditional rights to save, use, exchange, and sell seeds by replacing clear protections with vague restrictions that could expose farmers to royalty obligations and legal risks. Experience in other countries shows that similar regimes have led to higher seed prices, increased corporate control over agriculture, and the marginalization of local seed systems.

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is therefore timely. Pursuant to Clauses 7(k) and 8(a), (b) and (k), the Board will have the authority to safeguard the interests of our farmers. Discussions should be held with the federal ministry to convey our concerns regarding the lack of consultation and the potential impact of the proposed amendments on Sarawak's agricultural sector. In the circumstances, it would be prudent to withhold consent to the proposed amendments and reject accession to UPOV 1991.

The time for action is now, Tuan Speaker. With the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026, we can take significant strides toward ensuring that the Lun Bawang people, and all communities in Sarawak, benefit from the prosperity that our agricultural sector can bring. Let us unite in our commitment to food security, giving our farmers the support they deserve and positioning Sarawak as a leader in rice production in Malaysia.

In closing, I urge my fellow members of this august House to lend their support to this forward-thinking legislation. Together, we can now sow the seeds of a prosperous future for the paddy and rice industry, enhance the livelihoods of our farmers, and fortify our food supply for generations to come. Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for your indulgence.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Ba'kelalan, next I would like to call Yang Berhormat Engkilili followed by Yang Berhormat Tebedu, and Ngemah.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in the bill, Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 that has been presented by YB Minister for Food Industry, Commodity & Regional Development and Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena earlier.

Tuan Speaker, I rise to support the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. As stated in the Explanatory statement, this Bill seeks to establish the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board to regulate the padi and rice industry in the state and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Tuan Speaker, *padi* is not just a crop in Sarawak. It is a culture, it is livelihood, it is land. For example, in Engkilili or maybe in other areas too. Hill *padi* has been declining for years. It is not profitable. Young people leave. Land lies idle. We import rice that we could grow ourselves. This ordinance gives us the legal tool to reverse that trend. Allow me to explain and discuss several clauses related to this Bills as follows.

Tuan Speaker, Clause 3(1) establishes the Board as a body corporate with perpetual succession and a corporate seal. It can sue and be sued, hold property, and do all acts a body corporate may lawfully do. Clause 3(2) is significant for Sarawak. The Board shall for the purpose of the land code be deemed a native. This protects our native customary rights and ensures the Board can operate in NCR land without legal conflict. This Sarawak autonomy is in practice.

Compositions, Clause 4(1) sets the composition. The board will consist of chairman, deputy chairman, senior state officers, and more than five industry experts. Clause 4(4) ensures integrity by listing grounds for cessation of membership, including bankruptcy, corruption, or three absences without approval. Clause 5 deals with the common seal, custody, and authentication. Clause 6 states meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Schedule. Good governance is built into the law.

Tuan Speaker, accountability and financial control. Clauses 19 to 24. Clause 19 states the Statutory Bodies (Financial and Accounting Procedure) Ordinance, 1995 shall apply to the Board. This is the same standards as other statutory bodies. Clause 20 establishes the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Fund, controlled and administered by the Board, subject to the directions of Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri.

Clauses 21 list the purposes of the Fund. I want to highlight Clauses 21(f) and (g). The fund may be used for approved and lawful investments and acquisitions of shares or interests in companies or properties, and to pay any other expenses lawfully incurred in the performance of its functions. This gives the Board flexibility to invest in mills, storage, branding, and marketing. But it must be lawful and approved.

Clause 22 ensures transparency and audit. The Board must keep proper accounts and have them audited annually by the Auditor General or an auditor appointed with Minister's approval. Clauses 22(3) and (4) require the audited statement and Auditor General's observations to be laid on the table of this Dewan Undangan Negeri. Tuan Speaker, this is full public accountability.

Clause 23 requires the Board to obtain advance approval from Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri for its annual estimates of expenditure and any supplementary estimates. No spending without approval. Clause 24 requires the Board to establish and manage a reserve fund within the Fund. This is prudent financial management. We do not want the Board to collapse if there is a bad harvest or market crash.

Tuan Speaker,

Leadership and Administration Clauses 11 to 18

Clause 11(1) states the Board shall appoint a General Manager, with the approval of the Minister. Clause 11(2) makes the General Manager responsible for administration and management, and also Secretary to the Board. Clause 12(1) allows the Board to create permanent or temporary posts, with approval of the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri. Clause 12(2) allows appointment of persons with requisite qualification and experience.

Clause 13 makes the Statutory Bodies (Conduct and Discipline) Ordinance, 2004 apply to the General Manager and all persons appointed under Section 12. This ensures discipline and professional conduct.

Clauses 15 to 18 covers public servant status, delegation of powers, Public Authorities Protection Act, and obligation of secrecy. This ensures integrity, transparency, and confidentiality of farmer data.

Powers and Functions – Clauses 7 and 8

Clause 7(1) gives the Board power to do all things expedient or reasonably necessary for carrying out its functions. Clause 7(2) lists specific powers from issuing licences to commercialising research. Clause 7(2), *apa ini sudah lepas*. Ini cepat komputer ni. Sudah, okay. Clause 7(2)(m) is the catch-all do such other things as it deems fit to enable it to exercise its powers effectively.

Clause 8 sets the functions of the Board, advise Government on strategic objectives, implement development programs, promote better conditions for producers, register and coordinate all activities, provide technical advisory services, develop marketing strategy, and maintain international market for paddy or rice.

Clause 8(i) to (i)Clause 8(i), sorry. Clauses 15 to 18 covers public servant status, delegation of powers, Public Authorities Protection Act, and obligation of secrecy. This ensures integrity, transparency, and confidentiality of farmer. *Komputer sini laju ni, saya bergegar sebab*.

Conclusion from Law to Longhouse

This Ordinance gives Sarawak a legal tool to secure our food and our farmers. Clause 3 gives us the institution. Clause 4 gives us the governance. Clauses 7, 8 and 9 give us the powers, functions, and structure. Clauses 11 to 24 gives us the leadership, accountability, and financial safeguards.

With that, I support this Bill in full. I humbly ask the ministry to implement it in phases, starting with farmer support, data collection and training. Let this Board be the institution that makes Sarawak rice competitive, make our farmers proud, and makes our rural economy strong. Dengan ini saya menyokong *Bill* ini, Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Engkilili. Seterusnya, Yang Berhormat Tebedu.

YB Dr. Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker atas peluang yang diberikan kepada Tebedu. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development, who is a Member for N.69 Kemena, for introducing this Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 this morning in this august House.

Tuan Speaker, before I proceed further, I would like to share one *pantun*, probably that is very relevant to what we are talking about and discussing this afternoon.

*Marilah kita menanam padi,
Padi ditanam di dalam bendang,
Berbudi biar seikhlas hati,
Usah kita mengharap pujian.*

Food security is a national security. It guarantees all people at all times, have reliable access to enough safe and nutritious food to live a healthy and active life and it is a basic human right. Allow me to draw the attention of this august House on some facts and some figures to assist in my arguments this afternoon to justify why this Bill that we are talking, this Bill that we are discussing it

is very-very important, and it should get an all-around support from every Members of this august House.

Malaysia imports approximately 1.3 to 1.7 million metric tons equivalent to USD1.09 billion of rice annually to meet the domestic demand. And Malaysia's SSL, has been discussed and been touched by my fellow comrades earlier on is below 60%, creating a reliance on imports primarily from Vietnam, Pakistan, India, Thailand and Cambodia. It is an open knowledge, that Malaysia's Stockpile is sufficient to last only between 5.5 to 9 months only. So, if you relate to how important this Bill is, I think you understand where I should arrive at later on.

Tuan Speaker, in Sarawak, rice is not only a commodity, it is the staple food of the *rakyat* and the foundation of household stability. It is therefore important for the Sarawak Government to make sure that rice is available, affordable and sufficient to meet the needs of the people in order to maintain food security in Sarawak. In 2020, Sarawak's SSL level was 42% and the current trend indicates that it has declined to a level of about 32 to 34%. This is not a healthy trend for Sarawak. To ensure food security, coordinated steps must be taken seriously by the government to arrest and to stop this decline or this dipping paddy and rice production.

We knew very much, as per the minister's presentation this morning, we aim to strive for at least a 60% SSL by 2030 by producing about 240,000 metric tons to 500,00 metric tonnes per year by developing 14,000 to 15,000 hectares of new and upgraded granaries throughout Sarawak by planting high yield varieties such as MR269, MR315, MR104 that are disease-resistance and its capable to produce about 5.5 to 8 metric tonnes per hectares.

Now, understanding, acknowledging and realizing this real situation that we are in, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development and his Ministry and his entire ministry today, on this historical and successful tabling of the Bill. The proposed Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026, is timely and necessary to strengthen the state's ability to regulate, support and develop the paddy and rice industry in Sarawak in our pursuit to increase our SSL to 60% or higher, to improve our food security that relies heavily on imports. We knew this Bill aims to strengthen rice supply security, to protect local farmers, stabilize prices, improve self-sufficiency, reduce dependence on imported rice and ensure fair distribution for consumers.

Tuan Speaker, in an era of global food disruptions, climate uncertainty and rising prices and geopolitical uncertainties, Sarawak must have a very strong institutional and legal control over its rice ecosystem.

Tuan Speaker, I stand firmly in this august House today to support the Bill and to speak bravely to convince and to rally all the Members of this august House on why, and why the Bill must be supported by all, but today Tuan Speaker, I wish, and I want to highlight five main reasons.

- (a) To strengthen food security;
- (b) To protect farmers' welfare;
- (c) To stabilize rice prices for consumers; and
- (d) To increase Sarawak self-sufficiency level.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak as we all know, has very large land resources and agricultural potential. We hope that this Bill will encourage expansion of paddy cultivation areas, investment in modern agriculture, encourage high-yield disease-resistant seed technology and sustainable farming. This will help to reduce dependence on supply from other countries, particularly from Malaysia and various countries that I have mentioned earlier.

In this matter, the ministry perhaps can explore and look into the possibility of deploying DBOT or Design, Build, Operate and Transfer mechanism, an investment model and project delivery to

improve productivity, irrigation systems, water management, post-harvest handling and farmer's income.

Tuan Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of this august House on the situation in my constituency N.21 Tebedu. Di kawasan saya ada satu Skim Penanaman Padi di kawasan Labak Bayang. Kawasan ini telah diurus oleh Jabatan Saliran dan Pengairan Sarawak. Saya meihat satu peluang tercipta dengan penubuhan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak ini. Kita berharap dapat membantu dan menolong penanam padi agar pengeluaran padi di kawasan ini, dengan mengandalkan teknologi termoden untuk menarik minat para belia untuk berjinak-jinak dalam industri pertanian ini. Kerana seperti yang rakan-rakan kita bincangkan ataupun sebutkan sepanjang pagi tadi, aktiviti-aktiviti pertanian ini merupakan satu aktiviti yang kurang, yang tidak menarik minat belia kita pada hari ini.

Jadi oleh yang demikian, kita berharap dengan penubuhan badan yang baru ini, kita berharap program-program untuk menggalakkan para belia ini dapat diperkembangkan pada masa-masa yang akan datang.

Tuan Speaker, the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 is a forward-looking initiative that puts the welfare of farmers and consumers first. In a world facing food insecurity and economic uncertainty, Sarawak cannot afford to rely entirely on external systems for its staple food supply. This Bill represents stronger governance, better protection for our rakyat, and a resilient future for Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, allow me to repeat a classic statement from our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier when he launched *Sumbangan Keperluan Asas Sarawak ataupun singkatannya SKAS*, he mentioned, he wants every family at least have smoke coming out of their kitchen. This Bill, sir, is another important and major step to make sure that rice is not only affordable but easily available for our *rakyat*. This is another testimony and real evidence from a very able government that puts the interest of her people first! That's a government that must be supported wholeheartedly by her people. And that government Tuan Speaker, is a GPS Government.

Tuan Speaker, with these arguments, N.21 Tebedu, therefore, I fully support the *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026*. Thank you very much.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Tebedu. Yang Berhormat for Ngemah, followed by Machan, Meradong and Telang Usan. So, you will be the last. Okay. Yang Berhormat Ngemah please.

YB Encik Anyi anak Jana: Tuan Speaker, selamat petang dan salam sejahtera. Saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan terima kasih di atas kesempatan yang telah diberikan kepada saya untuk turut serta dalam membahaskan *Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak, 2026* yang telah dibentangkan di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Saya juga ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak, atas pembentangan Rang Undang-undang ini dengan penuh komitmen dan tanggungjawab di Dewan yang mulia ini pada pagi ini.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.49 Ngemah, saya berpandangan bahawa Rang Undang-undang ini merupakan satu langkah strategik yang amat penting dalam memperkukuh keselamatan makanan negeri Sarawak, khususnya dalam sektor padi dan beras yang menjadi makanan ruji Sarawak.

Saya mengambil maklum bahawa Rang Undang-undang ini bertujuan menubuhkan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak sebagai sebuah pihak berkuasa pusat dan berkanun yang berperanan menyelaraskan, membangunkan serta memperkukuh industri padi dan beras di negeri Sarawak.

Lembaga ini juga akan diberikan kuasa untuk menggubal perundangan berkaitan, selaras dengan kuasa Sarawak dalam perkara berkaitan pertanian dan tanah di bawah Perlembagaan Persekutuan, tertakluk kepada undang-undang bertulis yang berkuat kuasa.

Saya juga difahamkan bahawa tanah yang akan dibangunkan bagi tujuan penanaman padi akan ditetapkan sebagai kawasan di bawah tanah Kerajaan Sarawak. Langkah ini penting bagi mengelakkan sebarang pertikaian pemilikan tanah yang boleh menjejaskan pelaksanaan projek pembangunan padi di negeri ini.

Rang Undang-undang ini turut memperincikan takrifan padi dan beras, termasuk semua spesies atau *variety*, dalam apa-apa bentuk serta merangkumi produk padi dan produk beras secara menyeluruh. Ia juga meliputi kuasa dan fungsi Lembaga, penubuhan jawatankuasa, pelantikan pengurus besar serta peruntukan dana serta kewangan.

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin menyentuh mengenai kawasan N.49 Ngemah yang terletak di bahagian Sibu atau daerah Kanowit. Setakat ini, Ngemah tidak tersenarai secara khusus dalam kawasan fokus utama penanaman padi berskala besar yang diumumkan oleh Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak, yang telah tertumpu kepada kawasan seperti Tanjung Bijat, Stumbin, Lingga, Gedong, Spaoh dan juga Limbang.

Walau bagaimanapun, Tuan Speaker, kawasan seperti Ngemah masih mempunyai potensi yang signifikan untuk dibangunkan dalam sektor padi, khususnya melalui penanaman padi tradisional serta pengeluaran beras berkualiti tinggi atau beras khas yang mempunyai nilai pasaran yang baik.

Berdasarkan keadaan setempat di Ngemah, Kanowit, pertanian padi yang dijalankan oleh komuniti setempat adalah berbentuk campuran antara padi bukit atau padi huma (tradisional) dan padi sawah. Padi bukit atau padi huma ini lazimnya ditanam di kawasan tanah kering oleh komuniti luar bandar, termasuk komuniti Iban, dengan Sarawak mempunyai kepelbagaian sehingga ratusan *variety* padi tradisional yang diwarisi turun-temurun.

Sementara itu, padi di sawah pula melibatkan penggunaan *variety* moden yang telah diperkenal dan disyorkan untuk meningkatkan hasil pengeluaran, antaranya seperti MR27 (Kadaria), MR30, MR52 (Manik), Mahsuri Line 17, serta *variety* lain seperti MR220 CL-2 dan MR269 yang turut ditanam secara meluas di peringkat nasional. Kepelbagaian *variety* ini bukan sahaja mencerminkan kekayaan agro-biodiversiti Sarawak, malah berpotensi untuk terus dibangunkan sebagai sumber makanan berkualiti dan produk beras bernilai tinggi pada masa hadapan.

Dalam konteks ini juga, Sarawak telah membuktikan keupayaan menghasilkan beras premium seperti beras Bario, yang terkenal dengan kualiti dan reputasi tinggi di peringkat tempatan dan juga peringkat antarabangsa. Ini menunjukkan bahawa pembangunan beras berkualiti tinggi boleh diperluaskan di kawasan lain yang berpotensi seperti kawasan-kawasan di DUN N.49 di Ngemah.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga menyambut baik fokus pembangunan sektor padi negeri Sarawak yang merangkumi pembangunan infrastruktur pertanian, penggunaan teknologi canggih, serta penanaman padi *hybrid* secara berskala besar, yang disokong oleh pelaburan strategik bernilai kira-kira RM1 bilion. Usaha ini dijangka meningkatkan produktiviti, memperluaskan kawasan penanaman yang berdaya maju, serta memperkukuh keselamatan makanan negeri Sarawak secara keseluruhannya.

Dalam hubungan ini, saya juga ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada kepimpinan Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Zohari Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg atas visi dan usaha berterusan beliau dalam menjadikan Sarawak sebagai hab pembekal makanan negara, khususnya dalam sektor agro ekonomi.

Tuan Speaker, aspirasi Kerajaan Sarawak untuk mencapai tahap sara diri (*self-sufficiency*) dalam pengeluaran beras menjelang tahun 2030 adalah satu matlamat yang amat wajar dan strategik. Ia membuka ruang kepada pembangunan sektor padi secara lebih inklusif, termasuk di kawasan luar bandar yang berpotensi seperti Ngemah, melalui pendekatan teknologi moden, sistem pertanian bersepadu sokongan infrastruktur yang berterusan. Maka dengan ini saya dengan penuh yakin dan bertanggungjawab menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap *Rang Undang-undang Padi dan Beras Sarawak, 2026*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih Yang Berhormat Ngemah, seterusnya Yang Berhormat Machan.

YB Encik Allan Siden Gramong: Tuan Speaker, salam sejahtera dan selamat petang. Thank you for allowing me to participate in this debate of *Sarawak Padi and Rice Bill, 2026*.

First, I would like congratulate Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Honourable Member for N.69 Kemena, Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development of Sarawak for tabling this Bill before this august House this morning. I rise today to give my full support to the proposed Sarawak Padi and Rice Bill. This Bill is very important because is not only about rice farming alone. It is about security, rural development, economic stability, and the future resilience of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, today, Sarawak still depends heavily on imported rice to meet the needs of our people. Our rice self-sufficiency level remains low. This means that large portion of the rice consumed by our people still comes from outside of Sarawak. As long as we continue to depend much on outside supply, Sarawak will remain vulnerable to global disruptions, rising prices, shortages, transportation problems, and international uncertainties.

Recent world events have clearly shown us how fragile global supply chains can be. Wars, climate change, shipping disruptions, and rising costs have affected food supply across many countries. When things happen, ordinary people suffer first through higher prices and supply shortages. Because of this, Sarawak must strengthen its own food security and improve our ability to manage our rice supply more effectively.

Tuan Speaker, one of the main justifications for this proposed Bill is Sarawak's unique geography and demographic situation. Sarawak is very large, covering more than 120,000 square kilometers. Many of our people live in rural areas, remote settlements, and riverine communities. Delivering rice and supplies to these areas is not an easy task.

Transportation costs are high. Connectivity remains a challenge in certain areas. The realities faced by Sarawak are very different compared to Peninsular Malaysia. Because of these unique conditions, the federal *mekanisme* alone may not always be sufficient to address the specific needs of Sarawak. That is why Sarawak needs its own legal framework that allows the Sarawak Government to respond according to our local conditions and priorities.

This proposed Bill will allow the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board to be better coordinated local stockpiling, distribution systems, production planning, and emergency response measures for the benefit of the people.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is indeed to strengthen Sarawak's food security and self-sufficiency. At present, Sarawak remains heavily dependent on imported rice. While federal law regulates imports and national supply matters, it does not fully provide Sarawak with the flexibility needed to implement state-led production expansion and long-term food resilience planning.

This Bill will allow Sarawak to take more proactive steps to increase local rice production, strengthen strategic buffer stocks, and stabilize supply during emergencies or market disruptions. This is not about replacing federal law. This is about complementing the existing framework while giving Sarawak the tools needed to protect our own interests and the welfare of our people.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is also very important for our smallholder farmers. Many paddy farmers in Sarawak are small-scale farmers working on Native Customary Rights land. Some still practice traditional farming methods passed down by generations. Federal legislation may not fully address the realities faced by these farmers, especially in the relation of NCR land, local farming practices, and rural development needs. This Bill will help to close the gaps.

Tuan Speaker, it will create opportunities for the State Government to provide better support through irrigation systems, farm infrastructure, mechanism, improved seed programmes, technical assistance, and development initiatives aimed to increase productivity and improve farmers' incomes. Sarawak has also identified several high potential paddy development areas such as Sri Aman, Mukah, Kapit, and Limbang. These areas have strong potential for expansion and modernization of the paddy industry. However, without a proper state legal framework, coordination of large-scale development programmes can be more difficult.

This proposed Bill will allow the State Government to coordinate development efforts more efficiently, attract investment, mobilise resources, and strengthen cooperation between agencies involved in agriculture and rural development.

Tuan Speaker, I also wish to emphasise that this Bill is drafted carefully to complement federal law and not to contradict it. The focus of this Bill is on matters with the state's responsibilities and powers, including production planning, local licensing, distribution management, buffer stocks, farmer development, monitoring systems, and land-related matters. This approach will strengthen Sarawak's administrative capability while remaining within the broader federal framework. At the same time, it reflects Sarawak's efforts to exercise greater responsibility in managing sectors that directly affect the welfare of our people.

Tuan Speaker, food security is no longer an issue we can take lightly. If another global crisis happens tomorrow, Sarawak must be prepared. We cannot afford to rely entirely on external supply chains without having our own systems and safeguards in place.

This Bill provides the legal foundation for Sarawak to act quickly during emergencies, stabilize supplies, manage reserves, and ensure fair distribution of rice across the state. This Bill is about protecting the people of Sarawak. It is about strengthening our resilience. It is about supporting our farmers. It is about preparing for future challenges. And most importantly, it is about ensuring that future generations of Sarawakians will continue to have stable and secure access to food. Tuan Speaker, for these reasons I fully support the proposed Sarawak Padi and Rice Bill, 2026.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Machan. Next, Yang Berhormat Meradong, to be followed by Yang Berhormat Telang Usan, Bawang Assan, Serembu, Opar, and lastly Pujut hopefully. Meradong, please.

YB Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to take part in Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 which was tabled by Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development and also Honourable Member for N.69 Kemena,

The Soil of Sovereignty

Tuan Speaker, we stand today at a crossroads between tradition and survival. For decades, Sarawak has relied on Padiberas Nasional Berhad (BERNAS) and the kindness of global supply chains to fill our rice bowls. But we have seen in recent years, those chains are fragile. With our Self-Sufficiency Level (SSL) hovering at a precarious 21%, we are not just importing rice, we are importing risk.

The Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 is our answer to that risk. It is the legislative bedrock upon which we build our food sovereignty. Designed with a dual mandate, its primary goal

is mass-market food security, yet it also contains specific regulatory mechanisms to protect and commercialise Sarawak's unique heirloom diversity.

The Dual-Track Strategy

Tuan Speaker, for food security, through the designation of paddy development areas, we provide the legal certainty required to deploy the RM1 billion infrastructure fund. We cannot ask our farmers to double-crop with 19th century irrigation. It is hoped that this Bill brings the water; it brings the mechanisation, it brings the 60% Self-Sufficiency Level target within reach.

The State Government's recent plans to develop agroparks around Sarikei, Betong, and Mukah are admirable, we hope the state will support more areas like Bintangor to be developed into agroparks too, while also allowing private sector participation in those zones.

Heritage Preservation

On the point of protecting our heirloom seeds, Sarawak has more than 500 varieties with informal names. We hope the Board will facilitate the formal characterisation and certification of these seeds, making them market-ready because this Bill is their greatest shield.

By creating Genetic Purity Zones, we are legally cordoning off our Bario, Biris, Bajong, and other varieties from the risk of cross pollination. We are not standardising them into oblivion but certifying them for the global stage. We are turning our genetic diversity into a geographic indication, ensuring our rural and farming communities get a premium price for a premium product.

The Human Element

Tuan Speaker, to those who worry about the autonomy of the smallholders, just look at the agropark model integrated into the Bill. It does not replace the farmer, it equips them and brings the drones, the Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, and the modern harvesters that a single family cannot afford. It is how we make farming attractive again for the youths today.

Word of Caution

Tuan Speaker, with that said, in our rush to modernise, we must take care that we do not industrialise the soul out of our traditional grains. Furthermore, by creating a board to oversee the entire value chain, it moves beyond advisory roles into real regulatory coordination of production, distribution, and commercialisation. If left unchecked, it could become a bottleneck. We hope this Bill will prevent that. Unlike previous federal models, this Board is a Sarawak's first entity.

As it is empowered by our own State List under the Constitution, it is my hope that the Board ensures that decisions made about Sarawak's soil are made by Sarawakians for Sarawakians. We hope this Bill will also encourage pilot projects and strategic collaborations between the board, local entrepreneurs, academia, and technology providers to develop precision agriculture, mechanisation, irrigation, drone applications, and smart farming solutions tailored especially for Sarawak's geographical conditions.

Tuan Speaker in closing, food security is not a luxury, it is a fundamental right, and we can continue to be a customer of the world, or we can become the masters of our own harvest. The Bill is not just about farming; it is about sovereignty and technology. By shifting from a subsidy-dependent traditional model to a high driven statutory model that support farmers and reward results. With that, Sarawak can derisk its food supply against global climate and supply chain volatility. With above observation, N.46 Meradong fully supported Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Meradong. Next, Yang Berhormat Telang Usan, please.

YB Dato Dennis Ngau: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving Telang Usan the opportunity to participate in today's debate and to express our full support for the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 which has been tabled by the Honourable Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak and Member for N.69 Kemena.

For long, the public especially Sarawakians may not aware but of late through daily transaction when buying food, it becomes clearer that food security has now become a global agenda. The world is facing uncertainties in food supply chains, climate change, rising import costs, and geopolitical instability. Under such circumstances, Sarawak cannot continue to depend entirely for the needs of the people living in the state.

The establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board represents a highly significant, strategic and transformational initiative by the caring Sarawak Government in strengthening the state's food security agenda, while ensuring a more stable, sustainable and resilient food supply especially rice production for the long term. Therefore, I too agree with all the other Member of the august House who spoke earlier that, the establishment of a dedicated body that focuses entirely on the development of paddy cultivation and rice production in Sarawak is a highly strategic and forward-looking step.

The establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is consistent with approaches adopted by many successful agricultural economies or nations around the world. For example, India established the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to strengthen food security, stabilise rice supply, manage food reserves, and support farmers. Through strong institutional coordination, India transformed itself into one of the world's largest rice producers.

The Philippines, through its National Food Authority (NFA), focuses on emergency rice reserves, price stability, storage, and food distribution. This demonstrates that rice institutions are not only about agriculture, but also about economic stability, crisis preparedness, and national resilience. Thailand, through its Rice Department and National Rice Policy and Management Committee, has successfully modernised its rice industry through technology, mechanisation, research, digital agriculture, and strong policy coordination, making it one of the world's leading rice exporters. Similarly, South Korea continues to strengthen its rice sector through government support for mechanisation, technology adoption, and rice self-sufficiency.

These international examples clearly show that countries which prioritise food security often establish dedicated institutions to coordinate rice production, technology, farmer development, and food reserves. Though Sarawak is not a nation by itself to compare with, our state leaders are far sighted knowing that the future needs of our people. A hallmark of a caring leaders and government. Therefore, the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is not merely an agricultural initiative. It is a strategic and forward-looking step towards strengthening food security, modernising agriculture, supporting rural development, and building a sustainable rice industry for the future of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, food security can no longer be viewed merely as an agricultural issue, but rather as a matter of strategic importance and security for both Sarawak and the nation. In the current global landscape, we have witnessed how the world food system has become increasingly vulnerable to unexpected external shocks i.e. War. Sarawak cannot continue to rely excessively on imported food sources alone. We must build stronger internal resilience within food production system, particularly for rice, which remains the staple food of our people in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, in this regard, this Bill represents a comprehensive structural reform in governance of the paddy and rice industry in Sarawak. It signifies an important transition towards a

more integrated, coordinated and ecosystem-based management framework built upon the entire value chain. The paddy industry must not only focus on rice production alone. Even rice stalks and agricultural by-products can become valuable economic resources through biomass energy, livestock feed, organic fertilizer and downstream industries. This is how we create a complete agro-economic ecosystem for Sarawak.

The proposed Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will serve as the principal coordinating body connecting the entire industry value chain from the planning of cultivation areas, irrigation infrastructure development, adoption of modern mechanisation, management of agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilisers, planting systems, production, processing, storage and marketing, right up to the end consumers. Such approach is essential to ensure that every component within the industry does not operate in isolation but instead function cohesively as a well-structured and efficient system.

Tuan Speaker, I would also like to specifically highlight the importance of research and development (R&D), which is one of the key pillars embedded within the Bill. Sarawak possesses a rich diversity of traditional paddy varieties with immense potential for further development. For example, Bario rice, just to name one. These varieties are not only valuable as part of our heritage and local identity but also hold strong potential to be developed into commercially competitive varieties that could fetch high price.

However, this potential can only be fully realised through systematic, structured and continuous research efforts. Therefore, the role of this Board in coordinating the R&D agenda will be critically important. Through strategic collaboration among government agencies, research institutions, universities and the private sector, we can accelerate the development of new paddy varieties that are more productive, higher in quality, and more resilient to climate change and disease outbreaks.

In addition, a science and data-driven approach will enable us to identify the most suitable seed varieties according to the specific conditions of different areas across Sarawak whether based on soil type, climate, topography or other local factors so that varietal selection can be carried out more accurately, effectively and in alignment with local conditions.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak possesses vast and fertile land suitable for the modern and commercial development of paddy cultivation. With proper planning, I believe Sarawak can achieve self-sufficiency in rice production in the future. At this juncture, I would like to propose the Board, once up and running, to conduct feasibility study on areas with potential to be developed into large-scale and commercial paddy cultivation areas in Telang Usan and Baram as a whole. Among the areas with great potential are the Apoh region, Ulu Tinjar and Middle Baram. These areas have extensive land, reliable water resources, and significant potential to be developed using modern agricultural methods. If modern agricultural development can be introduced into these interior regions, it will not only increase the state's food production but also create new economic opportunities for the rural communities.

Tuan Speaker, I would also hope that this Board will not merely function as ordinary administrative body, but instead operate as a dynamic, professional, and results-oriented corporate entity. We no longer want "*business as usual*" approach. This Board must embrace a work culture centred on performance, profitability, productivity and efficiency. Every project undertaken must have clear indicators of success, including economic returns, increased production output and tangible benefits to the people. If we are serious about making the paddy industry a strategic sector for the state, then we must be bold enough to introduce new approaches, including the use of modern technology, mechanisation, smart agricultural data and more efficient farm management systems.

Tuan Speaker, another important matter is the involvement of the younger generation. Today, many young people perceive agriculture as a sector with little future. This perception must change. The Board must take the lead in modernising the paddy cultivation industry so that it becomes a

modern, high-technology, and profitable sector. Only when the sector becomes modern and financially rewarding will young people become interested in participating. We want to see the emergence of modern agropreneurs among the youth of Sarawak as envisioned in PCDS 2030.

Tuan Speaker, I am also of the view that the Board should be given the flexibility to obtain the best expertise available, including from abroad. If necessary, the Board should be allowed to engage foreign experts who possess deep experience in the global paddy and rice industry. In fact, certain key positions could also be opened to foreign professionals if such expertise is not yet available within the state. What is important is the transfer of knowledge, technology and experience to the people of Sarawak so that we can build a truly competitive paddy industry.

Tuan Speaker, lastly, I would like to emphasise that the objectives and mission of this Board must be aligned with and clearly incorporated into the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 agenda. The development of paddy industry is not merely an agricultural issue; it is directly linked to food security, rural development, employment opportunities, poverty reduction and the economic growth of the state. If implemented effectively, I believe Sarawak will not only be able to achieve rice self-sufficiency, but one day may even become an exporter of high-quality rice within the region.

In conclusion, I once again like to emphasise that the Sarawak Paddy and Rice Board Bill, 2026 is a highly important, timely and strategic initiative for the future of Sarawak. It is not merely the establishment of a statutory body, but rather a paradigm shift in the way we manage and develop the paddy and rice industry in Sarawak.

Tentang keselamatan makanan dan khidmat merancang masa depan. Dalam Kitab Tuhan dalam buku Kejadian 41:47-49 (Kisah Yusuf menyimpan gandum untuk menghadapi masa hadapan atau sukar), *"Tanah itu mengeluarkan hasil bertimbun selama tujuh tahun kelimpahan itu. Yusuf mengumpulkan sebagai bahan makanan".* Sebagaimana kisah Yusuf dalam Al-kitab yang merancang menyimpan makanan demi menghadapi masa depan yang tidak menentu, begitu juga Sarawak hari ini perlu membina kekuatan dalam pengeluaran makanan sendiri. Sarawak dikurniakan tanah yang subur dan sumber air yang banyak seperti yang tertulis dalam buku Mazmur 65:9-10, *"Tuhan memberkati tanah yang menghasilkan makanan bagi manusia"*.

Therefore, I humbly express my full support for this Bill, as I firmly believe that it will serve as a strong foundation for the transformation of Sarawak's paddy and rice sector, while further strengthening the state's long-term food security agenda in a more sustainable, resilient and progressive manner. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Telang Usan. Next, I respectfully called upon Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bawang Assan, please.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Thank you Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board.

Tuan Speaker, I would like to begin with respond to what the Honourable Member for Padungan had to say about the Bill. Honourable Member for Padungan raised the issues of past policy announcement that were not fully implemented as well as some of the promises and plan that did not materialize as expected. It must also be recognized that many of those policies were Federal Government initiatives or the Federal Government's driven programmes where implementation, challenges often involved multiple agencies, jurisdiction and levels of different authority.

And therefore, I would like to say this. We must be honest enough to acknowledge that there were indeed shortcomings, there were indeed delays and weaknesses in the past. Certain policy may have not achieved their intended objectives, while some implementation mechanisms were inadequate, fragmented or lack proper coordination.

However, instead dwelling on the past shortcomings or dwelling on the past failure the more important question before this august House is that what lesson we have learned and what corrective measures are we putting in place. It is precisely because of those past shortcomings and weaknesses and structural limitations that this Bill is to establish the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board has become necessary. The Board will provide Sarawak with a more focused, accountable and coordinated institutional framework to manage our paddy and rice sectors. It would allow the state to take a more proactive role in planning, implementation, monitoring, research, storage, distribution and food security preparations.

The objective is to ensure the policies are no longer fragmented or left without effective execution. The Board intends to strengthen implementation capacity, improve coordination among agencies, modernize the industry and ensure that food security policies are carried out more systematically, efficiently and professionally. In other words, the establishment of this Board itself is the response to the shortcomings of the past.

We cannot change history, but we can learn, we can certainly learn from history and build a stronger and more resilient system for the future. I think in general people are not interested in endless political arguments.

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Bawang Assan, will you give a way? Yang Berhormat Padungan.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you Tuan Speaker, thank you Yang Berhormat Bawang Assan. Ya, that is precisely what I would like to know and get it from the Honourable Minister what lesson have we learned but by the way, my question is it just happened that I raised a question on the 950 million that has been announced allocated for the Jelapang Padi Batang Lupar project. And it just happened that from the record Yang Berhormat for Bawang Assan was the Second Finance Minister at that time maybe Yang Berhormat for Bawang Assan can enlighten where has the money gone to? Enlighten this Dewan. Where has the money gone to? 950 million? ...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: I think, I think the...*(Inaudible)*...

Timbalan Speaker: You are asking for an interjection. Hold on. Hold on.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Is not a finance Bill, this is not a finance Bill, and I am raising an objection Under Standing Order 32(1) ...*(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: What is that?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: The question asking the Second ex-Minister to actually answer that particular question. I think this is already obtention. I think the Minister would...*(Interruption)*...be able to answer.

Timbalan Speaker: I think it's alright, Yang Berhormat for Kota Sentosa. This is the Member for Bawang Assan is speaking, and he has all the chances, he has all the right to reply to the questions. I think...*(Interruption)*...

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Yang Berhormat Speaker, Tuan Speaker let me say this...*(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: Okay, carry on Member for Bawang Assan.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: I was the Minister for Finance for the past 20 years as you know but the particular sum of money came in fragmented manner, piecemeal manner. I really couldn't recall how the money was spent and so on that was mainly that came mainly from the federal source so in a piecemeal manner. Ahh, I do not know whether...*(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: I have to be fair, Yang Berhormat for Padungan...*(Interruption)*... I think....

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: I don't know whether I couldn't recall...*(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: To be fair, because time has lapsed so long. Hold on, I think will pass it to the Minister and you are not obliged to answer that. You are not the oblige, Yang Berhormat for Bawang Assan but make it some inside, are not oblige...*(Interruption)*...

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Let me continue...*(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: Carry on.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: We cannot change history, but we can certainly learn from it and build a stronger and more resilient system for the future. As I said, people are not interested in endless political arguments over past shortcomings or failure. I think we have to thank the Honourable Member for Padungan for taking the trouble to revisit past programme and politics. Nevertheless, the people are more concerned. The people are more interested and more concerned about the future than the past. They want practical solutions, stronger institutions, effective implementations, and real results that can guaranteed food security and improve the livelihoods of our farmer.

The Bill is therefore about revisiting old arguments, it is about, the Bill is therefore not about revisiting old arguments, it is about building a better system for the future of Sarawak and ensuring that mistakes and weaknesses or shortcomings of the past are not repeated. This is why the Bill deserves the full support of this House.

This House must recognise that, Tuan Speaker, food security is no longer a merely an agricultural issue. It has become an issue of national security, economic stability and social well-being. As you know recent global climate change, rising transportation cost and interruption of international supply chain, have exposed the dangers of over dependence on imported food supply.

Sarawak import a substantial portion of the rice requirement from outside the state and from foreign countries. Such dependence leaves our people vulnerable to external shock beyond our control if exporting countries decide to restrict supply or if global prices rise sharply our people especially the people in the rural areas will suffer greatly.

Tuan Speaker, we know, we all know that Sarawak is heavily dependent on imported rice. Based on the latest official figures I could find, Sarawak self-sufficiency level stood at only 20% to 25% in 2024 and 2025. SSL stood at only 20% to 25% in 2024 and 2025. This means that Sarawak has to import approximately 75% or more percent of its rice requirement from overseas.

Tuan Speaker, as for rice reserved, Malaysia's Ministry of Agriculture stated in 2024 that the country has sufficient rice stocks for about five months nationwide, including Sarawak and Sabah. Specifically for Sarawak, the government's reserve stock stored in the warehouses was about 33,000 metric tonnes. Based on the current consumption patterns and Sarawak's low SSL, (Self-Sufficiency Level), the State could face serious pressure should imports be disrupted for a prolonged period.

Tuan Speaker, this is precisely why we must begin planning large-scale paddy development projects and gazette more land for paddy cultivation. It is also why the proposed establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is both timely and necessary in order to achieve a higher level of rice sufficiency by 2030. Therefore, Tuan Speaker, the establishment of Sarawak Bill and Rice Board is not merely desirable it is absolutely essential.

The proposed Bill, the proposed Board shall serve as the principal authority responsible for planning, regulation, coordination, and development of the paddy and rice industry in Sarawak. Its

establishment would provide a more focused and systematic approach towards achieving greater rice self-sufficiency while protecting the interests of both farmers and consumers.

Tuan Speaker, as outlined in the Bill, I am not going into detail as those have been mentioned by my fellow Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat particularly Clauses 7 and 8 relating to powers and functions of the Board. These are spelled out in detail in the Bill, Clauses 7, Clauses 8, Clauses 8(C), Clauses 8(D) and so on.

Tuan Speaker, I must say that, when it comes to power, it also comes with responsibility, so the Board... with great powers comes great responsibilities. This House must ensure that the Board does not become another bloated bureaucracy or a vehicle for abuse of power. Therefore, the legislation must contain clear safeguards and accountability mechanisms.

Firstly, all major decisions particularly involving borrowings, disposal of assets, incorporation of companies, or major investments should require prior approval from the Minister or from the State Cabinet.

Secondly, the accounts of the Board must be audited annually by independent auditors and tabled before this House. The Board should also be required to submit annual reports relating to its financial position, relating to its activities, achievements and future plans.

Thirdly, strict conflict-of-interest provisions must be enforced. Board members and officers must declare their interests and should not participate in decisions where personal interests are involved. Any abuse of position, any abuse of corruption, or misconduct must be dealt with firmly under the law.

Fourthly, procurement or tender processes must be transparent and subject to proper financial procedures and internal audits. Public confidence can only be maintained if the Board operates with integrity, with transparency, and with accountability.

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board therefore represents a long-term strategic investment in the future of Sarawak's paddy and rice industry. It is about protecting our people from food insecurity, strengthening rural development, empowering our farmers, creating employment opportunities, and reducing dependence on external supplies. If properly managed, the Board can become a catalyst for agricultural transformation and rural economic growth throughout the state.

The challenges ahead are undoubtedly enormous. It is going to be very challenging. But if we do not act now, we may one day face a situation where food becomes scarce, prices spiral beyond the reach of ordinary people, and our dependence on imports becomes a serious liability. Therefore, I support this Bill and urge this House to give it careful consideration in the best interests of Sarawak and future generations. In conclusion Tuan Speaker, Bawang Assan gives full support to this Bill. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat for Bawang Assan. As I have explained earlier, Yang Berhormat for Bawang Assan need not be obliged to answer what was raised by Padungan because though you are the Finance Minister then *yeah* but then you are not accountable now. Alright, so we leave it for the Minister to reply. May I call upon Yang Berhormat for Seremban, please.

YB Dato Miro anak Simuh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Finally, after long awaited. I rise to strongly support and advocate for the establishment of a dedicated Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill 2026, tabled by the Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development; and ADUN for Kemena. It is a strategic tightly, it is not only timely but absolutely critical for the future of food security, economic resilience and agricultural transformation in Sarawak. This Bill is not merely about agricultural, it is about the sovereignty, sustainability, rural development, and the survival of our people in an increasingly uncertain global environment and the effects of global conflict too.

Sarawak remains heavily dependent on imported rice despite possessing vast land resources, abundant water and favourable climate condition. Our current Self-Sufficient Level (SSL) for rice remains far below the desired level, making us vulnerable to external shocks, geopolitical tension, export restriction, climate disruptions and fluctuation in global commodity prices. Sarawak cannot continue relying excessively on imported rice while our local farmers struggle with fragmented policies, outdated systems, rising costs and weak institutional coordination.

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of this Board would allow Sarawak to coordinate the entire rice ecosystem under one strategic framework, as what been mentioned in the Clause 8 of the Bill. Currently, responsibilities are scattered across multiple agencies, resulting in bureaucracy, duplication, slow approvals and weak implementation coordination. We hope, by the establishment of the Board, it will function as the central driver to spearhead policy, execution, investment, innovation and long-term planning for Sarawak's rice industry.

Tuan Speaker, with the ongoing crisis globally and the increasing price of essential items such as foods and its related product, I propose that Sarawak sets an ambitious yet achievable target to increase our rice SSL to 60% within five years. This target must not remain merely as slogan; it must be backed by a comprehensive masterplan with measurable milestone. Sarawak possesses extensive Native Customary Rights (NCR) land, idle land and suitable lowland areas that can be transformed into productive paddy field. Almost all divisions in Sarawak have strong potential for large scale modern paddy cultivation. The Department of Agriculture with their expert field team must identify strategic rice belts and develop them systematically with proper drainage, irrigation, roads and mechanization support.

We take example of Taiwan, a small island nation, with limited land resources and still achieved a strong food security and nearly self-sufficiency in rice productions through long-term planning, discipline, technology and institutional reforms. Despite having a population of around 55 million people, mountainous terrains and limited agricultural land, Taiwan transforms its agricultural into one of the most productive in Asia.

For Sarawak, Taiwan's' experience is highly relevant because both regions share several similarities. High rainfalls and abundance of water resources, strong rural population and farming culture, strategic importance of rice as staple food. The need to balance industrial growth with food security. Large rural land areas that requiring organized irrigation and infrastructure. To endure success, it did not happen overnight. It must be built through decades of coordinated government intervention and support. That is why, once this Board is in place, we hope the success that we dream off will become a reality in the future.

Tuan Speaker, traditional small-scale family type farming methods can no longer meet future and food security demands. The Board must lead the transformation towards smart farming technology, precision agriculture, automated irrigation system, AI based monitoring system, Mechanized harvesting, high yield seed technology. This is how country like China and Thailand successfully increased their rice production efficiency. Sarawak must move from subsistence farming into modern commercial agriculture.

One of the biggest obstacles faced by agricultural projects today is excessive bureaucracy and delays of approvals. Many farmers and investors are complaining about slow land approval, complex licensing procedures, delayed irrigation and infrastructure projects, multiple agencies overlap, and slow fund disbursement. The Padi and Rice Board must function as a one-stop coordinating agency to streamline all process. Efficiency is critical if we truly want rapid agriculture transformation.

Tuan Speaker, the world today is becoming increasingly uncertain. Wars, trade conflict and monopolies, climate change, shipping disruptions and the rising global food price have shown us one painful truth, a nation that cannot feed itself will always remain vulnerable. Food security is priority and national agenda. Sarawak cannot depend excessively on external supplies for such

critical staple food. The time has come for us to take bold action and build our own rice ecosystem through this Board.

If we are serious about strengthening food security, empowering rural communities, modernizing agriculture and achieving 60% rice SSL within five years, then we must act decisively. Sarawak has land, resources and capability. What we need now is political will, strategic coordination and long-term commitment. The establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is no longer an optional, it is a strategic necessity. Let us together build a stronger, more self-reliance Sarawak for the future generation. Tuan Speaker, I beg to support. Thank you

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Yang Berhormat for Seremban. I would like to call upon Yang Berhormat for Opar.

YB Encik Billy anak Sujang: Tuan Speaker, terima kasih kerana memberi saya peluang second last untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-undang *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026* yang telah dibentangkan di Dewan yang mulia ini oleh Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah yang juga ADUN Kemena pagi tadi.

Rang Undang-undang ini amat penting dan strategik kepada masa depan Sarawak, khususnya dalam memastikan keselamatan makanan (*food security*), meningkatkan pengeluaran padi dan beras, memperkukuhkan ekonomi luar bandar serta menjadikan Sarawak sebagai, "*Rice Bowl of Malaysia*" sebagaimana aspirasi besar Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak.

Hari ini, dunia sedang berhadapan dengan pelbagai cabaran keselamatan makanan. Krisis perubahan iklim, perang, gangguan rantai bekalan global, kenaikan harga makanan dunia dan sekatan eksport beras oleh beberapa negara pengeluar utama telah memberikan kesan langsung kepada bekalan dan harga beras di Malaysia.

Kita semua masih ingat bagaimana negara-negara seperti India pernah mengehadkan eksport beras demi menjaga bekalan domestik mereka. Situasi ini membuktikan bahawa kebergantungan kepada import makanan adalah sangat berisiko. Oleh sebab itu, Sarawak mesti bertindak sekarang.

KEPENTINGAN RANG UNDANG-UNDANG INI

Tuan Speaker, penubuhan *Sarawak Padi dan Rice Board* melalui Rang Undang-Undang ini merupakan satu langkah berani dan berpandangan jauh oleh Kerajaan Sarawak. Buat pertama kalinya Sarawak akan mempunyai sebuah badan khusus yang bertanggungjawab sepenuhnya terhadap pembangunan industri padi dan beras di Sarawak secara menyeluruh.

Sebelum ini, pelbagai usaha pembangunan padi dijalankan oleh pelbagai agensi secara berasingan. Dengan adanya Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak ini, segala perancangan, pelaksanaan, penyelarasan, penyelidikan, pembangunan dan penguatkuasaan dapat disatukan di bawah satu badan yang lebih fokus dan efektif.

Ini amat penting kerana industri padi dan beras bukan sekadar soal pertanian semata-mata, tetapi berkait rapat dengan:

- (a) Keselamatan makanan Sarawak;
- (b) Kestabilan harga beras;
- (c) Pendapatan rakyat luar bandar;
- (d) Pembangunan ekonomi;
- (e) Peluang pekerjaan; dan yang
- (f) Kestabilan sosial rakyat.

Beras adalah makanan ruji rakyat kita. Jika bekalan beras terganggu, seluruh rakyat akan terkesan. Maka sebab itulah Rang Undang-undang ini sangat penting dan tepat pada masanya.

ASPIRASI YANG AMAT BERHORMAT PREMIER

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier atas visi besar beliau untuk menjadikan Sarawak sebagai pengeluar beras utama negara dan sebagai *"Rice Bowl of Malaysia"*. Ini bukan sekadar slogan politik, tetapi satu agenda strategik jangka panjang demi masa depan rakyat Sarawak.

Yang Amat Berhormat Premier telah menunjukkan komitmen yang sangat jelas apabila kerajaan telah memperuntukkan sebanyak lebih kurang RM1 bilion bagi pembangunan industri padi dan beras di Sarawak. Peruntukkan besar ini membuktikan bahawa kerajaan benar-benar serius untuk mentransformasikan sektor padi dan beras kepada pertanian moden. Antara fokus utama termasuklah:

- (a) Pembangunan kawasan jelapang padi yang lebih moden seperti yang telah disebutkan oleh rakan-rakan dalam perbualan awal mereka tadi;
- (b) Pembinaan sistem pengairan dan saliran;
- (c) Penggunaan teknologi moden dan mekanisasi;
- (d) Penyelidikan benih padi berkualiti tinggi;
- (e) Pembangunan infrastruktur luar bandar;
- (f) Latihan kepada petani; dan yang
- (g) Penglibatan anak-anak muda dalam sektor agro moden.

Ini adalah pelaburan masa depan Sarawak. Jika Sarawak berjaya meningkatkan pengeluaran beras sendiri, kita bukan sahaja mampu mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada import, malah berpotensi menjadi pengeksport beras yang berjaya suatu hari kelak.

KEADAAN SEMASA INDUSTRI PADI DI SARAWAK

Tuan Speaker, pada masa ini, tahap sara diri beras Sarawak masih rendah dan kita masih bergantung kepada import dari luar negara dan di Semenanjung Malaysia. Walaupun Sarawak mempunyai tanah yang luas, hanya sebahagian kecil sahaja digunakan untuk penanaman padi secara komersial dan moden.

Kawasan penanaman padi Sarawak tertumpu di beberapa kawasan seperti Sri Aman, Kabong, Betong, Saratok, Limbang, Lawas, Kuching, Samarahan dan beberapa kawasan lain. Namun demikian, potensi sebenar Sarawak jauh lebih besar kerana Sarawak mempunyai tanah yang luas, sumber air yang mencukupi, biodiversiti yang kaya dan kemampuan untuk membangunkan industri padi moden berskala besar. Dengan penggunaan teknologi moden seperti:

- (a) *Precision of farming*;
- (b) Penggunaan dron;
- (c) Mekanisasi ladang;
- (d) Teknologi AI dalam petanian;
- (e) Sistem pengairan pintar; dan
- (f) Benih yang berkualiti tinggi.

Saya percaya Sarawak mampu melonjakkan hasil pengeluaran padi dan beras secara signifikan.

Tuan Speaker, berdasarkan data pada tahun 2024, Sarawak mempunyai keluasan penanaman padi pada kira-kira 38.3 hektar dengan pengeluaran sekitar 83.7 tan metrik setahun dan 50.2 tan metrik beras setiap tahun. Ini melibatkan kira-kira 66,723 petani yang mengusahakan padi. Sebanyak 14,000 hektar kawasan baru telah dikenal pasti untuk penanaman padi. Walau bagaimanapun, hasil pengeluaran padi semasa masih agak rendah iaitu sekitar 1.3 tan sehektar berbanding purata kebangsaan sekitar 3.7 tan sehektar.

Dengan penyelarasan yang teratur, sistem pengairan dan saliran moden, mekanisasi, teknologi, benih yang berkualiti tinggi serta kaedah pertanian saintifik, Sarawak mampu mempunyai potensi besar untuk meningkatkan produktiviti secara signifikan dan mengubah tanah pertanian yang luas menjadi kawasan sawah padi yang lebih produktif.

Visi Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak bukan sekadar teori semata-mata. Kerajaan Sarawak telah pun mengenal pasti kawasan pembangunan padi baharu berskala besar yang melibatkan kira-kira 10,000 hektar di kawasan seperti Stumbin, Lingga dan Tanjung Bijat di Bahagian Sri Aman. Selain itu, rancangan peluasan pada masa hadapan turut dipertimbangkan di kawasan-kawasan seperti Simunjan, Lundu, Limbang dan Lawas.

DUN Opar tidak terkecuali. Kita menyahut cabaran ini, dimana tujuh lokaliti telah dikenal pasti sebagai kawasan sawah padi yang sedang diusahakan oleh penduduk kampung iaitu di Kampung Jugan, Kampung Tebaro, Kampung Rukam, Kampung Sedaing, Kampung Biawak, Kampung Sebako dan juga Kampung Jangkar dengan jumlah keluasan lebih kurang 1,089 hektar. Untuk membantu golongan petani di kawasan ini, peruntukan sebanyak RM23 juta di bawah *Greater Kuching Coordinated Development Agency* ataupun (GKCDA) bagi DUN Opar telah diperuntukkan untuk membina infrastruktur asas seperti benteng, sistem saliran dan pengairan, sistem perparitan dan jalan akses pertanian. Sudah pasti usaha ini memerlukan pengawasan dan bimbingan berterusan bukan sahaja dari Kementerian dan Jabatan Pertanian malah juga dari Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak yang akan ditubuhkan kelak.

Tuan Speaker, ini jelas menunjukkan bahawa Sarawak tidak lagi mendekati sektor pertanian secara konvensional. Kita sedang bergerak ke arah pengeluaran padi berskala besar yang dipacu teknologi serta mampan dari sudut komersial.

Di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Kerajaan Sarawak kini sedang melaksanakan asas yang bukan sahaja mampu mencapai sara diri dalam pengeluaran padi dan beras, malah akhirnya muncul sebagai pengeluar beras yang utama di Malaysia.

Dengan penubuhan lembaga ini, Sarawak akhirnya akan mempunyai sebuah institusi yang khusus, yang mampu menyelaras pengeluaran, mengurus sistem pengairan dan saliran, mengenal pasti standard kualiti, mengawal kualiti pengeluaran, memperkukuhkan rantai bekalan serta menyelia pemasaran dan penjualan beras di wilayah ini. Kerangka institusi ini amat penting sekiranya Sarawak benar-benar berhasrat untuk muncul sebagai Jelapang Padi Masa Depan di Malaysia.

ISU GLOBAL BERKAITAN BERAS DAN MAKANAN

Tuan Speaker, kita tidak boleh melihat isu padi dan beras ini secara kecil. Hari ini, dunia sedang menghadapi krisis makanan global. Antara cabaran utama adalah:

- (a) Perubahan iklim – di mana banjir, kemarau dan cuaca ekstrem memberi kesan besar kepada pengeluaran padi dunia;
- (b) Konflik geopolitik – peperangan dan juga ketegangan antarabangsa mengganggu rantai bekalan makanan secara global;
- (c) Sekatan eksport – beberapa negara pengeluar beras mula mengehadkan eksport demi melindungi bekalan domestik mereka;
- (d) Pertambahan penduduk dunia – permintaan terhadap makanan terus meningkat setiap tahun malah setiap hari, dan setiap masa; dan
- (e) Inflasi makanan – harga makanan di dunia semakin meningkat dan memberi tekanan kepada seluruh rakyat.

Dalam keadaan ini, mana-mana negeri atau negara yang tidak mampu menghasilkan makanan sendiri akan menjadi sangat-sangat terdedah. Sebab itulah Sarawak perlu mempunyai dasar keselamatan makanan yang kukuh, dimana penubuhan Sarawak Padi and Rice Board adalah sebahagian daripada langkah strategik tersebut.

FUNGSI DAN PERANAN SARAWAK PADI AND RICE BOARD

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-undang ini dengan jelas memperincikan fungsi dan kuasa Sarawak Padi and Rice Board tersebut. Antara fungsi utama lembaga ini adalah:

- (a) Merancang dan menyelaras industri padi dan beras – di mana lembaga ini akan menjadi agensi utama dalam menggubal dasar dan pelaksanaan industri padi di Sarawak;
- (b) Mengawal selia industri – lembaga mempunyai kuasa untuk mengeluarkan lesen, permit dan kelulusan berkaitan industri padi dan beras di Sarawak;
- (c) Meningkatkan pengeluaran padi – lembaga ini akan membantu memperluaskan kawasan penanaman dan meningkatkan produktiviti petani;
- (d) Menjalankan penyelidikan dan pembangunan – penyelidikan berkaitan padi, teknologi pertanian dan inovasi akan diperkukuhkan;
- (e) Pembangunan modal insan – lembaga ini akan menyediakan latihan dan pembangunan kemahiran kepada petani dan juga pemain industry;
- (f) Menarik pelaburan – lembaga ini juga mempunyai kuasa untuk mempromosi pelaburan dalam industri padi dan beras di Sarawak;
- (g) Pemasaran dan pengedaran – lembaga akan membantu meningkatkan sistem pemasaran dan pengedaran beras tempatan di peringkat tempatan dan juga antarabangsa; dan
- (h) Penguatkuasaan – lembaga mempunyai kuasa penguatkuasaan bagi memastikan industri ini dikawal dengan lebih tersusun dan berintegriti.

Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak ini bukan sekadar badan pentadbiran, tetapi sebuah institusi strategik yang lengkap dengan fungsi pembangunan, pengawalseliaan, penyelidikan, penguatkuasaan dan sebagainya. Ini selaras dengan aspirasi Sarawak sebagai wilayah berpendapatan tinggi dan sektor pertanian merupakan salah satu yang menyumbang ke arah ini.

MANFAAT KEPADA RAKYAT SARAWAK

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-undang ini akan membawa manfaat besar kepada rakyat Sarawak.

- (a) Keselamatan makanan (*food security*) – Sarawak akan lebih bersedia menghadapi sebarang krisis bekalan makanan global kerana kita mengeluarkan beras sendiri;
- (b) Peluang ekonomi – lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan akan diwujudkan dalam sektor pertanian moden khususnya untuk golongan muda;
- (c) Pendapatan petani – pendapatan pesawah dan petani dapat ditingkatkan melalui produktiviti yang berkualiti dan pemasaran yang lebih baik;
- (d) Pembangunan luar bandar – kawasan luar bandar akan menikmati pembangunan infrastruktur dan ekonomi yang lebih pesat melalui pelaksanaan pertanian moden dan teratur;

- (e) Penglibatan belia – sektor pertanian moden boleh menarik minat golongan muda melalui pembangunan teknologi AI (*Artificial Intelligence*), IoT dan inovasi. Minat belia boleh dipupuk melalui 'Program Pertanian adalah Satu Perniagaan' melalui aspirasi pertanian moden; dan
- (f) Pelaburan baru – industri hiliran berkaitan padi dan beras juga akan berkembang dengan lebih baik dan teratur. Ini akan menarik peluang pelaburan baru ke Sarawak.

HARAPAN DAN CADANGAN

Tuan Speaker, untuk memastikan objektif penubuhan Lembaga Padi dan Beras Sarawak ini dapat dicapai, perkara-perkara seperti berikut perlu diambil kira:

- (a) Libatkan anak tempatan – anak-anak Sarawak perlu diberikan peluang besar dalam pembangunan industri padi dan beras di Sarawak;
- (b) Fokus kepada teknologi moden – penggunaan AI, IoT (*Internet of Things*), Dron dan mekanisasi perlu diperluaskan dan dipercepatkan;
- (c) Pengukuhan infrastruktur – sistem pengairan dan saliran, jalan ladang dan pusat pengumpulan hasil pertanian berkaitan padi dan beras perlu diberi keutamaan;
- (d) Jaga kebajikan petani – kebajikan petani kecil berkaitan perusahaan padi dan beras tidak boleh dipinggirkan dalam arus pembangunan moden; dan
- (e) Libatkan institusi pengajian tinggi – kerjasama dengan universiti dan pusat penyelidikan perlu diperluaskan untuk menghasilkan produk padi dan beras yang berkualiti untuk memenuhi keperluan pemasaran tempatan dan antarabangsa.

Sebagai penutup, Tuan Speaker, saya percaya *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026* ini akan menjadi titik perubahan besar kepada sektor pertanian Sarawak, kerana ia bukan sahaja tentang penubuhan sebuah lembaga. Ia adalah tentang masa depan keselamatan makanan di Sarawak. Ia adalah tentang masa depan rakyat luar bandar Sarawak. Ia adalah tentang ekonomi Sarawak. Ia adalah tentang maruah dan kemampuan kita untuk berdiri di atas kaki sendiri dalam menghasilkan makanan untuk rakyat Sarawak.

Dengan kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak, sokongan Kerajaan Sarawak dan komitmen semua pihak, saya yakin Sarawak mampu menjadi kuasa baharu industri padi dan beras di Malaysia. Maka dengan itu, saya menyokong sepenuhnya Rang Undang-undang, *Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026* ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Opar. *Seterusnya*, Yang Berhormat Pujut. Hopefully, you are the last one before the YB Minister wind-up, please.

YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang: Tuan Speaker, thank you for granting Pujut the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026. I rise today to express my full support for this Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 and to commend the Sarawak government, particularly YB Dato Sri Dr. Stephen Rundi Utom, the Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development, for tabling this timely, strategic and forward-looking legislation before this august House.

At the outset, I believe it is important for us to understand that this Bill is far more significant than merely establishing another statutory body or administrative institution. In reality, this Bill represents a long-term strategic commitment by the Sarawak Government towards strengthening food security, enhancing economic resilience, modernising our agriculture sector, and preparing Sarawak for future global uncertainties and challenges.

Tuan Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed how vulnerable many countries and regions were when international logistics, transportation and supply systems were severely disrupted. Following that, geopolitical conflicts, climate-related disasters, rising fertiliser costs, inflationary pressures, and export restrictions imposed by the rice-producing countries further highlighted the importance of food security.

We have seen situations where several rice-exporting countries temporarily restricted rice exports in order to protect their own domestic supply and prices. Such actions immediately affected rice-importing regions around the world, including Sarawak. This serves as an important reminder that food security can no longer be treated as merely an agricultural issue.

Food security is now an economic issue, a social issue, and more importantly, a strategic issue affecting the stability and well-being of our people. Rice, in particular, is not just another commodity. Rice is the staple food consumed daily by the *rakyat*. Any disruption in rice supply or sudden increase in rice prices will directly affect ordinary families, especially the lower and middle-income groups. Therefore, ensuring a stable, sustainable and secure rice supply must become a long-term priority for Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, today, Sarawak remains significantly dependent on imported rice to meet domestic demand. Based on recent figures released by the Ministry, Sarawak's rice self-sufficiency level remains relatively low, at around 21%. This means that nearly 80% of the rice consumed in Sarawak still depends on imports. These figures clearly show the scale of our dependency on external supply. As long as we remain heavily dependent on imports, Sarawak will continue to be exposed to various external risks beyond our control.

If global rice prices rise, Sarawak will be affected. If exporting countries impose restrictions, Sarawak will be affected. If global shipping costs increase, Sarawak will be affected. If climate change affects production in exporting countries, Sarawak will be affected. Therefore, Tuan Speaker, this Bill is extremely important because it lays the institutional foundation for Sarawak to strengthen its long-term food security strategy and reduce excessive dependency on external supply chains.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak possesses tremendous agricultural potential. We have vast land resources, abundant water resources and suitable areas for agricultural expansion. However, in order to unlock this potential, we need a strong institutional framework, effective coordination, proper planning and long-term policy consistency. This is precisely why the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is so important. The Board will play a crucial role in developing and strengthening the overall padi and rice ecosystem in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, apart from strengthening food security, the successful development of the padi and rice industry will also generate broader economic benefits for Sarawak. It can create employment opportunities, stimulate rural economic activities, strengthen downstream agro-food industries, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract investment into the agricultural sector.

This includes opportunities in areas such as rice processing, packaging, logistics, storage facilities, seed technology, smart farming systems, agricultural machinery services and food manufacturing industries. Therefore, this Bill should not only be viewed from the perspective of agriculture alone, but also from the perspective of long-term economic development and rural transformation.

Tuan Speaker, while expressing my strong support for this Bill, I would also like to raise several constructive suggestions for the consideration of this august House. Firstly, I believe coordination between the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board and relevant federal agencies will be extremely important to ensure effective implementation. As we know, matters relating to rice and padi regulation at the national level involve multiple federal agencies and institutions. Therefore, clear coordination mechanisms must be established to avoid unnecessary duplication, overlapping jurisdictions and administrative inefficiencies.

I believe the establishment of strong institutional cooperation between the Sarawak and federal governments will be essential in ensuring smoother implementation of policies, licensing matters, development planning and industrial regulation. The ultimate objective should always be to ensure efficiency, policy alignment and the best outcome for the *rakyat*.

Tuan Speaker, although N.74 Pujut is an urban constituency and we do not have padi cultivation activities, this issue remains highly relevant to all of us because padi and rice among the most important staple food for our people. Food security is not merely an agricultural issue. It is a strategic issue, an economic issue, and ultimately is survival issue for every society and nation. That is why I believe the establishment of the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board is timely and important strengthening Sarawak's long-term food security framework.

At the same time, while I support the need for proper regulation and governance within the industry to ensure standards, sustainability and good agricultural practices, I also hope that the implementation of this Bill will remain balanced and practical. Regulations should facilitate growth, productivity and development within the sector, and not become overly burdensome to the extent that they discourage participation or unintentionally strangle the farmers and industry players whom we are trying to support and empower.

Tuan Speaker, while we pursue modernization and large-scale agricultural development, we must also ensure that the interests of small farmers and traditional padi growers are protected and not sidelined. Many small farmers and traditional padi growers, include those involved in hill padi cultivation, have contributed significantly to Sarawak's food supply and agricultural heritage for generations.

Therefore, any modernization effort must be inclusive and balanced. The benefits of development must not only be enjoyed by large corporations or commercial players. Small farmers must also receive adequate support and opportunities to participate in this transformation. I hope the Board will provide continuous assistance in areas such as technical training, access to machinery, financing facilities, quality seed supply, modern farming techniques, marketing support and infrastructure upgrading. Special efforts should also be made to preserve and promote Sarawak's traditional rice varieties, which possesses unique cultural, nutritional and commercial value.

Tuan Speaker, I would also like to emphasize the importance of encouraging greater youth participation in the agricultural sector. One of the major challenges faced by the agriculture industry today is the aging farming population. If younger generations continue to view agriculture as unattractive or lacking future opportunities, the long-term sustainability of our food production sector may eventually face serious challenges.

Therefore, I hope the Government and the Board would introduce dedicated programmes and incentives especially targeted at encouraging youth involvement in modern agriculture. This may include youth agropreneur programmes, digital agriculture initiatives, smart farming incentives, drone technology training, access to financing, entrepreneurship grants and technology-driven farming support.

Today's agriculture is no longer limited to conventional manual farming methods. Modern agriculture is increasingly driven by automation, data analytics, artificial intelligence, drone technology, mechanization and innovation. We must reposition agriculture as a modern, profitable and future-oriented industry capable of attracting educated and technology-savvy young Sarawakians.

Tuan Speaker, in addition, I would also like to stress the importance of research, education and talent development in strengthening Sarawak's long-term food security strategy. I am encouraged that Sarawak Government is already working closely with UNIMAS and other institutions in agricultural research and innovation efforts. This is a very positive step towards developing more productive, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

However, moving forward, I would also like to propose that the Sarawak Government further expand opportunities for agriculture-related tertiary education within Sarawak-owned universities and higher learning institutions, and also include such courses and programmes under Sarawak's Free Tertiary Education Scheme.

This includes introducing more specialised courses and programmes related to modern agriculture, food technology, smart farming, agricultural engineering, agro-business and sustainable food production. By doing so, we can create more opportunities for our younger generation by pursuing agriculture-related studies and build a new generation of skilled local experts, researchers and agropreneurs who can contribute towards the future development of Sarawak's agriculture and food security sector. At the same time, this will also help reposition agriculture as a modern, professional and future-oriented industry that offers strong career and business opportunities for young Sarawakians.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is ultimately about preparing Sarawak for the future. It is about ensuring that future generations of Sarawakians will continue to enjoy stable food supply, stronger food security and greater economic resilience.

It is about reducing excessive dependence on external supply chains and strengthening Sarawak's own capacity to produce essential food supplies. It is about building a stronger, more self-reliant and more resilient Sarawak.

Therefore, I once again express my full support for the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 and I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to support this important legislation for the long-term future and well-being of Sarawak and its people. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat Pujut. So far, 31 speakers have spoken. The number of participations underscores the importance of this Bill to the state. We have the minister to do the winding up for us and also another Bill, the SEDC (Amendment) Bill to do under the circumstances by virtue of the Standing Order 9(2). I allow that this proceeding of this Dewan shall go beyond 6:30 p.m. today. With respect may I call upon the Honourable Minister...*(Interruption)*... 9(1) and (2) read together. I will call the Honourable Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development and Member for N.69 Kemena to wind up, please.

Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom): Thank you very much, Tuan Speaker and it's a long day, very long day for all of us. Indeed, I am amaze by the show of interest and support by the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat towards this important Bill indeed. So, I am honoured actually to be able to table this Bill, this Padi and Rice Board Bill 2026 and it shows how important the Bill is to all of us. So, Tuan Speaker I also want to welcome back our Honourable Tuan Speaker, thank you Tuan Speaker, have a good rest just now.

Terlebih dahulu saya ingin merakamkan ucapan terima kasih atas perbahasan oleh Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat kepada Sarawak Padi dan Rice Board Bill 2026 terutamanya Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, hampir semua ya, yang saya tuliskan di sini, Ahli Yang Berhormat Beting Maro, from Tamin, from Meluan, from Balingian, from Tellian, from Pelagus, from Lingga, Murum, Bukit Semuja, Pending, Padungan, Tanjong Batu, Daro, Batu Kitang, Kalaka, Baleh, Bukit Bangunan, Ba'kelalan, Engkilili, Tebedu, Ngemah, Machan, Maradong, Telang Usan, Bawang Assan, Serembu, Opar dan akhir sekali Pujut. 31 Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, tahniah dan terima kasih kepada semua. Saya juga menghargai cadangan-cadangan konstruktif, cadangan-cadangan konstruktif dan idea-idea bernas yang telah dikemukakan oleh semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat semasa perbahasan. Cadangan-cadangan ini serta idea yang sudah tentu dapat membantu Kerajaan Sarawak dan Kementerian dalam melaksanakan dan menguatkuasakan *Sarawak Padi dan Rice Board Bill, 2026* ini dengan lebih baik dan efektif.

Tuan Speaker, I wish to place on record my sincere appreciations to Yang Berhormat Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad, not that I am picking you selectively, but I capture my this one, attention. Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.43 Daro for his support for the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 particularly on matters on good governance, accountability and responsible implementation. The Honourable Members emphasis on transparent financial management, proper annual estimate and audited account which is something that all the Board ought to do. The audited account, performance monitoring through clear and measurable KPIs as well as strengthen integrity and anti-corruption measures is both timely and appropriate and ensuring that the Board operates effectively with credibility. Indeed, I wish to ensure this august House that this will be among the key focus areas for us to move forward and I also want to show my appreciation and thank to Ahli Yang Berhormat from Batu Lintang and Bawang Assan trying to see to give some *pencerahan yang diperlukan*. Thank you for doing my job.

But next I would like to make a correction nonetheless to the point raised by the Yang Berhormat for Padungan on the RM950 million allocation. The matter raised in the 2013 hansard relates to the propose NKEA 11 project in Batang Lupar, a Federal Government initiative implemented through the State Government covering a development area of 5,100 hectares with an estimated allocation, estimated allocation of RM950 million. The project was intended to benefit approximately around 5,000 participants and was planned four phase implementations.

For the first phase, 200 hectares were developed with an allocation of RM21 million to provide comprehensive infrastructure up to the treasury level with BERNAS appointed as the anchor company. However, the subsequent phases of the development encountered significant implementation challenges due to the involvement of Native Customary Rights (NCR) land. Most of the existing paddy cultivation areas in the locality are also classified as NCR land.

As the development of the modern paddy instead requires land re-alignment to facilitate effective mechanization. As well as a more efficient and systematic irrigation and drainage system. Progress was constrained; progress was constrained by this land tenure consideration. Unfortunately, consent from certain landowners, consent from certain landowners for land re-alignment could not be obtained. As a result, infrastructure development had to be limited to the provision of a primary and secondary infrastructure, that is what irrigation and drainage is all about.

Why were existing land boundaries maintain? From the year 2013 to 2025, a total of 1,306 hectare has been developed with primary and secondary infrastructure. As we all understand, has to be a complete infrastructure from primary, secondary and tertiary. Only then, can we see the sustainable or sustainability of paddy planting. Involving total government costs of RM148.7 million that benefited 664 farmers. However, following the completion of infrastructure works, and the provision of good facilities in the area, landowners have since utilized the land for other crops instead of paddy. That was lesson learned. Particularly oil palm. This among the things that we have learned when the Members asking what the lesson learned, this is part of our transformative plan that we have. Among the major transformations in the establishment of the Board and the development of the paddy sector, we have several strategic policies.

- (a) One of the key approaches is that the development of paddy areas is on state land. First priority. And that will ensure long-term planning as well as more orderly and efficient land used for agriculture purposes;
- (b) We have to gazette state land strictly for paddy development areas to avoid this land after treasury infrastructure being provided for be converted to other crops. Of course, more lucrative crops like oil palm and so on. This provides a stable foundation for large scale agriculture planning especially on paddy; and
- (c) The participation of a private sector involvement, public private collaboration. Because there is no way the small farmers could be able to do at the small way without new technology, without mechanization and small scale and so on. That is what we call subsistence. We have

to move away from that. And that is the reason we need a special body to be able to look into all what been said by Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat.

Tuan Speaker, the concerns raised by the Honourable Member of Pending are in fact not new. And these matters have already been addressed and formed part of the Ministry's ongoing initiative. Sarawak premium rice remains the only locally produce rice recorded by Department of Statistic Malaysia (DOSM) as being licensed for international export including to Singapore, to New Zealand, Hong Kong and other destination. In this regard, the establishment of Sarawak Padi and Rice Board with its dedicated focus on the development of paddy and rice industry will further strengthen effort to enhance the production and export potential rice, premium rice in a more structured, integrated and globally competitive manner.

In addition, the concern raised by the Honourable Member for Pending regarding the use of organic fertilizers, biomass, the integration of green technology in the paddy and rice industry will be given due attention. Sarawak Padi and Rice Board will play a key role in coordinating and strengthening research and development activities within paddy and rice industry toward the more sustainable, modern and resilient agriculture system that is environmentally responsible in tandem of our PCDS 2030. In line of the Sarawak Government aspiration to advance the adaption of green technology in the State agriculture development agenda.

Tuan Speaker, I have a lot to share here. But because of time constraint, I have to consider my colleague next Amended Bill. I have many more, so I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the Honourable Members for your support in this august House for this Bill. And I hope that Yang Berhormat for Pending and Padungan will also extend their support to this Bill. Thank you very much.

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 Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development; and Member for N.69 Kemena 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 of the contrary opinion say "No".

Opposition: No... (Murmuring "No")

Tuan Speaker: The "Yes" have it. The Motion is passed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House. The Dewan shall now resolve to the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill, we stand committed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE OF STAGE

COMMITTEE OF WHOLE HOUSE

[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now consider the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026.

Clauses 1 to 52

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now consider, the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 Clauses 1 to 52. The question is that Clauses 1 to 52 are ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as opinions say "Yes".

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

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are the contrary opinions say “No”.

Opposition: No... (Murmuring “No”)

Tuan Pengerusi: The “Yes” have it. Clauses 1 to 52 are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Schedule

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that the Schedule be 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 opinions say “No”.

Opposition: No... (Murmuring “No”)

Tuan Pengerusi: The “Yes” have it. The Schedule are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clauses, Schedule and Title

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now resume.

HOUSE RESUMED

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena (YB Dato Sri Dr. Stephen Rundi anak Utom): Thank you, Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without amendment.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

SARAWAK PADI AND RICE BOARD BILL, 2026

Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena (YB Dato Sri Dr. Stephen Rundi anak Utom): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 be now read a third time and do pass.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Sarawak Padi and Rice Board Bill, 2026 be read a third time and do pass. As many as the contrary opinion say “Yes”.

Government: Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

Tuan Speaker: As many as are of the contrary opinion say “No”.

Opposition: No... (Murmuring “No”)

Tuan Speaker: The “Yes” have it, the Bill is read a third time and passed.

Bill is read a third time and passed

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

PERBADANAN PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI SARAWAK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undang Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): We have very long day today. Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026, be read a second time.

Tuan Speaker, the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026, (Amendment) Bill seeks to modernise and strengthen the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak, Ordinance Cap.35 (1958 Ed.) the Principal Ordinance. The Principal Ordinance provides for the establishment constitution, powers, duties and function of the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak Corporation as well as for the matters connected and incidental thereto.

Legislative History of the Corporation

For nearly seven decades, the legislative framework governing the corporation in its presence's entity has supported Sarawak Economy Development and Aspiration. However, the reality before us today is clear, Sarawak has evolved. Our economy has transformed and our ambition have grown far beyond what it could have been envisioned, when the legislation was first introduced in 1997. The legislative history of the corporation begun with the enactment of the Development Financial Corporations Ordinance 1997 which established the Development Finance Corporation.

In 1958, the legislation was subsequently published as Development Finance Corporational Ordinance followed by the amendment in 1994 and 1995. A major milestone took place in 1971 through the enactment of the Sarawak Development Finance, Corporation (Reorganisation and Reconstitution) Ordinance, 1971. This Ordinance reorganised and reconstituted to Corporation and redefined the Corporation as Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak. In 1971, reorganisation also ensure continuity of the Corporation function, asset, project and undertaking whereby all land, project work, property, asset, powers, rights and privileges held by the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation or deem to have been transferred to and vested in the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak.

Following the 1971 reorganisation, the legislation was reprinted in 1972 as "*Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak Ordinan*", thereby reflecting the corporation's new name in constituted status. Thereafter, the Principal Ordinance continue to evolve through amendments made in 1976, 1979, 1994 and 1996 with the legislation subsequently reprinted in 2009 which remain the current version enforce today.

With the robust development and changes within Sarawak under the leadership of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak, review of the Principal Ordinance has been initiated to ensure that the corporation is in the alignment with the aspiration of Sarawak. This amendment Bill therefore is not simply an exercise and legislative housekeeping. It is necessary and timely to ensure that the corporation remain responsive, relevant and capable of supporting Sarawak future, economic aspiration and development agenda.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE AMENDMENT BILL

Tuan Speaker, allow me to enlighten the august House of the key features of the amendment Bill, which collectively aim to position corporations, the corporation is to dynamic credible forward-looking driver of Sarawak Economic Development.

(a) Amendment to the title of the Principal Ordinance.

Firstly, the Amendment Bill proposed to rename the Principal Ordinance to Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Ordinance. This more does this more than just a change in name it reflects identity, clarity and recognition. In the line the law with the name by which the corporation is already widely known both locally and internationally thereby strengthening its institutional credibility.

(b) A revision of definition.

Secondly, the Amendment Bill update key definition to reflect more than governance practices. The substitution of General Manager with Group Chief Executive Officer is a deliberate in strategic shift if recognizes the reality corporation today is no longer a single entity but the complex organisation overseen multiple subsidiaries and commercial interest. This change sends a clear message that the corporation is serious about adopting global standard enhancing professionalism and strengthening confident among investors, partners and stakeholders. In addition, the introduction of the definition of Secretary closes an important gap and reinforce the corporation governance framework as currently it is not specifically defined despite it reference and usage in the Principle Ordinance.

(c) Reconstitution of membership under Section 4.

Thirdly, reconstitution of the corporation membership seeks to ensure that the right expertise is brought to the Table. By expanding the scope of to include any other relevant Bill, the Amendment Bill allowed the corporation to draw from a broader pool of talent and knowledge ensuring that it remain responsive, relevant and capable of navigating an increasingly complex economic landscape.

(d) New provision for the Secretary in Section 5A.

Fourthly, the introduction of new provision for the appointment of function of the Secretary formalize it critical role within the corporation. The appointment will promote good governance that complement the system. The provision strengthen accountability, enhance transparency, and ensure that the corporation operate in accordance with the sound governance principles.

(e) Enhancement of power and function on a second elements.

Finally, the amendment enhances the corporation powers particularly in relation into the incorporation and establishment of companies. This is essential if we the corporation to compete to invest into drive economic growth then they must ensure that it has a legal clarity, flexibility to do so effectively.

Tuan Speaker, we often speak about transformation, about progress and about building a prosperous future of Sarawak. But transformation is not achieved by words alone, it requires action. It requires us to update our law; to strengthen our institution and to ensure they are fit for purpose in a rapidly changing world.

Tuan Speaker, I therefore urge all Honourable Members of this august House to support this Amendment Bill. I therefore beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second?

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian): Tuan Speaker, I beg to second.

Tuan Speaker: Thank you. Ahli Yang Berhormat, before I call upon Honourable members to participate in debate, under Standing Order 31(8) are hereby limit all speeches to 20 minutes. Also, under Standing Order 32(1) quote a member shall confine his observation to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto. This is an Amendment Bill, so confine your observation to the amendment and do not reopen the entire Principal Ordinance. Any member wants to speak? Member for Pelagus.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you very much for giving me the floor to participate in this debate on the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak Amendment Bill, 2026, which has been introduced by the Honourable Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister for Finance and New Economy, Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development Sarawak also the Assemblyman for N.37 Bukit Saban.

At the outset, I wish to commend the Minister for tabling this important amendment which, in my view, is not merely a technical or cosmetic exercise, but a strategic institutional reform intended to reposition the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) to meet the demands of a modern, globally competitive and investment-driven economy.

We must remember that this Ordinance trace its roots back to the year 1958. That means the fundamental, the financial framework of Corporation was designed more than six decades ago. In a very different economic era, long before digital economies, renewal energy is transitions, artificial intelligence, sovereign wealth strategies and high value industrial ecosystems because central pillars of economic governance.

Today, Sarawak is positioning itself as a regional energy powerhouse, a leader in renewal energy and hydrogen economy, a hub for digital infrastructure and green investments and also increasingly, a serious economic player in ASEAN. Therefore, our institution must evolve accordingly and that is precisely why this amendment is timely, necessary and strategic.

Tuan Speaker, one of the most important aspects of this Bill is the rebranding and renaming of the Corporation from "*Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*" to "*Sarawak Economic Development Corporation*". Some may say this is merely cosmetic. But respectfully, I disagree. Name matters. It carries institutional identity and reflects institutional confidence. It shapes international perception. Branding matters especially when Sarawak is aggressively competing for international investments, strategic partnerships and global economic visibility.

The use of the name "*Sarawak Economic Development Corporation*" carries a more contemporary, internationally recognisable and investor-friendly identity. This is about positioning Sarawak confidently within the global economic ecosystem. This amendment also modernises the governance structure of the corporation. Under Clause 4, the composition of the corporation is expanded and strengthen through the inclusion of:

- (a) the State Secretary or representative;
- (b) a representative from the Federal Ministry of Economy;
- (c) the State Attorney-General or representative;
- (d) the State Financial Secretary or representative; and

- (e) several members with expertise in agriculture, industry, commerce, finance, science and other relevant sectors.

Why is this a very important reform? Because economic development today is no longer confined to one sector. Modern economic governance requires integration between legal policy, fiscal management, industrial planning, technological innovation and investment strategy.

This amendment recognises that really and importantly, it institutionalises expertise. This is critical because if Sarawak truly wants to become a developed and high-income region, then economic institutions must be driven not merely by administration, but by competence, professionalism and strategic capability.

The new corporation creates a more holistic governance ecosystem within the corporation. At the same time, it also welcomes the inclusion of professional and individual with specialised expertise. This is extremely important because economic development today is increasingly knowledgeable driven. We cannot continue relying solely on traditional bureaucratic structures if we truly want Sarawak to compete internationally.

However, in making such appointments and selections, I sincerely hope that the methodology and process adopted will be fair, inclusive, transparent and merit based. The credibility and effectiveness of the corporation will ultimately depend not only on the powers conferred under this Ordinance, but also on the quality, integrity and competence of the individual entrusted to lead and advise it.

The inclusion of professional must therefore not merely be symbolic in nature, but should genuinely reflect a diversity of expertise, experience and perspectives capable of contributing meaningfully towards Sarawak's long-term economic interests. We need institutions that are agile, professional, commercially aware, technologically literate and strategically managed.

Tuan Speaker, historically, Sarawak has always faced unique development challenges due to geography, infrastructure gaps and uneven economic access, especially in the interior region of Sarawak. Even national historical records have acknowledged the longstanding challenges of balancing development and socioeconomic growth in Sarawak. Therefore, institutions such as the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, SEDC play a crucial role not merely as economic agency but as instruments of regional balance and inclusive growth.

I also appreciate the savings and transitions provisions under Clause 8 of the Bill. These provisions ensure legal continuity and administrative stability. This is important because institutional reform must never create uncertainty over existing proceedings, appointment, obligations or operational continuity. The amendment modernises the institution while preserving legal certainty.

Tuan Speaker, ultimately this Bill is bigger than terminology changes. It is about institutional transformation, ensuring that Sarawak possess modern economic institutions capable of attracting investments, competing globally, driving regional growth, managing strategic assets and responding effectively to rapidly changing economic realities.

This Bill represents one of those necessary institutional evolutions because at the end of the day, economic ambitions mean very little to our institutions remain outdated. Strong economies require strong institutions. Efficient economies require credible governance, and ambitious, economies require institutions with the courage and capability to evolve. With that, Tuan Speaker, I fully support Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Balingian.

YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak

(Amendment) Bill, 2026. I rise today to express my full support for this Bill because I believe the proposed amendments are timely, strategic and necessary to strengthen Sarawak's economic institutions in facing an increasingly competitive global environment.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill is not merely about changing names, titles or administrative structures. The Bill is about preparing Sarawak for the future. If our institutions refuse to evolve, Sarawak will lose opportunities to those who move faster, think bigger and act earlier.

Today, economic competition is no longer confined within national borders. Regions across the world are racing to attract investments in advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, digital economy, artificial intelligence, downstream industries and green technology. Capital today moves towards efficiency, credibility and vision. Sarawak therefore cannot afford to remain dependent on outdated structures and conventional thinking. Our institutions must be modern, agile and globally competitive if we want Sarawak to emerge as a leading economic powerhouse in this region. This is why I strongly support the amendment to rename "*Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*" as the "*Sarawak Economic Development Corporation*".

Tuan Speaker, some may see this merely as a change of name. I see it as a change of mindset. The new name projects confidence, professionalism and international relevance. It reflects Sarawak's growing ambition to position itself not only as a resource-rich state, but as a serious economic player capable of attracting high-quality investments and creating sustainable economic opportunities for our people.

In today's world, investors are not only evaluating incentives and tax structures. They are evaluating the strength of institutions, the professionalism of governance and the clarity of long-term vision. A strong institution inspires confidence. Confidence attracts investments. Investment creates jobs and jobs improve the lives of the people. That is why this amendment matters.

Tuan Speaker, I also strongly welcome the amendment replacing the designation of "*General Manager*" with "*Group Chief Executive Officer*". This is not a symbolic change. It reflects the increasing complexity and strategic importance of the Corporation itself.

Sarawak today is managing increasingly sophisticated economic ecosystems involving energy transition, industrial development, infrastructure expansion, digital transformation and international investments. Such responsibilities require leadership that is strategic, dynamic and capable of coordinating large-scale economic initiatives efficiently. A modern institution requires modern leadership. If we want Sarawak to compete globally, then our institutions must be led with global standards of professionalism, accountability and corporate governance.

Tuan Speaker, I also support the proposed composition of the Corporation involving representatives from the Federal Ministry of Economy, the State Attorney-General, the State Financial Secretary and individuals with expertise in agriculture, industry, commerce, finance and science. This is an important step because economic development today can no longer operate in silos.

Economic planning requires coordination between policy, finance, law, technology, science and industry expertise. Without proper coordination, even good development plans can fail during implementation. Sarawak possesses enormous strengths and opportunities. We have abundant natural resources. We have renewable energy capacity. We have strategic geographical advantages. We also have political stability and visionary leadership. But resources alone do not guarantee success.

Without efficient institutions, strong governance, strategic execution, opportunities can easily be lost. That is why strengthening this Corporation is not merely an administrative exercise. It is part of building Sarawak's long-term economic resilience and competitiveness.

Tuan Speaker, as elected representative for Balingian, I also wish to emphasise one very important matter. The success of Sarawak's economic transformation must not be measured by the number of major projects announced in the urban centres. It must also be measured by whether rural communities genuinely feel the benefits of development. Development cannot stop at the city limits while rural communities remain at the sidelines. The people in our villages, longhouses and coastal community also want opportunities. They want better roads, stronger connectivity, more jobs for their children and greater opportunities for the local entrepreneurs and SMEs.

When we strengthen the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, we are ultimately strengthening the future of ordinary Sarawakians. We want our young people to find meaningful employment in Sarawak instead of leaving the State in search of opportunities elsewhere. We want rural entrepreneurs to participate in economic growth instead of merely watching development happen around them and we want economic progress to be inclusive, balanced and sustainable.

Tuan Speaker, I also commend the provision concerning the appointment of the Secretary of the Corporation and the disqualification of individuals involve in bankruptcy, fraud, corruption and money laundering from holding such office. This reflects a serious commitment towards integrity, accountability and good governance. In today's economics environment, integrity is no longer optional. Investors value transparency. Industry value credibility. The *rakyat* expect accountability. Without this integrity, even most ambitious development plans will eventually collapse under the weight of the mistrust of weak governance. This is why strengthening governance is just as important as attracting investment.

Tuan Speaker, I am also encouraged by the amendment empowering the corporation to establish offices or agencies throughout Sarawak and to incorporate companies where necessary. This provision gives the corporation greater operational flexibility to respond quickly to economic opportunities across the state. Sarawak is geographically vast and economically diverse. Different regions possess different economic strengths. Some areas have strong potential in agriculture and food production. Others are suitable for renewable energy, fisheries, tourism, manufacturing, logistics and downstream industries. A mere decentralised and responsive operational structure will allow development initiatives to be implemented more effectively and closer to the *rakyat*.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak today stands at a defining moment in its economic journey. We are witnessing rapid transformation during, driven by strategic planning, political stability and bold leadership. But sustaining this momentum requires institutions that are modern, credible, efficient and internationally competitive. This Bill is not merely an administrative amendment. It is part of Sarawak's broader journey towards becoming a resilient, progressive and high-income economy. It is about ensuring that our institutions are prepared not only for today's challenges, but also for tomorrow's opportunities and most importantly, it is about ensuring that the benefits of economic progress are shared by all Sarawakians, from the cities to the rural heartlands.

With that, I once again express my full support for Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you, Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Daro.

YB Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: Assalamualaikum W.B.T. Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, dan Salam Segulai Sejalai. Thank you Tuan Speaker for granting me the floor to participate in the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 which was tabled by Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Deputy Premier, Second Minister for Finance and New Economy, Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development and also the Honourable Member for N.37 Bukit Saban.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today to stand in full support of the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026. As we deliberate in this august House, we must recognise that we are at a transformative juncture in Sarawak's history. Under the Post COVID-19 Development

Strategy (PCDS) 2030, our state is no longer merely a participant in the regional economy, we are emerging as a leader in the green energy transition and modern urban mobility.

However, Tuan Speaker, a 21st century vision cannot be executed using a 20th century legal framework. The principal Ordinance of SEDC was first enacted in 1958 and has not seen a substantive update of this nature since 1996. For 30 years, the world has transformed, and today, this Bill ensures that our primary economic vehicle, the SEDC, is legally and structurally equipped to drive us toward 2030.

A Modern Corporate Identity for a Global Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, Clause 2 and Clause 7(b) of this Bill propose a change that is much more than cosmetic. By officially renaming the Principal Ordinance to the “*Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Ordinance*”, we are formally aligning our legislative language with the internationally recognized “*SEDC*” brand. In the world of high finance and international joint ventures, where SEDC is now a keyplayer, brand consistency is synonymous with institutional stability. This amendment ensures that when SEDC sit at the table with global technology partners in Tokyo, Oslo, or Dubai, its legal foundation reflects a modern, corporate, and professional statutory body.

Restructuring Leadership for Complex Governance

Tuan Speaker, let us look at Clause 7(a), which replaces the title “*General Manager*” with Group Chief Executive Officer, or Group CEO. To the casual, to the casual observer, this may seem like a matter of prestige. This is not. It is a matter of functional clarity. The SEDC today is a massive conglomerate. It is the parent entity to high-stakes subsidiaries such as Sarawak Metro, which is delivering our Autonomous Rail Transit (ART) system, and SEDC Energy, which is spearheading our hydrogen economy.

In a conglomerate structure, “*General Managers*” lead departments or hotels. But the individual steering the entire group’s multi billion ringgit portfolio must carry the authority and designation of a Group CEO. This amendment also resolves a longstanding source of confusion with the organisation. Previously, many subsidiaries and business units within SEDC group also used the title “*General Manager*” for their own operational heads, creating ambiguity regarding the highest executive authority within the corporation. By formally elevating the apex role of Group CEO, this Bill establishes an unambiguous hierarchy, so that in every contract, every negotiation, and every statutory filing, there is no doubt as to the level of executive authority being exercised.

The Board of Directors Built for Science and Technology

Tuan Speaker, I wish to draw the House attention to Clause 4, regarding the composition of the Corporation. This Bill expands the Board to formally include the State Secretary or representative, a representative from the Federal Ministry of Economy, the State Attorney General or representative, and the State Financial Secretary or the representative. This creates a “*Powerhouse Board*” that bridges the gap between state fiscal policy, state legal safeguards, and national economic alignment.

Most importantly, Tuan Speaker, the amendment specifically includes “*science*” as a qualification field, as a qualifying field of expertise of the Board members. This is a masterstroke of foresight. As SEDC ventures into complex fields like hydrogen fuel cell technology, electrolysis, and automatic, automated rapid transit, we cannot rely on generalist oversight alone. We need scientists and technical experts on the Board to provide the checks and balances required for high-tech capital expenditures. We are moving from a Board of administration to a Board of innovation.

Institutionalising Transparency: The Office of the Secretary

Tuan Speaker, for many years the role of the Secretary within the SEDC was an administrative reality but lack of robust statutory anchor. Clause 5, which introduces Section 5A, corrects this. By formalising appointment of the Secretary, we are institutionalising the “*Custodian of Records*”. This Bill mandates that corporate records be maintained at the principal office, ensuring a clear paper trail for every decision made.

Furthermore, we are introducing strict disqualification criteria. Under this Bill, no person can serve as Secretary if they are an undischarged bankrupt or have been convicted of an offense involving fraud, dishonesty, or money laundering. This sends a clear message, the Sarawak Government will tolerate nothing less than the highest standards of integrity in our statutory body, in our statutory bodies.

Expanding Reach: Regional Penetration

Tuan Speaker, the amendment to Section 11 is particularly vital for our rural and semi-urban constituencies. It explicitly empowers the SEDC to establish offices or agencies in any part of Sarawak. We often hear the call for development to be decentralised. By giving SEDC the statutory flexibility to set up regional hubs, we are ensuring that the economic opportunities generated by PCDS 2030, whether in tourism, agriculture, or industry reach the people of Daro, Limbang, Kapit, Betong, and beyond.

This is about making the SEDC an agency for all of Sarawak, not just the capital. This includes by maintaining the existing Entrepreneur Development Programmes under SEDC that acts as the catalyst of entrepreneurship development system, especially in the rural of Sarawak.

Ensuring Continuity and Fiscal Responsibility

Tuan Speaker, I must commend the drafting of Clause 8, which provides a “*savings*” provision. This ensures that all existing contracts, land titles and ongoing legal proceedings remain valid. We are changing the engine while the ship is sailing, but this Bill ensures the ship never loses its course.

Finally, Tuan Speaker, it is important to note the financial implications. This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure. We are not asking for more money; we are asking for better tools. We are streamlining governance and enhancing efficiency so that the funds already allocated can be utilized with greater impact.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, The SEDC is the heartbeat of Sarawak's economic ambition. If the heartbeat remains strong, the valves — our laws — must be clear and unobstructed. This Bill is a vote of confidence in our future. It is a commitment to transparency, a nod to scientific progress and a declaration that Sarawak is open for business on a global scale.

The Principal Ordinance has served us since 1958 and 1996. Today, we give it the strength to serve us until 2030 and beyond. Tuan Speaker, as someone who formerly and proudly served as one of the SEDC Directors, Daro begs to support the Bill. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tebedu.

YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang dan ruang untuk saya terlibat sama dalam perbahasan Rang Undang-undang Kerajaan Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 pada petang ini di Dewan yang mulia ini. Terlebih dahulu saya ucapkan syabas dah tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier, Sarawak selaku Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua dan juga Menteri Infrastruktur dan

Pembangunan Pelabuhan yang juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi kawasan DUN N.37 Bukit Saban kerana berjaya membentangkan *Bill* sebentar tadi.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai salah seorang mantan pegawai SEDC, Sarawak, saya terpenggil untuk berdiri untuk menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap Rang Undang-undang (Pindaan), 2026 yang dibentangkan demi memperkukuh hala tuju dan keupayaan perbadanan dalam menghadapi cabaran ekonomi masa hadapan.

Pindaan yang dicadangkan ini bukan sekadar perubahan dari segi nama atau struktur pentadbiran semata-mata tetapi merupakan satu langkah strategik bagi memastikan perbadanan terus relevan, terus kompetitif selari dengan perkembangan ekonomi global serta aspirasi pembangunan Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, pindaan pertama melibatkan nama daripada Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak kepada *Sarawak Economic Development Corporation*. Perubahan ini amat signifikan ia merupakan, ia memberikan identiti yang lebih moden, profesional dan mudah dikenali di peringkat antarabangsa.

Dalam era ekonomi global hari ini, penggunaan nama dalam Bahasa Inggeris memudahkan urusan pelaburan, kerjasama strategik serta promosi ekonomi dengan pihak luar negara. Nama baharu ini juga mencerminkan imej korporat yang lebih dinamik dan progresif sejajar dengan aspirasi Sarawak untuk menjadi sebuah ekonomi maju berteraskan inovasi, pelaburan dan pembangunan mampan.

Selain itu, penjenamaan semula ini dapat meningkatkan keyakinan pelabur asing kerana ia menampilkan imej organisasi yang lebih global dan mesra perniagaan. Pindaan seterusnya ialah mengenai pelantikan Setiausaha Perbadanan. Pelantikan jawatan ini amat penting bagi memastikan tadbir urus perbadanan berjalan dengan lebih tersusun, lebih telus dan lebih berkesan.

Setiausaha Perbadanan berperanan memastikan setiap keputusan, setiap dasar dan setiap urusan pentadbiran memenuhi kehendak undang-undang serta prinsip tadbir urus korporat yang baik. Dengan adanya jawatan ini penyelarasan antara pihak pengurusan dan ahli lembaga dapat diperkukuhkan sekaligus meningkatkan kecekapan dalam proses membuat keputusan. Ini juga dapat mengurangkan risiko kelemahan pentadbiran serta memperkukuh integriti institusi perbadanan.

Tuan Speaker, pindaan ketiga melibatkan perubahan jawatan *General Manager* kepada *Group Executive Officer*. Perubahan ini bukan sekadar peruntukan gelaran tetapi mencerminkan transformasi fungsi dan tanggungjawab kepimpinan yang lebih luas serta strategik. Istilah *Group Executive Officer* lebih sesuai digunakan dalam struktur korporat moden kerana ia menunjukkan peranan kepimpinan yang merangkumi keseluruhan kumpulan organisasi termasuk anak syarikat dan entiti berkaitan.

Jawatan ini juga memberi imej kepimpinan yang lebih profesional dan setanding dengan amalan korporat antarabangsa. Dengan struktur kepimpinan yang lebih jelas dan berwibawa, perbadanan akan lebih berupaya menarik tenaga profesional berkualiti tinggi serta meningkatkan keberkesanan pengurusan organisasi.

Tuan Speaker, pindaan mengenai komposisi baru perbadanan juga merupakan langkah yang amat tepat dan wajar. Komposisi baharu ini membolehkan penyertaan individu yang mempunyai kepakaran pelbagai bidang seperti kewangan, pelaburan, teknologi, perundangan dan pembangunan industri dapat kita gembelengkan.

Melalui gabungan kepakaran yang lebih menyeluruh, perbadanan dapat membuat keputusan yang lebih berkualiti, lebih strategik dan lebih berpandangan jauh. Pada masa yang sama, struktur baharu ini akan meningkatkan akauntabiliti, dapat meningkatkan dan memperkukuh semak dan

imbang serta memastikan dan memastikan setiap dasar yang dirangka benar-benar memberi manfaat kepada pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak. Secara keseluruhannya, pindaan ini membawa banyak kebaikan dan keuntungan kepada perbadanan dan antaranya ialah:

- (a) Memperkukuh imej dan penjenamaan korporat di peringkat antarabangsa;
- (b) Meningkatkan keyakinan pelabur dan rakan strategik luar negara;
- (c) Memantapkan tadbir urus dan pematuhan undang-undang;
- (d) Mewujudkan kepimpinan organisasi agar lebih strategik dan berdaya saing;
- (e) Meningkatkan kecekapan membuat keputusan melalui komposisi ahli yang lebih profesional dan berpengalaman; dan
- (f) Membantu perbadanan bergerak selari dengan aspirasi pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak yang progresif dan mampan.

Tuan Speaker, saya yakin pindaan ini akan menjadi asas penting kepada transformasi perbadanan ke arah sebuah organisasi yang lebih kukuh, berdaya saing dan dihormati di peringkat nasional dan antarabangsa. Dengan itu, Tuan Speaker, Tebedu menyokong Rang Undang-undang Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment), 2026 ini untuk diterima dan diluluskan oleh Dewan yang mulia ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Lingga.

YB Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, Assalamualaikum W.B.T, salam sejahtera dan Salam Sarawak maju makmur. Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam Perbahasan Atas Bacaan Kali Yang Kedua Rang Undang-undang Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban.

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-undang ini pada zahirnya mungkin dilihat sebagai pindaan pentadbiran dan penstrukturan semula organisasi. Namun pada pandangan saya, pindaan ini jauh lebih besar maknanya. Ia merupakan satu langkah strategik untuk memperkukuh SEDC sebagai sebuah *state-owned enterprise* milik Kerajaan Sarawak yang akan menjadi antara tonggak utama pembangunan ekonomi negeri pada masa hadapan.

Melalui Klausula 2, Rang Undang-undang ini meminda nama Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak kepada *Sarawak Economic Development Corporation*. Perubahan ini bukan sekadar pertukaran nama. Ia melambangkan transformasi SEDC daripada sebuah agensi pembangunan tradisional kepada sebuah institusi ekonomi strategik negeri yang lebih moden, dinamik dan berorientasikan global.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai *State-Owned Enterprise*, SEDC tidak boleh hanya dilihat sebagai entiti yang mengejar keuntungan korporat semata-mata. SEDC mesti menjadi instrumen ekonomi kerajaan untuk menjaga kestabilan ekonomi rakyat, memperkukuh industri tempatan dan membantu Sarawak menghadapi ketidaktentuan ekonomi dunia. Hari ini dunia sedang berhadapan dengan konflik geopolitik, perang perdagangan, gangguan rantai bekalan global dan kenaikan harga bahan mentah yang sangat mendadak. Kesan ini amat dirasakan oleh SME dan kontraktor kecil tempatan.

Di kawasan luar bandar seperti Lingga, Sri Aman, Maludam dan kawasan sekitarnya, ramai kontraktor kecil berhadapan tekanan besar akibat kenaikan harga simen, besi, batu *aggregate* dan kos logistik. Ada projek yang hampir tidak dapat diteruskan kerana margin keuntungan terlalu kecil sedangkan harga bahan berubah secara mendadak. Sebab itu, saya berpandangan bahawa dalam keadaan ekonomi global hari ini, peranan *state-owned enterprise* seperti SEDC menjadi semakin penting.

Tuan Speaker, melalui Klausa 4 yang meminda Seksyen 4 Ordinan utama, struktur korporasi diperkukuh dengan pengambilan wakil Kementerian Ekonomi Persekutuan, Peguam Besar Negeri, Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri serta ahli profesional dalam bidang pertanian, industri, perdagangan, kewangan dan sains. Saya menyambut baik pindaan ini kerana ekonomi moden memerlukan kepakaran pelbagai disiplin. Namun, saya juga berharap suara industri tempatan, SME dan kontraktor kecil turut diberikan perhatian kerana merekalah yang paling terkesan dengan keadaan ekonomi semasa.

Tuan Speaker, kita juga perlu melihat contoh kejayaan syarikat milik kerajaan di negara lain sebagai panduan untuk membawa SEDC ke tahap yang lebih tinggi. Sebagai contoh, Singapura membangunkan Temasek Holdings sebagai syarikat pelabuan strategik milik negara. Temasek bukan sahaja melabur dalam syarikat domestik tetapi turut mempunyai pelabuan antarabangsa dalam sektor kewangan, teknologi, tenaga dan logistik. Keuntungan akhirnya kembali kepada rakyat melalui pengukuhan ekonomi negara dan pembangunan sosial. Sarawak juga boleh mengambil pendekatan yang sama dalam skala yang bersesuaian. SEDC tidak harus hanya tertumpu kepada pembangunan hartanah atau projek domestik semata-mata, tetapi perlu berkembang sebagai strategik economic arm Sarawak dalam sektor masa depan seperti tenaga hijau, sekuriti makanan, logistik, serantau, ekonomi digital dan teknologi pertanian.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga ingin mencadangkan agar SEDC memainkan peranan sebagai “*economic stabilizer*” untuk membantu SME dan kontraktor kecil tempatan. Antara cadangan yang boleh dipertimbangkan ialah:

- (a) SEDC memperluaskan program sokongan kepada SME dan kontraktor tempatan yang sedang menghadapi tekanan kenaikan harga bahan mentah akibat konflik dunia semasa;
- (b) SEDC boleh bertindak sebagai pembekal atau penyelaras bahan mentah strategik kepada kontraktor SME dengan margin keuntungan minimum. SEDC boleh melaksanakan konsep pembelian pukal bahan binaan supaya kontraktor kecil memperoleh harga yang lebih stabil dan kompetitif. Sebagai State-Owned Enterprise, SEDC mempunyai kelebihan dari segi skala pembelian, kekuatan kewangan dan jaringan yang boleh dimanfaatkan untuk membantu ekonomi rakyat; dan
- (c) Saya mencadangkan supaya diwujudkan satu “*Sarawak SME Resilience Initiative*” bagi membantu SME tempatan melalui bantuan modal kerja, digitalisasi dan AI, automosi, pembangunan vendor bumiputera, akses eksport dan jaminan rantaian bekalan. Kita tidak mahu SME Sarawak sekadar bertahan, tetapi mampu berkembang menjadi pemain ekonomi masa hadapan.

Tuan Speaker, di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak, kita dapat melihat bagaimana Sarawak semakin berani membina kekuatan ekonomi sendiri melalui PETROS, DBOS, tenaga hijau, ekonomi digital dan pelbagai inisiatif strategik negeri. Dalam konteks ini, saya percaya SEDC perlu menjadi salah satu “*economic arms of the State Government*” yang bukan hanya menjana keuntungan, tetapi menjadi pelindung ekonomi rakyat dan pemangkin pembangunan masa depan Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, akhirnya, apa yang rakyat mahu sebenarnya sangat sederhana. Rakyat mahu peluang untuk terus berniaga. Rakyat mahu kontraktor tempatan terus bertahan. Rakyat mahu anak muda mendapat pekerjaan. Rakyat mahu ekonomi Sarawak berkembang, tetapi dalam masa yang sama tidak meninggalkan rakyat di bawah. Dalam keadaan dunia yang penuh ketidakpastian hari ini, perang, kenaikan harga barang, gangguan bekalan dan tekanan kos hidup, rakyat sedang melihat kepada kerajaan untuk memberi keyakinan dan perlindungan. Dan disinilah pentingnya peranan SEDC sebagai sebuah *state-owned enterprise* milik rakyat Sarawak.

SEDC tidak boleh hanya menjadi syarikat yang berjaya di atas kertas laporan tahunan semata-mata. SEDC mesti menjadi institusi yang dirasakan manfaatnya oleh rakyat biasa, oleh kontraktor kecil

seperi Lingga, peniaga kecil di Sri Aman, usahawan muda di Maludam, petani, nelayan dan anak-anak Sarawak yang sedang berusaha membina kehidupan yang lebih baik. Kalau negara lain mampu membina syarikat milik kerajaan yang menjadi kebanggaan negara dan pemain ekonomi dunia, saya percaya Sarawak juga mampu melakukannya.

Kita mempunyai kepimpinan yang berani, kita mempunyai sumber yang kuat, kita mempunyai visi yang jelas, dan yang paling penting, kita mempunyai rakyat yang mahu melihat Sarawak terus maju dengan acuan sendiri. Biarlah pindaan ini menjadi titik permulaan kepada sebuah SEDC yang lebih besar peranannya, bukan sekadar membina bangunan, tetapi membina masa depan rakyat. Bukan sekadar menjana keuntungan, tetapi memberi harapan. Bukan sekadar menjadi syarikat milik kerajaan, tetapi menjadi lambang kekuatan ekonomi Sarawak untuk generasi akan datang. Kerana akhirnya, kejayaan sebenar sesebuah kerajaan bukan diukur pada angka semata-mata, tetapi apabila rakyat dapat merasai bahawa kerajaan sentiasa bersama mereka terutama ketika waktu susah.

Tuan Speaker, dengan penuh keyakinan dan harapan terhadap masa depan Sarawak, saya menyokong penuh Rang Undang-undang ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tullian

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker kerana memberikan peluang kepada Tullian untuk turut serta dalam perbahasan ini. *Selamat abei gak keluo*, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terlebih dahulu, tahniah diucapkan kepada Bukit Saban merangkap Timbalan Premier Sarawak serta Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baharu kedua selaku menteri yang bertanggungjawab membawa usul Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 ini.

Tuan Speaker, Tullian ingin menyatakan sokongan terhadap Rang Undang-undang Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 kerana pindaan ini bukan sahaja penting dari sudut pentadbiran, malah merupakan satu langkah strategik yang akan memperkukuhkan lagi agenda pembangunan wilayah Sarawak secara menyeluruh, progresif dan berdaya tahan untuk jangka masa panjang.

Pindaan ini tepat pada waktunya ketika Sarawak sedang melangkah ke satu era pembangunan ekonomi baharu yang jauh lebih mencabar dan kompetitif. Dalam keadaan ekonomi global yang semakin dinamik, Sarawak memerlukan sebuah institusi pembangunan ekonomi yang lebih moden, lebih cekap, lebih fleksibel serta mampu bergerak pantas selari dengan aspirasi besar kerajaan Sarawak di bawah Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 2030 terutamanya.

Tuan Speaker, tujuan utama pindaan Ordinan ini adalah untuk memperkukuh dan memodenkan struktur pentadbiran serta fungsi Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (SEDC) agar lebih selaras dengan keperluan pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak masa kini.

Menjenamakan semula SEDC Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak ditukar kepada Sarawak Economic Development Corporation akan memberi satu imej yang lebih moden, profesional dan berorientasikan antarabangsa kepada perbadanan ini. Seterusnya, pindaan ini adalah untuk memperkasakan struktur kepimpinan korporat perbadanan. Jawatan "*General Manager*" ditukar kepada "*Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO)*" untuk mencerminkan struktur pengurusan korporat yang lebih strategik dan setanding dengan organisasi besar masa kini.

Pindaan ini bukan sekadar berfokus hanya kepada *rebranding*, tetapi ia membawa simbol transformasi besar terhadap hala tuju pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak yang matang, berwawasan dan berpaksikan masa depan wilayah Sarawak yang menjamin keharmonian dan sudah semestinya demi kesejahteraan rakyat.

Ia mencerminkan kesungguhan kerajaan Sarawak untuk memastikan institusi pembangunan ekonomi wilayah ini sentiasa relevan dan bersedia menghadapi cabaran ekonomi dunia yang semakin kompleks. Kita dapat melihat dengan jelas bagaimana Sarawak hari ini berjaya muncul sebagai antara wilayah paling progresif di Malaysia melalui pelbagai inisiatif strategik yang dilaksanakan di bawah kepimpinan berwawasan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak.

Antaranya termasuklah pembangunan ekonomi hidrogen, tenaga hijau, ekonomi digital, pembangunan industri hiliran, keselamatan makanan, teknologi dan inovasi, pembangunan infrastruktur moden serta pembangunan modal insan yang semakin agresif dan tersusun. Maka sudah tentu institusi seperti SEDC juga perlu diperkasakan agar mampu memainkan peranan yang lebih besar sebagai pemacu utama pertumbuhan ekonomi Sarawak pada masa hadapan.

Tuan Speaker, Tellian melihat antara kekuatan utama pindaan ini ialah usaha memperkemarkan struktur tadbir urus korporat perbadanan dengan melibatkan pelbagai pihak yang mempunyai kepakaran dan pengalaman luas dalam pelbagai bidang strategik. Pendekatan ini amat penting kerana dunia ekonomi hari ini tidak lagi boleh digerakkan hanya melalui pendekatan konvensional. Sebaliknya, ia memerlukan sistem pentadbiran yang profesional, cekap, telus dan berteraskan kepakaran yang pelbagai. Dengan penglibatan pihak pentadbiran kerajaan, kewangan, perundangan serta tenaga profesional daripada pelbagai sektor, Tellian yakin setiap keputusan strategik yang dibuat oleh perbadanan akan menjadi lebih berkualiti, lebih diyakini serta mampu memberikan impak besar kepada pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak secara keseluruhan.

Tuan Speaker, Tellian juga percaya pindaan ini sangat penting dalam memastikan Sarawak terus berada di hadapan berbanding wilayah-wilayah lain dalam aspek pembangunan ekonomi. Hari ini, Sarawak bukan lagi sekadar wilayah pengeluar sumber mentah semata-mata. Sarawak sedang berubah menjadi sebuah wilayah ekonomi moden yang memberi penekanan kepada ekonomi bernilai tinggi, teknologi hijau, inovasi dan pembangunan lestari.

Dalam konteks ini, SEDC perlu mempunyai kuasa, struktur dan keupayaan yang lebih kukuh untuk terus memacu pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak secara strategik dan mampan. Peranan utama SEDC adalah untuk merancang, melaksana dan menyelaraskan pelbagai aktiviti pembangunan ekonomi yang memberi manfaat terus kepada rakyat serta memperkukuh kedudukan ekonomi Sarawak secara keseluruhannya. Pindaan yang membolehkan perbadanan menubuhkan pejabat dan agensi di pelbagai bahagian di Sarawak merupakan satu langkah yang sangat baik kerana ia akan membantu mempercepatkan penyampaian perancangan pembangunan ekonomi kepada rakyat terutamanya yang berada di peringkat akar umbi.

Tuan Speaker, akhir sekali, Tellian percaya pindaan ordinan ini merupakan salah satu langkah yang sangat progresif dan berpandangan jauh dalam memperkukuhkan institusi pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak agar lebih moden, kompetitif dan sentiasa bersedia menghadapi cabaran masa hadapan.

Dengan tadbir urus yang lebih efisien, struktur yang lebih profesional serta sokongan padu kerajaan Sarawak di bawah pimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak, Tellian yakin Sarawak akan terus melangkah maju sebagai sebuah wilayah yang makmur, stabil, berdaya tahan dan dihormati di peringkat nasional mahupun antarabangsa demi kesejahteraan seluruh rakyat Sarawak.

Secara keseluruhannya, pindaan ini sudah pasti akan menjadikan SEDC lebih dinamik, cekap dan kompetitif dalam memacu agenda pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak, khususnya dalam menghadapi cabaran ekonomi baharu, pelaburan strategik dan pembangunan jangka panjang wilayah Sarawak.

Dengan itu, Tellian menyokong sepenuhnya Rang Undang-undang, Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Murum.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: Terima kasih Tuan Speaker, selamat petang, salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, Salam Segulai Sejalai.

Pertama sekali, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberikan peluang kepada saya untuk turut mengambil bahagian dalam membahaskan Rang Undang-undang Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 yang telah dibentangkan oleh Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban.

Saya bangkit pada petang ini untuk menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap pindaan ini kerana saya percaya ia merupakan satu langkah yang penting, relevan dan strategik dalam memperkukuhkan institusi pembangunan ekonomi negeri selaras dengan aspirasi Sarawak menuju ekonomi masa depan yang lebih mampan, moden dan berdaya saing.

Tuan Speaker, pindaan ini bukan sekadar perubahan teknikal terhadap Ordinan sedia ada, tetapi sebenarnya mencerminkan satu transformasi institusi yang lebih besar dalam memastikan Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak atau SEDC terus relevan dengan perubahan landskap ekonomi global dan keperluan pembangunan negeri pada masa hadapan.

Melalui pindaan ini, beberapa perkara penting telah dicadangkan termasuk penstrukturan semula komposisi korporat, pelantikan jawatankuasa Setiausaha Korporat, pengukuhan kuasa Perbadanan serta penjenamaan semula organisasi daripada Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak kepada *Sarawak Economic Development Corporation* (SEDC). Selain itu, perubahan istilah daripada "*General Manager*" kepada "*Group Chief Executive Officer*" juga menunjukkan bahawa organisasi ini sedang bergerak ke arah model tadbir urus korporat yang lebih moden, profesional dan strategik.

Tuan Speaker, saya melihat pindaan ini amat bertepatan dengan inisiatif Kerajaan Sarawak dalam memperkukuhkan peranan *State-owned Enterprise* (SOE) sebagai pemacu utama pembangunan ekonomi negeri. Hari ini, SOE Sarawak bukan lagi sekadar agensi pelaksana biasa, tetapi telah berkembang menjadi institusi strategik yang memainkan peranan penting dalam pembangunan ekonomi, pelaburan, tenaga, infrastruktur, keselamatan makanan, transformasi digital dan pembangunan luar bandar.

Maka, sudah tentu struktur pentadbiran dan tadbir urus *state-owned enterprise* juga perlu ditransformasikan supaya lebih cekap, fleksibel dan kompetitif. Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah kepimpinan YAB Premier Sarawak telah menunjukkan komitmen yang sangat jelas dalam memperkukuhkan SOE melalui pendekatan tadbir urus yang lebih profesional, berorientasikan prestasi dan berpaksikan keberhasilan. Justeru, pindaan ini sangat selari dengan agenda reformasi SOE Sarawak ke arah membina institusi yang lebih kukuh, lebih dinamik dan mampu bersaing di peringkat antarabangsa.

Tuan Speaker, kita semua sedar bahawa landskap ekonomi dunia hari ini berubah dengan begitu pantas. Persaingan pelaburan semakin sengit. Teknologi berkembang dengan cepat. Dunia kini bergerak ke arah ekonomi hijau, tenaga boleh diperbaharui, automasi, kecerdasan buatan dan ekonomi digital.

Dalam keadaan seperti ini, Sarawak memerlukan institusi pembangunan ekonomi yang mampu bertindak dengan cepat, membuat keputusan secara lebih efektif dan mempunyai keupayaan untuk meneroka peluang baharu secara strategik. SEDC perlu mempunyai kapasiti untuk bergerak seiring dengan keperluan semasa dan masa hadapan.

Pengukuhan kuasa Perbadanan yang dicadangkan melalui pindaan ini amat penting bagi memastikan SEDC dapat memainkan peranan lebih besar dalam menarik pelaburan strategik,

memperkukuhkan pembangunan industri dan membuka lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan kepada rakyat Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak hari ini sedang melangkah ke arah ekonomi baharu melalui pembangunan sektor tenaga hijau, hidrogen, industri hiliran, ekonomi digital, keselamatan makanan dan pembangunan infrastruktur strategik. Kita mahu Sarawak menjadi pemain utama dalam ekonomi hijau serantau. Kita mahu anak-anak Sarawak mendapat peluang pekerjaan berkualiti. Kita mahu ekonomi luar bandar turut berkembang bersama arus pembangunan negeri. Dan untuk mencapai semua ini, kita memerlukan institusi seperti SEDC yang kuat, cekap dan berpandangan jauh.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai wakil rakyat kawasan luar bandar dan pedalaman, saya juga berharap agar SEDC selepas pindaan ini akan terus memperluaskan peranan dalam membantu pembangunan ekonomi masyarakat luar bandar seperti di DUN Murum. Pembangunan ekonomi tidak boleh tertumpu hanya di bandar-bandar utama. Manfaat pembangunan mesti sampai ke kawasan pedalaman dan luar bandar.

Kita mahu lebih banyak peluang kepada usahawan tempatan, belia, petani, pengusaha kecil dan komuniti luar bandar untuk terlibat dalam rantai ekonomi negeri. Saya percaya SEDC boleh memainkan peranan penting dalam membangunkan sektor *agropreneur*, industri makanan, pelancongan komuniti, ekonomi digital serta industri kecil dan sederhana di kawasan luar bandar.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga ingin menyentuh bahawa pindaan ini tidak melibatkan tambahan beban kewangan kepada Kerajaan Negeri. Ini menunjukkan bahawa kerajaan mengambil pendekatan yang pragmatik dan bertanggungjawab dalam melaksanakan transformasi institusi tanpa menambah tekanan kewangan kepada kerajaan. Ini adalah langkah yang baik kerana fokus utama pindaan ini adalah untuk meningkatkan kecekapan pentadbiran, memperkukuhkan tadbir urus dan meningkatkan keberkesanan organisasi.

Tuan Speaker, saya percaya bahawa institusi yang kuat akan menghasilkan dasar yang kuat. Dasar yang kuat akan menghasilkan ekonomi yang kuat. SEDC telah memainkan peranan yang besar dalam pembangunan Sarawak sejak sekian lama, dan saya yakin melalui pindaan ini, organisasi ini akan menjadi lebih bersedia untuk menghadapi cabaran masa hadapan serta terus menjadi antara pemacu utama pembangunan ekonomi negeri.

Akhir sekali, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kepada pihak kerajaan atas usaha membawa pindaan ini demi memastikan institusi pembangunan ekonomi negeri terus relevan, progresif dan kompetitif. Dengan itu, sekali lagi saya menyatakan sokongan penuh saya terhadap Rang Undang-undang Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Pindaan), 2026. Sarawak Maju Makmur, sekian terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tamin.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Thank you Tuan Speaker. I rise a second time today to express my full support for the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 tabled by the Honourable Member YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister for Finance and New Economy, and Minister for Infrastructure and Ports Development Sarawak, and also Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri for N.37 Bukit Saban.

I would like to commend YB Datu Amar Douglas for his leadership, continuous commitment to strengthen Sarawak's economic and infrastructure ecosystem. Under the leadership of our Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak, the State Government has demonstrated a clear vision to transform Sarawak into a developed, high-income and globally competitive region through the implementation of PCDS 2030. This amendment before us today is another strategic step in that direction.

Tuan Speaker, although amendment may appear administrative and structural in nature, in reality, it carries significant importance for the future direction of Sarawak's economic transformation. Today, we are no longer speaking merely about a traditional economy. Sarawak is moving towards becoming a strategic economic region within ASEAN driven by its strengths green energy, downstream industries, digital economy, hydrogen economy, food security, infrastructure expansion, ports and logistics, and international investments. Therefore, our state economic institutions must evolve in tandem with these major aspirations. Tuan speaker, I see several important aspects in this amendment.

(a) Rebranding to "*Sarawak Economic Development Corporation*".

The change of name from "*Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*" to "*Sarawak Economic Development Corporation*" is not merely cosmetic. It's a project us a more modern, global and competitive image. This new branding is more aligned with the strategic role of agency in attracting international investments and driving the state's economic growth. In today's global investment landscape, institutional branding matter greatly.

Sarawak can no longer be viewed merely as a state dependent on traditional economic sector. Sarawak must now position itself as a regional economic hub, an investment destination, and a leader in the green economy and future economy agenda. I believe this transformation is fully aligned with the aspiration of PCDS 2030 and the bold economic vision of the Sarawak Government.

(b) To strengthen Corporate Governance.

Tuan Speaker, I also welcome the amendment aimed at strengthening the corporate governance. Among them are the replacement of title "*General Manager*" with "*Group Chief Executive Officer*" and the appointment of a Corporate Secretary and inclusion of key representatives such as the State Secretary, the State Financial Secretary, the State Attorney-General and a representative from the Federal Ministry of Economy. This clearly demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring that this institution is managed in a more professional, strategic and accountable manner.

I also commend the provision disqualifying *individu* who are involved in fraud, corruption, money laundering, and financial misconduct from holding important position within the corporation. This is crucial in safeguarding the integrity, transparency and credibility of all institutions. Strong governance in the foundation of investor confidence. Without good governance, no economic institution can remain effective or sustainable in the long-term.

(c) Expanding Corporate Power and Function.

Tuan Speaker, I am particularly encouraged by the amendment to Section 11, which empowers the corporation to establish office and agencies throughout Sarawak and incorporate companies to manage in accordance with relevant law. This is extremely important. Sarawak is far too large for development to remain concentrated only in Kuching or major urban center. Rural and interior areas such as Selangau, Mukah, Kapit, Belaga and many other regions must also become part of the state's broader economic development ecosystem. As the elected representative for N. 59 Tamin, I strongly believe the rural Sarawak possesses enormous untapped economic potential.

With proper infrastructure, connectivity and investment support, rural areas can contribute significantly to agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, bamboo industry, forestry-based industries, food production and small and medium enterprises. I hope that through the strengthening of this corporation, more investment can be channelled into rural and interior Sarawak.

(d) Supporting Food Security and Rural Development.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is now placing strong emphasis on the food security agenda. We do not want to remain merely consumers of imported food. We want Sarawak to become a major food producer in the region.

Therefore, the state economic development institution must possess stronger capacity to support paddy and rice industry development, modern agriculture, smart farming, agro-based industries, downstream food processing, and rural entrepreneurship. This is especially important as global food supply chains continue to face uncertainty due to climate change and geopolitical tensions.

Food security is no longer merely an agricultural issue – it is now a strategic economic and security issue. I believe this amendment creates greater room for better coordination between the government, agencies and the private sector in strengthening Sarawak's food security agenda.

(e) In line with the Spirit of MA63 and Sarawak's Economic Autonomy.

Tuan Speaker, in a broader context, this amendment also reflects Sarawak growing confidence in managing its own economic development. Sarawak today is steadily moving towards strengthening its economic autonomy in line with the spirit of the MA63.

We want state institutions to possess capacity, expertise, strategic authority and global competitiveness to shape Sarawak's economic future on our own terms. This includes our efforts in energy transition, oil and gas participation, infrastructure development, port expansion, digital economy and strategic investments.

I believe in this direction championed by the leadership of our Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak and strongly supported by the economic and infrastructure team led by Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas.

Tuan Speaker, as a representative from a rural constituency, I hope that the transformation of this institution will ultimately deliver direct benefits to the people at the grassroots level. The people want to see employment opportunities, infrastructure development, entrepreneurial opportunities, digital economy access, better connectivity and lastly, increased rural income. Economic development cannot exist merely in reports and statistics. It must be felt by the people in villages, long houses and small towns throughout Sarawak. Development must be inclusive. No region in Sarawak should be left behind.

Finally, Tuan Speaker, I believe this amendment is an important step towards strengthening the state's economic institution so that it remains relevant, modern and prepared for future economic challenges. With stronger institutions, stronger governance and clearer strategic direction, I believe Sarawak will continue to strengthen its position as one of the leading economic regions in Malaysia and ASEAN. With that, Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Kota Sentosa.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Thank you Tuan Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026. At first glance, this amendment may appear to be merely a change in designation — from "*General Manager*" to "*Group Chief Executive Officer*". But this House must not treat it as a cosmetic exercise. A new title without a new culture of performance, accountability, and delivery would mean nothing to the people of Sarawak.

This amendment must therefore mark a decisive shift in how SEDC operates, from a traditional administrative body into a results-driven strategic institution capable of delivering measurable economic value to Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, the title “*Group CEO*” carries far greater responsibility than prestige. It signifies leadership over a complex corporate ecosystem involving investments, subsidiaries, public assets, and strategic industries. Therefore, competency must become the defining principle of this office.

The Group CEO must not merely manage files and procedures. The Group CEO must deliver outcomes, stronger investments, higher returns to the state, better governance, more efficient project implementation, and greater economic opportunities for Sarawakians.

This House must send a clear signal that appointments to such an office must be guided by merit, capability, integrity, and proven performance — not seniority. A modern corporate structure demands leadership with commercial vision, strategic discipline, and the ability to compete in an increasingly challenging economic environment.

Tuan Speaker, the formal appointment of a Secretary under this amendment is equally important. However, the Secretary must not become merely an administrative recorder of decisions already made. The office must function as a genuine institutional safeguard. In a “*Group*” structure with multiple subsidiaries and commercial interests, strong governance cannot depend solely on goodwill. It requires systems, oversight, and internal discipline.

The Secretary must therefore play a central role in ensuring compliance, strengthening internal controls, safeguarding procurement integrity, monitoring governance standards across subsidiaries, and ensuring decisions are legally and ethically defensible. This is how public confidence is built — not through slogans, but through credible checks and balances.

Tuan Speaker, SEDC manages assets and investments that ultimately belong to the people of Sarawak. The *rakyat* are therefore the true stakeholders of this institution. For that reason, modernization must be accompanied by greater transparency and measurable accountability.

The people do not want announcements. They want results they can see and feel. They want to know whether projects are delivered on time; whether investments generate returns; whether public funds are properly safeguarded, and whether economic development truly benefits ordinary Sarawakians.

Therefore, this amendment should become the foundation for a stronger performance culture within SEDC. I would therefore propose several result-oriented objectives moving forward:

First, clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) should be established for the Group CEO and senior management, tied directly to project delivery, investment performance, and economic impact.

Second, governance and audit mechanisms across SEDC subsidiaries should be strengthened to reduce leakages, delays, and inefficiencies.

Third, annual reporting should become more transparent and accessible so that this House and the public can properly evaluate outcomes and performance.

Fourth, decision-making processes must become faster and more responsive so that strategic projects do not become trapped in unnecessary bureaucracy.

Finally, SEDC must prioritize investments that create high-quality jobs, strengthen local entrepreneurship, and accelerate Sarawak’s economic development and transformation.

Tuan Speaker, the real test of this amendment will not be the new designation printed on a letterhead. The real test will be whether the new structure produces, better governance, faster execution, stronger financial performance, and tangible benefits for the people of Sarawak.

If we merely change the name while preserving old inefficiencies, then this amendment will have achieved very little. But if this Bill becomes the catalyst for a culture of professionalism, accountability, transparency, and delivery, then it will represent meaningful progress for Sarawak. Let the Group CEO be measured by results, the Secretary by accountability, and SEDC itself by the value it creates for the people of Sarawak. With those remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Batu Kitang.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I rise today to wholeheartedly support this Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 tabled by our Deputy Premier, Honourable Member for N.37 Bukit Saban. This Bill is a vital step in ensuring that one of our state's most critical economic engines is fully equipped to meet the demands of a modern, rapidly evolving global economy.

The Principal Ordinance has served as the legal foundation for the Corporation for nearly seven decades. However, the world of 1958 is vastly different from the Sarawak of 2026. Under the visionary leadership of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, our economy has transformed and our ambition have scaled to international heights. This Bill recognizes that our intuitions must not be "*anchored in the past*" but must instead be "*equipped for the future*".

Tuan Speaker, I would like to highlight four specific areas where this Bill brings transformative change:

- (a) **Institutional Identity and Credibility:** Renaming the Principal Ordinance to the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Ordinance aligns the law with the brand recognized by global investors. It is a signal of clarity and professionalism.
- (b) **Modern Governance:** Transitioning the title of "General Manager" to "Group Chief Executive Officer" is more than a nomenclature change. It reflects the Corporation's reality as a complex group overseeing diverse subsidiaries. This adoption of global standards will undoubtedly strengthen investor confidence.
- (c) **Strategic Expertise:** By expanding membership to include experts from "*any other relevant field*," we are ensuring that the Corporation's boardroom is filled with the diverse talent and knowledge necessary to navigate today's complex economic landscape.
- (d) **Strengthening Good Governance and Accountability:** Good governance is never accidental, it is intentional. The formalization of the Secretary's role and functions closes existing legislative gaps and ensures that transparency and accountability are hardwired into the Corporation's operations.

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, any transformation requires more than words, it requires the courage to update our laws to fit our purpose. This Bill empowers the Corporation to be a more dynamic and flexible driver of our state's prosperity.

I believe this reform is a testament to our confidence in Sarawak's future. I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to join me in supporting this Motion. With this, I beg to support the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Engkilili.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Selamat petang Tuan Speaker, salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, Salam Segulai Sejalai. Tuan Speaker, thank you for allowing me to participate in this Bill, Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 that had been presented by Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban. Syabas dan tahniah Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier.

A Modernized Economic Engine for Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, I rise to support the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026. This amendment is timely. After more than six decades since the original Ordinance was enacted in 1958, it is only right that we modernize the legal framework of our state's premier economic development agency.

The objective is clear to change the name of Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak to Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, and to update key governance structures to reflect current corporate and administrative best practices. This is not just a change name. It is a signal to investors, to our people, and to the world that Sarawak is serious about aligning our institutions with modern governance and economic realities.

Key Amendments in the Bill

Tuan Speaker, let me walk through the substantive changes proposed in this Bill. First, Clause 2, change of name. The Bill seeks to change the name of Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak to Sarawak Economic Development Corporation.

Tuan Speaker, this change is more than semantic. Corporation is a term used internationally for economic development agencies. It reflects a corporate, professional and investment-oriented identity. As Sarawak expands into hydrogen, green energy, digital economy, and advanced manufacturing, our statutory body must carry a name that resonates with global partners and investors.

Second, Clause 8, saving and transitional provisions. Clause 8 ensures legal continuity. It provides that "*any rules, orders, directions, appointments, privileges or other acts made under the Principal Ordinance remain valid and in force until amended, revoked, or replaced. Any ongoing proceedings commenced under the Principal Ordinance before the amendments take effect shall also to be continued.*"

This is important. It means there is no disruption to existing SEDC operations, projects, contracts or legal actions. We are modernizing without creating legal uncertainty. This shows legislative maturity and respect for continuity.

Why These Amendments Matter for Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, SEDC is not just another statutory body. It is the arm of the Sarawak Government that drives industrial development, commercial ventures, and strategic investments across our state. From Samalaju Industrial Park to Kuching's commercial zones, from rural business developments to joint ventures with global firms, SEDC plays a central role in Sarawak's economic transformation. By updating its name and governance framework, we achieve three things:

- (a) Strengthening investor confidence. A modern name and modern structure give confidence to foreign and domestic investors. They know they are dealing with corporation that operates on professional, transparent and internationally recognized standards;
- (b) Improve governance and accountability. The amendment allows SEDC to operate with clearer legal standing and updated administrative provisions. This will enhance its capacity to respond

quickly to economic opportunities while remaining accountable to the State Government and this august House; and

- (c) Align with Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030. Our PCDS 2030 vision requires agile, forward-looking institutions. SEDC must be able to pivot into new sectors like green hydrogen, carbon trading, digital infrastructure, high value agriculture. This amendment gives SEDC the legal foundation to do so.

Financial Implications: No Extra Burden on the State

Tuan Speaker, I note from the Bill's explanatory statement that *"this Bill will not involve the government in extra financial expenditure"*. This is a responsible approach. We are not creating new financial obligations. We are updating the legal identity and operational continuity of SEDC without additional cost to taxpayers. This is fiscal prudence while pursuing institutional reform. Tahniah Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier.

Tuan Speaker, the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 is a forward-looking, practical, and necessary piece of legislation. It modernized SEDC's legal identity, preserved legal continuity, and strengthened our state's economic development machinery.

As the representative for Engkilili, I see how important SEDC is for rural economic transformation. From supporting small entrepreneurs to enabling large scale industrial investment, SEDC must be equipped to serve Sarawak in the next 60 years as it has in the last 60 years. I therefore call upon all Honourable Members to support this Bill. Let's give SEDC the legal clarity and modern identity it needs to take Sarawak to the next level of economic prosperity. Dengan ini, saya menyokong Bill ini, Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: I now call upon the Honourable Deputy Premier; Second Minister for Finance and New Economy, Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development; and Member for N.37 Bukit Saban to deliver his winding up address.

Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Ya, thank you. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. *First, I would like to record my appreciation to 11 Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang telah mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan pada petang ini. Yang Berhormat Yang Berhormat adalah dari Pelagus, Balingian, Daro, Tebedu, Lingga, Tellian, Murum, Tamin, Kota Sentosa, Batu Kitang dan Engkilili. I also like to express gratitude for your support on this Bill, Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026.*

Saya juga amat menghargai segala cadangan dan idea-idea yang bernas yang telah dikemukakan semasa perbahasan yang sudah tentu akan dapat membantu Kerajaan Sarawak dalam melaksanakan dan menguatkuasakan Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 ini. Saranan dan cadangan konstruktif Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat akan diambil kira oleh kerajaan pada masa akan datang.

Tuan Speaker, the latest amendment reflects the initiative of the Sarawak Government to strengthen institutional enhancement for Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) as a corporation that adapts to current industry practices and meets the evolving needs of this progressive corporate landscape.

For the information of the Honourable Members in this august House, the Sarawak Government has engaged the World Bank to undertake the study in 2022 to assess the corporate governance practices of state-owned enterprises which includes both statutory bodies and government linked companies.

Tuan Speaker, in this regard, the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri has approved the code of corporate governance for Sarawak's state-owned enterprises as an official framework for corporate governance applicable to state-owned enterprises under the jurisdiction of the Sarawak Government, including the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and its subsidiaries.

The GPS Government inspires to transform SEDC into one of the leading state-owned enterprises in Sarawak with strengthened governance, greater transparency, enhanced profitability, a clear strategic vision, a commercially driven management approach, and as well as practicing inclusivity policies as requested by Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, just now, and ultimately, positioning it as a world class corporation. With that, I once again wish to record my appreciation to all Honourable Members for the support towards this Bill. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

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 Deputy Premier; Second Minister for Finance and New Economy; Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development; and Member for N.37 Bukit Saban be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as are the opinion say "Yes".

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

Tuan Speaker: As many as are of the contrary opinion say "No".

Opposition: No... (Murmuring "No")

Tuan Speaker: The "Yes" have it. The Motion is passed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Dewan will now resolved into the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill, we stand committed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE OF STAGE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now consider the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Clauses 1 to 8

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that Clauses 1 to 8 are ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as are the opinion say "Yes".

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

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are of the contrary opinion say "No".

Opposition: No... (Murmuring "No")

Tuan Pengerusi: The "Yes" have it. Clauses 1 to 8 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]

Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without any amendment.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

PERBADANAN PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI SARAWAK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 be now read a third time and do pass.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that, the the Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2026 be read a third time and do pass. As many as are the opinion say “Yes”.

Government: Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

Tuan Speaker: As many as are of the contrary opinion say “No”.

Opposition: No... (Murmuring “No”)

Tuan Speaker: The “Yes” have it. The Bill is read a third time and passed.

Bill is read a third time and passed

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the sitting is now adjourned, and the House shall resume its sitting at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 8.31 malam)

**DOKUMEN-DOKUMEN YANG DIBENTANG DI ATAS MEJA
PADA 12 MEI 2026**

PREMIER SARAWAK

01/2026	Yayasan Biasiswa Sarawak Tunku Abdul Rahman – Penyata Kewangan Bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2023
02/2026	Bintulu Development Authority (BDA) – Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 st December 2024
03/2026	Bintulu Development Authority (BDA) – Annual Report for the Year Ended 2024
04/2026	Pustaka Negeri Sarawak – Laporan Tahunan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
05/2026	Pustaka Negeri Sarawak – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
06/2026	Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
07/2026	Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam Negeri Sarawak – Laporan Tahunan bagi Tahun 2024
08/2026	Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
09/2026	Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) – Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement for the Year 2024

MENTERI KEWANGAN DAN EKONOMI BARU SARAWAK

10/2026	Sarawak Sovereign Wealth Future Fund – Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 st December 2025
11/2026	Third Supplementary Estimates of Ordinary Expenditure for the Year 2025 (Cmd. 1 of 2026)
12/2026	Memorandum on the Third Supplementary Estimates of Ordinary Expenditure for the Year 2025 (Cmd.2 of 2026)
13/2026	Second Supplementary Estimates of Development Expenditure for the Year 2025 (Cmd.3 of 2026)
14/2026	Memorandum on the Second Supplementary Estimates of Development Expenditure for the Year 2025 (Cmd.4 of 2026)
15/2026	First Supplementary Estimates of Ordinary Expenditure for the Year 2026 (Cmd.5 of 2026)
16/2026	Memorandum on the First Supplementary Estimates of Ordinary Expenditure for the Year 2026 (Cmd.6 of 2026)
17/2026	First Supplementary Estimates of Development Expenditure for the Year 2026 (Cmd.7 of 2026)
18/2026	Memorandum on the First Supplementary Estimates of Development Expenditure for the Year 2026 (Cmd.8 of 2026)

19/2026	Laporan Ketua Audit Negara 3/ 2025
20/2026	Penyata Kewangan Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak 2024

MENTERI SUMBER ASLI DAN PEMBANGUNAN BANDAR SARAWAK

21/2026	Tabung Perolehan Tanah Khas – Penyata Akaun Tahunan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
22/2026	Tabung Amanah Pembangunan Bandar – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
23/2026	Tabung Amanah Dana Kawasan Konsesi Hutan (Pemulihan dan Pembangunan) – Penyata Akaun Tahunan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
24/2026	Lembaga Kumpulan Wang Kawasan Konsesi Hutan – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
25/2026	Sarawak Forestry Corporation – Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Year Ended 2024
26/2026	Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
27/2026	Lembaga Pembangunan Dan Lindungan Tanah – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024

MENTERI KESIHATAN AWAM, PERUMAHAN DAN KERAJAAN TEMPATAN SARAWAK

28/2026	Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan (HDC) – Laporan Tahunan 2024
29/2026	Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan (HDC) – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
30/2026	Majlis Daerah Dalat dan Mukah – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024

MENTERI INDUSTRI MAKANAN, KOMODITI DAN PEMBANGUNAN WILAYAH SARAWAK

31/2026	Lembaga Penyatuan Dan Pemulihan Tanah Sarawak (SALCRA) – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 2024
32/2026	Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB) – Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 st December 2024
33/2026	Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB) – Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 st December 2024

MENTERI PELANCONGAN, INDUSTRI KREATIF DAN SENI PERSEMBAHAN SARAWAK

34/2026	Sarawak Tourism Board – Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 st December 2024
35/2026	Majlis Seni Sarawak – Reports and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 st December 2024

MENTERI BELIA, SUKAN DAN PEMBANGUNAN USAHAWAN SARAWAK

36/2026	Sarawak Sports Corporation – Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 st December 2024
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MENTERI PENGANGKUTAN SARAWAK

37/2026	Lembaga Sungai-sungai Sarawak – Laporan Tahunan dan Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
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MENTERI UTILITI DAN TELEKOMUNIKASI SARAWAK

38/2026	Lembaga Air Kuching – Laporan Tahunan bagi Tahun Berakhir 2024
39/2026	Lembaga Air Sibu – Laporan Tahunan bagi Tahun Berakhir 2024

MENTERI PENDIDIKAN, INOVASI DAN PEMBANGUNAN BAKAT SARAWAK

40/2026	Sarawak Biodiversity Council's – Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 st December 2024
41/2026	Majlis Penyelidikan dan Pembangunan Sarawak – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024
42/2026	Lembaga Amanah Yayasan Sarawak – Penyata Kewangan bagi Tahun Berakhir 31 Disember 2024

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

43/2026	Penyata Rasmi Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Mesyuarat Ketiga bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas (24 November 2025 – 3 Disember 2025)
44/2026	Undi-Undi dan Perjalanan Mesyuarat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Mesyuarat Ketiga Bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas (24 November 2025 – 3 Disember 2025)
45/2026	Pertanyaan-pertanyaan Bukan Lisan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Mesyuarat Ketiga Bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas (24 November 2025 – 3 Disember 2025)
46/2026	Laporan Jawatankuasa Akaun Awam Negeri Ke-58