



S A R A W A K

PENYATA RASMI PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI

Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Official Reports and Debates

MESYUARAT KEDUA BAGI PENGGAL KELIMA
Second Meeting of the Fifth Session

12 OKTOBER 2026 – 21 OKTOBER 2026

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS
Nineteenth Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

SELASA

13 OKTOBER 2026

(2 Jamadilawal 1448H)

KUCHING

Peringatan untuk Ahli Dewan:

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

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MESYUARAT KEDUA BAGI PENGKAL KELIMA

Selasa, 13 Oktober 2026

Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.08 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 Datuk Haji Idris bin Haji Buang P.G.B.K., 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 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>
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5.	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>
6.	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>
7.	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>
8.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin P.N.B.S., P.J.N., K.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.B., B.B.S., P.B.E. <i>Menteri Pengangkutan</i>	<i>N.75 Senadin</i>
9.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai P.N.B.S., P.J.N., P.B.S., P.B.E. <i>Menteri di Jabatan Premier</i>	<i>N.60 Kakus</i>

10. 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
11. 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
12. 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
13. 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
14. Yang Berhormat Datuk Liwan Lagang
P.J.N., P.P.N., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.B.E.
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15. 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
16. Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., P.B.K., P.P.B.
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17. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.
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18. 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
19. 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
20. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail
P.G.B.K., A.B.S., P.T.E.
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21. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee
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25. Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew
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26. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E.
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27. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Ripin bin Lamat
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., K.M.N., P.T.E.
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28. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.
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30. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam
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31. 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

32. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Juanda bin Jaya
P.G.B.K., DATO' MURSHID DIRAJA, S.S.P.
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33. 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

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P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., P.B.K., A.B.S.
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35. Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat
P.G.B.K., B.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.S.
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Bumiputera)* N.63 Bukit Goram
36. Yang Berhormat Datuk Michael Tiang Ming Tee
P.G.B.K., P.B.S.
*Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan
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37. 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
38. 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
39. Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii
P.G.B.K., D.I.M.P., S.S.A.P. N.45 Repok
40. Yang Berhormat Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman
P.S.B.S., J.B.K., P.B.S. N.6 Tupong
41. 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
42. 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
43. Yang Berhormat Dato Palu @ Paulus Palu Gumbang
P.S.B.S., A.M.N., P.B.S., J.B.K., P.T.E. N.80 Batu Danau
44. Yang Berhormat Dato Dennis Ngau
P.S.B.S., J.B.S., P.B.S., P.T.E., B.B.S. N.77 Telang Usan
45. Yang Berhormat Dato Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor
P.S.B.S., P.T.E., P.B.S. N.29 Beting Maro
46. Yang Berhormat Encik Chong Chieng Jen N.9 Padungan
47. Yang Berhormat Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui N.10 Pending
48. Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How N.11 Batu Lintang
49. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing
P.J.N., A.B.S. N.46 Meradong
50. Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang
P.S.B.S., B.B.S., J.B.K. N.13 Batu Kitang
51. Yang Berhormat Dato Mohd Chee bin Kadir
P.S.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.S., P.J.P.N., J.B.S. N.40 Kabong

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| 52. | Yang Berhormat Dato Miro anak Simuh
P.S.B.S., P.B.S. | <i>N.18 Serembu</i> |
| 53. | 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> |
| 54. | Yang Berhormat Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin
P.S.B.S. | <i>N.48 Meluan</i> |
| 55. | Yang Berhormat Dato Friday anak Belik
P.S.B.S., A.B.K., P.P.S., P.P.B., P.B.K., P.P.C. | <i>N.39 Krian</i> |
| 56. | Yang Berhormat Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang
A.M.N., K.M.N., J.B.S. | <i>N.61 Pelagus</i> |
| 57. | Yang Berhormat Encik John anak Ilus
P.B.S., A.P.S. | <i>N.23 Bukit Semuja</i> |
| 58. | Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris
P.B.S., A.B.S. | <i>N.25 Simunjan</i> |
| 59. | Yang Berhormat Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang
P.B.K. | <i>N.59 Tamin</i> |
| 60. | Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi
B.B.S., A.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.K. | <i>N.58 Balingian</i> |
| 61. | Yang Berhormat Dr Haji Safiee bin Haji Ahmad
J.B.K., P.P.B. | <i>N.43 Daro</i> |
| 62. | Yang Berhormat Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon
J.B.S., P.P.N., A.B.S. | <i>N.66 Murum</i> |
| 63. | Yang Berhormat Encik Allan Siden Gramong
P.B.S., A.B.S. | <i>N.50 Machan</i> |
| 64. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim
A.M.N., P.M.W. | <i>N.17 Stakan</i> |
| 65. | Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang
A.B.S. | <i>N.74 Pujut</i> |
| 66. | Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor
P.B.S. | <i>N.28 Lingga</i> |
| 67. | 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> |
| 68. | Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang
P.B.S., P.P.B. | <i>N.1 Opar</i> |
| 69. | Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan
J.B.K., P.B.S. | <i>N.3 Tanjong Datu</i> |
| 70. | Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin
P.B.S., K.M.N. | <i>N.12 Kota Sentosa</i> |

71.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri J.B.K., P.B.K., A.B.S.	N.38 Kalaka
72.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa J.B.S., P.T.E.	N.33 Engkilili
73.	Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian	N.81 Ba'Kelalan
74.	Yang Berhormat Encik Anyi anak Jana P.B.S., P.B.K.	N.49 Ngemah
75.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek P.B.S.	N.51 Bukit Assek
76.	Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine J.B.K., A.B.S.	N.57 Tellian
77.	Yang Berhormat Encik Lidam anak Assan P.B.S.	N.62 Katibas
78.	Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai P.B.S.	N.64 Baleh
79.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming P.B.S.	N.68 Tanjong Batu
80.	Yang Berhormat Encik Iskandar bin Turkee P.B.S.	N.67 Jepak

TIDAK HADIR
(Kebenaran di bawah Peraturan Mesyuarat 81)

Bil.	Nama	Konstituensi
1.	Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg D.P., P.M.N., S.P.D.K. (Sabah), D.A., P.N.B.S., J.B.S., P.C.E., P.S.N.B. (Brunei), Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (Japan) <i>Premier Sarawak</i> <i>Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru</i> <i>Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar</i>	N.26 Gedong
2.	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>	N.82 Bukit Sari
3.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Francis Harden anak Hollis P.G.B.K., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E. <i>Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pembangunan Bakat)</i>	N.32 Simanggang

TURUT HADIR

1. Encik Nur Azhar bin Bujang
Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak
2. Encik Abang Mohammad Adib bin Abang Sallehadin
Pemangku Timbalan Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak
3. Inspektor Nelson anak Ensit
Bentara Mesyuarat
4. Inspektor Eldino Erick Joss
Bentara Mesyuarat
5. Penolong Superintenden Hadyan bin Abd Rahman
Bentara Mesyuarat
6. Penolong Superintenden Lydwilkyn Andar anak Umbau
Bentara Mesyuarat
7. Inspektor Rickey Tey Wee Liong
Bentara Mesyuarat
8. Inspektor Bryan Hansen anak Wennedy
Bentara Mesyuarat

PETUGAS PERSIDANGAN

PEGAWAI UNDANG-UNDANG DAN PEMBACA PRUF

1. Puan Adilla Nabilah binti Unus *Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*
2. Encik Mohammad Mazidul bin Mis *Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*

PEMBACA PRUF

1. Puan Saidatul Faiqah binti Samasu *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*
2. Puan Askhairunisa binti Alwi *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*

JURUTRENGKAS

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

1. Puan Dzuridah binti Haji Sariee *Pejabat Timbalan Setiausaha Kerajaan Sarawak (Perancangan Ekonomi dan Pembangunan)*
2. Puan Nurul Izza binti Jem *Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*
3. Puan Sharlina binti Mushar *Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri Sarawak*
4. Puan Malin Arit *Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri Sarawak*
5. Puan Nur Afizah binti Raduan *Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri Sarawak*
6. Puan Nur Izzatul Fatimah @ Patricia Abdullah *Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak*
7. Puan Siti Noraishah Amalina binti Kaderi *Kementerian Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak*
8. Puan Nor Shila binti Shamsuddin *Kementerian Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak*
9. Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
10. Encik Camillus Andreason anak Nicholas Mijer *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
11. Puan Hazreenna binti Hussen Ali *Jabatan Kehakiman Syariah Sarawak*
12. Puan Nurzatul Atikah binti Sahak *Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak*
13. Encik Mohd Alfadjer bin Haji Tuah *Pentadbiran Bahagian Kuching*

14.	Puan Siti Aisyah Abdullah @ Rosemary Langub	<i>Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak</i>
15.	Puan Margaret anak Francis Bohui	<i>Lembaga Penyatuan dan Pemulihan Tanah Sarawak</i>
16.	Puan Sabtuyah binti Haji Adeng	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan Sarawak</i>
17.	Puan Ratna Airnawati binti Haji Md. Junaidi	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan Sarawak</i>
18.	Puan Mariana binti Brahim	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan Sarawak</i>
19.	Puan Valerie Jane anak Aitman	<i>Pejabat Pegawai Kewangan Persekutuan Malaysia Sarawak</i>
20.	Puan Bernadette Willon	<i>Mahkamah Negeri Sarawak</i>
21.	Puan Sylvia anak Chichik	<i>Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia Sarawak</i>
22.	Puan Murni binti Norazhar Shah Jetpak	<i>Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia Sarawak</i>
23.	Puan Emely anak Edmund Beatie	<i>Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia Cawangan Sarawak</i>
24.	Puan Beatrice Dinus	<i>Hospital Umum Sarawak</i>
25.	Puan Noorina binti Hamdan	<i>Universiti Malaysia Sarawak</i>
26.	Puan Khalida binti Mohd Mahali	<i>Majlis Islam Sarawak</i>
27.	Puan Nurul Hafizha binti Osman	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>
28.	Puan Nursurfina binti Blassan	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>

JURURAKAM PERSIDANGAN

1.	Puan Siti Nazilafatullaini binti Sukri	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
2.	Encik Lee Chang Fu	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
3.	Encik Shahrudin bin Abdul Ra'afup	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
4.	Encik Wan Mohamad Zaki bin Wan Alias	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
5.	Encik Fareez Azizi bin Zakeria	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>

JURUCETAK

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

JURUTEKNIK IT

1.	Encik Abang Hasmadi bin Abang Wahab	<i>SAINS</i>
2.	Encik Mohamad Fadzly bin Arfan	<i>SAINS</i>
3.	Encik Ahmad Akmal Afiq	<i>SAINS</i>
4.	Encik Salihin bin Abu Seman	<i>SAINS</i>
5.	Encik Zainuddin Othman	<i>SAINS</i>
6.	Encik Siddiq Harris Chiew	<i>SAINS</i>

MESSENGER

1.	Encik Mohamed Nazeerudin bin Gulam Mohamed	<i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i>
2.	Encik Andy anak John	<i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i>
3.	Encik Lawrence Encharang	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
4.	Encik Helmy bin Abdul Rahman	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
5.	Encik Shah Riwandu Sia bin Ridzuan	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
6.	Encik Erdy Nurwiranata bin Eden	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
7.	Encik Altken Cedric anak Lawrence	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
8.	Encik Mohamad Zahari bin Hamden	<i>Pejabat Agama Islam Bahagian Kuching</i>

9. Encik Addison anak Fredrick
10. Encik Fadillah bin Lokman

Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Sarawak
Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian
Kuching

SEKRETARIAT PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

1. Tuan Haji Abang Zaabar bin Abang Ballia
2. Encik Nurkhairudin bin Osen
3. Puan Noria binti Suut
4. Puan Nur Azira binti Abdul Kadir
5. Puan Rabiah binti Abdul Kadir
6. Puan Aisha Parveen binti Badron
7. Puan Genang anak Timbung
8. Puan Siti Norhiza binti Mohammad Yusri
9. Puan Hanisah Abdullah
10. Puan Hasfarini binti Hassim
11. Puan 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. Puan 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. Puan Nur Eliana Abdullah
22. Puan Nazmah binti Darham
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. Puan Parcelia Renyelia anak Pamg
30. Puan Nur Zafirah binti Affendy Michael
31. Puan Deidre anak Wilson
32. Puan 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 Jammany 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. Puan Suraya binti Hamden
45. Puan Noraisah binti Ahmad
46. Puan Siti Zalilah binti Samsawi
47. Encik Iz Mohd. Haiqal Hakeem bin Mahamud
48. Puan Artirah binti Amran

PELAJAR PRAKTIKAL

1. Encik Charles Spencer anak Tonny
2. Encik Gabriel Louis anak Ragai
3. Puan Katelina Usun Kawas
4. Puan Afeefasara Nadya binti Aman

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada jam 9:08 pagi)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan mesyuarat]

DOA

PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER

Tuan Speaker: Bismillahirrahmannirrahim. Assalamualaikum W.B.T. Selamat pagi dan salam sejahtera. Honourable Members, under Standing Orders 12(1) and (2), Government's business shall take precedence over Private Members' business and Government business shall be set down in such order as the Government thinks fit and communicates to the Secretary. Four days, that is today, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, this week are set aside for the daily one-hour question time. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week shall be devoted to debate on the budget. The Ministerial replies shall take the remaining three days next week that is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ahli-Ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted leave of absence under Standing Order 81 to:

- (a) The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak and Honourable Member for N.26 Gedong for today's sitting. The Right Honourable Premier will be attending the 150th Chief Minister & Menteri Besar Meeting in Kuala Lumpur; and
- (b) Honourable Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier, Second Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development, Minister for International Trade, Industry and Investment and Honourable Member for N.82 Bukit Sari for today's sitting until Thursday 15th October 2026. The Honourable Deputy Premier will be attending the 273rd Council of Rulers Meeting at the Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.

PERTANYAAN-PERTANYAAN BAGI JAWAPAN-JAWAPAN LISAN

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris, Simunjan.

YB Encik Awla bin Dris: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Sebelum saya menjawab soalan ini, saya ingin memohon ampun dan maaf kepada Tuan Speaker kerana saya tidak dapat berdiri untuk bertanya soalan ini dan terpaksa duduk.

Tuan Speaker: Soalan nombor?

YB Encik Awla bin Dris: Soalan saya nombor 1. Sebelum itu saya nak berpantun sedikit/ah.

*Pendekar lama bernama Hang Tuah,
Hidup pada zaman batu,
Pagi ini saya amat bertuah,
Mendapat soalan nombor 1.
... (Applause)...*

Status Pelaksanaan JENDELA Fasa 2 di N.25 Simunjan

(1) YB Encik Awla bin Dris bertanya kepada Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak: Apakah status kelulusan JENDELA Fasa 2 bagi N.25 Simunjan, khususnya Kampung Sageng Hulu hingga Kampung Tebuan, dan bolehkah pelaksanaannya dipercepatkan memandangkan penduduk masih menghadapi masalah internet sering terputus serta ketiadaan liputan telekomunikasi di sesetengah kawasan?

Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak (Telekomunikasi); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.65 Belaga (YB Datuk Liwan Lagang): Terima kasih, selamat pagi, Tuan Speaker. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Simunjan, seperti yang dinyatakan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Premier dalam *Budget Speech* semalam bahawa Kerajaan GPS ini amat prihatin. Jangan risau, rintihan, permintaan diambil kira.

Oleh yang demikian Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Simunjan, di bawah inisiatif iaitu JENDELA Fasa 2 yang dikendalikan oleh MCMC, sebuah menara telekomunikasi telah dirancang untuk dibina bagi menambah baik liputan telekomunikasi di kawasan Kampung Sageng Hulu hingga Kampung Tabuan. Pelaksanaan JENDELA Fasa 2 ini dijadualkan bermula dalam suku pertama tahun 2027, tahun depan.

YB Encik Awla bin Dris: (Soalan Tambahan) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Saya ada dua soalan untuk Timbalan Menteri kita yang *handsome*.

- (a) Berapakah capaian liputan terkini bagi kawasan DUN Simunjan?
- (b) Bagaimanakah orang awam boleh menyemak kualiti perkhidmatan internet di kawasan mereka?

Terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak (Telekomunikasi); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.65 Belaga (YB Datuk Liwan Lagang): Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat bagi Simunjan, kita dua ini sama-sama *handsome*, itulah sebabnya kita berdua berada di dalam Dewan ini. Untuk soalan nombor 1, liputan berdasarkan penempatan, *settlement*, bagi kawasan DUN Simunjan setakat bulan ini iaitu Oktober 2026 adalah di antara yang terbaik iaitu 98.5%. Itu bagi penempatan, *settlement* ya.

Dan bagi soalan yang kedua, bagaimana orang awam boleh menggunakan aplikasi? Orang awam boleh menggunakan aplikasi mudah alih iaitu dari MCMC yang dikatakan Nexus, yang boleh dimuat turun ke peranti mudah alih untuk menyemak kualiti dan prestasi internet secara masa nyata (*in real-time*) di mana hasil semakan direkodkan secara automatik kepada sistem untuk penilaian, penelitian dan tindakan lanjut oleh MCMC. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin, Meluan.

YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Saya ingin menyampaikan pantun juga.

*Batang Panau cerita novel,
Keling dan Laja pahlawan kayangan,
Menjadi lagenda semenjak dahulu,
Sayang Julau pekannya kecil.
Tapak stesen minyak jadi idaman,
YB dan rakyat tak sabar menunggu.*

Soalan saya nombor 2.

Status Kelulusan Tapak Stesen Minyak di Ulu Sungai Jikang

(2) YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin bertanya kepada Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar: Sejauh manakan proses kelulusan permohonan tapak stesen minyak yang beralamat KM1.2 Julau Fedder Road, Ulu Sungai Jikang?

Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.41 Batang Rajang (YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Saleh): Panjang

juak ya, perangkap pantun ya. Terima kasih Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan. Berita baik awal pagi-pagi Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan.

Untuk makuman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan, permohonan bagi tujuan stesen minyak di atas sebahagian Parent Lot 480, Blok 3, Jikang Land District telah diluluskan pada 27 November 2025, hampir setahun yang lepas dan setelah disampaikan oleh surat Kementerian MUDeNR pada tarikh 15, bulan Januari 2026.

YB Dato Rolland Duat anak Jubin: (Soalan Tambahan) Terima kasih, Timbalan Menteri, atas jawapan yang cukup jelas diberi tetapi saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Apakah syarat-syarat hak milik tanah yang digunakan untuk membangunkan stesen minyak?
- (b) Berapakah tempoh pegangan tanah bagi kegunaan stesen minyak?

Terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.41 Batang Rajang (YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Saleh): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih juga, kembali lagi kepada Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan. Untuk makuman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan, syarat-syarat hak milik tanah yang akan dikenakan kepada pemohon adalah seperti berikut:

- (a) tanah hanya boleh digunakan untuk tujuan stesen minyak;
- (b) pembinaan stesen minyak hendaklah disiapkan dalam tempoh 18 bulan dari tarikh surat hak milik didaftarkan mengikut kelulusan pelan dan spesifikasi yang ditetapkan; dan
- (c) tidak dibenarkan untuk memindah milik tanah dan pajakan kecil tanpa kebenaran daripada Pengarah Tanah dan Survei Sarawak.

Dan untuk jawapan soalan kedua, tempoh pegangan tanah (*leasehold*) bagi tujuan stesen minyak adalah selama 60 tahun dari tarikh pendaftaran surat hak milik tanah tersebut. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang, N.74 Pujut.

YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang: My question is number 3.

Development of Oil and Gas Downstream Industries in Miri

(3) YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang to ask the Minister for International Trade, Industry and Investment Sarawak: Refer to Miri designated a strategic gas hub and Adong Kechil West commencing production, whether a plan exists to attract oil and gas downstream activities, service companies and investments, including dedicated industrial areas or incentives.

Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.34 Batang Ai (YB Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pujut, the Sarawak Government through Petroleum Sarawak Berhad (PETROS) is developing Miri as a strategic gas hub under the Sarawak Gas Roadmap (SGR). The objective is to establish an integrated gas and energy ecosystem that will support downstream activities, oil and gas services, and other gas-based economic activities in Northern Sarawak.

The Miri Hub is supported by an integrated network of infrastructure, including upstream and onshore gas production, gas receiving facilities, the 500MW Miri Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plant, small-scale LNG facilities and LNG trucking. These facilities will provide the

gas supply, reliable power and supporting infrastructure required to attract new industries and investment.

PETROS through the Sarawak Gas Distribution (SGD) is also expanding domestic gas distribution in Miri. Currently, SGD supplies gas pipe or piped gas to 1,362 commercial customers and four industrial customers. The expansion of this network will further support the growth of commercial, industrial and downstream activities.

Building on this infrastructure, the Miri Hub is expected to create investment opportunities across the gas and energy value chain, including downstream oil and gas activities, oil field and gas services, small-scale LNG, energy-related services and other gas-based industries. This will also provide opportunities for local companies to participate in the supply chain and create higher value employment for Sarawakians.

YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang: (*Supplementary Question*) Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I have two supplementary questions.

- (a) What is the current implementation status of the Miri Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) project and how will it support industrial development in Northern Sarawak?
- (b) What investment incentives are being proposed under the Sarawak Gas Roadmap to attract investment and strengthen Miri's position as a strategic gas and energy hub?

Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.34 Batang Ai (YB Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh): Tuan Speaker, the response for supplementary question number 1. For the information of the Honourable Member for Pujut, as of the third quarter of 2026, the RM2.5 billion Miri CCGT project has achieved 63% completion with commercial operations expected to commence by the end of 2027.

Once operational, the plant is expected to utilise approximately 75-80 million standard cubic feet (MMscfd) of natural gas per day to provide a more reliable and efficient energy supply for Northern Sarawak. The additional power capacity supported by greater access to locally produced gas will also strengthen Miri's attractiveness for downstream, gas-based and energy-related investments.

Tuan Speaker, for supplementary question number 2, the elucidation is as follows. In terms of incentives, the Sarawak Government is engaging with the Federal Government on a dedicated and enhanced package of investment incentives for qualifying investments under the Sarawak Gas Roadmap. The proposed incentives are intended to complement existing federal incentives and support investments across the broader gas and energy value chain.

The incentives are proposed to be targeted and outcome-based, taking into account investment value, creation of high-value jobs, employment and development of Sarawakians, technology and knowledge transfer, supply-chain participation, R&D, downstream value creation and sustainability.

Through these incentives, the government aims to strengthen Miri's position as a strategic gas and energy hub for Northern Sarawak, while attracting new investment and create greater opportunities for local businesses and Sarawakians. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan, N.3 Tanjong Datu.

YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan: Thank you, Tuan speaker. Soalan saya soalan nombor 4.

Status Permohonan Jawatan Penghulu bagi Zon Melayu Sematan

(4) YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan bertanya kepada Premier Sarawak: Pusat Khidmat N.3 Tanjong Datu melalui Pejabat Daerah Lundu pernah mengemukakan permohonan pada tahun 2021 ke Unit Pentadbiran untuk jawatan baharu Ketua Masyarakat (Penghulu) bagi Zon Melayu Sematan kerana kampung-kampung di bawah seliaan Penghulu sedia ada terlalu banyak. Apakah status permohonan tersebut?

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.63 Bukit Goram (YB Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Datu. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Datu, sebanyak 1,059 permohonan cadangan pewujudan jawatan baharu Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum (KMKK) telah diterima dari semua Bahagian di seluruh Sarawak dan ini termasuklah permohonan bagi beberapa kawasan di daerah Lundu.

Permohonan tersebut telah diteliti berdasarkan keperluan serta syarat-syarat umum pewujudan jawatan baharu Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum dan permohonan berkenaan kini sedang dalam proses penilaian dan penelitian lanjut untuk dikemukakan bagi pertimbangan dan kelulusan. Terima kasih.

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

- (a) Berapakah jumlah jawatan KMKK yang rasmi di Negeri Sarawak ini secara amnya dan Bahagian Kuching secara khasnya?
- (b) Apakah kriteria bagi pewujudan jawatan baharu Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum?

Terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.63 Bukit Goram (YB Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Datu. Untuk soalan tambahan pertama, setakat ini terdapat sebanyak 7,710 jawatan Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum (KMKK) yang rasmi di Sarawak merangkumi 671 jawatan Ketua Masyarakat dan 7,039 jawatan Ketua Kaum. Daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 641 jawatan KMKK berada di Bahagian Kuching, di mana Daerah Lundu mempunyai sebanyak 129 jawatan KMKK.

Manakala bagi soalan tambahan kedua, antara kriteria-kriteria yang diambil kira bagi menentukan pewujudan jawatan baharu bagi Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum adalah meliputi pertambahan bilangan penduduk setempat serta keluasan bidang kuasa serta faktor-faktor lain yang berkenaan. Bagi jawatan Temenggung, Kerajaan telah menetapkan untuk mewujudkan satu jawatan bagi satu kaum di satu Bahagian. Walau bagaimanapun, jawatan Temenggung boleh diwujudkan sebagai jawatan gunasama untuk menyelia dan mentadbir kaum atau etnik-etnik atau sub-etnik yang kecil di beberapa Bahagian dan bagi jawatan Pemanca pula, Kerajaan telah menetapkan untuk mewujudkan satu jawatan bagi satu kaum di satu Daerah. Walau bagaimanapun juga, jawatan Pemanca boleh diwujudkan sebagai jawatan gunasama untuk menyelia dan mentadbir kaum atau etnik atau sub-etnik yang kecil di beberapa Daerah di Bahagian tersebut.

Seterusnya bagi jawatan Penghulu, Kerajaan telah menetapkan untuk mewujudkan satu jawatan Penghulu berdasarkan pembahagian mengikut kawasan pentadbiran, zon atau kawasan tertentu yang telah ditetapkan oleh Pihak Berkuasa Melantik (PBM), dengan minimum 20 orang Tuai Rumah bagi kaum Iban dan minimum dua orang Ketua Kaum bagi kaum-kaum lain atau 500 pintu atau 2,000 penduduk dan akhir sekali bagi jawatan Ketua Kaum, Kerajaan telah menetapkan syarat

minima bagi sesebuah bidang kuasa kampung atau rumah panjang atau kawasan-kawasan penempatan hendaklah mempunyai sekurang-kurangnya 20 buah pintu atau rumah. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang, Tamin.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan Tamin, soalan nombor 5.

Manfaat Strategik dan Ekonomi Pengambilalihan Pelabuhan Bintulu

(5) YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang bertanya kepada Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan: Apakah manfaat strategik dan ekonomi kepada Sarawak serta perancangan Kerajaan Negeri selepas mengambil alih sepenuhnya pengurusan dan operasi Pelabuhan Bintulu daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan?

Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak (Pembangunan Pelabuhan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.70 Samalaju (YB Datuk Majang anak Renggi): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tamin. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tamin, pengambilalihan sepenuhnya Pelabuhan Bintulu oleh Kerajaan Sarawak daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan merupakan langkah strategik bagi mengukuhkan peranan dalam merancang, menyelaraskan serta membangunkan sektor pelabuhan dan rangkaian logistik secara bersepadu.

Langkah ini mencerminkan komitmen Kerajaan dalam memastikan aset strategik diurus selaras dengan kepentingan ekonomi serta hak kedaulatan Sarawak di bawah Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MA63). Sebagai pintu masuk perdagangan utama dan hab eksport gas asli cecair (LNG) terbesar negara, Pelabuhan Bintulu yang kini di bawah bidang kuasa negeri akan terus diperkasakan menerusi lonjakan kecekapan operasi, prasarana moden dan pengukuhan sistem digital. Secara keseluruhan, inisiatif ini dijangka mampu memperkukuh kedudukan rangkaian pelabuhan Sarawak sebagai antara hab logistik penting dan penggerak utama pertumbuhan ekonomi jangka panjang. Terima kasih.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: (Soalan Tambahan) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih kepada Timbalan Menteri. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan:

- (a) Apakah langkah-langkah yang diambil oleh Kerajaan Sarawak selepas pengambilalihan Pelabuhan Bintulu?
- (b) Bagaimanakah pengambilalihan Pelabuhan Bintulu dapat diintegrasikan dengan pelabuhan-pelabuhan lain di Sarawak?

Terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak (Pembangunan Pelabuhan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.70 Samalaju (YB Datuk Majang anak Renggi): Untuk menjawab soalan tambahan daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tamin, fokus utama Kerajaan Sarawak selepas mengambil alih Pelabuhan Bintulu adalah untuk memastikan kelangsungan dan kelancaran operasi pelabuhan tersebut secara berterusan tanpa menjejaskan urusan pengguna dan rakan dagang.

Melalui Bintulu Port Authority (Sarawak), pemantauan secara rapi dan mampan akan dilaksanakan terhadap semua aspek kritikal pelabuhan termasuk kecekapan operasi, kapasiti kargo, tahap perkhidmatan dan *vessel turnaround time*.

Bagi memacu transformasi ini, kerajaan akan memberi tumpuan kepada empat teras utama iaitu:

- (a) Mengoptimumkan kemudahan sedia ada serta meningkatkan kapasiti baharu bagi memenuhi keperluan pasaran;
- (b) Menambahbaik dan memodenkan proses kerja bagi mengurangkan birokrasi sekali gus meningkatkan kecekapan masa dan kos dalam rantaian logistik (*time and cost efficiency in the logistics chain*);
- (c) Mengadakan sesi libat urus secara berkala bersama-sama pengimport, pengeksport, syarikat perkapalan dan agensi pengangkutan; dan
- (d) Menyelaraskan hala tuju Pelabuhan Bintulu menerusi *Sarawak Ports Master Plan* bagi memperkasakan pertumbuhan ekonomi yang mampan.

Langkah ini diambil bagi memastikan kelancaran rantaian bekalan dan memperkukuh keyakinan para pelabur serta pemain industri maritim.

Bagi menjawab soalan tambahan kedua, usaha untuk mewujudkan integrasi antara Pelabuhan Bintulu dengan pelabuhan-pelabuhan lain di Sarawak memerlukan beberapa pendekatan utama seperti berikut:

- (a) Menggabungkan semua pihak berkuasa pelabuhan Sarawak di bawah satu kawal selia tunggal, iaitu Sarawak Ports Authority;
- (b) Mengelompokkan peranan pelabuhan (*port clustering*) berdasarkan kelebihan kedudukan geografi dan kekuatan industri bagi mengelakkan pertindihan fungsi antara pelabuhan;
- (c) Menambah baik dan menyusun semula struktur tarif pelabuhan bagi menjamin ekosistem pasaran yang lebih adil, cekap dan telus;
- (d) Menaik taraf fasiliti dan infrastruktur pelabuhan bagi menyokong pelan pembangunan dan keperluan pasaran; dan
- (e) Melaksanakan transformasi pengurusan pelabuhan kepada entiti korporat bagi meningkatkan daya saing serta kelestarian jangka panjang.

Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai, Baleh.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. My question is number 6.

Pembangunan dan Pemerkasaan Eko-Pelancongan di Baleh

(6) YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai bertanya kepada Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak:

- (a) Adakah Kerajaan Negeri bercadang untuk memperkasakan lagi sektor pelancongan di kawasan Baleh dengan meningkatkan peruntukan, kemudahan dan sokongan kepada program serta acara pelancongan tahunan seperti Ekspedisi Bukit Mabong dan Baleh-Kapit Raft Safari?
- (b) Apakah strategi Kerajaan Negeri untuk menjadikan Baleh sebagai salah satu destinasi eko-pelancongan utama di Sarawak, memandangkan kawasan tersebut mempunyai potensi besar dari segi alam semula jadi, sungai, budaya dan warisan masyarakat tempatan?

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak (Pelancongan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.73 Piasau (YB Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew): Thank you Tuan Speaker. Thank you to Honourable Member for Baleh for the question.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Baleh, the Sarawak Government is committed to strengthening the tourism sector in Baleh taking advantage of its rivers, rainforests, highlands, biodiversity and the rich cultural heritage of its longhouse communities.

Guided by the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), it is the Government's strategy to develop eco-tourism and adventure products such as river activities, rafting, trekking, jungle expeditions, homestays and cultural experiences, and to link them with Kapit, Song, Belaga and Sibu to form a complete tourism network.

Among the major events are the Bukit Mabong Expedition and the Baleh-Kapit Raft Safari which have been included in the Sarawak Calendar of Events. These events are supported by the Ministry through *Geran Acara dan Pesta*. The Borneo River Cruise, a private sector initiative launched during the ITB Berlin this year is scheduled to commence in the 1st Quarter of 2027, and this will offer multi-day journeys along the Rajang River from Sibu to Kapit and beyond. Through this river cruise, it will promote Baleh's cultural heritage particularly the longhouse lifestyle, traditional cuisines, local crafts and its nature and adventure along the route.

The government will continue to consider further support for allocation, basic amenities and tourism infrastructure such as access, jetties, signage and safety facilities, subject to the state's priorities and financial capacity. Local authorities, government agencies, tourism operators, communities and the private sector are also encouraged to work together so that these events are sustained and bring real economic benefits to the people.

Empowering local communities remains central to this strategy, so that the people of Baleh take part as entrepreneurs, tour guides, homestay operators and service providers, and not only as beneficiaries. Under the Ministry Homestay Experience Programme (PPHM), the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry (MOTAC) has registered the Bukit Mabong and Sungai Asap Homestay Clusters in Kapit division, and has held awareness briefings at Rumah Bajang, Nanga Bena Sungai Sut; 2019, Nanga Teliai Merirai, Baleh; year 2022, and Ulu Yong, Kapit, year 2023.

Under Sarawak Tourism responsible tourism framework, tourism spending is channeled to longhouse communities through homestays, boat charters, local guiding and craft sales. Development will be carried out in stages and sustainability, with due respect for the environment, visitors' safety and community well-being, so that Baleh becomes not merely a stopover, but a nature, adventure and cultural destination with its own distinct identity in Sarawak. Thank you.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: (*Supplementary Question*) Thank you, Datuk Deputy Minister for answering my question. Tuan Speaker, I have two supplementary questions.

- (a) Giving how remote Baleh, will the Ministry consider providing a dedicated allocation for basic tourism infrastructure, such as jetties, access and safety facilities at Bukit Mabong and along raft safari road, so that visitor number can growth sustainably;
- (b) The Borneo River Cruise is planned to run along the Rajang River between Sibu and Kapit. How will the Ministry make sure the communities in Baleh who live further upriver also benefit from these initiatives?

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak (Pelancongan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.73 Piasau (YB Datuk Sebastian Ting

Chiew Yew): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Member for Baleh for the two supplementary questions.

The Ministry recognizes that access and basic amenities are essential to unlocking Baleh's tourism potential infrastructure development. Therefore, involves several agencies so that the Ministry will continue to coordinate closely with the Kapit Resident's, local authorities and relevant technical agencies to identify priority sites. I invite the Honourable Member also from Baleh to submit specific proposals through these channels. They will be assessed based on tourism readiness, visitor safety and environmental impact, subject to the state priorities and financial capacity.

Answer for the supplementary question number two, STB will position Baleh flagship events, the Baleh-Kapit Raft Safari and the Bukit Mabong expedition, so add-on experiences for cruise passengers. It will also work with tour operators to create extension packages from Kapit into Baleh. To prepare communities to receive these visitors, the Ministry and MOTAC will continue to promote participation in the Malaysia Homestay Experience Programme and will build skills in hospitality, guiding and product packaging. The Ministry welcomes the Honourable Member's help in identifying longhouses that are interested in taking part, so that more people in Baleh can share in these benefits. Thank you.

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

YB Encik See Chee How: Thank you Tuan Speaker. My question is question number 7.

UEC Students Benefiting from the Free Tertiary Education Scheme (FTES)

(7) YB Encik See Chee How to ask the Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak: How many Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) students are currently benefiting from the Free Tertiary Education Scheme (FTES), and what percentage do they represent at each university participating in the FTES?

Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.55 Nangka (YB Datuk Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih juga kepada Yang Berhormat untuk Batu Lintang. Tuan Speaker, the question raised by the Ahli Yang Berhormat is regard with the Unifying Education Certificate which is run by the independent Chinese school under the supervision of Dong Zong.

Recently Tuan Speaker, there was a heated argument and debate on the eligibility of UEC to enter our public universities. However, in Sarawak, our priority is not the student skin colour nor the school that they have attended but more importantly the knowledge, the skills and the talent that they contribute to Sarawak. Ultimately, the Sarawak education policy is guided by one common aspiration. That is to ensure all Sarawakians are given the equal opportunities to further their studies at the higher institution to develop their potential, skills and talent therefore able to contribute to the economic transformation of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, this reflects the fundamental basis of our education policy. Where education must transcend the skin colour the race and the ethnicity. The education must be used as a vehicle or must be used as a weapon to make sure we can back the poverty and also for social mobility, particularly for our rural communities. Because of that, our Free Tertiary Education Scheme is also open for the UEC holders. As of 30th June, this year, there are 192 UEC students being offered FTES. There are 137 of them at Swinburne, 21 at Curtin Malaysia, Miri, 33 at UTS Sibu and one of them in I-CATS. This shows that no deserving Sarawakian should be ignored in education opportunity. Thank you very much.

YB Encik See Chee How: (Supplementary Question) Thank you, Tuan Speaker; and many thanks to the Deputy Minister as well. Very wonderful answer. I have two supplementary questions:

- (a) What are the eligibility criteria for UEC holders to qualify for the Free Tertiary Education Schemes (FTES) and is a passed in Bahasa Melayu compulsory for UEC holders to be eligible for FTES?
- (b) Are UEC FTES students eligible for internship and industrial placement opportunities during their studies?

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.55 Nangka (YB Datuk Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee): Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat. This question is very important because it will differentiate the policy that we are implement in Sarawak that is, whether Bahasa Melayu is a very important pre-requisite for the entry of our four universities. Or whether this Bahasa Melayu is also important criteria for UEC students to be offered Free Tertiary Education.

Yang Berhormat, the answer is No. We do not need the Bahasa Melayu to qualify them to enter our university and also to be given the Free Tertiary Education ...(*Applause*)... The criteria for them is the same as long as they passed the Senior Middle under the UEC examination, at least 5Bs, they will be qualified to enter the university according to the courses that have been offered and then they do not have to apply whether they will received FTES or not. It is automatically given if they apply among the 64 courses listed under the FTES.

Therefore, Tuan Speaker, this policy shows a vast difference from what been adopted elsewhere. So, I hope this is a very clear message to all the people of Sarawak particularly the UEC holders that you are not difference from others as long as you are qualified to enter the university of the four universities, you are also automatically qualified for FTES. However, I would like to caution the UEC students' holder. They have to be good command in English because all the four universities available, most of the medium of instruction are English. Some universities emphasise on IELTS, some of the universities focused on CEFR, which is International English Language Testing System (IELTS) whereas CEFR is the Common European Framework Reference language. They have certain criteria for this to be offered to these universities.

In terms of the industrial placement, they are the same like other students as long as they got place in the industry, they are able to do the internship, they are able to perform their industrial placement like other students and therefore they are not being differentiated from other holders or from other qualifications. Thank you very much ...(*Applause*)...

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine, Tellian.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya nombor 8.

Strategi Pembangunan Atlet Sarawak Pasca – SUKMA

(8) YB Encik Royston Bin Valentine bertanya kepada Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak: Apakah strategi Kerajaan Sarawak untuk memastikan momentum Pembangunan atlet pasca-SUKMA diteruskan melalui program Pembangunan bakat jangka panjang sehingga ke peringkat antarabangsa, termasuk menyediakan laluan Pendidikan dan kerjaya bagi menjamin masa depan atlet selepas tamat kerjaya kompetitif?

Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak (Pembangunan Belia dan Sukan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.36 Layan (YB Datuk Gerald Rentap Jabu): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Selamat pagi kepada semua.

*Manok engkukok ari Tellian,
Ngiga ikan bekut ti terkonang-konang,
Kami MYSED ngiga atlet berkebolehan
Ari Sarawak, meri nama Malaysia cemerlang*

Tuan Speaker dan untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian, MYSED komited memastikan pembangunan atlet tidak terhenti selepas SUKMA, sebaliknya diteruskan melalui Laluan Pembangunan Jangka Panjang sehingga ke peringkat kebangsaan dan antarabangsa.

SUKMA merupakan mercu tanda prestasi sukan negeri-negeri dalam Malaysia dan kita pada SUKMA yang lepas dalam tangga keempat, dan kita berterima kasih kerana banyak daripada atlet kita telah diambil menjadi pelapis negara. Sebagai secara holistik, kita perlu lihat pencapaian kita juga.

Ini adalah beberapa contoh atlet Sarawak yang baru saja melakar sejarah dan mewakili Malaysia:

- (a) Nur Hazirah Ramli – atlie tenpin *bowling* yang sedang beraksi sekarang di International Bowling Federation World Cup 2026 di Munich, Germany;
- (b) Bertrand Rhodict Lises – Atlet terjun dan mewakili Malaysia di Paris Olympic 2024. Dia juga telah merupakan atlit pertama yang mendapat tiket ke Olympic Los Angeles 2028;
- (c) Elvis Priestly Clement – seorang atlet daripada Sarikei. Juga atlet terjun yang telah beraksi di ASEAN Games Nagoya 2026; dan
- (d) Jonah Chang Rigan – pemegang rekod kebangsaan dalam lontar peluru. Juga berasal dari Sarikei. Sekarang dalam atlet elit Malaysia.

Ini adalah sebahagian daripada mereka yang telah memenangi emas dalam acara SUKMA yang lepas dan sekarang mewakili Malaysia. Dalam pada itu, sebagai contoh, atlet Sarawak yang mewakili Malaysia di Olimpik:

- (a) Dato Pendelela Rinong (terjun);
- (b) Bryan Nickson Lomas;
- (c) Elizabeth Jimie;
- (d) Traisy Vivian Tukiet; dan
- (e) Bertrand Rhodict Lises.

Ini adalah atlet-atlet terjun kita dalam sukan terjun yang kita mulakan training mereka di Sarawak. Seterusnya dalam acara renang kita ada Daniel Bego, Welson Sim, Dieung anak Manggang. Dalam olahraga pula kita ada Watson Nyambek, Kuda Dita dan Gladys Chai. Pada Olimpik Paris tahun lepas, pemain golf kita, Ashley Lau mewakili Malaysia dan berbasikal saudara Josiah Ng. Dan, kebanyakan atlet ini telah mendapat *degree* seperti Dato Pendelela sendiri di dalam bidang *Sports Science* dan *Management*.

Kementerian kita juga sentiasa memantau dan memberi bimbingan kepada mereka yang memerlukan dan sepertimana yang telah dinyatakan oleh Timbalan Menteri kita dari Nangka tadi, FTES juga boleh dijadikan satu daripada *career path* untuk mereka melanjutkan pelajaran. Dari segi kerjaya, banyak peluang dalam bidang sukan juga dapat diceburi. Mereka boleh menjadi jurulatih, *physiotherapist*, *nutritionist*, dan banyak lagi yang diperlukan dalam penganjuran, *training* dan sebagainya.

Ada yang telah berjaya, seperti Mohd Azlan Iskandar, pemain squash negara kita, anak Sarawak yang sekarang mengendalikan *gymnya* sendiri di Kuala Lumpur. Sebagai peluang

seterusnya, Sarawak akan menjadi tuan rumah kepada 18 buah acara sukan untuk Sukan SEA yang akan datang, pada tahun depan.

Ini juga memberi peluang kepada atlet kita untuk memberi perkhidmatan mereka kepada peserta-peserta, atlet dan juga sesiapa yang akan beraksi di Kuching. Dalam pada itu juga, Kementerian MYSED bersama juga *Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts* juga memberi sokongan penganjuran sukan yang bertaraf antarabangsa seperti *Kuching Marathon, Layar Cycling Carnival, International Bowling Federation World, Youth Bowling Championship* dan sebagainya. Ini merupakan ruang, bukan saja kepada atlet tempatan, bahkan juga kepada pegawai-pegawai teknikal yang menjadi teras penganjuran pertandingan. Terima kasih.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: (*Soalan tambahan*) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan. Tadi kita mendengar jawapan yang cukup padat dan maklumat berkaitan dengan pencapaian atlet-atlet kita daripada dulu. Jadi sekarang kita mahu mendengar berkaitan dengan pembangunan, berkaitan dengan potensi ataupun bakat-bakat baharu dari atlet-atlet kita. Jadi soalan yang pertama. Soalan tambahan saya yang pertama.

- (a) Pada SUKMA Selangor yang lepas berapakah jumlah atlet yang datang dari Zon Tengah dan apakah pencapaian mereka yang menyumbang kepada sukan Sarawak?
- (b) Dengan kewujudan pusat-pusat latihan di Zon Tengah, latihan pembangunan sukan di Zon Tengah Sarawak, apakah potensi atlet-atlet ini untuk berpeluang mewakili Sarawak ataupun negara ke peringkat yang lebih tinggi pada masa akan datang?

Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak (Belia dan Sukan); dan Ahli Undangan Negeri N.36 Layar (YB Datuk Gerald Rentap Jabu): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Tellian.

Dalam SUKMA yang lepas di Selangor, kita mencapai tempat keempat dan ada 42 emas. Dalam pada itu, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian, seramai 56 atlet dari kawasan Zon Tengah yang telah mewakili Sarawak di SUKMA Selangor yang lepas.

Daripada jumlah tersebut, ada 10 orang daripada acara olahraga yang ada mendapat pingat. Ada dua orang atlet silat, ada lapan orang atlet judo, empat orang atlet angkat berat, tujuh orang atlet bola keranjang, 26 atlet bola tampar yang pasukan wanitanya menang pingat emas dan seterusnya ada dua orang lagi atlet daripada bola tampar pantai. Penyertaan ini mencerminkan komitmen dan sumbangan atlet dari Zon Tengah memperkukuhkan kontinjen Sarawak di SUKMA yang lepas.

Bagi soalan yang kedua, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada Tellian, pewujudan pusat latihan ini memang diteliti mengikut keperluan dan minat sukan setempat. Sebagai contoh, bola tampar dipusatkan di Sibu kerana *pool players* yang kita ada datang dari kawasan Zon Tengah. Sukan-sukan lain juga dinilai dan ditingkatkan supaya dapat mencari bakat yang baharu. Sebagai contoh, tahun ini kita telah memperluaskan acara *PETRONAS Youth Football Close* ke Mukah dan kita melihat adik-adik kita yang 15 tahun juga bermain bola sepak, dan ini mendapat sambutan yang begitu baik. So, kita akan teruskan lagi usaha kita untuk mencari bakat-bakat baharu.

Sehubungan itu juga, pihak *Sarawak Sports Corporation*, selain daripada menjaga dan memelihara fasiliti sukan yang ada, juga terus memperkukuhkan pembangunan sukan melalui kerjasama dengan persatuan-persatuan sukan dan institusi pendidikan, termasuk memperkenalkan analisa *sports science* dan pendekatan berprestasi tinggi bagi menyediakan atlet yang dapat berdaya saing dan menang.

Kita berterima kasih kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier kerana telah memberi peruntukan yang munasabah, yang besar, untuk mengendalikan program kita pada tahun depan.

- (a) *Ship* for Southeast Asian Japanese Youth Program 2027;
- (b) Rainforest Youth Summit;
- (c) Sarawak Youth Startup;
- (d) Sarawak Youth Creative Industry Fund; dan
- (e) Sukan SEA pada tahun hadapan.

Ini tentu memeriahkan lagi penglibatan belia dan menjadi lebih inklusif dan berdaya saing. Saya ingin menggalakkan setiap YB mengambil perhatian dan iltizam kepada para atlet kita juga. Kalau boleh, mereka ini kita angkat sebagai anak angkat. Sekurang-kurangnya ada 82 orang lagi atlet Sarawak yang dapat berjuang untuk Sarawak.

Sebagai rekod, *for the record, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of our deputy CDM, ACDM and officials'* yang telah berjuang bersama kita di Selangor pada SUKMA yang lepas, termasuk YB Tellian yang telah memberi khidmat bakti yang begitu baik menjaga *team* Sarawak semasa SUKMA. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Datuk Mong anak Dagang, Bukit Begunan.

YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang: Tuan Speaker, my question is number 9.

Status of Lingga–Banting Farm Road Construction Project

(9) YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang to ask the Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak: Construction of farm road Lingga to Banting, under Batang Lupar Granary area, has stopped a few years ago. Is there any plans to continue with the development? If no, why? And if yes, when?

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak (Industri Makanan); dan Ahli Undangan Negeri N.79 Bukit Kota (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. For the information of the Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan, the construction of a 12.7 kilometer farm road of which 70.83% has been completed constitutes the primary scope of work under the project *Pembangunan Infrastruktur Pengairan dan Saliran Jelapang Padi Lingga-Banting* serta kerja-kerja yang berkaitan Bahagian Sri Aman, Sarawak Fasa 1 Block C and D.

The physical work on the palm road was temporarily halted following the termination of the original contract. Several major project structures including the various locations and the palm road alignment have been modified. This requires comprehensive re-design and a new land acquisition process. The land acquisition process commenced in 2025 and was completed early this year.

The government remained fully committed to deliver this critical farm road infrastructure. The project is currently at the stage of appointing a new consultancy service to undertake design reviews and the necessary three design works. The tender evaluation for the consultant appointment is currently on the way with the formal appointment schedule for early 2027.

Consequently, the physical construction of the farm road alongside all other components under the Lingga-Banting Paddy granary irrigation and drainage infrastructure development project is expected to resume in 2028. Thank you.

YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang: (*Supplementary question*) Tuan Speaker, I have two supplementary questions.

- (a) When the project commences, how long does it take to complete the project farm road?
- (b) How many farmers will benefit from the road farm road project that is from Lingga to Banting.

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak (Industri Makanan); dan Ahli Undangan Negeri N.79 Bukit Kota (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail): Thank you, Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan for the two supplementary questions.

To answer question number one, for the information of the Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan, the farm road is expected to be completed in the year 2030, and the answer for the question number two, the construction of this farm road will not only directly benefit the 124 registered paddy farmers from nine longhouses in the Banting area, but it will also benefit the wider community living along the route. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii, Repok.

YB Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. My question is number 10.

Proposed Upgrading and Widening of Meranti Bridge in Sarikei

(10) YB Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii to ask the Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak: What plans does the government have to upgrade and widen the Nyelong River Bridge along Jalan Meranti (Meranti Bridge), connecting Sarikei Town and Jalan Pasi towards Sibu and Tanjung Manis, to facilitate easier transportation?

Tuan Speaker: Question number 10.

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak (Industri Makanan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.76 Marudi (YB Datuk Dr Penguang Manggil): Thank you Tuan Speaker, thank you Ahli Yang Berhormat for Repok. I believe this is the last question of the day.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Repok, the Sungai Nyelong Bridge, which is also known as the Meranti Bridge at Jalan Meranti was constructed by the Public Works Department Sarawak and handed over to Majlis Daerah Sarikei way back in 2008. Since then, the said bridge including Jalan Meranti and its associated road furniture's had been registered under the council Malaysian Road Registration Information System or MARRIS.

At the moment, MBS or Majlis Daerah Marudi has no immediate plan to upgrade or widen this Sungai Nyelong bridge. However, MBS will continue to carry out regular maintenance works, especially those that do not involve any major structural repairs.

This is another piece of good news for YB Repok. I was informed that JKR has proposed to upgrade the 13km stretch of road from Sungai Nyelong Bridge to the Red Bridge in Bintangor.

YB Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii: Thank you, Tuan Speaker and thank you Ahli Yang Berhormat Deputy Minister. I have two supplementary questions.

- (a) What is the scope of work involved in the proposed outraging project from Nyelong Bridge Sarikei to reach Red Bridge, Bintangor?
- (b) What is the estimated cost for this proposed project?

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak (Industri Makanan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.76 Marudi (YB Datuk Dr Penguang Manggil): Terima kasih sekali lagi Tuan Speaker.

The components or scope of work for the upgrading work consists of the widening of the two-land road to four land carriageways, covering the route from Sungai Nyelong Bridge Sarikei to the famous Red Bridge in Bintangor. The upgrading works will also include the construction of the two new bridges along the roads together with the necessary road and finishes. The estimated project cost can only be determined upon completion of the detailed design and cost estimation by the JKR which has been appointed as dedicated implementing agency for the proposed project. Thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: The Member of Marudi had predicted correctly. This is the last question. I hope he does not have other predictions, *ya*. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, question time is up.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

SARAWAK STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(*Interruption*)... Tuan Speaker

Tuan Speaker: Ya?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Standing Order 23(2)(p) ...(*Interruption*)...

Tuan Speaker: (p)? ...(*Laughter*)...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: *Ya*, in respect of the privilege of a Member. I'm referring to the budget document, a document that is worth RM15 billion, and in particular, *Senarai Perjawatan*, List of Establishment Post, Volume 2, Part 1. It seems that the pagination, there is a serious error in the pagination of this document. I don't know whether it might be the particular one that is laid on my table which has the error, or all the documents contain the same error?

If you look at page 20 of this document, after page 20 it goes directly to page 88, and the pagination is in a mess, and that the Ministry which contains, which has all the respective *jawatan* in the document, jumbled up here and there. In particular, after page 20, it goes to page 88. Then, further down, 21 appears in the middle of the document, and it goes backward. 21 goes backward to 88, and after that, after 21, page 172.

Tuan Speaker, this is a document that concerns 27,000 civil servants of the State Government, and that I think the Treasury Department ought to pay more attention and to be more prudent, so as not to commit such a low-class error. And more importantly, if such basic pagination of the document, that can be such a serious error, what confidence do we have in the more detailed figures in the budget document? So, may I seek clarification from Tuan Speaker? Is it my copy that is laid on my table, Volume 2, Part 1, which contains this error, or is it the same error that appears in all the books that was laid before all the *Ahli Yang Berhormat* in this House? So, my question to the Treasury Department and the Minister for Finance.

Tuan Speaker: I take note of what the Honourable Member of Padungan said. I stand down the question to give me time to ascertain and verify what is said. Honourable Minister for *Pendidikan*, please proceed.

Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.20 Tarat (YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to be read a second time.

Tuan Speaker, the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026, hereinafter referred to as the Amendment Bill, seeks to amend the Sarawak State Library Ordinance 1999, (Chapter 29), which

is the principal Ordinance to strengthen and modernise the governance, functions and administration of the Sarawak State Library.

The principal Ordinance which came into force on the 1st of October 1999 provides for the establishment of the Sarawak State Library as a depository for the custody and preservation of materials for public records and matters incidental thereto. The principal Ordinance further provides for the functions and duties of the State Library, the constitution and functions of the Board and matters relating to the administration and management of the Sarawak State Library.

EVOLVING ROLE OF THE STATE LIBRARY

Tuan Speaker, when we speak of a library today, we are no longer speaking merely of a place where books are collected, stored and made available to the public. A modern State Library plays a much broader role. It is a repository of knowledge, a custodian of public records and archives and importantly an institution through which the history, experiences and collective memory of Sarawak can be preserved for future generations.

Since the principal Ordinance came into force in 1999, the State Library has continued to develop and transform. The Ordinance was last amended in December 2019 and since then the organisation, responsibilities and operational requirements of the State Library have continued to evolve.

Against the backdrop of Sarawak's rapid development and transformation under the leadership of the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak, it is timely to review the legislative framework governing the State Library to ensure that it continues to support the role expected of the institution today.

The Amendment Bill is intended not merely to update the provisions of the principal Ordinance, but to provide the State Library with a clearer governance framework and the statutory foundation necessary to upkeep the State Library with its evolving responsibilities effectively.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE AMENDMENT BILL

Tuan Speaker, allow me to highlight the key features of the Amendment Bill.

Introduction of the Role and Powers of the Minister

Firstly, the Amendment Bill introduces and clarifies the roles of the Minister responsible for the State Library. A new definition of Minister is introduced into Section 2 of the principal Ordinance to mean the Minister for the time being charged with the responsibility for the State Library.

More significantly, a new Section 10 is introduced to empower the Minister, from time to time, to give directions to the Board in relation to the exercise and discharge of its powers, functions and duties under the principal Ordinance.

The Amendment Bill also places several matters relating to the governance and administration of the State Library under the responsibility of the Minister. These include:

- (a) the appointment of temporary members of the Board and temporary Chairman;
- (b) the acceptance of resignations of Board members;
- (c) the assignment of additional functions to the Board; and
- (d) the approval of the appointment and delegation of certain powers to the Chief Executive Officer.

Establishment of Memorial Archives

Secondly, the Amendment Bill expressly empowers the State Library to establish, manage and maintain memorial archives. This is an important addition to the statutory functions of the State Library. Sarawak has a rich history shaped by its people, its institutions and the events that have contributed to its development. As time passes, materials associated with that history, such as documents, records, personal belongings, and other historical materials, must be properly preserved for the benefits of future generations.

Memorial archives may be established to commemorate significant persons, events and other aspects of the history and culture of Sarawak, including prominent persons and former leaders who have contributed to the development of the state. These memorial archives will enable future generations to better understand the people, decisions, events and experiences that have shaped Sarawak. The Amendment Bill, therefore, provides a clear statutory basis for the State Library to establish, manage and maintain such memorial archives as part of its functions.

Streamlining the Governance of the State Library

Thirdly, the Amendment Bill seeks to streamline and clarify the governance structure of the State Library by replacing the powers of Sarawak Multimedia Authority with the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri and the Minister respectively.

Under the proposed amendments, the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri will among others, be responsible for the appointment of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and other members of the Board, determining the conditions of their appointment and revoking such appointments where necessary.

The Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri will also have the power to direct the vesting of government property in the State Library and to amend the Schedules to the Principal Ordinance. By clearly allocating the respective responsibilities of the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, the Minister and the Board, the Amendment Bill will provide greater clarity in decision making, strengthen accountability and support more efficient administration of the State Library.

Vesting of Government's Property in the State Library

Fourthly, the Amendment Bill clarifies the manner in which government property provided for the use of the State Library may be vested in the State Library instead of the authority as empowered in the existing Section of the Principal Ordinance. This provides a clearer and more direct statutory arrangement for property which is provided for the purposes and function of the State Library.

Power to Amend the Schedules

Finally, the Amendment Bill introduces a new Section 29A to empower the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri by notification in the gazette to amend the Schedules to the principal Ordinance. At present, an amendment to the Schedules will require an amendment to the Principal Ordinance. The proposed provision provides a more practical and efficient mechanism. This will provide the necessary flexibility to keep the Schedules current while retaining the decision-making power at the level of the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri.

So, Tuan Speaker, apart from upkeeping the State Library with current developments of its functions, the Amendment Bill also seeks to strengthen the governance of the State Library and provides it with a legislative framework that remains relevant to the responsibilities entrusted to it. Ultimately, the Amendment Bill is about ensuring that the State Library is properly equipped not only to be preserved our records and knowledge, but also to preserve the history and memory of Sarawak for generations to come. I, therefore, beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second?

Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.27 Sebuyau (YB Dato Sri Haji Julaihi bin Haji Narawi): I beg to second, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Thank you. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I shall now call upon any Honourable Members who wish to debate on the Bill. Honourable Member for Pending.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to participate in the debate of the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. I support efforts to strengthen the Sarawak State Library and improve the preservation of our state's historical records. However, when we amend a law concerning our history, we must look beyond administrative powers and institutional functions. We must also consider transparency, accountability and the responsibility to preserve Sarawak's history accurately and inclusively.

Our history records belong to the people of Sarawak. Their preservation must be guided by professional standards, historical evidence and the public interest, not political convenience. There are five areas I wish to highlight.

Ministerial Powers Must Come with Proper Checks and Balances

Clause 7 proposes amendments to Section 10 of the Sarawak State Library Ordinance 1999 concerning the Minister's power to give directions to the Board of the Sarawak State Library. Ministerial oversight is part of government administration. However, the public deserves clarity on how these powers will be exercised, particularly when decisions may affect historical records and archival materials.

I urge our State Government to provide clear procedures for issuing and recording Ministerial directions, including written documentation, proper reasons and appropriate reporting arrangements. Where a direction affects the preservation, classification of public access to historical materials, there should be a clear record of the decision and its justifications. This is important because historical records are not ordinary administrative documents. They shape our understanding of Sarawak's past and influence what future generations will learn about our state.

According to Sarawak State Library, British colonial guidelines specified their records which could embarrass British Governments or other governments should not be handed over to successor governments. The Migrated Archives collection also reveals that only selected files were copied for preservation in Sarawak, and few were copied in their entirety because of limitations in time, resources and costs. Some original files were also incomplete.

This historical experience reminds us that archival collections can have gaps and that decisions about which records are retained can affect our understanding of the past. I am not suggesting that the same thing is happening today. My point is that we must learn from history. We cannot simply assume that everything will be handled properly without clear safeguards.

Tuan Speaker, this is not about preventing the Minister from exercising legitimate oversight. It is about ensuring that such authority is exercised responsibly with decisions properly documented, professional and professional standards respected.

Memorial Archives Must Represent Sarawak's Diverse History Fairly

Clauses 2 and 3 deal with the proposed amendments relating to memorial archives and their functions. Sarawak's history is rich and diverse. It includes the experiences and contributions of our Iban, Bidayuh and other Dayak communities, as well as our Malay and Melanau, Chinese, Indian and other communities. Every community has played a part in shaping Sarawak, and their contributions deserve fair and meaningful recognition in our history records.

Historical recognition should not be determined by political preference or by prominence of particular individuals alone. The selection of people, events and materials for memorial archives should be guided by transparent criteria, credible historical evidence and professional assessment. I urge Sarawak State Library to consider an open nomination process that allows members of the public, historians, researchers and community organizations to propose individuals and events for consideration.

The selection criteria should be made public, and decisions should be properly documented. There should also be mechanism for reviewing historical information when new evidence emerges. This would strengthen public confidence and give different communities a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the preservation of Sarawak's collective memory. Our history should not become a selective account that celebrates some contributions while overlooking others.

The Preservation of Community History Deserves Greater Attention

Much of Sarawak's history is not found in official government records alone. It also lives in family photographs, personal letters, old newspapers, community publications, private collections and the memories of our senior citizens.

Take Kuching as an example. Family and long-established community associations may still hold photographs and documents showing how Carpenter Street, India Street, and Padungan developed over the decades. These materials could tell us about the early days of local business, the development of community institutions and the people who helped to shape Kuching.

Many of these materials remain in private hands. Some may be lost when homes are renovated, businesses close, close down or families move away. Once these records disappear, an important part of our history may be lost permanently. That is why the State Library must reach beyond its existing collections and work more closely with community.

I therefore encourage Sarawak State Library to establish a more accessible mechanism for the public to nominate, donate, lend or contribute historical materials for preservation. Clear arrangements should be provided on ownership, consent, digitization, access and the return of borrowed materials. People should feel confident that their family and community heritage will be handled responsibly.

Public Access and Digital Preservation Must Go Hand in Hand

Tuan Speaker, preserving historical materials is only half the job. The other half is making sure people can access and learn from them. The National Library Act 1972 provides a useful legislature reference.

Section 4 sets out the functions of the National Library including preserving Malaysia's intellectual, literary and cultural heritage, providing reference and information services, and promoting the development and use of library resources. Sarawak can draw on similar provisions when strengthening the functions of Sarawak State Negeri/ Library particularly in preserving our historical records and making them more accessible to the public.

The National Archives Act 2003 also offers useful principles. Section 36 addresses the storage, arrangement, classification, description and preservation of public archives, while section 37 provides for public access to public archives, subject to applicable legal conditions and restrictions.

These provisions offer useful references for Sarawak to consider when strengthening the management, preservation and accessibility of our historical records. I acknowledge that Sarawak State Library already provides online resources, including the Sarawakiana Digital Collection and the Records and Archives Reference Service known as RECARS. These are useful initiatives.

However, we should look beyond whether a record can be found in an online catalogue. Can members of the public actually access and study its contents? How convenient is the process for students, researchers and ordinary Sarawakian who may not be able to visit the library in person?

The State Government should therefore establish a practical plan to digitalize, to digitize priority historical documents, photographs, publications and other archive materials whenever appropriate. Digitalization is not simply scanning a document and uploading it to a website. The records must be properly catalogued, accurately described, securely backed up and preserved in formats that remain accessible over time.

I proposed that the State Library establish clear priorities and technical standards for digital preservation, including data security, backup arrangements and disaster recovery measures. The digital collection should also be accessible through a user-friendly online platform, so that students, researchers and members of the public, including those in rural areas and outside Kuching, can explore Sarawak's history more conveniently.

Of course, copyright, personal information, ownership rights and legitimate confidentiality restrictions must be respected. But whatever the law permits public access, the government should make it easier for people to access these records, rather than allowing unnecessary barriers to remain.

Tuan Speaker, I hope to see clear targets and timelines for digitizing priority collections, together with a way to measure progress.

Accountability Must Be Measured Through Tangible Results

Tuan Speaker, legislative amendments should lead to meaningful improvements, not merely expand the powers or functions of an institution on paper. The Sarawak State Library should periodically report on its progress in preserving historical materials, expanding archival collections, digitizing records and improving public access.

Such reporting should include measurable outcomes, including the numbers and types of materials preserved, digitization progress, public participation and improvement in access for researchers and ordinary Sarawakians.

This information will allow the public to see whether the amendments are delivering real benefits. Also, the Sarawak Government must provide adequate funding, professional expertise and technical resources. Archival preservation requires long-term commitment. It cannot depend solely on the passage of legislation or the announcement of new initiatives. Ultimately, the value of this amendment will depend on how effectively it protects our historical heritage and serves the people of Sarawak.

In concluding, Tuan Speaker, our history belongs to all of us. It must be preserved honestly, inclusively...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, if I may. I'm seeking clarification from Honourable Member for Pending. It is very normal to seek clarification.

Tuan Speaker, Yang Berhormat Pending talks about accessibility of the public to documents in the library. My question to the Yang Berhormat Pending, does she, is she aware that even the archive, the Hansard record of this very House kept in the library of the DUN is not accessible to the public, it is not online. We have come such a long way in digitalization why are we keeping the Hansard record of this House so secretive from the members of the public. So much so that all the Hansard, whatever spoken in this House from day one until today, is not accessible to the public, it's not put online.

Yang Berhormat Pending do you agree that this very House should lead by example, the Speaker should lead by example to post all our, to upload all our Hansard records on the website of the DUN so that the public will know what is spoken and that form also part of the history of the Sarawak. Do you agree that, on my call to upload all our hansard records on the website of DUN.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Tuan Speaker, I of course, I have to agree with Yang Berhormat Padungan. So far, what we have practice is this Dewan, the unedited Hansard is only put online for one month. So, for us, for me and Yang Berhormat Padungan, what we normally do, we have to save them using our pendrive to download them, to save them and keep it, to keep it, for our records. Even Parliament they have it online...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: Keep your...(Interruption)...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: So...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: Keep your observation to the amendment of the Bill...(Interruption)...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Yes, it calls for accessibility...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: Keep your observation...(Interruption)...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Yes, that's why I hope that ...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: Other matters irrelevant...(Interruption)...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: DUN Sarawak can set an example...(Interruption)...

Tuan Speaker: Is irrelevant...(Interruption)...

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Follow with Sarawak State Library because all our documents, all our books, all our information are not digitalized. You can't access it online. You can't borrow books or you can't read the books online. That is how *kuno* our Sarawak State Library is but I hope with the passing of this amendment and with the, my proposed, observation and the points that I have raised in this august House, it can be taken up and it can, the Minister can consider it, make the improvement, is anyhow is all for the sake for the goods of Sarawakians and Tuan Speaker, let me finish my two last sentences of my speech.

Our history belongs to all of us. It must be preserved honestly, inclusively and professionally, without being selectively shaped for political convenience. Let us give future generations a truthful and comprehensive account of Sarawak's history. With that I conclude, Tuan Speaker. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: The Hansard and the proceedings of the DUN contain the speeches of all of the Honourable Members from the past until now. They have a say if there's a Motion or decision of the Minister whether it is to become public or not is not the sole decision of the Speaker. Ya. This debate is on the library, not on the Hansard.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: (Inaudible)....

Tuan Speaker: Now, I call Honourable Member for Tellian.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. *Sidak duak dah berondeng di luar tadik sebenarnya* Tuan Speaker, *that's why bila sampai masa Ahli Yang Berhormat Pending berbahas, nya berik chance lah dengan kawan nya. So, nampak ada keluar tajuk sedikit lah.* But it's okay. So, thank you, Tuan Speaker. *Selamat Suab*, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Terima kasih kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk turut serta bersama membahas berkaitan dengan *Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026* yang dibentangkan oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat Tarat merangkap Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak dalam persidangan kali ini.

Pindaan ini penting untuk memperkukuh tadbir urus Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak, memelihara sejarah dan warisan, serta memastikan khazanah ilmu di wilayah ini dapat diwariskan kepada generasi yang akan datang.

Tuan Speaker, salah satu perubahan penting dalam Rang Undang-Undang ini ialah pengiktirafan terhadap konsep *memorial archives*. Arkib ini berfungsi untuk menyimpan, memelihara dan mempamerkan bahan sejarah bagi memperingati sesuatu peristiwa, tokoh atau aspek sejarah tertentu.

Pindaan kepada Seksyen 3 memberi kuasa kepada Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak untuk menubuhkan, mengurus dan menyelenggara arkib memorial. Tellian menyambut baik langkah ini, sejarah Sarawak bukan hanya terkandung dalam buku teks atau kisah tokoh dan peristiwa besar. Walaupun pada dasarnya kita sedia maklum dalam buku teks silibus pendidikan Malaysia pun Sejarah Sarawak tidak banyak diletakkan di dalam, diceritakan di dalam buku teks berkenaan.

Jadi oleh itu, Tuan Speaker, sejarah kita turut tersimpan dalam dokumen lama, gambar, surat-menyurat, manuskrip, rakaman audio dan video, rekod pentadbiran, adat resam serta cerita masyarakat tempatan. Jika bahan-bahan ini tidak dikumpul dan dipelihara secara sistematik, kita berisiko kehilangan sebahagian daripada sejarah penting wilayah ini. Apatah lagi, Sarawak terdiri daripada puluhan etnik dengan kepelbagaian dan keunikan budaya, bahasa, pakaian serta makanannya yang tersendiri. Semua ini perlu dipelihara dengan rapi untuk tatapan generasi yang akan datang.

Arkib memorial juga berpotensi menjadi pusat pendidikan dan penyelidikan yang akan menjadi sumber rujukan kepada pelajar, guru, ahli akademik dan masyarakat umum. Ia akan dapat membantu generasi muda memahami sejarah perkembangan Sarawak dengan lebih mudah serta menggalakkan penyelidikan tentang sejarah tempatan yang mungkin belum didokumentasikan dengan secukupnya.

Tellian juga berharap pengumpulan bahan sejarah akan merangkumi seluruh wilayah Sarawak yang besar ini termasuk sejarah kampung, bandar, daerah, institusi, komuniti dan tokoh tempatan. Dokumentasi itu juga wajar meliputi demografi, lokaliti, ekonomi, kehidupan sosial, budaya, pendidikan, infrastruktur dan perkembangan komuniti. Dengan pendekatan yang menyeluruh, perubahan masyarakat dari satu generasi ke generasi seterusnya turut menjadi sebahagian daripada khazanah sejarah kita.

Tuan Speaker, nilai arkib memorial akan lebih terserlah apabila bahan yang dikumpulkan bukan sahaja dipelihara, tetapi turut dimanfaatkan oleh masyarakat sebaiknya. Oleh itu, pembangunan arkib perlu disokong oleh dasar yang jelas mengenai pemilihan bahan, pemeliharaan dan akses awam. Kerjasama dengan komuniti, institusi pendidikan, badan kebudayaan dan penyelidik akan dapat membantu memastikan bahan yang dikumpulkan tepat, mewakili kepelbagaian sejarah Sarawak dan diurus dengan penuh tanggungjawab.

Tellian juga berharap pelaksanaan pindaan ini memberi penekanan kepada pendigitalan. Bahan arkib yang sesuai wajar direkodkan dalam format digital supaya dapat dipelihara dengan lebih selamat dan diakses dengan lebih luas. Usaha ini perlu mengambil kira hakcipta, privasi, keselamatan bahan dan keadaan capaian internet, khususnya di kawasan yang infrastrukturnya masih terhad.

Generasi hari ini banyak mendapatkan maklumat melalui platform digital. Arkib Sarawak juga perlu bergerak ke arah sistem yang moden, mudah dicapai dan mesra pengguna. Bahan sejarah

tidak seharusnya hanya tersimpan di bilik atau rak tertentu dan sukar dilihat oleh orang ramai. Ia wajar dikembangkan sebagai sumber ilmu yang boleh dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya oleh rakyat, khususnya generasi muda, di mana sahaja mereka berada.

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-Undang ini turut menyelaraskan beberapa kuasa yang sebelum ini dirujuk sebagai *authority*. Kuasa tertentu kini diperincikan mengikut tanggungjawab Menteri, Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, Lembaga dan Kerajaan. Penyata Penjelasan Rang Undang-Undang juga menyatakan bahawa beberapa klausa adalah bertujuan untuk menyelaraskan kuasa tersebut.

Pembahagian tanggungjawab yang jelas akan dapat mengurangkan kekeliruan dan pertindihan kuasa. Dalam sesebuah institusi awam, kejelasan tentang pihak yang menetapkan dasar, memberikan kelulusan dan melaksanakan keputusan akan dapat memastikan segala urusan dilaksanakan dengan lebih tepat serta meningkatkan akauntabiliti sesebuah organisasi.

Tuan Speaker, Seksyen 10 yang baharu membolehkan Menteri memberikan arahan kepada Lembaga berhubung pelaksanaan kuasa, fungsi dan tanggungjawabnya, dengan syarat arahan itu tidak bercanggah dengan Ordinan. Peruntukan ini penting kerana Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak ialah institusi strategik yang terlibat bukan sahaja dalam perkhidmatan perpustakaan, malah dalam pengurusan ilmu, dokumentasi kerajaan, pemeliharaan sejarah, penyelidikan dan pembentukan identiti masyarakat Sarawak.

Hubungan dasar yang jelas antara Kerajaan Sarawak, Menteri dan Lembaga akan dapat membantu memastikan pembangunan Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak bergerak selaras dengan keutamaan wilayah ini. Bagi warga perpustakaan, kejelasan ini menyokong perancangan dan penyampaian perkhidmatan. Sudah pasti, bagi kerajaan pula, ia menyediakan asas perundangan yang lebih kemas untuk mengurus fungsi dan aset institusi. Bagi rakyat pula, manfaatnya perlu diterjemahkan kepada koleksi yang lebih terpelihara, kemudahan yang lebih mudah digunakan dan perkhidmatan yang sampai kepada lebih ramai penduduk.

Dalam hal ini, Tellian berharap arahan kepada Lembaga dan keputusan penting berkaitan perpustakaan disokong oleh garis panduan yang jelas, rekod keputusan yang teratur dan pelaporan secara berkala. Pelaporan kepada Dewan mengenai kemajuan arkib memorial, capaian pengguna dan peluasan perkhidmatan akan membantu pencapaian dinilai serta penambahbaikan dapat dibuat dari masa ke semasa.

Tuan Speaker, Seksyen baharu 29A memberikan kuasa kepada Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Sarawak untuk meminda Jadual melalui pemberitahuan dalam warta. Peruntukan ini membolehkan perkara pentadbiran tertentu disesuaikan mengikut perubahan semasa tanpa perlu melalui proses pindaan Ordinan yang lebih panjang bagi setiap perubahan kecil.

Fleksibiliti sedemikian penting dalam pentadbiran moden yang sentiasa berkembang. Dengan pelaksanaan yang bertanggungjawab, institusi dapat menyesuaikan struktur pentadbirannya apabila keperluan berubah, sambil terus beroperasi dalam kerangka undang-undang yang ditetapkan.

Tuan Speaker, Tellian percaya pindaan ini merupakan langkah yang tepat dan berpandangan jauh. Dalam kita membangunkan Sarawak untuk masa depan yang cerah, kita tidak boleh melupakan sejarah yang membentuk Sarawak pada hari ini. Pembangunan fizikal boleh mengubah wajah Sarawak, tetapi sejarah, budaya dan identiti membantu kita memahami asal usul serta perjalanan masyarakat kita.

Tellian berharap pelaksanaan pindaan ini akan membawa kepada pengumpulan dan pemeliharaan bahan sejarah yang lebih sistematik, arkib memorial yang berkualiti, dokumentasi yang merangkumi seluruh bahagian dan daerah di Sarawak, serta akses yang lebih luas kepada pelajar, penyelidik dan masyarakat umum. Dengan itu, Tellian menyokong penuh Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, we will have a short break. Sitting resumes at 11:20 a.m.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 10:59 pagi)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada jam 11:39 pagi)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Lingga.

YB Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohoh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I rise to give my full and firm support to the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. I thank the Honourable Minister for a clear and comprehensive tabling. The Minister has set out the five key features of this Bill. I will not repeat them. Instead, I wish to show this House why these amendments matter and why the concerns raised in this debate are already well answered by our own law.

This Bill is the next chapter in a journey that began in 1961, when Sarawak first require its publications to be deposited for safekeeping under the Sarawak Museum. In 1999, this Dewan established Pustaka Negeri Sarawak. In 2009, we entrusted it with our public archives and records. Today, we give it clearer leadership and a wider mission.

CLEAR GOVERNANCE, BUILT ON STRONG SAFEGUARDS

Tuan Speaker, a state that guards its records guards its identity. Tuan Speaker, as the Minister explained, the Bill allocates responsibility clearly between the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, the Minister and the Board. The government's property for the library may now be vested in the State Library itself. The principle is sound; the Minister who answers to this Dewan now holds the responsibility to lead. Some have asked whether this places too much power in one office. Let me assure this House that the safeguards are firmly written into the Ordinance.

- (a) Under the new Section 10, every ministerial direction must, by law, be consistent with the Ordinance;
- (b) Under Section 18, no record may be destroyed or disposed of or except in accordance with regulations and wherever practical a copy must first be preserved;
- (c) Under Section 29, regulations govern the classification, declassification, appraisal and access of our records;
- (d) The Board itself must include a nominee from an institution of higher learning in Sarawak, bringing professional judgement to every decision.

Tuan Speaker, the lesson of the Migrated Archives has been raised in this debate. I agree it is an important lesson. When others held our records, parts of our story were lost. That is precisely why this Bill matters. It ensures that Sarawak's memory is held by Sarawak, governed by Sarawak and answerable to this Dewan.

MEMORIAL ARCHIVES, HONOURING EVERY CONTRIBUTION

Tuan Speaker, I warmly welcome the memorial archives. As the Minister said, they will commemorate significant persons, events and former leaders who shaped our state. Public archives keep the official record. Memorial archives will keep the human story.

In Sri Aman, that story includes Fort Alice and the peace accord of 1973 that gave our town its name. Across Sarawak, it lives in longhouses, in family collections and in the memories of our elders. Each year, some of that memory is lost with them. I share the view expressed in this House that

every community deserves its place in our collective memory. The Ordinance already provides the means. Under Section 4(11), the Board may form committees that include historians and community leaders. Under Section 5(h), it may receive donations and gifts of historical material from the public. I therefore encourage the library to move with purpose:

- (a) Form an advisory committee of historians and community representatives to guide the memorial archives;
- (b) Partner with schools, *Ketua Kaum* and *Ketua Masyarakat* to record oral histories now, while those who lived them are still with us;
- (c) Take memorial archives to the divisions, not only to Kuching.

ACCESS FOR EVERY SARAWAKIAN

Tuan Speaker, preservation and access must go hand in hand. On this, I am pleased to say Sarawak does not need to borrow from Federal legislation. The principles are already in our own Ordinance.

Section 3 commits the library to disseminate knowledge through an electronic network linked to libraries across Malaysia and abroad. Section 11A requires registers, guides and finding aids, and empowers the Chief Executive Officer to reproduce and publish our archives. Section 17 allows the Board to open records for inspection and publication.

Nor are we starting from zero, the Sarawakiana Digital Collection and the RECAS archive service are already in place, as acknowledged in this House. Pustaka in a Box has taken digital resources to our remote areas and was presented to the international library community. The new Section 29A strengthens this further.

It allows the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri to update the deposit Schedules by gazette notification, so our rules can keep pace with digital publishing. I encourage the library to build on this foundation, so that a student in *Lingga* enjoys the same access to Sarawak's history as a researcher in Kuching.

CONCLUSION

So, in conclusion Tuan Speaker, this Bill gives Pustaka Negeri Sarawak clearer leadership, a broader mission and a framework ready for the future. A progressive Sarawak must not only build for tomorrow. It must also safeguard the memory that defines who we are. With that, I give my full and unequivocal support to the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tebedu.

YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Before I proceed with my debate, I would like to put to record that we have counsellors from the Majlis Daerah Bau present here in the public gallery. Let us give them around of applause to welcome them... (*Applause*)...

Tuan Speaker, terima kasih kerana memberikan saya peluang untuk turut serta mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan bagi menyokong Rang Undang-Undang Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak (Pindaan) 2026 yang dibentangkan dalam Dewan yang mulia ini. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kepada Kerajaan Sarawak atas inisiatif untuk menambahbaik Ordinan Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak 1999 (Bab 29) supaya perundangan yang mengawal pentadbiran, pengurusan dan fungsi perpustakaan Sarawak terus relevan dengan perkembangan semasa serta aspirasi pembangunan negeri.

Tahniah dan syabas juga saya ucapkan kepada Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat, selaku ADUN N.20 Tarat, atas kejayaan dalam pembentangan Rang Undang-undang Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak (Pindaan), 2026. Saya berpandangan bahawa pindaan ini bukan sekadar melibatkan perubahan struktur pentadbiran dan peruntukan undang-undang, tetapi juga merupakan satu langkah penting dalam memperkukuh institusi ilmu pengetahuan, pemeliharaan sejarah dan warisan budaya Sarawak untuk generasi masa kini dan generasi masa hadapan.

Tuan Speaker,

*Indah berseri bunga di taman,
Burung berkicau di atas atap,
Demi rakyat dan masa depan,
Saya sokong dengan enam sebab.*

Kepentingan Pindaan dalam Memperkukuh Tadbir Urus Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak

Pindaan kepada Seksyen 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13 dan 19 antara lainnya melibatkan penyusunan semula peruntukan berkaitan kuasa, tanggungjawab serta proses membuat keputusan dalam pentadbiran Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak. Antara pindaan penting ialah penggantian beberapa rujukan kepada autoriti dengan *Minister* di samping penjelasan peranan Lembaga dan perpustakaan negeri.

Seksyen 10 yang dicadangkan juga memperuntukkan kuasa Menteri untuk memberikan arahan kepada Lembaga berhubung pelaksanaan kuasa, fungsi dan tanggungjawabnya dengan syarat arahan tersebut tidak bercanggah dengan Ordinan. Saya melihat pindaan ini sebagai usaha untuk memperjelas bidang kuasa dan memperkemas penyelarasan pentadbiran.

Dalam era pembangunan yang semakin pesat, institusi awam perlu mempunyai struktur pengurusan yang cekap, responsif dan mampu membuat keputusan secara berkesan. Walaubagaimanapun saya ingin menegaskan bahawa sebarang penambahbaikan kepada kuasa pentadbiran hendaklah sentiasa disertai dengan prinsip ketelusan, akauntabiliti dan tadbir urus yang baik. Kuasa yang jelas perlu digunakan untuk memperkukuh perkhidmatan kepada rakyat. Meningkatkan kecekapan organisasi dan memastikan pengurusan sumber awam dilaksanakan secara bertanggungjawab.

Pemeliharaan Sejarah dan Warisan Sarawak Melalui Arkib Memorial

Tuan Speaker, saya amat tertarik dengan pindaan kepada Seksyen 2 dan Seksyen 3 yang memperkenalkan konsep *Memorial Archive* ataupun Arkib Memorial. Pindaan ini memberikan pengiktirafan yang jelas kepada peranan arkib dalam menyimpan, memelihara dan mempamerkan bahan sejarah bagi memperingati peristiwa, tokoh dan aspek penting sejarah negeri.

Bagi saya perkara ini amat signifikan. Sarawak merupakan sebuah negeri yang kaya dengan sejarah, kepelbagaian etnik, adat resam, bahasa dan warisan budaya. Setiap masyarakat mempunyai sejarah perjuangan, mempunyai sejarah pencapaian, identiti dan nilai kehidupan yang wajar diperlihara. Sekiranya sejarah ini tidak didokumentasikan dengan baik, kita mungkin kehilangan sebahagian daripada identiti dan khazanah warisan negeri yang tidak ternilai.

Kita harus menyedari bahawa pembangunan sesebuah negeri bukan sahaja diukur melalui pembinaan jalan raya, melalui jambatan, sekolah, hospital dan kemajuan ekonomi. Pembangunan yang sebenar juga merangkumi usaha memelihara sejarah, memperkukuh identiti budaya dan memastikan generasi muda memahami asal usul serta perjalanan masyarakat mereka. Negeri yang maju bukan sahaja negeri yang membina masa hadapan, tetapi juga negeri yang menghargai dan memelihara sejarah silamnya. Oleh itu, saya menyokong usaha memperkukuh fungsi Arkib Memorial di bawah Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak.

Kepentingan Pemeliharaan Warisan Masyarakat Dan Masyarakat Luar Bandar

Tuan Speaker, sebagai wakil rakyat bagi kawasan DUN N.21 Tebedu, saya ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengetengahkan kepentingan pemeliharaan sejarah dan warisan masyarakat luar bandar khususnya masyarakat kami di Tebedu iaitu masyarakat Bidayuh. Masyarakat Bidayuh mempunyai sejarah, adat resam, bahasa, kepercayaan tradisional, seni budaya dan warisan kehidupan yang unik. Namun demikian, sebahagian besar daripada sejarah masyarakat kita masih diwarisi secara lisan daripada satu generasi kepada generasi berikutnya.

Kisah pembukaan kampung, penghijrahan masyarakat, kepimpinan tradisional, adat perkahwinan, amalan pertanian, seni bina tradisional dan peristiwa bersejarah sering disampaikan melalui cerita orang tua. Keadaan ini perlu diberikan perhatian serius. Saya ingin mencadangkan agar Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak memperluas usaha pendokumentasian sejarah masyarakat luar bandar melalui kerjasama dengan persatuan kebudayaan, institusi pendidikan, pemimpin masyarakat dan komuniti setempat. Bagi masyarakat Bidayuh, kerjasama dengan *Dayak Bidayuh National Association* ataupun DBNA boleh diterokai untuk mengumpulkan dan mendokumentasikan bahan sejarah, bahasa, adat resam dan warisan budaya.

Di kawasan N.21 Tebedu sendiri terdapat banyak sejarah kampung, tradisi masyarakat dan pengalaman pembangunan yang wajar direkodkan secara sistematik. Saya percaya usaha sebegini bukan sahaja dapat memelihara warisan budaya malah dapat membangkitkan rasa bangga generasi muda terhadap identiti dan asal usul mereka. Warisan yang tidak direkodkan mungkin akan dilupakan, sejarah yang tidak dipelihara, mungkin akan hilang. Tetapi sejarah yang didokumentasikan akan terus hidup untuk tatapan generasi akan datang.

Memperkukuh Budaya Membaca Dan Pendidikan Sepanjang Hayat

Tuan Speaker, perpustakaan bukan sekadar tempat untuk menyimpan buku, perpustakaan merupakan pusat ilmu, penyelidikan, pembelajaran sepanjang hayat dan pembangunan modal insan. Dalam usaha Sarawak membangun ekonomi berasaskan pengetahuan, teknologi dan inovasi, peranan perpustakaan menjadi semakin penting. Kita memerlukan masyarakat yang berilmu, berkemahiran, berfikiran kritis dan mampu menyesuaikan diri dalam perubahan dunia. Sehubungan itu, saya berharap, pindaan Ordinan ini turut menjadi pemangkin kepada penambahbaikan perkhidmatan perpustakaan khususnya bagi masyarakat luar bandar.

Di kawasan seperti Tebedu, akses kepada bahan bacaan, sumber pembelajaran digital dan kemudahan penyelidikan perlu dipertingkatkan. Saya ingin mencadangkan agar Kerajaan Sarawak mempertimbangkan peluasan perkhidmatan perpustakaan digital, perpustakaan bergerak, dan program galakkan membaca ke kawasan pedalaman serta luar bandar. Anak-anak di kampung seharusnya mempunyai peluang yang lebih saksama untuk mengakses ilmu pengetahuan seperti anak-anak yang tinggal di kawasan bandar.

Pendidikan merupakan salah satu instrumen paling berkesan untuk membebaskan masyarakat daripada kemiskinan dan membuka peluang kehidupan yang lebih baik. Oleh itu, pelaburan dalam pembangunan perpustakaan sebenarnya merupakan pelaburan dalam pembangunan masa hadapan rakyat Sarawak.

Pendigitalan Bahan Sejarah dan Penggunaan Arkib Moden.

Tuan Speaker, dalam era digital, usaha pemeliharaan sejarah tidak boleh bergantung sepenuhnya kepada kaedah penyimpanan tradisional. Dokumen lama, gambar bersejarah, rakaman suara, manuskrip, bahan penyelidikan dan rekod komuniti perlu dipelihara melalui kaedah pendigitalan yang terancang. Pendigitalan membolehkan bahan sejarah disimpan dengan lebih sistematik dan tertakluk kepada kesesuaian serta hak akses dimanfaatkan oleh generasi akan datang.

Saya mencadangkan supaya Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak memperkukuh pembangunan arkib digital dan merangkumi sejarah pelbagai masyarakat dan kawasan di seluruh Sarawak. Arkib ini boleh menjadi sumber rujukan kepada pelajar, sumber rujukan kepada penyelidik dan juga sumber rujukan kepada ahli akademik dan masyarakat umum.

Bagi kawasan saya N.21 Tebedu, inisiatif ini boleh membuka ruang untuk mendokumentasikan sejarah perkembangan kampung, pembangunan infrastruktur, pendidikan, pertanian, kegiatan ekonomi dan perubahan kehidupan masyarakat setempat. Dengan adanya rekod yang tersusun generasi masa hadapan akan dapat memahami perjalanan pembangunan kawasan mereka serta menghargai pengorbanan generasi terdahulu. Saya juga berharap pembangunan arkib digital ini dilaksanakan dengan mengambil kira keselamatan data, pemeliharaan dokumen asal dan sensitiviti adat serta hak masyarakat terhadap bahan warisan mereka.

Memastikan Manfaat Pindaan Kepada Rakyat

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin menegaskan bahawa kejayaan sesuatu pindaan undang-undang bukan hanya bergantung kepada kejelasan peruntukannya. Kejayaan sebenar terletak pada keberkesanan pelaksanaan serta manfaat yang dapat dinikmati oleh rakyat. Oleh itu, saya berharap penambahbaikan pentadbiran Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak akan diterjemahkan kepada perkhidmatan yang lebih cekap, akses ilmu yang lebih meluas dan program pemeliharaan warisan yang lebih inklusif.

Saya ingin melihat Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak terus berkembang sebagai institusi yang bukan sahaja berkhidmat kepada masyarakat bandar tetapi juga memainkan peranan aktif dalam pembangunan masyarakat luar bandar. Kerjasama dengan sekolah, kerjasama dengan institusi pengajian tinggi dan kerjasama dengan persatuan kebudayaan, pertubuhan masyarakat dan Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan perlu diperkukuh. Dengan pendekatan ini, perpustakaan boleh menjadi jambatan yang menghubungkan sejarah silam, keperluan masa kini dan aspirasi masa hadapan.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai kesimpulan saya ingin menegaskan bahawa pindaan kepada Ordinan Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak, 1999 merupakan satu langkah yang wajar disokong dalam usaha kita memperkukuh tadbir urus institusi ilmu dan memperluas peranan-peranan pemeliharaan sejarah serta warisan negeri. Saya melihat tiga kepentingan utama dalam pindaan ini;

- (a) Memperjelas struktur kuasa dan tanggungjawab pentadbiran bagi meningkatkan kecekapan pengurusan Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak;
- (b) Memperkukuh pengiktirafan terhadap pemeliharaan sejarah dan warisan melalui pengenalan arkib memorial;
- (c) Membuka peluang untuk memperluas usaha pendokumentasian sejarah masyarakat serta pembangunan ilmu pengetahuan bagi manfaat seluruh rakyat Sarawak.

Saya berharap pelaksanaan pindaan ini akan memberikan perhatian yang sewajarnya kepada sejarah masyarakat luar bandar, termasuk masyarakat kita, di kawasan saya iaitu kawasan N.21 Tebedu, agar warisan mereka terus dipelihara dan tidak dilupakan. Kita mungkin tidak mampu mengubah sejarah yang telah berlaku tetapi kita mempunyai tanggungjawab untuk memelihara sejarah tersebut supaya generasi akan datang dapat mempelajari, memahami dan mengambil iktibar daripadanya.

Marilah kita membina Sarawak yang bukan sahaja maju dari segi ekonomi dan pembangunan fizikal tetapi juga kaya dengan ilmu kukuh dengan identiti dan bangga dengan warisan sejarahnya. Dengan harapan dan keyakinan tersebut, saya selaku ADUN N.21 Tebedu, dengan ini menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap Rang Undang-Undang Perpustakaan Negeri Sarawak (Pindaan), 2026. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Balingian.

YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi: Assalamualaikum W.B.T dan salam sejahtera. Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. I raise today to support this Bill, because I believe that the amendments proposal is not merely administrative or technical in nature. They carry broader significance in strengthening Sarawak's efforts to preserve our history, heritage, records and collective a memory for the future generations.

Tuan Speaker, a library today should no longer be regarded merely as a place where books are stored and borrowed. For as state such as Sarawak, with its long history, multicultural society, diverse languages, customs and traditions, prominent personalities, historical events and unique development journey, a library also carries an important responsibility as a custodian of the state's intellectual heritage and historical memory.

For this reason, I welcome the amendment introduce through this Bill which, among others, provides a new definition of "*memorial archives*" as an archive established to place and preserve, exhibit historical material commemorating an event, a person or any other historical aspect. More importantly, this Bill empowers the State Library to establish, manage and maintain memorial archives.

This is a significant step forward; Sarawak processes an enormous wealth of historical material that deserves to be properly documented and preserved. We have the history of the formation and development of the state, the history of rural development, the contributions of our past leaders, the evolution of public administration and the cultures and traditions of Iban, Bidayuh, Malay, Melanau, Orang Ulu, Chinese and many other communities that have collectively shaped the identity of Sarawak as we know it today.

If these materials are not systematically collected, preserved and documented, we risk losing this part of our history. Therefore, the establishment of memorial archives should not simply be about storing all documents. It should be about ensuring the story, and the journey of Sarawak can be told through preserved records, historical materials and credible sources rather than relying solely on memories or stories passed verbally from one generation to the others.

Tuan Speaker, the second matter I wish to highlight concerns the streamlining or powers and governance structures. Through several provisions in this Bill, references to the "*Authority*" are recognised by assigning relevant responsibilities more clearly to the *Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri*, the Minister, the Board, the State Library and the Government, according to their respective functions.

I regard this as an important step forward establishing a clearer and more practical administrative framework. When powers, responsibilities and line of accountability are clearly defined, decision can be made in a more orderly and efficient manner. In any public institution, it is essential to be clear as to who makes the decisions, who grants the approval, who implements the policy and who is ultimately accountable.

We should avoid administrative processes becoming unnecessarily prolonged because of overlapping functions and governance structures that may no longer be suited to prevent, to present-day needs. In this regard, the Bill also provides that the Minister may, from time to time, give directions to the Board provided that such directions are not inconsistent with the provision of the Ordinance.

I believe this provision is important because it establishes a clearer policy relationship between the government and the Board, responsible for the administration of the institution. At the same time, such power must always be exercised professionally, transparently and in public interest, so that the State Library continues to function as a trusted institution of knowledge and heritage.

Tuan Speaker, the third matter I wish to address is the importance of the Bill to the younger generation of Sarawak. We are living in an era where information can be obtained within seconds through smartphones and the internet.

However, the speed at which information is obtained does not necessarily guarantee its accuracy. In a world increasingly saturated with information from multiple sources, institutions such as the State Library and archives are becoming even more important, because they serve as a place where properly organised, authentic and reliable historical records can be preserved and accessed.

Young Sarawakians must be given access to the sources that enable them to understand the history of their own state, who contributed to its development, how our communities evolved and how various areas were established, how institutions were formed and how Sarawak progressed through different stages and development.

Through well-developed memorial archives, I hope that Sarawak's history can eventually be presented in ways that are more accessible, engaging and meaningful to the public. These archives should not become merely storage rooms filled with old files. Instead, they should evolve into centres of historical and heritage education capable of attracting students, researchers and members of the public who wish to understand Sarawak's history more deeply.

Tuan Speaker, I would also like to see this documentation efforts extended beyond state-level history or concentrated solely in Kuching. Every division and every district in Sarawak have its own history. In Mukah, for example, in Mukah Division, there is the history of the Melanau community, the evolution of the local administration, in sago economy, traditional villages, customs and traditions, as well as the development of our coastal communities, all of which deserve to be properly recorded and preserved.

The same applies to other divisions like Kapit, Limbang, Sri Aman, Betong, Miri, Bintulu, and other divisions throughout Sarawak. A considerable amount of our historical material remains in the possession of families, village communities, associations, local institutions and individuals. Some of these materials may include old photographs, correspondences, maps, recordings, manuscripts, personal records and documents relating to important local personalities.

Therefore, as the concept of memorial archives is strengthened under this Bill, I hope there will also be systematic effort to identify, collect and preserve historical material from across Sarawak. We want the history of Sarawak's development to be documented comprehensively, from urban areas to rural areas and interior communities and from prominent state leaders to local community leaders who have contributed significantly to their respective areas.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill also provides the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri to amend the Schedules by notification in the gazette. I regard this mechanism as a practical measure that provides administrative flexibility, allowing matters contained in the Schedules to be adjusted, when necessary, without compromising the overall purpose and principles of the Ordinance. Nevertheless, such flexibility must continue to be accompanied by good governance, transparency and accountability.

Tuan Speaker, ultimately a state is not built solely through road, bridges, building and physical infrastructure. A fully progressive state must also possess the capacity to preserve its history, value its heritage and tell the story of its own people. We lose our historical record; we lose part of our identity. If we failed to preserve historical material today, future generation may come to know Sarawak only through fragmented and incomplete resources. That is why the amendment to the Sarawak State Library carry significant far beyond changes in terminology of administrative structure. They provide a framework through which Sarawak historical treasure and collective memory can be preserved in a more systematic matter while of the same time aligning the governance of the State Library with the present administrative structure.

I therefore hope that the implementation of this amendment will mark a significant step forward in strengthening the preservation documentation and accessibility of Sarawak historical heritage. It should enable our historical material to be collected and preserved in a more systematic manner support the establishment of memorial archive that are not only repositories of the past but also meaningful centre of education and historical appreciation and ensure that the histories of every division, district and local community are properly recorded as part of the larger Sarawak history.

At the same time, greater access should be provided to students, researchers and public so that our history is not merely preserved, but understood, appreciated and passed on to future generation equally important. This amendment should strengthen the governance of the State Library through a clearer, more efficient and accountable administrative structure so that this institution can continue to serve not only as a guidance of knowledge but also as a custodian of Sarawak identity heritage and collective memory.

Tuan Speaker, we are building Sarawak for the future. But as we move forward, we must never leave behind the history that has brought us to where we are today. Development gives us a future, but history give us our identity. With that, I firmly and confidently support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to all to seek and urge this august House to approve it. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Telang Usan.

YB Dato Dennis Ngau: Good afternoon, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving Telang Usan this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026, presented by N.20 Tarat, Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak. At the outset, Telang Usan wishes to express support for this Bill. Telang Usan recognises the importance of strengthening the legal framework governing the Sarawak State Library, particularly in ensuring that our libraries continue to play a meaningful role in education, knowledge development, historical preservation and community empowerment.

Libraries or be it a mini one or even just a reading corner at a longhouse far at the corner interior of our state, today are more than just places where books are kept. There are centres of learning, platforms for digital literacy, and important institutions that provides our people, especially children and young people in rural areas, with opportunities to improve their knowledge and broaden the horizons. However, Tuan Speaker, as we debate this amendment, Telang Usan wishes to bring to the attention of this august House a matter that is particularly close to my heart as the elected representative of N.77 Telang Usan. It concerns that mini community library or reading corner set up at the Penan Service Centre (PSC) at Long Latei, in the interior of Telang Usan, roughly about two hours' drive on logging road from Long Lama town.

Community Library at Penan Village, Long Latei

Tuan Speaker, Telang Usan wish to inform this august House that the mini community library at Penan Village, Long Latei, was established through a joint initiative between the management of the Sarawak State Library and my good self and officially declared opened on 24th October 2020. To my knowledge, this is the only community library of its kind established through such an initiative in an area very far from urban or city centre.

The establishment of this mini library was driven by a simple but important objective, that is to bring knowledge, reading opportunities and educational resources closer to the rural community, particularly the Penan children who live far from major towns and educational facilities. For children growing up in remote villages such as Long Latei and many other villagers nearby, access to books, learning materials and conducive environment for reading can make a significant difference to their educational development. We must recognise that children in the interior deserve the same opportunities to learn, explore and develop their potential as children in urban areas. They should not be disadvantaged simply because of where they were born or where their families live. This mini

community library is therefore more than just a building with books. It represents our commitment to educational equality and our belief that every child deserves an opportunity to succeed.

Tuan Speaker, while Telang Usan is pleased that this initiative has benefited the local community especially the Penan, Telang Usan must bring to the attention to this august House, a practical challenge that we are currently facing. Since the establishment of this library, the operational responsibility, particularly the payment of token for volunteers who care for this facility has largely been shouldered by me through my effort as the *wakil rakyat* for Telang Usan. Telang Usan has done so because Telang Usan believes in the importance of this library and the benefits it brings to the community.

However, Tuan Speaker, while we want this mini library to operate for long, Telang Usan can no longer sustain financial commitments due to limited funds. Telang Usan wishes to instead, its sustainability should be supported by a proper institutional arrangement. For this reason, Telang Usan would like to respectfully appeal to the Sarawak State Government to do the relevant Ministry and the Sarawak State Library to consider taking over the management and operational responsibilities of the community library at Penan Village, Long Latei. In particular, Telang Usan hopes that the State Government will consider providing a sustainable allocation for staff salaries, maintenance, reading materials and other essential operating expenses. Telang Usan believes this would be a practical and meaningful intervention by the State Government.

The library has already been established through cooperation between my Telang Usan Service Centre, the Sarawak State Library, Headman and community of Long Latei. Rather than allowing the initiative to struggle because of financial limitations, we should build on what has already been achieved and ensure that it can continue serving the community in the long term. Telang Usan is not asking the State Government to establish a new facility from scratch. The facility is already there, and the community is already benefiting from it. What we need now is sustainable management and funding arrangement to ensure its continuity.

Tuan Speaker, at this juncture, Telang Usan wishes to place on record our sincere appreciation to the organizations and individuals who have contributed towards supporting this community library. In particular, Telang Usan would like to thank Petronas SSGP, Rotary Club of Miri, Sarawak Multimedia (SMA), TEGAS, Majlis Daerah Marudi, Pustaka Awam Marudi, Dayak Daily, Nesun Alan Sdn. Bhd., Bumimas Sdn. Bhd., MyHumanitarian, a youth volunteer from Kuala Lumpur, Ketua Kampung and villages of Long Latei and well-wishers who have extended their assistance and support.

Their contributions demonstrate that the development of rural communities is not the responsibility of the government alone. The private sector, corporate organisations, civil society and individuals can also play important roles in improving the well-being of our people. Telang Usan is grateful that these organisations and individuals have recognised the value of investing in education and supporting the learning needs of children in remote communities. Their generosity has helped sustain this initiative and has demonstrated what can be achieved when different parties worked together for a common cause. To all these organisations, Telang Usan extends our felt thanks.

Nevertheless, Tuan Speaker, while corporate social responsibility and contribution from generous organisations are important, such assistance cannot be the sole basis for long-term operation and essential community facility. Donation may fluctuate from year to year, and organizations may have different priorities at different times. Therefore, while I welcome continued support from the private sector, I believe that the long-term sustainability of this knowledge corner requires a more structured arrangement under the State Government.

Tuan Speaker, the matter that Telang Usan has raised today is also closely related to the broader objective of this Bill. If we are strengthening the legal framework governing the Sarawak State Library, Telang Usan believes we should also give serious consideration to how the benefit of

our library services can reach communities in the interior of Sarawak. Our development agenda must not be confined to major town or urban centre only.

In constituency such as Telang Usan where communities are scattered across vast geographical areas and many villages are accessible only through challenging-logging routes, the provision of educational facilities requires special attention. A library may appear to be a small facility when compared with major infrastructure projects. However, its long-term impact on children and the community can be substantial.

A child who develops a reading habit today may become a teacher, doctor, engineer, entrepreneur or community leader in the future. Access to books and learning resources can only help rural students improve their command of languages, strengthen their academic performance and prepare themselves for a world that increasingly depends on knowledge and digital technology. As Sarawak move forward with development agenda, we must ensure that the rural children are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the state's future economic opportunities.

This is particularly important for the younger generation of the very rural community, who deserve every opportunity to improve their lives through education. As intended by our State Budget 2027, we must ensure that no child in Sarawak is left behind simply because of geographical distance or the financial limitations of their community. Therefore, Telang Usan hopes that the Ministry responsible for the Sarawak State Library will view the Long Latei community library not merely as an isolated facility, but as a potential model for extending library services to other underserved rural communities.

For the information of this august House, this initiative *telah memenangi Pingat Perak untuk Anugerah Kualiti Perkhidmatan Awam Negeri Sarawak (AKPANS) bagi kategori Anugerah High-Performance Team Tahun 2021*. At this juncture, Telang Usan also wishes to inform this august House that there are four other libraries run and managed by Marudi District Council in Telang Usan but the one at Long Latei is the one that is very unique in all angles.

Suggestions For the Way Forward

Tuan Speaker, to move this matter forward, Telang Usan would like to propose several practical steps for the consideration of the government.

- (a) Telang Usan urges the relevant ministry and the Sarawak State Library to conduct an assessment of the existing facilities, staffing requirements and operational costs of the Long Latei Community Library;
- (b) Telang Usan request that the State Government consider allocating the necessary funding to support the library's operations, particularly the salary of its staff, so that it continued operation does not depend solely on the financial resources of the constituency service centre;
- (c) Telang Usan proposed that the Sarawak State Library consider establishing a suitable management arrangement for the facility, whether through direct management, an agreed partnership with the local community, or another appropriate mechanism under its existing powers and responsibilities;
- (d) Telang Usan hopes that the library can gradually be equipped with additional reading materials, educational resources and where feasible digital learning facilities to meet the changing needs of the younger generation; and
- (e) Telang Usan hopes that the relevant ministry will keep my service centre informed of the proposed arrangements and the steps required to ensure a smooth transition towards sustainable management.

Telang Usan stands ready to cooperate with the ministry and the Sarawak State Library in finding a workable solution. We want to ensure that this valuable community initiative can continue to benefit the people of Long Latei and the several Penan villagers around the facilities for many years.

CONCLUSION

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, Telang Usan reiterate support for the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Telang Usan hopes that the implementation of this Amendment Bill will go in hand with a stronger commitment to expanding access to library services, especially for rural and remote communities. The community library at Penan village, Long Latei, is a small but meaningful example of what can be achieved through cooperation between the government, elected representatives and the private sector. We have taken the first step by establishing the facility. We have received support from organisations and well-wishers who believe in its mission.

The next step is to ensure that it operates on sustainable. As the *wakil rakyat* for Telang Usan, I have done my best to keep this library running. I believe that investing in education is investing in the future of our people.

Telang Usan, therefore, make a sincere appeal to the Sarawak State Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the community library at Penan village, Long Latei, receives the institutional support and funding required to continue serving the local community. Let us work together to ensure that even children living in the most remote parts of Sarawak have access to knowledge, educational resources and opportunities to build a better future.

Tuan Speaker, Telang Usan warmly thank you, thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Repok.

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

Tuan Speaker, terima kasih atas peluang yang diberikan kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 yang telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak. Pindaan ini berpotensi meningkatkan kecekapan pentadbiran dan melancarkan pengurusan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak melalui penghapusan kelulusan berperingkat. Langkah ini dapat mempercepatkan proses membuat keputusan serta pelaksanaan program perpustakaan.

Selain itu, penjelasan mengenai kuasa Menteri untuk memastikan hala tuju strategik Pustaka Negeri Sarawak sentiasa selaras dengan dasar awam dan aspirasi Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak. Walau bagaimanapun, saya yakin bahawa kepakaran dan profesionalisme Lembaga Pengarah akan terus memainkan peranan penting dalam memberikan nasihat serta pandangan profesional kepada Menteri sebelum sesuatu keputusan yang dibuat.

Pengenalan definisi dan fungsi *memorial archives* yang memberikan mandat perundangan yang jelas kepada Pustaka Negeri Sarawak untuk mengumpul, menyimpan, memelihara dan mempamerkan bahan-bahan bersejarah yang berkaitan dengan tokoh serta peristiwa penting di Sarawak. Inisiatif ini bukan sahaja dapat memperkukuh pemahaman generasi muda terhadap sejarah dan warisan Sarawak, malah turut memupuk semangat patriotisme serta jati diri dalam kalangan anak Sarawak.

Sehubungan itu, saya amat menggalakkan agar perhatian turut diberikan kepada penyediaan infrastruktur yang bersesuaian, penerapan teknologi digital serta penglibatan kurator dan ahli arkib yang berkemahiran dalam pengurusan *memorial archives*. Usaha ini penting bagi memastikan bahan-bahan sejarah dapat dipersembahkan secara lebih interaktif, menarik dan mudah difahami.

Pelaburan dalam pembangunan dan pengurusan maklumat serta warisan negeri yang diperkasakan melalui Rang Undang-Undang ini amat wajar dan merupakan satu pelaburan strategik demi kepentingan rakyat Sarawak. I am confident the Governments will give deal attention to the financial needs for the new memorial archives and the necessary governances adjustments with prudent planning and effective implementation; these amendments will strengthen Pustaka Negeri Sarawak and deliver lasting benefits to the people of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, based on the points i have presented, I hereby express my full support for the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu.

YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming: Good afternoon, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to participate the debate in support of the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill 2026. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development who is also the Honourable Member for ADUN N.20 Tarat for introducing the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in this august House.

I rise today to express my support for this Bill, which seeks to strengthen the governance and administration of our Sarawak State Library, while expanding its role in preserving the historical heritage of our beloved state.

Tuan Speaker, over the past few years, under the visionary leadership of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak has been making significant progress in transforming our economy, developing new industries, embracing advanced technologies and strengthening our position as a progressive and competitive state.

We are building modern infrastructure, developing renewable energy, advancing our digital economy and preparing our people for the opportunities of tomorrow. However, while we continue to move forward with the development, we must not forget the importance of preserving the history, culture and heritage that have shaped Sarawak into what is today. Because development should not only be measured by how far we have progressed economically, but also by how well we preseve the identity and values that make us Sarawakians.

In this regard, I see the Amendment Bill as an important step towards strengthening the role of our State Library, not merely as an institution that stores books and historical records, but as a guardian of Sarawak's history, knowledge and collective memory.

Strengthening the Governance of the Sarawak State Library

I would like to touch on the amendment relating to the management of the Sarawak State Library. These amendments aim to improve the management of the State Library by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the Minister, the Board, and the State Government. I believe this will help the State Library make better decisions and carry out its duties more effectively.

Tuan Speaker, as Sarawak continues to develop, our public institutions must also move forward to meet the changing needs of our people. A modern State Library should no longer be seen simply as a place where people borrow books. It should also be a centre for education, research, digital learning and the preservation of our history and culture.

Therefore, while we welcome these amendments, we must also ensure that the State Library continue to be managed with transparency, responsibility and professionalism, so that it can serve the people of Sarawak for generations to come.

Preserving Sarawak's History Through Memorial Archives

Tuan Speaker, one of the important provisions of this Bill, which I would like to highlight, is the introduction of memorial archives under Clause 2, which introduces the definition of memorial archives, while Clause 3 expands the functions of the State Library to include the establishment, management and maintenance of memorial archives. This amendment is meaningful because it recognises the importance of preserving historical materials that commemorate significant events, individuals and other aspects of our history.

Tuan Speaker, when we speak about the development of Sarawak, we often speak about what we are building for the future. But equally important is the question of what we are preserving from our past. Sarawak has a rich and fascinating history. Our development has been shaped by generations of leaders, communities, pioneers and ordinary Sarawakians who have contributed in their own ways towards building the state we enjoy today. Many of their contributions may not necessarily be recorded in formal history books. Some are preserved through old photographs, handwritten documents, personal collections, family stories and oral traditions passed down from one generation to another. Unfortunately, as time passes, many of these historical materials risk being lost, damaged or forgotten.

Therefore, I welcome the introduction of memorial archives, which can provide an additional institutional mechanism for preserving important historical records and memories for future generations. However, Tuan Speaker I would also like to suggest that we develop these memorial archives, we should not limit our attention only to prominent historical figures or major historical events. We should also recognise the contributions of ordinary communities, local pioneers and the many different ethnic groups that have played an important role in shaping Sarawak's history. Because the history of Sarawak is not merely the history of our leaders. It is also the history of our people.

One Sarawak, One Future, We Share One Home

Tuan Speaker, in the recent Budget Speech, by Yang Amat Berhormat Premier shared a meaningful message, *"One Sarawak, One Future"*. He reminded us that although we come from different backgrounds, speak different languages and practice different traditions, we all share one home, Sarawak. I find this message very meaningful to the Bill we are debating today. Sarawak is one home, but within this home, we have many different communities, each with its own beautiful culture, language and traditions. It is the diversity that makes Sarawak special.

Being united does not mean we must all be the same. It means we respect and appreciate our differences, while living together as one Sarawak. However, Tuan Speaker are we doing enough to protect the cultures and languages that make Sarawak so unique? We have similar ethnic communities such as the Kelabit, Penan, Kenyah, Kayan and many others, each with their own rich history, languages and traditions. Sadly, some of these languages and traditions are slowly disappearing as younger generations move away from their roots and become less familiar with their own culture. Many of our elders still carry valuable knowledge, traditional stories, songs and poems that have never been properly recorded. And when these elders are gone, some of this knowledge may be lost forever.

Tuan Speaker, a language is more than just words. It carries the history, wisdom and identity of a community. When a language disappears, we lost more than just a way of speaking. We lost a part of our heritage. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Sarawak State Library work closely with our indigenous communities, cultural groups, universities and researchers to record and preserve these valuable traditions. This could include traditional songs, poems, stories, old photographs and other important records of our communities. Through the new provision of memorial archives under this Bill, I believe there is an opportunity for the State Library to play a greater role in protecting our cultural heritage. Because, if Sarawak is our one shared home, then protecting the cultures and identities of every community within the home is our shared responsibility.

Using Artificial Intelligence to Preserve Indigenous Languages and Cultural Heritage

Tuan Speaker, I am pleased to note that Pustaka Negeri Sarawak has already taken steps to preserve our history and cultural through its Oral History Division and Sarawakian digital collections. I would like to commend these efforts. However, I believe we can take this one step further. As Sarawak continues to embrace Artificial Intelligence or AI, I would like to suggest that the State Government consider expanding these existing efforts into an AI powered Indigenous Language and Oral Heritage Digital Archive. Through this initiative, we can work with community elders, cultural groups, universities and technology experts to record our indigenous languages, traditional songs, poems and stories. More importantly with the help of AI we could turn these records into learning programmes that allow our younger generation to learn, practice their own mother tongue.

Tuan Speaker, let me give an example. Imagine a young Foochow child whose grandparents are fluent in the Foochow language, but whose parents may no longer speak the language regularly at home. As this child grows older, the opportunity to learn the language from fluent speakers may become increasingly limited. Now, imagine if we could record these voices of our elders speaking their own mother tongue or native language, telling traditional stories and singing traditional songs. With the help of AI, these recordings could eventually be used to develop learning programmes that help children learn the correct pronunciation, practice conversations and understand the meaning behind these traditional expressions. This would allow our younger generation to reconnect with their roots even when they are living far away from their communities. Of course, such programmes must be developed together with the communities concerned to ensure that their languages and traditions are recorded correctly and with their consent.

Tuan Speaker, preserving a language in an archive may prevent it from being forgotten. But teaching the next generation to speak that language is what they will keep it alive. I believe this is an area worth exploring as we expand the role of the State Library.

Improving Access to Knowledge and Library Facilities in Bintulu

Tuan Speaker, while we discussing improving the Sarawak State Library, I would also like to highlight the importance of making library services available to people across Sarawak especially in Bintulu. Over the years, Bintulu has grown rapidly in terms of industry, business and population. With this growth, the demand for better learning facilities and access to knowledge has also increased.

Tuan Speaker, libraries today should not just be place where people borrow books. They should also serve as modern learning centres where students can study, use computers, access online learning materials and gain new knowledge. This is especially important for children from lower income families who may not be able to afford expensive books, computers or online learning resources.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that the State Government shall consider upgrading library facilities in Bintulu, including providing better study areas, digital learning facilities and reading programmes for the community. At the same time, I hope that our libraries can also play a greater role in preserving local history. Bintulu has its own rich history, from its early communities and trading activities to its growth into an important industrial town today. Many stories and contributions from our earlier generations have yet to be properly recorded. We should work with local communities, schools and cultural groups to preserve these stories for future generations.

Tuan Speaker, as we move towards One Sarawak, One Future, we must ensure that access to knowledge and the preservation of our history is not limited to Kuching alone. People in Bintulu and other parts of Sarawak should also have the opportunity to learn, grow and preserve their own local heritage.

Financial Implications and Long Term Sustainability

Tuan Speaker, I also note that the Bill will involve additional government spending, although the amount has yet to be determined. In this regard, I believe proper planning is important to ensure that public funds are used wisely. Preserving our history is not just about keeping old documents, we also need trained staff, proper storage facilities and modern technology to protect these records for future generations. This is especially important if we wish to introduce AI technology to preserve our indigenous languages and cultural heritage.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that the government carry out these programmes in stages, starting with the most urgent needs before expanding further. With proper planning and careful spending, I believe these efforts can bring long term benefits to the people of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I welcome the Amendment Bill as an important step towards improving the management of our State Library and strengthening its role in preserving Sarawak's history and heritage. As Sarawak continues to progress under the leadership of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, we must ensure that our rich cultural heritage is not forgotten. Let us use the technology of tomorrow to preserve the heritage of yesterday, so that our future generations will always remember their roots and identity. With this, Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Daro.

YB Dr Haji Safiee bin Ahmad: Assalamualaikum W.B.T., Salam Sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan *Salam Segulai Sejalai*.

Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, kerana telah memberi ruang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan *Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026*, yang telah dibentangkan oleh YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn, Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat merangkap Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.20 Tarat.

Tuan Speaker, pindaan undang-undang ini bukan sekadar satu pembaharuan teknikal, tetapi ia adalah satu manifestasi jelas komitmen Kerajaan Sarawak kita yang dinamik dan proaktif dalam memastikan institusi ilmu dan warisan negeri terus relevan, moden dan berdaya tahan mendepani cabaran era digital pada masa kini. Sebagai wakil rakyat yang membawa suara masyarakat di kawasan luar bandar khususnya Daro, saya melihat pindaan ini membawa empat teras utama yang amat penting:

Transformasi Organisasi

Tuan Speaker, pindaan melalui Fasal 4 hingga Fasal 11 Rang Undang-Undang ini memperlihatkan langkah transformasi organisasi yang sangat strategik. Kita melihat penyelarasan kuasa yang lebih teratur antara Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, Menteri yang bertanggungjawab, dan Lembaga Pengurusan Perpustakaan.

Penyelarasan ini memastikan pentadbiran perpustakaan tidak lagi dibelengu oleh birokrasi yang rumit, sebaliknya memperkemas struktur membuat keputusan. Bagi kami di Daro, transformasi organisasi ini amat penting agar inisiatif literasi digital dan program pembangunan komuniti selari dengan Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 ataupun PCDS 2030 dapat disalurkan dengan lebih pantas dan berkesan tanpa halangan pentadbiran yang leceh dalam usaha kita yang juga sedang membangun perpustakaan, pusat digital dan inovasi di daerah Daro.

Memperkukuh Pengurusan Rekod dan Arkib Memorial

Tuan Speaker, melalui Fasal 2 dan Fasal 3, pindaan ini memperkenalkan konsep baharu, iaitu pewujudan arkib memorial di samping arkib awam sedia ada. Langkah ini secara langsung

memperkuhkan sistem pengurusan rekod sejarah Sarawak. Warisan, sumbangan tokoh-tokoh tempatan, serta peristiwa bersejarah yang membentuk identiti anak-anak Sarawak seperti sejarah perjuangan dan pembangunan Sarawak, termasuk sejarah Dewan Undangan Negeri yang merupakan Dewan Undangan Negeri yang tertua di Malaysia, dapat terus dipelihara dengan lebih sistematik dan selamat untuk tatapan generasi pada masa hadapan.

Selain daripada itu, rekod adalah memori kolektif bangsa kita yang terdiri daripada pelbagai etnik. Dengan adanya peruntukan undang-undang yang jelas ini, khazanah sejarah Sarawak tidak akan pupus ditelan zaman. Selain daripada itu juga Tuan Speaker, Sarawak yang kaya dengan sejarah, iaitu sejarahnya, memerlukan sebuah entiti atau badan yang menguruskan arkib dengan lebih cekap tanpa bergantung sepenuhnya dengan Arkib Negara Malaysia sahaja.

Transformasi Perundangan

Tuan Speaker, dari sudut transformasi perundangan, Rang Undang-Undang ini membawa nafas baharu kepada Ordinan Principal (Cap. 29) yang telah pun agak berusia. Pindaan seperti pengenalan Seksyen baharu, Seksyen 29A yang memberi kuasa kepada Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri untuk meminda Jadual melalui pemberitahuan dalam Warta membuktikan bahawa undang-undang negeri kita bersifat dinamik dan fleksibel. Ini membolehkan kerangka undang-undang perpustakaan disesuaikan dengan pantas mengikut peredaran masa, keperluan teknologi maklumat terkini, serta perubahan landskap pentadbiran moden.

Kejelasan Mengenai Harta Kerajaan

Tuan Speaker, akhir sekali, pindaan ini turut menyediakan kejelasan mutlak mengenai harta kerajaan seperti yang tertera di bawah Fasal 6 Rang Undang-undang ini, di mana Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri diberi kuasa untuk meletakkan semua hak milik hartanah di bawah nama Perpustakaan Negeri. Aspek ketelusan pemilikan aset ini amat penting bagi mengelakkan sebarang kekeliruan perundangan, memastikan akauntabiliti kewangan yang tinggi, serta menjamin bahawa setiap aset fizikal dan infrastruktur perpustakaan dilindungi sepenuhnya di bawah payung undang-undang negeri.

Tuan Speaker, kesimpulannya, pindaan ini adalah bukti ketegasan Kerajaan Sarawak dalam memastikan institusi ilmu kita terus berkembang sebagai pusat kecemerlangan minda rakyat Sarawak yang merangkumi bandar-bandar besar sehinggalah ke kawasan-kawasan di luar bandar.

Tuan Speaker, dengan perbahasan yang telah diutarakan, maka Daro menyokong sepenuhnya Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tamin.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to debate on this Bill. Bear with me, Tuan Speaker, my speech is not that long, only 10 minutes. I rise to support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

First, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Honourable Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development, Sarawak, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn, Assemblyman for N.21, Tarat, for tabling this Bill in this august House. I appreciate his efforts to strengthen the State Library and preserve Sarawak's history for future generations. This Bill gives the State Library a clear role in setting up and managing memorial archives. It also updates the responsibilities of those involved in managing the library. I welcome these changes. The library's services should benefit all Sarawakians, including those living in rural areas.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill removes references to the Authority and realigns the relevant powers among the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, the Minister, the Board and the government. Clear

responsibilities can help the library make timely decisions and manage its resources properly. These changes should lead to better services for the public.

Clause 7 replaces Section 10. It allows the Minister to give directions to the Board on how to carry out its powers and duties. These directions must be consistent with the Ordinance, and the Board must take the necessary steps to carry them out. This should provide clear guidance while respecting the knowledge and experience of librarians and archivists. The new Section 29A also allows the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri to amend the Schedules through notification in the gazette. Any changes should be clearly explained to the public.

Tuan Speaker, I especially welcome the provisions on memorial archives. Clause 2 introduces a definition of memorial archives. These archives keep and display historical materials to commemorate a person, an event or another aspect of history. Clause 3 gives the State Library the power to establish, manage and maintain these archives. This is an opportunity to preserve more of Sarawak's history. Our archives should include the contributions of all communities, including ordinary people who have helped develop their villages and longhouses.

As the representative of Tamin and as a Sarawakian who comes from the longhouse in the interior, I believe this work is very important. Many of our elders have valuable knowledge about their longhouses. They remember how settlements began and how communities lived and how traditions were passed from one generation to another. We should record this knowledge while our elders can still share it. Once they are gone, some of these stories may be lost.

I propose that the State Library works with community leaders, schools and cultural organisations in the rural areas to record local history. Interviews with elders, old photographs and family records can become useful materials for future generations. This work should be done with the agreement of those involved, and their wishes about private or sensitive information should be respected. The library should also preserve original records about Sarawak's constitutional history, the formation of Malaysia (MA63). These records can help young people understand our history through reliable information. Historical facts must be checked carefully, and the sources of materials should be recorded. Different accounts should be presented fairly, so that the public can trust our archives.

Tuan Speaker, library services must also reach rural communities. A child living in a longhouse, for example, in Tamin should have the opportunity to read books and use reliable learning materials. Living far from a major library should not limit that child's chance to learn. Therefore, I ask the State Library to introduce a regular outreach programme for the rural, working with schools and community leaders. This could include mobile library visits, reading corners in suitable community halls, longhouse space, regular activities and changing selection of books would help children develop an interest in reading. Digital services support this programme while internet connection unreliable, the library could provide learning materials can be downloaded and used offline.

Practical classes on finding reliable information, recognizing online scams and using digital tools safely would also benefit students, parents and other residents. Reading materials in Bahasa Malaysia and English, together with suitable materials in Iban and other local languages, would support learning and help children remain connected to their own culture.

Tuan Speaker, the State Library will need a trained staff and proper facilities to protect historical materials and digital records. More training opportunities should be provided for Sarawakian librarians and archivists, especially the young people interested in our history and culture. Community volunteers can help collect the local materials, while professional staff guide the work. The library should report its progress clearly, including the communities visited, participation in its programmes and historical collections preserved.

I thank the Sarawak Government for bringing forward this Bill. I hope these amendments will improve library services and bring more learning opportunities to rural schools and longhouses. With that, Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Batu Kitang

YB Dato Ir. Lo Kheng Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me this honour and opportunity to participate in the debate on the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026, tabled by the Honourable Member of N.20, Tarat, Minister of Education, Innovation and Talent Development.

I rise and support this Bill, which represents an important step towards strengthening the governance, administration and archival responsibilities of the Sarawak State Library, or Pustaka Negeri Sarawak. I have also listened with interest to the concerns raised by the Honourable Member for Pending. While I appreciate her emphasis on transparency, accountability and the preservation of our historical heritage, I believe several matters deserve clarification, particularly concerning the powers that already exist under the Sarawak State Library Ordinance 1999, and the changes proposed by this Bill.

The State Library is much more than a repository of books and historical documents. It is an institution entrusted with preserving Sarawak's collective memory, supporting education and research, and ensuring that valuable knowledge remains available to future generations. As Sarawak advances towards digital and knowledge-driven economy, our public institutions must also evolve to meet changing needs and expectations. This Bill provides an opportunity to strengthen the legal framework governing one of Sarawak's most important knowledge institutions.

Tuan Speaker, the Honourable Member for Pending, has expressed concerns about the Minister's power to issue directions to the State Library Board under Clause 7. I would respectfully draw her attention to Section 10 of the existing Sarawak State Library Ordinance, 1999. Under that provision, the Board is already subject to directions from the Sarawak Multimedia Authority, which is a Sarawak statutory body. In other words, statutory oversight of the State Library is not something being introduced for the first time through this Bill. The proposed amendment restructures the existing arrangement by placing the power to issue directions directly with the responsible Minister.

This establishes a clearer line of Ministerial responsibility and accountability. There is also an important legal limitation. The proposed Section 10 expressly provides that Ministerial directions cannot be inconsistent with the provisions of the Ordinance. The Minister is therefore not being given unrestricted powers. The Minister remains bound by the law. I agree with the Honourable Member that transparency and accountability are important. However, we should distinguish between legitimate statutory oversight and political interference. They are not the same thing.

Ministerial oversight does not, in itself, mean interference with the professional responsibilities of librarians, archivists and other qualified personnel. The preservation, classification and management of historical records require expertise, accuracy and sound professional judgement. Proper documentation of important decisions, clear administrative procedures and appropriate reporting arrangements will further strengthen public confidence in the State Library. These are practical considerations that can be addressed as the amended Ordinance is implemented.

Streamlining Governance

Tuan Speaker, this Bill also proposes changes to the existing governance arrangements made by reallocating certain responsibilities previously exercised by the Sarawak Multimedia Authority. Some responsibilities will be exercised directly by the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri while others will rest with the responsible Minister or the State Library Board. These changes are intended to simplify administrative processes and clarify responsibility for important decisions. For example, under the proposed amendments, the Board will appoint the Chief Executive Officer with the

approval of the Minister. This gives the Board a direct role in their appointment while retaining Ministerial oversight.

Good governance requires clear responsibilities, proper procedures and decisions made in accordance with the law. It also requires accountability. As these amendments are implemented, appropriate records, reporting arrangements and financial controls will remain important in ensuring that the State Library operates efficiently and responsibly.

Preserving Sarawak's History

Tuan Speaker, one of the most meaningful features of this Bill is the express recognition of memorial archives. The Honourable Member for Pending has emphasised the importance of ensuring that these archives reflect the contributions of Sarawak's diverse communities. On this point, I believe we share the same objective. However, I would draw her attention to Clauses 2 and 3 of this Bill.

The proposed definition of memorial archives is broad, very broad. It encompasses historical materials relating to individuals, events, and other aspects of Sarawak's history. There is nothing in these provisions that confines memorial archives to political leaders, prominent personalities, or any other particular community.

Sarawak Possesses a Rich and Remarkable History

Our history is found not only in official Government records, but also in personal correspondence, photographs, manuscripts, maps, oral histories, community publications, and other materials documenting the lives and experiences of our people. Some of these records are held by public institutions. Others remain with families, community organizations and private individuals. Many are irreplaceable. Once an original photograph, manuscript or historical document is lost or destroyed, an important part of our collective memory may disappear with it.

Every community has played a part in shaping the Sarawak we know today. Our historical collections should reflect that shared heritage, guided by credible evidence, professional assessment and respect for historical accuracy. The existing Ordinance already provides the State Library with substantial responsibilities for acquiring and preserving historical materials and maintaining public archives. The proposed amendment builds upon those responsibilities by expressly recognising memorial archives.

The Honourable Member's suggestions concerning public nominations, community participation and transparent selection criteria may certainly be considered during implementation. However, these are proposals for additional administrative procedures. They should not be mistaken for evidence that the Bill itself excludes any community or restricts the preservation of particular historical contributions.

Community Participation and Historical Preservation

Tuan Speaker, the preservation of Sarawak's history is a responsibility that extends beyond government institutions. Families, schools, community associations, cultural organisations and private collectors may possess valuable historical materials that are not available elsewhere. These could include photographs of old towns and villages, records of early businesses, documents relating to community institutions, and personal accounts of significant events. Such materials provide valuable insights into how our communities developed over time.

I believe the State Library should continue encouraging members of the public to contribute to the preservation of these records. Where appropriate, arrangements could be made for donations, temporary loans, digitalisation or the professional recording of historical information. Clear

procedures concerning ownership, consent, access and the handling of donated or borrowed materials would help build public confidence.

The establishment of memorial archives offers an opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the State Library and the wider community. Our history belongs to all Sarawakians, and its preservation should reflect the contributions of our people across generations.

Digital Preservation and Public Access

Tuan Speaker, the Honourable Member for Pending has also raised questions about digitalisation, online accessibility, cybersecurity and the long-term preservation of electronic records. These are important matters, and I share her desire to see historical information made more accessible to the public. However, I believe we should distinguish between the purpose of the legislation before us and the operational programmes required to implement it. The Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 is a focused legislative measure. It is not intended to prescribe every technical standard, digitalisation target or administrative procedure governing the State Library.

Such matters can be addressed through appropriate regulations, institutional policies, professional standards and implementation plans. The absence of every operational detail from an Amendment Bill does not, by itself, mean that the legislation is deficient. In today's world, preserving historical materials involves more than protecting physical documents. Increasingly, valuable information exists in electronic, audiovisual and other digital forms. These records require proper management to ensure their authenticity, integrity and continued accessibility.

Digitalisation can make historical information more accessible to students, researchers and members of the public who may not be able to visit the State Library in person. This is particularly important in Sarawak, where geographical distances can make access to centralized facilities difficult. However, digitalisation is not simply a matter of scanning documents and placing them online. It requires proper cataloguing, reliable storage, secure backups, suitable technical standards and long-term preservation planning. Public access must also be balanced with applicable legal requirements concerning copyright, personal information, ownership and confidentiality. What matter is that the State Library has the necessary legal authority, professional expertise and resources to carry out its responsibilities effectively.

Education, Research and Sarawak's Future

Tuan Speaker, the importance of the State Library extends well beyond historical preservation. As Sarawak pursues the objective of PCDS 2030 and develop its digital economy, education, research and access to reliable information will become increasingly important. Our young people need opportunities to develop knowledge, critical thinking and digital literacy.

Students and researchers require access to trustworthy information and properly maintained records. Businesses, professionals and institutions also benefit from reliable sources of technical and historical knowledge. A modern State Library can contribute to these objectives through its collections, research services, digital resources and partnerships with educational institutions. It can support lifelong learning and help people distinguish reliable information from misinformation.

As Sarawak develops new industries, including advance manufacturing, semiconductors, artificial intelligence and renewable energy, access to knowledge and research will become even more valuable. The State Library may not be directly responsible for developing these industries, but it can support the wider knowledge infrastructure upon which innovation and information decision-making depends on. That is why strengthening this institution is an investment not only in our past, but also in Sarawak's future.

Resources, Professional Standards and Accountability

Tuan Speaker, the Honourable Member for Pending has also called for measurable outcomes, adequate funding and proper reporting. These are reasonable expectations of any public institution. However, accountability is not measured solely by how many additional procedures are written into a particular amendment. It is also demonstrated through lawful administration, professional stewardship, sound financial management, and the responsible discharge of statutory duties.

The existing Ordinance already contains provision governing the State Library's financial administration and archival responsibilities. Those responsibilities are not abolished by this Bill. At the same time, legislation alone cannot preserve historical records or deliver better services. The effectiveness of these amendments will depend on their implementation. The State Library will require appropriate professional expertise, modern facilities, reliable digital infrastructure and sufficient resources to carry out its responsibilities.

The Bill's financial implications statement acknowledges that additional government expenditure is anticipated, although the amount cannot presently be determined. This makes prudent financial planning and proper oversight particularly important. Resources should be directed towards clear priorities, including the preservation of vulnerable collections, professional development, digital security, improved accessibility and the maintenance of archival facilities.

Progress should also be capable of being assessed through meaningful outcomes. These may include the preservation of historical materials, the development of memorial archives, improvements in digital access and greater community participation. Transparent reporting and responsible financial management will help ensure that public resources are used effectively.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I appreciate the concerns raised by the Honourable Member for Pending. Constructive scrutiny is an important part of our responsibilities in this honourable House. However, I believe it is equally important that our assessment of this Bill reflects what is the existing Ordinance which already provides and what the proposed amendments actually change.

The Bill does not introduce Government oversight of the State Library for the first time. It does not restrict memorial archives to selected individuals or communities. Nor does it remove the State Library's established responsibilities for preserving historical records. Instead, it updates the statutory framework, clarifies administrative responsibilities and expressly recognises memorial archives as part of the library's functions.

There will always be opportunities to improve transparency, public access, digital preservation and community participation. These improvements should continue through sound administration, professional expertise and responsible implementation. Ultimately, the purpose of preserving our historical records is to ensure that future generations can understand Sarawak's past through authentic evidence and reliable information.

Our history should be preserved faithfully, without distortion or omission, and with due recognition of the contributions of all our communities. At the same time, the State Library should continue developing as an institution that supports education, research, innovation and lifelong learning. By safeguarding our history, we preserve the foundations upon which future generations can learn, understand and build a stronger Sarawak. With these remarks, I reaffirm my full support for the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, we have a break. Sitting resumes at 3:00 p.m.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada jam 1:34 petang)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada jam 3:11 petang)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Member for Engkilili.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Good afternoon, Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Good afternoon.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Thank you, for giving me the opportunity to debate the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Syabas dan tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.20 Tarat kerana telah berjaya membentangkan Rang Undang-undang bagi *Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026*.

First and foremost, I wish to emphasize that any amendments to our existing laws must serve the interests of the people of Sarawak, particularly on rural communities, young people and future generations. At the same time, I rise to support this Bill, with constructive recommendations on the preservation of our history, institutional accountability, rural access to knowledge, and responsible financial planning.

Tuan Speaker, a State Library carries a responsibility that extends across generations. It provides access to knowledge. It preserves records. It supports learning and research. It helps ensure that the experiences of people remain available to those who come after us. When we preserve a document, a photograph, a recording or a personal collection, we preserve evidence of how Sarawak has developed and how its people have lived. For this reason, amendments to the State Library Ordinance deserve careful consideration.

The Bill before us addresses two significant matters. It introduces express provision for memorial archives, and it realigns various responsibilities among the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, the Minister, the Board, the State Library and the government. These changes should strengthen both the institution's public purpose and the clarity of its administration.

Clause 2 introduces a definition of memorial archives. Clause 3 extends the State Library's functions to include memorial archives. The explanatory statement indicates that this will enable the State Library to establish, manage and maintain such archives. I welcome this development. Sarawak has a rich history that should be preserved through reliable records and careful scholarship. For the example, official documents, historical maps, photographs and contemporary accounts can help us understand Sarawak's journey towards the formation of Malaysia in 1963.

At the community level, old photographs, village records and recorded interviews with elders can help document the history of longhouses, schools and rural development in constituencies such as Engkilili. Similarly, Iban folktales, including those published by the Borneo Literature Bureau, can preserve language, storytelling traditions and cultural values.

These materials should be carefully collected and studied. Oral recollections should be compared with available documentary evidence, while folktales should be understood in their literary and cultural context. Memorial archives can help document important events, public service, community leadership and other historical contributions. They can bring together materials that would otherwise remain scattered among families, institutions and private collections. However, the value of a memorial archive depends on the quality and integrity of the work behind it. Materials should be authenticated, properly described and preserved according to professional standards. The public should be able to understand where a record came from, what it represents, and any limitations surrounding its interpretation.

A memorial archive should support learning and informed understanding. I therefore ask the Government to explain the proposed criteria for the establishing memorial archives, including how subjects will be selected and how professional assessment will be undertaken.

Tuan Speaker, my second point concerns the inclusion of rural communities in Sarawak's historical record. The history of Sarawak includes the history of our longhouses, villages and rural settlements. It includes the work of community leaders, teachers, farmers, healthcare workers, cultural practitioners and many others whose contributions may never have been recorded formally.

In Sarawak, there are family histories, old photographs, oral accounts and community records that could contribute meaningfully to our understanding of local development. Some materials may be vulnerable to deterioration. Some memories remain with elderly residents and need to be documented carefully while there is still an opportunity.

I therefore propose a structured community documentation programme involving the State Library, district offices, schools, researchers and community leaders. Such a programme could identify historically significant materials, provide advice on their preservation and arrange recording or digitisation where appropriate. Oral histories should be collected with informed consent and clear documentation. Where accounts differ, those differences should be acknowledged rather than concealed. The aim should be to build a credible record that reflects the breadth of Sarawak's experience.

Tuan Speaker, my third point concerns cultural respect and community participation. Historical materials can include information that communities regard as sensitive. A photograph, recording or manuscript may relate to family affairs, traditional knowledge, ceremonies or other matters requiring careful handling.

The government should therefore ensure that collection and access policies respect the people who provide these materials. Clear agreements should explain whether an item is donated, loaned or copied. They should explain ownership, permitted use, access conditions and any restrictions. Communities should be consulted where materials involve shared cultural knowledge. Where appropriate, contributors should receive copies of digitised materials so that preservation also benefits the community of origin. This would strengthen trust and encourage participation. We should make it easy for people to contribute to Sarawak's historical record while understanding how their materials will be protected and used.

Tuan Speaker, my fourth point concerns governance and Ministerial responsibility. Several clauses remove references to the existing authority and reassign responsibilities to other bodies or office holders. Clause 7 replaces Section 10 with a provision allowing the Minister to give directions to the Board concerning the exercise of its powers, functions and duties.

Those directions must be consistent with the Ordinance. Clear responsibility can improve coordination and reduce uncertainty. However, the Government should explain how the revised arrangements will operate in practice. What responsibilities will remain with the Board? Which matters will require Ministerial approval? How will the professional responsibilities of librarians, archivists and other officers be maintained? I suggest that the institution adopt a clear framework for recording and implementing Ministerial directions.

The Board should retain proper records of decisions, reasons and follow-up action. Where appropriate, significant policy directions should be explained in public reporting, subject to legitimate confidentiality requirements. Professional judgement should guide collection assessment, preservation methods and the accurate description of historical materials. Administrative clarity and professional and integrity should reinforce one another.

Tuan Speaker, my fifth point concern staffing and Institutional capacity. Clause 8 changed the arrangement under Section 11 concerning the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer and other officers' employees that expands role by this Bill where require suitable expertise.

Memorial archives need trained personnel who can assess materials, manage collections, preserve fragile items, maintain digital systems and support research. The government should therefore explain whether additional staffing, training or specialist support will be required. Appointment should reflect the competencies needed for the work.

Existing staff should have opportunities to strengthening their skills. Partnerships with universities and other qualified institutions to support training, research and professional development. We should also encourage young Sarawakians to consider careers in librarianship, archives, conservation and information management. A strong legal framework needs capable people to give it effect.

Tuan Speaker, my sixth point concerns rural access to knowledge. As the representative for Engkilili, I want the benefits of a stronger State Library to reach the communities throughout Sarawak. Students in rural areas should be able to access suitable learning resources. Teachers should be able to obtain reference materials. Young people should have opportunities to develop research and digital literacy skills. Adults should be able to continue learning, including those pursuing professional qualifications or higher education later in life.

I therefore, urge the government to consider practical outreach measures alongside the implementation of this Bill. These could include mobile services, partnerships with schools and community facilities, scheduled visits, and assisted access to digital resources. Where internet access is unreliable, offline materials and other workable arrangements should be considered. The approach should respond to actual local needs. For the surrounding communities, I propose the government assess demand and explore a suitable pilot initiative with a local stakeholder. Its results should be evaluated before expansion.

Tuan Speaker, my seventh point concerns digitisation and long-term preservation. Digitisation can widen access and reduce repeated handling of fragile originals. However, scanning an item is only one part of preservation. Digital records need accurate descriptions, secure storage, backups and continuing maintenance. Systems and file formats change over time. The institution must therefore plan for the long-term usability of the materials it collects. I propose that the government explain its digital preservation strategy, including arrangements for security, disaster recovery and access.

Physical originals must also be protected where they retain historical or evidential value. Access arrangements should distinguish between materials available to everyone, materials requiring permission, and materials subject to legitimate restrictions. Researchers and members of the public should be able to understand how to request access, how decisions are made.

Tuan Speaker, my eighth point concerns financial accountability. The Bill's financial statement indicates that additional government expenditure will be involved, although the amount cannot presently be ascertained. This deserves a clear implementation plan. I recognise the final costs may depend on the scale and timing of the proposed work. Nevertheless, the House should be informed of likely categories of expenditure. These may include staffing, conservation, premises, digital infrastructure and ongoing maintenance. I request the Honourable Member to explain the proposed funding approach and whether implementation will proceed in phases.

Each phase should have defined objectives, a budget and measurable results. Performance should include the quality of preservation, the usefulness of public access, the reach of rural services and the value of research supported. Annual reporting should be making progress understandable to this House and to the public.

Clause 12 introduces Section 29A, allowing the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri to amend the Schedules through notification in the Gazette. This provides flexibility. However, changes affecting publishers, authors or other stakeholders should be clearly explained. I encourage appropriate consultation, reasonable notice and updated practical guidance whenever such amendments are made. Those expected to comply should be able to identify their obligations easily.

Before concluding, I seek clarification on five matters:

- (a) What criteria will guide the establishment of memorial archives?
- (b) How will rural communities participate in documenting and preserving their histories?
- (c) What safeguards will support professional integrity under the revised governance arrangements?
- (d) What staffing, funding and implementation timetable are proposed? and
- (e) How will access to the State Library's resources be improved for the rural constituencies such as Engkilili?

Tuan Speaker, through my years of public service, I have seen how much communities can contribute when their experiences are listened to and properly documented. My own academic journey has also strengthened my appreciation of reliable evidence. Experience becomes more valuable when it is recorded, examines and shared. This is spirit of the phrase: *"From Grassroots to DUN — Where experience meets evidence."*

This Bill offers an opportunity to strengthen the institutions that preserve such evidence. We should use that opportunity to protect Sarawak's history, support learning, ensure that rural communities have a place in our shared record. With these observations and recommendations, I strongly support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Murum.

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

Thank you, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 successfully tabled by Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn, Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.20 Tarat for the second reading. I rise to express my full support for this Bill, which seeks to strengthen the governance, administration and function of the State Library.

Tuan Speaker, the State Library is more than just an institution for storing books and reference materials. It is an important centre of knowledge, education, research and preservation of our historical and cultural heritage. As Sarawak continue its transformation toward becoming a developed and prosperous state by 2030, we must ensure that our institution remain relevant, efficient and responsive to the changing needs of our society.

In this regard, I welcome the proposed amendment, aimed at realigning the powers and the responsibilities of State Cabinet, the Minister and the Board of the State Library. I believe these amendments will provide greater clarity in governance, facilitate more effective decision-making, and strengthen institutional accountability.

Tuan Speaker, one particularly significant provision of this Bill is the introduction of memorial archives as part of the functions of the Sarawak State Library. I strongly welcome this initiative because Sarawak is blessed with a rich and diverse history, culture and heritage that must be preserved for future generations. Our state is home to many ethnic communities, each with its own unique traditions, languages, customary practices and historical experiences. These formed an important part of our collective identity as Sarawakians. However, much of historical and cultural

knowledge, particularly among indigenous communities in rural and interior areas, continue to be passed down through oral traditions.

As time passes and our older generation leave us, we risk losing invaluable knowledge and historical memories that may never be recovered. Therefore, I hope that this establishment of memorial archives will go beyond preserving the contributions of prominent historical personalities and major events. It should also include the history, tradition, and collective experiences of ordinary communities throughout Sarawak. Our history belongs to all Sarawakians, and every community deserves to have its heritage recognized and preserved.

Tuan Speaker, coming from a rural constituency of Murum, I would particularly like to highlight the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of our indigenous communities, including the Orang Ulu, Iban, Bidayuh, and other native communities of Sarawak. Their oral histories, traditional knowledge, languages, customary practices, and cultural identities represent an invaluable part of Sarawak's heritage. I therefore encourage the State Library to work closely with cultural organizations, educational institutions, and community leaders to document and preserve this knowledge through modern archival and digital technologies. At the same time, we must ensure that such initiatives respect the cultural sensitivities and customary rights of the communities concerned.

Tuan Speaker, another important consideration is the need to ensure equitable access to knowledge and information. As Sarawak advances its digital economy and education agenda, our State Library must continue to improve beyond its traditional role. It should become a modern, accessible, and digitally connected institution capable of serving people throughout Sarawak, including those living in remote rural areas. I hope that the Government will continue strengthening digital library services, community outreach program, and collaboration with rural schools and educational institutions.

Children and young people living in Murum, Belaga, Baram, and other remote areas should have equal opportunities to access educational resources and digital knowledge. Access to knowledge should not be determined by geographical location but should be a right and opportunity available to every Sarawakian. This is consistent with the inclusive development aspiration of our government under the leadership of our Premier, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg.

Tuan Speaker, I also note that the implementation of this Bill may involve additional financial expenditure. While I fully support the proposed amendments, I hope that adequate resources will be provided to ensure their effective implementation, particularly in archival preservation, digital infrastructure professional expertise and community participation. Good legislation must be supported by effective implementation to deliver meaningful benefits to the people.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I believe the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 represents a positive step towards strengthening one of our state's important knowledge and heritage institutions. As we pursue economic progress, technological advancement and modernisation, we must never forget the importance of preserving our history, identity and cultural diversity.

A progressive Sarawak must not only look confidently towards the future, but must also remember, respect, preserve the heritage of its past. Our strength as Sarawakians lies in our unity in diversity, and our shared history provides the foundation upon which we build our common future. Let us ensure that the Sarawak State Library continues to serve as a guardian of our collective memory, a centre of lifelong learning and a source of knowledge an inspiration for generations to come. With these remarks, I fully support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Padungan.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me this opportunity to debate on the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Tuan Speaker, I note that there is a new definition memorial archives in certain, included in this Bill, where means an archive to place, preserve and exhibit any historical material to commemorate an event, or person or other historical aspect.

Tuan Speaker, while archive is a place to store all these historical materials and in the past it could not a physical place, but in this era of digital, an archive should include a digital archive, where this information or historical material can be store in the cloud or in a cyber space whereby it can be accessed to public and all these historical materials, and today I stand in this House to speak on behalf of this House and should include the Hansard record of this House.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak State Assembly has gone through 159 years. It has gone through the days of the Rajah and gone through the days of the Japanese occupation and how the Rajah after the Japanese occupation, the White Rajah, after the Japanese occupation... *(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: I think you are talking about the museum, not the Hansard. This Bill ...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Historical material...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: This Bill is about the State Library. I have been...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes, Tuan Speaker...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: I have been lenient; I have been lenient to allow and give leeway...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: But don't divert it to the Hansard of the House. It's a separate debate. I will not allow it...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: I don't allow it...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Why? This Hansard is a record of history...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: I don't allow it...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: It's a record of history, how Bills are made. How Bills are asked...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: It is a separate subject altogether...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: It is not separate. It is a historical event...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: Okay...*(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: It is a historical of how...*(Inaudible)*...

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Kota Sentosa, your turn... *(Interruption)*...

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker...*(Interruption)*...

Tuan Speaker: I have given my ruling.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: ...(*Inaudible*)...

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Thank you Tuan Speaker for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am actually appalled by The Honourable Member for Padungan because I took the opportunity to look at our Standing Order (34)¹ and it says that debate upon any motion, other than a motion for the adjournment of the Dewan, and upon any Bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, Bill or amendment Provided that when debating to amend a Principal Ordinance, a Member shall confine himself to the amendments proposed in the Bill and not on matters relating to the Principal Ordinance and in this particular case here it has even gone outside the Principal Ordinance.

Tuan Speaker, I rise to support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The amendment is important because it strengthens our ability to preserve, protect and showcase Sarawak's historical heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. At first glance, this Bill appears to be an amendment to the administration of a library. However, I believe its significance goes beyond that. It concerns how we preserve our collective memory, honour those who came before us, and ensure that the history of Sarawak continues to be understood and appreciated by our people.

Tuan Speaker, history is the foundation upon which a nation builds its identity, its values and its future. A nation that forgets its history risks losing its identity. History teaches us where we came from, the challenges our forefathers faced, the sacrifices they made, and the lessons we must carry forward. It gives us a deeper understanding of our society and reminds us that the progress we enjoyed today did not happen overnight.

Tuan Speaker, this brings me to the importance of the new definition of "*memorial archive*" under this Bill. By providing a definition that encompasses a place established to preserve and exhibit historical materials commemorating an event, a person or other historical aspects, this amendment creates a clearer basis for the preservation and public presentation of our historical heritage.

A memorial archive should not merely be a place where old documents and objects are stored away. It should be a living space where history can be discovered, experienced and understood. Without proper preservation, these materials may be lost, damaged or forgotten. Once important historical records disappear, the stories and knowledge they contain may be impossible to recover. Therefore, we must take proactive steps to preserve our historical heritage before it is too late.

Tuan Speaker, there is another important historical dimension under this definition of memorial archive that deserves our attention, the formation of Malaysia in 1963 and Sarawak's place in the Federation. The formation of Malaysia was a defining chapter in the state's history. The Malaysia Agreement 1963, signed on the 9th of July 1963, laid the foundation for the formation of Malaysia, which came into being on the 16th of September 1963. The process involved negotiations among the governments concerned, the work of the Cobbold Commission, and discussions on constitutional arrangements and safeguards for Sarawak and Sabah.

These were not merely events recorded in history books. They shaped the constitutional and political relationship between Sarawak and the Federation of Malaysia, and continues to inform discussions about our state's rights, autonomy and development today. This is precisely why the memorial archive for the preservation of historical documents, agreements, official records and the accounts of those who witnessed these events is so important.

Future generations must have access to reliable historical evidence to understand the circumstances under which Malaysia was formed. The consideration of Sarawak leaders at that time and the safeguards intended to protect the interest of Sarawak and its people.

Tuan Speaker, in the current context the importance of MA63 and Sarawak's Constitutional position continues to be discussed in public institution and amongst our people. This discussion must be informed by historical facts, authentic documents and a proper understanding of the Constitutional framework. We must neither forget our history nor allow our understanding outfit to be shaded slowly by incomplete accounts, political rhetoric or information circulated without proper verification.

A well-established memorial archive could provide an appropriate platform to preserve and exhibit materials relating to the formation of Malaysia including historical documents, photographs, correspondence, official publications and the contributions of the Sarawak founding leaders. Such collection will help students, researchers and members of the public better understand the historical foundations of our Federation.

It would also help ensure that the story of Malaysia is told with proper recognition of Sarawak's experience and contribution. Our young people should understand not only that Malaysia was formed in 1963, but also how it was formed. Why the arrangements method and why an understanding of that history remains relevant today.

At the same time, preserving these records under the memorial archived is not about re-opening all divisions, it is about strengthening public understanding, encouraging in form discussion and building a more mature relationship between Sarawak and the Federation based on historical knowledge and constitutional understanding.

Tuan Speaker, we cannot safeguard what we do not understand, and we cannot properly understand our constitutional position if we neglect the historical records that explains it origin. Therefore, I see the proposed definition of memorial archive as an opportunity to preserve not only the history of individuals and events but also the historical foundation of Sarawak's participations in Malaysia.

As we continue to pursue Sarawak's development and address matters relating to our rights under the MA63, let us ensure that the next generation inherits more than our aspirations. Let them also inherit the documents, knowledge and historical understanding necessary to appreciate the journey that brought us here. That is why this amendment matters, it is not simply about preserving the past, it is about equating Sarawakians with the knowledge to understand the presence and shade our future with confidence.

Tuan Speaker, we must remember that the nation history is not made up only of its most prominent leaders or major historical events, it is also found in the ordinary life of ordinary people, the teachers who educated our children, the workers who build up communities, the families who preserved our traditions and the community leaders who help their people through difficult times.

Every generation has a story worth preserving. The challenge is to ensure that these stories are not loss simply because we fail to recognise the value in time. Therefore, the memorial archive, the definition of the memorial achieve fits the needs of the time.

Tuan Speaker, the Sarawak State Library through this strengthened framework provided by this amendment can play an important role in ensuring that our historical heritage is protected, accessible and appreciated. Let us recognise that preserving history is not about living in the past, it is about understanding the past so that we can build a better future.

A strong nation knows its history, a confident society respects its heritage, and a forward-looking state understands that development must go hand-in-hand with the preservation of its identity. For Sarawak, we must continue to modernise, innovate and progress, while remaining firmly connected to the routes that made us who we are.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion I fully support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 because it represents an important step towards strengthening the preservation of our historical heritage. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Bawang Assan.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Sarawak's State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 tabled by the Honourable Minister for Education, Innovation and *Pembangunan Bakat*.

Tuan Speaker, we can recall that the Sarawak's State Library Ordinance, 1999 has previously been amended including the one in 1999 and another one in 2019. And so, the current Bill should therefore be considered in the contexts of the existing statutory framework rather than an entirely new governance structure.

To begin with, I wish to acknowledge the important of Sarawak's State Library or Pustaka Negeri Sarawak in preserving our state's knowledge history, cultural, heritage and public records. A library is actually an institution that safeguards the collective memory of our people. The records we preserved today will help future generations understand where Sarawak came from, how our society developed and what we have achieved together.

I therefore recognised the importance of this Bill, particularly its proposal to establish, manage and maintain memorial archives. However, Tuan Speaker, while supporting the objective of this Bill, I wish to raise several matters that deserve the attention of the Honourable Minister in this august House.

The Establishment of Memorial Archives

I welcomed the express inclusion of memorial archives within the function of the State Library. Sarawak has a rich and diverse history. Our development has been shaped by indigenous communities, Chinese pioneers, Malay, Melanau communities, religious organisations, educators, civil servants, business leaders and many other individuals who have contributed to our State of Sarawak. Their contributions deserve to be documented and preserved for future generations.

Historical records should include not only the achievement of prominent individuals, but also the experiences of ordinary people, the development of our rural communities, the growth of our educational institutions and the transformation of our economy. I therefore, urged the government to establish clear and transparent criteria for selecting and preserving materials for memorial archives.

Tuan Speaker, our history belongs to the people of Sarawak. It should be preserved comprehensively, professionally and fairly.

The Power of The Minister and The Independences of The Board

Tuan Speaker, I note that the Bill replaces the existing Section 10 with a provision of empowering the Minister to issue directions to the Board concerning the exercise of its power, its functions and its duties. I understand the need for Ministerial oversight. The government must be able to ensure that statutory institution operates in accordance with public policy and their legal responsibilities.

Nevertheless, we must also recognise the importance of professional judgement in managing public institution responsible for historical records and cultural heritage. I would, therefore, appreciate clarification from the Honourable Minister on the safeguards governing these directions. Will significant direction be recorded in writing? Will the Board retain sufficient professional discretion over archival preservation, collection development and historical research? How will the government ensure that professional standards can be maintained?

These questions are not intended to undermine Ministerial responsibilities rather they seek to ensure the accountability and professional integrity must operate together.

Tuan Speaker,

The Changes to Approval and Consultation Arrangements

Several provisions of the Bill revised the existing role of the Authority, the Minister, the State Cabinet and the Board. I appreciate that this amendment may be intended to streamline administration and clarify responsibilities. However, whenever statutory powers are transferred or existing consultation requirement are removed, this House should understand precisely what changes in practice.

Perhaps the Minister can explain how the revised arrangements will improve efficiency, will strengthen accountability and prevent uncertainty over the respective responsibility of the Minister and the Board. Good governance requires not only clear authority but also clear responsibility.

The Power to Amend the Schedules

I also wish to draw attention to the proposed new Section 29A, which empowers the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri to amend the Schedules by notification in the gazette.

I recognize that administrative flexibility can be useful. However, the House should understand the scope of this power and the nature of the changes that may be made under it. I therefore appreciate clarification on what matters are covered by this Schedules, what type of amendments are envisaged, and whether appropriate arrangements will be available to ensure transparency and legislative scrutiny. The objective should be to facilitate administration without creating unnecessary uncertainty over the scope of delegated power.

Funding Digitization and Public Access

Tuan Speaker, legislation must be accompanied by practical implementation. Preserving historical materials requires suitable storage facilities, trained personnel, conservation expertise, digitization equipment and long-term financial commitments. I would therefore urge the government to ensure that the State Library has adequate resources to carry out its expected responsibilities.

Where appropriate historical material should be digitalized and made available to researchers, to students, to educators and to the public, subject of course to the necessary legal, privacy and conservation restrictions.

I would also encourage cooperation with schools, universities, museums, local communities and historical organizations throughout Sarawak. Here, I would like to mention the consultation, perhaps with the communities. For example, most of the Chinese clan association either in Sibu, Miri, Kuching or throughout Sarawak possess valuable collection of historical records, cultural or ancestral genealogist, photographs, documents, cultural artifacts and accounts of the migration and sentiments of their forefathers. These associations are important custodians of our collective memory and cultural identity.

We should work closely with these clan associations to preserve documents and promote our heritage for future generations. Likewise, we should work closely with universities, with historical organizations, and so on throughout Sarawak. Such co-operations would help ensure that our heritage is preserved not only in Kuching but also through the histories and experiences of communities throughout the State of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, ultimately, the success of this Bill should not be measured solely by the number of provisions amended or the administrative powers reassign. It should be measured by whether

Sarawak's historical records are better protected, whether our diverse heritage is more comprehensively documented, whether public resources are properly utilized and whether future generations have greater opportunity to learn from our past.

We must remember that development is not all encompassing, that is not just physical development, not just economic growth, it is also about preserving our identity, understanding our history and passing our collective heritage on to the next generation.

Tuan Speaker, with these observations and request for clarification, I support the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and I hope that the government will give due consideration to the matters I raised just now. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: I shall now call upon the Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development and Member for Tarat to wind up.

Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.20 Tarat (YB Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn): Tuan Speaker, I wish to record my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Honourable Members for Pending, Tellian, Lingga, Tebedu, Balingian, Telang Usan, Repok, Tanjong Batu, Daro, Tamin, Batu Kitang, Engkilili, Murum, Kota Sentosa and Bawang Assan for their support of the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

And also, for the thoughtful observation raised during the debate concerning transparency historical preservation, public access digitalization and accountability. No thanks, for the Honourable Member for Padungan because what he brought up is out of order and that has been pointed out by the Honourable Member for Kota Sentosa also. Although he is making a theatrical show this morning.

Allow me to, a lot of observation, a very thoughtful on a transparency historical preservation, public access, digitalization and accountability. And to address the matter raised by the Honourable Member for Bawang Assan, be rest assured that the Cabinet and the Minister as well as the Board will be constraint by the principal by the provision of the Ordinance because you are not amending any actual other powers there.

Allow me to clarify that many of the initiatives highlighted by the Honourable Members are already actively pursued by the Sarawak State Library. As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen records, and archives management throughout the state. This initiative demonstrates that the propers amendment is not merely expanding function of paper but are supported by concrete systems, infrastructure and programs already in operation.

So, to address the hopes and fears of all Honourable Members, I wish to say this:

Strengthening Transparency and Accountability Through Digital Records Management

The Honourable Members raised concerns regarding documentation, traceability, accountability, and the need for appropriate checks and balances in the exercise of Ministerial powers. In particular, it should be noted that Clause 7 of the Bill expressly provides that any direction given by the Minister shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Ordinance and that the Board shall take all necessary steps or expedient to give effect to such directions. This provision ensures that Ministerial directions remain within the legal framework of the Ordinance and are not exercised arbitrarily.

In this regard, the Sarawak Government has implemented the Correspondence and Case Tracking Unified System (CACTUS), an electronic correspondence and case management platform designed to manage the lifecycle of official records from creation, registration, distribution, tracking, and retrieval. The system enhances transparency, traceability, and accountability by maintaining complete transaction records and audit trails for official correspondence and actions taken by officers. The government has specifically introduced CACTUS to improve document accessibility,

reduce dependence on paper records, and strengthen transparency in government administration. This initiative complements records management efforts undertaken by the Sarawak State Library and demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring that public records are properly documented, traceable and preserved.

Establishment of Sarawak Digital Records Management System (SDRMS)

Recognizing the growing importance of digital governance, Sarawak has also invested in the development of digital records management capabilities to ensure records remain authentic, reliable, accessible, and secure throughout their lifecycle. This was first initiated by the State Library and finally adopted by the Sarawak Civil Service Digitalization Unit (SCSDU). The purpose of these systems is not merely to store records but to ensure that government information can be systematically managed, retrieved, preserved, and transferred for archival purposes when appropriate. Such initiatives support the State's digital transformation agenda.

Archival Records Management Systems (ARMS)

With specific regard to archives, Pustaka Negeri Sarawak has already established the Archival Records Management System (ARMS), a dedicated web-based archival platform that enables users to manage records and archives processes in appraisal and disposition of records, to identify, locate, search, reserve, retrieve, and request access to archival materials held by the State Record Repository. ARMS serves as a central tool for managing archival records and facilitating public access to archival collections. Importantly, ARMS allows researchers and members of the public to search archival holdings online and arrange access 24/7 to records through structured and transparent procedures. The system therefore directly addresses the issue raised by the Honourable Members regarding discoverability and accessibility of historical records.

On the wider question of access, including concerns raised during debate regarding the availability of DUN hansard records, though you have ruled on this, Tuan Speaker. The government acknowledges the importance of making historical and public records more discoverable and convenient for ordinary Sarawakians, including those who are unable to visit the library in person. Access must, however, continue to be managed in accordance with applicable laws. Classification requirements, preservation considerations, and approved procedures. And that's exactly within your jurisdiction, Tuan Speaker, in as far as the hansard is concerned.

Expanding Public Access and Community Participation

The Honourable Members emphasize the importance of involving the public in preserving Sarawak's collective memory. The Sarawak State Library has already undertaken several initiatives in this regard, through programmes such as the Archiving Knowledge and Records for Accessibility in Browsing, or AKRAB in short, Enrolment of Membership Programs, EMPUN, E-M-P-U-N in short, and Friend of Archive, FOA.

Members of the public, students, educators, all Members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri and community groups are introduced to archival resources and trained in archival preservation activities. Participants have also been taught to access archival resources using ARMS, thereby expanding public engagement with Sarawak documentary heritage. The State Library also accepts private collections relating to Sarawak from around the world, not just in Sarawak, but in as far as it relates to Sarawak, that are bequeathed or donated by prominent individuals, families, and collectors subject to appraisal, legal documentation, and the library's collection policies.

This approach supports an open and inclusive process by encouraging public participation in identifying, contributing, and preserving records of historical value. Thereby strengthening public confidence in the preservation of Sarawak's collective memory. Furthermore, the State Library continues to acquire, preserve, digitize, and make available a wide range of historical materials through initiatives such as the Sarawakian collections and archival reference services. The

government also recognizes that the preservation of Sarawak history must be guided by transparent and objective criteria and not by political preferences.

Historical materials should reflect different perspectives and should include not only official government records, but also private collections, family photographs, community records, and other materials of historical significance where appropriate and subject to proper appraisal and legal requirements.

Digital Preservation Beyond Physical Storage

The Honourable Members correctly pointed out that preservation today requires more than storing physical documents. PUSTAKA Negeri Sarawak has continuously expanded its digital preservation capabilities. Most recently, PUSTAKA, in collaboration with SAINS, developed the Legal Deposit Management System, or LDMS, to facilitate the receipt, recording, management, and preservation of digital publications. The system ensures that published materials produced in Sarawak can be systematically collected, documented, preserved, and made available for future generations.

This demonstrates that the state has already moved beyond traditional custodianship towards comprehensive digital preservation and access strategies. The objective of digitization is therefore not only to safeguard materials from deterioration, loss, or disaster, but also to improve cataloguing, retrieval, local access, and long-term usability of records through proper backup systems, disaster recovery measures, and sustainable digital formats.

Governance and National Standards

Tuan Speaker, to ensure the records and access management across all public offices in Sarawak is conducted with transparency, consistency, and strict regulatory compliance, the state's initiatives are anchored upon a legal and governance framework as well as national standards. Now come to some latest developments.

New Sarawak State Archives Building

While we are talking, it is building itself. As of the latest publicly available project update, the new Sarawak State Archives building, besides the Sarawak State Library in Petra Jaya, is targeted complete in November 2026. Not too long left. The 25,476 square meter facility is planned as a secure climate control repository for important state records and historical materials for Sarawak.

Its key feature is a 10,000 square meter fully automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS), designed to improve storage, security and reduce document retrieval time to approximately two to three minutes. The building is also expected to include digitization and media conversion services, restoration and processing laboratories, research and training spaces, public reading areas, exhibition galleries, and a visitor centre.

These facilities should strengthen preservation and make consultation more convenient but public access will still depend on clear access policies. Digitization priorities, request procedures, and any lawful restrictions applying to individual records. Moving forward, regular reporting on records management, digitization, progress, public accessibility and archival preservation will be important to demonstrate tangible outcomes and allow the public to access whether the amendments are achieving their intended records.

On community libraries, the State Library will engage and collaborate closely with relevant stakeholders, particularly local councils and the National Library of Malaysia to assess community needs, clarify roles and responsibilities, and determining the most appropriate and sustainable way forward for the development and delivery of community library services.

Memang saya sangat menghargai semua cadangan-cadangan yang dibuat oleh Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat. I won't be able to cover all of it, but certainly *cadangan-cadangan yang bernas tentu sekali akan diambil kira dalam membuat apa-apa keputusan selepas ini*. So once again, I would like to thank all Members of this august House for the support on this Bill. Thank you.

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 Education, Innovation, and Talent Development and Member for N.20 Tarat, be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as the opinion say “Yes”.

Government: Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

Tuan Speaker: As many as are the contrary opinion say “No”.

Opposition: No... (Murmuring “No”)

Tuan Speaker: The “Yes” have it. The Motion is passed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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

COMMITTEE STAGE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the Dewan shall now consider the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Clauses 1 to 12

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that Clauses 1 to 12 are ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as the opinions say “Yes”.

Government: Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are the contrary opinion say “No”.

Opposition: No... (Murmuring “No”)

Tuan Pengerusi: The “Yes” have it. Clauses 1 to 12 are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clauses and Title

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now resume.

HOUSE RESUMED

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Minister.

Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.20 Tarat (Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn): Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the

Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without amendment.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

SARAWAK STATE LIBRARY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.20 Tarat (Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill 2026, be now read a third time and do pass.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Sarawak State Library (Amendment) Bill, 2026, be read a third time and do pass. As many as the opinions say “Yes”.

Government: Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

Tuan Speaker: As many as are the contrary opinion say “No”.

Opposition: No... (Murmuring “No”)

Tuan Speaker: The “Yes” have it. The Bill is read a third time and passed.

Bill is read a third time and passed

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri – Persekutuan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.7 Samariang (Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to be read a second time. Tuan Speaker, this is a rather simple amendment, actually.

Tuan Speaker, the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 which hereinafter I will refer to as the Amendment Bill, seeks to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance (Cap. 8), 1958, which hereafter I would call the Principal Ordinance, particularly in relation to replacement public holidays where public holidays overlap. The Principal Ordinance governs public holidays and matters relating to observances of such public holidays in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, the law governing public holidays in Sarawak is not new. In fact, the Public Holidays Ordinance has been part of our laws for almost eight decades, having first come into force on 16th December 1946 as Ordinance No. 4 of 1946. Since then, the Ordinance has evolved together with Sarawak. It was first amended in 1953 and was subsequently incorporated into the 1958 revised edition of the Laws of Sarawak as Chapter 8.

A further amendment followed in 1961. Following the formation of Malaysia in 1963, modifications were made to the Ordinance, particularly to its First and Second Schedules. Further modifications followed in 1965, and the Ordinance was subsequently reprinted, incorporating the amendments and modifications made up to 4th October 1974.

That legislation remains with us today as the Public Holidays Ordinance, (Cap. 8) (1958 Edition). For many years, the Principal Ordinance has served its purpose. Nevertheless, like other laws which have been in force for such a long period, practical situations may arise which the law may not expressly provided for at the time it was originally framed or drawn up.

One such situation concerns the overlapping of public holidays. Currently, the law provides that when public holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be a public holiday. However, the law is silent on a situation where a public holiday falls on another public holiday.

So, this overlapping situation has occurred several times in Sarawak before, especially during our festive seasons. For example, I give you an example, in 2025, Hari Gawai, the second day of Hari Gawai, coincided with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's Birthday. And in 2026, Wesak Day fell on Sunday, where Monday and Tuesday were already Gawai public holidays. So, these are overlapping of holidays that I'm talking about.

As it is now, whenever there is such an overlap, a separate notification in the Gazette is required to provide for the substitute public holiday. So, this process of issuance of Gazette for every declaration of holidays may be impractical and may cause delays which affects both public and private sectors. So rather than dealing with the same situation separately each time it arises, this Amendment Bill will provide a clear mechanism to address this matter.

So, Tuan Speaker, allow me to highlight the key features of this Amendment Bill.

(a) Amendment to Section 3.

Firstly, the Amendment Bill proposes to incorporate or move the provision relating to public holidays which falls on Sunday and on another public holiday from First Schedule to Section 3 of the Ordinance. And this is to provide for a statutory replacement day for such public holidays.

The Amendment Bill will enable the replacement public holiday to operate automatically under this Ordinance. There will no longer be a need to issue a separate notification in the Gazette each time such an overlap of holidays occurs. So, this will provide greater certainty to the public and improve administrative efficiency and as the replacement public holidays will arise automatically under the law. So, I suppose that this will allow families or members of the society to plan their holidays in advance without having to wonder or having to wait for confirmation of holidays via the notification of Gazettes.

Tuan Speaker, a similar mechanism is already provided for at the Federal level under the Holidays Act 1951. Sabah has similarly amended its Holidays Ordinance, Sabah Cap. 56, to align its law with the position under the Federal Holidays Act 1951. At the same time, the Amendment Bill preserves the power of the Yang di-Pertua Negeri to order otherwise by notification in the Gazette where circumstances so require.

(b) The deletion of the Second Schedule

So, the second part of the Amendment is the deletion of the Second Schedule. The amendment proposes to delete the Second Schedule which is no longer relevant. Consequential amendment will therefore be made to remove the existing references to the First or Second Schedule in the Principal Ordinance and will be renamed simply as the Schedule.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, this Amendment Bill will in essence provide greater clarity and better administration of our public holidays as public holidays form part of the ordinary calendar of our society. The law governing the observances of public holidays should, in our view, therefore be clear and practical for everyone. With that, I beg to move, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Penyelaras Projek untuk Agensi Pembangunan Wilayah, Dewan Bandaraya Utara Kuching Utara dan Hal Ehwal Islam); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.4 Pantai Damai (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi): Tuan Speaker, I beg to second.

Tuan Speaker: Any Honourable Members wish to speak? It is a very simple amendment. Keep and confine your observation only to the amendments, not to the Principal Ordinance. Honourable Member for Bukit Assek.

YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek: ...*(Inaudible)*... Tuan Speaker...

Tuan Speaker: Ya, proceed.

YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek: Hello, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the Public Holiday (Amendment) Bill, 2026. I support this timely and practical Bill, which will modernise our Sarawak's Public Holiday legislation and keep it relevant to the needs of our people.

Public holiday are not merely days off. They allow families to spend time together, the workers to rest, and communities to observe cultural and religious traditions. They also affect the planning of businesses, schools and government agencies. Therefore, our arrangements must be clear, consistent and predictable.

Tuan Speaker, the Public Holiday Ordinance dates back to 1946. Although it has served Sarawak for many decades, periodic review is necessary to address the gaps and improve its effectiveness. A key issue is when public holidays fall on a Sunday or overlap with other holidays. Under the proposed amendment, the scheduled public holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday will be observed as a public holiday. If that Monday is already a public holiday, the following day will be observed instead, unless otherwise ordered by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri through a gazette notification. And this provides a clearer statutory framework and reduces the need for separate notifications whenever overlapping holidays create uncertainties.

Tuan Speaker, the need for this amendment is practical, not theoretical. The Deputy Minister cum the Honourable Member of N.7 Samariang highlights that in 2026 Wesak Day fall on Sunday while the following Monday and Tuesday were already a public holiday for *Gawai Dayak* and the birthday of His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong. And these examples show why a systematic mechanism is necessary. Incorporating replacement arrangements into the Ordinance will improve transparency and give the public greater certainty when planning their activities.

Tuan Speaker, we can also learn from other parts of Malaysia. In Peninsular Malaysia, Section 3 of the Holidays Act 1951 provides replacement holiday when a public holiday falls on a weekly holiday and the following day is already a public holiday. And similar to Sabah has likewise clarified its arrangements through amendments to its Holiday Ordinance in 2026.

I welcome Sarawak's move to strengthen its legislative framework while ensuring that it remains appropriate to our state's circumstances, traditions and needs. And this amendment offers three practical benefits:

- (a) It benefits workers and families by providing certainty for planning, gathering, the travels, the personal commitments;
- (b) It benefits businesses and employers by facilitating the planning for staffing, operating hours, deliveries and production schedules; and

- (c) It benefits schools, the government departments, also the public agencies by simplifying the coordination of the calendars, administration and the public services.

Tuan Speaker, I also note that the Bill allows the Minister to appoint the commencement date by gazette notification and permits different provisions to come into force on the different dates. I trust that the government will ensure smooth implementation and provide the necessary guidance to agency and the public. I also note that the explanatory statement indicates that the amendment will not involve additional government expenditures. I welcome this while trusting that the relevant agency will be adequately prepared to implement the changes effectively.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I support the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026. And the Bill addresses the recurring practical issues and improves the clarity and consistency of Sarawak public holiday legislations. A clear replacement holiday mechanism will reduce uncertainty, minimise the repeated administrative interventions and provide greater predictability for workers, families, businesses, schools and government agency. I commend the effort to keep our laws responsive to the needs of our people. With this observation, I express my full support for the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pelagus. Okay, proceed.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: Salam Sarawakku Sayang. Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Salam Segulai Sejalai.

Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate on the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 introduced by the Honourable Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department (Law, MA63 and State-Federal Relations), Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali, the Honourable Member for N.7 Samariang.

I rise to express my full support for this Bill, which seeks to modernise the Public Holidays Ordinance of 1958. Although the proposed amendments may appear administrative in nature, their significance extends beyond legislative housekeeping. They concern fairness to workers, certainty for businesses, the welfare of families and the effective administration of public holidays in Sarawak.

FAIRNESS AND CLARITY IN REPLACEMENT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Tuan Speaker, I particularly welcome the proposed amendment to Section 3, which provides greater clarity with public holiday overlap. Under the existing Ordinance, where a public holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday is observed as a public holiday.

However, the existing provision does not expressly address situations where that Monday is already another public holiday. The proposed amendment addresses this uncertainty by providing for subsequent day to be observed as a replacement holiday, unless otherwise ordered by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri.

This is a sensible improvement based on a simple principle. The *rakyat* should not lose the benefit of a public holiday merely because two holidays coincide on the calendar year. It promotes fairness, consistency and certainty in the observance of public holidays.

Practical Benefits for Workers, Businesses and Families

Tuan Speaker, public holidays affect almost every aspect of our daily lives. For employees, they provide opportunity for rest, family time and participation in religious and culture celebrations. For employers and businesses, particularly in the tourism, hospitality, retail and transportation sectors, predictable holiday arrangements are essential for workforce and operational planning. Likewise, schools and public institutions require certainty when preparing their calendars and

programmes. By clarifying the law, this Bill will help minimize confusion and allow the *rakyat* to plan their activities with greater confidence.

Nevertheless, I would urge the relevant authorities to provide clear implementation guidelines, particularly concerning the interaction between replacement of public holidays, applicable employment laws and contractual agreements. Both employers and employees must understand their respective rights and obligations.

The Significance to Rural and Interior Communities

Tuan Speaker, I wish to draw particular attention to the significance of this amendment for our rural communities.

For those of us representing rural constituencies, we understand that a public holiday is not merely a day away from work. For many Sarawakians working or studying away from home, it is a precious opportunity to return to their villages and longhouses, reunite with their families and preserve their cultural traditions.

Take *Gawai Dayak*, for example. It is more than a festive celebration. It is an important occasion that strengthens family relationships, brings communities together and preserves the customs and traditions passed down through generations.

However, for communities in my constituency of Pelagus in Kapit, returning home is not always a simple journey. Many families must travel considerable distances, sometimes involving long road journeys, long boats, river transportation and substantial expenses. Such journeys often require arrangements to be made well in advance. Therefore, greater certainty over replacement public holidays will help these families plan their journeys and celebrations with greater confidence.

Tuan Speaker, a public holiday may appear to be just another date on the calendar, but for a family living far from home, it can mean the opportunity to reunite with loved ones and preserve the traditions that form the very identity of Sarawak.

Administrative Flexibility, Transparency and Public Communication

Tuan Speaker, I also welcome the proposed provision empowering the Yang di-Pertua Negeri to amend the Schedule of public holidays through notification in the Gazette. This provides greater administrative flexibility for the Sarawak Government to respond to changing circumstances.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I support this Bill because it strengthened the legal framework for replacement public holidays, provides greater certainty for workers and businesses, recognizes the practical needs of rural communities and improves administrative flexibility and transparency. The law must not only be clear on paper. It must also be clearly communicated, understood and implemented for the benefit of the *rakyat*. With these remarks, Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Kalaka.

YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri: Terima kasih Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan Rang Undang-Undang Cuti Umum (Pindaan) 2026 yang telah dibentangkan oleh Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Undang-Undang MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.7 Samariang. Assalamualaikum W.B.T dan salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju dan Makmur.

*Dari hulu mengalir sungai,
Membelah desa menuju muara,
Undang-undang digubal demi negeri yang aman dan damai,*

Menjamin hak rakyat terbela.

Terima kasih Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu, saya merakamkan penghargaan kepada pihak kerajaan atas usaha menambah baik kerangka perundangan negeri, khususnya dalam memperjelaskan peruntukan berkaitan hari pelepasan am di Sarawak.

Saya ingin menegaskan, bahawa saya menyokong usaha memperkemas peruntukan undang-undang ini, terutama bagi memberikan kepastian tentang kaedah penetapan cuti gantian apabila sesuatu cuti umum jatuh pada hari Ahad atau bertindih dengan cuti umum yang lain. Pada pandangan saya, perkara ini mungkin kelihatan kecil dari sudut pentadbiran. Namun, kesannya besar kepada kehidupan rakyat, khususnya pekerja, majikan, keluarga yang bergantung pada kepastian tarikh cuti untuk merancang urusan harian masing-masing.

Tuan Speaker, undang-undang yang baik bukan sahaja perlu menetapkan sesuatu peraturan, tetapi juga mestilah jelas, mudah difahami dan dapat dilaksanakan secara konsisten. Dalam konteks ini, pindaan yang dicadangkan penting bagi memastikan mekanisme cuti gantian dapat ditentukan dengan lebih teratur, sekali gus mengurangkan kekeliruan serta perbezaan tafsiran antara pihak yang terlibat.

Untuk makluman Dewan yang mulia ini, Ordinan Cuti Umum Sarawak telah berkuat kuasa sejak 16 Disember 1946 dan terlalu lama tidak dipinda. Sehubungan dengan itu, usaha menyemak dan memperkemas peruntukan berkaitan adalah wajar bagi memastikan undang-undang tersebut terus memenuhi keperluan pentadbiran dan masyarakat pada masa ini.

Saya melihat langkah kerajaan ini sebagai satu usaha positif ke arah meningkatkan kepastian perundangan dan menyeragamkan pelaksanaan cuti gantian di Sarawak. Misalnya, berdasarkan mekanisme yang dicadangkan, apabila sesuatu cuti umum jatuh pada hari Ahad, hari Isnin berikutnya akan menjadi cuti gantian dan sekiranya hari Isnin turut merupakan cuti umum, hari Selasa pula menjadi hari gantian, melainkan ditentukan sebaliknya oleh Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, sebagaimana yang diperuntukkan dalam pindaan berkenaan.

Dengan adanya cara penetapan yang jelas, rakyat tidak lagi perlu tertanya-tanya tentang hari yang sepatutnya menjadi cuti gantian. Pada masa yang sama, majikan dan pihak pentadbiran mempunyai panduan yang lebih seragam untuk merancang operasi serta menyusun jadual kerja. Inilah antara nilai penting pindaan itu, iaitu memberikan kepastian kepada semua pihak melalui peruntukan undang-undang yang lebih jelas.

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin membawa perhatian Dewan kepada aspek kebajikan pekerja. Cuti umum bukan sekadar tarikh yang ditandakan di dalam kalendar. Cuti umum memberikan ruang kepada rakyat untuk berehat, meluangkan masa bersama keluarga, menguruskan urusan peribadi serta menyertai kegiatan sosial dan kemasyarakatan.

Bagi pekerja yang terikat dengan jadual kerja tertentu, kepastian mengenai cuti gantian amat bermakna. Mereka perlu mengetahui lebih awal bilakah hari cuti yang sebenar supaya urusan keluarga, perjalanan dan komitmen peribadi dapat dirancang dengan baik. Bayangkan sekiranya sesuatu cuti umum jatuh pada hari Ahad, kemudian hari Isnin nya turut merupakan cuti umum, tetapi kaedah penetapan hari gantian tidak difahami dengan jelas. Keadaan ini berpotensi menimbulkan kekeliruan, khususnya apabila melibatkan jadual kerja dan pengurusan operasi sesebuah syarikat.

Lebih membimbangkan, sekiranya berlaku perbezaan tafsiran antara majikan dan pekerja, golongan pekerja mungkin berhadapan dengan kesukaran untuk memahami dan menuntut hak mereka berdasarkan peruntukan yang berkuat kuasa. Oleh itu, saya berpandangan bahawa pindaan ini perlu dilihat bukan semata-mata sebagai urusan pentadbiran, tetapi juga sebagai satu langkah memperkukuh perlindungan kebajikan pekerja melalui kejelasan perundangan. Dalam hal ini, saya percaya kerajaan sentiasa mengambil kira kepentingan rakyat, termasuk memastikan hak pekerja dihormati dan pelaksanaan undang-undang tidak diserahkan kepada tafsiran yang berbeza-beza.

Walau bagaimanapun, saya ingin menegaskan juga keberkesanan sesuatu undang-undang bukan hanya terletak pada teks yang diluluskan, tetapi juga pada tahap pemahaman dan pematuhan pihak tertakluk kepadanya.

Tuan Speaker, dalam konteks sektor swasta, pemahaman terhadap peruntukan cuti umum amat penting kerana setiap syarikat mempunyai jadual operasi, keperluan tenaga kerja dan aturan pengurusan yang berbeza. Kita memahami bahawa terdapat sektor dan perniagaan tertentu yang perlu terus beroperasi demi memenuhi keperluan pelanggan serta memastikan kelangsungan perkhidmatan.

Namun, keperluan operasi tidak seharusnya menyebabkan hak pekerja diabaikan atau peruntukan undang-undang ditafsirkan secara sewenang-wenangnya. Saya percaya, dengan adanya mekanisme yang lebih jelas, majikan dapat merancang jadual kerja dengan lebih teratur, manakala pekerja pula dapat mengetahui hak dan kelayakan mereka berdasarkan undang-undang yang berkuat kuasa.

Justeru, saya ingin mencadangkan agar kerajaan, melalui jabatan dan agensi berkaitan, mempergiatkan usaha memberikan penerangan serta meningkatkan kesedaran tentang pindaan ini selepas diluluskan dan diwartakan. Penerangan tersebut tidak seharusnya terhad kepada majikan atau bahagian sumber manusia sesebuah organisasi sahaja.

Sebaliknya, maklumat berkenaan perlu disampaikan secara meluas kepada semua lapisan pekerja, termasuk pekerja di sektor swasta, perusahaan kecil, sederhana serta mereka yang bekerja mengikut syif. Saya juga berharap penerangan rasmi disediakan dalam bahasa yang mudah difahami oleh masyarakat. Dengan cara ini, pekerja bukan sahaja mengetahui undang-undang telah dipinda, malah memahami bagaimana pindaan tersebut terpakai dalam keadaan yang sebenar.

Pada masa yang sama, jabatan dan agensi kerajaan yang berkaitan wajar mengemas kini kalendar rasmi, hebahan awam dan panduan berkaitan cuti umum sebaik sahaja ketetapan baharu berkuat kuasa. Hebahan lebih awal amat penting bagi mengelakkan kekeliruan, membantu perancangan keluarga dan memastikan urusan pentadbiran serta operasi tempat kerja dapat berjalan dengan lancar.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga ingin menekankan bahawa Sarawak merupakan sebuah negeri yang kaya dengan kepelbagaian kaum, agama, budaya dan perayaan. Kepelbagaian ini merupakan satu kekuatan yang perlu terus dipelihara. Oleh itu, ketetapan berkaitan cuti umum yang jelas dan seragam amat membantu rakyat merancang sambutan perayaan, mengeratkan hubungan kekeluargaan serta menyertai aktiviti kemasyarakatan. Dalam masyarakat yang mempunyai kepelbagaian keperluan, latar belakang, kepastian mengenai cuti umum bukan sahaja memudahkan urusan pekerjaan, malah menyumbang kepada keharmonian sosial dan kesejahteraan keluarga.

Pada masa yang sama, penyelarasan cuti yang lebih jelas turut membantu sektor perniagaan, institusi pendidikan, agensi kerajaan dan penyediaan perkhidmatan merancang aktiviti masing-masing dengan lebih berkesan. Justeru, saya melihat pindaan ini sebagai langkah yang mempunyai manfaat luas daripada sekadar menentukan hari cuti gantian. Ia turut membantu membentuk budaya pentadbiran yang lebih teratur, telus dan mudah difahami oleh rakyat.

Tuan Speaker, bagi memastikan pindaan ini mencapai matlamat yang ditetapkan, saya ingin mengemukakan beberapa perkara untuk perhatian. Pertama, penjelasan mengenai skop pemakaian pindaan. Saya berharap Kerajaan dapat memastikan pihak yang tertakluk kepada peruntukan ini memahami dengan jelas bagaimana kaedah penetapan cuti gantian akan dilaksanakan, termasuk dalam keadaan apabila dua atau lebih cuti umum bertindih atau jatuh secara berturutan. Penjelasan ini penting bagi mengelakkan kekeliruan dan memastikan perlaksanaan yang konsisten.

Kedua, penyampaian maklumat dan panduan rasmi. Saya mencadangkan supaya satu panduan ringkas disediakan untuk menerangkan kaedah penentuan cuti gantian, termasuk contoh

situasi yang lazim berlaku. Panduan ini boleh disebarkan melalui saluran rasmi kerajaan, laman sesawang jabatan berkaitan dan hebahan kepada majikan serta pekerja.

Ketiga, pemantauan dan pematuhan. Saya berharap jabatan yang mempunyai bidang kuasa berkaitan dapat memainkan peranan dalam memberikan penjelasan, memantau pelaksanaan dan menangani pertanyaan atau aduan yang timbul selepas pindaan berkuat kuasa, selaras dengan bidang kuasa masing-masing. Langkah ini penting supaya manfaat pindaan tidak terhenti pada peringkat penggubalan undang-undang, tetapi benar-benar dirasakan oleh rakyat.

Keempat, kepastian tentang tarikh kuatkuasa dan kaedah pelaksanaan. Saya berharap Kerajaan dapat menjelaskan tarikh kuatkuasa pindaan serta memastikan ketetapan yang diluluskan diterjemahkan ke dalam panduan pelaksanaan yang mudah dirujuk. Kepastian ini penting kepada majikan, pekerja dan semua pihak yang perlu membuat perancangan lebih awal.

Saya percaya, sekiranya perkara-perkara ini diberikan perhatian sewajarnya, pindaan yang dibentangkan bukan sahaja dapat memperkemas peruntukan undang-undang, malah mampu meningkatkan keyakinan rakyat terhadap sistem pentadbiran Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, secara keseluruhan, saya melihat Rang Undang-Undang Cuti Umum (Pindaan), 2026 sebagai satu langkah yang wajar dalam memperjelas peruntukan undang-undang, menyeragamkan pelaksanaan cuti gantian dan melindungi kepentingan rakyat. Walaupun perkara ini mungkin dianggap kecil oleh sesetengah pihak, kita tidak boleh mengetepikan kesannya terhadap pekerja, keluarga, majikan dan pengurusan organisasi.

Kepastian undang-undang memberikan manfaat kepada semua pihak. Pekerja dapat mengetahui hak mereka, majikan dapat merancang operasi dengan lebih teratur, manakala Kerajaan dapat memastikan pelaksanaan peraturan yang lebih konsisten. Saya berharap usaha Kerajaan ini diteruskan dengan pendekatan yang menyeluruh, bukan sahaja melalui pindaan perundangan, tetapi juga menerusi penerangan, pemantauan dan kerjasama semua pihak yang berkepentingan.

Akhir kata, saya ingin menegaskan bahawa undang-undang yang jelas merupakan asas kepada pentadbiran yang baik, manakala pelaksanaan yang adil mencerminkan keprihatinan Kerajaan terhadap kebajikan rakyat. Maka, dengan mengambil kira kepentingan kepastian perundangan, kebajikan pekerja, kecekapan pentadbiran dan keseragaman pelaksanaan, Kalaka menyokong terhadap Rang Undang-Undang Cuti Umum (Pindaan), 2026 ini untuk diluluskan oleh Dewan yang mulia ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Baleh.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker kerana memberikan ruang kepada saya untuk turut serta pada perbahasan Rang Undang-Undang Ordinan Cuti Umum (Pindaan), 2026 di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Tuan Speaker, saya bangun untuk menyertai perbahasan dan menyatakan sokongan penuh terhadap Rang Undang-Undang Ordinan Cuti Umum (Pindaan), 2026. Pada hemat saya, pindaan ini tepat pada masanya. Ia memperkemas dan memodenkan Ordinan yang telah wujud sejak tahun 1958 agar lebih jelas, praktikal dan selaras dengan keperluan rakyat dan pentadbiran Sarawak hari ini. Walaupun nampak kecil, kesannya amat besar kepada kehidupan harian rakyat, khususnya para pekerja, keluarga di pendalaman dan komuniti yang masih kuat berpegang kepada adat.

Tuan Speaker, saya menyokong Rang Undang-Undang ini atas empat alasan utama;

Memberi Kepastian Undang-Undang Dan Memelihara Kebajikan Pekerja

Tuan Speaker, saya amat mengalu-alukan Fasal 2 yang meminda Seksyen 3. Pindaan ini memperjelas bahawa jika sesuatu Hari Kelepasan Am dalam jadual jatuh pada hari Ahad, maka hari Isnin berikutnya hendaklah diperhatikan sebagai Hari Kelepasan Am. Dan jika hari Isnin itu juga adalah Hari Kelepasan Am, maka hari Selasa berikutnya akan menjadi Hari Kelepasan Am, melainkan diperintahkan sebaliknya oleh Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri melalui warta. Peruntukan yang jelas ini akan menghapuskan kekeliruan. Majikan dapat merancang operasi, pekerja mendapat kepastian hak dan pentadbiran menjadi lebih teratur.

Kita harus ingat, cuti umum bukan sekadar tarikh dalam kalendar. Di sebalik setiap cuti, ada pekerja yang menanti masa untuk berehat, ada anak yang menanti untuk pulang ke rumah panjang, ada ibu bapa yang menanti untuk berkumpul bersama keluarga. Justeru, pindaan ini adalah langkah progresif yang menjaga kebajikan pekerja dan keharmonian keluarga.

Memodenkan Dan Memperkemas Kerangka Perundangan Kita

Tuan Speaker, saya juga menyokong Fasal 3, 4 dan 5. Fasal 3 meminda Seksyen 5 dengan memotong rujukan kepada “*first or second*” dan perkataan “*appropriate*”. Fasal 4 meminda tajuk “*First Schedule*” kepada “*Schedule*” dan memotong perenggan lama mengenai cuti ganti hari Isnin. Fasal 5 pula memansuhkan terus *Second Schedule*.

Ini bukan sekadar pindaan perkataan. Ini adalah pembersihan undang-undang. Kita tidak lagi menggunakan sistem dua jadual yang mengelirukan. Mulai sekarang, kita hanya akan mempunyai satu jadual yang jelas dan tersusun yang mengandungi semua Hari Kelepasan Am Sarawak. Ini memudahkan rujukan, memudahkan penguatkuasaan oleh Jabatan Tenaga Kerja dan yang paling penting, ia memperkasakan kuasa TYT Yang di-Pertua Negeri untuk meminda jadual tersebut melalui warta yang lebih cekap dan responsif tanpa perlu meminda Ordinan di Dewan ini setiap kali. Ini adalah cerminan autonomi pentadbiran kita di bawah kepimpinan GPS.

Relevan Dengan Realiti Baleh Dan Kapit, Adat Keluarga Dan Ekonomi

Tuan Speaker, izinkan saya membawa Dewan yang mulia ini melihat realiti di Kawasan saya seperti di Baleh dan Kapit. Baleh adalah kawasan yang sangat luas. Perjalanan ke rumah panjang seperti di Sungai Mujong, Sungai Gaat dan Sungai Baleh memerlukan perancangan yang teliti. Perjalanan bot ada di antara boleh mengambil masa berjam-jam bergantung kepada keadaan sungai dan cuaca.

Bagi masyarakat di pendalaman, cuti umum mempunyai makna yang mendalam. Ia adalah peluang untuk pulang ke rumah panjang untuk berkumpul bersama keluarga dan untuk melaksanakan adat. Contoh paling jelas ialah sambutan Hari Gawai Dayak. Anak-anak kita yang berkerja di Kuching, Sibu dan Bintulu merancang berbulan-bulan untuk pulang. Jika Gawai jatuh pada hari Ahad dan Isnin bukan cuti ganti yang jelas, mereka akan terpaksa bergegas kembali. Perjalanan jauh menjadi sia-sia, pertemuan keluarga menjadi singkat.

Dengan pindaan ini, rakyat mendapat kepastian untuk merancang. Ini soal menjaga adat, menjaga keluarga dan memastikan pembangunan Sarawak tidak melupakan mereka yang di pendalaman. Dari sudut ekonomi, kepastian cuti yang panjang ini juga akan membantu apabila ada *long weekend*. Lebih ramai rakyat Sarawak akan melawat Baleh dan Kapit. Mereka dapat menikmati keindahan alam kita, budaya rumah panjang kita dan melihat sendiri kemajuan di sekitar Empangan Hidro Baleh. Ini akan memberi peluang kepada pengusaha *homestay*, pengusaha bot penambang, peniaga kecil dan pengusaha makanan di Kapit dan Baleh untuk menjaga pendapatan.

Selaras Dengan Aspirasi Sarawak Maju Di Bawah GPS.

Akhir sekali Tuan Speaker, binaan ini selaras dengan aspirasi Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, kita mahu Sarawak yang maju dari segi pelaburan dan infrastruktur. Tetapi pada masa yang sama, dasar kita berpijak pada realiti kehidupan rakyat.

Undang-undang yang baik bukan hanya tersusun di atas kertas tetapi undang-undang yang praktikal dan dirasakan manfaatnya oleh rakyat di bandar, di luar bandar dan di pedalaman.

Maka Tuan Speaker, sebagai kesimpulan, saya menyokong Rang Undang-undang ini kerana empat sebab:

- (a) Memberi kepastian undang-undang dan menjaga kebajikan pekerja;
- (b) Memodenkan dan memperkemas kerangka perundangan kita;
- (c) Mengambil kira realiti, adat dan ekonomi; dan
- (d) Menyokong aspirasi Sarawak maju di bawah Kerajaan GPS.

Saya berharap pelaksanaan pindaan ini akan memberi manfaat kepada seluruh rakyat Sarawak. Dengan itu Tuan Speaker, saya dengan penuh hormat mohon menyokong. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Ngemah.

YB Encik Anyi anak Jana: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, kerana memberi saya ruang dan peluang untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasaan di Dewan yang mulia ini. Di sini saya ingin menyatakan sokongan terhadap Rang Undang-undang Cuti Umum (Pindaan), 2026 yang dibentangkan oleh Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Undang-undang MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) dan ADUN N.7 Samariang.

Tuan Speaker, pada pandangan saya, pindaan ini merupakan satu langkah penting untuk memperkemas peruntukan undang-undang berkaitan cuti umum di Sarawak agar lebih jelas, teratur dan bersesuaian dengan keperluan semasa. Walaupun perkara ini mungkin kelihatan agak kecil bagi sesetengah pihak, kita harus melihat kesannya terhadap kehidupan seharian rakyat, khususnya golongan pekerja, keluarga di kawasan luar bandar, serta masyarakat yang masih kuat berpegang pada adat dan juga tradisi.

Pertama, kepastian berkaitan cuti umum amat penting kepada rakyat. Tuan Speaker, dalam kehidupan seharian perkara yang paling diperlukan oleh rakyat adalah kejelasan. Apabila sesuatu cuti umum jatuh pada hari rehat atau bertindih dengan cuti umum yang lain, peruntukan yang amat jelas, amat penting supaya tidak timbul kekeliruan tentang hari cuti gantian. Bagi pekerja yang menerima gaji harian, pekerja kilang, pekerja ladang dan mereka yang berkerja jauh dari kampung halaman, kepastian mengenai cuti amatlah bermakna. Mereka perlu merancang waktu berkerja, perlu merancang perjalanan pulang ke kampung, serta perlu merancang masa untuk bersama keluarga.

Oleh itu, saya menyokong usaha memperjelaskan peruntukan berkaitan cuti gantian melalui pindaan yang dicadangkan supaya pelaksanaannya dapat difahami dengan lebih baik oleh pihak majikan, pekerja dan juga masyarakat umum. Pada masa yang sama, saya berharap pihak berkuasa yang berkaitan dapat memastikan maklumat mengenai pelaksanaan pindaan ini disampaikan secara meluas agar rakyat benar-benar memahami hak dan kemudahan yang diperuntukkan kepada mereka.

Kedua, undang-undang yang baik mestilah jelas dan mudah dilaksanakan. Tuan Speaker, saya turut menyokong usaha untuk menyusun semula peruntukan berkaitan jadual cuti umum supaya lebih kemas dan mudah dirujuk. Bagi saya, undang-undang bukan sekadar dokumen yang disimpan di pejabat kerajaan. Undang-undang perlu mempunyai peruntukan yang jelas, mudah difahami dan boleh dilaksanakan dengan berkesan.

Cadangan untuk menyatukan jadual serta memperkemas mekanisme pindaan jadual melalui pemberitahuan dalam Warta Kerajaan, sebagaimana yang diperuntukkan dalam Rang Undang-undang ini, berpotensi memudahkan pengurusan cuti umum apabila terdapat keperluan untuk membuat penyesuaian.

Walau bagaimanapun, saya berpandangan bahawa sebarang pelaksanaan hendaklah dibuat secara telus, dengan maklumat yang mencukupi kepada rakyat dan pihak yang berkepentingan. Inilah pendekatan yang kita mahu, iaitu pentadbiran yang cekap, undang-undang yang teratur dan dasar yang memberi manfaat kepada rakyat.

Ketiga, saya ingin membawa perhatian Dewan ini kepada keadaan masyarakat di kawasan saya, iaitu N.49 Ngemah. Sebagai wakil rakyat di kawasan tersebut, saya melihat sendiri betapa pentingnya hubungan kekeluargaan dalam kehidupan masyarakat kita. Bagi masyarakat di kawasan Batang Rajang terutama sekali dan kawasan luar bandar yang lain, perjalanan pulang ke rumah panjang bukan semudah perjalanan dari satu kawasan bandar ke bandar yang lain.

Ada yang perlu menempuh perjalanan jauh, menggunakan pengangkutan darat dan air serta menanggung kos perjalanan yang bukan sedikit. Apabila tiba musim cuti sekolah dan cuti umum yang panjang, kepulangan anak-anak dan cucu ke rumah panjang amatlah dinanti-nantikan oleh ibu bapa dan juga ahli keluarga. Inilah masanya keluarga berkumpul, ibu bapa dapat meluangkan masa bersama anak-anak tanpa tergesa-gesa dan generasi muda dapat kembali merasai suasana kehidupan di kampung.

Justeru, kepastian mengenai cuti umum yang panjang membolehkan rakyat merancang perjalanan dan urusan keluarga dengan lebih baik, tertakluk kepada jadual cuti yang ditetapkan serta keperluan pekerjaan masing-masing. Ibu bapa dapat menyusun jadual cuti mereka selari dengan cuti sekolah anak-anak.

Kita juga tidak boleh mengetepikan kesan ekonomi kepada pekan-pekan kecil dan kawasan luar bandar. Apabila anak-anak pulang sempena cuti sekolah dan cuti umum yang panjang, perbelanjaan mereka turut memberi manfaat kepada kedai runcit, perniagaan kecil, pengusaha makanan dan juga masyarakat setempat.

Walaupun pindaan ini bukan semata-mata bertujuan untuk menggalakkan aktiviti ekonomi luar bandar, pelaksanaan cuti yang lebih jelas dan teratur boleh membantu rakyat merancang kehidupan mereka dengan lebih baik. Bagi saya, pembangunan bukan hanya diukur melalui kemajuan infrastruktur dan pertumbuhan ekonomi. Pembangunan juga perlu mengambil kira kesejahteraan keluarga dan kualiti hidup masyarakat terutamanya di kawasan luar bandar.

Keempat, pindaan ini selaras dengan usaha memperkukuh tadbir urus dan kesejahteraan rakyat Sarawak. Tuan Speaker, Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier sentiasa memberikan perhatian kepada pembangunan yang menyeluruh, termasuk usaha memastikan manfaat pembangunan dapat dirasai rakyat di bandar mahupun di luar bandar.

Saya percaya bahawa pentadbiran yang baik bermula dengan undang-undang yang jelas, pelaksanaan yang berkesan dan kepekaan terhadap keperluan rakyat. Dalam konteks ini, pindaan Ordinan Cuti Umum perlulah dilihat sebagai sebahagian daripada usaha berterusan untuk memastikan kerangka perundangan negeri kekal relevan dan dapat memenuhi keperluan masyarakat yang semakin berkembang.

Namun demikian, kejayaan sesuatu pindaan bukan hanya bergantung pada kelulusan Rang Undang-undang ini di Dewan yang mulia ini. Yang lebih penting ialah bagaimana peruntukan tersebut dilaksanakan, difahami dan dimanfaatkan oleh rakyat.

Saya berharap agar pihak kerajaan terus memberikan penjelasan yang sewajarnya kepada majikan, kepada pekerja, kepada masyarakat supaya tiada pihak yang tertinggal dari segi maklumat dan pelaksanaannya.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai penutup, saya ingin menegaskan bahawa sesuatu dasar yang baik ialah dasar yang bukan sahaja kemas dari sudut perundangan, tetapi juga membawa manfaat yang nyata kepada kehidupan rakyat.

Kita mahu undang-undang yang jelas, pentadbiran yang cekap dan pelaksanaan yang mengambil kira realiti kehidupan masyarakat Sarawak, termasuk mereka yang tinggal jauh dari pusat bandar. Jadi atas pertimbangan tersebut, saya menyokong Rang Undang-undang Cuti Umum (Pindaan), 2026 dan saya berharap agar pelaksanaannya kelak dapat mencapai matlamat yang dihasratkan. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Krian.

YB Dato Friday anak Belik: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih kerana memberi saya peluang untuk mengambil bahagian dalam membahaskan *Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026*. Di kesempatan ini juga, saya mengucapkan syabas dan tahniah kepada Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri - Persekutuan) yang juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.7 Samariang.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill seeks to amend the Public Holidays Ordinance (Cap. 8) 1958, to make way for an automatic replacement holiday mechanism when public holidays falls on the Sunday or coincide with other public holidays. Currently, such overlapped require separate gazette notifications each time they occur, thus creating administrative burdens and uncertainty for employers, employees, schools and other institutions.

Tuan Speaker, under the proposed amendment, it provides that, if a public holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday will be observed as a public holiday. If that Monday is already a public holiday, the next day that is Tuesday will be observed instead, unless otherwise, ordered by Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak. The proposed amendment will streamline the process of declaring a public holiday, eliminating the need for repeated gazette notification and providing clarity and predictability for all parties.

This amendment also represents a significant update to Sarawak's Public Holiday framework, moving from a reactive, notification-based system to a proactive, statutory mechanism. Its aims to benefit employees, employers and educational institutions by enabling advance planning and reducing administrative friction. The proposed amendment definitely have impact.

The Impact on Government Agencies

(a) Clearer administrative framework

The amendment provides a consistent statutory basis for replacement holidays, eliminating the need for repeated gazette notifications. This standardizes execution across government departments, banks and other agencies.

(b) Improved planning and coordination

Agencies can plan operations, service delivery and staffing more effectively, well in advance, as the mechanism is now predictable rather than dependent on ad-hoc declarations.

(c) Alignment with Federal Law

The reform aligns Sarawak Ordinance with the Federal Holidays Act 1951, and thus strengthening legal harmonization between state and federal levels.

Impact on Employers

(a) Shifts from uncertainty to predictability

Employers especially SMEs previously faced with operational disruptions, increased labour costs and supply chain interruptions from last minute holiday declaration. The automatic

mechanism allows businesses to plan production, delivery timeliness and workforce scheduling more effectively.

(b) Structured costs management

While employers must still pay holiday pay rates if staff work on replacement days, the ability to anticipate these helps with budgeting and minimising unexpected overtime costs.

(c) Flexibility through mutual agreement

The replacement dates can be adjusted by mutual agreement between employers and employees, allowing businesses to negotiate alternative arrangement that suits operational needs.

(d) Compliance with Labour Ordinance

Employers must ensure their public holiday policies comply with the amended ordinance, particularly regarding minimum entitlements and pay rates those working on public holidays or their substitutes.

Impact on Workers and Employees

(a) Guaranteed replacement holidays

Employees can be covered under the Sarawak Labour Ordinance now have a statutory right to replacement holidays when public holidays overlap, rather than relying on discretionary government declarations.

(b) Protection of holiday pay right

If required to work on a public holiday or its replacement, employees are entitled to public holiday pay rates under Section 104(6) to Section 104(9) of the Labour Ordinance.

(c) Enhance work-life balance

The automatic mechanism ensures employees do not lose out on their entitled holidays due to calendar overlaps, thus providing greater certainty for family and cultural celebrations.

Tuan Speaker, the social impact of the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 is multifaceted, reflecting Sarawak's unique context of unity and diversity. While the primary goal is administrative clarity, the amendment carries significant social implications that can be understood through its effect on community cohesion, cultural preservation and daily lives of families and workers. The amendment directly supports Sarawak's model of religious and cultural harmony.

By providing a clear mechanism for replacement holidays when major festival overlaps, the government ensures that no community is forced to forgo celebrating its significant occasions. The extended holidays also have a tangible social benefit for cultural continuity and public bonding, particularly for those who rely on festive season for "*Balik Kampung*".

Therefore, in conclusion Tuan Speaker, the amendment is timely and will have a far-reaching effect on our society. I therefore support the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Member for Jepak.

YB Encik Iskandar bin Turkee: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum W.B.T. Salam Ibu Pertiwiku, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju

Makmur. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker yang memberi peluang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan Rang Undang-undang, *Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026*.

Tuan Speaker, isu pewartaan cuti umum bukan sekadar persoalan untuk menetapkan hari kelepasan kepada rakyat. Sebaliknya, isu ini merangkumi kebajikan pekerja, kesejahteraan keluarga, pemeliharaan budaya dan tradisi, produktiviti sektor kerajaan dan swasta serta keupayaan ekonomi negeri untuk terus berkembang.

Sarawak merupakan sebuah negeri yang kaya dengan kepelbagaian kaum, agama dan budaya. Oleh itu, dasar berkaitan cuti umum hendaklah mengambil kira identiti pelbagai etnik di Sarawak, di samping memastikan kelangsungan aktiviti ekonomi dan penyampaian perkhidmatan kepada rakyat. Oleh demikian itu, pewartaan cuti umum mestilah dilaksanakan secara terancang supaya manfaatnya dapat dinikmati rakyat tanpa menjejaskan kepentingan ekonomi negeri.

Tuan Speaker, hari ini, saya membahaskan isu berkaitan undang-undang cuti dan pengwartaan cuti umum di Sarawak, khususnya dari sudut kebajikan pekerja, kepentingan ekonomi negeri dan keberkesanan pentadbiran kerajaan.

Pada pandangan saya, dasar berkaitan cuti bukan sekadar menentukan seseorang pekerja tidak hadir bertugas. Sebaliknya, dasar ini, berkaitan rapat dengan kesejahteraan keluarga, produktiviti tenaga kerja, operasi perniagaan dan kelancaran perkhidmatan awam.

Oleh itu, sebarang perubahan terhadap undang-undang atau dasar cuti perlu dilaksanakan dengan penuh penelitian yang menyeluruh agar kepentingan pekerja dan keperluan ekonomi dapat diseimbangkan. Berikut beberapa aspek yang harus diambil kira iaitu;

Kepentingan Undang-undang Cuti kepada Pekerja

Cuti merupakan sebahagian daripada perlindungan dan kebajikan pekerja yang perlu diurus dengan berdasarkan undang-undang serta peraturan yang berkuatkuasa. Pekerja memerlukan masa untuk berehat, mengurus keluarga, menyambut perayaan dan memenuhi keperluan peribadi.

Dalam konteks Sarawak yang mempunyai masyarakat berbilang kaum dan agama, pengurusan cuti perlu mengambil kira kepelbagaian budaya dan tradisi masyarakat. Saya ingin menegaskan bahawa kesejahteraan pekerja tidak boleh dipisah daripada usaha meningkatkan produktiviti. Pekerja yang mempunyai keseimbangan antara kehidupan dan pekerjaan berpeluang menjalankan tanggungjawab dengan lebih baik.

Pewartaan Cuti Umum dan Bidang Kuasa Kerajaan

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin mendapat penjelasan tentang proses pengwartaan cuti umum di Sarawak, termasuk asas pertimbangan, bidang kuasa pihak berkuasa dan implikasi undang-undang terhadap majikan dan pekerja.

Kita perlu membezakan cuti umum yang diisytiharkan melalui pewartaan, cuti yang ditetapkan dalam undang-undang pekerjaan dan cuti yang diberikan oleh majikan berdasarkan syarat perkhidmatan.

Perbezaan ini penting supaya pekerja dan majikan memahami hak dan tanggungjawab masing-masing. Saya berharap kerajaan dapat memastikan maklumat mengenai cuti umum dapat disampaikan awal, jelas dan mudah diakses oleh orang ramai serta sektor perniagaan.

Kesan Cuti Terhadap Ekonomi Negeri

Tuan Speaker, pengisytiharan cuti umum boleh membawa kesan yang berbeza mengikut sektor ekonomi. Dalam sektor pelancongan, perhotelan, pengangkutan dan peruncitan, cuti boleh

meningkatkan pergerakan pengunjung dan aktiviti perbelanjaan iaitu dari segi penjanaan ekonomi. Namun begitu, bagi setengah sektor pembuatan, pembinaan dan perkhidmatan profesional, cuti tambahan boleh menyebabkan perubahan jadual operasi, peningkatan kos tertentu atau penangguhan kerja.

Oleh itu, penilaian sesuatu cadangan cuti perlu mengambil kira kesan ekonomi secara menyeluruh, termasuk manfaat kepada perniagaan tempatan dan kos kepada majikan. Saya mencadangkan supaya kerajaan menilai kesan pewartaan cuti berdasarkan maklumat yang bersesuaian dan mendapatkan pandangan daripada wakil pekerja, majikan serta persatuan industri.

Implikasi Terhadap Perkhidmatan Awam

Tuan Speaker, walaupun cuti umum diwartakan, terdapat perkhidmatan penting yang perlu terus beroperasi, termasuk kesihatan, keselamatan, pengangkutan dan perkhidmatan kecemasan. Justeru itu, setiap jabatan perlu mempunyai perancangan tenaga kerja yang mencukupi agar kepentingan masyarakat tidak terjejas. Saya mencadangkan supaya jadual bertugas, penggantian pegawai dan prosedur operasi disusun lebih awal bagi memastikan kesinambungan perkhidmatan. Dalam masa yang sama, kebajikan pegawai yang bertugas pada hari cuti umum perlu diurus mengikut undang-undang dan syarat-syarat perkhidmatan yang berkenaan.

Impak Terhadap Perusahaan Kecil Dan Sederhana

Tuan Speaker, saya juga ingin menarik perhatian Dewan kepada perusahaan kecil dan sederhana, termasuk peniaga tempatan di bandar, pekan dan kawasan luar bandar. Bagi sesetengah perniagaan, cuti umum boleh membuka peluang meningkatkan jualan. Bagi perniagaan lain, mungkin menimbulkan kos tambahan untuk tenaga kerja dan operasi.

Oleh itu, maklumat tentang cuti umum perlu diumumkan dengan masa yang mencukupi supaya majikan dapat menyusun jadual, membuat perancangan kewangan serta menyesuaikan operasi perniagaan. Kerajaan juga boleh mengadakan sesi libat urus dengan pihak industri bagi mengenalpasti kesan sebenar sesuatu perubahan dasar cuti.

Kepentingan Rang Undang-undang Public Holiday (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Tuan Speaker, di sini, saya ingin menekankan kepentingan Rang Undang-undang ini, iaitu;

- (a) Keperluan menyeragamkan undang-undang dan prosedur yang mengawalkan pengisytiharan serta pengwartaan cuti umum di Sarawak;
- (b) Mewujudkan kriteria yang digunakan untuk menentukan sesuatu hari diwartakan sebagai cuti umum;
- (c) Pendekatan kerajaan menilai kesan cuti tambahan terhadap produktiviti, hasil perniagaan dan ekonomi negeri;
- (d) Memberi perlindungan yang terpakai kepada pekerja yang diarahkan bertugas pada hari cuti umum; dan
- (e) Memastikan jabatan kerajaan yang berkepentingan dan perkhidmatan kecemasan terus beroperasi; dan
- (f) Menyelaraskan antara kerajaan dan pihak berkepentingan menjalankan rundingan dengan majikan, pekerja dan persatuan industri dalam melaksanakan perubahan berkaitan cuti umum.

Tuan Speaker, rumusan di sini, undang-undang cuti perlu dilihat sebagai sebahagian daripada kerangka perlindungan pekerja dan pengurusan ekonomi negeri. Dasar yang berkaitan hendaklah

mengambil kira kebajikan pekerja, keperluan keluarga, kemampuan majikan, produktiviti dan kepentingan masyarakat.

Saya berharap Kerajaan Sarawak dapat terus memastikan setiap keputusan berkaitan cuti dibuat secara teratur, berasaskan undang-undang, mengambil kira maklumat dan melalui komunikasi yang jelas dengan semua pihak yang berkepentingan. Matlamat kita ialah untuk membangunkan Sarawak yang mempunyai tenaga yang sejahtera, ekonomi yang berdaya tahan dan perkhidmatan yang cekap. Dan, saya akhiri dengan pantun, iaitu:

*Bumi Kenyalang indah berseri,
Khazanah Negeri terus dijaga,
Undang dibahas dengan teliti,
Demi rakyat dan kemajuan negara.*

Dengan ini, Tuan Speaker, Jepak menyokong sepenuhnya Rang Undang-Undang Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Bawang Asan.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I rise to support the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 which seeks to clarify or to simplify and clarify the existing law governing public holidays in Sarawak. However, I have three brief points to raise:

Substitute Holidays

The Bill provides that when the public holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday will be observed as public holiday. If Monday is already a public holiday, the following day will be observed instead, unless otherwise ordered by Yang di-Pertua Negeri. I support this arrangement. However, I would ask the Honourable Deputy Minister to clarify how the rule will apply when several public holidays fall consecutively, I hope it will not happen. Just in case, if several public holidays fall consecutively, how would the rule apply because employers and employees can plan their work schedules accordingly.

The Deletion of the Second Schedule in the Bill

The Bill proposes to delete the Second Schedule and retain only one Schedule. I understand that this is intended to simplify the Ordinance. However, can the Honourable Deputy Minister confirm that no existing public holidays or statutory entitlements will be inadvertently affected by deletion of the Second Schedule.

Amendment to the Schedule

The Bill provides for Yang di-Pertua Negeri to amend the Schedule by notification in the gazette. While flexibility is necessary. Tuan Speaker, I urge the government to announce any changes sufficiently in advance so that employers particularly small and medium-size enterprises may need time to adjust the work schedule staffing in the payroll arrangement. At the same time, workers must also have a clear understanding of the holiday entitlement under the applicable labour laws.

And so, Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I support the Bill because simplifying the law is a positive step provided that it does not create uncertainty or unintentionally affect existing entitlement. I, therefore, urge the Honourable Deputy Minister to clarify the implication of deleting the Second Schedule, ensure the consistent application of substitute holidays and provide adequate notice of any changes. With this observation, Tuan Speaker, I support the Bill. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I shall now call upon the Honourable Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department and Member for N.7 Samariang to wind up.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri – Persekutuan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.7 Samariang (YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali): Tuan Speaker, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to all Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for participating in this debate especially for Bukit Assek, Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pelagus, Ahli Yang Berhormat for Kalaka, Baleh, Ngemah, Krian, Jepak and Bawang Assan. Thank you for all your support to this amendment Bill. I am sure this amendment Bill will bring benefits and ease of living to all sectors of our society. The suggestions and concerns from Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat will look into judiciously to ensure that the implementation of this amendment Bill will be smooth.

But a few matters I would like to address, *untuk menjawab pertanyaan dari Kalaka, tarikh pelaksanaan dan berkuatkuasanya pindaan ini adalah sebaik sahaja pindaan ini diluluskan dan diwartakan.* So, it will take effect immediately after this amendment is gazetted. So, for the information of *Ahli-ahli Dewan yang mulia ini and Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang bertanya tadi, setiap cuti yang telah disiarkan di dalam Almanac atau our official government publication, which is the Almanac.* This is our official publication of holidays. So, hari itu, secara automatiknya jadi cuti. Tak perlu lagi nak buat *anymore notification in the gazette.* So, no need to have anymore announcement *atau pengumuman.* Ya?

Dan, as I said, all, every official holiday that is published in the Government Almanac must be complied with. So, any employer or employee who goes, who would not want to give any *cuti* to any of their employees, they will be committing an offense already *ya.* Tak boleh *ya.* So, this is very clear. So, we will try to create more awareness on implementation of this amendment. I'm sure our amendment that we proposed just now is very simple and clear and we are guided by the Official Holiday notification in the almanac, our official government publication. For other queries, especially from Bawang Asan, I will look into that, I will give you the explanation of the implication, the serious implication of the deleting of the Second Schedule, I will look into that further. So, I will address that personally will mention to you later, thank you.

So, *once again,* saya ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang telah memberi sokongan terhadap Rang Undang-undang pindaan ini. So, with that, thank you Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, under Standing Order 9(1), I determine to this sitting goes beyond 6:30 pm. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Motion standing in the Order Paper, in the name of the Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department and Member for N.7 Samariang, be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as are the opinion say "Yes".

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

Tuan Speaker: As many as are the contrary opinion say "No".

Opposition: No... (*Murmuring "No"*).

Tuan Speaker: The "Yes" have it. The Motion is passed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The Dewan shall now resolve into the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill, we stand committed in the Committee.

COMMITTEE STAGE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Tuan Pengerusi Mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, we shall now consider the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Clauses 1 to 5

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that the Clauses 1 to 5 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 5 are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clauses and Title

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now resume.

HOUSE RESUMED

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Deputy Minister.

Timbalan Menteri Jabatan Premier Sarawak; Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri – Persekutuan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.7 Samariang (YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah Binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali): I wish to report Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without amendment.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN –

BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Timbalan Menteri Jabatan Premier Sarawak; (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri – Persekutuan); dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.7 Samariang (YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah Binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 be now read a third time and do pass.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Public Holidays (Amendment) Bill, 2026 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”.

Opposition: No... (Resounding “No”)

Tuan Speaker: The “Yes” have it. The Bill is read a third time and passed.

Bill is read a third time and passed

USUL PEMILIHAN AHLI DEWAN NEGARA

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, there will be one vacancy for Senator upon the expiry of the term of Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Michael Mujah Lihan with effect from 10th December 2026. The vacancy is to be filled by way of an election in this meeting and by this Dewan. The Dewan had been fully directed by Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak to hold an election to fill the vacancy for Senator that will be vacant on 10th December 2026.

SURATCARA PEMILIHAN SEORANG AHLI DEWAN NEGARA

Suratcara Pemilihan Seorang Ahli Dewan Negara diperbuat di bawah Seksyen 1(2), Jadual Ketujuh, Perlembagaan Persekutuan daripada Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak kepada Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak:

BAHAWASANYA menurut Perenggan (a) Fasal (1) dalam Perkara 45 Perlembagaan Persekutuan, Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Michael Mujah Lihan telah dipilih sebagai seorang Senator mulai 11 Disember 2023 untuk satu tempoh berakhir pada 10 Disember 2026.

DAN LAGI BAHAWASANYA pada menjalankan kuasa di bawah seksyen kecil (2) seksyen 1, Jadual Ketujuh Perlembagaan Persekutuan, Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong telah berkenan memaklumkan kepada Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak bahawa mulai 11 Disember 2026 terdapat satu kekosongan di kalangan Ahli-ahli Dewan Negara disebabkan tempoh jawatan Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Michael Mujah Lihan akan berakhir pada tempoh tersebut, dan oleh sebab itu, satu pemilihan untuk seorang Senator adalah diperlukan.

MAKA OLEH YANG DEMIKIAN, saya, **TUN PEHIN SRI DR HAJI WAN JUNAIDI BIN TUANKU JAAFAR**, Darjah Kebesaran Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara, Darjah Utama Yang Amat Mulia Satria Bintang Sarawak, Darjah Yang Mulia Setia Mahkota Malaysia Panglima Setia Mahkota, Darjah Utama Yang Amat Mulia Bintang Sarawak Panglima Negara Bintang Sarawak, Darjah Gemilang Seri Melaka, Darjah Yang Mulia Jasa Negara Panglima Jasa Negara, Darjah Yang Mulia Setia Mahkota Malaysia Johan Setia Mahkota, Darjah Utama Yang Amat Mulia Bintang Sarawak Johan Bintang Sarawak, Darjah Utama Yang Amat Mulia Bintang Sarawak Pegawai Bintang Sarawak, Pingat Pemacu Cemerlang Jubli Intan (Emas), Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, pada menjalankan kuasa-kuasa yang diberikan kepada saya oleh Seksyen kecil (2) dalam Seksyen 1, Jadual Ketujuh Perlembagaan Persekutuan.

DENGAN INI menyatakan hasrat saya supaya seorang Senator harus dipilih mengikut peraturan-peraturan dalam Jadual Ketujuh Perlembagaan Persekutuan dalam Mesyuarat Dewan Undangan Negeri yang akan datang iaitu Mesyuarat Kecil bagi Penggal Kelima, Dewan Undangan Negeri Yang Kesembilan Belas.

Diperbuat di bawah tandatangan saya dan Mohor Besar Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak di Astana Kuching pada 28 haribulan Ogos 2026.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, before the Dewan proceeds with the election, I would like to explain the procedure as provided in the Seventh Schedule of the Federal Constitution. Any of the Honourable Members of this House may propose a candidate if he or she so wishes and must be seconded by another Member. Either the Proposer or the Secunder must submit a statement in writing signed by the person nominated, stating that he or she is willing to serve as a Senator if elected.

When all nominations have been received, I shall announce the names of the person nominated in alphabetical order and shall then put their names to the vote in that order. Each member present shall be entitled to vote for as many as a candidate as there is a vacancy to be filled, and the names of the Members voting for each candidate shall be recorded; and if any Member casts a vote in addition to those allowed, that vote shall be void.

I shall ask the Secretary to call the Members one by one and upon his or her name being called, the Members, if he or she so wishes, may cast his or her vote for the candidate by saying "Yes" or "No". If a Member wishes to abstain, he or she shall remain silent, and I shall call his or her name a second time. If he or she still remains silent, an abstention shall be recorded against such Member.

If there is only one candidate nominated for the vacancy, the said mentioned procedure shall not apply, and I shall declare the candidate to be an elected candidate. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I shall now call for the nominations for the vacancy. Honourable Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas to propose.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua Sarawak; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Anak Embas): A very good evening, Tuan Speaker. Saya bangun untuk mencadangkan supaya Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Micheal Mubah Lihan dipilih semula sebagai Ahli Dewan Negara bagi penggal kedua.

Tuan Speaker, Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Micheal Mubah Lihan telah dipilih sebagai Ahli Dewan Negara pada 11 Disember 2023 bagi tempoh tiga tahun yang akan berakhir pada 10 Disember 2026. Sehubungan dengan tamatnya tempoh perkhidmatan beliau, pemilihan semula seorang Ahli Dewan Negara adalah diperlukan selaras dengan peruntukan Perlembagaan Persekutuan.

Tuan Speaker, Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Micheal Mubah Lihan mempunyai pengalaman yang luas dalam bidang pentadbiran kerajaan, pimpinan politik dan pembangunan masyarakat. Sebelum dipilih sebagai Ahli Dewan Negara beliau telah berkhidmat sebagai Setiausaha Politik kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak dari tahun 2016 ke 2023.

Tuan Speaker, sepanjang penggal pertama beliau sebagai Ahli Dewan Negara, beliau telah memperoleh pengalaman dalam urusan parlimen dan tanggungjawab sebagai wakil Sarawak di peringkat Persekutuan. Pengalaman ini merupakan satu asas yang boleh dimanfaatkan untuk meneruskan khidmat beliau dalam membawa perhatian kepada isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan permohonan, kebajikan dan kepentingan rakyat Sarawak. Pengalaman beliau dalam pentadbiran kerajaan, kepimpinan politik serta penglibatan dalam masyarakat merupakan nilai tambah yang relevan dalam melaksanakan tanggungjawab sebagai Ahli Dewan Negara. Kesyukuran perkhidmatan beliau juga akan memberi peluang untuk beliau memanfaatkan pengalaman yang telah diperolehi sepanjang penggal pertama bagi meneruskan sumbangan kepada Sarawak dan negara.

Tuan Speaker, berdasarkan pengalaman, latar belakang dan perkhidmatan beliau, saya dengan ini mencadangkan supaya Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Micheal Mubah Lihan dipilih semula sebagai Ahli Dewan Negara bagi penggal kedua. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Seconded by Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikei anak Tayai.

Menteri di Jabatan Premier Sarawak; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan N.60 Kakus (YB Dato Sri John Sikei anak Tayai): Tuan Speaker, saya mohon menyokong.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, any other nominations? I repeat, any other nominations for Senator? If there are no other nominations, I hereby declare that Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Micheal Mubah Lihan is duly elected as a Senator... *(Applause)*... Congratulations.

Setiausaha: Tuan Speaker, I have received a letter from Yang Berhormat Senator Micheal Mubah Lihan dated 10th September 2026 to confirm his willingness to serve as a Senator if elected and he is present today... *(Applause)*...

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Senator, can you stand here? So that the Members can see you. So, this is Senator Tuan Micheal Mujah Lihan... *(Applause)*... Thank you. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the sitting is now adjourned, and the House shall resume its sitting at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada jam 6.01 petang)