



S A R A W A K

PENYATA RASMI PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI

Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Official Reports and Debates

MESYUARAT KETIGA BAGI PENGGAL KEEMPAT

Third Meeting of the Fourth Session

24 NOVEMBER – 3 DISEMBER 2025

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS

Nineteenth Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

ISNIN

24 NOVEMBER 2025

(3 Jamadilakhir 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**.

KANDUNGAN

1.0	PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER.....	1
2.0	RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA	2
2.1	<u>Supply (2026) Bill, 2025</u> Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar; Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.26 Gedong (YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg).....	2
2.2	<u>Supplementary Supply (2025) Bill, 2025</u> Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas).....	2
2.3	<u>Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025</u> Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah).....	3
2.4	<u>Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025</u> 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).....	3
2.5	<u>Sustainable Resources and Wastes Management Bill, 2025</u> Timbalan Premier Sarawak; 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).....	3
3.0	RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA	
	<u>Supply (2026) Bill, 2025</u> Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar; Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.26 Gedong (YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg).....	3
4.0	USUL UNTUK MERUJUK RESOLUSI ANGGARAN PERBELANJAAN PEMBANGUNAN BAGI TAHUN 2026 KEPADA JAWATANKUASA PERBEKALAN	
	<u>Supply (2026) Bill, 2025</u> Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar; Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.26 Gedong (YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg)	40

5.0 RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya

(YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah)..... 41

[Perbahasan oleh Ahli Dewan Biasa berkaitan Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025]

(1)	YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang – (DUN N.61 Pelagus).....	43
(2)	YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang – (DUN N.59 Tamin).....	45
(3)	YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi – (DUN N.58 Balingian).....	47
(4)	YB Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin – (DUN N.48 Meluan).....	48
(5)	YB Encik Royston bin Valentine – (DUN N.57 Tellian).....	50
(6)	YB Encik Lidam anak Assan – (DUN N.62 Katibas).....	52
(7)	YB Encik Billy anak Sujang – (DUN N.1 Opar).....	53
(8)	YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon – (DUN N.66 Murum).....	56
(9)	YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri – (DUN N.38 Kalaka).....	58
(10)	YB Dato Dennis Ngau – (DUN N.77 Telang Usan).....	60
(11)	YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad – (DUN N.43 Daro).....	61
(12)	YB Dr. Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada – (DUN N.21 Tebedu).....	63
(13)	YB Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor – (DUN N.28 Lingga).....	67
(14)	YB Enck Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa – (DUN N.33 Lingga).....	71
(15)	YB Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim – (DUN N.17 Stakan).....	72
(16)	YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui – (DUN N.10 Pending).....	74
(17)	YB Encik Baru Bian – (DUN N.81 Ba’Kelalan).....	77
(18)	YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen – (DUN N.9 Padungan).....	78
(19)	YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh – (DUN N.53 Bawang Assan).....	84
(20)	YB Encik Yap Yau Sin – (DUN N.12 Kota Sentosa).....	86
(21)	YB Encik Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman – (DUN N.6 Tupong).....	88
(22)	YB Dato Ir Lo Khare Chiang – (DUN N.13 Batu Kitang).....	90
(23)	YB Dato’ Sri Huang Tiong Sii – (DUN N.45 Repok).....	92

6.0 RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya

(YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah)..... 99

7.0 RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025

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)..... 99

[Perbahasan oleh Ahli Dewan Biasa berkaitan Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025]

(1)	YB Encik See Chee How – (DUN N.11 Batu Lintang).....	101
(2)	YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang – (DUN N.59 Tamin).....	103
(3)	YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi – (DUN N.58 Balingian).....	106
(4)	YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad – (DUN N.43 Daro).....	107
(5)	YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek – (DUN N.51 Bukit Assek).....	109
(6)	YB Johnny Pang Leong Ming – (DUN N.68 Tanjong Batu).....	110
(7)	YB Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing– (DUN N.46 Meradong).....	112

(8)	YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen – (DUN N.9 Padungan).....	114
(9)	YB Enck Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa – (DUN N.33 Lingga).....	115
(10)	YB Encik Royston bin Valentine – (DUN N.57 Tellian).....	116
(11)	YB Dato Ir Lo Khere Chiang – (DUN N.13 Batu Kitang).....	118
(12)	YB Encik Yap Yau Sin – (DUN N.12 Kota Sentosa).....	119

8.0 RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025

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).....	122
--	-----

9.0 PENANGGUHAN MESYUARAT..... 123

10.0 LAPORAN TAHUNAN, PENYATA KEWANGAN, ‘COMMAND PAPERS’, ‘HANSARD’ DAN ‘VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS’ YANG DIBENTANG PADA 24 NOVEMBER 2025

SARAWAK
DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS

Penyata Rasmi

MESYUARAT KETIGA BAGI PENGGAL KEEMPAT

Isnin, 24 November 2025

Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.14 pagi

HADIR

Bil.	Nama	Konstituensi
1.	Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Asfia bin Awang Nasar P.S.M., D.A., P.N.B.S., D.S.A.P., D.I.M.P., P.B.K., P.C.E. (Emas) <i>Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak</i>	
2.	Yang Berhormat Dato Haji Idris bin Haji Buang P.S.B.S., D.I.M.P., A.M.N., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.C.D., P.J.P.N., P.T.E. <i>Timbalan Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak</i>	<i>N.16 Muara Tuang</i>
3.	Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg D.P., P.M.N., D.A., P.N.B.S., J.B.S., P.C.E., P.S.N.B., S.P.D.K. <i>Premier Sarawak</i> <i>Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru</i> <i>Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar</i> <i>Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar</i>	<i>N.26 Gedong</i>
4.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas D.A., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.C.E. <i>Timbalan Premier Sarawak</i> <i>Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua</i> <i>Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan</i>	<i>N.37 Bukit Saban</i>
5.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar 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>
6.	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>
7.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom P.N.B.S., P.J.N., A.B.S., P.B.E., P.C.E. <i>Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah</i>	<i>N.69 Kemena</i>
8.	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>	<i>N.15 Asajaya</i>

9. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin
P.N.B.S., P.J.N., K.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.B., B.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri Pengangkutan N.75 Senadin

10. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai
P.N.B.S., P.J.N., P.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri di Jabatan Premier N.60 Kakus

11. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Julaihi bin Haji Narawi
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.D., P.B.E.
Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi N.27 Sebuyau

12. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat N.20 Tarat

13. Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerawat Gala
P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., P.B.K.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Buruh, Imigresen dan Pemantauan Projek) N.78 Mulu

14. Yang Berhormat Datuk Francis Harden anak Hollis
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pembangunan Bakat) N.32 Simanggang

15. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Jerip anak Susil
P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Penerbangan dan Jalan Raya) N.19 Mambong

16. Yang Berhormat Datuk Liwan Lagang
P.J.N., P.P.N., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi) N.65 Belaga

17. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Rosey binti Haji Yunus
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak) N.71 Bekenu

18. Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., P.B.K., P.P.B.
Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar N.41 Kuala Rajang

19. 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

20. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali
P.G.B.K., P.T.E., J.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) N.7 Samariang

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

32. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti) N.35 Saribas

33. Yang Berhormat 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

34. Yang Berhormat Dato' Murshid DiRaja Dr Juanda bin Jaya
P.G.B.K., DATO' MURSHID DIRAJA, S.S.P.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Integriti dan Ombudsman) N.44 Jemoreng

35. Yang Berhormat 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

36. 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

37. Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat
P.G.B.K., B.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera) N.63 Bukit Goram

38. Yang Berhormat Datuk Michael Tiang Ming Tee
P.G.B.K., P.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kesihatan Awam dan Perumahan) N.54 Pelawan

39. Yang Berhormat 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

40. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Tiong King Sing
P.J.N., P.N.B.S., D.P.M.K., D.P.M.K., S.S.S.A., D.S.S.A., J.P. N.52 Dudong

41. Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii
P.G.B.K., D.I.M.P., S.S.A.P. N.45 Repok

42. Yang Berhormat Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman
P.S.B.S., J.B.K., P.B.S. N.6 Tupong

43. Yang Berhormat Tan Sri William Mawan anak Ikom
P.S.M., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.D. (Emas) N.47 Pakan

44. Yang Berhormat Datuk Mong anak Dagang
P.G.B.K., J.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.D., P.B.K., P.B.E. N.31 Bukit Begunan

45. Yang Berhormat Dato Paulus Palu Gumbang
P.S.B.S., A.M.N., P.B.S., J.B.K., P.T.E. N.80 Batu Danau

46.	Yang Berhormat Dato Dennis Ngau P.S.B.S., J.B.S., P.B.S., P.T.E., B.B.S.	<i>N.77 Telang Usan</i>
47.	Yang Berhormat Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor P.S.B.S., P.T.E., P.B.S.	<i>N.29 Beting Maro</i>
48.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chong Chieng Jen	<i>N.9 Padungan</i>
49.	Yang Berhormat Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui	<i>N.10 Pending</i>
50.	Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How	<i>N.11 Batu Lintang</i>
51.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing P.J.N., A.B.S.	<i>N.46 Meradong</i>
52.	Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang P.S.B.S., B.B.S., J.B.K.	<i>N.13 Batu Kitang</i>
53.	Yang Berhormat Dato Mohd Chee bin Kadir P.S.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.S., P.J.P.N., J.B.S.	<i>N.40 Kabong</i>
54.	Yang Berhormat Dato Miro anak Simuh P.S.B.S., P.B.S.	<i>N.18 Serembu</i>
55.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.B.S., P.C.E.	<i>N.53 Bawang Assan</i>
56.	Yang Berhormat Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin P.S.B.S.	<i>N.48 Meluan</i>
57.	Yang Berhormat Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang A.M.N., K.M.N., J.B.S.	<i>N.61 Pelagus</i>
58.	Yang Berhormat Encik John anak Ilus P.B.S., A.P.S.	<i>N.23 Bukit Semuja</i>
59.	Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris P.B.S., A.B.S.	<i>N.25 Simunjan</i>
60.	Yang Berhormat Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang P.B.K.	<i>N.59 Tamin</i>
61.	Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi B.B.S., A.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.K.	<i>N.58 Balingian</i>
62.	Yang Berhormat Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad J.B.K., P.P.B.	<i>N.43 Daro</i>
63.	Yang Berhormat Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon J.B.S., P.P.N., A.B.S.	<i>N.66 Murum</i>
64.	Yang Berhormat Encik Allan Siden Gramong P.B.S., A.B.S.	<i>N.50 Machan</i>
65.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim A.M.N., P.M.W.	<i>N.17 Stakan</i>

66.	Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang A.B.S.	<i>N.74 Pujut</i>
67.	Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor P.B.S.	<i>N.28 Lingga</i>
68.	Yang Berhormat Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada J.B.K., A.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.21 Tebedu</i>
69.	Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang P.B.S., P.P.B.	<i>N.1 Opar</i>
70.	Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan J.B.K., P.B.S.	<i>N.3 Tanjong Datu</i>
71.	Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.12 Kota Sentosa</i>
72.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri P.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.38 Kalaka</i>
73.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa J.B.S., P.T.E.	<i>N.33 Engkilili</i>
74.	Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian	<i>N.81 Ba'Kelalan</i>
75.	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>
76.	Yang Berhormat Encik Anyi anak Jana P.B.K.	<i>N.49 Ngemah</i>
77.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek P.B.S.	<i>N.51 Bukit Assek</i>
78.	Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine J.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.57 Tellian</i>
79.	Yang Berhormat Encik Lidam anak Assan P.B.S.	<i>N.62 Katibas</i>
80.	Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai P.B.S.	<i>N.64 Baleh</i>
81.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming P.B.S.	<i>N.68 Tanjong Batu</i>
82.	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 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>

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. Encik Nizle anak Junep
Bentara Mesyuarat
6. Encik Muhaimin Naqib bin Narudin
Bentara Mesyuarat
7. Encik Bryan Hansen anak Wennedy
Bentara Mesyuarat
8. Encik Abang Mohd Azamuddin bin Abang Yahya
Bentara Mesyuarat

PETUGAS PERSIDANGAN

PEGAWAI UNDANG-UNDANG DAN PEMBACA PRUF

1. Encik Syed Rezif Afham bin Wan Alwi
Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak
2. Encik Jemaury Ajerama anak Jemat
Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak

PEMBACA PRUF

1. Puan Dorensi Dyonie Dominic
Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak
2. Encik Shamsul Idzam Jamil
Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak

JURUTRENGKAS

1. Puan Sharlina binti Mushar
Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri
2. Puan Malin anak Arit
Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri
3. Puan Nur Afizah binti Raduan
Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri
4. Puan Nurul Izza binti Jem
Pejabat Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak
5. Encik Mohd Alfadjer bin Haji Tuah
Pejabat Residen Bahagian Kuching
6. Puan Norzazeeyana binti Nooriaman
Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Sarawak
7. Puan Nurzatul Atikah binti Sahak
Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak
8. Puan Khalida binti Mohd Mahali
Majlis Islam Sarawak
9. Puan Zuriawati binti Mohd Laili
Pustaka Negeri Sarawak
10. Puan Mariadiba Naliza binti Marzuki
Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak
11. Puan Sabtuyah binti Adeng
Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan
12. Puan Ratna Airnwati binti Haji Md. Junaidi
Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan
13. Puan Meri anak Sabas
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
14. Puan Noorina binti Hamdan
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
15. Puan Bernadette Willon
Mahkamah Negeri Sarawak
16. Puan Beatrice Dinus
Hospital Umum Sarawak
17. Puan Sylvia anak Chichik
Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia Sarawak

18.	Puan Nur Izzatul Fatimah Abdullah	<i>Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak</i>
19.	Puan Siti Noraisah Amalina binti Kaderi	<i>Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak</i>
20.	Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin	<i>Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak</i>
21.	Puan Rosline anak Dominic Maon	<i>Kementerian Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak</i>
22.	Puan Emely anak Edmund Beatie	<i>Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia Cawangan Sarawak</i>
23.	Puan Juliana Lugom	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>
24.	Puan Anieta Sylvester Pungga	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>
25.	Puan Dayang Duraiza binti Awang Jangka	<i>Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak</i>
26.	Puan Margaret anak Francis Bohui	<i>Lembaga Penyatuan dan Pemulihan Tanah Sarawak</i>
27.	Puan Siti Aisyah binti Abdullah @ Rosemary Langub	<i>Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak</i>

JURURAKAM PERSIDANGAN

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

JURUTEKNIK IT

1.	Encik Abang Hasmadi bin Abang Wahab	<i>SAINS</i>
2.	Encik Azmuddin Yazid	<i>SAINS</i>
3.	Puan Kartini Asman	<i>SAINS</i>
4.	Puan Natasya Abdullah	<i>SAINS</i>
5.	Encik Salihin bin Abu Seman	<i>SAINS</i>
6.	Puan Zuraidah binti Zaidi	<i>SAINS</i>
7.	Encik Ahmad Akmal Afiq	<i>SAINS</i>

MESSENGER

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

SEKRETARIAT PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

1.	Tuan Haji Abang Zaabar bin Abang Ballia
2.	Cik Noria binti Suut
3.	Puan Nur Azira binti Abdul Kadir
4.	Encik Nurkhairudin bin Osen
5.	Puan Rabiah binti Abdul Kadir

6. Cik Genang anak Timbung
7. Puan Siti Norhiza binti Mohammad Yusri
8. Puan Hanisah Abdullah
9. Cik Siti Halimah binti Mohamad Nawawi
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. Puan Calista Abbie anak Sapa @ Patrick Sapa
16. Cik Sharina binti Sopian
17. Puan Patricia anak Peter
18. Encik Awang Mohammad Asyrul Jaya bin Awang Putra
19. Sarjan Terence anak Jayan
20. Puan Norziana binti Haji Ahmad
21. Encik Mohd Hasfia bin Abdullah
22. Puan Nur Eliana Abdullah
23. Puan Tracy Lyana anak Bana
24. Encik Muhammad Elliyas bin Matali
25. Encik Mohd Zulkhairi bin Mohammad Hejemi
26. Puan Dayang Nazira binti Abang Martaza
27. Puan Jasmine Sinja anak Robinson
28. Puan Dayang Noorazilla binti Jasni
29. Cik Parcelia Renyelina anak Pamg
30. Cik Nur Zafirah binti Affendy Michael
31. Puan Deidre anak Wilson
32. Cik Siti Nur Marsitah binti Abdullah
33. Puan Nur Amira Lystiani binti Poniman
34. Encik Razali bin Awi
35. Puan Nora binti Atem
36. Encik Zahari bin Bolhi
37. Encik Lukas Jammay anak Kated
38. Encik Ruzaimy bin Muhammad
39. Encik Hazrin Syah bin Hamzah
40. Encik Salman bin Jaya
41. Encik Alwie bin Haji Ali
42. Encik Romzi bin Bujang
43. Encik Musa bin Julai
44. Cik Hawa binti Morsad
45. Puan Suraya binti Hamden
46. Puan Noraisah binti Ahmad
47. Cik Siti Zalilah binti Samsawi
48. Encik Iz Mohd. Haiqal Hakeem bin Mahamud

PELAJAR PRAKTIKAL

1. Cik Anya Qhawiema binti Effendy
2. Encik Mohd. Aidil Farhan

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 9.14 pagi)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

DOA

PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER

Tuan Speaker: Bismillahirrahmannirahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Selamat pagi dan Salam sejahtera. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, alhamdulillah, bersyukur kita ke hadrat Illahi kerana dengan limpah kurnia-Nya maka kita dapat berkumpul sekali lagi di Mesyuarat Ketiga bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Ke-19 atau lebih dikenali sebagai Persidangan Belanjawan. Saya mengucapkan selamat datang dan terima kasih atas kehadiran Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dan sidang dewan ke persidangan ini. Persidangan kita akan berlangsung selama lapan hari, mulai hari ini, 24 November hingga 3 Disember 2025 kecuali hari Sabtu, 29 November 2025 dan Ahad, 30 November 2025. Semoga kita dapat bersidang dalam suasana yang muhibah dan penuh tatatertib.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, Dewan yang mulia ini juga mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier Sarawak yang telah dianugerahkan salah satu anugerah tertinggi oleh Kerajaan Jepun iaitu, *The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star* pada 11 November 2025. Semoga Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak terus dikurniakan kesihatan yang baik serta kebijaksanaan untuk memimpin Sarawak Maju Makmur. *(Applause)*...

Dengan kesempatan ini juga, Dewan yang mulia ini mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang telah dianugerahkan Darjah Kebesaran Bintang dan Pingat Negeri Sarawak bersempena dengan sambutan perayaan Hari Lahir Ke-79, Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak pada 11 November 2025 yang lalu. Sekalung tahniah ditujukan khas kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat seperti berikut:

- (a) YB Datuk Henry Harry anak Jinep, N.2 Tasik Biru;
- (b) YB Datuk Gerald Rentap Jabu, N.36 Layar;
- (c) YB Datuk Majang anak Renggi, N.70 Samalaju; and
- (d) YB Datuk Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Baki, N.8 Satok.

Yang telah dianugerahkan Anugerah Darjah Utama Yang Amat Mulia Bintang Kenyalang Sarawak, Panglima Bintang Kenyalang (P.G.B.K.) yang membawa gelaran Datuk.

Seterusnya,

- (a) YB Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor, N.29 Beting Maro;
- (b) YB Dato Miro anak Simuh, N.18 Serembu; dan
- (c) YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin, N.48 Meluan.

Ketiga-tiga Ahli Yang Berhormat tersebut telah dianugerahkan Darjah Utama Yang Amat Mulia Bintang Sarawak Panglima Setia Bintang Sarawak (P.S.B.S.) yang membawa gelaran Dato.

Seterusnya,

- (a) YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada, N.21 Tebedu; dan
- (b) YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan, N.3 Tanjong Dato.

Kedua-dua Ahli Yang Berhormat tersebut telah dianugerahkan Johan Bintang Kenyalang (J.B.K.).

Seterusnya, YB Encik Iskandar bin Turkee, N.67 Jepak yang dianugerahkan Pegawai Bintang Sarawak (P.B.S.).

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted leave of absence under (Standing Order 81) to Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Honourable Deputy Premier and Member for N.82 Bukit Sari; and Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, Honourable Member for N.52 Dudong for today sitting until 28th November 2025.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, bagi pihak Dewan yang mulia ini juga, saya ingin mengucapkan takziah kepada seluruh keluarga mendiang Puan Sri Datin Amar Lim Su Kheng, isteri kepada mendiang Tan Sri Datuk Amar Sim Kheng Hong, mantan Timbalan Ketua Menteri Sarawak dan mantan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak; dan ibu kepada Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr. Sim Kui Hian, Timbalan Premier dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah yang telah meninggal dunia pada 17 November 2025. Bagi menghormati mendiang, marilah kita sama-sama berdiri bertafakur selama satu minit.

(Bertafakur selama seminit)

Tuan Speaker: Terima kasih.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

SUPPLY (2026) BILL, 2025

Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar; Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.26 Gedong (YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg): Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce a Bill intitule “An Ordinance to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund for the service of the year 2026” to be read a first time.

Bill is read a first time

Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar; Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.26 Gedong (YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg): Tuan Speaker, I wish to give a notice that this Bill would be read a second time today.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (2025) BILL, 2025

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

Bill is read a first time

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I wish to give notice that this Bill will be read the second time on Thursday, 27th November 2025.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the second reading committee stage and third reading of Supplementary Supply (2025) Bill, 2025 is set on Thursday, 27th November 2025.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF SARAWAK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

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

Bill is read a first time

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

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

BUILDING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

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 introduce the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to be read a first time.

Bill is read a first time

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 wish to give notice that this Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read a second time today.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES AND WASTES MANAGEMENT BILL, 2025

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; 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 introduce the Sustainable Resources and Wastes Management Bill, 2025 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; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas): Tuan Speaker, I wish to give notice that this Bill will be read the second time on 25th November 2025.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the second reading committee stage and third reading of Sustainable Resources and Wastes Management Bill, 2025 is set on tomorrow, 25th November 2025.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

SUPPLY (2026) BILL, 2025

Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar; Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.26 Gedong (YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg): Tuan Speaker, saya mohon mencadang supaya Rang Undang-Undang bertajuk “*Satu Ordinan bagi menggunakan sejumlah wang daripada kumpulan*

wang disatukan untuk perkhidmatan bagi tahun 2026 dan bagi memperuntukkan wang itu untuk perkhidmatan tahun itu” dibaca bagi kali kedua.

Assalamualaikum, Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, Salam *Segulai Sejalai*. Tuan Speaker, alhamdulillah saya merafakkan setinggi-tinggi kesyukuran ke hadrat Allah S.W.T. atas limpah rahmat dan izinNya, saya dikurniakan kesempatan untuk membentangkan Bajet Negeri Sarawak Tahun 2026 dalam Dewan yang mulia ini.

This Budget is not merely a statement of numbers and allocations. It is a manifestation of our collective vision, a roadmap that chart Sarawak’s journey towards a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future, in line with the aspirations of our Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 or PCDS 2030.

The global landscape is undergoing rapid transformation economically, politically, and socially. As we shape our fiscal path for 2026, we must be vigilant to the evolving economic and geopolitical forces that continue to influence the global, national and state landscapes. These forces often volatile and unpredictable, necessitate a budgetary framework that is responsive to new challenges resilient against volatility, and strategically aligned with our long-term objectives.

In this regard, the 2026 State Budget shall be anchored on three core imperatives:

- (a) Strategic Responsiveness – We must remain agile in our allocations, ensuring that resources are directed toward sectors that drive inclusive growth and national competitiveness.
- (b) Fiscal Resilience – We will strengthen our financial buffers and adopt prudent measures to safeguard public finances against external shocks and domestic volatility.
- (c) Policy Alignment – Our budgetary decisions will reflect the priorities set forth in our state’s development agenda, with clear linkages to outcomes sets in our PCDS 2030 that is anchored on three pillars: Economic Prosperity, Inclusive Society and Environmental Sustainability.

In this spirit, I will share with this august House an overview of the economic performance and key challenges of 2025, together with the outlook for 2026, which underpins the strategic framing of the 2026 State Budget.

Tuan Speaker,

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE 2025 AND PROSPECT FOR 2026

Global Economy

As we approach the close of 2025, the global economy is entering a period of slower and more uneven growth. Shifts in trade policies, rising protectionism, and differing fiscal responses across major economies have created an environment of heightened uncertainty. While the easing of tariffs has helped stabilize markets, global growth remains modest. The international Monetary Fund, in October 2025 World Economic Outlook, projects global growth to moderate to 3.2% in 2025.

Growth in advanced economies is expected to ease to 1.6% in 2025, weighed down by tighter financial conditions and slower labour force expansion. In the United States, growth is projected at 2.0%, as household spending and business investment moderate amid high borrowing costs and the gradual impact of recent tariffs on consumer prices. The euro area is expected to record a mild improvement, with growing rising to 1.2%, supported by export recovery and a more accommodative fiscal stance.

Emerging Markets and Developing Economies continue to anchor global growth, expanding by 4.2% in 2025 on the back of robust domestic demand, digital transformation, and ongoing structural reforms that are enhancing productivity and resilience. This trend is particularly evident in economies investing heavily in artificial intelligence (AI), renewable energy, and advanced

manufacturing. India remains a key driver of expansion, with growth projected at 6.6%, while China's economy is set to grow by 4.8%, reflecting ongoing property sector adjustments and softer external demand, partly offset by targeted policy support and stronger regional trade links.

World trade is expected to expand by 2.9% in 2025, slower than the 3.5% recorded in 2024. As early shipments and inventory adjustments ahead of potential trade policy changes provide only at temporary support. With pressures from energy and commodity prices, continuing to ease and supply chain conditions improving global inflation is expected to decline from 4.2% in 2025 to 3.7% in 2026. However, it remains above target in several advanced economies while staying subdued in much of Asia. Downside risk persists, including renewed trade tension, financial market volatility and climate-related disruption. Nonetheless, the global economy is expected to expand by 3.1% in 2026 supported by gradually easing monetary conditions and continued momentum in emerging markets.

Tuan Speaker,

Malaysia Economic Performance 2025 and Prospect For 2026

Against this global backdrop, Malaysia's economy continues to demonstrate resilience supported by firm domestic demand, a robust labour market and sustained policy reforms. In the first half of 2025, GDP expanded by 4.4% with full-year growth projected between 4.0% and 4.8%. Growth is underpinned by robust private consumption, stable labour market conditions, and continued policy support under *Ekonomi MADANI*.

Export recovery, particularly in the electrical and electronics and manufacturing sectors is gradually strengthening in tandem with improving global demand. Nevertheless, the contribution from external trade remains moderate compared to domestic drivers of growth. Private investment momentum continues to be robust, driven by high value sectors such as semiconductors, renewable energy, and digital technology.

Malaysia's inflation rate is projected to range between 2.0% and 3.5% in 2025. For the first nine months of the year, inflation moderated to 1.4% down from 1.8% during the same period in 2024. This moderation reflects easing global cost pressures, stable supply conditions and the absence of excessive domestic demands. The government's targeted subsidy rationalisation and price control measures have also cushioned households from rising living costs. Meanwhile, the labour market remains stable with the unemployment rate at 3.0% in the second quarter of 2025, the lowest in a decade.

Fiscal consolidation efforts have also progressed with the deficit expected to narrow to 3.8% in 2025, from 4.1% in 2024. This improvement is supported by higher revenue collection of RM343.1 billion, enhanced governance and more targeted subsidies. Looking ahead, Budget MADANI 2026 underscores the government's commitment to strengthening fiscal discipline while promoting inclusive and sustainable growth. Malaysia's economy is projected to grow between 4.0% and 4.5% in 2026 anchored by ongoing reforms and resilient domestic demands, ongoing infrastructure projects, and strong private investment. The tourism industry is also expected to gain momentum under the *Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026* campaign which targets 47 million visitors, and RM329 billion in receipts.

Tuan Speaker,

Sarawak Economic Performance in 2025 and Prospects for 2026

I shall now move to the Sarawak's economy. Sarawak's economic growth is projected to remain resilient in the face of evolving global conditions. For 2025, Sarawak's economy is expected to grow by around 4.5% to 5.0% underpinned by increase domestic activities and easing inflationary pressures.

Supply Side

On the supply side, the services sector, which contributes almost 40% to Sarawak's economy, is expected to expand by 6.4% in 2025. This growth is supported by improvement in the tourism and hospitality industry, with business visitors, investors and tourist arrivals increasing by 7.0% between January and September 2025 compared to the same period last year.

Sarawak's continued push to broaden trade and logistics activities is said to stimulate growth across key supporting subsectors, including utilities, transport, storage, and communication and Government services. Complementing these efforts is the accelerated development of telco towers, which is expanding digital reach and improving service delivery.

The mining sector is expected to record stronger performance in 2025 with growth projected at 3.6%. This expansion is driven by higher output from existing natural gas fields and the commencement of new projects such as Jerun Gas Field and Kawasari Gas Development Project particularly in second half of 2025.

Growth is further supported by demand for natural gas as feedstock for the Sarawak Petchem Methanol Plant in Bintulu supplied via dedicated pipelines from Sarawak's own gas resources. With PETROS now serving as the sole gas aggregator, Sarawak is well positioned to optimise gas resource management and enhance value creation across the energy supply chains.

Meanwhile, the manufacturing sector is projected to grow moderately between 2.0% to 2.5% in 2025, reflecting a temporary moderation in liquefied natural gas (LNG) output due to unplanned downtime and planned shutdown activities including at the Bintulu Crude Oil Terminal. Nonetheless, the operations of the Sarawak Petchem Methanol Plant in Bintulu have expanded the State's manufacturing base and export capacity, strengthening downstream linkages within the industrial ecosystem.

The agriculture sector is expected to record moderate growth, with crude palm oil (CPO) production expanded by 1.7% from January to September 2025. Productivity improved as fresh fruit bunch yields rising from 10.97 tonnes per hectare in 2024 to 11.17 tonnes per hectare in 2025. Over the same period, the average CPO price in Sarawak stood at RM4,258 per tonne. Moving forward, CPO production is expected to maintain its upward momentum, driven by strong demand from major importing countries such as India and China. Consequently, the agriculture sector is projected to expand by 1.6% in 2025.

The construction sector is expected to maintain strong momentum with growth projected at 9.4% in 2025. This expansion is primarily driven by the active implementation of major infrastructure projects, particularly in the civil engineering subsector, alongside sustained progress in the residential building segment.

Tuan Speaker,

Demand Side

Tuan Speaker, on the demand side, firm consumer spending and steady investment momentum continue to support Sarawak's domestic economic growth in 2025. While external trade recorded a total of RM118.7 billion between January and August 2025, compared to RM132.3 billion in the same period last year, the decline reflects temporary adjustments in global commodity demand and export prices.

During the first eight months of 2025, exports of LNG and crude petroleum contracted by 17.9% and 20.3% respectively in line with the lower average Brent Crude Oil price of around USD69 per barrel. Conversely, exports of CPO increased by 3.5% in value, supported by higher prices.

On the investment front, the Sarawak Government remains committed to economic diversification by actively promoting private investment, particularly in emerging and high-value sectors. In the first half of 2025, Sarawak recorded RM4.08 billion in approved private investments across various industries. Within the manufacturing sector, investments totalling RM2.14 billion were approved for the period from January to September 2025, mainly in the basic metal and food processing industries, underscoring continued investor confidence in Sarawak's manufacturing landscape. Meanwhile, investment in capital goods reached RM12.2 billion during the first eight months of 2025, highlighting ongoing capacity expansion and capital formation across Sarawak's economy.

Public investment is projected to grow by 16.7% in 2025, supported by ongoing infrastructure development led by both Sarawak and Federal Governments, which allocated RM10.9 billion from Sarawak and RM5.9 billion from Federal, respectively. This reflects continued efforts to strengthen transport and utility networks, enhance public amenities, and accelerate regional development as Sarawak continue to pursue achieving the 12th Malaysia Plan overall targets.

Public consumption growth remains firm, driven by sustained Government expenditure on emoluments and operational costs aimed at enhancing the capacity and efficiency of the civil service. The rollout of the *Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam* further lifts public expenditure, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening service delivery and productivity.

Private consumption is projected to grow by 5.9% in 2025, supported by stable employment, steady economic activity, and easing inflation. The implementation of the *Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam* and the new minimum wage policy are expected to further increase disposable income and strengthen household purchasing power, reinforcing domestic demand and sustaining Sarawak's overall economic resilience.

Together with continued financial assistance through *Sumbangan Keperluan Asas Sarawak* (SKAS), *Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah* (STR), and *Sumbangan Asas Rahmah* (SARA), as well as targeted support for healthcare, housing and small business development, household spending power is expected to improve further.

Inflation

Tuan Speaker, inflation in Sarawak eased to 2.4% in 2024, indicating a more stable price environment. In 2025, inflation is expected to moderate further with the average rate for the first nine months recorded at 0.9%. The decline was mainly driven by lower inflation in the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category, reflecting improved price conditions and stabilising input costs.

Consequently, overall inflation for 2025 is projected to soften further, ranging between 1.2% and 1.5%, supported by contained global cost pressures, improved supply conditions, and ongoing domestic price management measures.

Labour Market

The labour market in Sarawak remained stable in the first half of 2025, with the labour force increasing slightly to 1.257 million persons compared to 1.252 million persons in the same period of 2024. Employment conditions continued to improve, while the unemployment rate held steady at 3.4%. Looking ahead, the unemployment rate is expected to remain stable within the range of 3.2% to 3.5% as economic activities continue to strengthen. These indicators reflect a resilient and steady labour market, supported by sustained growth in key sectors such as services, construction, and manufacturing.

Overall, Sarawak's economy is expected to maintain its positive trajectory, supported primarily by favourable domestic conditions, even as external demand shows signs of moderation. For 2026,

growth is projected between 5.0% and 6.0%, reflecting continued resilience amid global uncertainties. This outlook is underpinned by steady expansion across key sectors such as services, manufacturing, and construction, alongside sustained investments in infrastructure and energy.

Strong private consumption and public sector spending will further reinforce growth momentum, as Sarawak remains focused on building a diversified and high value economy that promotes balanced regional development and inclusive growth.

Tuan Speaker,

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE STATES IN 2025

Before I proceed to table the propose 2026 State Budget, allow me first to update this august House under State's financial performance for the year 2025.

REVENUE, 2025

I am pleased to inform this august House that, as of October 2025, our revenue collection has reached RM10.3 billion representing 73% of our projected target for the year. However, based on current trends, we are now projecting the total revenue for 2025 to reach RM12.1 billion. This marks a slight reduction of RM2.1 billion, or 15% from our original estimates of RM14.2 billion. The primary factor contributing to this shortfall is the sustained decline in global crude oil prices, which have hovered at an average rate of USD69 per barrel throughout the year and also the effect of Trump administration of tariff policy.

The actual revenue collection of RM10.3 billion is mainly from the following major sources:

(a) State sales tax of RM3.9 billion, mainly comprised the following:

- (i) Petroleum products of RM2.9 billion;
- (ii) Crude palm oil and palm kernel oil of RM801 million;
- (iii) Aluminium of RM64 million;
- (iv) Lottery of RM59 million;
- (v) Timber products of RM21 million;
- (vi) Ferroalloys of RM20 million; and
- (vii) Polysilicon of RM9 million

- (b) Cash compensation in lieu of oil and gas rights of RM2.2 billion;
- (c) Dividend of RM1.1 billion;
- (d) Interest and return from investment of RM640 million;
- (e) Raw water royalty of RM562 million;
- (f) Land premium of RM232 million;
- (g) Forestry of RM209 million;
- (h) Cash compensation in lieu of imports and excise duties on petroleum products of RM120 million;
- (i) Federal grants and reimbursement of RM744 million; and
- (j) Other sources such as mining royalties, water sales and land rents of RM593 million.

EXPENDITURES, 2025

The 2025 Ordinary Expenditure has been revised upwards from RM13.71 billion to RM14.061 billion, an increase of RM346 million or 2.5%. As of October 2025, RM9.86 billion or 70% of the Ordinary Expenditure has been expended, of which RM3.96 billion was for Operating Expenditure, while RM5.9 billion was appropriated to Statutory Funds.

For Development Expenditure, a sum of RM5.46 billion out of RM11.07 billion or 49% has been expended for the same period. As the development momentum continues to pick up and project implementation intensifies, the expenditure is expected to increase towards the end of the year.

SARAWAK BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2026

Tuan Speaker, now I would like to present the 2026 Sarawak Budget proposal with the theme *“Empowering People, Advancing Prosperity, Building a Resilient Future”*. This theme reflects the firm conviction of this government that our greatest asset is our people; and that the role of the state is to empower every Sarawakian, rural and urban, young and old, men and women to participate fully and meaningfully in the progress of our beloved state.

As we gather in this august House, the global economy continues to face uncertainty and volatility. The world is witnessing the reconfiguration of trade alliances, the resurgence of protectionist policies, and the profound impact of technological transformation. Yet, amidst these challenges, Sarawak continues to stand strong – resilient, adaptive and confident in its long-term vision.

This year’s budget is crafted at a time when the world economy is adjusting to the impact of renewed United States protectionist measures, including the reintroduction of tariffs under the Trump administration, and to the softening of global oil prices, which have fallen from an average of USD88 per barrel in early 2025 to around USD74 per barrel by the third quarter of the year.

These factors inevitably affect National’s revenue and consequently, the fiscal space available to the state as well. However, Sarawak’s fiscal position remains strong, anchored by prudent financial management, diversified revenue streams, and robust reserves. The State Government’s foresight introducing new sources of revenue, including sales tax on petroleum products and dividends from State-owned enterprises (SOEs) has provided Sarawak with a sustainable fiscal buffer against external shocks.

Building on this solid foundation, this budget has been carefully crafted to ensure Sarawak remains resilient, competitive, and agile in the face of global uncertainties. Anchored by past accomplishments and a strong foundation, we are well-positioned to meet future challenges, protecting the welfare of our people and advancing shared prosperity across the state.

2026 Sarawak Budget Fiscal Framework

Tuan Speaker, the 2026 Sarawak Budget Fiscal Framework is anchored by five strategic pillars as follows:

First, we will strengthen fiscal and structural reforms to ensure our financial systems remain robust, transparent, and adaptive to the evolving economic landscape. These reforms are essential to building a foundation that supports long-term growth and stability.

Second, we reaffirm our commitment to prudent fiscal management. Every *ringgit* spent must deliver value to the *rakyat* and the state, and every investment must be aligned with the state broader development agenda. Fiscal discipline will remain the cornerstone of our governance.

Third, we will pursue an expansionary budget that stimulates economic growth and domestic demand. By investing in infrastructure, education and human capital, research and development, and innovation, digitalization, and environmental sustainability, we aim to unlock new opportunities and drive Sarawak’s economy to greater heights.

Fourth, we are committed to boosting revenue through diversified sources, including targeted investment in strategic industries, expansion of digital economy initiatives and the sustainable management of our natural resources. This will empower us to fund transformative, high impact

projects that stimulate economic growth, uplift the living standard and secure long-term prosperity for the *rakyat*.

Finally, we will promote inclusive development and equitable wealth distribution to ensure no Sarawakian will be left behind. We will bridge regional disparities and ensure that prosperity is shared among all segments of society.

2026 Sarawak Budget Goals and Strategic Thrusts

Tuan Speaker, the 2026 Sarawak Budget is centered towards achieving five overarching goals as follows:

- (a) Transforming Sarawak towards higher income economy;
- (b) Enhancing the *rakyat's* social well-being through people-centric and development-focused initiatives;
- (c) Strengthening the state fiscal position towards long-term financial sustainability;
- (d) Positioning Sarawak as a regional economic powerhouse and key investment destination in Malaysia; and
- (e) Transforming Sarawak into a renewable energy and green hub.

Guided by these goals, the 2026 Sarawak Budget is framed across nine Strategic Thrusts as follows:

- First : Transform and Diversify Sarawak Economy
- Second : Promote Investment and Foster Strategic Industries
- Third : Build High Quality Education and Human Capital
- Fourth : Protect and Sustainably Manage Natural Resources for Environmental Sustainability
- Fifth : Bridge Development Gap and Drive Rural Economic Growth
- Sixth : Safeguard the Rakyat's Livelihood
- Seventh : Enhance Culture, Sports and Youth Development
- Eights : Spur Research & Development, Science & Technology and Innovations
- Ninth : Strengthen Government Capacity and Public Service Delivery

Tuan Speaker, now I touch base on that trust, Revenue Estimates, 2026.

REVENUE ESTIMATES, 2026

In light of the 2026 global economic outlook and Sarawak's continued reliance on natural resources, particularly crude oil as its primary source of income, the total revenue for 2026 is projected to reach RM13.1 billion. Another record being the highest revenue among the state and region in Malaysia. (*Applause*)... This marks a slight decline compared to 2025 revenue forecast, reflecting the volatility of global commodity markets and the challenges posed by external economic pressures. But it is above RM13 billion.

The 2026 State's revenue estimates are derived from the following major sources:

- (a) Tax Revenue totalling RM5.8 billion or 44% of the total expected revenue in 2026, comprising the following:
 - (i) RM4.6 billion from State Sales Tax, of which RM3.5 billion from crude oil, liquified natural gas and other petroleum products; RM885 million from crude palm oil and crude palm kernel oil; RM75 million from lottery; RM88 million from aluminium products; RM32 million from ferro-alloys; RM26 million from timber products; while the remaining RM13 million from polysilicon;

- (ii) RM650 million from raw water royalty;
 - (iii) RM226 million from forest royalty and timber premium; and
 - (iv) RM301 million from mining royalties, land rents and others.
- (b) Non-Tax Revenue, this is estimated at RM6.3 billion or 49%, mainly derived from the following sources:
- (i) RM2.6 billion from cash compensation in lieu of oil and gas rights;
 - (ii) RM2.3 billion from dividend income;
 - (iii) RM811 million from interest income;
 - (iv) RM350 million from land premium;
 - (v) RM120 million from cash compensation in lieu of import and excise duties on petroleum products; and
 - (vi) RM150 million from others, including licenses, service fees, permits and rentals.
- (c) Non-Revenue Receipt is expected to be RM29 million, mainly from liquidated ascertained damages, compounds, fees and penalties; and
- (d) Federal Grants and Reimbursements are projected to reach RM899 million mainly from the interim payment of Special Grant amounting to RM600 million.

As we navigate global economic uncertainty, we are accelerating efforts to diversify income streams and reduce dependence on natural resources. Our strategy will focus on developing strategic sectors, driving digital transformation, and embracing sustainable resource management. These initiatives are not only aimed at unlocking new pathways for economic growth, but also at enhancing the well-being of our people and securing long-term financial sustainability for the state.

Tuan Speaker,

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE, 2026

The 2026 Sarawak Budget proposes a total Ordinary Expenditure of RM12.9 billion, of which RM5.6 billion is for Operating Expenditure, while RM7.3 billion is for appropriation to Development Fund Account. This appropriation is to top-up the brought forward balance in the Development Fund Account to finance 2026 Development Expenditure budgeted at RM9.3 billion.

The Operating Expenditure of RM5.6 billion is allocated to finance the following expenses:

- (a) RM1.4 billion or 25% for personnel emoluments;
- (b) RM2.2 billion or 38% for supplies and services;
- (c) RM1.8 billion or 32% for grants and fixed payments which includes operating grants to Statutory Bodies and Local Authorities, servicing of public debts and payments of gratuities, pensions, and scholarships, including financial and welfare assistance.
- (d) RM99 million for procurement of assets; and
- (e) RM150 million for operating expenses.

Budget Surplus, 2026

I am pleased to inform this august House that with the projected revenue of RM13.05 billion and total Ordinary Expenditure of RM12.91 billion, the 2026 Sarawak Budget is expected to generate a surplus of RM144 million.

The 2026 Sarawak Budget remains a strategic and expansionary budget built on the success of revenue reengineering and prudent financial management. It empowers us to make bold investments in infrastructure, digital transformation, and sustainable development, while placing the well-being of the *rakyat* at the heart of our priorities.

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE, 2026

The 2026 Sarawak Budget provides an allocation of RM9.3 billion for development purposes. This budget reflects our conscious response to global economic uncertainties, including commodity price fluctuations and geopolitical tensions that continue to shape fiscal realities worldwide.

Nonetheless, let us be reminded that the true value of this budget is not defined by its size, but by its purpose. It is not the quantum of allocation that matters most, it is the impact we seek to deliver.

Tuan Speaker,

STRATEGIC THRUSTS AND INITIATIVES

I will now highlight the strategic thrusts and various initiatives under the 2026 Sarawak Budget.

STRATEGIC THRUST ONE: TRANSFORM AND DIVERSIFY SARAWAK ECONOMY

Initiative One: Transforming Agriculture Based-Economy

Agriculture continues to serve as a vital pillar of Sarawak's economic development, ranking as the fourth largest contributor to the State's Gross Domestic Product. Notably in 2024, the sector accounted for 10.2% of Sarawak's GDP, amounting to RM15.1 billion. Despite facing numerous challenges such as climate change, resource constraint and inadequate infrastructure, agriculture sector strives to remain resilient and continue to transform. Under the PCDS 2030, the agriculture sector will be driven by technology to ensure food security and subsequently Sarawak will become a net food exporter.

In 2026, we will intensify our efforts to industrialise the agrofood industry by developing an integrated and resilient supply chain, with a particular focus on export-oriented commodities such as pineapple, coconut, shrimp, fish, and Swine.

(i) Modernize Agriculture Practices

Under the strategic thrust to modernize agricultural practices, the Government will continue to invest in modern and smart farming technologies. This initiative is central to enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of Sarawak's agriculture sector.

To this end, we are actively promoting the adoption of advanced technologies across the entire agricultural supply chain. A sum of RM73 million will be allocated under the 2026 Budget for the following:

- (a) RM19.5 million for development of Sarawak Agrotechnology Park (SARTECH) in Semenggok and Tarat;
- (b) RM27.5 million for the development of Precision Farming Park in Kabuloh, Sg. Sebieu and Rampangi;
- (c) RM20 million for development of Metropolitan Food Cluster in Opar (MFC); and
- (d) RM5.9 million for implementation of Internet of Things (IoT) system for agriculture and aquaculture.

Recognizing the critical role of innovation in agriculture, we will allocate RM5.6 million in 2026 to strengthen agricultural research and development efforts. This allocation will support initiatives in crop science, plant protection and quarantine, as well as sustainable soil management.

(ii) Develop Agro-Based Industries

In advancing Sarawak's agricultural transformation, commercial agriculture will play a pivotal role in driving high-impact growth. Our focus is to cultivate a technology enabled, high-yield, and sustainable agro-industry that not only strengthens food security but also elevates rural incomes.

To further strengthen the commercial agriculture sector, we will intensify efforts to expand food production zones and enhance supporting infrastructure. These measures are designed to create an enabling environment that encourages greater private-sector involvement, fosters innovation, and drives productivity in high-value farming.

In support of this agenda, a total of RM21.4 million will be allocated under the 2026 Budget. This includes:

- (a) RM12.4 million for the development of Agroparks, which will serve as hubs for modern, technology-based agricultural activities; and
- (b) RM9 million for the development of Agriculture Parks, aimed at boosting our fisheries output and reinforcing food production capacity.

Tuan Speaker,

(iii) Enhance Food Security

Producing sufficient supply of rice is of utmost importance to achieve food security in Sarawak. Currently, the Self-Sufficiency Level (SSL) for rice stood at 21%.

For us to achieve 60% SSL for rice, various key initiatives to boost rice production are included in the 2026 budget as follows:

- (a) RM20.4 million for development of drainage and irrigation infrastructure at existing and new paddy areas;
- (b) RM25.1 million for rehabilitation of Mid Sadong 1 (Lubok Punggor) Scheme; and
- (c) RM900,000 for various assistance to paddy farmers.

In addition, Sarawak also aims to increase the SSL for beef to 25% by 2030, reflecting its commitment to strengthening local livestock production and reduce dependency on imports. For 2026, a sum of RM33 million will be allocated for cattle industry development programmes and projects, among others as follows:

- (a) Establishment of cattle breeding and fattening farms;
- (b) Acquisition of quality breeder stocks;
- (c) Development of Ruminant Biotechnology Centre; and
- (d) Development of oil palm-based animal feed.

(iv) Enhanced Infrastructure, Facilities and Logistics

To accelerate the transformation of our agricultural sector, we will continue to strengthen and expand the development of essential infrastructure and facilities. For 2026, a total of RM34.2 million will be allocated for the following:

- (a) RM21.5 million for development of agricultural infrastructure;

- (b) RM11 million for farm road development programme; and
- (c) RM1.7 million for establishment of Collection, Processing and Packaging Centre for Agrofood Terminal.

(v) Policy and Institutional Support

Empowering Agricultural and Fisheries Communities

In our continued effort to empower Sarawak's agricultural and fisheries communities, we remain committed to supporting smallholder farmers and fisherman who face increasing production costs. Through targeted interventions we aim to boost productivity, raise income levels, and ensure the long-term sustainability of their livelihood.

Under the 2026 Budget, the following allocations will be made available to strengthen the sector:

For farmers and agropreneurs:

- (a) RM 17 million for the Crop Development Programme;
- (b) RM6.1 million for the Agriculture Promotion Programmes;
- (c) RM2.7 million for the Farm Mechanisation Programme;
- (d) RM800,000 for the Food Industry and Entrepreneurship Development Programme; and
- (e) RM25 million for the Oil Palm Replanting Programme under SALCRA.

For fisherman and livestock producer:

- (a) RM4.8 million for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Programme; and
- (b) RM10.8 million for the Livestock Development and Veterinary Services Programme.

Agriculture Assistance Programme

We will also continue to empower our agropeneurs and rural communities to enhance agricultural productivity and development. Among the key initiatives are the Agriculture Facilitation Fund (AFF) and the AFF Jaya Tani Programme.

Since the inception of Agriculture Facilitation Fund, a total of RM265 million has been disbursed. As of October 2025, RM247 million has been expended benefitting about 182,000 participants.

Under the AFF Jaya Tani programme, a total of RM50 Million has been allocated. To date, RM19.7 million has been spent. An additional sum of RM5 million will be allocated under this budget to supplement the remaining balance carried forward from previous year continuation of the programme.

Strengthening Farmer's Organisation

Farmer's Organisation play a key role in improving market access by strengthening the collective capacity of small holders. In 2026, a sum of RM6.5 million will be allocated to *Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri Sarawak* and *Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan* to enhance their roles and efficiency in operations.

Tuan Speaker,

Initiative Two: Advancing Tourism Sector

Sarawak aspires to be recognized as one of the leading destinations for eco-tourism and business events within the ASEAN region. We aim to deliver signature Sarawakian experiences that reflects our identity, celebrate our diversity, and position Sarawak as a destination of choice for discerning travellers.

(i) Enhancement of Tourism-Related Infrastructure and Facilities

In support of the state's aspiration, sustained development will be directed towards the development and modernisation of tourism-related infrastructure and facilities. For this purpose, RM129 million will be set aside next year which include, among others, the following:

- (a) Transformation of Old DUN Building into Performing Arts Centre;
- (b) Redevelopment of MBKS Swimming Pool into Water Fun Park and Centre of UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy;
- (c) Sadong Jaya Mangrove Tourism; and
- (d) Museum projects.

(ii) Tourism Marketing and Promotion Programme

To amplify Sarawak's presence in key markets and attract high-yield visitors, we will allocate RM194 million to the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts for its operations and the execution of targeted tourism marketing and promotional programmes, including the following:

- (a) Hosting events and festivals that highlight Sarawak's cultural vibrancy of RM45 million;
- (b) Grant to Sarawak Tourism Board, Business Events Sarawak, Sarawak Art Council and Sarawak Craft Council totalling RM106 million;
- (c) Sponsorship grants for cultural and heritage of RM10 million;
- (d) Research Grant of RM5 million; and
- (e) Other tourism-related grant of RM1 million.

(iii) Enhancing Sarawak Eco-tourism

In strengthening Sarawak's position as a leading eco-tourism destination, the government is actively implementing strategic initiatives and reforestation programs to rejuvenate our nature reserves. For this purpose, RM24 million will be allocated to Sarawak Forestry Corporation next year for implementation of strategic, including the following:

- (a) Gunung Mulu National Park management;
- (b) Bako National Park Gateway redevelopment;
- (c) Nature Discovery Centre at Piasau Nature Reserve; and
- (d) Sarawak Park Guides Training and Management System

These efforts aim to deliver meaningful, sustainable experiences that intertwine environmental care with Sarawak's rich cultural legacy. We will continue to protect and promote iconic sites such as the UNESCO-recognised Gunung Mulu and Niah National Park.

(iv) Enhancing Sarawak's Connectivity and Visibility

In 2026, we will intensify our efforts in enhancing Sarawak's visibility to attract more visitors, harnessing digital and social media marketing, partnering with travel agencies and airlines, and by participating in international trade fairs and exhibitions. The launching of our airline flagship

AirBorneo serves as a catalyst not only for domestic connectivity but also to further promote Sarawak as “Gateway to Borneo” in ASEAN and global regions.

Tuan Speaker,

**STRATEGIC THRUST TWO:
PROMOTE INVESTMENT AND FOSTER STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES**

We remain committed to attracting high-impact investments and nurturing strategic industries with strong growth potential. These efforts are aimed at diversifying Sarawak’s economic base and strengthening long-term resilience.

To support the development of these strategic sectors, we are implementing enabling policies, enhancing infrastructure, and streamlining regulatory frameworks to foster a more conducive environment for innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable growth.

Initiative One: Strengthening Sarawak’s Investment Ecosystem (Ease of Doing Business)

As we advance under the PCDS 2030, our priority is to create an enabling environment where businesses can thrive, innovate and contribute meaningfully to our state’s economic growth.

We are enhancing the ease of doing business by streamlining regulatory processes, enhancing digital infrastructure, and reducing bureaucratic barriers. Beginning next year, we will integrate existing systems into a single digital platform to expedite approvals and foster a business-friendly environment.

Complementing Federal initiatives, Sarawak is committed to accelerating industrial development through a comprehensive package of incentives and facilitation measures. Agencies like InvestSarawak serve as strategic partners, facilitating funding access, streamlining investor services, and providing local knowledge to position Sarawak as a preferred destination for high-impact investments.

In addition, the Government is formulating the Sarawak Investment Policy, which aims to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework encompassing incentives, strategic interventions, and support mechanisms. The policy will provide greater clarity and direction for government agencies and investors, thereby enhancing coordination, transparency and confidence in Sarawak’s investment landscape.

Initiative Two: Advancing Enterprise Development and Strengthening Local Industries Ecosystems

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Micro SMEs) continue to serve as a backbone of Sarawak’s economy, representing up to 96% of total business establishments. The government will continue to cultivate a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem by empowering local communities to pursue business ownership as a viable and sustainable pathway to economic prosperity. Through targeted support and inclusive policies, we aim to unlock the full potential of Micro SMEs as engine of growth for Sarawak.

Under this budget, an allocation of RM31 million will be made available to support the growth and development of Micro SMEs across Sarawak.

Key initiatives include the *Skim Kredit Mikro Sarawak; Skim Pinjaman Industri Kecil dan Sederhana; Program Peningkatan Usahawan Bumiputera; Pusat Inkubator dan Bimbingan Usahawan; Program Pembangunan Kontraktor dan Pembekal Bumiputera; Program Kontraktor Berdaya Saing, Program Graduan ke arah Keusahawanan; Program Usahawan Teknikal dan Vokasional; Go Digital Programme and Special Relief Fund.*

Furthermore, the Sarawak Recovery Business Fund has been instrumental in revitalizing affected enterprises. To further enhance training and upskilling programmes of the SMEs, a further sum of RM20 million will be provided for this purpose.

To empower rural and remote communities with the means to start and grow their businesses, my administration has introduced the *Anjung Usahawan* development programme. For this purpose, RM9.6 million will be allocated in 2026 to establish 16 entrepreneurship centres across Sarawak. These centres will serve as vital platforms for enterprise development, capacity building, and market access.

Initiative Three: Intensify Industrialisation Programme

We will continue to prioritize the development of a robust and efficient ecosystem for private investment, with a strong focus on industrial parks development featuring modern infrastructure and comprehensive amenities.

To support this, RM58.2 million will be allocated under this budget. Under the projects are as follows:

- (a) Industrial Parks in Kuching, Sibul, Lawas and Limbang;
- (b) Kuching High-Tech Park (Free Zone);
- (c) Industrial Areas in Kapit, Bau and Sebuyau;
- (d) Samalaju SME Cluster; and
- (e) Rantau Panjang Industrial Estate.

We will undertake a comprehensive Impact Assessment Study on Industrial Parks in Sarawak with an allocation of RM2.65 million next year. This study will guide future planning and ensure that our industrial infrastructure delivers optimal value to the State's growth agenda.

Investment Promotion Programmes

We are committed to attracting strategic investments in key sectors such as energy transition, petrochemicals, advanced manufacturing, tourism, and services.

To strengthen our export capabilities, we will empower SMEs to become export-ready through targeted trade expos and facilitation programmes. In 2026, RM6 million will be allocated to intensify trade and investment promotion efforts, encouraging greater participation from both foreign and domestic investors, as well as SMEs in key sectors.

Concurrently, a sum of RM6 million will be allocated to Invest Sarawak to lead targeted trade and investment missions across domestic and international markets.

To complement our investment promotion efforts, an allocation of RM21 million will be provided next year to support the operations of Sarawak Trade and Tourism Offices in Singapore, Brunei, and soon, Pontianak, Kalimantan. These offices will continue to serve as strategic gateways, enhancing Sarawak's investment outreach and deepening our trade integration within the ASEAN region. Tuan Speaker, now I go to our Third Strategic Thrust.

STRATEGIC THRUST THREE: BUILD HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL

Initiative One: Free Education for Sarawakian Students

Beginning 2026, all Sarawakians who enrol in Sarawak-owned universities will receive free education under the Free Tertiary Education Scheme (FTES). FTES is a transformative initiative

aimed at cultivating a future-ready workforce. It is designed to ensure that access to higher education is based on merit and capability, not constrained by financial circumstances,

Following extensive consultations with our State-owned universities and Yayasan Sarawak, 64 undergraduate degree programmes have been identified for inclusion under this scheme. For this purpose, RM250 million will be made available for FTES IN 2026. And this programme free education is the first by a government in ASEAN region.

Initiative Two: Enhancing Sarawak Education System and Facilities

(i) Sarawak International School Development

I wish to draw the attention of this august House to a significant milestone in Sarawak's education landscape, which is the establishment of Yayasan Sarawak International Secondary School. This initiative represents a major step forward in our education strategy, offering the Cambridge curriculum and aligning Sarawak's education system with international standards. To ensure the continued operation and effective administration of these institutions, RM36 million will be allocated next year. In addition, RM13 million under Alternative Funding has been earmarked for preliminary works to expand Yayasan Sarawak International Secondary School campuses to Bintulu and Miri, complementing the existing campuses in Kuching and Sibul.

(ii) Strengthening Early Childhood Education

Recognising the importance of nurturing talent from an early age, we will continue to strengthen the early childhood education sector through strategic investments aimed at expanding access and enhancing quality. To advance this effort, RM22 million will be allocated next year to SeDidik for its operational and development needs.

In addition, RM14 million will be allocated under the Annual Special Grant to support all registered early childhood institutions across Sarawak, thereby reinforcing their capacity to deliver inclusive and high-quality services. To further broaden access to quality early childhood education, RM4 million will be set aside for TADIKa and TASKA fee subsidies, directly benefiting 4,000 children from household with a monthly income of RM7,000 and below.

(iii) English as Medium of Instruction – Cambridge Standard Dual Language Programme

The assessment for the Sarawak Dual Language Programme was implemented in October this year as a key mechanism to evaluate teaching and learning outcomes in Science, Mathematics, and English.

This initiative, which is in collaboration with *Lembaga Peperiksaan* and Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak is supported by international partners including Swinburne Innovation Malaysia and Cambridge University Press and Assessment. The examination papers have undergone rigorous validation to ensure alignment with global standards; reinforcing the credibility of the programme and preparing our students to thrive in a competitive, globalised education landscape.

Under this budget, RM6 million will be provided for continued implementation of this initiative.

Initiative Three: Rebuilding and Rehabilitation of Dilapidated Schools

Tuan Speaker, ensuring safe and conducive learning environment for both teachers and students' remains a top priority of my administration. While it may not be feasible to address all dilapidated schools simultaneously, we remain unwavering in our commitment to systematically upgrade and rebuild educational facilities across the State.

This commitment is further demonstrated through the provision of RM1 billion by the Sarawak Government as an advance payment on Federal loans. Administered under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education Malaysia and implemented by JKR Sarawak, this strategic investment underscores our resolve to accelerate improvements in educational infrastructure. To date, RM700 million of this sum has been disbursed to the Federal Government.

Initiative Four: Enabling Equitable Learning Opportunities

(i) Sarawak Education Enhancement Programme

The Sarawak Education Enhancement Programme, or SEEP, stands as a strategic initiative dedicated to advancing the quality and equity of education across our State. A cornerstone of SEEP is the provision of complimentary tuition for underperforming students in Form 3, 4, and 5; focusing on eight critical SPM subjects namely Science, Mathematics, History, English, Biology, Chemistry, Additional Mathematics, and Physics.

To further enhance learning outcomes, SEEP delivers customised teaching and learning resources developed by subject matter experts from the Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak. This comprehensive effort benefits about 63,000 students across 185 secondary schools under the Ministry of Education Malaysia throughout Sarawak.

SEEP will help to elevate the State's SPM performance to match the national average within five years. Now in its second year, the programme continues to deliver targeted academic interventions. To ensure its continued success, we will continue and allocate RM20 million next year 2026.

(ii) Free Laptop and Book Voucher Assistance

In order to promote equitable access to education, we will continue our two key initiatives aimed at supporting students from low-income backgrounds, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their ability to thrive in modern learning environments.

First, the Free Laptop Programme, with an allocation of RM30.5 million next year, will provide first-year Diploma and Degree students with essential digital tools to support online learning, academic research, and coursework. No other government give this to the student.

Complementing this, RM2 million will be allocated under this budget for the Book Voucher Programme, enabling students to acquire textbooks and other critical academic materials necessary for their success.

(iii) Discount for PTPTN Loans

The Sarawak Government will also continue to subsidise PTPTN loan repayment for Sarawakian borrowers who have demonstrated responsible financial discipline by settling more than 30% of their total loan amount. This is fully funded by the Sarawak Government and administered through Yayasan Sarawak. Sarawak is the only state in Malaysia that offers a state-funded PTPTN loan repayment discount programme.

To date, approximately RM117 million has been disbursed, directly benefiting about 33,000 Sarawakian PTPTN borrowers. In 2026, RM15 million will be allocated to sustain this meaningful financial assistance programme.

(iv) Special Assistance to University Students

In our effort to promote educational equity and support student well-being, we will continue providing financial assistance to Sarawakian students enrolled in Diploma and Degree programmes

at recognised institutions of higher learning across Malaysia. For this purpose, an allocation of RM60 million will be provided next year to help cover essential living expenses such as food and daily necessities.

(v) *Graduan Pulang Sarawak (i-GPS) Initiative*

This initiative which was introduced in 2019 provides flight ticket subsidies to students studying in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Labuan, enabling their return journeys home. Each eligible student may claim the subsidy twice annually, up to RM300 per trip.

Since its implementation till now, RM35 million has been disbursed to subsidise around 117 thousand return trips. To continue supporting this initiative, we will allocate an additional RM8 million next year.

Tuan Speaker,

Initiative Five: Investing in Talent Development

(i) *Sarawak Talent Development Policy*

We will be introducing the Sarawak Talent Development Policy Blueprint, a landmark initiative that embodies our long-term commitment to nurturing, retaining and attracting talent in Sarawak.

Scheduled for completion in 2026, this comprehensive policy and blueprint is our strategic response to the evolving workforce demands of Sarawak's economy. We want to cultivate a technically skilled, agile, innovative and future-ready workforce that will propel Sarawak's economic transformation and secure long-term sustainability. For the completion of this study, RM1 million will be allocated next year.

(ii) *Enhancing Sarawak's Workforce*

In our pursuit of advancing Sarawak's strategic agenda to strengthen the capabilities of our workforce, the following initiatives will continue to be implemented:

Skilled Enhancement Programmes for Graduates

To address graduate unemployment and ensure our young Sarawakians are equipped with the skills demanded by today's job market, we will continue with the implementation of the Graduate Enhancement Training Sarawak that is (GETS) Programme. Under this initiative, participating graduates will receive a monthly allowance of RM1,500 and be provided with training opportunities in both the public and private sectors, with a focus on soft skills, leadership development and team-building competencies. Under this Budget, RM20 million will be allocated next year, benefiting 1,000 graduates and empowering them to transition more effectively into the workforce.

Strengthening TVET for a Future-Ready Workforce

To develop a technically skilled and industry-ready workforce, we are intensifying our current effort on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Various key TVET initiatives will continue to be implemented in Sarawak which covers the following:

(a) *Strengthening TVET Ecosystem*

To strengthen Sarawak's TVET ecosystem, we will continue expanding our network of technical training institution including Sarawak Skills, i-CATS University College, CENTEX campuses and Kolej Laila Taib. An allocation of RM96.2 million will be provided to support their operational expenditure next year.

In addition, RM18 million will be committed for development initiatives including capital expenditure to Sarawak Skills, Advance Automotive Training Centre and the upgrading of Sarawak Skills SAVTI (Sarawak Agriculture Vocational Training Institute) campus.

(b) NextGen TVET

This program emphasizes industry-based learning and lifelong education, reinforcing TVET as a foundation for Sarawak's global competitiveness. A sum of RM4.5 million will be provided next year for the implementation of NextGen Digital and Innovation Talent Programme for schools and Sarawak Digital and Innovation Talent Acceleration Programme.

(c) Intensifying Industry Collaboration and Partnership

Tuan Speaker, we will continue to strengthen collaboration between the industry players and key economic sectors to ensure our workforce is equipped with industry-relevant skills. Sarawak's TVET Institutions such as Sarawak Skills and i-CATS University College are working closely with partners in energy, engineering, agriculture, and digital technology to co-develop training programmes that reflect real-world demands and evolving market needs.

Our commitment to industry collaboration is a further demonstrated through our active participation in WorldSkills Malaysia Sarawak 2025. This biennial competition now serves as a strategic platform to identify and nurture technical talent, with industry partners directly involved in project design and performance evaluation.

To further advance industry collaboration, Sarawak is strengthening its semiconductor ecosystem through global partnerships led by SMD Semiconductor. Key initiatives including the following:

- (a) AI-enabled power systems, developed with SEB, Weeteq, and Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult, to enhance energy efficiency and support renewable energy ambitions.
- (b) A partnership with Silicon Catalyst to expand global market access for Sarawak-born technologies.
- (c) Joint efforts with CSAC on chiplet and heterogeneous integration, unlocking potential in AI, 5G, and autonomous systems.
- (d) Development of Gallium Nitride prototypes with Cambridge Microelectronics, X-FAB, and CSAC, marking a milestone in energy-efficient power electronics.

Under this Budget, RM18 million will be provided to SMD Semiconductor to accelerate Sarawak's transformation into a national semiconductor hub.

Tuan Speaker, in total, a sum of RM665 million will be provided for education and talent development initiatives in 2026. This one is bigger than budget of two states in Peninsular Malaysia only for education. Reflecting our continued resolve to transform Sarawak education sector for the advancement of our current and future generation.

Tuan Speaker, now I go to the Thrust Four.

**STRATEGIC THRUST FOUR:
PROTECT AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCES FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Initiative One: Promoting Climate Change Initiative

My administration is fully committed in taking responsible action on climate change with the implementation of several key initiatives, namely the Climate Change Roadmap, the pursuit of Net

Zero Emissions, the setting up of the Sarawak Climate Change Centre and the introduction of Carbon Levy.

(i) Climate Change Roadmap

The Sarawak Climate Change Roadmap sets the direction for our transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. The roadmap builds on the Environment that is the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Emission Ordinance, 2023, which gives Sarawak the legal authority to regulate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The roadmap also supports the implementation of the Sarawak Greenhouse Gas Management System (GHG-MS), a digital platform that will track emissions across sectors and help industries comply with emission requirements. Through these initiatives, Sarawak aims to achieve better coordination in climate policy implementation, stronger capacity to manage carbon emissions, and wider adoption of sustainable practices across industries.

For 2026, RM3.4 million will be set aside to strengthen institutional readiness and accelerate our efforts towards measurable emission reductions and environmental sustainability.

(ii) Net Zero Emissions

Our long-term goal is to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 through the Sarawak Net Zero Strategy and Carbon Plan. The focus is on clean energy transition, low-carbon industries, and sustainable forest management to ensure balanced and responsible growth.

To support these efforts, the Flaring and Venting Rules 2025 were enacted to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions from the oil and gas sector, reinforcing Sarawak's commitment to zero routine flaring by 2030.

For 2026, RM7 million will be allocated to implement the following:

- (a) Sarawak Net Zero Strategy and Carbon Plan;
- (b) Study on Carbon Levy and Carbon Pricing of Sarawak;
- (c) Sarawak Energy Transition Policy Implementation Programme; and
- (d) Quantifying Forest Carbon Stock in Sarawak.

(iii) Climate Change Centre

The Sarawak Climate Change Centre will be established as the central hub for coordinating and monitoring climate action across the state. The centre will focus on policy integration, research and data management to support evidence-based decision-making and strengthen Sarawak's capacity in climate governance. It will also serve as a platform for collaboration with industries, academia, and international partners to promote innovation, build technical expertise, and enhance public awareness towards achieving a low-carbon and climate-resilient Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker,

(iv) Carbon Levy

Tuan Speaker, building on the environmental that is the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Ordinance 2023, we will introduce a carbon levy on the oil and gas and energy sectors starting in 2026.

As Sarawak advances toward net zero emissions by 2050, carbon pricing becomes a crucial policy instrument – internalizing environmental and social costs, reducing emissions in high-emitting

sectors, accelerating the green economy transition, and ensuring a just and equitable transition for workers and communities.

The levy will apply to emissions generated within Sarawak by regulated facilities in the oil and gas and energy sectors. Revenue collected from this levy will be channelled into a dedicated Climate Change Fund, supporting renewable energy deployment, energy-efficiency initiatives, grid modernization, forest conservation, and climate-resilience projects that will benefit communities across Sarawak.

Sarawak stands ready to work closely with the Federal Government to ensure Malaysia's future national carbon tax and carbon-pricing architecture are harmonized. With our ordinance already in force, established Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems, advanced modelling, and detailed policy design underway. Sarawak is well-positioned to support and lead Malaysia's overall decarbonization efforts, nationally determined contribution achievement, and the development of a strong domestic carbon market.

Therefore, the carbon levy is also poised to become a future revenue source for Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker,

Initiative Two: Intensifying Environmental Sustainability

We will continue to strengthen our commitment to conserve and sustainably manage the environment. Efforts are focused on protecting natural ecosystems, restoring degraded landscapes, and promoting responsible use of resources to ensure long-term ecological balance and social well-being.

(i) Sustainable Environmental Management

The Sustainable Environmental Management Framework builds on the Sarawak Sustainability Blueprint 2030 that promotes responsible use of natural resources, cleaner energy, biodiversity conservation, and pollution control. In line with this, a total sum of RM30.73 million will be allocated in 2026 to strengthen the environmental governance and promote sustainable industries and among the projects are:

- (a) Bio Industrial Park and Sarawak Biodiversity Centre Bioprocesses Commercial Centre in Samarahan, with an allocation of RM10 million;
- (b) Sarawak's First GMP-Certified Facility for Manufacturing Nutraceutical Products from Sarawak biological resources, with an allocation of RM6 million;
- (c) Development of Sustainable Forest Management Centre in Loba Kara, Kuching, with an allocation of RM3 million;
- (d) Environmental Programs by Natural Resources Environmental Board (NREB), with an allocation of RM6.2 million; and
- (e) Strengthening Forest Enforcement Through Advancing the technology and equipment, with an allocation of RM1.4 million.

(ii) Forest Landscape Restoration Program

The Forest Landscape Restoration Programme focuses on restoring degraded forests, enhancing biodiversity, and boosting carbon capture. In 2026, RM2.4 million will be allocated to scale up restoration efforts, expand nurseries, and encourage community and private-sector involvement.

(iii) Totally Protected Area and Wildlife Protection and Management

The protection of wildlife and biodiversity remains a key priority under Sarawak's conservation agenda. In 2026, RM4.8 million will be allocated to strengthen the management of Totally Protected Areas, including upgrading facilities and enhancing conservation efforts at priority sites.

To ensure these conservation efforts are carried out effectively on the ground, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation will continue to lead operational, enforcement and wildlife management activities across the state. In support of these functions, a sum of RM62 million will be allocated for its operations in 2026.

(iv) Environmental Conservation

Environmental conservation remains as one of our priority areas as we continue to protect our natural landscapes and unique geological assets. The Sarawak Delta's journey toward UNESCO Global Geopark status reached a major milestone with its "*Green Card*" recognition in June 2025. To continue these efforts, RM2.13 million will be allocated in 2026 comprising the following:

- (a) RM1.4 million for Sarawak Delta Geopark programmes; and
- (b) RM730,000 for wetland and watershed conservation within the Heart of Borneo.

In addition, to strengthen environmental research, forest protection and biodiversity conservation, RM6.2 million will be allocated through several key initiatives, such as:

- (a) Development of an Urban Forest Park at Kayangeran Forest Reserve in Lawas;
- (b) Artificial Intelligence and Forensic Timber Identification for forest protection and revenue generation;
- (c) Upgrading of Forest Research Centre and Sarawak Forest Research projects; and
- (d) Research of Intensified Management of Bio-Rich Areas of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker,

**STRATEGIC THRUST FIVE:
BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT GAP AND DRIVE RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH**

We will continue to accelerate rural development and intensify the implementation of infrastructure projects to bridge the development gap between urban and rural areas, as well as between regions.

Initiative One: Strengthening Regional Economic Development

(i) Enhancing Urban-Rural Economic Integration

In our efforts to narrow the urban-rural development gap, our 2026 Budget will continue to be rural-biased. Of the RM9.3 billion proposed for Development Expenditure, RM6.1 billion or 66% will be dedicated to rural development initiatives. This strategic allocation reaffirms our unwavering commitment to reach every corner of Sarawak, ensuring no one is left behind in our journey towards shared prosperity, the core policy of GPS Government. In this regard, we will continue to provide allocation to fund the following initiatives:

- (a) RM350 million for Rural Transformation Projects (RTP);
- (b) RM315 million for Regional Development Agencies;
- (c) RM267 million for *Program Projek Khas*; and
- (d) RM100 million for the implementation of *Projek Rakyat*.

(ii) Improving Land Connectivity

Providing better land connectivity means better access to healthcare, education, and markets. Enhanced connectivity supports agriculture, tourism and small businesses in rural areas, thus promote rural economy. In 2026, a sum of RM1.05 billion will be set aside for construction of roads and bridges throughout the state, which include, among others, the following projects:

- (a) Upgrading of Jalan Musi-Buso, Bau;
- (b) Upgrading of Jalan Teku/ Jalan Teku Pasai Siong/ Jalan Kemuyang, Sibui;
- (c) Serian-Gedong-Samarahan Dual Carriageway : Highway;
- (d) Jalan Bawang Assan / Tanjung Manis / Sg Illas / Kpg Seberna, Daerah Meradong, Sarikei;
- (e) Jalan menuju ke Rumah Panjang Nicholas ak Sandom, Sg Sigu Pandan, Sebauh, Bintulu;
- (f) Road at Kpg. Medong Seberang / Kpg. Kekam Seberang, Mukah;
- (g) Sg. Limbang Bridge, Sg. Bunut No. 2 Bridge and connecting roads, Limbang;
- (h) Rural Bridges Transformation Programme; and
- (i) Construction and completion of proposed Jalan Sungai Passin / Matu, Mukah.

Under alternative funding, RM3.22 billion will be provided next year to fund the ongoing major road infrastructure projects such as:

- (a) Sarawak Coastal Road;
- (b) Sarawak Second Trunk Road;
- (c) Northern Coastal Highway;
- (d) Sultan Tengah Road and new Santubong Bridge; and
- (e) Various infrastructure projects under RECODA.

(iii) Enhancing Air Connectivity

We will strengthen Sarawak's aviation links, supporting both passenger and freight movement and open new pathways for tourism, trade and regional collaboration. Therefore, under this Budget, fund will be allocated next year for the following projects:

- (a) RM51 million for Bebulung Airport;
- (b) RM6 million for site verification, feasibility study and integrated masterplan for proposed development of New Kuching International Airport; and
- (c) RM1 million for Study on International Air Connectivity into Sarawak.

(iv) Strengthening Port Sector

To support Sarawak's expanding trade, logistics, and regional integration, this budget will prioritize the development of a resilient and future-ready port sector. Our investments will focus in ensuring that every part of Sarawak benefits from improved connectivity and economic access.

Key components under this initiative include port infrastructure, navigational safety enhancements, riverine infrastructure development and digital port operations.

Under this budget, a sum of RM118.1 million will be provided next year to implement various initiatives, such as:

- (a) Vessel Tracking Management System and Aids to Navigation for Sungai Miri and Kuala Baram, Sarawak;
- (b) Relocation of Tanjung Kidurong Lighthouse to Tanjung Likau, Bintulu;
- (c) Vehicle Yard and Associated Facilities at Senari Port;
- (d) Port development and maintenance dredging grants to State Port Authorities;
- (e) Masterplan Study for Ports; and
- (f) Construction of wharves, jetties, river wall and waterfront.

Tuan Speaker,

Initiative Two: Expanding Access to Quality Public Services and Basic Public Amenities

(i) Expanding Water Supply Coverage

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak achieved an overall water supply coverage of 86 percent, with full access in urban areas and 70% in rural regions. With this achievement, our focus now shifts to expanding water supply coverage to rural areas. Guided by the Sarawak Water Supply Master Plan, initiatives like the Water Supply Grid and SAWAS are critical to reach even the most remote households, especially where grid extension is not feasible.

To advance these efforts, RM409 million will be allocated next year for the implementation of various projects to ensure an efficient, secure, and sustainable water supply to meet this objective. The projects, among others, are as follows:

- (a) Engkilili Regional Water Treatment Plant, Sri Aman;
- (b) Upgrading of Treatment Plant Salim, Sibul;
- (c) Serian Regional Water Supply Phase II;
- (d) Upgrading of Treatment Plant No. 4 Batu Kitang;
- (e) Mukah Water Treatment Plant;
- (f) Pipeline for Darul Hana programme; and
- (g) Lundu/Sematan Regional Water Supply, Kuching.

In addition, RM402 million will be provided under Alternative Funding to implement Sarawak Water Supply Grid Program for Stressed Areas and Upgrading and Replacement of Water Pipelines Programme.

We welcome the participation of private sector in the implementation of our water supply initiatives. Through strategic partnerships, private investors with the requisite expertise and innovative technological solutions can collaborate with local partners to finance, build, and operate water supply systems to remote villages or longhouses across Sarawak, or for Non-Revenue Water reduction.

(ii) Free Water Programme

Introduced in January 2020, my administration subsidises the first RM5 of the monthly domestic water bill to reduce the financial burden of the *rakyat*. The programme will continue in 2026, with approximately RM21 million to be borne by the Sarawak Government to fund the subsidy.

(iii) Accelerating Rural Electrification

We remain committed to achieving full electricity coverage across the state. Currently, urban areas enjoy complete access to electricity, while rural coverage stands at an impressive 98.6%. Under this budget, RM46 million will be allocated next year to implement rural electricity supply projects, such as:

- (a) Additional and Late Application Fund (ALAF);
- (b) Connect Stand-alone Sarawak Alternative Rural Electrification Scheme (SARES) villages or longhouses to nearby grid with road access;
- (c) Replacement of Batteries and Key Components for Stand Alone Solar System; and
- (d) Upgrading of Electricity Supply in Samarahan Division.

This effort is further intensified to a revision of RM153 million under the alternative funding next year to implement the role electrification program.

(iv) Government Financial Assistance for Connection Charges

Introduced in January 2020, the Connection Charges Government Financial Assistance aims to assist and ease the financial burden of low-income urban households for access to basic utility needs. This program will continue in 2026 with an allocation of RM12 million.

Tuan Speaker,

Initiative Three: Strengthening Public Transportation System

In 2026, under the Alternative Funding initiative, my administration will allocate a capital expenditure budget of RM1 billion to continue with the construction of Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) infrastructure and system. Phase 1 of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS), including ART station and the Blue Line Package 1 route from Rembus to Riveria, is scheduled to begin operations in the fourth quarter of 2026. Construction on Blue Line Package 2, from Stutong to Hikmah Exchange, the Red Line is ongoing, while works on the Green Line are expected to start in the second quarter of 2026. Additionally, a sum of RM90 million will be allocated under Sarawak Metro for its operations and maintenance.

Efforts to enhance Sarawak's conventional public transport system will continue in 2026, with an allocation of RM16.8 million to support key initiatives. These include the implementation of smart buses in Miri City, the rollout of a new stage bus service in Sibu, ongoing operational subsidies for stage bus services, and the construction of a new bus terminal in Kapit. These projects aim to improve accessibility, reliability, and overall public mobility across urban and semi-urban areas.

**STRATEGIC THRUST SIX:
SAFEGUARD THE RAKYAT'S LIVELIHOOD**

Initiative One: Strengthening Social Safety Nets

Tuan Speaker, now I come to, Thrust Six: Safeguard the *Rakyat's* Livelihood, Initiative One: Strengthening Social Safety Nets. In our commitment to strengthening social services and enhancing social protection for every Sarawakian, we will continue to provide targeted assistance as follow:

(i) Assistance to Mothers and Children

Every child deserves a strong start in life, and every mother deserves support. That is why we, as a caring GPS Government, are continuing the Endowment Fund Sarawak, with RM20 million allocated next year to help every newborn to begin life with a financial foundation. Additionally, the *Bantuan Ibu Bersalin* Programme will receive RM5 million to ease the burden on mothers during childbirth.

We are equally committed to support children with special needs. The One-Stop Early Intervention Centre (OSEIC) offers therapy, assessments, and parental support in a nurturing environment. In 2026, we will provide RM3.9 million to strengthen OSEIC services in Kuching, Dalat and Miri.

(ii) Welfare Aids and Financial Assistance

In 2026, a total of RM55.8 million will be allocated to continue with key programmes under our social protection framework. These include *Bantuan Am*, *Bantuan Belia-Beliawanis*, *Bantuan Kanak-Kanak*, *Bantuan OKU Tidak Berupaya Bekerja* and *Bantuan Bencana*.

(iii) Sumbangan Keperluan Asas Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, last year, I had the honour of announcing the launch of the *Sumbangan Keperluan Asas* (SKAS) initiative, an effort rooted in compassion and designed to uplift our people through targeted financial assistance. This year, SKAS was successfully implemented, providing annual support ranging from RM250 to RM800 to eligible Sarawakian, with an allocation of RM557 million, benefiting over 1.03 million eligible Sarawakians.

Today, I am pleased to announce that we, the GPS Government, will be increasing the amount of this assistance to better reflect the needs of our rakyat and help them to mitigate cost of living. This is to ensure that they will always have food on the table.

Therefore, the revised assistance will be disbursed once in every for 4 months, as follows:

- (a) Household with income of RM5,000 and below will see their annual support increased by RM150, from RM800 to RM950. For each disbursement, recipient will receive RM316;
- (b) Senior citizens without partners or children, earning RM5,000 and below, will receive an increase of RM100, from RM400 to RM500. For each disbursement, recipient will receive RM166; and
- (c) Single individuals with income of RM2,500 and below will benefit from an increase of RM50, raising their assistance from RM250 to RM300. For each disbursement, recipient will receive RM100.

With this increase, we allocating RM640 million under the 2026 Budget, and we anticipate that more than one million recipients will benefit from this expanded support.

This is the GPS Government in action - listening, responding, and delivering. We are not just managing budgets, we are improving lives. Let us continue to build a Sarawak where no one is left behind, and every citizen feels the care of a government that truly serves.

(iv) Health Assistance for Vulnerable Groups

The well-being of our vulnerable communities remains a central pillar of the Sarawak Government's social agenda. In 2026, we will continue to implement targeted health assistance programmes that reflect our compassion and responsibility toward those most in need. The Senior Citizens Health Benefit, launched in August 2024, provides cashless outpatient treatment at panel clinics for those with household incomes of RM7,000 and below, up to RM500 per person annually. An allocation of RM50 million in 2026 will benefit 100,000 senior citizens across Sarawak.

The Death Compassionate Assistance for Kenyalang Gold Card holders will be extended, with RM1,800 allocated to support bereaved families and ease funeral expenses. For this purpose, a sum of RM10 million will be allocated under the 2026 Budget.

Additionally, an allocation of RM4 million for *Bantuan Khas Pesakit Buah Pinggang* will be provided next year, ensuring patients receive timely treatment and easing the burden of dialysis for those with end-stage kidney failure.

(v) Social Support Infrastructure

As a responsible and caring government, we are also expanding the social support infrastructure to better serve those in need, especially individuals and families facing hardship, recovery, or special challenges. In 2026, allocation will be set aside for the establishment of care infrastructure as follows:

- (a) RM3 million for establishment of the Special Needs Community Centre;
- (b) RM1 million for establishment and operation of Community Social Support Centres in Kuching, Sri Aman, Sibul, Bintulu, Lawas, and Mukah; and
- (c) RM600 thousand for establishment of Temporary Shelters for Low-Income Recovery Community in Sibul and Bintulu.

Initiative Two: Strengthening Livelihoods Through Job Creation and Income Growth

We remain also committed to empowering vulnerable communities through inclusive economic initiatives. Across Sarawak, many women household heads, persons with disabilities, single mothers, and low-income families possess the determination to improve their livelihoods. We believe, with the right support, they can transform their potential into progress in their lives.

Therefore, in 2026, we will allocate:

- (a) RM2.6 million for the continued implementation of Women and Family Development Programme covering *Bantuan Ketua Isi Rumah Wanita Sarawak*, skills training, empowerment initiatives, and family support;
- (b) RM2.5 million for *Usahawan Mikro Kebajikan* Programme, which provides training, capital, and market access to 835 micro-entrepreneurs from the B40 group, including persons with disabilities, single mothers, and widows;
- (c) RM600,000 for Low-Income Family Empowerment Programme, supporting 120 families in small business ventures; and
- (d) RM600,000 to support Non-Governmental Organizations in delivering community-based social interventions.

Tuan Speaker,

Initiative Three: Empowering Home Ownership for Sarawakian

(i) Affordable Housing Projects

In ensuring access to affordable housing for the low-income (B40) group, a sum of RM121 million will be allocated to Housing Development Corporation next year for the implementation of 11 housing development projects, comprising 1,547 units of affordable housing across Kuching, Betong, Sibul, Mukah, Bintulu, Miri and Limbang.

Complementing this, RM20 million will be allocated to Mutiara Mortgage and Credit Sdn. Bhd. to support home financing for B40 and M40 groups, ensuring broader access to affordable housing alongside the ongoing housing development projects. As of September 2025, RM83.5 million has been successfully disbursed to 1,371 eligible home buyers.

(ii) Long house Loan Scheme

In our continued efforts to improve the quality of life for rural communities, we will continue implementing the Longhouse Loan Scheme, offering interest-free loans in the form of building materials and hardware. Under this scheme, RM30,000 per door is provided for refurbishment, and RM50,000 per door for new construction.

From 2022 to September 2025, RM313 million has been disbursed benefiting 391 longhouses, encompassing a total of 8,033 doors across Sarawak.

My administration will provide an annual allocation of RM50 million to implement this scheme, ensuring eligible longhouses can access the support they need for safe and dignified housing.

(iii) Sarawak Rental Assistance Scheme

Introduced in 2021 the Sarawak Rental Assistance Scheme was designed to ease the rental burden for low-income households in major districts such as Kuching, Samarahan, Sibu, Bintulu and Miri. Eligible households earning RM4,556 or below receive RM200 per month for up to 36 months.

With an allocation of RM48 million, the scheme is expected to benefit 20,000 households. In 2024, coverage was expanded to include students in higher learning institutions, and in 2025, extended to civil service tenants residing in government quarters. As of September 2025, a total of 6,457 applications has been approved involving a sum of RM31.4 million.

(iii) Resettlement Scheme and Village Extension Scheme

The implementation of the Resettlement Scheme (SPS) and Village Extension Scheme (SPK) will be continued in 2026. With a budget of RM224 million, these schemes will secure residential lots for eligible households from low and middle-income families, helping them to build safe and comfortable homes.

The projects that will be implemented throughout the state, among others are as follows:

- (a) SPK Gedong;
- (b) SPK Beliong, Asajaya;
- (c) SPK Sambir, Samarahan;
- (d) SPK Semariang;
- (e) SPK Noor Islam, Kuala Lawas;
- (f) SPS Tukau Parabena, Miri;
- (g) SPS Limbang; and
- (h) SPS Balingian, Mukah.

(v) Urban Renewal Project

We will continue to advance our urban renewal and kampung redevelopment initiatives aimed at revitalising ageing settlements and enhancing community infrastructure.

To support these efforts, a total allocation of RM247 million has been earmarked for the implementation of Kampung Redevelopment Projects in Kuching, Sibu, Bintulu and Limbang in 2026, to be undertaken by LCDA.

Tuan Speaker, now,

**STRATEGIC THRUST SEVEN:
ENHANCE CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Initiative One: Promoting Sports Development

Sarawak aspires to become a regional leader in sports excellence, leveraging sports as a catalyst for unity, youth empowerment, and economic growth.

Sarawak's sports development is spearheaded by the Sarawak Sports Corporation and *Majlis Sukan Negeri Sarawak*. Several key initiatives will continue next year to transform Sarawak to become a sports powerhouse in Malaysia by 2030 including:

- (a) SUKSAR (Sukan Sarawak): A state-level multi-sport event to identify and nurture young talent, serving as a feeder for national competitions such as SUKMA;

- (b) Sarawak X-Tive Programme: A flagship initiative by the Sarawak Government to build a healthier, more active, and socially cohesive society through youth-focused sports and cultural engagement. It serves as a grassroots platform to uncover and develop sporting potential across communities; and
- (c) International Sports Event Hosting: Strategic collaborations with global sports bodies to bring world-class exposure to local athletes. Through global partnerships, Sarawak will co-host the SEA Games in 2027 and lead the return of the Borneo Games in 2025 to strengthen our role in international and regional sports.

To support these efforts, we will allocate a total sum of RM117 million to Ministry of Youths, Sports and Entrepreneur Development which include RM73 million to Sarawak Sports Corporation and *Majlis Sukan Negeri Sarawak* for their operations, and continuous youth and sports development programmes.

Initiatives Two: Enhancing Sports Facilities

The upgrading and expansion of sports complexes and facilities will be carried out as part of the state's long-term strategy to strengthen readiness for future national and regional sporting events.

As Sarawak is set to co-host the SEA Games in 2027, the preparation and upgrading of sports venues and facilities will commence in 2026. A total of 11 sports facilities has been designated as official venues for the 2027 SEA Games, which include Sarawak Stadium, *Stadium Perpaduan*, Lawn Bowl Centre, Sarawak Cricket Ground, Squash Centre, Shooting Range, Wushu Training Centre, Pandelega Rinong Aquatic Centre, and Archery Range. For this purpose, RM107 million will be provided next year.

In addition, RM54 million will be committed for the construction and enhancement of other sport complexes and facilities throughout the state.

Initiative Three: Promoting Youth and Entrepreneur Development Programme

We have embarked on the Sarawak Youth Index 2.0, a comprehensive study designed to assess the well-being, quality of life, and overall development of our youth. Its primary aim is to provide reliable empirical data on the current State of Sarawak's youth, serving as a strategic foundation for crafting policies and programmes that are made focused, inclusive and impactful. An allocation of RM1.5 million will be made available for this study next year.

Complementing this effort, RM1 million will be allocated next year for Sarawak Youth Creative Industry Fund to empower young talents in film, music, performing arts, digital media, and heritage crafts. This initiative nurtures creative entrepreneurship and equips youth with the digital and adaptive skills needed for a resilient economy.

To empower Sarawak's youth and drive inclusive digital growth, RM2.34 million will be provided for entrepreneurship development programme next year to implement several key initiatives including Youth Technopreneur 2026, Sarawak Youth Startup Programme, Youth Entrepreneur Setup, and BeliaGoBiz.

STRATEGIC THRUST EIGHT: SPUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

Tuan Speaker, allow me now to speak on a matter of strategic importance to Sarawak – our mission to transition Sarawak from a resource-based economy to a technology-driven economy and society, as envisioned under the PCDS 2030.

Since the launch of our pioneering Sarawak Digital Economy Strategy 2018-2022 and the subsequent Sarawak Digital Blueprint 2030, we have made significant and commendable progress in our digital transformation journey. However, to fully realise these ambitious goals, we must now accelerate our efforts particularly in the areas of research, development, and innovation.

Let me outline a suit of strategic initiatives that will empower Sarawak to lead in science, technology, and innovation.

Initiative One: Digital Infrastructure Expansion

Digital economy is a necessity, no longer a luxury. It is the foundation upon which we build inclusive prosperity, resilient communities, and globally competitive industries. To this end, Sarawak has made bold and strategic investments in digital infrastructure and ecosystem.

Expanding Connectivity Across Sarawak

Under the Sarawak Linking Urban, Rural and Nation (SALURAN) – Sarawak Rural Broadband Network (MySRBN) initiative, we have completed Phase One at a cost of RM24 million. Meanwhile, Phase Two is progressing well and will further extend coverage to underserved communities.

Through collaboration with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission under (JENDELA) Phase Two, we are accelerating 4G and 5G network coverage, particularly in areas with challenging terrain and scattered settlements.

The SMART600 projects aims at enhancing digital connectivity across more than 1,000 rural locations. It involves the construction of 600 new communication towers, and benefiting approximately 180,000 residents in areas such as Marudi in Miri and Belaga, Sungai Belawai, and Sungai Encheremin in Kapit.

As of July 2025, 587 towers have been completed, of which 431 towers are already activated using Multi-Operator Core Network technology, while the remaining towers will be commissioned in stages.

For 2026, we will allocate RM450 million under Alternative Funding to support the continued implementation of the SMART tower projects and the MSRBN initiative. In addition, RM27 million will be provided to Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) under this budget to support its operational needs and strategic functions.

We will continue to allocate RM20 million next year to Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation to subsidize broadband charges for rural communities. This funding will ease the financial burden for households benefiting from MySRBN initiative, which provides high-speed internet access through fixed wireless technology.

Initiative Two: Growing Digitalization

Tuan Speaker, digital transformation remains central to improving public service delivery in Sarawak. The launch of SarawakPass, powered by SarawakID at IDECS 2025, marks a major milestone in this journey. SarawakPass provides a unified and secure digital identity that connects citizens and businesses seamlessly to government and private sector services.

Under the 13th Malaysia Plan, we are accelerating the rollout of digital services in land management, social services, and business facilitation through platforms such as eZone and the Integrated Social Platform. These initiatives enhance efficiency, accuracy, and inclusivity, ensuring that assistance and services reach those who need them most.

(i) Cybersecurity

As Sarawak advances its digital transformation, cybersecurity is a top priority. SMA is developing the State Cybersecurity Strategy and Roadmap 2030. This strategy will strengthen cyber resilience, safeguard our digital infrastructure and citizens' data, and ensure that innovation is secure and trusted. It also envisions the establishment of a dedicated entity to coordinate cybersecurity efforts across government and industry.

(ii) Data Governance

Equally important is data governance. Data is now the key driver of progress, and SMA is formulating the Sarawak Data Governance Framework and Roadmap to ensure that data is properly managed, protected, and utilised responsibly. This will transform data into a strategic asset to enhance decision-making, improve service delivery, and unlock value for our economy, while upholding the highest standards of privacy and accountability.

Initiative Three: Investing In Sarawak's AI Future

In 2025, my administration launched the Sarawak Artificial Intelligence Centre (SAIC), a strategic initiative to position Sarawak as a leader in technology-driven innovation.

SAIC will advance AI technologies across key sectors including healthcare, agriculture, education, and manufacturing. By fostering public-private partnerships and collaborating with local and international partners, the centre aims to boost productivity and create high-value jobs, driving Sarawak toward a smart, innovation-led economy. In 2026, RM5 million will be allocated to SAIC for its operation and carry out its strategic functions.

Initiative Four: Promoting Digital Business Environment

Our journey towards a fully digital and inclusive Sarawak continues to make significant progress. The Government-owned S Pay Global platform has grown into a trusted digital payment ecosystem, now serving 1.6 million users, 95,000 merchants, and facilitating over RM5.5 billion in transactions since its launch.

Through S Pay Global, the government has successfully channelled various forms of assistance such as SKAS, *Bantuan Komputer Riba Percuma* and *Baucar Buku Percuma* directly to eligible recipients across Sarawak, in Peninsular Malaysia, and even abroad. Linked to each individual's SarawakID, these transactions are secure, instant, and accountable, ensuring public funds are used responsibly.

With integration via DuitNow and UnionPay, S Pay Global now operates across Malaysia and internationally. Moving forward, it will evolve into a comprehensive digital banking platform, focused on serving *Anak Sarawak* empowering them to save, transact, and invest seamlessly, anytime and anywhere.

Under this budget, an allocation of RM28 million will be provided to S Pay Global next year to support its continued implementation and expansion as Sarawak's flagship digital payment and financial inclusion platform.

Initiative Five: Promoting Invention And Innovation

(i) Shaping the Future of Sarawak's Semiconductor

In 2025, Sarawak made bold strides toward becoming a regional semiconductor hub with the

launch of the Sarawak Semiconductor Roadmap 2030 and transformative projects such as the keteq.ai power converter and keteq.GaN platform. These milestones reflect our commitment to high-performance, energy-efficient technologies and global innovation leadership.

Moving forward, we will continue to build on this foundation by investing in the following:

- (a) the creation of three new intellectual property assets;
- (b) producing Sarawak's first Gallium Nitride High Electron Mobility Transistor chip, a cutting-edge semiconductor device known for high-speed and high-efficiency performance and this is something first in the world; and
- (c) planning for the establishment of AI Chip Integration Centre.

These efforts, in partnership with global leaders like Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult (UK), X-FAB, and Rebellions Inc. (South Korea), aims at positioning Sarawak as the Silicon Nerve of Asia.

By nurturing homegrown breakthroughs, strengthening research partnerships, and gradually building technical capacity, we aim to build long-term economic resilience and achieve Sarawak's broader aspirations in the development of advanced technology.

(ii) Research and Development, and Innovation for Sustainable Growth

We will continue to invest in high-impact research and development that supports science, technology, and innovation with strong potential for commercialisation.

Through the Sarawak Research and Development Council, to date we have invested RM18.3 million in 80 research projects across biotechnology, renewable energy, and green industrialisation. To further support these initiatives, RM4 million will be spent on research projects next year.

For 2026, we will allocate RM50 million to continue the construction of Sarawak Infectious Disease Centre, and RM22 million for its operations. Meanwhile, for Sarawak Science Centre, RM48 million will be provided for its completion and another RM8 million for its operations. A further sum of RM11 million will be provided to support various disease and research programmes.

Tuan Speaker,

We will also provide allocation for other R&D initiatives as follows:

- (a) RM36 million to Sarawak Biodiversity Centre for its operations and ongoing R&D initiatives;
- (b) RM26.6 million to CRAUN Research for its operations and ongoing research;
- (c) RM5 million to Sago and Nipah Development Board; and
- (d) RM4.4 million to Sarawak Tropical Peat Research Institute.

Tuan Speaker,

**STRATEGIC THRUST NINE:
STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT CAPACITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY**

Initiative One: Enhancing Government Capacity and Capability

(i) Continuous Up-skilling Re-skilling of Sarawak Civil Service

Sarawak Civil Service must be equipped with the right skills, knowledge and mindset to deliver quality public service and implement the Government development agenda effectively. To further strengthen the capacity of our officers at all levels, my administration will continue to provide

allocation for training and talent development. In 2026, a sum of RM48.5 million will be allocated for this purpose, which includes:

- (a) Technical Skills Development that focuses on strengthening functional and job-related competencies in specialized areas.
- (b) In-Service Training which provides officers with opportunities to pursue formal studies and professional qualifications to strengthen their competencies.
- (c) Leadership and Executive Development programs for senior and emerging leaders to build their strategic thinking, leadership capability and high-level management skills.

(ii) New Scheme of Service

In line with the Federal Government's decision to implement the *Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam* (SSPA), the State adopted the new pay structure last year, with the first 8% salary increase taking effect early this year, involving a total sum of RM67 million. For 2026, a further 7% increase will be implemented with an allocation of RM56 million. This revised salary scheme is intended to ease the financial pressures faced by officers and help them manage the rising cost of living.

(iii) Building Healthy Workplaces

Building a healthy workplace is important to keep our officers motivated and able to do their best. For 2026, RM1.26 million will be provided to support programmes that improve overall well-being and work-life balance, as well as studies to guide future policies such as hybrid work arrangements, special needs support, and back-to-work initiatives.

(iv) Restructuring of Departments and Agencies

And this is important as I promise to elaborate on this particular subject. Growing expectations from the *rakyat* require us to keep improving the way we work and the services we provide. To support this, we are restructuring departments and agencies to remove overlaps and streamline functions, giving greater clarity and accountability across the system. This approach will help us build a leaner and more agile government that focuses on its core responsibilities, cuts unnecessary bureaucracy and delivers faster and better results to our people. The emphasis is on doing the right things with the right people, ensuring every organization plays its role effectively in advancing PCDS 2030.

(v) Revision of Incentive Structure for Councillors

To support our councillors in their expanding responsibilities towards improving service delivery at the local level, we have undertaken a review of the remuneration and benefits accorded to 864 councillors serving in 27 Local Authorities across Sarawak.

Following this review, I am pleased to unveil the following:

(a) Special Fixed Monthly Allowance

The Special Fixed Monthly Allowance for all Councillors will be increase from RM300 to RM1,000. This adjustment will be applied uniformly across all 27 Local Authorities.

(b) Additional Medical Benefit

In addition to the existing entitlement to medical treatment at government facilities, Councillors will now be provided with a medical benefit of RM1,000 per year for basic treatment at private hospitals or clinics recognized by the Government.

The new rates of allowance and medical benefits will involve a total additional financial implication of RM8.1 million per year and will be implemented with effect from 1st January 2026.

To the Councillors with this increase, I hope they will perform and deliver their duties effectively to the *rakyat*.

(vi) Adjustment of Remuneration for Community Leaders

Ni Penghulu pulak. The *Ketua Masyarakat* and *Ketua Kaum* (KMKK) form the backbone of Sarawak's grassroots governance. And this has been there since the colonial government. With over 7,700 appointed leaders, including Temenggong, Pemanca, *Penghulu*, and *Ketua Kaum*, they play a vital role in bridging the government and the *rakyat*. They are entrusted with maintaining social harmony, resolving local disputes, and supporting the implementation of government policies at the community level.

The last adjustment to their remuneration was made in 2018, with an increase of RM100. Since then, the cost of living has continued to rise, and the scope of responsibilities borne by KMKK has expanded significantly.

In recognition of their service and evolving responsibilities, I am also pleased to announce an increase of RM400 in monthly remuneration for KMKK, involving an additional allocation of RM37 million annually, with effect from 1st January 2026.

Initiative Two: Strengthening Institution Support for Sarawak Civil Service

Recognising the critical role of civil servants in delivering public services, we will continue our effort to improve access to quality housing. In 2026, RM300 million will be allocated to begin construction of new housing and related facilities in various districts in Sarawak. This initiative reflects our dedication to improving living standards and strengthening institutional support for those who serve the State.

Initiative Three: Accelerating Digital Government Transformation

To strengthen the ease of doing business, we are now moving towards smarter and more connected service delivery. This includes simplifying processes, improving coordination across agencies, and using data, automation and platforms to deliver services in a faster and more seamless way.

For this purpose, RM27 million will be allocated to develop and upgrade ICT projects while RM299 million will be provided for system maintenance to ensure reliable and secure digital services in 2026.

SARAWAK PUBLIC FINANCIAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

As I have mentioned publicly on several occasions, we are currently undertaking two major reform initiatives namely, the transformation of State-Owned Enterprises and Results-Based Budgeting.

We remain committed to strengthening our public financial management to ensure efficient and impactful utilisation of our resources. For 2026, RM17.4 million will be allocated for the continuation of these two reform initiatives.

I would like to elaborate more on these initiatives.

State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) Transformation Programme

(i) State Ownership Policy

The Sarawak Government's state ownership policy is a major, first-of-its kind reform in Malaysia, designed to transform the governance and performance of its SOEs. The policy aims to establish the State as an active, professional, and accountable shareholder, adopting international best practices, and it being developed in partnership with the World Bank.

This policy represents a major shift in how Sarawak manages and governs its SOEs. Under this policy, each SOE will operate with a clear and defined mandate – be it strategic, developmental, commercial, or a hybrid – while fostering a performance-driven culture focused on delivering tangible outcomes for the people of Sarawak. Why are we introducing the policy?

First, we want to bring greater clarity to the ownership and purpose of our SOEs. It ensures a clear separation between policy-making, ownership, and regulatory functions.

Second, we want to eliminate fragmentation and duplication across entities that serve similar functions. It allows us to streamline operations, consolidate assets, enhance board professionalism, and improve performance monitoring – driving efficiency and value creation.

Third, we want to reduce dependency on State funding and build financially resilient enterprises.

Fourth, we want to have centralized ownership that enables closer coordination between SOEs' oversight and state's overall budgeting process. This ensures better alignment of dividends reinvestments strategies, and fiscal priorities.

Above all, we want our SOEs to be managed professionally, transparently, and with the highest standards of governance and integrity.

And this is done by most country especially the success of our neighbour Singapore.

(ii) Sarawak Code of Corporate Governance

The Sarawak Code of Corporate Governance will set out clear standards of board independences, accountability, transparency and ethical conduct.

This will strengthen oversight, prevent conflicts of interest, and ensure that decision-making is always in the best interest of the State and the *rakyat*.

To support this governance framework, a central monitoring mechanism, will be established to track compliance and performance across all SOEs under the state's portfolio.

(iii) State on the Roadmap Towards Financially Self-Reliant and High-Performing SOEs

Tuan Speaker, we are also embarking on a study aims to create SOEs that are financially self-reliant and can contribute positively to the state's fiscal positions. The expected outcomes of the study are as follows:

- (a) Streamlined and consolidated SOEs – less in number, but strong in capacity and focus;
- (b) Reduce burden on State finances while improving efficiency in performance; and
- (c) Unlock more opportunities for collaboration with the private sector as our SOEs become more commercially oriented.

In conclusion, the State Ownership Policy, together with the Code of Corporate Governance and the Self-Reliance Study formed the foundation of Sarawak's long-term strategy to transform its SOEs into high-performing, sustainable, and accountable institutions. These reforms will not only enhance the value of our state enterprises but will also strengthen Sarawak's position as a competitive, resilient, and forward-looking economy.

Results-Based Budgeting

In 2024, we took a major step forward with the implementation of the Results-Based Budgeting (RBB) framework. However, RBB alone cannot deliver the full transformation we envision. It must operate within a broader and interconnected *iaitu*, Integrated Results-Based Management ecosystem that aligns every part of government.

To achieve this, the Economic Planning Unit Sarawak is entrusted to take the lead to establish the IRBM framework that is Integrated Results-Based Management Framework. This framework will form the foundation for a results-based governance framework that links policy, vision, strategic planning, budgeting, implementation, and evaluation into a seamless chain of accountability.

FEDERAL FUNDING AND 2026 FEDERAL BUDGET

Tuan Speaker, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Federal Government for the RM6 billion allocation to Sarawak under Malaysia Budget 2026. This increase, through incremental from RM5.9 billion last year, reflects a positive step toward addressing regional development disparities under the MADANI framework.

However, I must respectfully highlight that Sarawak's development needs still remain substantial. Given our vast geography and unique infrastructural challenges, this allocation, while welcomed, is not sufficient to fully bridge the gap between Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

Sarawak is not merely a recipient of Federal funds. We contribute significantly to the national economy, particularly through our oil and gas revenues. As we move forward, I hope that future budgets will reflect a more equitable alignment between Sarawak's contributions and the scale of Federal investment required to unlock our full development potential and address our longstanding developmental needs.

Tuan Speaker, the journey towards a stronger Sarawak will be demanding. There will be trials, there will be pressures that test our unity. Yet, as long as we stand together, committed to our common purpose, no force can divide us. *(Applause)*...

In this pivotal year, the GPS Government reaffirms its dedication to expanding opportunities and support for all. We call on every member of society to play their part in shaping a future Sarawak that is inclusive, empowered, and ready for the future. As I said, if we have strength in our natural capital we build our human capital. That's why next year we start with free education to all Sarawakian.

And it is our aspiration Tuan Speaker, as the 11th ASEAN countries has high hope that Sarawak become the battery of ASEAN. We are preparing ourselves in the new economy and it is our aspiration particularly GPS Government aspiration that Sarawak become a star in ASEAN. *(Applause)*...

Tuan Speaker, Belanjawan Sarawak Tahun 2026 ini bukan sekadar dokumen kewangan, tetapi manifestasi jelas iltizam politik Kerajaan GPS untuk terus memacu Sarawak ke arah kemakmuran yang lebih setara dan berkualiti. Setiap ringgit yang diperuntukkan mencerminkan keberanian kita membuat keputusan strategik, keutamaan yang berpaksikan rakyat, serta kesungguhan untuk memastikan Sarawak mampu bersaing di pentas serantau dan global. Inilah

belanjawan yang disandarkan pada prinsip kebertanggungjawaban dan visi jangka panjang untuk membawa perubahan nyata kepada kehidupan rakyat.

Tuan Speaker, pada kesimpulannya, belanjawan ini bukan sekadar angka dan dasar. Ia adalah cerminan harapan dan tekad bersama. Di sebalik setiap perincian, tersulam usaha insan, yang bekerja tanpa jemu demi masa depan yang mampan untuk Sarawak.

The GPS Government has laid out strategic measures to further strengthen Sarawak's revenue base, with a firm commitment to exploring and diversifying new revenue stream in the years ahead.

For record, under my administration, our revenue has increased by 2.4 times from RM5.9 billion in 2016 to RM14.2 billion in 2024. This achievement was driven by the introduction of new revenue sources, particularly from State Sales Tax on petroleum products where we exercise our rights under the Malaysia Agreement as so as stated in our Constitution. So, we got extra money meant for Sarawak.

Ada orang lain janji tapi dia tidak buat. Aluminium, Sales Tax, aluminium, timber, ferro-alloy, and polysilicon; and also the introduction of State Dividend policy. On the expenditure side, more than RM10 billion has been allocated annually since 2018 for both operating and development purposes towards fulfilling our commitment to the people.

Target 2026, Tuan Speaker, we did not include another stream of revenue yet. If that is included, we are fantastically very strong. Nak saya takut ialah ada orang *envy, jealous dengan what we have achieved. (Applause)*... Maka, dengan semangat keyakinan dan kesepaduan, saya menyeru seluruh Ahli Dewan, tanpa mengira perbezaan pandangan politik termasuk kawan kita dua orang untuk bersama-sama menyokong belanjawan ini demi kepentingan Sarawak dan generasi masa depan.

Kita wajib menunjukkan kepada rakyat bahawa kepimpinan negeri ini bersatu dalam matlamat membina Sarawak yang lebih maju, stabil dan progresif di bawah naungan kepimpinan yang utuh dan berpandangan jauh.

Di kesempatan ini, saya ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada rakan-rakan saya dalam Kabinet, terima kasih banyak. Kepada para Pegawai Pengawal di kementerian dan jabatan, *thank you very much*, serta seluruh warga kerja yang telah mencurahkan tenaga, masa dan komitmen dalam menjayakan penyediaan Belanjawan Sarawak Tahun 2026. Kecekalan, semangat kerja berpasukan dan profesionalisme yang ditunjukkan oleh semua pihak telah menjadi tunjang kepada perancangan belanjawan yang inklusif, berhemah dan berdaya tahan demi kesejahteraan rakyat.

Penghujung kalam sebagai bingkisan harapan, saya ingin akhiri dengan dua rangkap pantun.

*Pagi cerah Mentari bersinar,
Petani gigih menanam padi;
Belanjawan bijak rakyat disinar,
Kemakmuran dikejar, masa depan Lestari.*

*Gunung Santubong berbalam senja,
Awan berarak ke ufuk timur;
Tertib teratur mengurus belanja,
Moga Sarawak terus maju dan Makmur.*

Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; 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 second.

**USUL UNTUK MERUJUK RESOLUSI ANGGARAN PERBELANJAAN PEMBANGUNAN
BAGI TAHUN 2026 KEPADA JAWATANKUASA PERBEKALAN**

SUPPLY (2026) BILL, 2025

Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar; Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.26 Gedong (YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the following resolution be referred to the Committee of Supply. *“That this Dewan resolves to approve the Development Estimates, 2026 as contained in Command Paper No. 13 of 2025 laid on the Table on 24th November 2025.”*

As presented in Command Paper No. 13 of 2025, the total development expenditure for 2026 amounts to RM9,272 million out of this amount, RM9,029 million will be financed by state funds while the balance of RM243 million will be financed by Federal Government through reimbursable loans and grants.

The sum of RM9,272 million as proposed has been allocated on the basis of projected expenditure commitments and requirements for approved development activities during the year. The proposed allocations by major sectors are as follows:

- (a) A total of RM4,823 million is allocated under the economic sector for the following programmes:
- (i) RM2,391 million is for purposes such as State corporate investment, development agencies projects and programmes, tourism industry development and promotions, State industrialization, conservation and protection of heritage collection;
 - (ii) RM1,295 million is for purposes such as roads, bridges, riverine infrastructure and ports, land and riverine transportation, aviation services and various special development projects under *Projek Rakyat*;
 - (iii) RM455 million is for upgrading and expansion of water supply and electricity connectivity especially to the rural areas, which includes a sum of RM136 million for Sarawak Water Sdn Bhd;
 - (iv) RM221 million is for purposes such as crop industry development and research, mechanization and agriculture infrastructure, livestock veterinary services, agriculture education and promotion, inland fisheries, and aquaculture development;
 - (v) RM68 million is for digital economy initiatives;
 - (vi) RM137 million is for scientific research and development which include Sarawak Science Centre and Sarawak Infectious Disease Centre;
 - (vii) RM21 million is for feasibility studies on various State development planning and policy formulation;
 - (viii) RM164 million is for purposes such as urban drainage and flood mitigation river and coastal engineering, forestry research and development, forestry management as well as environmental sustainability; and

- (ix) RM750,000 is for development of mineral industry.
- (b) A total of RM3,832 million is allocated under social sector for the following programmes:
- (i) RM1,904 million is for purposes of such as implementation of various rural transformation projects, minor rural projects, urban development and residential schemes, and women and family development;
 - (ii) RM640 million is for Sumbangan Keperluan Asas Sarawak (SKAS);
 - (iii) RM386 million is mainly for implementation of various kampung redevelopment for construction of affordable houses under Housing Development Corporation and Program Penambahbaikan Rumah Miskin Sarawak (PPRMS);
 - (iv) RM295 million is for implementation of various local authorities, projects including urban sewerage and waste management and landfill development;
 - (v) RM431 million is for implementation of various education and training programme including free tertiary education scheme, innovation and talent development initiatives;
 - (vi) RM161 million for upgrading of various sports and social facilities throughout State; and
 - (vii) RM15 million for the construction of Sarawak Cancer Centre.
- (c) A total of RM617 million is allocated under general administration sector for implementation of projects such as government offices and service quarters and government ICT projects.

Tuan Speaker, I beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; 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 second.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the debate on the Supply (2026) Bill, 2025 stands adjourned until Wednesday, 26th November 2025. We have a lunch break. Sitting resumes at 2.30 p.m.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 12.51 tengah hari)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 2.30 petang)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

BACAAN RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF SARAWAK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read a second time.

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. A very good afternoon. Tuan Speaker, before I begin my speech on the Bill, allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Tan Sri on your recent re-appointment as the Speaker of the Dewan Undangan

Negeri Sarawak. Your re-appointment is a clear testament to your distinguished leadership and your steadfast commitment to upholding the dignity and order of this august House. I am confident that under your continued guidance, the proceedings of this august House will remain orderly, dignified and conducted with the highest standard of professionalism.

Tuan Speaker, it is important to set up the present structure of the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri or in short MMKN. As this provides the necessary context for the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

At present, the MMKN comprises of 11 members, the Premier and 10 other Ministers. This is made in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Constitution of the State of Sarawak which states that the MMKN shall consist of:

- (a) the Premier; and
- (b) not more than 10 nor less than four other members who shall be called “*Minister*” from among the members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri.

As this august House is aware, the Dewan Undangan Negeri had, during its Special Sitting in July this year, passed the Members of Dewan Undangan Negeri (Composition of Members) Ordinance, 2025 (Chapter 89). This Ordinance came into force on the 8th of August 2025, thereby increasing the number of Members of this august House from 82 to 99. Thus, making the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak to be the largest State Parliament in Malaysia.

With the increase in the number of constituencies and administrative areas, the present composition of the MMKN is no longer proportionate to the state’s expanding governance structure. It must also be acknowledged that several ministers are currently entrusted with multiple portfolios, resulting in a heavier administrative responsibilities and increased demands on ministers to manage a wider range of duties across key sectors.

Therefore, an increase in the number of members of the MMKN is both reasonable and necessary. This measure will strengthen the state’s executive machinery, enhance policy coordination, and ensure that ministerial portfolios can be distributed evenly, and ministerial duties can be implemented effectively. What is more important is that, it will also enable the Sarawak Government to respond more effectively to the needs of the people and to deliver services to the *rakyat* with greater focus and attention across all key sectors.

Tuan Speaker, it must be emphasized that this exercise is carried out within the constitutional authority of this august House. Under Item 7 of the State List of the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution, matters relating to the “*Machinery of the State Government*” fall within the purview of the state. As such, it is justified for Sarawak to exercise its power to fulfill its responsibility of ensuring that the Sarawak Government continues its capability to serve the people of Sarawak by having proportionate and sufficient number of members in the MMKN.

In line with this constitutional authority, the proposed Bill therefore seeks to strengthen the state’s executive capacity in synchronizing with its expanding constituency boundaries and growing responsibilities.

Tuan Speaker, I wish to recall the evolution of the provision relating to Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri since Malaysia day, that is since 1963. In 1963, the Supreme Council, which is equivalent in what we call MMKN now, comprised the Chief Minister, five appointed Members or these appointed members are the ministers, and three Ex-Officio Members. The three Ex-Officio Members are the three Wise Man.

This structure was amended in 1965 to allow a more flexible composition of not fewer than four and not more than eight appointed members. Subsequent amendment was done in 1995 which expanded the upper limit of appointed members from eight to 10 which remains the current

framework until today. So, from 1963 until 2025, the State Constitution and subject matter pertaining to the number of those who are holding offices (Ministers) in the MMKN has only been amended three times for the last 60 years. And from the last time was amended in 1995 until today, it was 30 years. So, this Bill before this august House does not disturb the corner stone of this framework. The core composition prescribed under Article 6 remain untouched. Instead, the amendment introduces a measured enabling provision allowing the Yang di-Pertua Negeri, on the advice of the Premier to appoint up to four additional members when necessary.

This is not an alteration of the existing structure, but a carefully calibrated mechanism to provide flexibility and responsiveness within the existing constitutional design. In this light Tuan Speaker, the amendment is both timely and necessary. Sarawak Government mission has expanded in scope and responsibility. It is crucial that the constitutional framework evolves in tandem. This Bill strengthens the capacity of the State Government to address emerging challenges, distribute portfolios more effectively, and ensure that policy formulation and implementation remain efficient.

Well, I firmly believe that this amendment is both timely and essential by allowing the appointment of additional members to the MMKN as proposed in this Bill. The Sarawak Government would be able to assign ministerial portfolios more effectively and ensure the key areas of development are given due focus and attention. On this note, with that Tuan Speaker, I beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second?

Menteri Pengangkutan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.75 Senadin (YB Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin): Tuan Speaker, I beg to second.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I shall now call upon any Honourable Members of this august House who wish to debate on this Bill. Honourable Member for Pelagus.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: Tuan Speaker. Congratulations on your reappointment to your position. It is an inspired thing. Thank you, Sir.

Tuan Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate on the Sarawak State Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025 tabled by the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak, and also an Assemblyman for N.15 Asajaya just now. Allow me to commend our Sarawak Government under the visionary leadership of our Right Honourable Premier, for introducing this Amendment Bill. It is an important step to strengthening the machinery of the Sarawak Government. It is not only necessary, but it is timely, strategic and aligned with the trajectory of Sarawak's rising ambitions.

Constitutional Competence and Legal Foundation

Tuan Speaker, this Amendment is constitutionally sound and legally grounded. It is introduced pursuant to Item 7, State List (II) of the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution, which expressly places the structure and machinery of the State Government including the *Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri* is within the exclusive legislative competence of this Dewan.

In clear terms, this House has full authority to determine the structure, size and composition of our own cabinet, as part of the machinery or organ of the State Government.

Recalling the Context: From Legislative Expansion to Executive Strengthening

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is a logical continuation of the decision made in this very Dewan yesterday, where we passed the DUN (Composition of Membership) Bill, 2025 to expand the number of elected representatives from 82 to 99. In my speech then, I said and I reiterate today, that when the legislature expands, the executive must also evolve.

A growing House representing an increasingly complex and diverse society must be matched with a proportionate Executive that can deliver with focus, efficiency and sectoral expertise.

We cannot allow a scenario where our governance infrastructure grows on one end, while remaining structurally stagnant on the other.

Why this Amendment is Necessary

Tuan Speaker, the proposed insertion of a new paragraph (c) under Article 6 is a necessary enhancement for several reasons.

- (a) Sarawak's governance responsibilities have expanded exponentially. We are no longer confined to conventional development functions like roads and utilities. We are now at the forefront of:
 - (i) Digital Economy Transformation;
 - (ii) Green Energy Development;
 - (iii) High-value Industrial Activities and FDI Attraction;
 - (iv) Autonomy under MA63; and
 - (v) Sustainability governance aligned with global climate frameworks.
- (b) Sarawak Cabinet Ministers are overburdened. Many ministers hold two or more portfolios, covering vastly different sectors. This is unsustainable. It weakens policy focus, slows implementation and dilutes accountability.
- (c) The workload has intensified. With the 99 constituencies, more Assemblymen will raise issues, proposals and demands requiring cabinet response. A 10 member cabinet, as currently limited by the Constitution is no longer adequate to handle this evolving complexity.

Strengthening the Machinery of Government

Tuan Speaker, this is not of adding titles or expanding the executive for cosmetic reasons. It is about capacity building, about ensuring governance depth and about future-proofing our policy delivery structure as we pursue the PCDS 2030 vision of becoming a high-income and developed region.

The world is moving fast. Energy transitions, global economic shifts, environmental shocks and technological disruptions all demand a cabinet that is agile, competent and sufficiently staffed to govern at the speed of change.

Tuan Speaker, I wish to place on record that I have consistently raised this issue in the last two sittings of this august House. I had consistently argued that Sarawak needs:

- (a) More dedicate ministerial portfolios;
- (b) Greater ministerial specialisation; and
- (c) A cabinet structure reflective of a modern, diversified economy.

This amendment is not abrupt, not reactive and certainly not excessive. It is well-considered, long advocated and necessary step forward in institutional reform.

Tuan Speaker, allow me to summarise why this Bill deserves full support.

- (a) Logical Progression – from the increase in the legislative membership, executive capacity must match legislative expansion.
- (b) Avoidance of Ministerial Overload – Ministers holding multiple portfolios compromise focus and execution.

- (c) Alignment of Sarawak's strategic priorities – digitalisation, hydrogen, climate change, education and health all need focused ministerial leadership.
- (d) Constitutionally legitimate and state-empowered - well within the rights of this Dewan under Item 7, State List (List II) Ninth Schedule.

Finally, Tuan Speaker this amendment is about governance readiness. It is about preparing Sarawak not just for 2026 but for the decades to come.

If we aspire to lead in renewable energy, digital governance, climate solutions and economic sovereignty, then we must equip ourselves with the right tools, the right talent and the right institutional structure. And that begins with a cabinet that is modern, proportionate and fit-for-purpose.

Therefore Tuan Speaker, I fully support Sarawak State Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and I respectfully call upon all Honourable Members of this House to do the same. Let us govern not just for today, but for the Sarawak of tomorrow. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tamin.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to debate and express my support for the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 tabled by Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts and also Honourable Member for N.15 Asajaya.

Strengthening the Administrative Machinery for a Growing Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak today is not the Sarawak of 10 or 20 years ago. We are a State in transformation economically, socially, and administratively. Under the leadership of the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, we have embarked on a trajectory that requires strong governance structures, deeper policy coordination, and more hands-on deck to carry out the aspirations of the Sarawak people.

The amendment before this august House recognises one fundamental reality, our responsibilities expand, our executive machinery must grow accordingly.

Purpose and Rationale of the Amendment

Tuan Speaker, this Bill allows the Yang di-Pertua Negeri acting on the advice of the Premier, to appoint up to four additional members to the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, drawn from among the elected members in this august House.

Tuan Speaker, this is not merely an administrative adjustment, it is a deliberate step to:

- (a) Enhance executive capacity;
- (b) Improve specialised focus in complex ministry; and
- (c) Strengthen policy delivery, especially in areas that now require more urgent attention such as:
 - (i) Energy transition and green economy;
 - (ii) Digital transformation;
 - (iii) Regional development agencies (MIRRD, NRDA, URDA, HDA);
 - (iv) Education and talent development; and
 - (v) Rural infrastructure, water supply and connectivity.

Constitutional and Legal Validity

Tuan Speaker, this amendment is consistent with Item 7 of the State List (List II) in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution. Executive authority of the State clearly lies within the jurisdiction of Sarawak.

The Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri is fundamentally an organ of the State Government. Strengthening it through additional appointments is both lawful and timely. This House retains full sovereignty under MA63 and the State Constitution, to shape the structure of our own executive council.

Meeting the Demands of an Expanding Portfolio Landscape

Tuan Speaker, many ministries today oversee portfolios far broader than they were originally designed for. If we expect rapid implementation, accelerated development, and seamless coordination, then we must empower the executive with the necessary manpower and expertise. For example, Tuan Speaker, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development Sarawak now handles complex road systems, bridge expansions, coastal protection, digital mapping and agency coordination. The Ministry of Utility and Telecommunication is expanding rural electrification, water supply grid, and fibre connectivity to remote areas. The Ministry of Education and Talent Development is shaping Sarawak's future workforce while coordinating with multiple agencies and institutions.

Our regional development agencies require close ministerial supervision due to the scale of investment and number of rural projects. Adding up for the four additional members will enable more focused attention on these expanding responsibilities.

Benefit to Rural Constituencies like Tamin

Tuan Speaker, as the elected representative of N.59 Tamin, I strongly support this amendment because a strengthened cabinet means faster decision making, more efficient project implementation, and heightened attention to rural communities.

Our people depend on timely delivery of road upgrades, water supply projects, telecommunication towers, schools and clinic improvements, economic and social assistance. With more members in the cabinet, we can relieve bottlenecks, shorten approval chains, and ensure that development reaches the longhouses and *kampungs*, not just the urban centres.

Financial Implications – A Reasonable Investment for Greater Efficiency

Tuan Speaker, yes, the amendment involves some additional cost. But the cost of an understaffed executive is far greater, delays, inefficiencies, abandoned projects, and lost opportunities.

If adding four members results in faster rural development, better coordination of state agencies, improved delivery of infrastructure projects, then this investment is necessary.

A Forward-Looking Step in Line with Sarawak's Post-2030 Vision

Tuan Speaker, this amendment is aligned with Sarawak's long-term vision:

- (a) To become a high-income, advanced, and sustainable by 2030 and beyond;
- (b) To strengthen autonomy under MA63; and
- (c) To build a government machinery capable handling the demands of global economic competition and local community needs.

As a strong cabinet is the backbone of a stronger Sarawak.

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, this amendment is not about the political expansion, it is about the capacity expansion. This is not about increasing positions, this is about increasing performance. It is not about more people in government, it is about the better governance for the people.

For these reasons, I fully support the Bill and urge all the Honourable Members to do the same for the long-term benefits of our State and our *rakyat* and Sarawak. *Sekian*, Tuan Speaker, I support the Bill, thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Balingian.

YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi: Tuan Speaker, before I begin my debate on the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, allow me first to record my happiness and gratitude for two historical moments that occurred in Sarawak recently.

Firstly, my heartiest congratulations to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Dr. Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, for being conferred the Japan's most prestigious State honours – the Order of The Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, awarded by the Government of Japan. This honour recognises YAB Premier's outstanding contributions in enhancing Japan-Malaysia relations, particularly in areas such as:

- (a) Strengthening economic partnerships;
- (b) Expanding energy cooperation; and
- (c) Advancing Sarawak's globally recognised low-carbon and green development agenda.

This award brings pride not only to the Premier but to the whole of Sarawak, reflecting international acknowledgment of our state's leadership and forward-looking development path.

Secondly, Tuan Speaker, allow me to warmly congratulate you on your reappointment as the Speaker of the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly for your 10th term, effective 16th November 2025 to 15th November 2027. This historic milestone makes Tuan Speaker the longest-serving legislative Speaker in Malaysia, having first assumed this office on 15th November 2000. Somebody commented is in the world. Thank you, your stewardship has ensured the dignity, order and professionalism of this august House for more than two decades. On behalf of the people of N.58 Balingian, I offer my deepest congratulations and appreciation for your continued service.

I now move to express my full support for the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which was tabled by Menteri Pelancongan Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan and ADUN N.15 Asajaya.

This Bill is concise but deeply impactful. It proposes strengthening the administrative machinery of the State Government by allowing the appointment of additional members to the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN).

As stated in the Bill, these additional appointments are intended: for the purpose of strengthening the machinery of the State Government. This is not a mere technical adjustment. It is a strategic upgrade to improve Sarawak's governance capacity in line with our rapid development trajectory.

Second, Sarawak today faces an expanding set of responsibilities:

- (a) Renewable energy and hydrogen;
- (b) Green industry and carbon management;
- (c) Digital transformation;
- (d) Regional development;

- (e) Food security and modern agriculture;
- (f) Transport and utility upgrading; and
- (g) Social well-being programmes.

The Bill makes it clear that these appointments are meant to strengthen the governance capacity to meet expanding responsibilities. As our state grows, our administrative structure must grow with it.

Three, the Bill amend Article 6(c) to empower the Yang di-Pertua Negeri, on the advice of the Premier, to appoint not more than four additional members of the MMKN from among elected members of this House.

Importantly, the Bill states it is enacted pursuant to Item 7 of the State List (List II) of the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution, which confirms that the MMKN is part of the machinery of the State Government. Thus, this amendment is fully aligned with the federal constitutional provisions.

Forth, additional MMKN appointment will:

- (a) Enhance cabinet bandwidth to manage complex and emerging sectors;
- (b) Improve policy coordination and execution;
- (c) Ensure better oversight of state-wide initiatives;
- (d) Accelerate rural and regional development; and
- (e) Facilitate long-term strategic planning

This is not about political expansion. It is about administrative capability, efficiency, and delivery. A stronger cabinet means a stronger Sarawak for Kuching, for Miri, for Kapit, for Mukah, for our rural heartland, and for constituencies such as Balingian, I mentioned my own.

Fifth, under YAB Premier's leadership, Sarawak is pursuing a bold, innovative and green development agenda from hydrogen to AI to renewable energy. To realise these ambitions, we must ensure our governance capacity keeps pace. This amendment provides the structural support needed for Sarawak to remain agile, future-ready, and administratively robust.

Sixth, this Bill are strategic investments, investments that will yield economic, social and administrative returns through improved policy delivery and better development outcomes.

Tuan Speaker, while this Bill strengthen the governance structure of Sarawak as a whole, constituencies like Balingian stand to benefit through more effective coordination of development projects, clearer division of ministerial responsibilities, faster implementation of state-wide policies, more responsive and efficient governance. A stronger MMKN ultimately means smoother, more equitable development across all regions.

Tuan Speaker, the amendment is timely, strategic and essential. It strengthens our governance architecture, support Sarawak's long term development aspirations and enhances the capacity of our State Government. For these, I beg to give my full support to the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Meluan.

YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in the debate of the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 tabled by Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; and Ahli Yang Berhormat for N.15 Asajaya.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 that seeks to make provisions for the appointment of not more than four

additional Members of this Dewan Undangan Negeri to the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri appointed by Yang di-Pertua Negeri upon advice of the YAB Premier.

Tuan Speaker, this amendment is timely well-considered and aligned with Sarawak's evolving aspirations as a progressive, stable and forward-looking state. While one of the obvious objectives is to strengthen the machinery of government, allows me to highlight several other compelling reasons why this provision is necessary.

Firstly, the complexity of modern governance requires a broader range of expertise at the highest level of executive decision making. Today's policy challenges, whether in renewable energy, digital transformation, food security, native land development, or rural connectivity are highly specialised. By enabling the appointment of additional members with the necessary background, experience and insight, the State Government will be better equipped to craft policies that are informed, strategic, and technically sound.

Secondly, this amendment allows Sarawak to tap into diverse leadership talent within the Dewan Undangan Negeri. Not all elected members hold ministerial portfolios, yet many possess deep local knowledge, professional qualifications and grassroots experience. This mechanism ensures that capable individual who may not have been included in the cabinet initially can still contribute meaningfully to the direction of the state thereby enriching the quality of governance.

Thirdly, the provision enhances continuity and succession planning. In any administration, it is crucial to nurture emerging leaders who can be gradually exposed to executive responsibilities. These additional appointments allow new leaders to gain experience in policy formulation, inter-agency coordination and cabinet-level processes. This contributes to long term political stability and smooth transitions in leadership.

Fourthly, the amendment promotes more balanced representation across Sarawak's vast geography and diverse communities. With a larger pool of voices at the executive table, perspectives from remote rural constituencies, minority groups, and fast-growing urban centres can be better reflected. This improves the inclusivity of policy decisions and strengthens the social contract between government and people.

Fifthly, the ability to appoint additional members creates flexibility during periods of rapid economic and institutional transformation. Sarawak is entering a decade of bold development hydrogen economy, green industries, world class infrastructure, digital ecosystems, and greater administrative autonomy. The dynamic nature of these transformations requires executive team that can expand, adapt, and respond swiftly to new changes and opportunities.

Sixth, this amendment supports more effective oversight of cross cutting issues. Modern governance often requires inter-ministerial coordination between finance and rural development, between utilities and environment, between youth development and digital economy. Additional appointed members can be tasked to focus on specialised portfolios or assist in overseeing multi-sector programmes, ensuring that implementation is efficient and accountable.

Finally, Honourable Members, this amendment reinforces Sarawak's commitment to good governance. It is not about enlarging power but about strengthening capacity. It is not about political convenience, but about administrative effectiveness. It is not about quantity but about quality, quality of leadership, quality of decision making and quality of service to the people.

These proposed mechanism respects constitutional safeguards, maintains the role of the Yang di-Pertua Negeri, and upholds the propagative of the YAB Premier. At the same time, it ensures that appointments are drawn from among elected representatives, those who have received the mandate of the people of Sarawak.

In conclusion, the amendment before us is a prudent and forward-looking state. It equips Sarawak with the flexibility, expertise, and inclusivity required to govern effectively in an increasingly complex world. It helps build a more resilient executive branch, supports sustainable development, and ensures that the aspirations of our people, both present and future, can be better realized.

With these points, I express my firm support for the Bill and urge Honourable Members of this House to give it their full consideration and endorsement. With these, thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tullian.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Terima kasih Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk turut serta perbincangan pada petang ini.

Tuan Speaker, terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah kepada Asajaya merangkap Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak iaitu menteri bertanggungjawab membawa usul penting ini untuk memperkasakan pentadbiran Kerajaan Sarawak secara keseluruhan.

Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 yang membolehkan pelantikan tambahan sehingga empat orang Ahli Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) merupakan langkah strategik yang selaras dengan keperluan semasa wilayah Sarawak dalam mencapai matlamat pembangunan mampan khususnya di bawah pelaksanaan dasar Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

Rang Undang-undang ini merupakan satu langkah wajar untuk mengukuhkan jentera pentadbiran Kerajaan Sarawak dan memastikan tadbir urus yang lebih cekap dan berkesan. Pindaan ini adalah penting untuk memastikan Kerajaan Sarawak dapat bergerak seiring dengan cabaran dan keperluan pentadbiran yang semakin kompleks pada masa kini.

Pindaan terpenting terletak pada Fasal ke-2 yang menggariskan perubahan pada perkara 6 (3) Perlembagaan dengan menambah perenggan baharu iaitu perenggan C. Pindaan ini secara asasnya memberi kuasa kepada Yang di-Pertua Negeri yang bertindak atas nasihat Premier untuk melantik sehingga maksimum empat orang ahli tambahan ke dalam kabinet negeri.

Tuan Speaker, mengapa pindaan ini penting? Ini adalah persoalan yang perlu kita sama-sama runcaikan dalam sesi perbincangan pada petang ini agar tidak ada pihak yang faham tetapi buat-buat tidak faham dan sengaja menimbulkan persepsi buruk terhadap usaha baik ini. Dalam era pentadbiran yang semakin mencabar, beban tugas kementerian dan agensi kerajaan semakin bertambah.

Terdapat keperluan untuk portfolio yang lebih khusus dan pembahagian tugas yang lebih sistematik untuk memastikan setiap sektor pembangunan dapat diberi perhatian yang sewajarnya. Dengan membenarkan pelantikan ahli tambahan, kita akan dapat memperkukuhkan kepimpinan, meningkatkan kecekapan dengan pengagihan beban kerja dan tanggungjawab secara lebih optimum sekali gus membolehkan kerajaan bertindak balas dengan lebih pantas dan berkesan terhadap keperluan rakyat.

Selain itu, inisiatif ini dicadangkan adalah bagi menangani cabaran baharu dengan lebih efisien. Dengan mempersiapkan jentera kerajaan untuk menghadapi pelbagai isu penting seperti memperkasakan akademi digital, kelestarian alam sekitar dan pembangunan infrastruktur berskala besar yang memerlukan tumpuan khusus. Pindaan ini juga memastikan bahawa walaupun jumlah ahli kabinet diperluaskan, ia masih terkawal dan terhad. Dengan had maksimum empat ahli tambahan, ini adalah satu mekanisme yang bertanggungjawab untuk memperkukuh pentadbiran tanpa melangkaui batas yang munasabah.

Oleh itu, pindaan ini adalah wajar demi kemajuan serta kesejahteraan Sarawak dan rakyatnya.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak kini berada dalam fasa pembangunan pesat dengan pelbagai inisiatif ekonomi baru, sosial dan infrastruktur yang sedang dijalankan. Penambahan ahli MMKN akan memperkukuh struktur pentadbiran Kerajaan Sarawak dengan membolehkan pengagihan portfolio yang lebih seimbang dan efektif. Ini penting bagi memastikan setiap sektor pembangunan seperti ekonomi digital tenaga hijau yang boleh diperbaharui, pertanian moden, pelancongan dan pelbagai lagi sektor lain mendapat perhatian dan kepimpinan yang lebih spesifik.

Menyokong Pelaksanaan Dasar PCDS 2030

Seterusnya menyokong pelaksanaan dasar PCDS 2030. PCDS 2030 menetapkan enam sektor utama sebagai pamacu pertumbuhan ekonomi Sarawak termasuk pembuatan pertanian, pelancongan, tenaga perkhidmatan dan infrastruktur. Untuk melaksanakan dasar ini dengan lebih berkesan, Kerajaan Sarawak memerlukan barisan kepimpinan yang lebih luas dan spesifik terhadap sesuatu kepakaran. Pelantikan tambahan ahli-ahli MMKN membolehkan penglibatan wakil rakyat yang mempunyai kepakaran dalam bidang-bidang strategik ini sekali gus mempercepatkan pembangunan serta pelaksanaan apa jua projek yang berlandaskan PCDS 2030 dengan lebih terjamin.

Meningkatkan Kecekapan dan Responsif Kerajaan

Seterusnya adalah untuk meningkatkan kecekapan dan responsif kerajaan. Dengan cabaran global seperti perubahan iklim, transformasi digital dan keperluan pembangunan lestari, Kerajaan Sarawak perlu bertindak pantas dan responsif terhadap isu-isu baharu. Penambahan ahli MMKN akan membantu mempercepatkan proses membuat keputusan serta memperkukuh koordinasi antara kementerian dan pelbagai agensi. Ini akan memastikan dasar-dasar kerajaan dapat dilaksanakan dengan lebih efisien dan berimpak tinggi demi kesejahteraan rakyat.

Menggalakkan Penyertaan dan Kepelbagaian Kepimpinan

Seterusnya adalah menggalakkan penyertaan dan kepelbagaian kepimpinan. Pindaan ini juga membuka ruang kepada lebih ramai wakil rakyat berpotensi untuk menyumbang secara langsung dalam pentadbiran negeri. Ini bukan sahaja memperluaskan penyertaan politik, tetapi juga memperkayakan kepelbagaian pandangan dan idea dalam proses merangka dasar-dasar baru kerajaan selari dengan peredaran zaman. Dalam konteks Sarawak yang berbilang kaum dan wilayah, kepelbagaian ini penting untuk memastikan dasar kerajaan mencerminkan keperluan semua lapisan masyarakat.

Menyokong Aspirasi Sarawak ke Arah Negeri Maju Menjelang 2030

Sarawak berhasrat menjadi wilayah maju dan berpendapatan tinggi menjelang tahun 2030. Untuk mencapai aspirasi ini, struktur pentadbiran Sarawak perlulah dinamik dan bersedia menghadapi cabaran pembangunan yang kompleks. Pindaan ini adalah langkah proaktif untuk memastikan Kerajaan Negeri mempunyai kapasiti kepimpinan yang mencukupi bagi mengurus transformasi ekonomi dan sosial yang sedang berlaku.

Tuan Speaker, secara kesimpulannya Rang Undang-undang (Pindaan) Perlembagaan Negeri Sarawak, 2025 bukan sahaja melibatkan perubahan teknikal semata-mata, tetapi merupakan satu langkah strategik yang penting dalam memperkukuh tadbir urus Kerajaan Sarawak. Pindaan ini sejajar dengan visi PCDS 2030 yang menekankan aspek kemakmuran, kelestarian, dan inklusiviti demi menghadapi cabaran pembangunan masa hadapan. Dengan pelaksanaan pindaan ini, Sarawak akan lebih bersedia untuk mencapai status wilayah maju yang kompetitif di peringkat nasional mahupun global. Rang Undang-undang ini mencerminkan inisiatif progresif yang proaktif, memastikan Kerajaan Sarawak sentiasa relevan, responsif dan berupaya memacu pembangunan negeri menuju masa depan yang cemerlang, gemilang dan terbilang. Melalui pengukuhan struktur kepimpinan dan peningkatan kecekapan pentadbiran, kita yakin bahawa perkhidmatan terbaik akan

terus disampaikan kepada rakyat Sarawak, selaras dengan aspirasi kemajuan wilayah Sarawak yang kita sayangi ini. Dengan itu, Tellian menyokong penuh usul ini. May God bless Sarawak. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Katibas.

YB Encik Lidam anak Assan: Tuan Speaker, thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, an amendment of great significance to our state. I also wish to record my congratulations to Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; and Member for N.15 Asajaya, for successfully tabling of this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak stands today at an important crossroads, guided by visionary leadership and anchored by the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), we have articulated a clear, ambitious roadmap for economic prosperity, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability. This is not a superficial plan for a short-term political document. It is a comprehensive, decade-long strategy spanning from 2021 to 2030, one that reflects the aspirations of every Sarawakian for a developed, high-income and sustainable region by the year 2030.

As we move further along this transformative path, it is increasingly evident that the scale and complexity of our development agenda demand a government architecture that is equally robust, agile, and specialised. The proposal to increase the number of cabinet members must be viewed squarely within this context for more coordinated policy and profitable outcomes.

Tuan Speaker, first PCDS 2030 is a time-bound commitment. To achieve developed-state status within the next five years, Sarawak must accelerate the delivery, strengthen institutional capacity, and avoid bottlenecks caused by overstretched ministries.

Second, the nature of our new economy, the digital transformation, infrastructure expansion, renewable energy, technical education, advanced manufacturing, rare earth processing, semiconductor development, data centre growth and artificial intelligence requires specialist ministers with dedicated focus. The breadth of these emerging sectors cannot be placed on the shoulders of generalist or multi-portfolio ministers. Capacity must match the ambition.

Thirdly, many of our current ministers hold two or even three portfolios. While they have performed admirably, the growing demands of the PCDS mandates make it increasingly challenging to sustain efficiency, oversight, and delivery. Our people are waiting for results. Our resources are ready, but capacity gaps must be addressed decisively.

Fourth, a broader cabinet enables better representation of Sarawak's vast and diverse geography, particularly for rural and remote constituencies. Additional ministries will ensure that oversight, service delivery, and community engagement reach every corner of our state. This is in line with our commitment that no one is left behind not the longhouses of the interior, not the isolated settlements deep within our borders.

Tuan Speaker, consider P215 Kapit about 6,300 square kilometres, population of on the average of every square kilometre, averaging only seven persons per square kilometre. Without focused ministerial attention, such areas risk lag behind in the development drive. Governance must match the realities of our landmass and demographic distribution.

Fifth, the Premier has articulated a bold vision of positioning Sarawak not only as a leader in Malaysia but as a major economic player in ASEAN particularly in renewable energy. To achieve this, we must press forward with initiatives such as becoming a Powerhouse of ASEAN, building our own airports and regional airline, expanding ports including Tanjong Embang, developing petrochemical capacity and scaling our industrial and digital ecosystems. Ambition of this magnitude requires specialised governance structures.

At the same time, Sarawak must generate at least 10 gigawatts of renewable and green energy to meet industrial commitments. We must build laboratories and improve STEM facilities to facilitate our rural children for future industries. These obligations cannot be effectively met without ministers whose portfolios are sharply defined and mission-focused.

The amendment before us today is not merely administrative. It is a strategic reform aimed at modernising the machinery of government to meet Sarawak's developmental trajectory. More ministers with clear mandates will strengthen accountability, improve coordination across sectors, and ensure fair distribution of development across both urban and rural areas. This is good governance in practice, not just a theory.

Sarawak is a land of extraordinary beauty, talent, and potential. As the largest state in Malaysia with rich cultural diversity and vast ecological assets we carry responsibilities that require autonomy, depth, and reach at every level of administration. To fulfil these responsibilities, we must ensure that our governance structure is sufficiently empowered to oversee both progress and equity.

Let us move forward with unity of purpose, aligned under the stewardship of our Premier and the GPS Government, to realise the full promise of PCDS 2030 and deliver a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all *rakyat* Sarawak.

In light of these merits, and in the spirit of Sarawak Maju Makmur, Segulai Sejalai, while *Rakyat Sarawak Nganti Penyamai bai Perintah*, Katibas stands firmly in support of this amendment. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Opar.

YB Encik Billy anak Sujang: Tuan Speaker, thank you for granting me the opportunity to participate in this debate on the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, particularly concerning the proposed amendment to Article 6(c) relating to the appointment of additional Ministers by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri on the advice of the Right Honourable Premier.

I rise today to express my full support for this amendment, as it is both timely and essential to reinforce Sarawak's governance framework in response to our rapid development and expanding administrative responsibilities. The proposed amendment to the Constitution, which includes expanding the cabinet, is a practical and forward-looking measure that acknowledges the increasing complexity of managing a fast-growing state. By strengthening the structure of our executive branch, this amendment ensures that the government remains efficient, responsive, and capable of meeting Sarawak's evolving administrative and development needs.

This amendment is timely, strategic, and necessary in view of;

- (a) Aligning Cabinet Capacity with Sarawak's Rapid Development;
- (b) The expansion of the State Legislative Assembly seats from 82 to 99;
- (c) The increasing number of voters and population distribution;
- (d) The widening scope of state portfolios, especially with Sarawak's new powers under MA63; and
- (e) The growing administrative complexity of becoming a leading economic region in Malaysia and ASEAN.

Aligning Cabinet Capacity with Sarawak's Rapid Development

Under the visionary leadership of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Sarawak is currently undergoing a phase of rapid transformation driven by:

- (a) The Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030;

- (b) The growth of new sectors such as hydrogen, renewable energy, carbon management, biotechnology, and digital economy; and
- (c) Large-scale investments in rural infrastructure, road connectivity, and socio-economic upliftment.

The developments have significantly widened and deepened the responsibilities of our Ministers. As noted by the Speaker during the pre-council, the tasks of Ministers have become “ever-expanding and stupendous”, with some ministers holding two or even three portfolios. Such a situation is no longer sustainable if we wish to maintain the pace and effectiveness of government delivery. The amendment before us today provides the necessary constitutional space to ensure that each portfolio can receive focused, specialised, and efficient ministerial attention.

The expansion of the State Legislative Assembly seats from 82 to 99

The recent expansion of the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly from 82 to 99 seats brings with it a broader spectrum of constituency issues, greater representation of Sarawak’s diverse communities, and heightened the expectations for service delivery.

As the legislative branch grows, the executive branch must also be strengthened to maintain effective governance. A larger and more representative assembly must be supported by a cabinet that is subsequently equipped to translate policy into action. Thus, this amendment complements earlier reforms and ensures that our governance machinery remains proportionate, responsive and capable.

The increasing number of voters and population distribution

Tuan Speaker, with Undi18 and automatic voter registration, Sarawak now has a significantly larger and younger electorate. This expansion brings more demands for youth-focused policies; increased pressure on education, employment, housing and digital access and greater engagement with rural communities across vast geographical terrain.

Sarawak’s population is spread over an area almost equivalent to the size of the entire Peninsular Malaysia. To serve this population effectively, we cannot rely on a cabinet structure designed for a much smaller and less complex state administration. The amendment therefore ensures our government remains equipped to meet the needs of the *rakyat* with efficiency and precision.

The widening scope of state portfolios, especially with Sarawak’s new powers under MA63

Tuan Speaker, the nature of governance today has evolved. Many portfolios are now highly technical and spanning:

- (a) International trade and investment, digital transformation and cyber security;
- (b) Green energy, hydrogen technology, renewable energy exports and climate resilience;
- (c) Tourism, creative industry, arts and culture; and
- (d) Public health and environmental sanitation and protection.

In supporting the strengthening of our public health machinery, it is important for this Dewan to recognize the wide and growing responsibilities carried by the Minister of Public Health Sarawak. Beyond the core functions we are familiar with such as public health and environmental sanitation; urban and municipal health; vector and rodent control; rabies prevention; food hygiene and sanitation; communicable diseases control and prevention; non-communicable disease control; and occupational safety and health, the Ministry today is entrusted with a broader duties essential to safeguarding the wellbeing of our people in Sarawak.

These include strengthening our primary healthcare systems, particularly in rural and remote communities; enhancing our preparedness and response to public health emergencies; advancing mental health services; and intensifying health promotion and community education to cultivate the healthier population. The minister must also observe environmental health regulations, coordinate with multiple agencies and local authorities, enforce public health laws, and ensure that our public health workforce is well-trained and adequately equipped. Furthermore, the ministry plays a crucial role in developing digital health capabilities, managing health data for evidence-based decision making, and supporting research and innovation to keep Sarawak ahead of emerging health challenges.

This broad mandate clearly demonstrates that public health today is no longer limited to sanitation and disease control alone, but encompasses a comprehensive system designed to protect lives, prevent crises, and promote long-term community well-being. Therefore, it is both logical and necessary that the governance structure of this sector be strengthened to ensure that the ministry can deliver effective, modern, and people-centred public health services for all Sarawakians. This is just for one minister alone, okay.

Expecting a single minister to simultaneously manage multiple such sectors risk overwhelming the system, slowing decision-making, and limiting policy impact. By increasing the permissible number of ministers, this amendment facilitates division of labour, greater specialisation, and higher accountability, all essential to good governance.

*The growing administrative complexity of becoming a leading economic region
in Malaysia and ASEAN Player*

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak has set ambitious goals to become a premier region in Malaysia, and a competitive player within ASEAN and beyond. These aspirations require strong and specialised governance structures; clear ministerial focus areas; efficient international engagement and robust policy execution capacity.

No region can rise to regional prominence with an overstretched cabinet. This amendment therefore strengthens the state's institutional foundation to support long-term growth and international relevance.

Addressing Concerns on Cabinet Expansion

Some parties may express reservations about increasing the number of ministers. However, I wish to emphasise the following:

- (a) This amendment does not alter ministries or their functions.

It merely ensures that responsibilities are distributed more effectively among ministers.

- (b) It is not a matter of political expansion but administrative necessity.

Efficient governance is an investment in development.

- (c) Deputy Ministers are already unlimited; what needs strengthening is the ministerial level, which is responsible for policy direction, sectoral leadership, and national-international coordination.

This amendment ensures better service delivery, improved oversight, and a more balanced workload across ministries.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is moving forward with confidence and ambition. Our development has accelerated, our population has expanded and our responsibilities have multiplied. To keep pace with these changes, our governance framework must evolve.

The Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 provides the Right Honourable Premier with the flexibility and constitutional mandate to build a cabinet that is capable, focused, and responsive to the needs of our peoples.

For these reasons, Tuan Speaker, I conclude my debate and offer my full endorsement and strongly support the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Murum.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam *Segulai Sejalai*. Thank you for the honour and the opportunity to debate the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 successfully tabled by Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya for the second reading.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025. This Bill is not a mere technical adjustment; it is a carefully considered measure designed to strengthen the machinery of the State Government. At its core lies the constitution basis provided by Item 7 of the State List (List II) in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution, which recognizes the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) as a core organ of the State Government, the executive arm through which policy is crafted, coordinated, and delivered.

Tuan Speaker, my grounds for supporting this Amendment Bill are as follows;

(a) Constitutional basis and purpose

Item 7 of the State List (List II) in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution, places the MMKN within the constitutional machinery of the State Government. The Bill explicitly seeks to strengthen this machinery by authorizing up to four additional appointments to the MMKN, to be made by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri from among members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri (State Assembly) on the advice of the Premier.

This is not about expanding executive power for its own sake. It is a targeted adjustment to ensure the State Government's machinery remains fit-for-purpose in a dynamic policy environment, capable of translating the will of the people into coherent policy, well-coordinated programmes, and timely public service delivery.

(b) Strengthening the MMKN as the engine of governance.

Tuan Speaker, the MMKN is the heart of policy design, coordination, and oversight. Allowing up to four additional members drawn from elected representatives enhances cross-ministry policy integration, addresses complex governance challenges, and accelerates decision-making on high-priority matters.

A more robust MMKN improves policy coherence. In a diverse state like Sarawak, broader coherence. In a diverse state like Sarawak, broader representation within the cabinet ensures ideas are tested against regional perspectives before implementation.

(c) Democratic principles, accountability, and transparency

Tuan Speaker, appointments to the MMKN continue to be drawn from elected members, ensuring accountability to the people. The process remains by the Premier's advice and subject to collective responsibility, preserving the core tenets of responsible government. Expanded representation does not diminish transparency, it strengthens government and oversight mechanisms.

(d) Regional representation and governance legitimacy

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak's strength lies in its diversity. An expanded MMKN from within the State Assembly allows for greater regional representation with the executive, ensuring that diverse voices and local realities inform high-level policy decisions.

This inclusion strengthens the social license for government action when communities see their issues reflected in cabinet deliberations, policy acceptance and delivery improved.

(e) Fiscal prudence and governance safeguards

Tuan Speaker, the amendment also recognizes potential additional expenditure. The government commits to transparent budgeting, clear financial planning, and robust oversight to ensure any extra spending translates into tangible public value. The aim is a prudent balance between stronger governance capacity and responsible stewardship of public resources.

(f) Safeguards and constitutional integrity

Tuan Speaker, the Bill preserves constitutional safeguards. Appointments are made by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri on the Premier's advice, drawn from elected members, and subject to collective responsibility.

The expansion remains within the constitutional framework, upholding the system of responsible government and the rule of law. Checks and balances are reinforced through ongoing parliamentary oversight and public accountability.

(g) Practical impact and anticipated benefits

Tuan Speaker, with up to four additional MMKN members, the State Government will be better positioned to:

- (i) Coordinate cross-ministry priorities across infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic development.
- (ii) Respond swiftly to emergencies or rapid policy changes.
- (iii) Reflect regional needs and local realities in executive decision-making, improving policy relevance and public buy-in.
- (iv) Deliver public services more efficiently through clearer lines of authority and more coherent implementation plans.

The amendment is purposeful, modest in scale, and designed to deliver meaningful improvements to governance without compromising constitutional principles.

As the saying goes, more voices within the MMKN bring broader scrutiny of policy drafting and implementation, reinforcing transparency and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 represents a thoughtful, prudent evolution of our constitutional framework. It strengthens the machinery of the State Government, the MMKN, as contemplated by Item 7 of the State List (List II) *Jadual Kesembilan Perlembagaan Persekutuan*, ensuring governance that is fit-for-purpose in a changing world.

By reinforcing the executive organ that translates mandate into action, we promote policy coherence, timely delivery, regional representation, and democratic accountability, all within the bounds of constitutional integrity and responsible fiscal oversight.

Therefore, I urge all Honourable Members in this august House to support the Bill. It is a balanced step toward a stronger, more effective Sarawak Government that remains faithful to our constitutional commitments and responsive to the needs of the people of Sarawak. With that, I beg to support the motion for the passage of this Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025. May God continue to bless Sarawak. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Member for Kalaka.

YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang bagi membahaskan Rang Undang-undang, *Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025* pada petang ini.

Assalamualaikum, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam *Segulai Sejalai*. Terlebih dahulu saya mewakili rakyat di DUN N.38 Kalaka merakamkan ucapan tahniah atas pelantikan Tuan Speaker sebagai Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak. Sesi persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak kali ini bakal menyaksikan sejarah baharu dalam pentadbiran Negeri Sarawak.

Sudah terang lagi bersuluh, kita sudah mendengar pembentangan satu Rang Undang-undang (RUU) oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya berkaitan dengan *Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025* untuk menambah bilangan Ahli Kabinet Sarawak melalui pindaan Perlembagaan Negeri.

“An Ordinance to amend the Constitution of the State of Sarawak to make provisions for the appointment of additional members of Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri for the purpose of strengthening the machinery of the State Government”,

Langkah itu perlu memandangkan tanggungjawab pentadbiran negeri yang semakin berkembang pesat, di samping keperluan untuk pengurusan portfolio yang lebih berfokus. Dalam kata mudah difahami, memperkukuhkan jentera Kerajaan Negeri untuk penyampaian yang lebih berkesan kepada rakyat.

Untuk rekod, negeri Sarawak pada hari ini mempunyai 10 menteri penuh, dibantu oleh 26 orang timbalan menteri. Secara kasar, jumlah 10 menteri penuh berbanding keperluan pentadbiran hari ini semakin tidak relevan, sehinggakan ada seorang menteri memegang dua portfolio yang penting dan sudah tiba masanya kerajaan di bawah pimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak melakukan sesuatu yang wajar dan signifikan untuk kecekapan pentadbiran. Mungkin juga timbul persoalan, tidak berfungsikah timbalan menteri yang ada sekarang? Berfungsi sekali!

Saya percaya, timbalan menteri masing-masing telah menggalas amanah dengan penuh komitmen, sepenuh jiwa dan raga. Lebih-lebih lagi dalam Negeri Sarawak yang popular dengan perpaduan dalam kepelbagaian. Secara dasar pertambahan ahli kabinet dalam wilayah yang mempunyai pelbagai latar belakang boleh dikatakan ubat mujarab kepada kesaksamaan bangsa dan agama. Saya percaya pertambahan ahli kabinet akan membantu mengukuhkan perpaduan dan sangat relevan. Ia seterusnya mengimbangi apa yang disebut sebagai *representation*, jika ia dilaksanakan dengan sempurna.

Tuan Speaker, kita sudah mendengar bermacam hujah daripada rakan Ahli Yang Berhormat, yang saya kira sangat bernas dan memungkinan Rang Undang-undang ini dilulus dengan majoriti mudah. Saya ingin menyentuh tentang *specialisation* ataupun *expert*. Mengapa ianya relevan? Kabinet pentadbiran boleh kita rujuk, saya situasinya seperti hospital. Apa fungsi hospital? Untuk orang datang berubat mendapatkan nasihat dan rawatan daripada orang yang pandai mengubat. Di

sana ada doktor pakar mata, pakar hidung, doktor pakar telinga, jantung dan bermacam-macam lagi.

Tetapi kita boleh bayangkan jika seseorang doktor itu, bak kata orang Sarawak *ngapui*, bertanggungjawab kepada beberapa jenis penyakit, maka ia tidak efisien dan berkemungkinan tidak cekap. Minta maaf, samalah juga kalau kita masih *maintain* Kabinet Sarawak, kita perlu lebih ramai untuk menjaga Kementerian tertentu agar pembahagian tugas adalah lebih berfokus dan khusus.

Sistem pembahagian tugas yang lebih khusus dalam sesebuah Kabinet memberi jaminan beberapa impak positif yang sangat ketara.

Pertama, pastinya kecekapan pentadbiran akan meningkat. Saya petik pepatah Inggeris "*Many hands make light work*", yang bermaksud pembahagian tugas yang jelas mempercepatkan penyelesaian kerja. Apabila tugas dibahagikan dengan lebih khusus, setiap Kementerian akan dapat memberi fokus mendalam terhadap bidang masing-masing. Hasilnya, keputusan lebih cepat, masalah dapat diselesaikan dengan lebih tepat dan birokrasi menjadi lebih lancar.

Tuan Speaker, kedua dengan portfolio yang lebih khusus, Kementerian boleh disokong oleh pegawai dan penasihat yang benar-benar pakar dalam bidang masing-masing seperti ekonomi hijau, digital, pendidikan teknikal atau keselamatan makanan.

Akhirnya, dasar yang dirangka lebih berkualiti dan berasaskan data. Apa yang harus kita akui juga, pemantauan dan akauntabiliti lebih jelas. Adanya *check* dan *balance*. Maksud saya di sini adalah pembahagian tugas yang jelas memudahkan rakyat dan badan pengawas menilai pencapaian setiap Kementerian.

Ini akan membantu mengelakkan pertindihan tugas, mengurangkan risiko terlepas pandang dan memastikan menteri bertanggungjawab atas portfolio mereka. Begitu juga respons terhadap sesuatu isu khusus akan menjadi lebih pantas dan impaknya kepada rakyat amat besar. Rakyat akan menerima penyampaian perkhidmatan awam yang lebih berkualiti dan untuk merealisasikan Sarawak menuju ke negeri maju, adalah penting untuk memecahkan Kementerian kepada bidang yang lebih khusus, contohnya digital, inovasi, perubahan iklim, kecerdasan *AI*, kesihatan global dan keselamatan siber.

Tuan Speaker, saya yakin apabila lebih ramai menteri, lebih banyak pasukan pengurusan profesional, sekali gus mempercepatkan pelaksanaan projek, memperkukuhkan pemantauan dan mengurangkan *bottleneck* dalam setiap proses kelulusan, dan kerajaan akan mempunyai keupayaan dalam menangani isu-isu semasa.

Harus saya tekankan bahawa ini pelaburan masa depan dan bukannya dilihat dari sudut yang membazir. Namun demikian, Kerajaan Sarawak harus memastikan dan menjamin sistem tadbir urus yang kukuh, serta *Key Performance Index (KPI)* menteri yang jelas. Dengan perbelanjaan berhemah, maka pertambahan ahli kabinet boleh menjadi pelaburan yang meningkatkan produktiviti Bumi Kenyalang, khususnya.

Saya melihat, tanpa perubahan seperti ini, beban yang ditanggung oleh seorang menteri akan bertambah. Bahkan di peringkat pusat, Kerajaan Persekutuan pernah mengalami pengasingan portfolio untuk menumpukan bidang tertentu. Hal ini memandangkan... maafkan saya. Dengan ini, Kalaka menyokong penuh *Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025*. Izinkan saya berpantun Tuan Speaker,

*Langit petang membiru,
Awan berarak perlahan-lahan;
Suara demokrasi bergema,
Dalam dewan penuh semangat.*

*Dengan pindaan yang teratur,
Arogan birokrasi ditewaskan;
Kerajaan lebih cekap,
Khidmat rakyat dijulung megah selamat.*

Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Telang Usan.

YB Dato Dennis Ngau: Tuan Speaker, thank you. Telang Usan rises in full support of the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which seeks to increase the number of ministers in our State Cabinet from ten to fourteen.

Congratulations to Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; Minister for Youth and Sport and Youth Development; and Member for N.15 Asajaya for introducing and tabling the Bill.

To me, the amendment is very timely and not merely an administrative adjustment but most importantly anchored on current happenings in the state and in particularly the state quest to be a developed and high income state through its Post COVID-19 Development Strategy Agenda 2030. The amendment is well thought, strategic and future looking step, one that will definitely strengthen Sarawak's capacity to govern effectively to deliver development more efficiently and to respond to the rising expectations of our people across this vast, diverse and blessed Sarawak land.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak under the able leadership of the Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg and Member for N.26 Gedong our Premier, is no longer the Sarawak of decades past. Under his sterling and strong leadership the state continues to experience rapid transformation economically, socially and institutionally. As the state pushes forward with key development agendas such as renewable energy expansion, infrastructure connectivity, digital transformation, talent development and rural upliftment and development, the responsibilities placed on the 10 ministries currently entrusted to running and managing the state affairs have grown exponentially.

Sarawak has set its sight to be a developed state status by 2030. A larger cabinet provides the administrative capacity needed for long term economic planning, monitoring and implementation of major state initiatives.

On the rural front, hard push needs to be undertaken soonest possible to bridge the glaring development gap in all aspects, in particular basic land infrastructure and amenities such as clean water. Schools and clinics facilities must also be looked into seriously. With these all taken care, I believe the rural communities economy will naturally improve.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is unique in its geographical size and diversity. Many of our communities or longhouses are separated by mountains, jungles, rivers and great distances. Due to this large number of our communities or big number of settlements sparsely populated, it is very much lacking of basic infrastructure such as all-weather road, clean water supply just to name a few.

Many a times I could clearly feel and see the frustration on the part of our longhouse folks who I cannot help in response to the needs to repair the poor earth road and broken bridges they are facing on daily basis. Frankly, I am at a loss of words too when I shared the photos and videos of our rural folks having no choice but to have to use their own resources to undertake this basic repair. At the time logging companies operated in Ulu Baram, we depend very much on their resources to maintain these much needed infrastructure. But today, logging is almost gone and these logging roads which is our lifeline connecting us with the outside world is now left unattended.

It is noted the state initiatives rolled out to address these issues since 2024 was a good start, but it was temporary in nature. With this opportunity, which is enlarging our Cabinet Members presented, I urged our State Government to consider a dedicated rural development ministry to enable deep focus on rural region and communities development. The rural development agencies such as Highland Development Agency (HDA), Ulu Rejang Development Agency (URDA) and Northern Region Development Agency (NRDA) could enhance under this proposed Ministry.

We are pleased that Sarawak's economy is one of the strongest in Malaysia. As responsibilities increases the size of the executive must grow proportionally to effectively manage these responsibilities.

To sustain this momentum, we need a cabinet that is structurally equipped to manage these expanding portfolios. Increase the number of ministers allows for more focused, specialised and manageable responsibilities enabling each ministry to function with greater depth, efficiency and accountability, more importantly in a speedier manner.

Tuan Speaker, a larger number of cabinet allows our YAB Premier to create a new ministry and appoint minister to look at the needs of our people for better policy responsiveness ensuring that each region's needs whether it is in coastal areas, highlands, rural interiors or urban centres received dedicated attention. This amendment enhances our ability to serve every Sarawakian no matter where they live.

As a member of this august House representing a very rural constituency, we see this amendment as an opportunity to put more focus on rural development and related area since today and new areas in the future. Moreover, as we regain and exercise greater autonomy under Malaysia Agreement 1963, Sarawak now holds increased responsibilities. These are not small matters. They require strong leadership, dedicated oversight and the administrative capacity to ensure that autonomy translate into tangible movements for the people. 14 Ministers will allow Sarawak to fully utilize these devolved powers avoiding bottlenecks and strengthening the machinery of the government.

Tuan Speaker, I am sure the proposed Bill also recognise that modern Government demands, greater specialisation. Issues such as climate resilience, digital economy growth, green energy transition and human capital require focused leadership. By expensing our cabinet, we enable a more professional and specialised approach to these important sectors, aligning Sarawak with global standards of government. Let me emphasis this amendment is not about enlarging government for its own sake. It is about equipping Sarawak with the governance structure necessary to achieve our long-term vision, especially our goal of becoming a high-income and developed state by 2030. A stronger cabinet strengthens our ability to plan, implement and monitor the major initiatives that will shape the future of this state.

Tuan Speaker, I believe the people of Sarawak strongly support this move to increase our cabinet size as time have come for Sarawak to have a government that could serve the needs of Sarawakian in this ever-challenging time. The amendment delivers exactly that. Let us strengthen our governance, deepen our capacity and ensure that Sarawak continues to progress confidently and cohesively towards prosperous future.

To conclude, the amendment ensures Sarawak's Government to have the capacity, expertise and representation necessary to manage its expanding responsibilities uphold its autonomy and accelerate development for all region of the State. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Daro.

YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Tuan Speaker: Waalaikumsalam.

YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam *Segulai Sejalai*.

First and foremost, thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me this opportunity to take part in today's debate on the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which was tabled by the Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; and the Honourable Member for N.15 Asajaya.

Tuan Speaker, the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 aims to create a more effective and lean governance, making it a people-centric. It is necessary and strategic step to ensure that Sarawak's governance system is aligned with the pace of its growing political, economic and developmental demands.

Tuan Speaker, our beloved State of Sarawak covers approximately of 124,450 square kilometers by area, with a population size of approximately 2.5 million as at 2025 as reported by Malaysia's National Statistic Department. With the passage of the Composition of Membership Bill, 2025 last July's Special DUN Sitting that paved way on the increase of the number of state constituencies from 82 to 99, it is a high-time for the State Government to focus on the administrative necessity and governance efficiency to enable development to be brought to all corners of the state.

Today, many ministers are holding two or three portfolios at once, making it heavier with expansion and growth of constitutional seats. This bill aims to expand the cabinet proportionately, allowing more efficient, more focused and better oversight. A larger cabinet will make our executive branch to be more representative of Sarawak's people. With 99 elected Assembly Members, it is only right that more constituencies have a voice in executive decision-making. Aside from establishing more effective governance, this bill also allows better responsiveness and policy implementation to suit Sarawak's excellent economic growth. This strengthens not just governance effective administration of state's affairs, but also democratic legitimacy.

Tuan Speaker, to enable Sarawak to fully achieve its 2030 vision, to become premier regional and international player, the State Government must equipped with the right structure. This bill also enables Sarawak to have specialized ministries, which has clearer visions of responsibilities and also stronger policy executions. Following the cabinet expansion, this bill provides certainties of ministers can now focus deeply and responsibly on their designated duties. By distributing ministerial responsibilities evenly, we empower ministers to perform better, more focused, engage more with the rakyat and deliver the development goals as outlined in Sarawak Post COVID-19 Development Plan (PCDS) 2030.

Tuan Speaker, one of the strongest reasons why we must support the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is that Sarawak's executive machinery must be strengthened if we want it to keep up with the developmental needs of our State and our people, which both are growing at an exponential rate. Sarawak today is not the Sarawak of 10 or 20 years ago. We are experiencing transformative change on multiple fronts such as:

- (a) Rapid economic diversification into energy, hydrogen, digital economy and high value industries;
- (b) Massive infrastructure expansion in roads, utilities, health facilities and rural connectivity;
- (c) Social development that demands innovative policies in education, youth empowerment, sustainability and talent development;
- (d) New administrative challenges as we assert and exercise our rights under MA63 with increasing confidence and complexity; and
- (e) Adaptations of global pragmatism changes in digital transformations and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

These developments require an agile, responsive, specialized and adequately staffed structure. But today, our cabinet structure is built for a smaller Assembly, and a simple economy that is stretched thin. This is not simply difficult; it is structurally unsustainable. Hence, by supporting this bill, we can prevent the machinery of governments from being lag behind, without making the rakyat to pay the price. This move is not a political luxury, but rather an administrative necessity.

We should all ask ourselves, *“Do we want an executive that struggles to keep up or an executive that is stronger enough to lead Sarawak to its next era of growth?”*.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill gives us the upper-hand to manoeuvre Sarawak’s continuous excellence. It modernizes and scales the machinery of government to match Sarawak’s ambitions, ensuring that our development accelerates and our governance does not fall behind.

For these reasons, Tuan Speaker, for the essentials of our people, particularly for Daro, I stand firmly in support of this Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, for building a stronger, more capable and future-ready Sarawak. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tebedu.

YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada: Tuan Speaker, a very good afternoon and thank you for this rare opportunity in participating to debate on an extremely important Bill this afternoon.

Before I proceed further, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts who is a Member for N.15 Asajaya for the successful tabling of a Bill, Constitution of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 this morning in this august House.

The amendment of Article 6(3)(c) has the intent to make a provision for the appointment of not more than four additional members of Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri from amongst the Members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri on the advice of the Premier that is provided for by Item 7 of the State List (List II) in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution as Majlis Kerajaan Negeri.

Tuan Speaker, I rise today together with my comrades to speak in strong support of the proposed amendments to the Sarawak Constitution to increase the number of State Cabinet Members, an amendment that is not only timely but necessary for the continued progress, administrative efficiency and strategic development of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, to support my arguments, allow me to speak and to delve into these five (5) important points today in this august House on why we must support this Bill.

- (a) Why is the amendment necessary and timely?;
- (b) How Sarawak’s political and administrative landscape has evolved;
- (c) The growing socio-economic demands that require expanded ministerial portfolios;
- (d) Comparative and structural arguments; and
- (e) How this amendment strengthens Sarawak’s autonomy and future readiness.

Why is the amendment necessary and timely?

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak today under the able leadership of our YAB Premier, stands at a critical juncture of transformation. Over the last decade, and especially in recent years, the State Government has taken a very bold steps to expand its autonomy, diversify its economy, strengthen infrastructure networks, and enhance services to rural and urban communities alike.

However, despite these growing responsibilities, the size of our cabinet has remained relatively small, even as the scope of governance has expanded tremendously.

The timeliness of this amendment stems from three converging realities:

(a) Expansion of State powers and autonomy

Through the strengthening of the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) provisions, the restoration of certain legislative authorities, and the assumption of new sectors – such as electricity regulation, forestry, natural resources management and education-related initiatives – Sarawak now holds responsibilities more than ever before, in its modern history.

With increased autonomy comes increased administrative burden, and with increased burden must come increased capacity to govern.

(b) Rapid socio-economic growth

Sarawak's GDP growth trajectory, investment inflows, new sectors such as hydrogen economy, digital transformation, and renewable energy development demand dedicated ministerial oversight. No single ministerial portfolio should be so overloaded that it compromises strategic decision-making.

(c) Need for specialised and technical governance

The issues to today - climate resilience, agriculture modernisation, urban sustainability, data governance as per mentioned by YAB Premier this morning, youth development – are far more complex and technical than what the original constitution envisioned decades ago. To manage these specialised domains effectively, we need specialised ministers.

Thus, this amendment is not just timely, Tuan Speaker, it is urgent.

Evolution of Sarawak's administrative landscape

Tuan Speaker, allow me to remind this august House that previously when the State Cabinet structure was first conceived, Sarawak had:

- (a) A smaller population;
- (b) A much less diversified economy;
- (c) Far fewer development corridors; and
- (d) Limited statutory powers.

Today, we govern:

- (a) A population surpassing 2.9 million;
- (b) A land mass larger than Peninsular Malaysia's eleven states combined;
- (c) Hundreds of sizeable and remote rural communities; and
- (d) A very rapidly modernising economy, including technology, energy, agriculture, tourism and digital services.

It is unrealistic to expect a cabinet designed for the administrative needs of the 1960s and the 1970s to manage the Sarawak of 2025 and beyond.

With the current proposed increased of our ADUN from 82 to 99, our governance structures must evolve with our aspirations.

Socio-economic demands requiring expanded ministerial portfolios

Let me outline several concrete examples where new and expanded ministerial portfolios are now very, very necessary.

(a) Digital Economy and Cyber Security

Sarawak is aggressively pursuing digital transformation. However, digitalisation is not merely ICT, it encompasses data governance, startup ecosystems, cybersecurity threats, e-commerce regulation, and digital inclusion for rural communities. This alone justifies a full ministry with adequate resources and leadership.

(b) Renewal Energy and Hydrogen Economy

Sarawak stands on the global stage as a leader in green hydrogen and renewable energy. Managing such an emerging and high-technology industry requires a minister fully dedicated to policy planning, investment, research, and global partnerships.

(c) Rural Transformation and Native Community Empowerment

With over 5,000 villages and longhouses scattered across our vast geography, rural development is not merely a sub-portfolio. It deserves its own comprehensive Ministry to ensure indigenous communities receive the attention and infrastructure they deserve.

(d) Urban Development, Housing and Sustainability

Our cities-Kuching, Miri, Bintulu, Sibu-are growing rapidly. Urban sustainability, waste management, affordable housing, and smart-city initiatives require continuous oversight from a very dedicated minister.

(e) Youth, Sports, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The youth demographic is changing, and their needs are evolving. Rather than combining youth and sports with unrelated sectors, a more tailored portfolio could address:

- (i) Youth Employment Challenges;
- (ii) Innovation Pathways;
- (iii) Skills Development;
- (iv) Entrepreneurship Grants; and
- (v) Mental Health Support.

Each of these is currently diluted across multiple ministries. These are some of the examples demonstrate not only the broadening of responsibilities, but the depth of expertise needed.

Comparative and Structural Arguments

(a) comparison with states and countries of similar size

Tuan Speaker, comparison with states and countries of similar size, Sarawak governs a territory of 124,000 square kilometres, with vast interior regions requiring complex logistical planning. Yet, the number of ministers we have is relatively small compared to:

- (i) Large states in federations (Peninsular Malaysia);
- (ii) Countries with similar land size; and
- (iii) Governments administering diverse indigenous populations.

It is structurally reasonable to increase our Ministerial capacity so that governance is both efficient and distributed.

(b) Avoiding Overburdened Ministries

When a Minister holds three or more major portfolios, strategic decision-making becomes diluted. Issues get delayed. Rural areas suffer. Policies lose focus. While, increasing the number of ministers ensures:

- (i) Balanced of workload;
- (ii) Faster decision-making;
- (iii) Improved service delivery; and
- (iv) Better long-term planning.

(c) Strengthening Checks and Balances

More ministers mean:

- (i) Clearer delineation of responsibilities;
- (ii) Increased transparency;
- (iii) More accountable leadership;
- (iv) And stronger parliamentary scrutiny; and
- (v) A more distributed cabinet enhances democratic governance.

How Does this Amendment Reinforces Sarawak's Autonomy and Future Readiness

Tuan Speaker, this amendment is not merely administrative. It is a strategic move. Sarawak is asserting its rights under MA63. As we take back powers in education, health, energy regulation, and other sectors, our governance machinery must be strong enough to carry these mandates.

A fully exercise devolved powers and prepare for economic transition. When the federal government devolves authority, the state must have ministers ready to handle these sectors immediately and competently. As we aim to become a high-income and embarked on green and digital economy, Sarawak requires specific Ministers overseeing energy transition, environmental sustainability, economic diversification, human capital development and international trade. These are not luxuries-they are prerequisites for global competitiveness.

A larger cabinet also allows Sarawak to strengthen regional and international representation as Sarawak increasingly engages international investors, regional governments, global hydrogen forums, and intergovernmental institutions. A more diversified cabinet allows ministers to represent Sarawak more effectively on the global stage without overstretching a small group of individuals.

Tuan Speaker, I wish to address the possibility of possible criticisms from the members here in this august House. Some may argue that increasing the number of ministers may increase costs. In reality, the additional costs are minimal compared to the economic returns generated through better governance, faster approval processes, and improved development execution.

Some may argue that increasing the number of ministers will create political patronage. It will not, if the appointments are based on merit, capability, expertise and service record. Moreover, the Constitution provides structural safeguards against abuse. Some may argue that increasing the number of ministers will probably lead to overlapping responsibilities. This is precisely why the amendment is needed to properly delineate responsibilities and avoid over-concentrated or ambiguous portfolios. These benefits will surely, far outweigh the concerns.

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, distinguished member of this august House. With this amendment, we are ready for Sarawak of tomorrow. Sarawak is no longer a peripheral state in the federation. Sarawak is an emerging economic powerhouse, a leader in renewable energy, a champion of digital transformation, and a proud custodian of multicultural harmony and indigenous heritage.

To govern a rapidly modernising state, we need a cabinet that is prepared. We need a cabinet that is empowered, specialised, flexible and visionary. Increasing the number of ministers is not about politics, it is about building administrative capacity. It is preparing Sarawak for future autonomy, future economic growth, future global relevance and future generations.

Therefore, I strongly urge all Honourable Members to support this amendment. This is very bold step forward. A step towards stronger governance. A step towards realising Sarawak's full potential.

Tuan Speaker, with that, I stand to be counted and fully support the Constitution of the Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Lingga.

YB Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, 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 Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was presented by the Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; and Member of State Legislative Assembly the N15 Asajaya.

Tuan Speaker, the Constitution is a living document. It is not a monument to the past; it is a framework to guide the present and prepare for the future. Our constitutional provisions, including Article 6(3) which limits the number of ministers to not more than ten and not less than four, were crafted at a time when Sarawak's administrative landscape was far simpler, our economy less diversified, and our development challenges more contained.

The Sarawak of 2025 is not the Sarawak of 1963, nor the Sarawak of even 2010. Our governance responsibilities have multiplied, not linearly, but exponentially. Allow me to elaborate the magnitude of this transformation with clarify.

Tuan Speaker, when Article 6(3) was conceived, Sarawak's annual budget was only a fraction of what it is today. Today, we steward over RM12 billion annually, spanning complex sectors such as renewable energy, energy transition, hydrogen economy, high-value manufacturing, and digital economy and infrastructure which stated under Sarawak 13th Malaysia Plan 2026-2030.

No major government in the world manages a multi-billion-ringgit portfolio with such a small ministerial capacity. Globally, jurisdictions that administer large budgets typically expand executive bandwidth to ensure:

- (a) Stronger oversight;
- (b) Tighter policy integration;
- (c) Risk Management; and
- (d) Accountability in implementation.

Therefore, keeping a rigid ministerial limit designed 30 years ago which last amended in year 1995 is not only impractical, but also a structural bottleneck to good governance.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak now stands among the few sub-national governments globally with its own Sovereign Wealth Future Fund, a fund designed to protect intergenerational wealth, stabilise the economy, and invest globally for long-term returns.

Countries with sovereign wealth funds, such as Norway, Abu Dhabi, and Singapore establish robust executive leadership structures to manage global investment exposure, risk mitigation frameworks, capital allocation strategies and compliance with international financial governance.

This is not small administrative work. This is macroeconomic stewardship. To manage a sovereign wealth fund effectively, Sarawak requires the executive bandwidth comparable to nations, not districts. The cabinet must possess the depth and specialisation necessary to make informed decisions on global investment strategies and high-value economic diversification.

Sarawak is the only state in Malaysia with full regulatory control over its upstream and downstream energy sector through the 2018 devolution of powers and the establishment of PETROS.

We manage hydropower generation at international scale. We manage hydrogen development, the first in Southeast Asia. We manage liquefied natural gas partnerships. We manage carbon capture and storage investments. We manage green aviation fuel potential. We manage cross-border renewable energy export negotiations.

Energy governance is the hallmark of sovereign governments. Only nations like Canada, Norway, and Qatar directly regulate and negotiate major energy policy. Sarawak does the same.

Therefore, our cabinet must be equipped with the structural capacity to oversee an energy portfolio comparable to that of small, energy-rich countries. A rigid limit of 10 Ministers is not compatible with this level of responsibility.

Tuan Speaker,

SARAWAK ENGAGES IN GLOBAL-LEVEL INVESTMENT AND DIPLOMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

Sarawak's international engagement today goes far beyond tourism promotion or trade missions. We are building strategic partnerships with:

- (a) Japan Energy Agency for hydrogen;
- (b) Singapore for renewable energy export;
- (c) Korea for carbon capture technology;
- (d) European investors for green transition projects; and
- (e) ASEAN partners for logistics and digital economy collaboration.

These are not ad hoc international visits. They are government-to-government, business-to-government, and international regulatory engagements. This is precisely the type of external relation management handled by ministries in sovereign countries.

Thus, Sarawak requires, ministers with clear portfolios for international coordination, equally specialised Deputy Ministers for continuity, and executive capacity to meet the pace of global negotiation cycles. We cannot negotiate like a nation abroad while governing like a district at home.

Tuan Speaker,

MA63 GIVES SARAWAK A CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS UNLIKE ANY OTHER MALAYSIAN STATE

Under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63), Sarawak is not simply a State, it is a founding partner in the formation of Malaysia, endowed with a unique rights, powers, and autonomies.

Recent restorations under the Federal Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2022 reaffirm Sarawak as an equal partner within the Federation of Malaysia in line with the MA63. The Act came into force on February 11th, 2022.

This carries profound implications:

- (a) We have policy autonomy in energy, immigration, and native laws,
- (b) We are executing decentralisation agreements on health and education,
- (c) We maintain our own financial and administrative frameworks in several key sectors.

A region with such distinct constitutional powers must possess a cabinet capable of handling regional level governance not a restricted, outdated executive ceiling designed for a smaller, less complex era.

Tuan Speaker,

THE CABINET MUST REFLECT SARAWAK'S TRUE SCALE

If Sarawak behaves like a nation in:

- (a) Managing energy sovereignty,
- (b) Engaging global investment,
- (c) Operating a sovereign wealth fund,
- (d) Steering region-wide transformation,
- (e) Developing world-class digital, green, and transport systems.

Then Sarawak must equip itself with nation-level governance structures. An expanded, flexible cabinet is not a luxury. It is a structural necessity for a region that is rising, transforming, and claiming its rightful role under MA63. The Premier needs leaders. Sarawak needs wisdom. The *rakyat* deserves a government capable of governing at the scale of Sarawak's ambition. Therefore, this amendment ensures exactly that.

Tuan Speaker,

A recurring concern raised is whether this amendment opens the door to unchecked Executive expansion. Let me state this unequivocally, the fear is misplaced, because the amendment is deliberately engineered with safeguards, limits, and constitutional guardrails.

First, the appointments are strictly capped. The proposed clause allows not more than four additional members to be appointed. Not 40, not 14, just four. This is a hard, explicit constitutional ceiling-not subject to discretionary inflation. Once written into the Constitution, it cannot be exceeded without returning to this august House for approval. That is the very opposite of abuse. That is control and clarity.

Second, only members of this house can serve. The amendment does not allow external political operatives, party appointees, or unelected individuals to enter the Executive. Only duly elected representatives of the Dewan Undangan Negeri may be considered. This ensures:

- (a) Democratic legitimacy;
- (b) Public accountability;
- (c) Transparent scrutiny; and
- (d) Responsibility to the voters who elected them.

In other words, the executive cannot expand without simultaneously expanding the responsibility of those individuals to the *rakyat* through this chamber.

Third, accountability rules apply fully and equally. These additional members are not above the law, not exempted from scrutiny, and not granted unique privileges. They are subject to the exact same constitutional obligations as Ministers:

- (a) They must answer to this House;
- (b) They are bound by collective responsibility;

- (c) They are subject to questioning, motions, scrutiny by committees, and public audit; and
- (d) Their conduct can be challenged, debated, and examined just as any other member of the Executive.

In short, responsibility scales with the appointment, not away from it.

Fourth, removal if they cease to be ADUN. Article 6(3)(ii) provides a built-in safeguard where if a person after having been appointed as a member of the MMKN ceases to be a member of the DUN for reasons other than having been disqualified as a member under Article 17, he may continue to hold office as a member of MMKN unless he fails to be returned as a member of DUN within a period of 60 days from the date when he ceases to be a member of the Dewan. So, here it shows this is one of the strongest accountability clauses in any State Constitution in Malaysia. No loopholes, no backdoors, no way for an unelected person to sit in the Executive.

Fifth, this is a targeted, controlled mechanism, not *carte blanche*. Let us be honest Tuan Speaker. Every responsible government must be equipped with the flexibility to respond to:

- (a) new technology,
- (b) new economic sectors,
- (c) new global risks,
- (d) new administrative demands.

But flexibility must coexist with control. That is exactly what this amendment achieves. It gives the Premier the limited, precise, task-specific ability to appoint up to four additional leaders for:

- (a) emerging portfolios;
- (b) technical oversight;
- (c) inter-agency coordination; and
- (d) delivery acceleration.

This is about governance competence, not political expansion.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, today we are not merely debating numbers in a constitution. We are deciding whether Sarawak will lead, or whether Sarawak will be left behind. Imagine, we stand at a crossroads, one path tied to the limits of the past, and another that prepares us for the limitless future.

Sarawak's responsibilities, wealth, ambitions, and global engagements have exploded in scale. Our Constitution must match that scale. Our cabinet must reflect that scale and our leadership must rise to that scale.

Let us be absolutely clear, this amendment is not about expanding power, it is about expanding Sarawak's capacity to deliver, to deliver hydrogen leadership, to deliver rural transformation, to deliver world-class digital infrastructure, to deliver prosperity for every kampung, every *rumah panjai*, every town, and every city.

Tuan Speaker, the world is not slowing down for Sarawak. Global energy markets are shifting. Advanced economies are racing towards hydrogen, digitalisation, and green mobility. Our neighbours in ASEAN are moving aggressively to secure new economic frontiers.

If we cling to old limits, Sarawak will fall behind. If we modernise our Constitution, Sarawak will lead. And so, I say to this august House, a cabinet built for yesterday cannot govern the Sarawak for tomorrow. A Constitution written for a simpler time cannot anchor a rising nation-region. A

governance structure designed for a district cannot steer the destiny of a state with the power of a country.

Tuan Speaker, the world already sees Sarawak as a leader. Investors see Sarawak as a leader. Energy partners see Sarawak as a leader. ASEAN sees Sarawak as a leader.

The only question left is this, will we have the courage to see Sarawak as a leader ourselves? This amendment is the answer.

Let us choose strength, not stagnation. Let us choose capability, not constraint. Let us choose confidence, not caution. Let us choose a Constitution that empowers, not limits.

Let us pass this amendment for development, for progress, for MA63, for our children, for the next generation, and for a Sarawak that stands tall on the world stage. With unity, with clarity, and with conviction, we rise. Sarawak rises. Our future rises.

Therefore, I urge this House to support this amendment bill. Demi Sarawak, demi rakyat, demi masa depan. Saya menyokong. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Engkilili.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in this Bill; Constitution of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 that had been presented by Yang Berhormat Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya earlier this afternoon. Syabas dan tahniah Yang Berhormat Menteri.

Tuan Speaker, I rise to support the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to amend Article 6(3) of the Sarawak Constitution to allow for the appointment of up to four additional members to the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri. And such appointment is to be made by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri from amongst Members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri on advised of the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier based on Article 6(3)(b) of the Sarawak Constitution. Whereby, cabinet appointment is the prerogative of Sarawak Premier.

This amendment is made pursuant to Item 7 of the State List (List II) in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution, recognizing the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri as an integral part of the State Government's machinery.

As we all know, Sarawak is a vast and diverse state, with unique geography and demographic challenges. Our state's vast territory and dispersed population require more hands-on approach and attention from our ministers. With the current number of ministers, it is increasingly difficult to effectively address the needs and concerns of our people, particularly those in rural and remote areas.

Furthermore, as we noted the Dewan Undangan Negeri composition of Membership Bill, 2025 has been passed during the Special Sitting on the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly on the 7th July 2025, bring the way for increase in the number for state constituency from 82 to 99.

This expansion reflects the growth and development of our State and its people. In light of this, it is only fitting that we enlarge the number of our state cabinet members to ensure that we have sufficient representation and coverage across all regions and communities, *dari kampung, rumah panjang dan sebagainya*.

Tuan Speaker, currently some of ministers are responsible for more than one ministry under their purview. Well, I acknowledge their dedication and hard work. It is unrealistic to expect them to effectively manage multiple portfolios without compromising on the quality of service delivery. By

appointing additional members, we can ensure that each ministry receives the attention and focus it deserves, ultimately benefiting our *rakyat*.

The proposed amendment will enable the State Government to strengthen its machinery and improve governance. By appointing additional members, we can tap into the expertise and experience of capable individuals, enhance our decision-making process and better serving the people of Sarawak *menuju ke tahun 2030*.

Yes, this Bill will involve extra financial expenditure, but I believe it's our worthwhile investment in our state's future. Effective government requires a robust and efficient administration, and this amendment will help us achieve that.

I urge all Honourable Members to support this Bill and work together to build a stronger, more effective government for the people of Sarawak under the able leadership of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.

Dengan ini Tuan Speaker, saya menyokong penuh *Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Stakan.

YB Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahimi: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam sejahtera dan salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Tuan Speaker, terima kasih atas peluang untuk saya turut serta dalam perbahasan Rang Undang-undang Perlembagaan Sarawak (Pindaan), 2025 di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Kita telah mendengar penjelasan serta perincian melalui ucapan Yang Berhormat Menteri yang juga Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Asajaya berkenaan dengan Rang Undang-undang ini yang bertujuan untuk menstruktur semula komposisi Kabinet Sarawak.

Jelas sekali matlamat serta objektif untuk perubahan ini melalui penambahan menteri serta pembahagian portfolio yang lebih fleksibel adalah untuk memastikan Sarawak dapat ditadbir dan diurus dengan lebih mampan. Ini selaras dengan pelan strategi pembangunan jangka panjang kita dan penting lagi, untuk memenuhi aspirasi rakyat Sarawak.

Kita juga menyedari bahawa mungkin masih ada tanggapan atau pandangan sempit daripada segelintir yang melihat kepada perubahan struktur Kabinet ini sebagai perkara yang tidak wajar. Hujah mereka mungkin mengatakan ini seolah-olah merupakan sebuah pembaziran dan sebuah *political exercise* yang hanya menguntungkan segelintir individu.

Ada juga yang mengatakan Sarawak mempunyai *population* yang kecil, mengapa perlu ada Kabinet yang besar? Tuan Speaker, Yang Berhormat bagi N.15 Asajaya, saya ingin berpesan kepada Yang Berhormat Asajaya agar "*selepas tok siboh lalek dengan mana-mana kritikan negatif lepas tok*". Kita menyokong pindaan ini dan saya yakin semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat di dalam Dewan *tok* menyokong segala inisiatif pembangunan yang *diembak* oleh Premier kita selama *tok*. (Applause)...

Tuan Speaker, cuba bayangkan, Melaka yang 75 kali kecil dari Sarawak, bukan tujuh kali, 75 kali memerlukan struktur Exco dan pentadbiran yang besar. Tetapi Sarawak yang berkali-kali lebih besar dari segi keluasan, liputan geografi, infrastruktur, dan bilangan projek pembangunan yang banyak, masih beroperasi dengan jumlah yang besar; kita masih beroperasi menggunakan kapasiti yang kita pinda 30 tahun yang lepas. Ini sebagai satu contoh.

Contoh yang kedua, bayangkan Ahli Yang Berhormat semua, sebuah syarikat 30 tahun yang lepas menjana keuntungan 100 juta. Tapi pada hari ini selepas 30 tahun, mereka menjana

keuntungan berbilion-bilion. Adalah tidak logik kapasiti penjawat jawatan dalam syarikat itu tidak ditambah? Tidak mungkin akan berlaku pengembangan syarikat selepas itu. Itu contoh yang kedua.

Perbezaan ini tidak munasabah, Tuan Speaker. Sarawak bukan hanya besar dari segi geografi, tetapi juga mempunyai lebih banyak jalan luar bandar untuk dipantau, lebih banyak kawasan pedalaman yang memerlukan projek asas, rangkaian sungai yang luas untuk dikendalikan, komuniti yang bertaburan merentasi ribuan kilometer serta projek strategik bernilai berbilion ringgit yang sedang dan akan dilaksanakan. Manakala Melaka negeri yang kecil pun memerlukan kapasiti pentadbiran yang besar ini, mustahil Sarawak yang jauh lebih besar dan rumit dari segi pentadbiran boleh beroperasi dengan struktur jawatan yang kecil.

Jelas bahawa Sarawak memerlukan penambahan jawatan secara menyeluruh dan terancang, agar kementerian dapat menjalankan tugas dengan lebih efektif, memantau projek dengan lebih rapat, cepat penyampaian dasarnya, dan memenuhi keperluan rakyat di kawasan bandar, luar bandar dan pedalaman negeri Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, pendekatan kita dalam membangunkan serta mentadbir Sarawak sentiasa berasaskan keperluan bukan jumlah penduduk. Our approach must be needs-based not population-based. Ini pemikiran dan *mindset* yang telah lapuk dan ketinggalan zaman.

Sarawak merupakan wilayah yang terbesar di Malaysia. Ini tidak dapat kita nafikan dan sudah tentu tanggungjawab amat besar sekali untuk membangunkan wilayah ini.

Awal hari ini kita telah mendengar pembentangan Belanjawan Sarawak daripada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, saban tahun kita memberi penekanan kepada pembangunan khususnya di luar bandar, dan saban tahun kita memperuntukkan sebahagian besar daripada belanjawan ini untuk tujuan tersebut.

Alhamdulillah, dengan kepimpinan beliau serta usaha, komitmen dan sokongan dari semua lapisan masyarakat, kita telah melihat kemajuan yang amat ketara sekali dalam pembangunan infrastruktur.

Tuan Speaker, pendapatan saban tahun Sarawak meningkat dan terus meningkat, ini berkat daripada kepimpinan yang berwawasan dan berpandangan jauh. Ini merupakan satu anugerah, rezeki dari Allah S.W.T. dan juga satu amanah yang besar.

Soalnya, bagaimana untuk kita memastikan agar sumber-sumber ini dapat dimanfaatkan oleh rakyat melalui inisiatif pembangunan, pendidikan dan kebajikan, Tuan Speaker. Ini kerana tidak ada lagi alasan; kita sudah ada pendapatan yang besar, tidak ada alasan bahawa kedudukan kewangan ini mengekang pembangunan dan kemajuan yang kita impikan selama ini.

Cabaran yang kita perlu tempuhi adalah bagaimana kita memastikan agar semua inisiatif yang telah dirancang dapat digerakkan secara lancar. Tetapi kita harus ingat; memastikan wujudnya *executive oversight* di peringkat menteri agar dasar, inisiatif dan pendekatan kita dapat dilaksanakan dan menepati kumpulan sasar, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker, kini pembahagian portfolio dalam Kabinet Sarawak amat terhad sekali berdasarkan formula 10 + 1; 10 Menteri penuh termasuk Timbalan Premier dan seorang Premier. Kini, kita mempunyai lebih banyak kementerian, jumlah menteri; lebih banyak kementerian daripada jumlah menteri dan bermaksud seorang menteri harus mengemudi lebih dari sebuah kementerian. Contohnya, Yang Amat Berhormat bagi Asajaya. Banyak pil dimakannya malam hari, Tuan Speaker. *Mikir* hal banyak kementerian - dipikarnya. *Ujung-ujung kelak, kita juak susah.*

Kita menyedari bahawa ini tidak mampan. This is not sustainable. Tanggungjawab sebagai menteri di sebuah kementerian adalah tugas sepenuh masa. Bukan *part-time*, Tuan Speaker. It is a full-time job. Dan juga sering memerlukan pendekatan *hands-on* selaras dengan aspirasi rakyat.

Maka, dengan pendekatan untuk memperluaskan saiz Kabinet, kita dapat memastikan perhatian dan fokus yang sewajarnya dan dapat kita berikan kepada setiap kementerian di Sarawak.

Kerana ada fungsi-fungsi tertentu yang perlu digalas oleh menteri menurut Perlembagaan Sarawak dan bukan Timbalan Menteri apatah lagi Setiausaha Politik. Tugas menteri bukan untuk berpolitik, tugas menteri bukan untuk berpolitik semata-mata tetapi untuk memastikan kementerian serta agensi-agensi berkaitan dapat bekerjasama dan terus melaksanakan penambahbaikan dari tahun demi tahun.

Ini memastikan pengurusan yang lebih teratur serta proses pelaksanaan dasar yang tuntas terutamanya dalam usaha kita untuk memacu ekonomi Sarawak berasaskan ekonomi baharu dan tenaga hijau serta memastikan keseimbangan dalam pembangunan dan kesejahteraan rakyat.

Juga sejajar dengan pertambahan kerusi Dewan Undangan Negeri yang telah kita luluskan di Dewan yang mulia ini pada mesyuarat lepas. Tujuan kita meluluskan pertambahan ahli Dewan yang mulia ini adalah selaras dengan pembangunan yang telah kita kecapai dan keperluan ini kita penuhi. Perkara ini bukanlah keinginan, Tuan Speaker. Ini adalah keperluan, keperluan! Inilah keperluan, Tuan Speaker.

Jadi, Tuan Speaker, sebagai penutup, saya ingin menekankan semula bahawa Sarawak kini berada di ambang transformasi. Kita mahu agar pentadbiran kita dapat memenuhi kehendak dan harapan rakyat dan melalui Rang Undang-undang ini, saya yakin ia merupakan satu langkah yang penting untuk memastikan masa hadapan Sarawak yang cemerlang dan terbilang selepas ini, Insya-Allah, di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier kita. Dengan ini, Stakan menyokong penuh pindaan ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pending.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in the debate of the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, specifically the amendment to Article 6(3), which seeks to allow the appointment of up to four additional members of the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri justified on the basis of *“strengthening the machinery of the State Government”*.

We are told also that this expansion *“will not affect the number of deputy ministers as their appointments are not limited”*.

Tuan Speaker, this statement itself exposes a fundamental contradiction that this House must confront. If deputy ministers are truly unlimited in number, then why is there a need to increase the number of ministers?

If deputies can be appointed as many as necessary, their very purpose is to assist, support and ease ministers' workloads. Currently, we have a total of 27 deputy ministers. Yet today we are told ministers are overburdened and the solution is to add more ministers instead of empowering the unlimited deputies which is permitted.

What message does this send? Are we admitting that these deputy ministers are ineffective? Are we saying they are redundant? Definitely a no. Or is the administrative structure itself failing to delegate responsibilities properly?

This, Tuan Speaker, is the heart of the issue. We must understand a bigger State Cabinet does not equal better administration. Effectiveness comes from clarity of role, strong coordination and proper delegation, not from putting more chairs around the table.

If the appointed Deputy Ministers cannot solve workload challenges, then adding four extra Ministers becomes a superficial, cosmetics fix rather than a structural one. And another justification

offered to us is that the ministerial winding up speeches are too long. That was been said by Tuan Speaker, your good self, right? Because Ministers hold two or even three portfolios.

That includes our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier. But does he feel overloaded? I don't think so. But why other Ministers feel overloaded? In my view, this cannot be accepted as a reason to fatten the size of the cabinet. It just doesn't hold water.

Tuan Speaker, sometimes I really pity you sitting up there for long hours listening to the long speeches. We should ask if winding up speeches by Ministers are too long because that particular Minister has two or three portfolios, does that mean that winding up speech will be shortened if more Ministers are appointed to give the speeches?

Tuan Speaker, let us be honest to ourselves. A winding up speech is long because the ministries choose it to be long, not because of the number of Ministers. It has nothing to do with the numbers of Ministers being appointed. It's the ministry's choice to have it drafted that long for the Minister to read it out, correct? I have observed year after year, next year will be my 20th year. So I'm sitting that long in this august House to observe some winding up speeches are unnecessarily lengthy, filled with reporting, repetitious reading of departmental updates that do not require the Dewan's time.

Ministers often take hours not because the content is complex but because the speeches are drafted like annual reports rather than focused ministerial statements. Why can't ministries prepare concise, precise, relevant speeches? Why can't the minister decide the relevant part to be read out? Why must a winding up session become a marathon reading event for the ministers? Why must inefficiency in drafting be used to justify expanding the Cabinet? If the solution to lengthy speeches is appoint more ministers, then the government is addressing a symptom, not the cause.

A well-structured ministry with clear delegation, supported by properly utilised Deputy Ministers would not need to stretch their winding up speeches into hours. Long-windedness is not a governance burden. It is an administrative choice and administrative inefficiency must never be the justification for constitutional amendment.

Tuan Speaker, we are further told that ministries' names remain unchanged. Their functions remain unchanged and only the number of Ministers will increase. If nothing functional changes, how does increasing Ministers improve performance? These risks creating a larger cabinet without solving the root problem in efficiency in structure, delegation and communication.

And here, Tuan Speaker, I must say this. If a Minister cannot perform, then I urge the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier to replace them with someone competent. Yet, what do we see today? There are Ministers who are not even performing their existing duties. Instead of focussing on the portfolio entrusted to them, some are far more occupied with politicking, fractional manoeuvring and public posturing. They neglect their tasks at hand, allow problems to accumulate and when pressure catches up, they conveniently claim they are "*overburdened*" and therefore need more Ministers to share the burden.

But the *rakyat* are not blind. They can see that the problem is not workload. The problem is inefficiency and inability. Let us take a very direct and undeniable example. Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government. This is a Ministry with two Deputy Ministers and yet the issues under this Ministry remain some of the worst in Sarawak. Sick housing projects continue to haunt families, strata title issues drag on for years without resolution, Joint Management Body (JMB), Management Corporation (MC) dispute, basic enforcement failures, unresolved complaints from the public like the flash flood problem at Jalan Foochow No. 1, various lorong within Bintawa Fishing Village, Pending Heights, poor drainage system, illegal money lending advertisements issue and the list goes on. Too many. How can a Ministry with two Deputies, supported by I think 29 Local Councils which include City Administration, Municipal Council, District Council still fail to deliver?

With that level of machinery, no minister can claim they are overloaded. That excuse simply baseless. The only reasonable conclusion is that the ministry is poorly led, poorly managed and poorly prioritised. And this is precisely why expanding the cabinet without addressing performance is dangerous. If the current Ministers are already unable to manage their existing responsibilities, any more Ministers only mask the incompetence. Instead of fixing it, the *rakyat* will end up paying more for a cabinet that does not deliver.

Tuan Speaker, if the minister cannot perform even with Deputies, even with the Council or even with the administrative support, then the solution is not to expand the cabinet. The solution is to replace the underperforming minister with those who are capable, efficient and serious about serving the people. We all know who is performing and who is not and I'm very sure the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier himself knows best which Ministers deliver results and which ones consistently underperform. Replacing underperformance is a far more reasonable solution than enlarging the State Cabinet at the expense of taxpayers. Sarawak deserves a cabinet that works not the larger, bigger to cover up failures.

There are capable Deputy Ministers who can step up and if YAB doesn't know which one, come and ask me. I will tell you. They are good one, there are good deputy ministers across the bench. We all know who can perform and who cannot. We do not need more Ministers, we need better Ministers, we need Ministers who can manage their portfolios, optimise their Deputies and run their ministries efficiently without using lengthy speeches or heavy workloads as excuses.

Tuan Speaker, we must also not ignore the cost implications like what Tebedu has mentioned. It is true there are costs implications if we engage, if we appoint more ministers. Every additional Minister comes with substantial financial commitments, staff, offices, allowance, vehicles, operational budgets. If Deputy Minister can be appointed without limit, the Government must justify why the cheaper and already-available option is insufficient, and why taxpayers must shoulder a more expensive solution.

Before enlarging the State Cabinet, we should evaluate:

- (a) Which ministries are overloaded, and why?
- (b) Are the Deputy Ministers being fully utilised?
- (c) Are the Ministers delegating efficiently?
- (d) Can the structural adjustments reduce burden without increasing numbers?

Without such assessment, this expansion risks repeating existing inefficiencies instead of resolving them.

Tuan Speaker, "*Political reality*" should never override Governance principal. Ambition for development is not an excuse for unchecked cabinet growth. Sound Governance demands discipline, transparency and genuine justification not expansion driven by convenience, politics or administrative shortcuts. If we are to expand the State Cabinet, it must be structural, strategic and purpose-driven, not tactical, not transactional, and certainly not driven by the need to shorten winding-up speeches.

Tuan Speaker, let me conclude clearly, we DAP State representative in the august House are not objecting to strengthening State Administration. We support efforts to improve Governance and ensure workloads are manageable. For the Deputy Ministers empower them, utilise them, and hold them accountable. Do not treat them as decorative positions, as what we often call "*pasu bunga*" while adding more Ministers unnecessarily,

With that said, I cannot, I cannot support this Bill. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Ba'Kelalan.

YB Encik Baru Bian: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, in allowing me to take part in the debate on the amendment of the Constitution of the State of Sarawak, “*The Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025*” tabled by the Honourable Member for Asajaya Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan, this afternoon.

I wish to record my strong support for this proposed amendment, a bill that seeks to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our State Government by providing for the appointment of additional members to the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri.

This Bill is not merely a technical adjustment; it represents a significant and progressive step towards of forward for the State of Sarawak as we transition toward a model State in Malaysia. Our unique wealth and resources require proper administration and strategic planning, and this amendment speaks directly to those needs.

A Step Towards Better Governance

Tuan Speaker, with the proposed addition of not more than four cabinet members, we are positioned to alleviate the significant burdens that our current Senior Ministers, who hold multiple portfolios, are currently managing, as rightly raised by few earlier Honourable members who participated in this debate. These Ministers, while they have been performing exceptionally well, are often tasked with diverse responsibilities that can dilute their focus and effectiveness in implementing key policies vital to their ministries. By distributing these responsibilities, we will enhance their capacity to fulfil their mandates, ensuring that each Ministry can function as its highest potential. This change will naturally lead to improved service delivery and more targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing the lives of our citizens. Not that they were not doing well now – in fact, they were doing extraordinary well – but with this amendment, they could elevate their performance even further.

Addressing the Size and Complexity of Sarawak

It is vital to acknowledge the vastness of our beloved state. Sarawak is nearly as large as the entirety of West Malaysia, presenting unique challenges and opportunities that require a refined and focused approach in Governance. The needs of our people, spread across such a large geographical expanse, demand dedicated attention and resources. Therefore, expanding our Executive membership is not just timely; it is essential for effective Governance.

Stronger Representation and Accountability

Tuan Speaker, furthermore, the addition of these members will enhance representation within our government. With more voices at the decision-making table, we can be assured that the diverse concerns of our constituents will be addressed. This enriches our legislative process and drives accountability within the Executive. More importantly, it fosters a culture of collaboration and inclusiveness, which is vital in today's rapidly changing political landscape.

Economic Development and Strategic Planning

Additionally, as Sarawak continues to leverage its rich natural resources, we must ensure that our Government is equipped with the necessary expertise and strategic insight to oversee this growth responsibly. The proposed members can bring specialized knowledge and experience that will contribute to more informed decision-making, particularly in area such as economic development, environmental management, and infrastructure planning. This expertise is essential as we navigate the complexities of rapidly evolving economic landscape and seek to capitalize on our strengths as a state.

Aligning with Our Economic Goals

Tuan Speaker, moreover, this amendment aligns seamlessly with our broader economic objectives outlined by the Right Honourable Premier this morning in his 2026 Budget Speech; under his 2026 Sarawak, *“Five Budget Goals and Strategic Thrusts”*, and perhaps even beyond our 2026 goals. These goals include:

- (a) Transforming Sarawak towards a higher-income economy: The additional cabinet members will provide the necessary leadership to execute strategic initiatives aimed at boosting our economic output and elevating the standard of living for all Sarawakians.
- (b) Enhancing the *rakyat*’s social well-being: By facilitating the implementation of people-centric and development-focused programs, we can ensure that the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed, improving the quality of life for our communities.
- (c) Strengthening the state fiscal position: Enhanced leadership in the Executive will allow us to manage our resources more effectively, paving the way toward long-term financial sustainability – an essential foundation for future growth.
- (d) Positioning Sarawak as a regional economic powerhouse: With the right talent in place, we can attract investments and create job opportunities, solidifying Sarawak’s stature as a key destination for economic activity in Malaysia.
- (e) Transforming Sarawak into a renewable energy and green hub: We have a unique opportunity to lead in sustainable practices; additional leadership will provide the focus required to advance our renewable energy initiatives and environmental stewardship.

In conclusion Tuan Speaker, I strongly believe that this amendment to the State Constitution of Sarawak presents an opportunity for us to move toward more effective governance – one that is aligned with our aspirations for growth and development. By approving this bill, we are acknowledging the urgent need for a government that is responsive, efficient, and inclusive.

Ba’Kelalan strongly supports this Bill. Thank you for your indulgence, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Padungan.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. 14 is too many. That is my stand. Before I go into the debate on this Bill, let me once again congratulate you on your recent appointment, as for the 10th term as a Speaker of Sarawak DUN. I still remember, when you are reappointed for your 9th term, everyone here forgot about it until I have to remind them that you have been reappointed and this time round, it seems that maybe the government back bencher is doing a better job in reminding them to put forward their congratulatory message to you on your reappointment.

But having say that Tuan Speaker, this your 10th term and I can understand why many has forgotten about your reappointment because you have been here for it seems like ages, and it seems you are fixture of this House, so you will be here forever and ever, and that seems to be the case, a fixture of this House.

Tuan Speaker: Do you want that?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Pardon?

Tuan Speaker: Do you want me to be here forever?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Like it is not whether I want you to be here forever or not. But the fact is that it has seems the year and seems to be a fixture of this House. As a matter of course that

you have been here when we come in to sit for this DUN Sitting but maybe after the 10th term, it might be time for you to move on and move away to pave way for other more aspiring politicians or other more aspiring leaders try to chair this House. That is my personal view, but for now once again, I congratulate you for your recent reappointment for the 10th time as Tuan Speaker of this House, right.

Welcome, Tuan Speaker. I don't know whether after the 10th term, you will be the Tuan Speaker?

Timbalan Speaker: Move on, Yang Berhormat.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I have observed and I have listened to a lot the argument, the debate of member of this House for the whole afternoon about trying to justify the increment of the number of ministers in the cabinet from the existing 10 to 14. Tuan Speaker, by increasing the number of ministers in this House, we run the risk of having an over bloated cabinet.

Just this morning, in the budget speech of YAB Premier, and he assist to say and I quoted, *"Growing expectations from the rakyat require us to keep improving the way we work and the services we provide. To support this, we are restructuring departments and agencies to remove overlaps and streamline functions, giving greater clarity and accountability across the system. This approach will help us build a leaner and more agile government that focuses on its core responsibilities, cuts unnecessary bureaucracy and delivers faster and better results to our people. The emphasis is on doing the right things with the right people, ensuring every organisation plays its role effectively in advancing PCDS 2030."*

That is unquote and that is why an unexpected of the government, agencies and departments.

And in respect of the SOEs, which is what, the Government Owned Enterprise and this is what Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier has said, *"We are also embarking on a study aims to create SOEs that are financially self-reliant and can contribute positively to the state's fiscal positions. The expected outcomes of the study are as follows:*

- (a) Streamlined and consolidated SOEs — less in number, but stronger in capacity and focus; (Interruption...)"*

Timbalan Speaker: Point of order. Let us hear what point of order is that? Yang Berhormat, slowly, slowly. What point of order is it regarding?

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Order 32(1) to the subject matter, *"A member shall confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto"*. When he is talking, when the member from Padungan is talking about the State-Owned Enterprise's policy, it is under the Premier's budget, under the Supply (2026) Bill, 2025. So, I think he should restrict the observation to the matter of the discussion.

Timbalan Speaker: Point taken.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, simple. My answer government's policies as expounded in the budget speech of Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier. Here I quote. *"The expected outcomes of the study are as follows:*

- (a) Streamlined and consolidated SOEs — less in number, but stronger in capacity and focus;*
- (b) Reduce burden on State's finances while improving efficiency and performance;"*

There're the two things that expected in the SOEs. Now, Tuan Speaker, that was said by Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier laid as this morning and that would represent the policy of the

government of the Sarawak State. On a one hand you want to streamline the government agency, you want to streamline, cut down, reduces the number of employees or numbers in the State-Owned Enterprises.

On the other hand, but we have here now, in this House, tabled by Yang Berhormat Asajaya to increase the number of the ministers in the cabinet. This surely contradict each other. While you expect the government civil servants to do more with less in numbers, now the ministers are complaining that, no, we want more numbers to do the same number of dual jobs.

Timbalan Speaker: I think that is two different world all together, I believe. It is not contradiction, two different world all together.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, you may have your opinion.

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat, I think you confine to debate, point it out. Scope of the debate.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: But Tuan Speaker doesn't speak, alright.

Timbalan Speaker: My job is to save a lot of time for this debate. To confine to the scope of the debate.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: The scope of the debate is that 14 is too many, the number. You do not justify the increase in the number of the ministers in the cabinet. When the government is trying to streamline, the number of civil servants, what is having a policy to make civil servants work more with less in numbers. Now on the other hands, you are not leading by an example. You are saying that the current ministers are overworked and that you need more so that is my point. Okay, I will move on.

Now second part, second part of my argument, one of the key justifications, the important key of justification for increase in the number is that the ministers are overworked. Alright, may it be made known in this House among the ten ministers and Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier, who among you finds your workload overloading or you can't handle it. Let it be known. Let it be known. Who among you that you feel that is overload, you are overworked? I am waiting for answers. None of them admitted. None of them indicated. It is just the backbenchers supporting this proposed Amendment claiming them to be overworked. I see the whole front desk are capable people, who do not complain about being overworked although their winding speech maybe a bit lengthy, a bit *luosuo* but none of them complaining they are overworked, so what is the justification for increasing the number and what are the justification for the backbenchers to claim that they are overworked, so, we need more ministers. Are the backbenchers among them are expecting, four of them to be appointed as a minister and to enjoy the perks that goes along with that appointment. That is my point. And, on the workload of the ministers, Tuan Speaker, I am sure is undeniable that the workload for the Premier would be the most onerous. The most onerous workload is on the Premier. There is one position. I will say the second most onerous workload would be the Minister of Finance who is also held by which position is also held by Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier. So, with the increase in the number of the minister, are the position, are the two position is going to be separated, separately held by two persons does lightening the workload of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier. So that is the question, that we want to ask as well, Tuan Speaker.

Would it be? Would it happen? Would it happen? Well, we will wait and see. Hopefully Yang Berhormat Asajaya can enlighten us in his winding up, but of course I understand that prerogative lies in the discretion of Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier. But, that two ministries are the most onerous and heady amongst all ministerial. Tuan Speaker, you are back. So quick answering the call of nature.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Padungan, I'm back ...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Okay ya. Okay good. Good. Welcome back. You see, when you come back, he has to go. When you come back sit on the chair, he has to go. That is exactly my position ...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... You have a problem with the chair ya? ...(Interruption)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(Interruption)... No lah no ...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... You have a problem with the chair ya? ...(Interruption)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(Interruption)... No, I have no problem with the chair (Laughter) actually, I am so used to looking at you. Seeing you when I come to DUN, I can't imagine another person sitting there (Laughter)...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... The porometer or the performance of the cabinet is the size of the budget ...(Interruption)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(Interruption)... Okay ...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... You judge it ... (Interruption)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(Interruption)... I'm not talking about the size of the budget ...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... You judged it ... (Interruption)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(Interruption)... I will come back to that ... (Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... You judged it by the size of the budget.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I will come to that, the size of the budget, the size of the GDP alright? But, let's put something in more context, in the context of the current Executive. Tuan Speaker, we have now, in the amongst of the executive: one Premier, 10 Ministers and 27 Deputy Ministers all in the line-up of the executive would be 38 out of the current 82 constituencies ADUNs. That constitutes 47.5% of the ADUNs are sitting in the administration.

As I was informed also, as I come to my notice is that the Deputy Ministers, they are also seat in the Cabinet Meeting unlike the Federal Government's practice. The Deputy Ministers in the state also sits in the Cabinet Meetings ...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... By invitation ... (Interruption)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(Interruption)... And they are invited ... (Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... By invitation ... (Interruption)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes. By invitation and they are invited to express their views, their opinion on policy matters as well. So, you have a meeting that constitutes 47.5% of the ADUNs, current ADUNs alright? You say that likely we will increase the number of ADUNs to 99... (Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: ...(Interruption)... You take a point from Kota Sentosa?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: No lah. No lah. He is always lot of the time out of the point. (Laughter) never mind (Laughter) but, okay. Let say, let say we increase the number of ADUNs to 99, alright? With the current numbers which is 38, that will still be 42% of the 99 ADUNs. 42% sitting

in the front bench. Sitting in the position of the administration. That is a lot. That is a large proportion of the numbers of ADUNs. So, if you increase it more by four, there will be come out to another 48 – 49% , 47 – 48% plus maybe another because increase of in the minister, then increase in the number of deputies, it could come to situation of half, half of the ADUNs sitting in this Dewan are the administration. I think that is what we called over bloated, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker, point three. I can't help to notice that the current administration has affinity to the concept of "*big is beautiful*". The current administration is subscribed to that concept "*big is beautiful*". Therefore, you have the biggest flag ...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: ...*(Interruption)*... That is why ...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...*(Interruption)*... You have the big White House ...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: ...*(Interruption)*... Is that why the opposition is so small? *(Laughter)*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, the size of the opposition lies in the hands of the *rakyat*. Alright. Every election, there will be changes. Okay, we could be smaller, we could be bigger. Alright? But, that decision is in the hands of the *rakyat* and for *rakyat* to cast the decision, to make the decision okay?

Tuan Speaker, let me come back to this. Bigger airport, and a mega ART project and now you want a bigger cabinet. All these big is beautiful comes with cost and expenses to their people, to the *rakyat*. Only this morning, we note that we may have budgeted for 14 billion revenue, but at the end of the day, because of world global situations, we only have 12 billion revenue that will make this year budget, this year government's expenditure in a deficit.

Tuan Speaker, therefore, though we have a lot of revenue, Sarawak Government has a lot of revenue at its disposal, but that revenue can be subject to fluctuations. Alright, I will go into the detail of the budget, the revenue of the government in my debate on the budget. But suffice for me to say that all these big is beautiful concept comes at a cost to the *rakyat*. And that we should be more prudent and the increment of four additional ministers will come with a huge cost. Imagine the minister, how much is it additional? RM27,000 per month salary without counting the perks, the drivers, entertainment allowance, the other perks of the minister, and some more, overseas trips, overseas study trips.

That can a few million for one ministry, the officers of the minister. You have the SUSK, SUS, you have the media, secretary, you have all the entourage of officers to and their officers, Tuan Speaker, I would like very much that Ahli Yang Berhormat for Asajaya to let us know and estimates, I do not need an exact figure, the estimate based on your experience as a minister for so many years, how much would it cost the *rakyat* for the creation and maintenance of a Minister in the office?

I think for that is the basic minimal requirement that the people would want to know. How much it cost for us, for the people to maintain the position of a minister, his perks, and the officers, and his officers that comes with him.

Right, last point there is about the size of the budget that was mentioned by the Deputy Speaker when you Tuan Speaker, when you were outside. The Deputy Speaker mentioned that the size, number, he is roughly mentioned that number of ministers, the size of the budget. Ya, we may have a big size of budget but if we look at our GDP, Sarawak GDP is around 148 billion last year, *eh* this year, last year 2024. Well, Malaysia's GDP is, for the same year 2024 is 1.65 trillion which is more than 10 times. And when we like to compare ourselves, or we like to learn from Singapore. Singapore is RM2.2 trillion in 2024 which is way, way above our economy.

Therefore, I would say that a currently that the justification for the increment of four additional ministers are no justification for the passing of this Bill, and as such, I need to raise my objection

together with my colleague from Pending against the Bill. One more thing, one more point that I would like to raise in this House today here, many had said Sarawak now is embarking on the green economy, hydrogen economy which is the state of the art which is the leader in the whole region.

Tuan Speaker,

The development of the green energy agenda, the hydrogen energy agenda. As we all know, is championed by our Yang Amat Berhormat, the Premier. But the person, the people who make it possible are not the ministers. The people who make it possible are the scientists, the engineers, the civil servants, they work on the policy, that is set and decided in the cabinet and the policy that is championed that was, that came about from Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier. These are the civil servants that make the policy that possible, and they implemented the whole agenda. So, these are the persons that should be if needed increase in the capacity for them to make hydrogen energy, green energy a success. Not by increasing the number of ministers.

What more to say, in all the debates, if I were the Deputy Minister seating in this House, I would have felt so neglected and oblivious, totally oblivious at all. The whole argument centre of the need of the Minister as if the Deputy Minister are not doing anything, who are supposed to be helping the Ministers in lightening their job, in helping them to formulate certain policies. But throughout whole debate of all GPS ADUNs is as if this Deputy Minister don't exist at all. My sympathy to you. Totally neglected child. *(Laughter)*

But anyway, I think it's about time the Deputy Ministers, maybe that is what the ministers has told her, and made to mentioned to tell you guys. You have to step up to do your job. Otherwise, you will be replaced. But anyway, there is Deputy Ministers up there, they should enjoy the perks, they have the facilities, they have the staffing, they are there to help and they should be helping. And there is therefore, with the huge number of Deputy Minister, 27 of them, all in. There is no reason why you need to increase the number of ministers for the cabinet.

Last point Tuan Speaker, it just puzzles me, the way that these Amendment Bill is drafted, right. The amendment was drafted by inserting a sub-clause c after sub-clause b. When the sub-clause b says as follows, let me see where is the Sarawak Constitution? Never mind, it's okay.

Sub clause b, 63(b) says that the TYT, the Governor, shall appoint at the advice of the Premier, not less than four, but not more than 10. He shall on the advice of the Premier, *ya* exactly what I said, I recollect correctly. Alright, sub clause B he shall advice of the Premier not less than 10 and not more than 10 not less than four, other members who shall be called Ministers among the Members of the Dewan.

In my experience, as a legal practitioner, it would be easier to amend, the word, to replace the word not more than 10 to not more than 14, not less than four. Right, I'm just seeking a clarification on why that sub-clause 63(b) was not amended in that way by replacing the word 10 with 14.

Instead, you add on to a sub-paragraph c which is currently in the Bill "*where the Yang di-Pertua Negeri on the advice of the Premier has made an order for the appointment of additional members to strengthen the machinery of the State Government which on the advice of the Premier appoint not more than four such members to the MMKN*".

So, I would like some enlightenment why you choose one way to another way. Or is that the status of the four additional Ministers appointed are not the same status as the Ministers appointed pursuant to Clause 6(3)(b), the status of the two groups of Ministers that is been appointed.

So, with that, I state again, the key to efficient governments administration and governance is not to increase the number of ministers but to get the ministers to do their job properly. With that, I wish to place on record I will not support the Amendment Bill. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Bawang Assan.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025, specifically on the amendment to Article 6(c), which empowers the Yang di-Pertua Negeri, on the advice of the Premier, to appoint up to four additional members of the cabinet. Before ...*(Interruption)*..

Tuan Speaker: Before you proceed, Honourable Member for Bawang Assan, under Standing Order 9(1), I determine today's sitting goes beyond 6.30 pm. Please proceed.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Before I proceed, allow me to extend my congratulations on your reappointment as a Speaker of Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak. I think as a former Speaker, I am more qualified to say a few words about your re-appointment.

This reappointment or your reappointment is not merely a continuation of tenure but a clear affirmation of your distinguish leadership, your deep understanding of parliamentary tradition and your unwavering commitment to upholding the dignity and integrity of this august House.

For years, I think 20 years of so, guided by your wisdom the Sarawak Legislature has become a model of decorum, discipline and democratic maturity. Your mastery of standing orders and your sharp grasp of constitutional principles has made the House a Legislative Assembly of prestige and stability.

Tuan Speaker, at the time when many legislative bodies worldwide faced destruction even in our own Parliament, Sarawak is fortunate to have a Speaker who embodies continuity, impartiality and institutional strength. Your leadership has elevated the stature of this House not only within Malaysia but also across the wider Commonwealth Parliamentary community.

As we welcome your continuous service, we do so with deep respect and confident that you once again lead the House with distinction, wisdom and unwavering sense of duty to the people of Sarawak. Congratulations once again Tuan Speaker. May your leadership continue to inspire us in our collective mission to advance Sarawak's progress and prosperity under the capable leadership of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg.

Let me now proceed with the debate on the Amendment Bill. Yes, one may argue that this current cabinet, our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier plus 10 Ministers, and 26 or 27 Deputy Ministers, is enough for Sarawak, as argued by the Honourable Members for Pending and also Padungan. This argument, I think can be accepted if our governance realities have remained static, have remained stagnant, have remained plain simple as what was in the past.

Tuan Speaker, I remember, in 2004, when I assumed the Minister for Finance portfolio, our annual revenue was only RM2.99 billion, less than RM3 billion. Even before Yang Amat Berhormat Premier became Chief Minister in 2017, state revenue was still only RM6.8 billion, and even in 2018, RM6.9 billion. Only when Yang Amat Berhormat Premier came to the helm, with his revenue reengineering, our state revenue increased and keep on increasing, and of course, until 2025, it was about RM14 billion.

And so, Tuan Speaker, the argument by the Ahli Yang Berhormat Opposition Members, maybe accepted if the governance realities have remained stagnant, as I said, but the argument that the present size of the cabinet is sufficient, is no longer aligned with the scale of Sarawak's transformation, no longer with the scale of the responsibilities that the cabinet has to shouldered.

At the same time, we talked about 26 or 27 Deputy Ministers. Tuan Speaker, we must know that Deputy Ministers cannot replace Ministers. They are not full Ministers, they cannot replace

Ministers in their duties and responsibilities. The presence of Deputy Ministers does not mean that Ministers have less responsibility.

Deputy Ministers do not set the strategic direction of ministries, Deputy Ministers do not hold constitutional authority, Deputy Ministers do not make final executive decisions, Deputy Ministers do not shoulder full accountability to this august House. The leadership, accountability and direction of each Ministry rests solely and fully with the full Minister.

Sarawak's Ministers today carry more portfolios than before, take charge of more agencies, more strategic obligations than ever before. Ministries are no longer simple administrative entities.

Tuan Speaker, let us be clear about what our ministries have become. They are no longer just departments overseeing routine public services. Each ministry today supervises Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, supervise special directorates, supervise State-owned agencies and statutory bodies. In addition, regulatory units, professional task forces, technical division, and multi-billion-*ringgit* development programmes require close supervision by the Ministers concerned.

I must say that the workload nowadays is exponential, not linear. If we say Yang Amat Berhormat Premier plus 10 ministers is enough, we have ignored the complexity of a modern Sarawak State Government under the leadership of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.

Sarawak has now shifted into high-value, knowledge-driven sectors. Under the leadership of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Sarawak has moved far beyond the good old day economy or the old commodity-based economy. We have entered a new frontier with sectors that require full-time ministerial stewardship:

- (a) Hydrogen industry;
- (b) Renewable energy and energy export;
- (c) Carbon capture, utilisation and carbon markets;
- (d) Digital economy and Industry 4.0;
- (e) Artificial Intelligence adoption;
- (f) Autonomous systems;
- (g) Biotechnology and biomanufacturing;
- (h) High-value agrifood industries; and
- (i) International investment diplomacy.

All these are not legacy sectors. All these are new sectors. These are future-defining sectors for Sarawak. They require entire portfolios, not fragmented attention from overburdened ministers or from overburdened ministries.

Tuan Speaker, moreover, there are more increasing responsibilities due to MA63 devolution. We must also recognise that Sarawak will soon assume more MA63 devolved functions and this may include health coordination, certain regulatory powers and likely future responsibilities in education, in infrastructure and in technical services

When federal responsibilities shift to the state, the State Cabinet must expand to match the mandate. A stagnant cabinet in the face of expanding responsibilities, I think would be irresponsible. There will also be massive infrastructure programmes which require ministerial focus.

Tuan Speaker, as we know, Sarawak is planning and implementing infrastructure projects of unprecedented scale:

- (a) The Sarawak water grid;
- (b) The Sarawak power grid;
- (c) State digital connectivity;

- (d) Statewide green mobility systems;
- (e) Talent development and human capital acceleration; and
- (f) Education-linked development initiatives.

All these Tuan Speaker, all these initiatives were each demand ministerial-level attention. They cannot be effectively supervised by a stagnant cabinet designed for a much simpler era or designed for the past era. I must say that the 1 + 10, Premier + 10 Ministers belong to Sarawak of the past. The argument that 1 + 10 is enough probably assumes that Sarawak is the same as it was 10, 20 years ago. It is completely different. It has been completely transformed. But Sarawak today is, more complex, more economically advances, more connected to global markets, more technically technologically advances and taking on more devolved powers than ever before. In other words, Sarawak has made great progress in its economy, in its transformation, in its responsibilities, and also in its aspirations.

As I said, 2004 I remember state budget was only RM2.99 billion, can you imagine, just RM2.99 billion 2004, even 10 years later 2014, I remembered it was still about RM5.6 or RM6 billion only. Now, as our revenue has grown to 2025, RM14.06 billion and with more revenue will come with greater scope and magnitude of work and with more revenue, will come with more duties and responsibilities, of all the ministries, of all the ministers.

Tuan Speaker, we only have to look at page 29 or page 30 of the budget for 2026, just presented this morning by Yang Amat Berhormat the Premier, where Premier emphasized nine Strategic Thrusts, covering all aspects of our development initiatives and programs and projects. Imagine the scale and magnitude of duties and responsibilities that the State Cabinet has to shoulder.

Tuan Speaker, this amendment of the Constitution of Sarawak 2025 is not about having more ministers, it is about building a governance structure that matches the scale of Sarawak future. Moreover, when Sarawak increases the number of elected representatives in this Honourable House from 82 to 99, logically and structurally the executive branch must grow in tandem with the Legislative branch. Tuan Speaker, as I say it is about, building governance structure that matches the scale of Sarawak transformation.

It is about ensuring deeper ministerial oversight, clearer portfolio responsibilities, more focused leadership and stronger capacity to manage a transforming Sarawak.

The days of the overstretched 1 + 10, Premier and 10 Ministers cabinet are over. A fast growing, forward looking, Sarawak needs a bigger cabinet that reflects its scale, its magnitude and complexity.

Tuan Speaker, for all of the above reasons I have mentioned, I fully support the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 tabled by the Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts. Thank you YB Asajaya. Thank you for the job well done, thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Kota Sentosa.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I rise to support to fully support the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which seek to expand the Sarawak Cabinet in line with the State increasing administrative responsibilities, broader representation in this Dewan and the evolving expectations of our *rakyat*.

Tuan Speaker, there have been comments in the public domain suggesting that Sarawak because of its population size does not require a larger cabinet with respect. This argument does not reflect the actual realities of governing our state. Sarawak administrative complexities arise not from population size alone but from the immense geographical area recover the wide dispersion of our rural communities and their sheer scale of development programs now being implemented

across both urban and remote interior about ...*(Inaudible)*... go into in detail. Sarawak is one of the largest territories in the region with community separated by rivers, high land and long distances. Delivering health care, education, utilities, connectivity and economic development across such vast terrain requires sustained ministerial oversight. The responsibilities of the government have expanded as our development agenda has grown. They cannot be adequately managed by relying on the cabinet structure design for a different area.

Tuan Speaker, some have recommended limiting the cabinet to not more than 10 ministers and the Member from Pending and Padungan has spoken along those lines. This may sound need on paper, but it does not reflect the operational burden currently carried by our ministries.

Tuan Speaker, allow me to briefly clarify the distinction between a Minister and the Deputy Minister because it is important for this House and for the *rakyat*, especially for the *rakyat* to understand how responsibility and accountability are structured within government. A minister is the principal authority of a ministry. The minister sets the policy direction, makes the final decisions, represent the ministry and cabinet and carries full accountability to this august House. All major strategies, programmes and legislative matters fall under the minister's direct leadership. A Deputy Minister on the other hand plays a supporting role. Deputies assist with implementation, oversee specific decisions as delegated and represent the minister when required. They help answer question and engage with the public, but they do not hold independent decision-making power nor are they members of a cabinet. They are invited but they are not members of a cabinet.

In assent Tuan Speaker, the minister is the primary decision maker and policy leader while the Deputy Minister is the essential support that help ensure smooth execution and continuity. This clear division of responsibility is crucial for good governance efficiency and accountability within our legislative system.

Tuan Speaker, today several ministers are responsible for two or even three major portfolios at once. Each involving multi agency coordination, regulatory oversight, policy development, large scale budgeting and intensive stakeholder engagement. Such arrangements are no longer practical if Sarawak is to meet its development targets, maintain momentum in renewable energy and hydrogen initiatives, expand the digital and creative economy and ensure effective delivery of development programmes.

Tuan Speaker, there have also been remarks about Sarawak having a large number of political secretaries and suggestions that this alone should be sufficient to meet our administrative needs. If you were to read the Borneo Post yesterday, you will find that there is a political analyst that which I will not name that said this.

This reflects a misunderstanding of the roles involved. Political Secretaries provide essential ground level support and assist with constituencies linkages. But they do not formulate policy. They do not manage ministry budgets. They do not represent the state in high level engagement and they do not carries statutory decision making responsibilities. Political Secretaries support the machinery of governance but they cannot replace neither can the Deputy Minister replace ministerial leadership or cabinet level accountability.

Tuan Speaker, the same applies to the argument that Sarawak simply requires a more sophisticated civil service. This particular political analyst also make this statement that I just read. The GPS lead government fully agrees that an effective, capable civil service is critical and this government have invested heavily in upskilling digital transformation and administrative reform. However, even the most capable civil service requires clear direction consistent leadership, timely decision making, and policy oversight from ministers. Civil servants carry out policies but ministers are the ones who define those policies, coordinate across sectors, and shoulder political accountability. A strong civil service must be matched by cabinet capacity to lead it effectively.

Tuan Speaker, another concern raised by the Members from Padungan and Pending is that once a cabinet is bloated or enlarged, it will be difficult to reduce its size. This is speculative. The constitution provides flexibility. That is why if you look under article, the addition of the paragraph C you would find that it is a flexible, it is a flexible provision and the Premier does not need to use this particular provision. But if he needs to, he would be able to advise the Tuan Yang Terutama to enlarge that cabinet up to a maximum of 40. So again the constitution that amendment provides flexibility and any future adjustment can be made by the government of the day if circumstances warrant it. What matters now is whether our current responsibilities and ambitions require greater governance capacity. Only the Premier knows. The answer for now is undeniable, yes but again the discretion is on the Premier.

Sarawak is undertaking some of the most comprehensive development initiatives in our history. From renewable energy expansion, to hydrogen development, major infrastructure upgrades, digitalization efforts, tourism and creative industry growth, and strengthening regional co-operation within Asia. These initiatives, all of these, require focus ministerial leadership.

Tuan Speaker, you have correctly observed that the ever expanding tasks and responsibilities of the cabinet makes it inexplicably necessary to increase the number of ministers. This is a matter of governance capacity not political embarking. If Sarawak aspires to be a premier region, and a leading player in the region then our administrative structure must keep pace with these aspirations. We cannot expect our development agenda to accelerate while our governance machinery remains static.

The proposed amendment is therefore not only kind but essential. It ensures that Sarawak has the institutional strength to deliver policies effectively, respond efficiently to the needs of our *rakyat* and pursue the long-term vision set by the Premier, Member from Gedong for a more developed, progressive and globally connected Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, for these reasons I strongly support this amendment Bill and call on all the Honourable Members to do the same. This is a responsible step forward grounded in practical necessity and align with the future we are building for our state. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Before I call the Honourable Member for Tumpong, let me make a clarification. Before they were called Assistant Ministers. So much so, oversee they were mistaken as Assistant to a minister, and an employee to a minister. So the Right Honourable Premier changed that in 2022, to Deputy Ministers. That alleviates the position of the Assistant Ministers. I call upon Tumpong.

YB Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for this opportunity to participate in the debate on Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in this honourable House.

Earlier, we listened attentively to the comprehensive explanation delivered by the Honourable Minister from Asajaya, the Honourable Member from Asajaya and this Bill seeks to provide a provision to restructure the composition of the Sarawak cabinet to ensure that our governance framework remains responsive, effective, and sustainable, I think that is the very important word that could describe the move that we are making right now. The intention behind this provision to expand the number of ministers and re-organizing portfolios is clear, to strengthen Sarawak administrative capacity, enhance policy focus and to ensure that the government is better equipped to fulfill the aspiration of the people.

Tuan Speaker, *since before, prior to 2018*, pendapatan Sarawak dalam lingkungan RM5 ke RM6 *billion*. Selepas 2018, apabila tampuk kepimpinan kita diterajui oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Ketua Menteri ketika itu dengan *a cabinet member of 10 plus 1* dan dibantu oleh *Assistant Minister* ketika itu, kita telah berjaya melonjakkan pendapatan kita. Setiap tahun daripada 2018, 2019, 2020 sampailah ke hari ini dalam belasan *billion*. *Now, the question is how did we do it? The answer is* dengan strategi yang telah diletakkan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Premier dan telah di

implement by our Minister and our Deputy Minister dan the civil service. Sebab itulah kita berjaya melonjakkan *income* kita setiap tahun.

Selepas PRN ke-12, strategi tersebut telah ditambah baik dengan the introduction of... *kawan saya dah nok keluar dah...* The introduction of new Ministry, ...*baruk nak masuk introduction of new Ministry.* Okay, strategi tersebut telah diperkenalkan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat kita dan telah terbukti berkesan dan kita telah menambah pendapatan kita.

And the list of achievement, it is endless, okay. The list of benefits to the *rakyat* is endless *disebabkan oleh strategi yang telah diletakkan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.* Now, *dan usaha oleh Menteri dan Timbalan-timbalan Menteri kita.*

Now the second point, the provision to increase to a maximum number of from. Itu hanya *provision* dan ianya mungkin ditambah kepada empat ataupun tiga ataupun dua ataupun satu *but it is the sole discretion of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.* Tetapi kita yakin dengan penjelasan saya yang awal tadi apa pun keputusan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier kita dengan *result* yang telah ditunjukkan, apa juga keputusan beliau untuk menambah akan disokong penuh oleh Dewan yang mulia ini. Dan saya ingin membawa satu terma yang saya rasa begitu *alien to the two members which is from* Padungan dan Pending, yang *baruk jak* keluar.

"The term is teamwork". *Teamwork* lah yang telah memastikan kejayaan kita sehingga apa yang kita lihat pada hari ini dan kesemua kementerian itu memainkan peranan yang sama penting dengan Kementerian Kewangan seperti yang dinyatakan oleh Yang Berhormat daripada Padungan tadi, bagi beliau yang penting hanya Kementerian Kewangan. Jadi di sini, sah beliau sendiri mengatakan Kementerian Pengangkutan tidak penting, Tuan Speaker. Kementerian Pengangkutan Malaysia tidak penting di mata Yang Berhormat Padungan, beliau sendiri yang telah mengatakan tadi hanya Kementerian Kewangan sahaja yang penting. Jadi terima kasih kepada Yang Berhormat Padungan kerana telah menjelaskan dengan begitu jelas sekali kepada kita tentang pandangan beliau tentang kementerian-kementerian lain mungkin yang dimaksudkan kementerian di peringkat Persekutuan.

Dan *point* saya yang keempat, *ketigakah? Keempat tek owh?* Keempat. Mereka mengatakan, *it is not always bigger is better.* Tetapi mereka tidak faham tentang konsep *investment.* *Investment* yang telah diletakkan oleh pemimpin-pemimpin kita, *investment* yang telah diletakkan dalam pembentukan kabinet, *investment* yang telah diletakkan kepada kementerian-kementerian yang pergi ke seluruh dunia untuk memastikan pulangan *investment* kepada Sarawak. *Investment* yang telah memastikan bahawa anak Sarawak akan merasa RM650 juta dalam sektor pendidikan sahaja. Itulah *investment* yang telah kita letakkan dan *it is wise for us to invest more, for us to get more in the future not for us but for the rakyat.*

Tuan Speaker, like I said, unfortunately, some may still hold narrow views, claiming that the expanding of cabinet is unnecessary and is merely a political exercise benefiting a few. Others argue that because Sarawak has a smaller population, so we do not need a larger cabinet. Such thinking is outdated.

Jadi Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, Tuan Speaker Sarawak today stands at a threshold of transformative era. And our development ambitions are larger, our opportunities greater, and our responsibilities heavier than before. This Bill is not merely an amendment to the constitution. It is a forward-looking step to ensure that our administrative machinery remains robust, responsive, and ready to serve the people.

Dengan itu saya mohon menyokong, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Batu Kitang.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Kheng Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for this opportunity to debate the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Although brief, this Bill is constitutionally important. It seeks to strengthen the machinery of our State Government by inserting a new Article 6 (3)(c), allowing the Yang di-Pertuan Negeri, on the advice of the Premier to appoint up to four additional members to the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri.

Following the increase of elected members from 82 to 99, the administrative and constituency workload has grown significantly. Unlike Deputy Ministers, whose numbers have no constitutional limit, the number of full ministers is capped. This amendment provides the necessary flexibility to organise the cabinet effectively in line with Sarawak's expanding responsibilities.

Honourable Tuan Speaker, I note with interest the comments and concerns raised by Members for Pending and Padungan. Allow me to respond to their points in turn, and to clarify why this Amendment is not only justified but necessary for Sarawak's continued progress.

On the claim that increasing ministers contradicts government efforts to streamline civil servants and agencies. Let me say this, both Members raised the argument that if Sarawak is reducing duplication within agencies, then it is contradictory to increase the number of ministers.

Tuan Speaker, this stems from a misunderstanding of governance. Streamlining the civil service is about improving operational efficiency, merging overlapping functions and modernising processes.

However, increasing ministers is about strengthening leadership capacity at the top, ensuring that the expanded responsibilities of our government are properly led, coordinated and delivered.

A ship can streamline its engine room. But the bridge, where leadership stands, must remain strong, focused, and sufficiently staffed.

Sarawak today is not a small vessel anymore. We are, for all practical purposes, the size of an entire nation. We cannot run a ship of this size with too few hands on the wheel.

On the suggestion that deputy ministers are sufficient and ministers are not overworked. The Member for Padungan asked *"Who among you feels overloaded? No one admitted."*

Tuan Speaker, ministers do not come to this august House to declare that they are burdened. That is not how public office works. Silence is professionalism, silence is discipline; and silence is respect for the offices we hold.

When I was Chairman of the Padawan Municipal Council for 13 years, I realised that I never asked for once how many days of leave I have. I just continue working for 13 years and until today I don't know how many leave I have for a year.

Lack of public complaint does not mean the workload is light. Many ministers today oversee a few major portfolios. Some oversee vast development corridors, enormous infrastructure programmes. They are getting bigger and more sophisticated, or major policy transformation, as the people grow, their demand grow as well. In a region as large and complex as Sarawak, this is unprecedented.

Deputy ministers support, but they do not carry the full legal, political, or strategic responsibility of Ministers. They do not lead federal negotiations. They do not chair cabinet committees, and they do not sign off the final decisions that shape the future of Sarawak.

Therefore, Honourable Members, deputy ministers cannot replace full ministers. Their roles are different by design.

On the assertion that long winding-up speeches show inefficiency. Honourable Member for Pending suggested that long speeches reflect inefficiency. With respect, long speeches reflect long portfolios, portfolios that have grown far beyond what a single minister can reasonably cover. What a Minister can cover 20 years ago cannot be covered today.

A minister reporting on tourism, sports, and youth; or on utilities, energy, and telecommunications; or on education, innovation, and talent development, naturally has an extensive list of responsibilities to report.

If we want clarity and focus, then we must ensure portfolios are not overloaded. The way to do that is by increasing the number of full Ministers, each with a more targeted mandate. This Bill achieves exactly that.

Tuan Speaker, on the suggestion that backbenchers support the Bill for personal ambition the Member for Pending implied that backbenchers support this amendment because they expect to be appointed.

Tuan Speaker, motives should never be attributed without evidence. The Premier appoints ministers not the backbenchers themselves. Backbenchers support this Bill because they understand the realities on the ground: the need for better representation in rural areas, the expanding economic agenda, and the growing responsibilities under MA63. Backbenchers support this because Sarawak needs a cabinet structure that matches the scale of our ambitions and the complexity of our governance.

On the point that the Premier is the most overworked, not the ministers. Both Honourable Members (Pending and Padungan) acknowledge that the Premier carries the heaviest load. And I agree. But if the Premier is carrying an enormous burden, then the most responsible thing we can do as a government is to strengthen the leadership structure around him, strengthen the leadership structure around Premier not weaken it. Increasing the number of ministers ensures that responsibilities are better distributed, that decisions are supported by clearer oversight, and that the Premier can focus on the major strategic reforms that will shape Sarawak's future. This Bill strengthens the Premier's hand. It does not burden it.

Tuan Speaker, on the concern that nearly half of the ADUNs hold some form of administrative role. The Honourable Member for Padungan raised a percentage — 47.5% — to suggest that this is excessive. But this statistic is misleading. Deputy ministers and ministers hold different roles. Deputy ministers assist: ministers lead. Deputies sit in administrative meetings, but they do not carry the authority of full ministers. More importantly, Sarawak is not Penang, Perlis, or Melaka. Sarawak is almost the size of the entire Peninsular.

Penang is 120 times smaller than Sarawak but it also has 11 full ministers. 120 times smaller than Sarawak with 11 full ministers, Penang. Our geography, our population distribution, and our economic agenda demand a cabinet structure far more robust than that of compact states. Counting posts without context cannot reflect the scale of Sarawak's responsibilities.

Tan Sri Speaker, on the claim that success in hydrogen and green industries comes from civil servants and not ministers. The Honourable Member for Pending credited engineers and civil servants, I must feel proud, because I'm an engineer. Thank you to Pending. And she is right to do so. They form the backbone of our implementation. But civil servants execute policy. Ministers craft, negotiate, fund, and lead the policy.

Sarawak's achievements in hydrogen, CCS, renewable energy, and green mobility did not happen by accident. They required:

- (a) International negotiation;
- (b) Regulatory frameworks;

- (c) Large-scale investments;
- (d) Safety standards;
- (e) Infrastructure planning;
- (f) Political will at the highest level; and
- (g) Ministerial leadership working alongside our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.

Civil servants and engineers are vital but without strong ministerial direction, Sarawak could never have become an Asian leader in hydrogen technology.

On the Honourable Member for Padungan's argument that streamlining SOEs should mean fewer Ministers. This is a misunderstanding of two entirely separate reforms. SOEs are consolidated to improve financial performance and reduce duplication. Ministers are increased to improve policy leadership and governance. One is a business decision.

The other is a constitutional and strategic decision. Consolidating SOEs requires stronger, not weaker, ministerial oversight especially as those SOEs become larger, more complex, and more strategic. There is no contradiction. The contradiction only appears when unrelated concepts are mixed together to confuse everybody.

On whether this amendment is justified, Honourable Tuan Speaker, the answer is clear. Today, our Premier is leading Sarawak in renewable energy, digital economy, hydrogen technology, fiscal strength, and MA63 implementation. We have RM13 billion - RM14 billion in revenue, the highest among Malaysian regions.

We are building mega-infrastructure across rural and urban areas alike. We are coordinating international partnerships from Japan to Korea to Europe.

A cabinet that once served a simpler Sarawak is no longer sufficient for the scale, complexity, and ambition of Sarawak today. This amendment is not about titles or perks. It is about capacity, clarity, and delivery. It is about ensuring that every major sector has a focused Minister with the time and authority to deliver results for the people.

Honourable Tan Sri Datuk Amar Speaker, Sarawak is growing. Our responsibilities are growing. Our expectations are growing. Our people expectations are growing every day. Our cabinet must grow accordingly.

This amendment strengthens Sarawak. It strengthens our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier. It strengthens our governance structure and most importantly, it strengthens our ability to deliver for our people. In short, this Bill enables our government to function efficiently, respond to growing demands and uphold the highest standard expected of a modern and capable administration. I beg to support. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Repok.

YB Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker kerana memberi ruang kepada saya untuk turut serta bersama Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dalam Dewan yang mulia ini bagi membahaskan Rang Undang-undang, *Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025*.

Hari ini, kita bukan hanya membincangkan satu pindaan teknikal namun satu keputusan politik yang penting bagi menentukan hala tuju masa depan Sarawak yang kita sayangi bersama-sama.

Saya berdiri untuk menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap Rang Undang-undang ini kerana ia bukan sahaja memperkukuh struktur pentadbiran Kerajaan Negeri, tetapi kedaulatan politik Sarawak dalam mengurus kepentingan sendiri. This Bill is not just a legal adjustment, but it is a statement of confidence in Sarawak's rising political and economic position.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak sedang bergerak dalam gelombang transformasi yang belum pernah berlaku sebelum ini. Kejayaan kita dalam ekonomi digital, tenaga boleh baharu, pembangunan luar bandar dan keselamatan makanan bukanlah suatu kebetulan, tetapi hasil keputusan politik yang berani serta berpandangan jauh. Kejayaan sebegini memerlukan tanggungjawab pentadbiran yang semakin besar dan kompleks.

Hari ini kita melihat menteri yang memegang dua portfolio, malah ada yang menggalas tiga. This is not just a matter of workload, as this is a matter of political efficiency and strategic governance. Kita perlukan portfolio yang lebih berfokus, lebih tersusun dan lebih kuat supaya setiap sektor kritikal dapat dilaksanakan dengan lebih tepat dan berkesan.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak mempunyai aspirasi besar untuk menjadi negeri berpendapatan tinggi serta peneraju ekonomi hijau serantau menjelang 2030. Visi ini bukan slogan politik malah ia adalah komitmen yang sedang kita laksanakan hari demi hari. Kita memerlukan struktur pentadbiran yang mampu melaksanakan transformasi, bukan sekadar, merancang atas kertas. Pindaan ini memastikan Sarawak mempunyai kapasiti institusi yang sepadan dengan impian rakyatnya. We are building a government that matches our ambitions.

Kepimpinan Premier Sarawak hari ini adalah kepimpinan yang tegas, progresif dan berani melakukan pembaharuan. Pindaan ini menunjukkan komitmen politik dalam memastikan Kerajaan Negeri terus menjadi *a strong, competent and forward-looking administration*.

Tuan Speaker, pada akhirnya, rang undang-undang ini adalah langkah strategik untuk mengangkat Sarawak ke aras kemajuan yang lebih tinggi. Kita sedang membina bukan sahaja sebuah kerajaan untuk hari ini, tetapi satu sistem yang kukuh demi masa depan politik, ekonomi dan sosial Sarawak.

Aspirasi pembangunan ekonomi Sarawak adalah ke arah peringkat *regional* dan global. Sarawak akan terus dimajukan khusus untuk kemakmuran rakyat Sarawak. Dalam masa yang sama, Sarawak juga dimajukan sebagai *the Star of Asean*.

Tuan Speaker, maka, dengan semangat keyakinan terhadap masa depan Sarawak, dengan komitmen yang tidak berbelah bahagi kepada aspirasi, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier Sarawak dan dengan tekad politik untuk memastikan Kerajaan Negeri sentiasa berada pada tahap terbaik, *I strongly support the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment), Bill 2025*. Sekian, terima kasih.

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

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Tuan Speaker, terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat. Kesemuanya ada 23 orang Ahli Yang Berhormat yang telah mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan sekali gus menyokong dan ada dua orang yang telah mengatakan secara peribadi mereka tidak menyokong. Jadi, daripada 23, 21 orang Ahli Yang Berhormat telah *expressly indicate that they are supporting the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025*. Saya mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat daripada Pelagus, Tamin, Balingian, Meluan, Tellian, Katibas, Opar, Murum, Kalaka, Telang Usan, Daro, Tebedu, Lingga, Engkilili, Stakan, Pending, Ba'Kelalan, Padungan, Bawang Assan, Kota Sentosa, Tupong, Batu Kitang dan yang terakhir daripada Repok, yang telah ikut sama untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-undang ini dan memberi sokongan ataupun tidak memberi sokongan dan pada masa yang sama memberi pandangan-pandangan yang bernas.

Secara umumnya, Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bersetuju dan menyokong rang undang-undang ini dan memahami hasrat dan tujuan kenapa rang undang-undang ini digubal. Saya amat

menghargai segala cadangan dan idea-idea bernas, *the ideas that have been put forward*, yang telah dikemukakan, oleh setiap Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dalam perbahasan mereka.

Memang kalau kita lihat bukan mudah untuk mengangkat ataupun membangunkan seseorang pemimpin, sama juga apabila kita menjadi seorang ibu, seorang bapa, *there is a need for us to groom up*, anak-anak kita yang membesar itu, hantar mereka ke sekolah dan sebagainya, sama juga dalam kerjaya politik. Saya percaya dan *it is a reflection all of you who are the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat* juga melalui proses itu.

Apabila kita baru diangkat menjadi seorang Ahli Yang Berhormat *our first year we will still be* tergetar-getar juga, apabila diletak depan orang ramai. Begitu juga apabila seseorang itu diangkat menjadi seorang menteri, menteri muda ataupun pada masa ini menjadi timbalan menteri.

This grooming process it's does not this grooming process takes time to elevate you to be what you are. That is how I see from my own experience in politics, *dan bermentorkan ataupun melihat bagaimana perjalanan politik*, ministers that have been appointed, or deputy minister that have been appointed, none of them complaint about, *terlalu letih banyak kerja seperti apa yang dinyatakan oleh pihak dua orang yang daripada Pending dan Padungan yang ada mengatakan mungkin letih dan sebagainya*. No! None of us, none of us will claim that this hefty workload It comes from you...*(Interruption)...**(Inaudible)...* I jot it down here, hefty workload...*(Interruption)...**(Inaudible)...* It's okay, Ahli Yang Berhormat. Ya...*(Interruption)...**(Inaudible)...*

Tuan Speaker: Ahli Yang Berhormat Padungan, you have said your piece, let the minister have his piece.

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): There is no issue of hefty workload, *saya percaya sekiranya seorang Ahli Yang Berhormat, ataupun seorang timbalan menteri ataupun seorang menteri itu merasakan bahawa kerjanya terlalu berat*, The Honourable way would be to step down, the Honourable way would be to step down, and don't be a Politician, let others come up. That is the reason how that should be. There is no issue of hefty workload, but time has changed, things has changed through the years. *Kalau kita lihat kali terakhir pindaan kepada Perlembagaan Sarawak diadakan berkenaan dengan jumlah komposisi MMKN ataupun Ahli yang menjadi Ahli Kabinet*, the common word that we use, MMKN, *Ahli Kabinet* was 30 years ago. The scenario 30 years ago and the scenario now has change. It's has been mentioned by Honourable Member for Bawang Assan, it has been mentioned by Honourable Member for Batu Kitang and more, many of the others. Thing has change. We are more focus, we are very blessed having our Right Honourable Premier leading the way and our reserve.

Dana kita has balloon up from what it is before, or from what it is 30, 40 years ago. So we need more capable Ministers and to get anyone to be very capable like that, there has to be a lot of grooming. That is the reason why we need deputy ministers. I'm very very blessed I have got, *bukan mahu nak mengangkat* down here, I'm very very blessed, I've got very capable deputy ministers, very, very capable Permanent Secretary and teams down here, which we regularly discuss and I believe is not just the ministry that I'm having where we are having that kind of personnels whether as deputy ministers or civil servant, all the other ministries are having the same kind of personnels who are so dedicated and passionate in looking after the ministry. So, time has change as had been mentioned by most of you, *seperti apa yang telah dikatakan oleh Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang membahaskan Rang Undang-undang*, time has change, we need to be more focus, we need to be, *lebih maju ke hadapan terutama sekali lagi apabila kita bertembung dengan keadaan yang berubah pada masa ini*.

At this, *kalau kita lihat 30 tahun dahulu, 40 tahun dahulu*, nobody talk about renewable energy, nobody discusses about hydrogen, green energy *ataupun berkenaan dengan* environment. When we pen the Malaysian Agreement in 1963, there was not even a discussion on tourism on environment. That is why the subject matter, *kalau kita lihat* its not even in the federal list, it's not

even in the state list, it's not even in the concurrent list because these are issues which are not even in the know at that time. Sama juga dengan apa yang kita lihat pada hari ini. Digital economy, spectrum, laptop... laptop, computer only comes in early or late 70's.

I still remember when I was in University, *belum ada lagi* laptop. Handphone only came in the early 90's. With all these changes, in what we are facing now, we need to have more focus. Ministers who are more qualified, *yang tahu tentang perubahan-perubahan dan sebab itulah kita memerlukan, kita memerlukan menteri-menteri*, personnel, *timbangan-timbangan menteri yang berkeupayaan* and that, we don't have any qualm about having as many as possible. But one this is which everyone needs to agree, I believe, whether they are from the opposition or whether they are from the government side. Kalau kita hendak membesarkan, kalau kita hendak menambahkan, kalau kita hendak menaikkan gaji dan elaun, *we must have the capability to bayar gaji-gaji and that is what we have now*. We are very, very proud as what I have been mentioned by the Right Honourable Premier.

Kalau dahulu berapa bilion yang ada, sekarang berapa bilion? *I still remember, the late Tun Taib, the last end of his career as the Chief Minister*, bila nak menaikkan gaji masa itu, bila nak menaikkan gaji *Members of the Administration*, ADUN-ADUN, *there was a study been made of the regional* Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia dan sebagainya. Gaji-gaji, baru keputusan dibuat. And at that time, I still remember *lagi*, very fresh in my mind, *bila kita naikkan, walaupun jumlah yang dinaikkan itu agak besar*, it was objected to, very much by the opposition at that time, *gaji nak besar*. Not for the benefit of Right Honourable the late Pehin Seri Taib at that time because it was before he let go of his rank as the Chief Minister. But that increase in the *gaji* and perks dan amount only 0.02%.

Kalau tak silap saya, if I am not mistaken, that increase is only 0.02%, there is nothing wrong, whether you are in the Corporate sector, whether you are in the government sector, if you are able to bring in, *banyak dana-dana*, there is nothing wrong in paying highly. That happened everywhere, look at Singapore. Singapore Prime Minister is one of the highest paid in the world, nobody complaint. That is where Sarawak, *saya dapat melihat*, we have got the capability to pay and when we have the capability to pay, we pay. It benefits the government side, it also benefits the opposition side. Gaji naik semua, peruntukan naik. That is how we look at this kind of thing. Saya merasakan amat bangga sekali dengan sokongan-sokongan, tapi jangan dilihat secara negatif. Setiausaha Politik amat besar, Timbalan Menteri amat besar jumlahnya. Well, as what I mentioned just now, it takes many many years to mould somebody into a leader, to mould somebody into a good minister. I wouldn't be able to speak this way if I had not gone through that 20 years of being in politic. Those who knows me in my first term, *pertama kali, saya dapat merasakan bahawa janggal untuk berucap sama ada dalam Dewan ataupun di luar Dewan*. All of us went through that phase. That is why, there is nothing wrong in grooming up, letak dalam satu ministries, *letak dua orang timbalan menteri*, its grooming, grooming leaders and these are the leaders that will be guiding Sarawak to greater height in future. Yang Amat Berhormat Premier will not be there forever, all of us down here who are being ministers will not be here forever. We have to groom up. Whoever we groom up, the younger YB's, sometimes we will have to bring them up to become *timbangan menteri daripada timbalan menteri*. Insya-allah, *mungkin satu hari* if they are able to show proof that they are good, trustworthy, they will be elevated to become full ministers. It is a cycle. it is a cycle that all of us have got to bear.

Jadi, tujuan Rang Undang-undang ini diadakan sedikit sebanyak adalah sama untuk memastikan perjalanan pentadbiran negeri. Many of you have raise it up, Sarawak is all different. Would you want to compare yourself to the other states? Semenanjung Malaysia, Malaya has got nine state. Ehh *plus* Penang dengan Melaka. If I am not mistaken nine, nine Sultanate, 11 *semua dengan Wilayah*. Wilayah is not a state, 11. Kalau kita lihat, tiap-tiap negeri itu ada 10 Exco. Kalau 11, *that means* berapa orang? 110 orang Exco *which is equivalent to* macam Menteri kita. Why are we not making noise? Sarawak is *satu sama besar dengan* the whole of West Malaysia.

We are just increasing it from 10 to 14. There is nothing wrong, we are able to *bayar gaji-gaji, elaun* and of course when we set up new ministries what will follow through will be the *pentadbiran*.

There will be new Permanent Secretary, there will be new agencies, yang part *bawah*, that gives a lot of opportunities to Sarawakian to be able to work up their way.

Jangan terhad kepada apa yang ada pada hari ini. It's nothing wrong and in the event, in the event, *yang kita katakan itu adalah 10 plus empat jadi 14, dengan Premier 15*. We are able to afford it. If in the event that *satu hari nanti Perang Dunia Ketiga*, we don't need 15. The prerogative is up to the Premier at that moment of time, whether he want to just bring down the number of his cabinet to just five, six or seven or ten.

This is quite fluid because the need now as you can see with the leadership of the Right Honourable Premier, the need is there for a bigger number because of the things that we are facing now. We have not hear of green energy before. Even myself when Premier come up with carbon storage, carbon credit, I was asking myself, *apa Premier tok kelaka hal karbon, karbon tok*. You see, we have to learn. Things have changed quite a lot and we need more people to follow through to give that transition to the existing government and also to lead the government to greater height.

Jadi, there is no issue of over-bloated cabinet. There is no issue of 14 too many. If 14 is too many, you tell me. What is the perfect number? Is it 11, 10?. It depends. Two? Probably if DAP were to take over the government in the event that they are able to win, should there be only the Premier and five ministers? No. So that is why. But I don't blame them. They are also my friend. If I'm in the opposition, I might be doing the same thing also. Well, but just now, when they were giving the debate, I know deep inside them, they might be supporting us.

But they have to do it. Somehow, *apabila mereka membuat perbahasan, malam tadi Harith Iskandar was the stand-up comedian. Bila saya dengar pun macam dengar stand-up comedian punya jenaka. Minta maaf ha*. I don't mean this, but well as I mentioned, it depends on the budget that we have. We are able to bulldoze through *bawa lebih ramai lagi MMKN members dan juga Ahli-ahli timbalan kepada menteri-menteri*.

It's not an issue of the State Government, the cabinet big, it's beautiful. But of course, there's no point in having too big if it's redundant. At the moment, the needs is there. The needs is there. Anywhere that you go, you feel proud. I just got back from Europe, my longest official trip actually. 19 days in three cities. And I feel so proud. Them, those that welcome us, Barcelona, they make arrangement, three ministers jumpa and I feel so proud.

You know the team they want, they only want to work with Sarawak. We want to collaborate with Sarawak. Even Barcelona FC allow me to see them, the President, the Deputy President and they gave Barcelona punya, I'm a supporter of Liverpool. Barcelona punya t-shirt, with the Abang Jo there and the other one, Sarawak. Given by the top management, you know. It's not easy to see the President, the Deputy President, the Chairman of Barcelona and they say they want to have collaboration with Sarawak, not with others, as the gateway to go to the Far East. How do you feel when you are in that kind of situation?

When the Minister of Finance and Economy, Catalonia, instead of me going to the office, she came to the hotel to have breakfast with me and the team. That is how people look at Sarawak now and it's not because of me. It's because of how the *pentadbiran* has lifted us up to what it is now. *Kita rasa bangga dan kita berasa amat terima kasih dengan Yang Amat Berhormat, bukan nak ngangkat*. But that is where it is. You go to Semenanjung Malaysia, you go elsewhere, *semua macam itu*. That is how it, it is an honour to serve. And we feel proud when we are given that opportunity to serve at this era, in this moment of time, we feel so proud to be called Sarawakian and to be able to be part of this cabinet, to be part of this *pentadbiran*.

Jadi, I wouldn't speak more. Tuan Speaker, I wish to reiterate that *Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri* must continue to evolve in step with Sarawak growth and aspiration of its people.

The proposed amendment is a reflection of our commitment to strengthen the capacity of the Sarawak Government so that it can better serve the people and meet the evolving needs of every part of Sarawak. I don't need to reply *ataupun* comment on each and every one of what I had been commented by Yang Berhormat from Padungan as well as Yang Berhormat from Pending.

Once again, I wish to thank Members of this august House who have debated on this very important Constitutional Bill, amendment bill, not often do we amend the Constitution. The last time we amend on this particular clause on the composition of those in the Cabinet or MMKN was 30 years ago. 30 years ago, 1995. Even though there is addition now the prerogative is to the CEO of the State. The CEO is the Premier. Its up to him whether he wants to increase it now, whether he wants to increase it after the election, Insya-Allah, and to come up, or whether he wants to decrease it, we leave it to him. That is how we have been looking after managing the state. It does not mean that if there is an increase of four, it must be an increase of four. The prerogative is given to the Right Honourable Premier. And I believe the Right Honourable Premier has lead us on the right path as I had mentioned, as you all have also feel, anywhere you go, you feel proud to be called Sarawakian.

I have seen, I have got so many friends from West Malaysia, even judges. They say, when we retire, we want to apply for Sarawak PR. We want to go to Sarawak. I think you all must have, a lot of you must have heard of this. And I'm very, very sure our two friends down here from Pending and Padungan, must have heard about that also. How beautiful it was to be living in this state. Ya. So on this note, Tuan Speaker, once again, I would like to thank all Honourable Members for your participation in expressing constructive views and suggestions while debating this Bill. Terima kasih. Thank you. *(Applause)*

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

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

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

COMMITTEE STAGE

Tuan Speaker: The Dewan will now resolve into the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill which stands committed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now consider the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Clauses 1 and 2

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that Clauses 1 and 2 are ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as are of the opinion say "Yes".

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

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Yes" have it. Clauses 1 and 2 are ordered to be part of the Bill.

Enacting Clauses and Title

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now resume.

HOUSE RESUMED

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the Constitution of the State of Sarawak (Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without amendment.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Ya.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: The Bill being a Bill that seeks to amend the Constitution, shouldn't it be put on record of vote counting instead of just by voice vote. Although I know alright you have a, GPS has an overwhelming 80 to 2 majority but the procedures for passing a Bill which amend, which seeks to amend the Constitution which is the supreme law of the State, I think the least that you should accord the respect to the House, the dignity of the Bill, the Constitution of Sarawak, is to have a vote counting, instead of just by voice vote.

Tuan Speaker: We can count the vote but not the division.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I'm not asking for division.

Tuan Speaker: No division.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I just said that the proper procedure for amendment of the Bill or a Constitution must be complied with.

Tuan Speaker: Okay. The Secretary can count the vote. The Secretary can count the vote. Alright. Those who are in favour of the Motion in the name of the Honourable Minister, please raise your hands.

Tuan Speaker: Mr. Secretary, you count.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, there are I think at least five of the GPS Members are not here, all right, five, 80 including Honourable Member of Batu Lintang and all these lah, 80 minus five at most 74, 75. Come on, we have to do this properly, procedurally. Procedurally, you have to do it properly. You can't just push bulldoze like that. Five of the GPS Members are not here. So, let it be counted and let it be recorded who is absent, who is present. Because this concerns of the amendment of Constitution of the State.

Tuan Speaker: Just count the number of vote in favour.

Setiausaha Dewan: 74.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, 74 Honourable Members in favour, two against who just more than two third because two third is 55. The motion is carried. Honourable Minister, proceed to third reading.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF SARAWAK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

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

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

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

Tuan Speaker: As many as are of the contrary opinion say "No". 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

BUILDING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Prof. Dr Sim Kui Hian): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be now read for a second time.

Tuan Speaker: Proceed.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Prof. Dr Sim Kui Hian): Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is moving towards a greener and more resilient future. For this reason, our laws and regulatory frameworks must evolve in tandem with the fast-changing sustainability standards and the landscapes of modern construction. The Building Ordinance 1994 (Cap.8) was last amended in 2004.

Therefore, our initiative to update the ordinance reflects our commitment to ensure that the development in Sarawak remains modern, safe and fully aligned with sustainability standards. This Bill aims to ensure that the regulatory framework remains aligned with current and emerging trends in the building industry. Recognising the need for stronger deterrence and better compliance, the bill also seeks to update the penalty provisions to ensure that appropriately reflects the severity of offences under the ordinance in achieving smart and sustainable cities guided by PCDS 2030, which will ensure development policies benefit both urban and rural communities across Sarawak.

This Bill modernises the law to include new regulatory, safety and sustainability standards for today's building industry. By doing so, it supports Sarawak's goal of achieving a green and resilient economy through responsible construction and sustainable urban development, as well as introduces green building requirements that promote energy efficiency, resource conservation and eco-friendly design.

Tuan Speaker, the ceiling features of the Bill are as follows:

Establishment of the Sarawak Building Board and Sarawak Building Board Fund

This Bill provides establishment of a body corporate to be known as Sarawak Building Board (SBB). The function of the Board among others are to regulate, oversees, coordinate building practices in Sarawak.

Promote consistency among local authorities and ensure local practices and technical standards meet national and international requirements for the building industry.

The Sarawak Building Board fund will be established to finance, research, training, digital system, technical infrastructure that supports enforcement and compliance. It may also fund capacity building programs for local authorities, professional certifications and green buildings initiatives. These mechanisms ensures that revenues from registrations or licensing fees can be utilized into improving the quality and safety of Sarawak's build environment.

Requirement of Environmental Sustainability and Green Building Practices

The Bill strengthened Sarawak PCDS 2030 on environmental sustainability effort by codifying green building practices. It introduces requirements relating to environmental sustainability including compliance with approved green building rating tools as maybe set up in regulations and imposed by the relevant authorities when considering building development.

The Bill also requires green building certification bodies and practitioners to be registered with the Board before they can operate in Sarawak. This ensures that all green buildings assessment and certification are carried out by qualified and accountable professionals and are regulated accordingly.

The Bill also provides further appointment of a Registrar and Deputy Registrar of green buildings who are responsible for maintaining records, approving certifications and monitoring compliance. These establishes a transparent and accountable governance structure on green buildings certification within the State.

Sarawak Building Legal Framework will adopt the best international practices by aligning with global standards which will mitigate environmental risks such as reducing carbon emissions and global warming effect.

Legal governance on the green buildings and its certification, strengthen public trust, ensuring confidence in the reliability and standards of certified practices. I am proud to announce that this is the first Law that regulates the green building and its certification in Malaysia in line with state government initiatives under the stewardship of our visionary YAB Premier on the environmental sustainability.

Registration, Conduct and Discipline of Qualified Person, Accredited Checkers and Green Buildings Practitioners

Lastly, Tuan Speaker, Registration, Conduct and Discipline of Qualified Person, Accredited Checkers and Green Buildings Practitioners. This Bill strengthens and regulates framework governing professionals involved in building works and mandate the registration, regulations and disciplinary control of architects, engineers and other qualified persons involved in building design in the supervision of construction activities. It also introduces the registration and regulate the practice of accredited checkers who are independent and responsible for checking structural designs and ensuring the construction compliance with the building plan. This provide the second tier of technical scrutiny and enhances overall public safety assurance. The Bill empowers the Board to formulate the disciplinary framework to undertake any disciplinary action against any qualified person and accredited checkers for any misconduct and impose penalties. This will ensure accountability out of professional standards and protect the public interest.

Authorisation to Offer Compounds

The Bill empowers the local authority or an authorize person acting with a consent of public prosecutor to offer compounds on any offence for an amount not exceeding two third of the maximum prescribed fine. The compound mechanisms promote more efficiency enforcement by allowing offences to be resolved administratively considering on case-by-case basis and severity of the offence.

Revision of the First Schedule

The First Schedule of the Principal Ordinance is revised to reflect Sarawak's evolving local government structures and to ensure legal recognition of all current local authorities. The revised Schedule will now include Miri City Council, Kota Samarahan Municipal Council and the newly constitute, Gedong, Siburan and Sebuyau District Councils. These outdate adverse legal authorities and uniformity of these Councils in administering and enforcing their functions under the Ordinance.

Tuan Speaker, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), the value or work done in construction sector reach RM45.4 billion in a third quarter of 2025 posting a 10.6% increase, falling the 12.9% in growth recorded in the previous quarter. The construction value in Selangor amount to RM10.5 billion or 23.1% contributed by non-residential buildings, RM3.7 billion followed by residential building, RM3.1 billion and civil engineering RM2.5 billion sub sectors.

Meanwhile, Johor run second with a value of RM8.2 billion or 18%, primary for non-residential buildings RM3.1 billion sub sector. In the meantime, the value of work done in Sarawak was RM4.9 billion or 10.7% while Wilayah Persekutuan recorded RM4.7 billion or 10.3%. This illustrates Sarawak growing importance at the scale at which our buildings regulatory system must now operate. Study from the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) indicates that Malaysian Adoption Rate or certified green building remain below 15% of new development compare to above 40% in a country such as Singapore and Australia. Therefore, by establishing a clear system of certification, registration and professional framework, this will position Sarawak to accelerate green adoption and strengthen our transition toward a sustainable built environment in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, this build equips Sarawak with insinuate instrument needed to drive more modern, safe and sustainable development for our future generations. I hereby urge Member for this august House to give their full support for this Bill. I beg to move, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Premier. Another Minister to second, please.

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

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I shall now call upon Honourable Members of this august House to debate on Second Reading. Second Reading of the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025, any Honourable Member wants to speak. Understanding Order 31(8), I shall impose a limit of speeches 15 minutes. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Batu Lintang.

YB Encik See Chee How: Thank you Tuan Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate on this Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

I must commend the Honourable Deputy Premier, Honourable Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Governments, Honourable Member from N.14 Batu Kawah and the Sarawak Government for coming up with this Amendment Bill, 2025 to amend the Buildings Ordinance 1994.

Please allow me to refer first to Clause 3(h) of this proposed Buildings (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and I pray for leave to refer particularly to the definition of green building.

Green buildings matter, because, before the concept of ecological architecture was introduced in the 1960s, the energy crisis in the 70s, culminating to the concept of sustainable development of buildings took hold in the 80s, with the United Kingdom introducing the world's first green building standards in 1990, the establishment of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green buildings rating system later in the 1900s to create a central framework for codifying and verifying the effective implementation of green building practices in the late 90s, and that was just 30 years ago, it was then estimated that buildings account for 40% of the world's energy use and consume 75% of the electricity that the world produced. And alarmingly, the building sector accounts for more than one third of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

It is therefore pertinent for all countries around the world that are committed to reduce carbon emission, to mitigate climate change, that they must look at all buildings which are recognized as one key sector that can contribute to carbon reduction strategies.

Hence, our Honourable Tuan Speaker has rightly lay emphasis and said: *"You cannot just have a building painted green to qualify it as a green building"*. Indeed, there is much more to a green building, and we must get it right, from this very outset, to define and set out what a green building entails, and what does Sarawak wants, as *"green building"*.

In this Amendment Bill, it is proposed to define a *"green building"* as *"a building that is environmentally responsible throughout its entire life cycle from planning to demolition"*.

While *"environmental responsibility"* is broad and comprehensive, it is also abstract and ambiguous.

I must therefore humbly suggest that the *"green building"* be defined with more clarity and lucidness, giving emphasis to incorporate measures that are environmentally friendly and resource-efficient across the building lifecycle.

In Malaysia, at the Federal level, there is no single, mandatory statutory definition for a *"green building"* that is uniformly applied in law. Instead, the concept is primarily guided by the supportive framework of policies, plans and incentives, and a voluntary industry-developed rating systems, the Green Building Index (GBI), which defines a green building as one that increases the efficiency of resource use (energy, water, and materials) while reducing the impact on human health and the environment during the entire cycle.

The Malaysian Green Building Index (GBI) is based upon the existing rating tools such as the Singapore Green Mark and the Australian Green Star system, amongst others which have been modified for the Malaysian application.

Therefore, its definition of *"green building"* is similar to that of what Singapore describes as *"a structure designed, construction, and operated to maximize resource efficiency (energy, water, and materials), reduce environmental impact, and create healthy indoor environment for occupants"*.

Similarly, Singapore's legal framework also does not provide a single, universal legal definition for a *"green building"*. Instead, it mandates specific environmental sustainability standards for certain building types through the Building Control Act (BCA) and its regulations, largely enforced through the national BCA Green Mark certification scheme.

The law defines a *"green building"* through compliance with minimum performance requirements, rather than a broad, qualitative definition. The requirements are detailed in the Code for Environmental Sustainability of Buildings and related regulations, focusing on measurable outcomes across several criteria.

Our Sarawak Building Board which is proposed to be established under the New Part 1A of the Building Ordinance 1994, according to Clause 4 of this Amendment Bill, enacting sections 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, and 2G under the principal Ordinance, should modelled after the Singapore's Building and Construction Authority (BCA), as the government agency to oversee safety, quality, inclusiveness, sustainability and productivity of the built environment sectors in Sarawak.

The BCA in Singapore, tasked by the government to champion the green building environment, introduced the Green Mark certification scheme in 2005. This rating system promotes the adoption of green building designs and technologies that improve energy efficiency and reduce buildings' impact on the environment.

Collaboration with the building industries and other relevant stakeholders, the BCA launches the first Green Building Masterplan in 2006 to increase industry efforts in environmental sustainability, with the focus on greening new buildings.

Since then, the BCA has launched the second Green Masterplan in 2009, emphasizing the greening on existing buildings through a major energy-use change, to the latest Singapore Green Building Masterplan 2021 (updated 2022) which sets out the built environment sustainability standards to achieve the BCA's low carbon credit target in 2030.

In between, together with major stakeholders, they have devised regulations, codes of practices, system of audit, the now famous Green Mark certification, mandatory energy improvement (MEI) regime to the latest Energy Efficiency Improvement Plan to reduce the building's energy use intensity (EUI), implemented this year.

That's a lot we can learn from their wealth of experience and benefit from the standards of practice, performance and audit that they have devised, in Sarawak, to achieve our targets for our green buildings.

Tuan Speaker, with those observations, I support this Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Yang Berhormat Batu Lintang. Next, I call Yang Berhormat Tamin, please.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Thank you Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to join the debate on the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 tabled by the Honourable Member Deputy Premier; Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government; and also State Assemblyman for N.14 Batu Kawah. I rise this evening to express my full support for this Bill, as it represents a comprehensive reform to strengthen safety standards, professionalism, sustainability and governance within Sarawak's building and construction sector.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak's construction sector is expanding rapidly in tandem with our economic growth, new urban development, and major regional projects and rural infrastructure programmes.

However, our principal legislation the Building Ordinance 1994, is now more than 30 years old. Technical requirements, safety standards, green technology, regulatory expectations and modern building practices have evolved dramatically.

Therefore, this amendment is not more to touch-up, it is a major overhaul designed to keep Sarawak forward-looking, competitive, and well-prepared for development challenges beyond 2030.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SARAWAK BUILDING BOARD (SBB)

One of the significant features of this Bill is the establishment of the Sarawak Building Board (SBB), a new corporate body. I fully support this move for several reasons:

- (a) A centralised professional authority.

The Board will have the power to:

- (i) Determine qualifications of Qualified Persons, Accredited, Checkers, and Green Building Practitioners,
- (ii) Conduct examinations and competency assessments,
- (iii) Develop professional standards and ethics,
- (iv) Regulate the industry in an organised and transparent manner.

This will raise professional accountability and enhance public safety.

- (b) Faster and more coordinated approval processes.

A central authority removes overlapping functions and streamlines registration, accreditation, and enforcement processes.

- (c) Strengthened integrity in the building industry

With a clear disciplinary powers, the Board can act decisively against misconduct, negligence, and non-compliance. This is vital to prevent unsafe structures, unqualified design practices, and irresponsible "rubber-stamping" of documents.

Tuan Speaker,

REGULATING QUALIFIED PERSONS, ACCREDITED CHECKERS & GREEN BUILDING PRACTITIONERS

The Bill clearly stipulates that no person may practise are:

- (a) A qualified person;
- (b) An accredited checker;
- (c) A Green Building Certification Body; or
- (d) A Green Building Practitioner.

unless they are formally registered with the Board.

This is necessary to:

- (a) Protect public safety

Building design, structural analysis, geotechnical, mechanical, electrical and architectural works must be entrusted only to competent and accountable professional people.

- (b) Eliminate gaps in professional standards

Registration and assessment ensure only qualified and experienced individuals are recognised.

- (c) To elevate Sarawak's professional standards to international Benchmarks.

As a professional engineer myself, I strongly support this requirement as it prevents negligence, protects lives, and ensures technical integrity in building design.

This Bill aligns Sarawak with global best practices toward a green, low-carbon future.

Part IVA introduces:

- (i) mandatory Green Building Rating Tools;
- (ii) environmental sustainability requirements;
- (iii) registration of Green Building Practitioners; and
- (iv) appointment of the Registrar and Deputy Registrar for the Green Building.

So, this is not merely a trend, it reduces the long-term operational costs, improves energy efficiency, and positions Sarawak as a regional leader in green and sustainable buildings.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill also increases penalties significantly for:

- (a) Constructing buildings without approval,
- (b) Deviating from approval plans,
- (c) Failure to comply with instructions from local authorities,
- (d) Professional misconduct.

Penalties which were previously only RM1,000 – RM2,000, are now increased to between RM10,000 and up to RM1 million depending on the offence.

These deterrents are essential to:

- (a) Prevent negligence;
- (b) Ensure the compliance with the safety standards; and
- (c) Protect purchasers, occupants, and the general public.

This provision for compounding of offences also improves enforcement efficiency and reduces delays in prosecution.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill:

- (a) Strengthens the construction regulatory ecosystem;
- (b) Enhances public safety;
- (c) Raises professional standards;
- (d) Supports sustainable development;
- (e) Increases investors' confidence; and
- (f) Prepares Sarawak for its long-term development agenda.

It demonstrates the State Government's strong commitment to ensuring that buildings in Sarawak are safe, modern, sustainable, and future-ready.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, with the benefits, safeguards, and comprehensive reforms introduced through this Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025, I hereby state my full support for this Bill. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Yang Berhormat for Tamin. Next, I would like to call for Yang Berhormat Balingian, please.

**BUILDING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025
SARAWAK STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 24 NOVEMBER 2025**

YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for granting me this opportunity to debate the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which was tabled by the Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah.

I rise today in strong support of this Bill, which represents a major step forward in modernising Sarawak's building governance, strengthening safety, and enabling sustainable development for the State.

Tuan Speaker, a core pillar of this Bill is the establishment of the Sarawak Building Board as a statutory body with perpetual succession and corporate powers.

Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025

This is a transformative development for Sarawak because the Board will:

- (a) regulate and register qualified persons and accredited checkers;
- (b) set professional standards and codes of ethics;
- (c) oversee compliance with building laws; and
- (d) provide technical guidance and capacity-building for the industry.

With Sarawak rapidly transitioning toward a high-income, industrialised and sustainable economy, our regulatory structures must match global best practices. This Bill ensures that Sarawak's building sector becomes more professional, transparent and accountable.

The Bill signify tightens penalties for building-related offences, including unauthorised construction, deviation from approved plans, and failure to comply with directives of local authorities. Many penalties are increased from a few thousand *ringgit* to tens or even hundreds of thousands of ringgits, including daily fines for continuing offences.

These enhancements reflect the State Government's commitment to protecting lives property and investment. With major transformation projects underway across Sarawak, from smart cities to new industrial zones and rural growth centres, public safety cannot be compromised.

A stricter, clearer enforcement regime ensures that developers, contractors and professionals uphold their responsibilities.

Tuan Speaker, one of the most forward-looking features of this Bill is the introduction of Part IVA: Green Building, Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. This empowers the State to:

- (a) develop green building rating tools;
- (b) promote energy-efficient and climate-responsive buildings;
- (c) register and regulate green building certification bodies and practitioners; and
- (d) ensure environmental sustainability in the built environment.

As Sarawak positioning itself as a renewable energy powerhouse and a leading low-carbon economy in the region, this Bill supports the policy shift toward sustainability. Buildings are major consumers of energy and resources. By regulating green building practices, Sarawak will reduce long-term costs, minimise environmental impact and promote healthier living environments.

This amendment aligns with Sarawak's broader strategic goals under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill also updates numerous definitions, such as “*engineer*”, “*green building*”, “*qualified person*”, “*sewerage system*”, “*ground storey*”, “*owner*”, “*private connection pipe*”, and many more to reflect modern practice and to remove ambiguities.

In further strengthens procedural clarity by refining provisions related to submission of building plans, notices for erection or modification of buildings, requirements overseen by accredited checkers, approval conditions for local authorities.

Clearer definitions and processes lead to regulatory consistency across all levels of government. This is essential for Sarawak’s rising volume of infrastructure and private development projects, allowing smoother approvals, better compliance, and fewer disputes.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill establishes the Sarawak Building Board Fund, which enables the Board to:

- (a) Collect fees, contributions and monetary gifts;
- (b) Manage resources for regulatory and capacity-building functions;
- (c) Support training, research and enforcement; and
- (d) Operate independently in a financially sustainable manner.

This ensures the Board can carry out its duties effectively without over-dependence on annual budget allocations. This Bill is not merely an administrative amendment. It is a strategic enabler for Sarawak’s long-term economic transformation.

As we expand into new areas such as renewable energy, high-tech manufacturing, urban redevelopment and sustainable housing, the integrity of our built environment becomes a foundational requirement. A modern regulatory framework ensures that investments-public and private are protected by strong building governance. Sarawak’s ambition to become a developed, high-income and sustainable region depends on structural reforms such as this.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is comprehensive, timely and forward-looking. It enhances safety, elevates professional standards, strengthens enforcement, embraces sustainability, and supports Sarawak’s developmental aspirations.

This Bill is not merely about buildings, it is about safeguarding our people, shaping our cities, and preparing Sarawak for a resilient and prosperous future. With that, I beg to support. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat, Balingian. Next, I would like to respectively call the Yang Berhormat, Daro; please.

YB Encik Safiee bin Ahmad: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum W.B.T., Salam Sejahtera, Salam *Segulai Sejalai* serta Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

I would like to convey my highest gratitude to Tuan Speaker for granting me the floor to participate in Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which was tabled by Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Prof. Dr Sim Kui Hian, Deputy Premier; Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government; and also the Honourable Member for N.14 Batu Kawah.

Tuan Speaker, the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is a strategic and forward looking reform designed to ensure that Sarawak’s building regulatory frameworks can keep up with the State’s Rapid Economic Growth, Urban Expansion and Sustainability Ambitions pace. We have witnessed how Sarawak is undergoing unprecedented transformations through new townships, industrial hubs, renewable energy plants and smart-city infrastructure are emerging. Rural communities are being connected to essential utilities at exponential speed, investments in technology, green energy and digital industries are accelerating.

However, the law that governs our buildings, which is Sarawak Building Ordinance of 1994, a Law that was written over 30 years ago remains unchanged, where it cannot adequately addressing the complexities of modern construction, safety standards and especially environmental sustainability.

Tuan Speaker, we have to admit and recognize that Sarawak today has changed and that means our laws must change with it. Today, urban centers are densifying to accommodate the needs of the rakyat. But, our *rakyat* call for safety, efficiency and environmental responsibility. This Bill reflects modernization of the regulatory frameworks in ensuring practical and enforceable legislations that are aligned with the contemporary standards, especially for Green Building Index (GBI) standards.

Tuan Speaker, one of the Strategic Thrusts outlined in Sarawak Sustainability Blueprint 2030 is Sustainable Cities where one of the key targets is to aim to have at least 25 certified green buildings by 2030 and incorporating green features in all new government buildings from 2025. This Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 shows that Sarawak's Government commitment that aims to be the leader in green construction, renewable energy and smart urban planning, a government that's truly Walk the Talk. This Amendment Bill embeds the creating on Sarawak Building Board, a body that is responsible in registration of qualified persons and accredited checkers, and other related matters which are but not related to:

- (a) Accredite Architects and engineers qualified to certify green buildings;
- (b) Set clear criteria for what constitutes a green building; and
- (c) Prevent greenwashing, ensuring that labels are meaningful, credible and enforceable.

This proves that Sarawak is not only building for economic growth, but rather building responsibly, protecting the environment for generation to come while keeping up with the developmental needs of today.

Tuan Speaker, looking into a bigger picture, the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is aiming to ensure that Sarawak's built environment is future-ready. With the current State Government's commitment on Renewable Energy such as Green Hydrogen, this Bill aims to get Sarawak to be aligned with global trends shifting towards smart building systems. By planning ahead, we are avoiding costly retrofits and enhance the value of Sarawak's infrastructures. This allows forward-looking legal frameworks can be formed to ensure that our buildings remain efficiently functional and competitive for decades to come.

In a context of benefits to the people in a long-term, having a certified Green Building means having a safer, greener and efficient building that encompass reduced risk to life and property, lower energy costs, and healthier living and working environments. For developers and investors, this Bill provides clear guidelines and standards that reduce uncertainty, recognition for compliance with green and sustainable practices and long-term value creation through sustainable construction. In the context for Sarawak Government, this Bill strengthens governance and regulatory capacity aside from enhancing Sarawak's reputation as a modern, sustainable and investor-friendly state, ensuring Sarawak's development trajectory to be aligned with best global practices.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill serves the public interest, boosts economic growth and upholds sound governance.

The Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is the innovation in strengthening enforcement and accountability. We have to bear in mind that a law is only as strong as its enforcements. This Bill strengthens regulatory powers by enabling clearer penalties for non-compliance, transparent procedures for enforcement, inspections and audits and also compounding powers to address minor infractions efficiently. These mechanisms are not merely to punish for the sake of punishment, rather, they are intended to guarantee consistent adherence to standards, ensuring that developers and industry professionals fulfil their duties responsibly which to reinforce public confidence in the

integrity of our construction sector. This Bill Amendment provides the necessary enforcement power where it gives the law real substance and authority.

Tuan Speaker, Sections 24 to 28 of the Bill introduce a new corporate body known as the Sarawak Building Board (SBB), as stated on pages 6 to 12 of the document. While strengthening the institutional framework is a positive step, SBB raises several concerns:

(a) Overlapping powers with Local Authorities and the Fire and Rescue Department

The Sarawak Building Board (SBB) is empowered to:

- (i) Register qualified persons and accredited checkers;
- (ii) Set professional standards;
- (iii) Impose and collect fees;
- (iv) Establish rating systems; and
- (v) Enforce disciplinary actions.

However, Local Authorities (PBTs) in Sarawak already hold the statutory power to approve building plans. Creating another authority with similar or related powers may lead to a dual approval regime. Instead of facilitating, this authority (SBB) will slow down applications and increase administrative burdens.

Aside from that, the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 outlines that Sarawak Building Board (SBB) is granted the extensive powers that includes:

- (a) Borrowing money;
- (b) Acquiring and disposing of property;
- (c) Forming committees; and
- (d) Receiving donations and grants.

Given that wide and extensive powers, strong accountability mechanism is required to ensure transparency and prevent misuse. I would like to bring the attention to this august House so that the State Government can look into a comprehensive solution in implementing the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 so that no confusion can be caused to all parties.

Tuan Speaker, the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is an innovative and forward-thinking move which benefit Sarawak in a long-run. I believe, this Bill is crucial in ensuring Sarawak to be aligned with its commitments outlined in both Post COVID-19 Development Plan (PCDS) 2030 and Sarawak Sustainability Blueprint 2030, which definitely will allow Sarawak to maintain its great momentum in becoming a premier in both regional and international player.

With that being said, I stand firmly and beg to support the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat, Daro. I would like to call Yang Berhormat, Bukit Assek, next please.

YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek: Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. I would like to commend YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, Deputy Premier of Sarawak cum the Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak; and also the Honourable Member for N.14 Batu Kawah for tabling this meaningful and important Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. I rise today in showing support of the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025; a forward-thinking piece of legislation that aligns Sarawak with the global vanguard of sustainable and responsible development. This Bill is a clear statement of our intent to not just grow, but to grow wisely, ensuring our progress is resilient, safe, and harmonious with our natural environment.

My support for this Bill is firmly grounded into two transformative pillars that will shape the future of our built environment. First, the establishment of a Sarawak Building Board is a cornerstone for enhanced governance and professionalism, and this move consolidates oversight into a single authoritative body, empowering it to register, regulate, and uphold the highest standards of all building professionals. By mandating rigorous accreditation and enforcing a strict code of ethics, we are building a foundation of trust and competence, and this will systematically elevate the quality of construction across our state, ensuring that every project meets stringent safety and technical benchmark, and fostering a new era of excellence in our local industry.

Second, the bill formally embeds environmental sustainability into our construction laws through a comprehensive green building framework, and this is a visionary step that aligns our development goals with the global imperative of climate actions. The amended Bill provides for the registration of green building certification bodies and practitioners, and empowers the relevant authority to maintain compliance with the green building rating tools.

And this means that from the planning stage to the demolition, our new building will be designed to be environmentally responsible, conserving energy, reducing the carbon footprints, and minimising waste. This is not just about obtaining a certificate, it is about creating a more healthier, more efficient, and cost-effective living and working environment for all Sarawakians. It future-proofs our assets, enhances property values, and demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding our precious natural heritage for generations to come.

However Tuan Speaker, as we champion these ambitious reforms, we must pay extra attention to two technical aspects of the implementation. We must ensure robust capacity building to support our industry through this transition, providing clear guidelines and training for the new rules and standards. Furthermore, it is imperative that we vigorously ensure affordability and accessibility.

The pursuit of higher standards and sustainability must not create prohibitive costs that exclude small businesses and individual homeowners. Our goal is to uplift the entire market, making green and safe buildings an achievable standard for all Sarawakians, not a luxury for a few.

In conclusion, this Bill provides the blueprint for the modern, sustainable, and professionally excellent Sarawak. And it is a vital step forward, and I confidently urge my honourable colleagues to join me in supporting it. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Assek. Next, I would respectfully call upon Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Batu, please.

YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I rise to express my full and unwavering support for the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 tabled by the Honourable Deputy Premier of Sarawak; and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government; and also N.14 Batu Kawah.

Tuan Speaker, the last time this Ordinance was touched, it was in year 1994. That was over 30 years ago. In 1994, Sarawak was different. Bintulu (which is closer to my heart) was a different town. Samalaju was just “a vision” on a map. “*Climate Change*” was a scientific footnote, not yet a daily reality.

Today, Sarawak stands at a new frontier. Under the visionary leadership of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, we are charging towards the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030. We are talking about hydrogen, carbon capture, and about becoming a regional powerhouse of renewable energy.

You cannot build a “*First World State*” using “*Third World Laws*”. You cannot have a Green Economy if your infrastructure is regulated by a Grey Ordinance. Therefore, this Bill is not just an administrative update, it is the Legislative backbone for the physical future of Sarawak.

There are a few points.

Point 1: Safety and Accountability (the “stick”)

Tuan Speaker, my support begins with one word, safety. For too long, the penalty for illegal modification or dangerous efforts have been treated as a cost of doing business. A fine of RM1,000 is loose change for a project worth millions.

This Bill changes the game. I applaud the amendments to Section 8 and Section 9. Raising the penalty for building failures to RM1 million and imprisonment is not just a punishment, it is a deterrent. It sends a message to every developer and consultant, do not gamble with the lives of Sarawakians.

Coming from Bintulu, this hits home. We have been landslides threaten our housing estates, like the incidents in Taman Bell Hill. When the earth moves, it does not ask if you are rich or poor. I specifically welcome the new definition of “*Slope*” and the stricter penalties for Earthworks. With this amendment, the Local Authority finally has the “*teeth*” to stop dangerous hill-cutting before a tragedy happens, not just issue a small fine after the damage is done.

Point 2: Defending The Sarawak Building Board (Autonomy Versus Red Tape)

Tuan Speaker, I move to Part 1A – The Establishment of The Sarawak Building Board. I anticipate there may be voices who will argue that this creates “*Bureaucratic Bloat*”. They might ask; “*Why force our professionals to register twice? Once with the Federal Board in Kuala Lumpur and now again in Sarawak?*” Let me be clear, this is not “*Red Tape*”. This is “*Sovereign Responsibility*”.

We cannot outsource the safety of Sarawakians to Kuala Lumpur. If a slope fails in Kapit, or a building cracks in Bintulu, can we wait for a Disciplinary Board in Kuala Lumpur to schedule a hearing? No. By establishing this Board, we ensure that anyone who touches Sarawakian soil is accountable to Sarawakian Laws and subject to immediate local discipline action.

However, Tuan Speaker, while I defend the principle of the Board, I must be pragmatic about the transition. Our local professionals like our engineers in Bintulu, our architects in Sibu, they are worried about the logistics. I urge the ministry; please ensure the transition is seamless. We need a clear mechanism where existing registered professionals are absorbed efficiently. Let us regulate them for safety, not burden them with administrative delays.

Point 3: Green Building and The Cost of Living (Value Versus Cost)

Tuan Speaker, I also stand in support of the new Part IV(A) – Green Building. There is a narrative floating around that “*Green Building*” are an elitist concept that will drive up housing prices. Critics will say; “*This will make houses unaffordable for the B40 and M40*”.

Tuan Speaker, I beg to differ. This Bill actually protects the B40. We must stop looking only at the construction cost and start looking at the living cost. Who suffers most from a poorly designed house with no ventilation? Who suffers most when electricity bills skyrocket? It is the low-income family. By mandating energy efficiency under Section 24A, we ensure that a low-cost house does not become a “*high-cost trap*” with expensive monthly utility bills. We are lowering the long-term cost of living for the *rakyat*.

However, Tuan Speaker I am realistic. We know that the upfront cost (CAPEX) for developers will rise. Green materials and the new requirement for Accredited Checkers do cost money. Finally, I must speak for the home buyers. The young families in Jepak, in Kidurong and in Bintulu.

We know that Green Buildings cost more to build upfront. We know that hiring Accredited Checkers, a new requirement under Clause 3 and Clause 4 of this Bill, will add to professional fees. We know that strictly regulating Earthworks adds compliances costs.

Who pay for this? In the end, it is always the consumer. It is the *rakyat* buying their terrace house. While we demand safer and greener buildings, we must ensure that affordable housing remains exactly that affordable. If this Bill causes construction costs to spike by 20% or 30%, will risk pricing our own people out of the market.

My proposal to the Government is this; do not let this upfront cost be passed entirely to the homebuyer. I call upon the Ministry to introduce incentives. Is a developer builds affordable housing that meets these new Green Standards, give them a rebate on premium or a “*Green Lane*” for faster approvals. We must balance Sustainability with Affordability. We want our people to live in safe, green houses – but first, they must be able to afford the key.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this Bill is a necessary evolution.

- (a) To those who worry about Red Tape, I say; It is the price of Autonomy and Safety.
- (b) To those who worry about cost, I say; It is an investment in Lower Living Costs.

I support this Bill because it puts the safety of the *rakyat* above the profits of the developer. I support this Bill because it aligns our laws with our 2030 ambitions.

With these observations, Tuan Speaker, I beg to support the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Batu. Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meradong, please.

YB Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing: Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the proposed Building (Amendment) Bill 2025 which tabled by Honourable Deputy Premier, who is also the Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government; and also Honourable Member for N.14 Batu Kawa. The proposed Building (Amendment) Bill 2025 aims to revise and modernise the Building Ordinance 1994.

The amendment is necessary to replace outdated sections and clauses in Building Ordinance 1994. Enhance building regulatory requirements to suit the needs in this modern works and to prepare Sarawak for the challenges of a fast-evolving environment. Importantly, the essence of this Bill is aligned with the direction consistently emphasised by our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, reducing carbon emissions, strengthening environmental sustainability and steering Sarawak toward a greener, low-carbon economy.

The proposed amendments introduce several modern components, including:

- (a) Provisions for green buildings;
- (b) Clear requirements for green certification;
- (c) Enhanced compliance and enforcement mechanisms; and
- (d) Establishment of the Sarawak Building Board.

Tuan Speaker, while the direction is timely and progressive, I believe there are several important matters that require refinement to ensure the Bill is practical, implementable and beneficial for all stakeholders.

First of all, the establishment of the Sarawak Building Board. Tuan Speaker, one of the most consequential proposals in this Bill is the creation of the Sarawak Building Board. From my reading, the Board is intended to serve as a central regulatory authority overseeing the building standards, green building certification and accreditation, enforcement of compliance and technical oversight across Sarawak. The intention is positive.

However, several concerns must be addressed to ensure the Board does not create complexities. To ensure that the Board does not create any overlapping jurisdiction with existing professional bodies that have long been established; statutory professional bodies such as Board of Engineers Malaysia, Institution of Engineers Malaysia and *Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia*.

Therefore, we must clearly define what falls under the new Board and what remains under BEM, IEM and PAM and other statutory bodies. Such clarity will ensure smooth coordination and prevent ambiguity.

Secondly, the appointment process must be clear and transparent. Tuan Speaker, the Bill currently does not specify the qualifications required to be elected to the board. For the board to function effectively and gain public trust, its membership must be based on technical expertise with proven experience and professional competency. A transparent appointment mechanism will ensure that the board remains an independent, credible and authoritative regulator not merely another administrative body.

Lastly, the readiness of local authorities in facing the challenges. Even with the new board in place, local authorities remain the frontliners of building control. Many local authorities especially District Councils still face limited technical manpower, lack of specialised officers in green building engineering, inconsistent interpretation of new standards. Therefore, without proper guidance or information, there will be wide differences in enforcement across Sarawak. Therefore, I urge that the establishment of the board be complemented with training programmes, upskilling for Local Authority officers and adequate resources to support effective implementation.

Tuan Speaker, another feature of the Bill is the adoption of the green building concept. This is consistent with our statewide aspiration to reduce carbon footprint, enhance energy efficiency, implement sustainable construction and support Sarawak's transition into a green economy.

However, several practical issues must be addressed.

(a) The Green Building

The Bill introduces provisions related to green building, but it remains unclear whether such requirements apply to all types of new developments or only to certain type of buildings.

(b) Lack of clear standard for green certification

The Bill here does not specify which standard we intend to adopt; Green Building Index (GBI) which is an international standard or a new standard for Sarawak.

(c) Shortage of green building professionals in Sarawak

Currently we lacks green consultants, energy modellers, accredited site assessors and green material specialists. If this Ordinance mandates green compliance but industry readiness is low, then may slow down development, increase project cost as well as reduce approval efficiency.

In conclusion, the Building Amendment Bill is a progressive and forward-looking reform. It reflects Sarawak's commitment to modernize our building environment, strengthening public health, promoting sustainability and supporting our long-term green economy agenda. However, to ensure

its success we must refine certain areas and involve professional bodies, local authorities, industry stakeholders, academia and green technology experts. With proper consultation and implementation.

Tuan Speaker, with the above observations, I fully support the Building (Amendment) Bill 2025.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Yang Berhormat Meradong. Next, I would like to call Yang Berhormat Padungan, please.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. As we all know, Mr Speaker, the Bill seeks to create a board, a Green Building Board to handle the green building requirements, the policies settings and vetting and certification for all building plans to be submitted.

To start with, I would like to step on my position that it is pertinent of us to comply with the green standards, internationally set or in our country. *Um*, As such, I do support the principle, the spirit of the Building (Amendment) which are is in tandem to the international trend to go green.

Um, However, I have a few observations here to be made and *um*, to seek clarification from the Honourable Minister who *um* has tabled this, Bill.

To start with what has been mentioned by a few members of the House that there is currently in Sarawak a shortage of the green building index practitioners. As such, it might be a hindrance or add on to the delay or cause to comply with the green building standards that will be set later by the board. As currently as I inquired with a few practitioners, a building consultants that currently local councils they do impose green building requirement on the building plans that submitted to be approved by the councils in particular the rainwater and the usage of electricity, using solar and LED lights. These are the requirements currently imposed on architects who submit building plans.

My question to the Honourable Minister is that after the passing of this Bill and the setting up of the board were this task of supervising on the compliance on green building index, were this task be taken out from the councils and be vested solely in the board that will be created? Why I ask this question is because *um* what I am worried, and the industrial players are worried is that by creating another board to filter or to approve or to consider the building plans that might result in additional time delay for the approval of the building plans.

I have been informed that previously for instance housing development or commercial development, the engineering plan, the approval of the engineering plan would be taken as a whole together with DID consideration in terms of the rainwater discharge, what they called sub-soiled discharge of water.

In the last one year, that task has been taken out, to be considered, to be supervised, to be scrutinized solely by DID. And, that has caused very substantial delay in the approval of building plans. It has add on for few months up to six months delay in the approval of the building plan.

Tuan Speaker, in all building development time is money. A six-month delay for any building project is a six month interest payment, additional interest payment which could have been avoided. So, the worry, the question is that from the industries is that with the setting up of this board would it add another layer or another body in the process whole process of approval of building plans. And, if so, how would it affect the speed with which building plans are approved.

My suggestion to the Honourable Minister as DID is also under the purview and the jurisdiction of the minister's ministry is that all these building plan approvals, DID approval, engineering plan approval should be bundled up and experts from different department should come together to shorten the time for the approval of engineering plan and the building plan.

We are here to facilitate businesses, not to add on another layer of bureaucracy, add on another layer of approval, which will make it more costly to the developers and which will also make it delay the implementation of the projects and ultimately say what you like, all these cost, additional cost will be transferred to the ultimate purchaser.

Therefore, my question to the minister is simple, how would this Board, the operating in terms of scrutinizing whether any building plan, or development plan comply with the standard green building standard state is going to be formulated, that is going to be formulated after the passing of this Bill and the setting up of the Board and how long is the additional time that is required for such process to take? And my appeal to the Honourable Minister is not only in respect of this green building Board, the process under the clauses that will be implemented in future, but also to deal with the current inefficiency and the current problem that is facing developers i.e. the approval of DID for the discharge of sum of water.

So, as to expedite the whole process of building development. That's one of the point I would like to raise and seek clarification from the Honourable Minister. Secondly, I would suggest that ya we all like to live in a green building. I've been in the thought of that we are part of the, we are playing our part of saving the world, that notion I great but I would say, I would suggest that such a requirement be done not as a compulsory, not as a compulsory manner if the cost of it is very prohibitive.

Right, rather like what was suggested by some of the colleague, some of the Members here the incentive be given like a reduction in the premium, land premium or even a reduction in the assessment rates in future, for the house buyer. These could be considered as an incentive for the compliance of green building requirement rather than a compulsory imposition of such requirements on the developers.

Lastly, as I have mentioned earlier, there is a shortage of green building practitioner (GBI), currently in Sarawak. How would the Minister, the Honourable Minister and the Ministry propose to resolve these issues and how long it takes to resolve these issues. So as the not only the industry players are ready to comply with the requirement of the law but also the enforcement and also the relevant authority that are ready to come on board together to establish to more a greener environment to live in. That's all my observation and I hope the Honourable Minister can clarify on the several points that I have raised. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan. In short, you are supporting the Bill. Ahli Yang Berhormat Engkilili, please.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker, Ini ringkas saja ini. Pendek saja ... *(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...*(Inaudible)*...

Timbalan Speaker: Done. It's done ... *(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ... *(Interruption)*... You asked me ... *(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: ... *(Interruption)*... Done Bill already ... *(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ... *(Interruption)*... You asked me whether I support the Bill or not? Whether I ...*(Inaudible)*...

Timbalan Speaker: I asked you already.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...*(Inaudible)*...

Timbalan Speaker: You procrastinate. But you want to answer?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...*(Inaudible)*...

Timbalan Speaker: Okay.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Just a short one, *ya* whether I support the Bill will depend on how the Minister answer to the question and clarification. I just can't give the blanket answer yes or no. It's depends on how he answers the question and addressed the concern I raised... *(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: Fair enough. Alright, thank you. Ahli Yang Berhormat Engkilili, please.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: *Terima kasih*, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to participate on this Bill, Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker, I raise to support Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 which aims to update and improve building regulations in Sarawak. As we all know, our State is rapidly developing, and it is essential we ensure buildings are safe, sustainable, and meet modern standards.

The proposed amendment addresses critical issue, including green building initiatives, updated definitions, enhanced penalties for non-compliance. These changes will promote environmentally responsible construction practices, improve safety, and protect our people.

The introduction of the Sarawak Building Board will provide a robust regulatory framework, ensuring qualified persons an accredited checkers oversee building projects. This will enhance accountability and transparency in the construction industry. I note the Bill focus on fire safety. This is very important Tuan Speaker with updated provisions and increase penalties for non-compliance. This is crucial is fire safety is a top priority for our communities especially in the *rumah panjang*. The amendments also promote sustainability with initiatives for green buildings practices and environmental conservation. This in line with our state's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability development.

In conclusion, *pendek saja ini* Tuan Speaker. I would like to urge our Honourable Members to support this Bill which will enhance building safety, promote sustainability and contribute to Sarawak's continued growth and development. Just some key point suggestion to emphasize, importance of updating building regulations, green building initiatives and sustainability, enhance safety measures and penalties, roles of Sarawak Building Board.

Dengan ini, saya menyokong *Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025*. *Terima kasih*.

Timbalan Speaker: *Terima kasih*, Ahli Yang Berhormat Engkilili. Next. I think our last speaker for tonight, Ahli Yang Berhormat Tellian.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: *Terima kasih*, Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan ... *(Interruption)*...

Timbalan Speaker: ...*(Interruption)*... We have another one *ya*. I hope you are the last. *(laughter)*

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Okay, thank you. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat Batu Kawah merangkap Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Menteri bertanggungjawab yang membawa usul pindaan yang sangat penting dalam sidang kali ini.

Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 dicadangkan bertujuan untuk memodenkan, memperkukuh dan menjamin masa depan rangka kerja kawal selia bangunan di Sarawak. Rang Undang-undang

ini melambangkan langkah signifikan ke hadapan dalam memastikan keselamatan, kemampunan dan kualiti persekitaran binaan. Objektif utama Rang Undang-undang Binaan ini adalah untuk penyesuaian amalan pembinaan kontemporari, meningkatkan standard profesional dan mempromosikan kemampunan alam sekitar melalui inisiatif bangunan hijau serta untuk memastikan penguatkuasaan undang-undang bangunan yang lebih berkesan dan sentiasa dipatuhi.

Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker, pindaan ini memperkenalkan kemas kini definisi, dan menghapuskan istilah usang dan memperkenalkan definisi baharu yang penting dalam Ordinan Bangunan 1994, yang tidak pernah dikaji semula semenjak tahun 1994, lebih 30 tahun yang lepas. Pindaan ini mengesyorkan definisi baharu antara lain, seperti pemeriksaan bertauliah, pelan bangunan dan cerun diperjelas agar selari dengan terminologi serta standard industri semasa.

Perubahan ini bagi memastikan setiap proses pembinaan dijalankan mematuhi piawaian dan amalan terbaik antarabangsa sekali gus mengekalkan tahap profesionalisme tinggi dalam industri pembinaan di Sarawak. Semua rujukan *by-laws* turut digantikan dengan *regulations* sebagai langkah jelas menyelaraskan undang-undang bagi keperluan semasa dan memastikan pematuhan lebih mudah serta efektif.

Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker, penubuhan Lembaga Bangunan Sarawak. Salah satu penambahan ataupun perubahan struktur yang paling penting dalam rang undang-undang ini adalah pengenalan bahagian baru 1A yang menubuhkan Lembaga Bangunan Sarawak. Lembaga ini akan menjadi teras pengawasan profesional dalam sektor bangunan di wilayah Sarawak. Kuasa dan fungsinya adalah menyeluruh termasuk menentukan kelayakan untuk profesional bangunan, menjalankan pemeriksaan dan penilaian, mendaftar orang berkeelayakan pemeriksa bertauliah, badan pensijilan bangunan hijau serta pengamal bangunan hijau seterusnya menetapkan dan mengekalkan standard tingkah laku profesional dan etika, merumuskan dan menguatkuasakan standard untuk penyerahan pelan bangunan dan struktur, akhir sekali, yang paling penting menubuhkan jawatankuasa tatatertib untuk memastikan akauntabiliti dalam profesion.

Penubuhan lembaga ini sudah pasti akan meningkatkan kualiti serta memastikan kecekapan semua individu dan entiti yang terlibat dalam industri bangunan sekali gus memupuk budaya kecemerlangan dan tanggungjawab kepada komuniti dan kelestarian alam sekitar. Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker, menyedari keperluan mendesak terhadap perubahan iklim yang tidak menentu dan pembangunan lestari, Rang Undang-undang ini memperkenalkan bahagian 5A baharu, iaitu bangunan hijau. Bahagian ini memberi kuasa kepada Yang di-Pertua Negeri untuk menetapkan keperluan, kemampunan alam sekitar termasuk alat penarafan bangunan hijau yang mewajibkan pendaftaran badan pensijilan bangunan hijau dan pengamal serta memperutuskan pelantikan pendaftar bangunan hijau.

Langkah ini menunjukkan komitmen Sarawak untuk mempromosikan amalan pembinaan yang bertanggungjawab terhadap penjagaan alam sekitar dari peringkat perancangan, pembinaan sehinggalah pembuangan bagi memastikan agenda pembangunan Sarawak menyumbang secara positif kepada jejak ekologi. Peningkatan penguatkuasaan dan akauntabiliti, rangka kerja undang-undang yang kukuh hanya akan berkesan jika penguatkuasaan yang teguh.

Rang undang-undang ini dengan jelas memperkukuh mekanisme penguatkuasaan dan hukuman. Denda ditingkatkan di pelbagai seksyen ordinan menunjukkan ketegasan kerajaan untuk mengelak ketidakpatuhan. Selain itu, seksyen 60A, 60B dan 60C yang baharu memperkenalkan klausa kritikal untuk penyiasatan, membenarkan pegawai yang diberi kuasa untuk menyiasat kesalahan dan menggunakan kuasa di bawah kanun tatacara jenayah.

Rang undang-undang ini juga membenarkan kompaun kesalahan dan memberi kuasa kepada mahkamah untuk mengarahkan pembayaran kos atau pampasan bagi sebarang kerugian atau kerosakan yang disebabkan oleh sesuatu kesalahan. Langkah-langkah ini penting bagi memastikan bahawa pelanggaran akan ditangani dengan denda yang sesuai dan bersifat pencegahan, melindungi keselamatan dan kesejahteraan awam.

Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker, mempermudah proses, memperluas skop ordinan dan melindungi pemegang taruh. Rang Undang-undang ini juga memudahkan proses penyerahan pelan bangunan serta memperluas skop ordinan dengan merangkumi kerja tanah, landskap dan kawasan penempatan semula. Pengecualian untuk kawasan kampung serta bangunan kerajaan turut dikemaskini selari dengan cabaran urbanisasi dan keperluan bangunan bersepadu. Peruntukan baru bagi pampasan dan perlindungan awam memastikan kepentingan rakyat sentiasa dijaga sekiranya berlaku kelalaian atau pelanggaran undang-undang.

Tuan Speaker, kesimpulannya, *the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025* adalah satu pembaharuan yang progresif dan penting kepada landskap perundangan Sarawak. Ia adalah bukti komitmen Kerajaan Sarawak terhadap amalan pembinaan yang selamat, mampan dan diuruskan secara profesional dengan memodenkan definisi, menubuhkan lembaga kawal selia yang khusus, menerapkan prinsip bangunan hijau dan meningkatkan keupayaan penguatkuasaan, rang undang-undang ini akan memupuk persekitaran binaan yang lebih berdaya tahan, bertanggungjawab dan mementingkan kelestarian alam sekitar demi masa depan Sarawak yang lebih hijau dan bersih.

Dengan ini, Tellian menyokong penuh Rang Undang-Undang (Pindaan) Bangunan, 2025 demi kemajuan dan kesejahteraan Sarawak yang berterusan. Sarawak Maju Makmur. *God bless. Thank you.*

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian. I would like to call Yang Berhormat for Batu Kitang.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for allowing me to debate this Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025. This Bill is important because it provides the legal foundation for categorising and regulating green buildings in Sarawak. A green building is one that uses approved sustainable materials, incorporate efficient water reuse and fulfils the specific features required for reducing carbon emissions in line with our environment policy.

At present, there are existing building that are intended to qualify as green buildings but could not simply because the materials used were not recognised as green materials. This Bill ensures that such issues do not arise in the future by setting clear enforceable standard the architects and developers must follow.

A major purpose of this Bill is to create a board to regulate, a board regulates the appointment and accreditation of architects and engineers. Without this, anyone could come from outside the region claiming to be an architect or engineer and carry out design work without any state oversight. This Board will verify qualifications and ensure only accredited professionals including those certified as green architects may undertake green building design.

This Bill also adds two commissioners to enhance enforcement powers, including the ability to investigate and to act against non-compliance. This ensures that the green building standards set under the law are properly implemented and enforceable.

Tuan Speaker, I note with interest that Honourable Member for Padungan said that his support for this Bill depends on how his questions are answered. With respect, legislation cannot be held hostage by indecision.

This Bill is about establishing standards, ensuring credibility and moving Sarawak forward in the global green economy. Honourable Member's long list of concern about delays, layers, councils, sub-councils, sub-soil drainage, and sub-soil discharge, practitioners and processes. They all stem from one misunderstanding. This Bill does not create delay. This Bill creates clarity.

Today, approvals are slow because standards are inconsistent. Councils' standards differ. Consultants' standards differ. Practitioners differ. Nobody knows whose definition of "*green*" is valid. That is exactly why SEB's own intended green building could not be certified. This Bill solves all that.

One Board, One Standard, Zero Ambiguity

Tuan Speaker, the Board does not replace the Council. It provides the technical standards, so Councils finally approve plans consistently instead of relying on scattered interpretations.

Accreditation Prevents Unqualified Outsiders

Honourable Member for Padungan worries about delays but delays today occur because unqualified persons submit substandard “green” claims. This Bill ensures only certified green architects and engineers can do the work properly right from the start.

Global Investors Require Credible Certification

Honourable Member for Padungan frames this as bureaucracy. The word the world calls it blankability, ESG compliance and investment readiness. Sarawak cannot attract global capital with outdated building provisions.

Shortage of Practitioners is Not a Reason to Delay the Law

If Sarawak had waited for hydrogen experts to exist before venturing into hydrogen, we would still be waiting today. We create the framework first, then we build the talent pipeline. That is how leaders lead.

Green Incentives are a Policy Matter, not the Reason to Stall the Bill

Incentives like rebates or premiums are administrative tools. They complement, not delay, this legal foundation.

Tuan Speaker, Honourable Member for Padungan says he may support the Bill depending on the answers he received. Sarawak does not legislate based on uncertainty, Sarawak legislates based on vision. This Bill provides clarity, credibility, and the institutional backbone for a green, advanced Sarawak. Hesitation cannot be our policy direction. I fully support this Bill.

And this direction also reflects the Premier’s call for Sarawak to participate and to lead in this global green revolution, showing that we are serious about reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable construction. With that, I beg to support, thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat for Batu Kitang. Yang Berhormat for Kota Sentosa. Yang Berhormat please.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for giving me the floor. I rise in support of this Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025, a Bill that is both timely and necessary for the future of Sarawak.

This legislation is not merely a technical update. It is a strategic step forward towards modernising our building standards, strengthening enforcement, and aligning Sarawak’s development with sustainable and responsible building practices.

Tuan Speaker, our current Building Ordinance has been in place for decades. Much has changed since then, from construction technologies and urban density to environmental challenges.

The amendments before us ensure that new buildings are constructed to modern standards, safeguarding public safety, durability and resilience. They address the gaps in enforcement and provide clear responsibilities for developers and building owners, reducing risks to both life and property.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is particularly timely because it supports the principles of green building. Green building also called green construction, sustainable building, or eco-friendly building, refers to both a structure and the processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life cycle, from planning and design, to construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning or reuse.

By embedding green building principles into legislation, this Bill ensures that Sarawak's buildings are designed to use energy and materials efficiently, reduce environmental impact, provide healthier indoor environments, and support long-term sustainability.

Tuan Speaker, a law without enforcement is only guidance. This Bill addresses that gap by providing:

- (a) More enforcement powers to the authorities;
- (b) Higher penalties to deter non-compliance; and
- (c) The establishment of a Building Board to oversee compliance, set standards, and ensure consistent monitoring.

I beg your pardon? Tuan Speaker, this is not merely a reform of building laws. It is a commitment to safety, sustainability, and prosperity of Sarawak and its people. I support this Bill, and I urge all Honourable Members to give this Bill their full support. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you, Yang Berhormat for Kota Sentosa. Any other Honourable Member would like to speak? As a matter of courtesy, I asked that. Okay, otherwise, I call the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government, a Member for N.14 Batu Kawah, to wind up.

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): Thank you very much, Tuan Speaker. And I want to thank all the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for staying, almost 9.30pm, and to also 11 Yang Berhormat, for Batu Lintang, Tamin, Balingian, Daro, Bukit Assek, Tanjong Batu, Meradong, Padungan, Engkilili, Tellian, and Batu Kitang for participating in debate and raised all the other issues that concerned as many as appropriate.

Sarawak Building Ordinance (Amendment) is not just a green building index or just Sarawak Building Board (SBB). It is to update after 30 years of our fire regulatory BOMBA standards that in West Malaysia has outdated, Sarawak still *tengok saja*. And then, our fine is so little that some people just on purpose, they pay the fine and they break the law. And we cannot do anything, we just *tengok saja*.

And so, I am very grateful for all of you, all the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, to understand this and these are just to clarify a few things, I mean, SBB is going to be a professional Board is to regularise so that qualified, anyone who are going to practice in Sarawak need to be qualified practitioner by this Board. You know, rather than anyone can come from anywhere and said they are recognised. Sarawak wants to own regulatory to recognise your engineers, your architects, and by Sarawak standards.

You cannot sign a building plan when you do not know Sarawak's law. You know, this is how, it is how important it is. And part of the thing, that Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Developers' Association (SHEDA), and all this they are talking about, is they want qualified accredited checkers. Because they said in West Malaysia, they don't need to wait for the Council to come and check, they do not need to takes time and it is an option to have the professional accredited checkers to check on behalf of Council. So, the option is still there, and the Council is still there, it is not to replace the Council.

As for the green building index, it is an option. There are so many people want to do green, they want to call it green. But at the moment, there is no definition, which definition are you going to follow. And we will say this is Sarawak standard.

And so, we are putting all these things together because the next amendment of this sub-building ordinance hopefully is not another 30 years. But it shows it took so long just to get our amendment to out to standard so that our people in Sarawak also have the international standard. As regarding to the issues on whether do we have enough people and all those things they have no kind of force as when we are ready. It's not going to come to force tomorrow and as regarding some administrative issues, like DID and SHEDA, they have been having dialogue and then what the issue arises from SPA. So, we need to get SPA to State Planning Authority to dialogue with DID and SHEDA. So, its not just DID under me. We got SPA is not under me.

So, I would thank everyone for staying so late and instead of reading out all the winding up which one and half pages, I just want to thanks everyone for really thinking of Sarawak First. And by this law, that we regularised the qualified practitioners for Sarawak. That's very important that's mean you can be engineer in West Malaysia but it's not going to be, not recognised and if you are not recognised by mutually, you are not going to sign this building law and so on. And so, I want to thanks everyone for supporting this Bill, and I just to thanks all the members of this august House who participate in the debate and supporting this Bills with that, thank you very much.

Timbalan Speaker: Thank you Yang Berhormat, Deputy Premier Minister. The question before the Dewan is that, the Motion standing in the order paper in the name of Honourable Deputy Premier; and Minister of Public Health Housing and Local Government; and Member for N.14 Batu Kawah, be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as are the opinion say "Yes".

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

Timbalan Speaker: As many as are the contrary opinion say "No".

Opposition: No... (Murmuring "No")

Timbalan Speaker: The "Yes" have it. The Motion is passed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

COMMITTEE OF STAGE

[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan is now resolved into the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill, we stand committed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan will now consider the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Clauses 1 to 47

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that Clauses 1 to 47 are ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as are of the opinion say "Yes".

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

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are of the contrary opinion say "No".

Opposition: No... (Murmuring "No")

Tuan Pengerusi: The “Yes” have it. Clauses 1 to 47 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 opinion 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

[Timbalan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Timbalan Speaker: Deputy Premier Minister.

Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian): Thank you very much Tuan Speaker. I wish to report that the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without any amendment.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

BUILDING (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move.

Timbalan Speaker: It’s okay. Sekali sekala jadi Tan Sri okay, jangan tengok saja. Deputy Premier.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 now be read a third time and do pass.

Timbalan Speaker: The question before the Dewan is that the Building (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be read a third time and do pass. As many as are of the opinion say “Yes”.

Government: Yes...(Resounding “Yes”)

Timbalan Speaker: As many as are of the contrary opinion say “No”.

Opposition: No...(Murmuring “No”)

Timbalan Speaker: The “Yes” have it. The Bill is read a third time and passed.

Bill is read a third time and passed

Timbalan Speaker:

*Pergi Saratok membeli ragi;
Pagi esok bersambung lagi.*

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the sitting is now adjourned, and the House shall resume the sitting at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow. Thank you.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 9.36 malam)

**LAPORAN TAHUNAN, PENYATA KEWANGAN, 'COMMAND PAPERS', 'HANSARD' DAN
'VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS' YANG DIBENTANG PADA 24 NOVEMBER 2025**

PREMIER SARAWAK

79/2025	Ketua Masyarakat (Ketua Kaum) Trust Fund – Penyata Akaun bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
80/2025	Tabung Skim Insurance Perlindungan Kemalangan Peribadi Secara Berkelompok – Penyata Kewangan bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
81/2025	Penyata Terimaan dan Bayaran Akaun Pinjaman Pengangkutan, Komputer dan Alat/ Perkakas Isi Rumah bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
82/2025	Front-End Engineering Trust Fund – Penyata Kewangan bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
83/2025	Penyata Akaun Amanah Tabung Bantuan Bencana Alam Negeri Sarawak bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
84/2025	The State Celebration Trust Fund Direction 2024
85/2025	Penyata Akaun Amanah Tabung Perayaan Negeri Sarawak bagi tahun berakhir 2024

MENTERI KEWANGAN DAN EKONOMI BARU

86/2025	Second Supplementary Estimates of Ordinary Expenditure for the year 2025 (Cmd. 9 of 2025)
87/2025	Memorandum on the Second Supplementary Estimates of Ordinary Expenditure for the year 2025 (Cmd. 10 Of 2025)
88/2025	Estimates of Revenue & Ordinary Expenditure for the year 2026 (Cmd.11 of 2025)
89/2025	Memorandum on the Estimates of Revenue and Ordinary Expenditure for the year 2026 (Cmd.12 Of 2025)
90/2025	Estimates of Development Expenditure for the year 2026 (Cmd.13 Of 2025)
91/2025	Memorandum on the Estimates of Development Expenditure for the year 2026 (Cmd. 14 Of 2025)
92/2025	Borrowings by the Government of Sarawak for Year 2024
93/2025	Government Contributions Towards Approved Agencies Trust Fund - Penyata Akaun bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
94/2025	Tabung Penyelenggaraan Negeri – Penyata Akaun Tahunan bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
95/2025	Sovereign Wealth Future Fund – Investment Advisory Panel Report 2024

MENTERI INFRASTRUKTUR DAN PEMBANGUNAN PELABUHAN

96/2025	Jabatan Kerja Raya Sarawak – Penyata Akaun Unallocated Store Trust Fund bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
97/2025	Lembaga Pelabuhan Kuching – Penyata Kewangan bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024

98/2025	Lembaga Pelabuan Miri – Penyata Kewangan bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
---------	---

MENTERI PERDAGANGAN ANTARABANGSA, INDUSTRI DAN PELABURAN

99/2025	Sarawak Micro Credit Scheme Trust Fund – Penyata Kumpulan Wang Amanah Kerajaan bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
---------	---

MENTERI KESIHATAN AWAM, PERUMAHAN DAN KERAJAAN TEMPATAN

100/2025	2023 Annual Report of Housing Development Corporation
101/2025	Audited Financial Statement Report for Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the year ended 31 st December 2024
102/2025	Audited Financial Statement Report for Housing Loan Trust Fund Account for Low Income Group for the year ended 31 st December 2025
103/2025	Audited Financial Statement Report for Longhouse Loan for Low Income Group Trust Fund for the year ended 31 st December 2024

MENTERI INDUSTRI MAKANAN, KOMODITI DAN PEMBANGUNAN WILAYAH

104/2025	Sarawak Land Development Board – Annual Report for the year ended 2023
105/2025	Sarawak Land Development Board – Audited Financial Statement for the Financial year ended 2023

MENTERI PELANCONGAN, INDUSTRI KREATIF DAN SENI PERSEMBAHAN

106/2025	Sarawak Tourism Board Annual Report for the year 2023
107/2025	Lembaga Pelancongan Sarawak – Penyata Kewangan bagi tahun 2023
108/2025	Majlis Seni Sarawak – Report and Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023
109/2025	Sarawak Heritage Trust Fund – Penyata Kumpulan Wang Amanah Kerajaan bagi Tahun Berakhir 2024

MENTERI BELIA, SUKAN DAN PEMBANGUNAN USAHAWAN

110/2025	Sarawak Sports Corporation – Financial Statement as at 31 December 2023
111/2025	Penyata Kewangan Tabung Amanah Dewan Suarah Negeri Sarawak bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024

MENTERI PEMBANGUNAN WANITA, KANAK-KANAK DAN KESEJAHTERAAN KOMUNITI

112/2025	Penyata Penerimaan dan Pembayaran Endowment Fund Sarawak (EFS) Trust Fund bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
----------	--

113/2025	Penyata Penerimaan dan Pembayaran Post-Natal Assistance (BIB) Trust Fund bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
----------	---

MENTERI PENGANGKUTAN SARAWAK

114/2025	Penyata Akaun Kumpulan Wang Amanah Awam Dana Boya dan Api Negeri Sarawak bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024
115/2025	Tabung Bendungan Sungai Sarawak – Penyata Akaun bagi tahun berakhir 31 Disember 2024

MENTERI UTILITI DAN TELEKOMUNIKASI

116/2025	Sarawak Multimedia Authority – Reports and Financial Statements for the financial year ended December 2024
----------	--

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

117/2025	Penyata Rasmi Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Mesyuarat Kedua bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas (Mesyuarat Khas)
118/2025	Undi-Undi Dan Perjalanan Mesyuarat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Mesyuarat Kedua bagi Penggal Keempat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas
119/2025	Laporan Jawatankuasa Akaun Awam Negeri Ke-57