S A R A W A K

PENYATA RASMI PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI

Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Official Reports and Debates

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DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS

Nineteenth Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

SELASA

12 NOVEMBER 2024

(10 JAMADILAWAL 1446H)

KUCHING

BELUM DISUNTING

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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Selasa, 12 November 2024

Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.12 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) *Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak*	
2.	Yang Berhormat Dato Haji Idris bin Haji Buang P.S.B.S., D.I.M.P., A.M.N., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.C.D., P.J.P.N., P.T.E. *Timbalan Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak*	*N.16 Muara Tuang*
3.	Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg D.P., P.M.N., D.A., P.N.B.S., J.B.S., P.C.E., P.S.N.B., S.P.D.K. *Premier Sarawak* *Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru* *Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar* *Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar*	*N.26 Gedong*
4.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas D.A., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.C.E. *Timbalan Premier Sarawak* *Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua* *Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan*	*N.37 Bukit Saban*
5.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan D.A., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.M.N. *Timbalan Premier Sarawak* *Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua* *Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan*	*N.82 Bukit Sari*
6.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian D.A., P.N.B.S., P.J.N., P.B.E. *Timbalan Premier Sarawak* *Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan*	*N.14 Batu Kawah*
7.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.C.E. *Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti*	*N.56 Dalat*
8.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom P.N.B.S., P.J.N., A.B.S., P.B.E., P.C.E. *Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah*	*N.69 Kemena*

9.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E. *Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan* *Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan*	*N.15 Asajaya*
10.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin P.N.B.S., P.J.N., K.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.B., B.B.S., P.B.E. *Menteri Pengangkutan*	*N.75 Senadin*
11.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai P.N.B.S., P.J.N., P.B.S., P.B.E. *Menteri di Jabatan Premier*	*N.60 Kakus*
12.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Julaihi bin Haji Narawi P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.D., P.B.E. *Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi*	*N.27 Sebuyau*
13.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E. *Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat*	*N.20 Tarat*
14.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerawat Gala P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., P.B.K. *Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Buruh, Imigresen dan Pemantauan Projek)*	*N.78 Mulu*
15.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Francis Harden anak Hollis P.G.B.K., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E. *Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pembangunan Bakat)*	*N.32 Simanggang*
16.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Jerip anak Susil P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.E. *Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Penerbangan dan Jalan Raya)*	*N.19 Mambong*
17.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Liwan Lagang P.J.N., P.P.N., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.B.E. *Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi)*	*N.65 Belaga*
18.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Rosey binti Haji Yunus P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E., P.B.E. *Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak)*	*N.71 Bekenu*
19.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., P.B.K., P.P.B. *Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar*	*N.41 Kuala Rajang*
20.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi P.G.B.K., J.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E. *Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Utiliti)*	*N.4 Pantai Damai*

21.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali P.G.B.K., P.T.E., J.B.S. *Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan)*	*N.7 Samariang*
22.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan*	*N.34 Batang Ai*
23.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail P.G.B.K., A.B.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah (Industri Makanan)*	*N.79 Bukit Kota*
24.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi)*	*N.55 Nangka*
25.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Penguang Manggil P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.C., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kerajaan Tempatan)*	*N.76 Marudi*
26.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Snowdan Lawan P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan)*	*N.30 Balai Ringin*
27.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Saidol P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.K., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Hal Ehwal Korporat dan Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak)*	*N.42 Semop*
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29.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur)*	*N.24 Sadong Jaya*
30.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar*	*N.5 Demak Laut*
31.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Maclaine Ben @ Martin Ben P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah (Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah)*	*N.22 Kedup*

32.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti)*	*N.35 Saribas*
33.	Yang Berhormat Dato Henry Harry anak Jinep P.S.B.S., A.B.S. *Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Sungai dan Laut)*	*N.2 Tasik Biru*
34.	Yang Berhormat Dato' Murshid DiRaja Dr Juanda bin Jaya P.G.B.K., DATO' MURSHID DIRAJA, S.S.P. *Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Integriti dan Ombudsman)*	*N.44 Jemoreng*
35.	Yang Berhormat Dato Gerald Rentap Jabu P.S.B.S., A.B.S., P.P.N., J.B.K. *Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Pembangunan Belia dan Sukan)*	*N.36 Layar*
36.	Yang Berhormat Dato Majang anak Renggi P.S.B.S., P.B.K., A.B.S. *Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan)*	*N.70 Samalaju*
37.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat P.G.B.K., B.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.S. *Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera)*	*N.63 Bukit Goram*
38.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Michael Tiang Ming Tee P.G.B.K., P.B.S. *Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kesihatan Awam dan Perumahan)*	*N.54 Pelawan*
39.	Yang Berhormat Dato Ibrahim bin Baki A.B.S., J.B.S., P.S.B.S.	*N.8 Satok*
40.	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*
41.	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*
42.	Yang Berhormat Dato Paulus Palu Gumbang P.S.B.S., A.M.N., P.B.S., J.B.K., P.T.E.	*N.80 Batu Danau*
43.	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*
44.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor P.T.E., P.B.S.	*N.29 Beting Maro*
45.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing P.J.N., A.B.S.	*N.46 Meradong*
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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 Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang P.S.B.S., B.B.S., J.B.K.	*N.13 Batu Kitang*
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53.	Yang Berhormat Encik John anak Ilus P.B.S., A.P.S.	*N.23 Bukit Semuja*
54.	Yang Berhormat Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman P.S.B.S., J.B.K., P.B.S.	*N.6 Tupong*
55.	Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris P.B.S., A.B.S.	*N.25 Simunjan*
56.	Yang Berhormat Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang P.B.K.	*N.59 Tamin*
57.	Yang Berhormat Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin	*N.48 Meluan*
58.	Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi B.B.S., A.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.K.	*N.58 Balingian*
59.	Yang Berhormat Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad J.B.K., P.P.B.	*N.43 Daro*
60.	Yang Berhormat Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon J.B.S., P.P.N., A.B.S.	*N.66 Murum*
61.	Yang Berhormat Encik Allan Siden Gramong P.B.S., A.B.S.	*N.50 Machan*
62.	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*
63.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim A.M.N., P.M.W.	*N.17 Stakan*
64.	Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang A.B.S.	*N.74 Pujut*
65.	Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor P.B.S.	*N.28 Lingga*
66.	Yang Berhormat Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada A.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N.	*N.21 Tebedu*
67.	Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang P.B.S., P.P.B.	*N.1 Opar*

68.	Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan P.B.S.	*N.3 Tanjong Datu*
69.	Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin P.B.S., K.M.N.	*N.12 Kota Sentosa*
70.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri P.B.K., A.B.S.	*N.38 Kalaka*
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72.	Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian	*N.81 Ba'Kelalan*
73.	Yang Berhormat Encik Friday anak Belik A.B.K., P.P.S., P.P.B., P.B.K., P.P.C.	*N.39 Krian*
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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	*N.67 Jepak*

TIDAK HADIR

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Bil.	**Nama**	**Konstituensi**
1.	Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Ripin bin Lamat P.G.B.K., J.B.K., K.M.N., P.T.E. *Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Pembangunan Usahawan)*	*N.72 Lambir*
2.	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*
3.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri' Huang Tiong Sii P.G.B.K., D.I.M.P., S.S.A.P.	*N.45 Repok*

TURUT HADIR

1. Encik Nur Azhar bin Bujang
   Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak
2. Encik Abang Mohammad Adib bin Abang Sallehhadin
   Pemangku Timbalan Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak

3. Inspektor Nelson anak Ensit
   Bentara Mesyuarat
4. Inspektor Mohd Nur Fitri bin Mohd Idrus
   Bentara Mesyuarat
5. Inspektor UKPS Encik Dylan Tan Hock Ming
   Bentara Mesyuarat
6. Inspektor UKPS Encik Nizle anak Junep
   Bentara Mesyuarat
7. Inspektor UKPS Muhaimin Naqib bin Narudin
   Bentara Mesyuarat
8. Inspektor UKPS Bryan Hansen anak Wennedy
   Bentara Mesyuarat

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PEGAWAI UNDANG-UNDANG DAN PEMBACA PRUF

1.	Cik Nur Shazwani binti Saini	*Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*
2.	Encik Simon Engka anak Crown	*Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*

PEMBACA PRUF

1.	Encik Chiew Serit	*Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*
2.	Encik Nasir bin Hamid	*Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*

JURUTRENGKAS

1.	Puan Sharlina binti Mushar	*Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri*
2.	Puan Malin anak Arit	*Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri*
3.	Puan Bernadette Willon	*Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia*
4.	Puan Katerin Jemali @ Maria Jamali	*Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara*
5.	Puan Doris anak Francis Harris	*Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)*
6.	Puan Meri Sabas	*Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)*
7.	Puan Noorina binti Hamdan	*Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)*
8.	Puan Ratna Airnwati binti Haji Md. Junaidi	*Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
9.	Puan Sabtuyah binti Adeng	*Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
10.	Puan Nori Othman	*Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
11.	Puan Zuriawati binti Mohd Laili	*Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*
12.	Encik Mohd Alfadjer bin Tuah	*Pejabat Residen Bahagian Kuching*
13.	Puan Dorina Asort	*Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
14.	Puan Florence Jalong	*Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
15.	Puan Leidiana binti Azahari	*Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
16.	Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin	*Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
17.	Puan Dayang Duraiza binti Haji Awang Jangka	*Lembaga Sumber Asli & Alam Sekitar Sarawak*
18.	Puan Anieta Sylvester Pungga	*Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*
19.	Puan Juliana Lugom	*Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*
20.	Puan Rosemary Langub	*Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak*
21.	Puan Emely anak Edmund Beatie	*Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia Negeri Sarawak*
22.	Puan Azah Mohamad Jally	*Kementerian Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak*

23.	Puan Rosline anak Dominic Maon	*Kementerian Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak*
24.	Puan Nur Izzatul Fatihah Abdullah	*Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak*
25.	Puan Nurhaida binti Amin	*Jabatan Penyiaran Kawasan Sarawak, Jabatan Penyiaran Negeri Sarawak*
26.	Puan Valarie Jane anak Aitman	*Pejabat Pembangunan Persekutuan Negeri Sarawak, Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan, Jabatan Perdana Menteri*

JURURAKAM PERSIDANGAN

1.	Puan Nordiana binti Rabaee	*Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*
2.	Encik Hussein bin Shuini	*Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*
3.	Encik Vong Choon Chan	*Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*
4.	Puan Siti Nazilafatullaini binti Sukri	*Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*
5.	Encik Fareez Azizi bin Zakeria	*Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak*

JURUCETAK

1.	Encik Vincent Vyner ak Tubom	*Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad*
2.	Encik Larry Holmes ak Jagak	*Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad*

JURUTEKNIK IT

1.	Encik Abang Hasmadi Abang Wahab	*SAINS*
2.	Encik Hibatullah Malek	*SAINS*
3.	Cik Zuraidah binti Zaidi	*SAINS*
4.	Encik Junaidi	*SAINS*
5.	Encik Salihin bin Abu Seman	*SAINS*

MESSENGER

1.	Encik Mohamad Zahari bin Hamden	*Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak*
2.	Encik Helmy bin Abdul Rahman	*Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak*
3.	Encik Shah Riwandy Sia bin Ridzuan	*Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak*
4.	Encik Mohammad Zaidi bin Rambli	*Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak*
5.	Encik Lawrence Encharang	*Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak*
6.	Encik Mohamed Nazeerudin bin Gulam Mohamed	*Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak*
7.	Encik Fadillah bin Lokman	*Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian Kuching*
8.	Encik Addison anak Fredrick	*Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian Kuching*

SEKRETARIAT PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

1. Cik Noria binti Suut
2. Puan Nur Azira binti Abdul Kadir
3. Encik Nurkhairudin bin Osen
4. Puan Rabiah binti Abdul Kadir
5. Puan Aisha Parveen binti Badron
6. Cik Genang anak Timbung
7. Puan Siti Norhiza binti Mohammad Yusri
8. Puan Hanisah Abdullah
9. Cik Siti Halimah binti Mohamad Nawawi
10. Puan Hasfarini binti Hassim
11. Cik Nurhaffizah Abdullah
12. Puan Natasha Nadia binti Mohd. Saidi
13. Puan Angela Lisa anak Mathew Linol
14. Encik Felix Aaron anak Michael
15. Puan Calista Abbie anak Sapa @ Patrick Sapa

16. Cik Sharina binti Sopian
17. Puan Norziana binti Haji Ahmad
18. Encik Mohd Hasfia bin Abdullah
19. Puan Nur Eliana Abdullah
20. Puan Nazmah binti Darham
21. Puan Tracy Lyana anak Bana
22. Encik Mohd Zulkhairy bin Mohammad Hejemi
23. Puan Dayang Nazira binti Abang Martaza
24. Puan Jasmine Sinja anak Robinson
25. Puan Dayang Noorazilla binti Jasni
26. Cik Parcelia Renyelia anak Pamg
27. Cik Nur Zafirah binti Affendy Michael
28. Puan Deidre anak Wilson
29. Encik Muhammad Elliyas bin Matali
30. Cik Siti Nur Marsitah binti Abdullah
31. Puan Nur Amira Lystiani binti Poniman
32. Encik Alwie bin Haji Ali
33. Cik Hawa binti Morsad
34. Encik Razali bin Awi
35. Puan Nora binti Atem
36. Encik Zahari bin Bolhi
37. Encik Lukas Jammany anak Kated
38. Encik Hazrin Syah bin Hamzah
39. Encik Salman bin Jaya
40. Encik Romzi bin Bujang
41. Encik Musa bin Julai
42. Puan Suraya binti Hamden
43. Puan Noraisah binti Ahmad
44. Cik Siti Zalilah binti Samsawi
45. Encik Iz Mohd. Haiqal Hakeem bin Mahamud

PELAJAR PRAKTIKAL

1. Cik Amira Soraya binti Shafiee
2. Encik Mohamad Ziyad bin Mohamad Affandy

(*Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 9.12 pagi*)

[Timbalan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

DOA

PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER

Timbalan Speaker: Assalamualaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Selamat pagi dan Salam sejahtera. Honourable Members, under Standing Order 12(1) and (2), government's business shall take precedence over private members' business. And government's business shall be set down in such order as the government thinks fit and communicate 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 Minister's replies shall take the remaining three days of next week, that is Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Leave of absence under Standing Order 81. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted leave of absence under Standing Order 81 to Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr. Ripin bin Lamat, Honourable Deputy Minister for Youth, Sports, and Entrepreneur Development and Honourable Member for N.72 Lambir for today's sitting.

PERTANYAAN-PERTANYAAN BAGI JAWAPAN-JAWAPAN LISAN

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor, N.29 Beting Maro.

YB Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Selamat pagi dan Salam sejahtera.

Mudik ke hulu menaiki sampan,
Singgah di lubok memasang bubu,
YB Datuk Menteri mohon jawapan,
Soalan saya nombor satu.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

(1) YB Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor bertanya kepada Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan: Sarawak sedang meneroka industri berteknologi tinggi, aeroangkasa, *artificial intelligence*, *compound chip* dan ekonomi digital. Apakah status *Foreign Direct Investment* (FDI) yang diterima kerajaan dalam bidang-bidang tersebut?

Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan (YB Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Malangnya, saya tidak pandai berpantun. Saya pandai menyanyi saja.

Tuan Speaker, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro, Kerajaan Sarawak telah meluluskan *Foreign Direct Investment* (FDI) berjumlah RM31.8 bilion untuk industri berteknologi tinggi dalam elektrik dan elektronik, kimia dan logam hijau bagi tempoh tahun 2019 hingga 2023. Setakat ini, sebanyak 10 projek pelaburan tersebut telah dilaksanakan. Namun demikian, Kerajaan Sarawak turut akan bekerjasama dengan Kerajaan Persekutuan untuk membangunkan Sarawak sebagai hub aeroangkasa dan semikonduktor. Terima kasih.

YB Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor *(Soalan Tambahan)***:**

Duku, manggis, buah rambutan,
Sedap manis jadi santapan,
Terima kasih Datuk Menteri lengkapnya jawapan,

Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

(a) Berapa jumlah FDI yang telah diluluskan untuk industri berteknologi tinggi. Apakah nilai pelaburan dan bilangan projek mengikut jenis industri berteknologi tinggi berkenaan telah dilaksanakan; dan

(b) Bagaimanakah usaha Kerajaan Sarawak untuk dapat mempercepatkan pembangunan bagi menyokong industri berteknologi tinggi?

Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan (YB Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh): Tuan Speaker, jawapan bagi soalan pertama. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro, projek industri berteknologi tinggi yang telah dilaksanakan adalah berjumlah RM9.3 bilion bagi lima projek dalam elektrik dan elektronik. Tiga buah projek dalam kimia dan dua projek dalam logam hijau atau *green material*.

Untuk jawapan bagi soalan kedua, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro, bagi mempercepatkan pembangunan untuk menyokong industri berteknologi tinggi, kementerian saya sedang membangunkan polisi pelaburan Sarawak bertujuan membentuk strategi dan pelan tindakan untuk meningkatkan daya tarikan Sarawak sebagai destinasi pelaburan pilihan. Kerajaan Sarawak menggalakkan kerjasama strategik dengan institusi teknikal pusat penyelidik dan pengajian tinggi serta industri-industri khusus seperti semikonduktor dan aeroangkasa bagi memacu inovasi dan pembangunan teknologi.

Sehubungan itu, Kerajaan Sarawak telah melalui Sarawak Digital Economic Corporation (SDEC) telah menyediakan teknologi dan *innovation sandbox* sebagai pusat uji kaji teknologi baru dalam pelbagai sektor. SDEC juga menyediakan platform melalui SDEC *technology accelerator, digital village accelerator* dan *founders forge* bertujuan untuk membangun dan mengkomersialkan teknologi melalui syarikat *startups* seperti yang telah diamalkan di Korea Selatan.

Di samping itu, Kerajaan Sarawak juga memberi fokus kepada Pendidikan TVET yang menawarkan latihan dalam bidang kejuruteraan, elektrik, teknologi automotif dan aeroangkasa. Adalah perlu didedahkan bahawa Kerajaan Sarawak merupakan satu-satunya wilayah yang menawarkan pendidikan tinggi percuma kepada semua anak Sarawak menjelang tahun 2026 dengan mengutamakan kursus teknikal dan kewangan seperti kejuruteraan, perakaunan, analisis siber dan sains komputer.

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang, DUN N.13 Batu Kitang.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Allow me to share a *pantun* as well this morning.

Walaupun DAP tinggal dua,
Kuat bising ini dua,
Bagus terminate dua-dua,
Supaya GPS ada lapan puluh dua.

Soalan saya nombor dua. Thank you.

Reinstatement of Autonomous Rights for the Tourism Sector

(2) YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang to ask the Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts: Is there an active pursuit for the reinstatement of autonomous rights for the tourism sector in Sarawak?

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Pelancongan) (YB Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang for the question and also for the *pantun*.

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang, the reinstatement of autonomous rights for the tourism sector in Sarawak is still in active negotiations under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) discussions and the Federal and Sarawak Governments are putting concerted efforts to move the way forward and rejuvenate the tourism industry.

Looking back at the history, tourism was never mentioned in any of the lists, either in the Federal List or State List or Concurrent List in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution. Hence, by virtue of Article 77 of the Federal Constitution, tourism should fall under the State Legislative's power as it a residual matter.

However, in 1994, the Federal Constitution was amended among other to add '*Item 25A (Tourism) in List I (Federal List) of the Ninth Schedule*'. This amendment we believed was done without the consent of the states in this case, the Sarawak Government.

In 1963, tourism itself is not a big industry or seen as an important industry but now, it is one of the main industries generating revenue for the state and for the country. Therefore, we are willing to share the power with the Federal Government by agreeing to the list of tourism matters under the Concurrent List.

On 31st May 2024, the Sarawak Government, through my ministry, has formally conveyed its position to the Federal Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture (MOTAC), advocating for the transfer of tourism to the Concurrent List in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution. Another correspondence was subsequently submitted to MOTAC on 13th August 2024.

At the recent Mesyuarat Majlis Tindakan Pelaksanaan Perjanjian Malaysia 1963, chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister on 12th September 2024, the Sarawak Government has once again reaffirmed its position, that Item 25A ('Tourism') should be moved to the Concurrent List, to better serve our needs and interests of both the Federal and Sarawak Governments.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister subsequently directed MOTAC to reengage in discussions with the Sarawak and Sabah Governments to reach a consensus among all three parties. My ministry remains committed to continuing dialogue and negotiations with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC) in our proposal to amend Item 25A ('Tourism') from List I (Federal List) to List III (Concurrent List), which would grant concurrent powers to both the Federal and State Governments.

In this effort, we will work closely with the Honourable Deputy Minister of the Premier's Department (Law, MA63, and Federal-State Relations) and the State Attorney-General's Chambers. This collaboration is critical to ensure Sarawak is given the necessary executive authority to manage and regulate tourism within our state.

By making this change, we seek to strengthen Sarawak's autonomy in managing its tourism sector, aligning with our unique needs and opportunities, while fostering greater growth and development for the tourism industry. Thank you.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang: *(Supplementary Question)* Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Deputy Minister. I have two supplementary questions.

(a) What would be the significant benefits for Sarawak to have its own tourism rights? and

(b) What would be the key priority areas for the ministry to pursue for the good of Sarawak's tourism industry.

Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Pelancongan) (YB Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang. For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kiang, the significant benefits for Sarawak to have its own tourism rights would allow Sarawak to have the flexibility to develop tourism industry through the formulation of our own local law especially in terms of:

(a) Promoting investment in tourism infrastructure;
(b) Levelling up the capacity and capability of local workforce development; and
(c) Engaging the assets in terms of connectivity and facilities.

As for question number two, for the information of the Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang, our ministry will focus on key tourism areas as stated in our PCDS 2030 namely:

(a) International marketing promotion by showcasing its unique culture, natural beauty, and sustainable practices as well as positioning itself as a forward-thinking destination committed to sustainable and responsible development, and to positioning Sarawak as a premier tourist attraction destination to attract investors and business partners.

    Part of the initiative is through Sarawak Trade and Tourism Office Singapore (STATOS), and Sarawak Trade and Tourism Office Brunei (STATOB) which was recently launched by our YAB Premier on the 3rd of October 2024.

(b) Development for the capacity building for tourism industry players especially for homestays, tour guides training;

(c) Adapting the development of utilising digital and smart tourism such as S-MM2H and Sarawak Travel apps;

(d) Upgrading the high-level expectation for festivals, local and international events including business events;

(e) To recognise Sarawak as one of the international responsible tourism destinations especially through the Sarawak Tourism Board;

(f) To prepare the implementation of the enforcement as now the application for the licence agent for S-MM2H is under our ministry's purview.

Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai, N.64 Baleh.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya no. 3.

Tunoh / Entuloh, Merirai sebagai Kawasan Penanaman dan Pengeluar Utama Padi

(3) YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai bertanya kepada Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah: Adakah Kerajaan Sarawak berpandangan bahawa kawasan Tunoh / Entuloh, Merirai juga sesuai sebagai kawasan penanaman dan pengeluar utama padi di Sarawak bagi menyahut seruan bahawa Sarawak sebagai 'bakul makanan' utama negara?

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (Industri Makanan) (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Baleh, penanaman padi berskala besar dan komersil adalah antara fokus

utama kementerian saya bagi meningkatkan kadar sara diri daripada 32% sekarang kepada 60% pada tahun 2030.

Yang Amat Berhormat Premier dalam Ucapan Belanjawan 2025 semalam telah mengumumkan sejumlah *RM1 billion scheme value* sehingga tahun 2030 dan daripada itu RM51 juta adalah untuk tahun 2025 bagi pembangunan infrastruktur sehingga ke peringkat *Treasury*. Oleh itu, kementerian saya sedang mengenal pasti kawasan yang sesuai untuk tujuan ini. Untuk kawasan Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Baleh, kementerian saya telah mengenal pasti kawasan Sungai Tunoh, Kapit yang berkeluasan 216 hektar sesuai untuk penanaman padi.

Kawasan ini telah dicadangkan dalam senarai perancangan kerajaan untuk dibangunkan dengan kemudahan infrastruktur asas pengairan dan saliran. Dalam pada itu, kementerian saya juga mengambil maklum mengenai kawasan baharu iaitu Sungai Entuloh, Kapit. Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak sedang menjalankan kajian kesesuaian dan kebolehlaksanaan di kawasan tersebut bagi menilai potensi sebagai kawasan penanaman padi dan ianya dijangka siap pada suku pertama tahun 2025.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: *(Soalan Tambahan)* Terima kasih, Datuk Timbalan Menteri di atas jawapan yang diberikan. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan:

(a) Apakah cabaran yang dihadapi oleh Sarawak untuk mencapai sasaran 60% Tahap Sara Diri (SSL) bagi beras menjelang tahun 2030? manakala;

(b) Merit merupakan kawasan yang berpotensi untuk dibangunkan sebagai kawasan pengeluaran padi secara komersil. Apakah sumbangan atau insentif yang telah disalurkan kepada pesawah di kawasan Merit?

Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (Industri Makanan) (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail): Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Baleh atas dua soalan tambahan tersebut. Untuk menjawab soalan tambahan yang pertama, untuk makluman Yang Berhormat bagi Baleh cabaran yang dihadapi oleh Sarawak untuk mencapai sasaran 60% Tahap Sara Diri (SSL) adalah seperti berikut:

(a) Infrastruktur sistem pengairan dan saliran yang tidak lengkap;
(b) Penggunaan benih padi varieti tradisional yang mempunyai hasil pengeluaran yang rendah;
(c) Penggunaan mekanisasi dan automasi ladang yang rendah dalam kalangan pesawah;
(d) Ketersediaan tanah yang diusahakan syarikat swasta atau peneraju yang terhad; dan
(e) Kekurangan kemudahan pengurusan lepas tuai.

Bagi menjawab soalan tambahan yang kedua pula, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Baleh, seramai 395 pesawah dan 585 penanam padi bukit di kawasan Merit dengan jumlah keluasan kawasan bertanam 980 hektar telah menerima manfaat daripada Skim Baja dan Padi Kerajaan Persekutuan (SBPKP) serta Skim Baja dan Racun Padi Bukit (SBRPB), dengan jumlah nilai bantuan sebanyak RM960,838 untuk tahun 2024. Terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, N.6 Tupong.

YB Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya no. 4.

Tuntutan 35% Kerusi Parlimen dari Sabah dan Sarawak

(4) YB Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman bertanya kepada Premier Sarawak: Apakah landasan tuntutan 35% kerusi parlimen dari Sabah dan Sarawak dan apakah langkah-langkah yang diambil kerajaan untuk mencapai hak tersebut? Apakah signifikasi 35% kerusi Dewan Rakyat dan 35% kerusi Dewan Negara?

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-Undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) (YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tupong, tuntutan 35% kerusi Parlimen dari Sabah dan Sarawak adalah berlandaskan peruntukan di bawah Laporan Jawatankuasa Antara Kerajaan 1962 (*Inter-Governmental Committee Report, 1962*), di mana pada perenggan 3 dan perenggan 19(2) dalam *IGC Report* menyatakan seperti berikut.

I quote the verbatim*, Perenggan 3: "The two governments decided to establish an Inter-Governmental Committee, on which, the British, Malayan, North Borneo and Sarawak Governments would be represented. Its task was to work out the future constitutional arrangements, including safeguards for the special interests of North Borneo and Sarawak to cover such matters as religious freedom, education, representation in the Federal Government, the position of the indigenous races, control of immigration, citizenship and the State Constitutions".*

Perenggan 19(2); Again, I quote the verbatim, Tuan Speaker, *"Article 46(1) should be amended to increase the number of elected members of the House of Representatives from 104 to 159 (including the 15 proposed for Singapore). Of the additional numbers 16 should be elected in North Borneo and 24 in Sarawak. But here's the crucial part, *the proportion that the number of seats allocated respectively to Sarawak and to North Borneo bears to the total number of seats in the House should not be reduced (except by reason of the granting of the seats to any other new state) during a period of seven years after Malaysia Day without the concurrence of the government of the state concerned, and thereafter (except as aforesaid) shall be subject to Article 159(3) of the existing Federal Constitution (which requires Bills making amendments to the Constitution to be supported in each House of Parliament by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of that House)".*

I think this provision is really ambiguous and quite clear. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tupong, pada tahun 1963, Tanah Melayu hanya mempunyai 104 kerusi daripada keseluruhan jumlah kerusi di Dewan Rakyat. Manakala Sarawak, Sabah dan Singapura mempunyai 55 kerusi. Melalui jumlah kerusi ini, tiada pihak yang memiliki majoriti dua pertiga. Apabila Singapura telah tidak lagi menjadi sebahagian daripada Persekutuan Malaysia pada tahun 1965, Perlembagaan Persekutuan telah dipinda dan kerusi Singapura di Dewan Rakyat dimansuhkan. Ini menjadikan jumlah peratusan kerusi Sarawak dan Sabah di Dewan Rakyat kurang daripada 35% kepada hanya 25% dan telah meningkatkan peratusan kerusi negeri-negeri di Persekutuan Tanah Melayu daripada 65% kepada 75%.

Kerajaan Sarawak berpandangan bahawa agihan kerusi di Dewan Rakyat yang telah dimiliki Singapura haruslah diberikan kepada Sarawak dan Sabah, supaya jumlah 35% seperti pada tahun 1963 dapat dikekalkan, selaras dengan tujuan atau semangat asal pembentukan Malaysia dan Laporan *IGC Report. In the spirit* atau roh MA63, Kerajaan Sarawak telah beberapa kali membentangkan cadangan mengenai pertambahan Ahli Dewan dari Negeri Sarawak di Dewan Rakyat dalam beberapa mesyuarat bersama Kerajaan Persekutuan, antaranya ialah Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kerja Rakan Sekutu Bilangan 1 Tahun 2022 dan Mesyuarat Majlis Khas Mengenai Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 Kali Kedua dan Keempat.

Keputusan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kerja Rakan Sekutu Bilangan 1 Tahun 2022 telah diadakan pada 8 Februari 2022, telah bersetuju supaya cadangan mengenai Pertambahan Bilangan Ahli Dewan dari Sabah dan Sarawak dalam Dewan Rakyat dirujuk kepada Jawatankuasa Teknikal untuk perbincangan dan penelitian lanjut.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tupong, isu ini juga telah dibincangkan sekali lagi di dalam Mesyuarat Majlis Tindakan Pelaksanaan Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 yang telah diadakan pada 12 September 2024 di mana mesyuarat telah memutuskan supaya perkara ini diteliti semula. Perkara ini penting bagi memastikan tiada satu daripada tiga entiti asal (Persekutuan Tanah Melayu (Semenanjung), Sabah dan Sarawak) dalam Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 boleh menggunakan kuasa

masing-masing untuk meminda Perlembagaan Persekutuan yang boleh menyentuh hak entiti-entiti lain, tanpa sokongan atau persetujuan entiti tersebut. Jadi, terima kasih, Tuan Speaker.

YB Dato Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman: *(Soalan Tambahan)* Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri atas jawapan tersebut. Daripada jawapan Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri sebut tadi, ia telah menunjukkan landasan yang begitu kukuh sekali bagi kita menuntut kerusi 35% tersebut. Saya ingin bertanya dua soalan tambahan.

(a) *When* Kerajaan Persekutuan bersetuju atas tuntutan ini, kerana saya yakin atas landasan tersebut, Kerajaan Persekutuan wajib untuk menerima permohonan kita. Jadi, bila mereka menerima permohonan ini? Apakah proses-proses yang seterusnya? dan

(b) Apakah maklum balas ataupun *response* daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan tentang apa yang kita utarakan kerana sudah tentu dengan hubungan yang ada dengan Kerajaan Persekutuan, kita mengharapkan hubungan yang baik ini dapat mencapai *the* 35%. Jika tidak, maka ianya bukanlah satu hubungan yang baik.

Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-Undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) (YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Amad Ghazali): Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tupong. Sememangnya kita mengharapkan agar cadangan kita ini diterima oleh Kerajaan Persekutuan. Memang *we will fight for it*. Jika diterima dan dipersetujui, cadangan ini akan melibatkan pindaan khas, pindaan perlembagaan, khasnya pindaan terhadap Perkara 46 Perlembagaan Persekutuan yang menetapkan jumlah kerusi bagi setiap negeri. Setelah pindaan ini dilaksanakan, barulah Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR) perlu melaksanakan kajian terperinci selaras dengan Perkara 113 Perlembagaan Persekutuan bagi urusan persempadanan semula. Jadi, *it will require an amendment to the constitution.*

Bagi soalan tambahan yang kedua. Untuk makluman Yang Berhormat bagi Tupong, Kerajaan Persekutuan telah mengambil beberapa langkah positif dalam memberi perhatian kepada tuntutan ini. Antaranya dengan menubuhkan Jawatankuasa Kerja (*Working Committee*) sebagai platform perbincangan antara Kerajaan Persekutuan dan Kerajaan Negeri Sabah dan Sarawak. Jawatankuasa ini telah dianggotai oleh wakil-wakil dari Sabah dan Sarawak bersama-sama pegawai Kerajaan Persekutuan bagi memastikan isu-isu berkaitan perwakilan, autonomi dan hak-hak Sabah dan Sarawak terus diambil perhatian dan kita cuba laksanakan.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tupong, semasa Mesyuarat Majlis Tindakan Pelaksanaan Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 yang telah diadakan pada 12 September 2024 baru-baru ini, mesyuarat telah dimaklumkan, *we were informed,* bahawa Jabatan Peguam Negara perlu meneliti semula dari sudut perundangan. *To review and look again in terms of the laws*.

Selepas itu, perbincangan akan diadakan semula antara Jabatan Peguam Negara dengan Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak dan Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sabah bagi meneliti tafsiran terma *'safeguard' (Constitutional Safeguard) to relook into the definition and the meaning of the word 'safeguard'* kepada Sabah dan Sarawak yang terkandung di dalam Laporan Suruhanjaya Cobbold dan Laporan Jawatankuasa antara Kerajaan 1962 (IGC Report) dari aspek perundangan t*hat it goes on again, our discussion and negotiation.* Yang pasti, Kerajaan Sarawak akan terus komited terhadap tuntutan ini sebenarnya untuk memenuhi hasrat rakyat Sarawak dalam mencapai perwakilan yang lebih adil di dalam Dewan Rakyat. Terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin, N.48 Meluan.

YB Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya no. 5.

Perkhidmatan Starlink di Sekolah DUN Meluan

(5) YB Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin bertanya kepada Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi: Adakah terdapat perancangan bagi memasang perkhidmatan *Starlink* di sekolah-sekolah di Meluan? Saya mencadangkan agar sekolah-sekolah yang jauh di pendalaman seperti SK Nanga Ju, SK Nanga Maong, SK Nanga Ensiring, SK Nanga Jambu diberi keutamaan dalam pemasangan perkhidmatan *Starlink* ini.

Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi) (YB Datuk Liwan Lagang): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengalu-alukan kehadiran 55 Ahli GPS dari N.65 Belaga yang turut bersama-sama kita di galeri pada pagi ini. Mereka datang untuk memberi sokongan padu kepada Kerajaan GPS yang telah membentangkan bajet yang amat merangkumi, iaitu *"together building a prosperous future".* Mereka amat teruja.

Bagi makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan, yang begitu prihatin, tidak jemu-jemu untuk memohon kemudahan jaringan internet dan telekomunikasi bagi kawasan beliau. Jangan risau, Kerajaan GPS ini amat prihatin, tak kira di mana, akan diperhatikan.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan, terdapat 20 buah sekolah rendah dan dua buah sekolah menengah di kawasan DUN Meluan. Daripada jumlah tersebut, 14 buah sekolah termasuk SK Nanga Ju, SK Nanga Maong, SK Nanga Ensiring dan SK Nanga Jambu telah dilengkapi dengan capaian internet menerusi pakej *Starlink Business Priority 1 Terabyte* yang dibiayai oleh Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia di bawah Kerajaan Persekutuan. Manakala, baki lapan buah sekolah lain telah mendapat perkhidmatan fiber dan jalur lebar internet.

YB Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin: *(Soalan Tambahan)* Terima kasih, Timbalan Menteri atas jawapan yang diberikan. Tuan Speaker, saya ada dua soalan tambahan:

(a) Di manakah sekolah-sekolah lain di kawasan DUN Meluan yang turut menerima kemudahan *Starlink Business Priority 1 Terabyte?* dan

(b) Sekolah manakah yang menerima perkhidmatan jalur lebar internet dan talian fiber di DUN Meluan?

Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi) (YB Datuk Liwan Lagang): Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan. Seperti yang saya katakan tadi, Kerajaan GPS ini amat prihatin. Tiada yang ditinggalkan, tidak ada yang tidak mendapat.

Kesemua sekolah di DUN Meluan dibekalkan dengan perkhidmatan internet oleh Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia bagi tempoh kontrak dari Julai 2024 sehingga Julai 2025. Antara 10 buah sekolah lain di kawasan DUN Meluan yang menerima kemudahan *Starlink Business Priority 1 Terabyte* termasuklah:

(a) SK Lubok Assam;
(b) SK Nanga Engkamop;
(c) SK Nanga Kelangas;
(d) SK Nanga Luau;
(e) SK Nanga Meluan;
(f) SK Nanga Sengaih;
(g) SK Nanga Serau;
(h) SK Tapang Punggu;
(i) SK Ulu Entabai; dan
(j) SK Ulu Entaih.

Manakala untuk soalan kedua, selain *Starlink*, Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia telah menyediakan perkhidmatan internet kepada baki lapan buah sekolah lain di kawasan DUN Meluan. Empat daripada sekolah tersebut telah dibekalkan dengan jalur lebar internet, iaitu:

(a) SK Nanga Entabai;
(b) SK Nanga Entaih;
(c) SK Nanga Lasi; dan
(d) SK Nanga Merurun.

Manakala, empat buah sekolah lain yang telah dilengkapi dengan talian fiber adalah seperti berikut:

(a) SJK (Cina) Yuk Kung;
(b) SK St. Alphonsus;
(c) SMK Julau; dan
(d) SMK Julau No. 2.

Tiada yang tinggal, semua disediakan. Terima kasih.

Timbalan 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. My question is question no. 6.

Malaysian Carbon Bursa Exchange in Carbon Trading

(6) YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan bertanya kepada Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar: How effective is the Malaysian Carbon Bursa Exchange in Carbon Trading?

Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar (YB Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni): For the information of THE Member for Tanjong Datu, the Malaysian Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX), launched in December 2022, is the country's voluntary carbon market platform to support its low-carbon economy transition. By facilitating the trade of carbon credits, including renewable energy certificates (RECs), Bursa Carbon Exchange helps Sarawak-based entities to monetize carbon sequestration efforts and align with global emission reduction goals.

Notable developments include the recent REC auction from Murum hydropower and collaborations like the MoU with Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) at COP28. However, BCX's impact is still unfolding, with early progress primarily seen in auction activities and partnerships.

Sarawak's local initiatives complement the national efforts by Bursa Carbon Exchange, with regional entities such as Petroleum Sarawak Berhad (PETROS) and Samling Group's SaraCarbon Sdn. Bhd. actively exploring carbon capture, storage, and nature-based projects. This local approach, enabled by Sarawak's supportive legislation, adds a regional dimension to Malaysia's carbon trading landscape. While Bursa Carbon Exchange provides a structured marketplace, Sarawak's own carbon trading licenses and projects are establishing a parallel ecosystem that may further boost both THE local and international engagement in carbon trading. Thank you.

YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan: *(Soalan Tambahan)* Terima kasih, Timbalan Menteri, *Member for Demak Laut*. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan, *two supplementary questions*:

(a) How are we engaging with the private sector stakeholders to promote carbon trading initiative? and

(b) What is the long-term strategy for integrating carbon trading into our overall economic and environmental planning?

Mungkin ada yang bertanyak kenak soalan tok sik ditanyak di rumah? Tapi, saya percaya seluruh Ahli Dewan *tok* have the right to know the answer. Thank you very much.

Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar (YB Datuk Dr. Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. *Di rumah soalan lainlah.* For the information of the Member for Tanjong Datu, Sarawak has been engaging the private sector stakeholders through different means. We began by creating a legal framework with clear administrative process for carbon project developers.

Besides, we have also organised high-level events and invited private sectors to participate such as the Asia Carbon Conference which Sarawak will host again next year. This is an important part of raising awareness and introducing Sarawak's strategic interests and direction to increase private participation from different sectors. Such awareness raising events are also part of capacity building to private sectors and facilitate public-private partnerships and dialogues. Furthermore, Sarawak is considering to set up the Sarawak Climate Change Center to coordinate, manage and support climate change mitigation and carbon trading in Sarawak. This includes engaging with private sectors and addressing potential queries and interests.

For the second question, Sarawak has two main long-term strategies for integrating carbon trading into its economic and environmental planning. First, carbon trading is seen as an important component in diversifying Sarawak's economy and stimulating growth and new opportunities across various sectors. For example, Sarawak's project developers in Sarawak have shown significant interest in nature-based carbon credits, marking a transition away from the traditional extractive economy. The recently enacted Environment (Greenhouse Gases Reduction Emission) Ordinance, 2023 introduces a new impetus and demand for carbon credits, ensuring a sustainable supply and demand for carbon trading over the long-term.

Secondly, carbon trading serves as a tool to promote sustainable finance by attracting investments in climate-positive projects, making them more financially viable. The revenue generated from selling carbon credits can be reinvested into further sustainability initiatives, creating a positive feedback loop for continuous development. The Sarawak Nett Zero Strategy and Carbon Plan, currently being prepared, aims to integrate carbon trading into the state's economic and environmental objectives. Thank you.

Timbalan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How, N.11 Batu Lintang, please.

Projek Pembangunan Lembaga Sungai Bersepadu (PLSB)
Sungai Sarawak (Pakej 2 and 3)

(7) YB Encik See Chee How to ask the Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government: The progress of the implementation and completion of the *Projek Pembangunan Lembaga Sungai Bersepadu* (PLSB) Sungai Sarawak (Pakej 2 and 3) as regards the upgrading of drainage systems at Sarawak General Hospital, Jalan Batu Lintang and Sungai Tabuan.

Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kerajaan Tempatan) (YB Datuk Dr Penguang Manggil): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Lintang. Tuan Speaker, allow me to make some corrections on the question asked by the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Lintang. The question should read, to ask the Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government: The progress of the implementation and completion of the Projek Pembangunan Lembaga, the word '*Lembaga*' should be replaced by the word '*Lembangan*', basin, Sungai Bersepadu (PLSB) Sungai Sarawak (Pakej 2 and 3) as regards to the upgrading of the drainage systems in the Sarawak General Hospital, Jalan Batu Lintang and

Sungai Tabuan. I do so because just to make sure that we are talking on the same page and talking about one and the same thing.

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Lintang, the progress of the implementation of Projek Pembangunan Lembangan Sungai Bersepadu (PLSB) Sungai Sarawak (Pakej 2 and Pakej 3) is 0.27% as against the schedule of 1.77% and 0.40% as against the schedule of 3.23% respectively. PLSB (Pakej 3) includes the construction of flood mitigation measures at Sungai Gersik, Sungai Sinjan, Kuching as well as the deepening and widening of Sungai Tengah and Sungai Minjap, Matang.

For the PLSB projects which includes the upgrading of the drainage system at the Sarawak General Hospital, Jalan Batu Lintang, the Federal Government quarters Kuching as well as the clearing and construction of the water retention pond also known as SUStoM pond at the old nurses' quarters, the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Sarawak (DID) has issued a stop work order on the 7th of August 2024 following an appeal by the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) to preserve the old nurses' quarters which they claimed as a heritage building.

To address or to resolve this impasse, a multidisciplinary or multi agency committee including the relevant NGOs has been set up and is currently working on a win-win solution so as to allow the project to proceed as plan, while at the same time maintaining the integrity as well as the heritage values of the old nurses' quarters in front of the Sarawak General Hospital. Thank you.

YB Encik See Chee How: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Many thanks to the Honourable Deputy Minister who had given a very comprehensive answer including the correction, thank you for the correction of the question. I have no supplementary questions. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi, N.58 Balingian.

Madrasah atau Sekolah Tahfiz di DUN Balingian

(8) YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi bertanya kepada Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat: Madrasah atau sekolah tahfiz amatlah penting. Adakah terdapat cadangan untuk diwujudkan di kawasan DUN N.58 Balingian?

Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Utiliti) (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, buat masa ini kerajaan belum bercadang untuk membina madrasah atau sekolah tahfiz di kawasan Balingian. Walau bagaimanapun, kerajaan sentiasa mengkaji mengenai keperluan pembinaan sesebuah madrasah atau sekolah tahfiz dari semasa ke semasa. Terima kasih.

YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi: (*Soalan Tambahan*) Terima kasih, Timbalan Menteri. Jadi, saya ada dua soalan tambahan:

(a) Adakah terdapat sekolah agama ataupun pusat tahfiz yang terletak berdekatan Balingian? dan
(b) Berapakah enrolmen semasa dan kapasiti maksima bagi sekolah tersebut?

Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Utiliti) (YB Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Balingian. Untuk menjawab soalan pertama, terdapat sebuah sekolah rendah agama, iaitu SK Agama Majlis Islam Sarawak Mukah yang dilengkapi dengan fasiliti asrama lelaki dan asrama perempuan. Selain daripada itu, terdapat juga sebuah pusat tahfiz persendirian, iaitu Madrasah Al-Quran Mukah dan juga dua premis kelas al-Quran dan fardhu ain atau KAFA, satu di Sekolah Kebangsaan Parish dan yang keduanya di Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Balingian.

Dan untuk soalan yang kedua, untuk makluman Dewan dan juga untuk makluman Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, kapasiti maksima bagi SK Agama Majlis Islam Sarawak Mukah adalah sebanyak 300 orang murid yang terdiri daripada 12 buah kelas dari Tahun Satu sehingga ke Tahun Enam. Pecahan bilangan murid adalah seperti berikut; daripada jumlah 279 orang, terdapat 126 orang murid lelaki dan 153 orang murid perempuan.

Walau bagaimanapun, selaras dengan Akta Pendidikan 1996, Akta 550 yang memperuntukkan bagi pengajaran agama Islam adalah seperti berikut, "*Jika di dalam sesebuah institusi pendidikan terdapat lima orang murid atau lebih yang menganut agama Islam maka murid-murid ini hendaklah diberi pengajaran agama Islam oleh guru yang diluluskan oleh pihak berkuasa negeri*". Terima kasih.

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

YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. My question is no. 9.

Road development project linking Miri, Marudi, Mulu, and Long Terawan

(9) YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang to ask the Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development:

(i) What is the progress of the road development project linking Miri, Marudi, Mulu, and Long Terawan which was announced to commence next year? and

(ii) Has the tender process been completed, and if so, when is the expected start and completion date for construction?

Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur) (YB Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo): Thank you, Tuan Speaker. For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pujut, the Proposed Road Linking Miri-Marudi, Marudi-Mulu and Long Panai to Long Lama, the project is implemented by the Regional Corridor Development Authority or RECODA and the project is currently under the tender documentation stage. The Miri-Marudi, Marudi-Long Lama Project is to be implemented under two packages mainly:

(a) Package 1, Miri to Marudi and Long Lama 68 km; and
(b) Package 2, Marudi to Mulu 76km.

Both packages are targeted to be tendered in quarter 1, 2025 and expected to commence physically in quarter 2, 2025 with the duration of for construction of 48 months and this project is expected to be completed in quarter 2, 2029 or in the later part of RMK-13. Thank you.

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

(a) What is the scope of work for this project? and
(b) How much is the estimated cost for this project?

Thank you.

Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur) (YB Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo): Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pujut for the two supplementary questions. For supplementary question no. 1, the scope of work for the proposed road linking Miri-Marudi, Marudi-Mulu or in Long Melinau in Mulu and the other spur is from Long Panai to Long Lama are construction in upgrading of approximately 42 km of JKR R5 road standard from Eastwood Valley junction in Miri to simpang stadium in Marudi and construction in upgrading of approximately 100 km JKR R3 road standard from Marudi to Kuala Melinau and Long Panai to Long Lama and construction of 23 number of bridges which includes nine major bridges and 14 minor

bridges. And for supplementary question no. 2, the overall estimated cost for this project is RM3.8 billion and the cost shall include the followings:

(a) Land acquisition and crop compensation;
(b) Consultancy fees including project management consultant;
(c) Utility relocation works; and
(d) Environment impact assessment or EIA and construction cost for main road, spur road, bridges and road furniture.

Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa, N.33 Engkilili.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya no. 10.

Pemilikan Geran Tanah Skim Skrang

(10) YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa bertanya kepada Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar: Skim Skrang adalah merupakan salah sebuah penempatan yang tertua di Sarawak. Apakah perancangan kerajaan untuk menyelesaikan masalah pemilikan geran tanah para peneroka yang setakat ini belum diselesaikan lagi?

Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar (YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih, Yang Berhormat bagi Engkilili. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Engkilili, *Skrang Land Development Scheme* dilaksanakan oleh Lembaga Kemajuan Tanah Sarawak (LKTS) atau dalam Bahasa Inggerisnya adalah *Sarawak Land Development Board* (SLBD). Berdasarkan kepada rekod Jabatan Tanah dan Survei, sehingga 31 Oktober 2024, sebanyak 222 lot pertanian dan 203 lot kediaman telah dikeluarkan dengan surat hak milik tanah kepada para peserta skim pembangunan tanah tersebut sejak 1967.

Jabatan Tanah dan Survei akan bekerjasama dengan LKTS bagi memuktamadkan proses pengeluaran surat hak milik tanah kepada para peserta yang belum mendapat surat hak milik tanah mereka. Terima kasih.

YB Encik Johnical Rayong anak Ngipa: *(Soalan Tambahan)* Yang Berhormat Datuk Timbalan Menteri, saya ada dua soalan tambahan:

(a) Apakah tindakan yang perlu diambil oleh waris-waris sekiranya peneroka asal di dalam skim ini telah meninggal dunia namun surat hak milik tanah ini masih belum dikeluarkan? dan

(b) Memandangkan tempoh pegangan bagi sebahagian surat hak milik tanah yang dikeluarkan di Skim Skrang akan tamat tempoh dalam masa terdekat, adakah kerajaan akan membuat penyambungan tempoh hak milik tersebut?

Terima kasih.

Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar (YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh): Terima kasih sekali lagi, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih kepada Yang Berhormat Engkilili bagi soalan tambahan tersebut.

Untuk menjawab soalan pertama, untuk makluman Yang Berhormat Engkilili, memandangkan skim ini terletak di bawah seliaan pihak Lembaga Kemajuan Tanah Sarawak (LKTS), pewaris hendaklah melaporkan kepada pihak LKTS sekiranya peneroka asal di dalam skim ini telah meninggal dunia agar rekod dikemas kini dengan mengemukakan dokumen-dokumen yang berkaitan. Sebarang syor untuk mengeluarkan surat hak milik tanah kepada penuntut tanah terkini

akan dikemukakan oleh pihak LKTS ke Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Sarawak untuk tindakan selanjutnya.

Untuk menjawab soalan kedua, para pemilik tanah di Skim Skrang yang akan tamat tempoh pegangan boleh mengemukakan permohonan pembaharuan tempoh hak milik tanah mereka pada bila-bila masa ke Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian Sri Aman sebelum tempoh hak milik tersebut tamat. Permohonan tersebut juga boleh dikemukakan secara atas talian melalui sistem eRLL di laman sesawang Jabatan Tanah dan Survei.

Berdasarkan rekod Jabatan Tanah dan Survei, terdapat hak milik tanah di Skim Skrang yang telah didaftar seawal-awal tahun 1967 untuk tempoh pegangan selama 60 tahun. Ini bermakna tempoh hak milik akan tamat pada tahun 2027. Sekian, terima kasih.

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

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT BILL, 2024

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.82 Bukit Sari (YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 to be read a second time.

Tuan Speaker: Please proceed.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.82 Bukit Sari (YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan): This Bill is introduced with the aim of repealing the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance [Chapter 84] (1958 Edition).

It is a legislative framework that has been in place for over six decades. The existing Ordinance, originally enacted in 1949, has seen significant evolution through several revisions and amendment to address changing environmental and resource management requirements. It was first revised in 1958, followed by a reprint in 1972, and has undergone further amendments in 1994, 1998, 2001, 2006, and most recently in 2020.

The intent of this new Bill is to provide a forward looking, comprehensive approach to the management of Sarawak’s natural resources and environmental conservation. This Bill includes provisions that will empower the State of Sarawak to exercise full authority over critical areas such as resource conservation, environmental management, pollution control, and sustainable development. These provisions are intended not only to safeguard Sarawak's natural assets but also to promote responsible development in alignment with the global environmental standards. Hence, this new comprehensive law is timely to manage natural resources and environment, taking into consideration the latest development on environment and emerging environmental concerns.

Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63)

Tuan Speaker, for the information of this august House, the Sarawak Government has been actively pursuing greater autonomy and seeking constitutional reform since 2014 to restore Sarawak’s special status under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63). Among the areas included in the 13 points of administrative empowerment and autonomy granted to Sarawak in 2016 was Environment.

Currently, environmental matters in Sarawak are governed by two main pieces of legislation; the Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Act 127), which is a federal law, and the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance [Chapter 84] (1958 Edition), which is a state law.

Since environment is not listed in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution, it is considered a residual matter. This classification allows Sarawak to legislate on environmental issues under Article 77 of the Federal Constitution.

Following the fourth meeting of the Special Council for the Malaysia Agreement 1963 *(Mesyuarat Majlis Khas Mengenai Perjanjian Malaysia 1963)* on 14th April 2022, an agreement was reached between the Federal Government and the Sarawak Government to transfer regulatory authority over environmental matters to Sarawak in phases.

Further, during the first Technical Committee Meeting under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 Implementation Action Council (MTPMA63) on 28th May 2024, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Malaysia (NRES) presented the latest developments, which were noted as follows:

(a) The action plan for the implementation of the delegation of authority has been agreed upon by the Federal Government with the State Governments of Sarawak and Sabah;

(b) The delegation of authority concerning environmental matters, specifically "*Scheduled Waste Disposal*" to the State Governments of Sarawak and Sabah is expected to be finalized by 1st January 2025 and 1st January 2026, respectively.

Tuan Speaker, as part of the first phase of implementation, the Department of Environment Malaysia (DOE) will transfer authority for regulating '*Scheduled Wastes*' to the Natural Resources and Environmental Board (NREB) by 2025. An Order will be made under Article 95C on Item 8(l), List I of the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution pertaining to dangerous and inflammable substances to facilitate this transition.

With full authority over natural resources, environmental management, and pollution control, Sarawak will be able to establish its own environmental quality goals to protect flora, fauna, and human health for beneficial uses. The state will have the power to implement measures to achieve these goals. This complete authority over environmental elements including land, water, and air will enable Sarawak to manage and protect its natural resources and environment which will ensure a healthier, cleaner, and safer environment.

Environment as a Whole

Tuan Speaker, natural resources which are harvested from our terrestrial and marine ecosystems should be utilised in a sustainable manner to prevent damage or injury to the environment. As such, the powers provided under this Bill for purposes such as determining the mode and manner whereby natural resources can be used without damaging, polluting or causing adverse impact, is crucial to ensure environmental sustainability.

It is essential that natural resources be managed to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. This approach calls for the careful stewardship of ecosystem to ensure they continue providing their invaluable services, which are categorized into four key types:

(a) Provisioning services which include all the tangible product derived from ecosystem, such as food, raw materials, and genetic resources that are foundational to agriculture, medicine, and industry

(b) Regulating services which involve the natural regulation of ecosystem processes, such as the

purification of water in the air, climate regulation through a carbon sequestration, and pest and disease control, all of which contribute to environmental stability and human health.

(c) Supporting services which are essential for ecosystem functionality. These services include nutrient cycling, soil formation, and habitat provision. They sustain the ecosystem's ability to produce food, regulate floods, and purify water, among other benefits; and

(d) Cultural services which go beyond material benefits. The ecosystems provide cultural services that enrich our lives through recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and spiritual experiences, supporting human well-being in an intangible but impactful way.

By preserving these diverse ecosystem functions, we ensure that natural resources are used sustainably, meeting today's needs while safeguarding the ability of future generations to enjoy these critical benefits.

Tuan Speaker, for the information of this august House, natural resources refer to air, biological diversity of resources, minerals, oil, gas, forest produce, land, rocks, soils, sub-soils, water, animals, birds, plants, and marine or aquatic life.

In this Bill, all anthropogenic pollution sources, regardless of whether they originate from land development or industries, will be regulated through prohibition or restriction by setting allowable emissions, discharges and standards, which are adapted to the local context of Sarawak. This ensures economic prosperity, social inclusivity and environmental sustainability for the six economic sectors i.e. manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, forestry, mining and services as highlighted under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030).

Therefore, the tabling of this Bill is timely in ensuring that the implementation of planned socio-economic transformation projects and development programmes will be carried out in a sustainable manner and in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With this Bill, Sarawak will have the necessary regulatory power, leveraging on data to mitigate environmental risks and to ensure environmental sustainability.

For the information of this august House, there had been a series of engagements with stakeholders from both the state and federal agencies, including the State Attorney-General's Chambers, Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development, Ministry of Energy and Environmental Sustainability, Federal Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Malaysia and Department of Environment, Sarawak.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE BILL

Tuan Speaker, the salient features of this Bill include the following:

(a) Establishment of the Natural Resources and Environment Board and appointment of its members

The Natural Resources and Environment Board is established as a corporate body. The Board consists of the Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, the State Attorney-General, the State Financial Secretary, and Permanent Secretaries from relevant ministries as well as Directors from relevant Government Departments and up to five other members with relevant experience, knowledge or expertise. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and the five other members are to be appointed by the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri.

(b) Powers and Functions of the Board

The powers and functions of the Natural Resources and Environment Board are clearly defined to ensure comprehensive environmental oversight in Sarawak.

The powers of the Board among others, include the following:

(i) to determine the mode and manner whereby natural resources can be exploited or used without damaging, polluting or causing adverse impact on the environment;

(ii) to control, stop or prohibit the destruction of vegetation for the prevention of erosion, damage or injury to the natural resources, rivers and landscapes or the protection of the element in Sarawak;

(iii) to issue directions or directives relating to environmental management practices across various sectors, including land use, water source protection, forestry, agriculture, mining, carbon capture, and marine resource exploitation; and

(iv) to direct anybody or person to carry out environmental audits of any prescribed activity undertaken by him and provide a report to the Board.

In terms of its functions, the Board, among others, is:

(i) to set environmental quality goals alongside promoting pollution control and sustainable resource use;

(ii) to liaise with federal environmental authorities to determine standards, enforces waste management and pollution control policies, and develops environmental management systems for conservation areas and specific regions;

(iii) to undertake measures and activities to reduce carbon emissions in accordance with powers and authorities conferred by the Environment (Reduction of Greenhouse Gases) Ordinance, 2023 (Cap. 85), and other written laws;

(iv) to engage in public education to increase awareness of environmental protection; and

(v) to undertake any measures necessary to safeguard the quality of the environment.

(c) Management of Scheduled Wastes.

Scheduled wastes are mainly generated by industries. As stated earlier, the first stage of the MA63 exercise for environment is to handover matters related to scheduled wastes. Hence, this Bill has incorporated the provisions on scheduled wastes management.

(d) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Licensing of Prescribed Activities

The purpose of EIA is to identify and assess the impact on the environment of a proposed development activity and to detail out the mitigating measures prior to project approval and implementation. The requirement for EIA is now clearly provided for in this Bill.
Besides imposing a requirement for EIA, this Bill empowers Sarawak to regulate prescribed activities regarding discharges and emissions into the environment through licensing. As of today, prescribed activities regulated under the Environmental Quality Act, 1974 are palm oil mills, rubber and scheduled wastes.

(e) Licence on prescribed conveyance

This Bill also provides for the licensing of conveyance for scheduled wastes to ensure control over its transportation in Sarawak.

(f) Qualified and Competent persons

This Bill allows any person intending to carry out any of the prescribed activity under the Bill to appoint qualified persons who will carry out and submit environmental impact assessment reports.

This Bill also allows the Controller to certify competent persons who may conduct activities such as operating a control equipment, managing scheduled wastes, conducting studies, preparing and submitting reports, plans, proposals, engineering drawings or other documents relating to environmental matters.

(g) Establishment of the Environmental Fund

This Bill provides for the establishment of the Environmental Fund. All moneys received under this Fund will be utilized, among others, for the purposes of research, mitigating, preventing or combating pollution and spillage.

(h) Enhancement of Enforcement Powers

This Bill has enhanced enforcement powers, by introducing among others, the power of arrest, power to search, power to test and prohibit use of vehicle.

(i) New Offences and Penalties

This Bill incorporates new offences and stiffer penalties. Penalties for non-compliance range from a minimum of five thousand Ringgit Malaysia up to a maximum of ten million Ringgit Malaysia, depending on the severity and nature of the offence. These penalties are designed to serves as a strong deterrent, discouraging repeat violations.

(j) Power to Compound Offences

This Bill grants the Controller, the authority to offer a compound for any offence committed by a person. The offer to compound must be made in writing and may not exceed two-thirds of the maximum fine for the offence.

(k) Financial Penalty

This Bill makes a provision to impose a financial penalty for any non-compliance. In the case of a second or subsequent non-compliance, an amount of ten times of the financial penalty which was imposed for the first non-compliance will be imposed and to be deposited into the State Consolidated Fund. The unpaid financial penalty may be recovered as a civil debt.

Other features of the Bill are as stated in the explanatory statement to this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, both the Federal and Sarawak Government have agreed to implement the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) concerning environmental matters in phases. This Bill will come into force on a date to be determined by the Minister, in accordance with Clause 1(2) of the Bill. Regarding the regulation of scheduled waste, once an Order is made under Article 95C of the Federal Constitution, the provisions related to scheduled waste will be enforced in Sarawak through this Bill after it has been passed by this august House.

Other provision relating to licensing for restricted and prohibited activities, prescribed conveyances, prescribed premises, and similar matters are currently governed by the Environmental Quality Act 1974. After this Bill is passed, Sarawak will have its own legislation, and these matters will be managed under this law in phases. Ultimately, the Environmental Quality Act 1974 will then no longer apply to Sarawak.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, the introduction of this Bill is a clear manifestation of the Sarawak Government continuous commitments to uphold the protection and preservations of the environment and natural resources. Furthermore, this Bill is aligned with Sarawak's sustainability effort that are made up of the three pillars; economic prosperity, social inclusivity and environmental sustainability as spelt out in PCDS 2030. I, therefore, urge the Honourable Members of this august House to support this Bill. I beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: Another Minister to second.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian): Tuan Speaker, I beg to second.

Tuan Speaker: Thank you. Now, I shall call upon the Honourable Members who wishes to speak and debate on the Bill. Honourable Member for Tellian.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. *Selamat Suab*. Salam Sarawakku Sayang. Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Tuan Speaker, terima kasih atas peluang yang diberikan kepada saya untuk turut serta dalam Perbahasan *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* yang mana Rang Undang-Undang ini bukan sahaja mencerminkan komitmen Kerajaan Sarawak terhadap pemuliharaan sumber alam tetapi juga menunjukkan kesedaran kita terhadap tanggungjawab untuk melindungi alam sekitar.

Tuan Speaker, setinggi penghargaan dan tahniah juga diucapkan kepada Bukit Sari merangkap Timbalan Premier Sarawak serta Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua iaitu Menteri yang bertanggungjawab dalam membawa Usul kepada *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* untuk dibincang dan dipertimbangkan kelulusannya di dalam persidangan kita pada kali ini. Saya amat yakin seluruh Ahli Dewan mempunyai pandangan masing-masing dalam usaha untuk memberikan sokongan penuh kepada Rang Undang-Undang baru ini demi menjaga kepentingan Sarawak yang kita sayangi ini.

Tuan Speaker, *natural resources and environment* merujuk kepada dua konsep yang berkait-rapat dalam pengurusan sumber semula jadi dan perlindungan alam sekitar. Sumber alam atau *natural resources* adalah elemen-elemen yang terdapat di alam semula jadi yang dapat digunakan oleh manusia untuk memenuhi kehendak dan keperluan dalam kehidupan serta aset penting kepada pentadbiran sesebuah kerajaan. Apa yang dimaksudkan dengan elemen-elemen ini adalah seperti berikut:

(a) Air – iaitu sumber penting kehidupan dan berbagai aktiviti manusia yang mana ketika ini, ini adalah salah satu sumber pada penghasilan hidrogen;
(b) Mineral – seperti logam dan bahan mentah lain yang digunakan dalam industri;
(c) Hutan – yang mengandungi kayu-kayan habitat untuk biodiversiti dan perkhidmatan ekosistem;
(d) Tanah – tempat untuk pertanian dan pembangunan;
(e) Biodiversiti – pelbagai spesis tumbuhan dan haiwan yang menyokong ekosistem; dan
(f) Gas dan minyak – sumber tenaga yang digunakan secara meluas ketika ini.

Tuan Speaker, alam sekitar atau *environment* pula merujuk kepada semua faktor fizikal dan biologi yang mengelilingi manusia termasuklah faktor fizikal, tanah, air, udara, iklim dan sumber semula jadi yang lain. Faktor biologi – tumbuhan, haiwan dan mikro organisma yang membentuk ekosistem. Faktor sosial – aspek estetika dan kualiti hidup yang dipengaruhi oleh interaksi manusia dengan alam. Kedua-dua konsep ini yang saling berkaitan kerana pengurusan sumber alam yang berkesan adalah penting untuk menjaga keseimbangan alam sekitar. Pembangunan yang tidak

mampan boleh menyebabkan pencemaran, kehilangan biodiversiti dan kerosakan kepada ekosistem kita.

Oleh itu, undang-undang seperti *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* ini sudah pastinya bertujuan untuk mengawal penggunaan sumber alam sambil melindungi alam sekitar daripada kesan-kesan negatif yang mendorong kepada perubahan iklim yang buruk.

Tuan Speaker, Rang Undang-Undang ini mempunyai struktur dan asas yang kukuh dalam usaha kita dalam melindungi dan memelihara sumber alam serta alam sekitar di wilayah kita yang tercinta ini. Ia bukan sahaja mencerminkan keprihatinan kita terhadap kelestarian, tetapi juga tanggungjawab kita terhadap generasi yang akan datang.

Kita semua sedar bahawa sumber alam adalah aset yang ternilai bagi sesebuah negara. Namun dengan pertumbuhan ekonomi dan pembangunan yang pesat kita berdepan dengan pelbagai cabaran seperti pencemaran, kehilangan biodiversiti dan pemusnahan habitat. Maka Rang Undang-Undang ini diperkenalkan untuk mengatasi isu-isu tersebut dengan pendekatan yang lebih sistematik dan berkesan.

Tuan Speaker, saya melihat Rang Undang-Undang ini terdiri daripada bahagian-bahagian penting yang menjadi asas kukuh kewujudannya iaitu yang pertama:

(a) Bahagian Pentadbiran

Iaitu untuk penubuhan Lembaga Sumber Alam dan Alam Sekitar. Lembaga ini akan bertanggungjawab dalam pengurusan dan pemeliharaan sumber alam di Sarawak. Ia akan memastikan bahawa semua aktiviti yang berkaitan dengan sumber alam serta alam sekitar dilakukan secara mampan dan beretika sekaligus menjaga hak-hak Sarawak seperti yang termaktub di dalam Perjanjian Malaysia 1963.

(b) Bahagian Pemuliharaan

Rang Undang-Undang ini juga memperuntukkan penubuhan dana Pemuliharaan Alam Sekitar yang akan digunakan untuk projek-projek pemulihan dan pemeliharaan alam sekitar. Ini menunjukkan komitmen kita untuk melindungi biodiversiti dan sumber semula jadi adalah sangat serius.

Melalui undang-undang ini penguatkuasaan undang-undang untuk pemeliharaan dan pemuliharaan sumber alam akan dapat dilaksanakan dengan lebih berkesan dengan kuasa penuh yang dimiliki oleh Kerajaan Sarawak apatah lagi dalam mengendalikan sebarang urusan berkaitan dengan wilayah kita sendiri. Bahagian yang ketiga, Bahagian Pengawalan Pencemaran.

(c) Bahagian Pengawalan Pencemaran

Dalam bahagian ini, pengawalan aktiviti berisiko tinggi akan dapat dilakukan dengan lebih sistematik dan tegas, dalam Rang Undang-Undang ini terdapat peruntukan khas atau khusus yang mengawal aktiviti yang berpotensi mencemarkan aktiviti pengeluaran sisa berjadual dan pembakaran terbuka. Ini termasuk larangan terhadap pelepasan bahan tercemar ke dalam air dan atmosfera serta syarat ketat bagi aktiviti perindustrian. Lembaga akan memiliki kuasa untuk menentukan syarat pelepasan bahan pencemar serta pengharaman penggunaan bahan berbahaya tanpa kawalan yang sewajarnya.

Dengan memperkenalkan garis panduan yang ketat mengenai pencemaran, Rang Undang-Undang ini akan membantu mengurangkan kesan negatif terhadap alam sekitar. Ini termasuk pengawalan pelepasan bahan pencemar ke dalam udara, air dan tanah.

(d) Bahagian Penguatkuasaan

Rang Undang-Undang ini juga memperkenalkan sistem pelesenan yang lebih ketat untuk premis dan kenderaan yang terlibat dalam aktiviti berkaitan sumber alam. Ini bagi memastikan bahawa hanya entiti yang mematuhi standard tertentu dibenarkan beroperasi dan mampu meningkatkan tahap keselamatan serta perlindungan alam sekitar.

Undang-undang ini juga menetapkan prosedur untuk mendapatkan lesen bagi aktiviti berpotensi mencemarkan alam sekitar. Ini sudah pasti dapat mengawasi dengan lebih efektif segala aktiviti yang berisiko memudaratkan persekitaran di Sarawak ini.

Maka semua premis dan aktiviti yang berpotensi mencemarkan alam sekitar perlulah mendapatkan lesen daripada pihak lembaga terlebih dahulu. Proses ini akan memastikan bahawa hanya mereka yang mematuhi piawaian yang ditetapkan dapat menjalankan operasi mereka.

Secara ringkasnya, Lembaga Sumber Alam dan Alam Sekitar ini akan diberi kuasa penuh dan mutlak untuk mengeluarkan lesen memantau aktiviti yang berkaitan dengan sumber alam, serta mengambil tindakan terhadap pelanggaran undang-undang. Ini termasuk kuasa untuk melakukan pemeriksaan, menyita barang dan menangkap individu yang melanggar peraturan yang telah kita gariskan. Bahagian kelima, Bahagian Penalti.

(e) Bahagian Penalti

Melalui undang-undang ini, Lembaga Sumber Alam dan Alam Sekitar juga mempunyai kuasa untuk mengeluarkan notis larangan kepada individu atau entiti yang didapati melanggar peraturan serta mengenakan penalti bagi pelanggaran tersebut. Ini sudah pasti akan meningkatkan keberkesanan penguatkuasaan sebarang undang-undang yang telah diwujudkan di Sarawak. Hukuman yang tegas bagi mereka yang melanggar peraturan dapat dilakukan dengan lebih berkesan melalui denda kewangan serta kemungkinan penutupan operasi bagi pelaku yang tidak bertanggungjawab.

Tuan Speaker, di samping itu, Rang Undang-Undang ini juga memperkenalkan Penilaian Impak Alam Sekitar. Rang undang-undang ini mewajibkan penilaian impak alam sekitar bagi aktiviti tertentu sebelum diluluskan. Ini membolehkan pihak kerajaan untuk mengawal dan menilai kesan aktiviti terhadap alam sekitar secara lebih berkesan. Setiap projek yang berpotensi memberi kesan kepada alam sekitar akan diwajibkan menjalani penilaian impak sebelum diluluskan. Ini adalah langkah proaktif untuk memastikan bahawa keputusan yang diambil tidak merugikan ekosistem kita.

Tuan Speaker, dengan pengenalan Rang Undang-Undang ini, negeri Sarawak akan memiliki undang-undang yang lebih komprehensif untuk melindungi sumber alam dan memastikan pemeliharaan alam sekitar sentiasa menjadi keutamaan. Penubuhan lembaga khusus, kuasa penguatkuasaan yang jelas, serta prosedur pemantauan dan pelesenan yang ketat adalah langkah-langkah penting dalam mencapai matlamat pembangunan mampan dan perlindungan alam sekitar di Sarawak.

Akhir kata, dengan kelulusan Rang Undang-Undang ini, kita bukan sahaja melindungi sumber daya kita tetapi juga memastikan bahawa generasi akan datang dapat mewarisi sebuah alam sekitar yang bersih dan sihat. Marilah kita bersama-sama mengambil langkah ke arah masa depan yang lebih baik untuk Sarawak yang lebih lestari, maju dan makmur. Maka dengan itu, Tellian menyokong penuh Rang Undang-Undang ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Bukit Assek.

YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek: Tuan Speaker, thank you for the opportunity for giving me to participate in the debate on the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. Tuan Speaker, rise today in full

support of this Bill, which represents a pivotal step for Sarawak in both environmental management and the realization of our rights under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63). By granting Sarawak a greater authority over our own-natural resources and environmental regulations, this Bill empowers us to manage environmental protection and resource sustainability in ways that best serve our unique needs.

Tuan Speaker, the journey to reach this stage has been gradual yet transformative. During the Fourth Meeting of the *Mesyuarat Majlis Khas mengenai Perjanjian Malaysia 1963* on the 14th of April 2022, the Federal Government agreed to face the transfer of environmental regulatory authority to Sarawak. The introducing of this Bill is timely, as it represents the First Legislative State in realizing that Agreement enabling us to implement provisions of the Environmental Quality Act, 1974(8), 127 (tailor to Sarawak's unique circumstances).

Additionally, at the First Technical Committee meeting under the Malaysian Agreement, 1963, Implementation Action Council dismay, it was proposed that authority over schedule waste disposal be fully delegated to Sarawak by the 1st of January 2026 and this commitment is an essential strike towards self-governance over our environment. This Bill does not merely shift administrative powers, it grants us the tools to an add meaningful environmental change.

Sarawak's diverse natural landscape requires effective stewardship, and this Bill enhances our capacity to set up biodiversity, manage pollutions and regulate resources use with legal standards. The impending transfer of regulatory authority over scheduled waste disposal will allow us to set higher standards for handling hazardous and inflammable substances enabling responses that are specific to the needs of Sarawak's industries and communities. And furthermore, this Bill aligns with Sarawak's long-term vision of becoming a green sustainable state, driving sustainable economic growth and improving quality of life for our people. It enables us to manage our resources responsibly, prioritizing conservation while ensuring future generations in carried a healthier environment.

The non application of the Environmental Quality Act, 1974(8), 127 (in Sarawak it's another crucial point). Instead of relying on Federal Provisions, Sarawak can now establish standards that resonate with our specific environmental and industrial landscape. And another Order under Article 95(c) on Item 8(l), Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution will formalize this autonomy, empowering us to manage dangerous and inflammable substances in ways that are both responsive and innovative and with that, I fully support the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 which signifies a new era of environmental stewardship for Sarawak. It reflects our right to serve determination grounded in the Malaysia Agreement, 1963. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Baleh.

YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai: Tuan Speaker, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberikan peluang kepada saya untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-Undang Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, 2024 yang dibentangkan oleh YB Timbalan Premier Sarawak merangkap Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua di Dewan yang mulia ini. Seperti yang telah kita sedia maklum, Rang Undang-Undang ini akan memperkukuhkan lagi kuasa untuk mengawal selia urusan alam sekitar dan sisa dari Kerajaan Pusat kepada Kerajaan Sarawak berkuat kuasa pada 1 Januari 2025.

Tuan Speaker, signifikan Rang Undang-Undang ini adalah berkenaan dengan pengagihan kuasa kawal selia di dalam pengurusan alam sekitar dan sisa dari Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) kepada Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (NREB). Ini bermakna urusan pelupusan sisa seperti sisa logam, contohnya bateri, sisa elektronik alat penghawa dingin akan diserahkan kepada pihak berkuasa Sarawak selepas ini. Pengagihan kuasa kawal selia ini juga turut melibatkan pelesenan aktiviti yang ditetapkan iaitu di luar premis, kenderaan, pelepasan minyak ke perairan Sarawak, pencemaran atmosfera, pencemaran bunyi, pencemaran tanah dan pencemaran air.

Yang turut menjadi perhatian saya juga apabila NREB juga telah diamanahkan dengan fungsi terbaharu, khususnya mengenai perkara yang berkaitan dengan penangkapan dan penyimpanan karbon, kawalan pelepasan gas rumah hijau dan inisiatif hijau yang lain. Ini merupakan satu fungsi baharu yang sangat penting dan pengawalan kuasa selia yang efektif amatlah diperlukan bagi mendapatkan penghasilan yang optimum. NREB dijangka melaksanakan fungsi tambahan yang baru hasil daripada inisiatif tersebut merangkumi kawalan pengangkutan, pengesahan dan pemeriksaan gas berjadual yang akan dibawa ke luar negara untuk penyimpanan di Sarawak. Tugasan tambahan seperti mengawal selia, mengawal dan inventori pelepasan gas rumah hijau, penilaian levi karbon dan pelaksanaan strategi, pelan tindakan dan insentif ke arah pengurangan atau pengurangan gas rumah hijau.

Tuan Speaker, tidak lengkap sekiranya kita tidak membicarakan cabaran yang bakal kita hadapi di dalam memikul peranan dan tanggungjawab yang besar ini. Sudah pastinya cabaran utama kita ialah dalam implementasi Rang Undang-Undang baharu ini di peringkat awalan. Tapi saya yakin Kerajaan Sarawak dan NREB sudah cukup bersedia memikul tanggungjawab ini dengan kerjasama daripada agensi dan jabatan kerajaan yang berkaitan. *Failure is not an option,* dengan izin kerana ini adalah peluang bagi Sarawak untuk melaksanakan pengagihan kuasa urus selia daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan kepada Kerajaan Sarawak secara berperingkat seperti yang telah termaktub di dalam Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MA63).

Justeru, YAB Premier Sarawak telah membuat keputusan yang sangat tepat dengan mempersiapkan anak-anak Sarawak ke arah melaksanakan pengambilan kuasa ini melalui aspek-aspek penting seperti pendidikan, kemahiran, penyediaan infrastruktur, perbankan, telekomunikasi dan sebagainya yang sangat penting dalam peralihan kuasa kawal selia ini.

Tuan Speaker, dengan hujahan ini, saya menyokong penuh agar Rang Undang-Undang Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, 2024 yang dibentangkan oleh YB Timbalan Premier Sarawak merangkap Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua di Dewan yang mulia ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tamin.

YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang: Tuan Speaker, thank you. First and foremost, I would like to thank you for giving me opportunity to participate in the debate of the Natural Resourses and Environment Bill, 2024 tabled by our Honourable Deputy Premier of Sarawak and Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development and also the Honourable Member for Bukit Sari, N.82.

This new Bill is another historical new landmark State of Sarawak's legislation. It is important because the Bill seeks to regulate scheduled wastes as an environmental issue which are previously under the Federal Government, the Department of Environment or DOE. Some of the environmental issues are under the Sarawak Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and Federal Government, DOE this creates a lot of confusion to many people including the community. But with this new Bill, all the matters related to environmental natural resources will be under Sarawak's authority and we will have full control of it.

Tuan Speaker, the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) Sarawak was established on 1st February 1994 pursuant to Section 3(1) of the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance 1993 (Cap. 84) under the laws of Sarawak. On the other hand, the Department of Environment (DOE) was initially established as the environment division under the Ministry of Local Government and Environment on 15th April 1975. The NREB is the task with the responsibility of protecting and managing the environment and conservation of natural resources of Sarawak based on the principles of sustainable development. Similar tasks also have given to DOE in the same perspective. Thus, the introduction of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 is crucial and important for the Sarawak Government in taking back the delegation of power from the Federal Government.

Tuan Speaker, in 2019 at this august House, our YAB Premier of Sarawak had managed to get back the authority from the Federal Government to enact laws regulating the environment in Sarawak. The Bill of the Natural Resources and Environment (Amendment) 2019 was unanimously passed in this same Sarawak Legislative Assembly on 4th November 2019. The amendment at the time stated that officials of the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) have the authority to take the necessary action and manage the environment from Sarawak perspective. The Bill was expanding the law on open burning particularly in commercial farming agriculture to ensure better compliances with current environmental requirements and practices. Fast forward to five years today, under the same leadership, Sarawak had created another historical landmark step getting back the authority to enact laws strongly lean on the Malaysia Agreement, 1963. Hence, I would like to thank the Federal Government for delegating the power to the Sarawak Government to manage the environment issue under the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB). This Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 is essential as the federal Department of Environment is set to hand over regulatory authority for environmental and waste management to Sarawak through the NREB by 2025.

Tuan Speaker, to conclusions here is not only about the Natural Resources and Environmental Bill, 2024. It is about the consistency of the YAB Premier of Sarawak's leadership, getting back the authority in every aspect for Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, I strongly support the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 as presented by the Yang Berhormat Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development in this august House. Thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tanjong Datu.

YB Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan: Tuan Speaker, thank you for allowing me to debate on this Bill that we are introducing today and I believe a lot of hard work and research has been done by the ministry in tabling this Bill and with that I would like to congratulate them and also the Second Minister for Natural Resources and Environment and Member for Bukit Sari for presenting it in august House today.

Tuan Speaker, understanding the complexity of environmental regulation that is critical in promoting sustainable development and maintaining Sarawak's unique biodiversity. Therefore, the introduction of this Bill is timely as it seeks to create better arrangements for the protection of natural resources, pollution control, management and improvement of the environment and forting related or incidental thereto.

As recent as 2022, the United Nations has declared that a healthy environment is a human right and quoting from its director of environmental program, the resolution delivers the message that no one can take nature, clean air and water, or a stable climate away from us humans. As a result, it is of utmost importance for Sarawak to be leading the way in having our own separate ordinance pertaining to the matters mentioned above.

Tuan Speaker, on the mere details and salient details on the Bill such as licensing, EIA, waste management and pollution, I believe the minister has explained explicitly during his second reading just now and many of my fellow colleagues has also explained on such ideas. However, I would like to touch here on certain challenges that I foresee that would be important for us to note especially with regards to environmental conservation:

(a) Several problems inhibit progress in environmental conservation and resource efficiency and one of the key obstacles is that the general public is unaware and undervalues the relevance of these concerns. Many individuals are uninformed of the environmental effects of their behaviour, and they fail to appreciate the need for sustainable practices;

(b) Economic development and environmental preservation may have competing interests, which could result in opposition or too little support for conservation initiatives; and

(c) Significant obstacles also may include restricted access to technology and experience, as well as inadequate funding for conservation programmes. Furthermore, the development and application of the successful conservation and resource efficiency plans are frequently hampered by the lack of coordination and collaboration between many stakeholders.

I would like to point out here also, Tuan Speaker, the enforcement is of outmost importance when this law or ordinance is enacted. Environmental law enforcement is strongly reliant on the provision of resources, including staff and finance, to carry out enforcement responsibilities. For example, there is a little use in the deterrence method of enforcement if there aren't enough people to investigate and prosecute violators. Malaysia, and particularly Sarawak like most other developing countries or state, faces a shortage of skilled and experienced workers in both the public and commercial sectors.

Officials from the planning and environmental departments who may have been trained in the physical, biological, and social sciences are not available to apply environmental protection strategies. In addition, most personnel from environment-related departments, including frequently lack sufficient knowledge to examine the development proposals and EIA reports. However, on a brighter note, and based on what was presented by the Yang Berhormat Minister, I am sure our GPS led by the State Government will ensure all our officers would be well trained as they are the frontliners in the effort to conserve our environment. And I believe, if I am not mistaken competent persons will be appointed to oversee these methods.

Tuan Speaker, to ensure that environmental laws and legislation are successfully implemented, the government must be willing to encourage active public participation. Most countries recognize the value of public engagement in development planning because it fosters a sense of belonging and ensures adherence by the public. The law can only be effective if all strategic levels of government, namely the municipal, state, and federal governments agree to the common idea of restoring the environment quality and furthermore to avoid encroachment on the rights of dealing with land and natural resources as embodied in both the State and Federal Constitution, the State Government should be given additional powers in dealing with environmental problems rather than leaving it to the discretion of the Federal Government, as that is why we are presenting this Bill today. We could also develop long-term solution by leveraging on technology and innovation. This could also include increasing energy efficiency, promoting circular economy ideas, and developing environmentally friendly technologies.

As a concluding remark, environmental conservation and resource efficiency are critical to achieving a sustainable future. Together we can reduce climate change, together we can safeguard natural resources, and together we can improve the well-being of current and future generations by maintaining ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and optimizing resource usage. To overcome the obstacles, a multifaceted approach is required, including education, governance, sustainable land and resource management, collaboration, technology innovation, and economic incentives.

With all that I have mention above Tuan Speaker and with the passing of this Bill, I duly hope that the new NRE Bill, and the new NRE Board and NRE Department will raise its importance *"sama penting seperti Jabatan Tanah dan Survei, JKR dan sebagainya.* Hanya dengan cara ini kita dapat memberi kepentingan kepada alam sekitar di negara kita. Dengan itu saya memohon menyokong, terima kasih, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Katibas.

YB Encik Lidam anak Assan: Tuan Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to thank you for allowing me to debate in this important Ordinance for our beloved Sarawak. I wish to congratulate Yang Berhormat Deputy Premier, the Second Minister for Natural Resource and Urban Development

and Honourable Member for N.82 Bukit Sari for successfully tabling this important Bill. As we all must recognise the importance and support of this Bill in that it will provide legal framework and provision for the conservation of our natural resources, control of pollution, management and enhancement of environment management, and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto it is also in support of our Sarawak Aspiration in PCDS 2030 on Environmental Sustainability and Inclusive Society.

As Sarawak's population grows, demand for resources like water, food, and land increases, often outpacing the natural regenerative capacity of these resource, leading to overuse and degradation. It is therefore important to understand the significant of this Bill and its meaning that help to safeguard and protect resource such as forest, water, mineral, and wildlife from over exploitation and pollution as we preserve the ecosystem for future generations. The Bill will enforce all aspects of regulations on resource extraction, pollution limits, and conservation efforts.

The Bill will also provide a sustainable management of natural resource, guidance on sustainable practices that balance immediate economic benefit with long-term environmental health which consequentially support the needs of mankind to survive on earth and our earth is Sarawak. The Bill will also serve as a tool to control Sarawak's natural resources against any attempt from the outside to exploit our resource.

Tuan Speaker, once it powers enacted, it will ensure prudent implementation and management of our natural resources which will generate revenue, create jobs, and promote industry while at the same time it prevents wasteful practices that could harm our economic activities. While we pursue our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this Bill will protect our citizens from health risks related to environmental degradation. For example, laws controlling water quality, air emission, and toxic waste disposal that will help to protect our public health.

We have had experience during the log jam at Sg. Katibas which was due to indiscriminate felling of trees along the river and that the debris had caused massive clog, murky river and destroyed our fish habitats, leading to a decline in our indigenous fish population in the river. In addition, this Bill will also provide equitable access to natural resource as it minimizes or prevent monopoly so that all citizens can benefit. This is particularly important for water, fisheries, forests, and land resources that local communities always depend on.

As we approach the future for new source of income, protecting our Sarawak's natural resource is of paramount importance. Without this law in managing our natural resources, it can become a source of conflict where people compete for control, especially the valuable resource like oil, mineral, and water. With this legal framework it establishes clear ownership and usage right, helping us to prevent disputes in the future. The potential dispute for control can also pose national security and vulnerability endangering our Sarawak's position on issues relating to control over our natural resources especially the energy resource.

Tuan Speaker, natural resource degradation is influenced by several factors, more often they always interlinked. As Sarawak's population is growing, the generation of industrial and domestic waste require good governance throughout Sarawak's own legislation. Uncontrol land use and unsustainable agriculture practices such as converting forest into residential or agricultural land also reduce our carbon storage, contributing to climate change which will impact our ecosystem.

With the establishment of this law governing our natural resources and environment it is hope that Sarawak will have better control of its resources, preserve its environment and manage its own waste. The law will help to preserve the need of rural populace who rely on natural resources like clean natural water, wild animals, fishes and other flora and fauna. This law enhances once enacted, will enable and provide clear environmental policy and ownership. We all must endeavour to have full control of what comes out of Sarawak's soil. Sarawak must manage it own resources. Kita Jaga Sarawak. We put Sarawak First. *Enti Sarawak Enda Mansang Malaysia Enda Meh Mansang.* In view of that merits of the Bill, Katibas begs to support the Bill. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Daro.

YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad: Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam Sejahtera, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Pertama sekali, saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana telah memberi saya peluang untuk sama turut serta dalam membahaskan *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* yang telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Timbalan Premier merangkap Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi Bukit Sari.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak telah mengalami fasa pembangunan yang drastik dengan peningkatan jumlah pelaburan yang tinggi mencecah RM10.43 bilion merangkumi 212 projek sehingga suku ketiga tahun ini

Kesan pelaburan ini telah membuka keterangkuman ekonomi yang lebih luas kepada pendapatan negeri. Di samping itu, ianya juga telah membuka peluang pekerjaan yang luas kepada anak Sarawak dalam pelbagai sektor yang boleh mencecah kepada 5,400 peluang pekerjaan baharu.

Namun begitu, kita faham bahawa setiap pembangunan yang dilaksanakan akan memberi kesan secara langsung dan tidak langsung kepada alam sekitar. Selaras dengan itu, Kerajaan Sarawak telah mengambil pendekatan yang seimbang dalam merencana pembangunan negeri dengan mengambil kira kesejahteraan alam sekitar secara keseluruhannya seperti yang terdapat dalam *Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030).*

Bagi menangani isu alam sekitar di negeri ini, Kerajaan Sarawak telah mengambil langkah yang tepat dengan meminda undang-undang sedia ada dan memberi kuasa yang lebih eksklusif kepada negeri dalam mengawal dan mentadbir alam sekitar. Ini juga selaras dengan hak yang dinyatakan dalam Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MA63) mengenai hak Sarawak dalam alam sekitar.

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin menarik perhatian Dewan yang mulia ini bahawa isu alam sekitar bukan hanya masalah di Sarawak, malah ianya merupakan isu global dan memerlukan pendekatan yang secara menyeluruh. Isu perubahan iklim dengan faktor cuaca yang tidak menentu memberi impak yang besar kepada negara dan Sarawak khususnya seperti isu keterjaminan makanan, banjir, kemarau dan sebagainya.

Tuan Speaker, the most common issue of government agencies in enforcing law is heavily relies on the allocation of resources in terms of personnels and funding in which, necessary to carry out the enforcement function. For instance, there is a little point in employing a deterrence style of enforcement if there are insufficient personnel to investigate and prosecute offenders. Shortage of skilled and experienced professionals in both public and private sectors is a common phenomenon in Sarawak. The planning and environmental department official trained in the physical, biological and social sciences, needed to implement the environment protection techniques, needs to be enhanced. A major challenge faced by state is to accelerate a fair increase of income and promote access to financial resources and cleaner technologies, to join economic growth with improvements of the environment and social wellbeing.

At the same time, it should not be forgotten that not all natural resources are renewable as such it could be finite if not utilised properly. To overcome the policies and strategies for the improvement of environment require continuous strengthening of an institutional and legal framework with official environmental standards beside subscribing to numerous international treaties. Nevertheless, efforts in terms of enacting codes of regulations, as a basis to define secondary standard to facilitate updating and improving the regulation as well as its enforcement must be continued and not carried out on an ad-hoc merely to address an immediate need only.

The environmental protection legislation must focus on conservation of natural resources rather than merely focusing on corrective measures. This law must include prevention of environmental damage by development activities, for planning environmental policies. It must include amongst others, the development planning process to focus on features of land and natural resources, environmental impact assessment to prevent negative impacts of production activities and construction works, and the management plan for protected areas.

Another additional point, continuous engagement with all stakeholders particularly to increase the awareness on environment program should be enhanced. The outreach programs especially at the rural as well the environment program at schools need to be reviewed with more interactive and innovative approaches.

Tuan Speaker, the legal environment framework is a tool for identification and prevention of natural pollution sources, the prevention and environmental threats to the health of the population and the improvement of the quality of life of people in general.

Three key aspects approach in the context of legal frameworks for environmental protection in Sarawak. Firstly, this is the process of global environmental transformation and it potential and actual damage features. Secondly, these are the trend of the legal frameworks aimed at preventing negative environmental damage and minimizing its consequences. Thirdly, potential prospects of the future legal framework for environmental protection in the sustainable development of society.

Tuan Speaker, the two standout features introduced in the new Bill are:

(a) Management of scheduled waste

At present, the Federal Government, through the DOE, is regulating scheduled waste through Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Act 127) and its subsidiary legislation such as Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulation, 2005 and others. With this Bill, the Sarawak Government, through the NREB, will have a better position to regulate and manage the disposal of scheduled waste within Sarawak.

(b) Licensing of restricted activities:

Section 28 and 29 of this Bill provides the provision of regulate through the issuance of licence as such:

(i) premises for placement or deposit of wastes; and
(ii) conveyance.

These pose potentials to cause pollutions to the environment. It is important to regulate these two activities through a licencing process to prevent, to control and to mitigate pollution.

The introduction of financial penalties in the law is sometime, we should applaud and commend. The financial penalties refer to the monetary consequences imposed on individuals or organization for not adhering to certain rules, laws and agreements. These penalties serve as a deterrent against undesirable behaviour and encourage compliance through the potential loss of money, thereby influencing economic decision-making and self-regulation strategies.

In addition, the Board may, impose this financial penalty for any breach or non-compliance of any provision under the Ordinance. For instance, a penalty amounted not exceeding RM20 million, and in the case of a second or subsequent non-compliance, an amount of 10 times of the financial penalty which was imposed for the first non-compliance. So, the purpose of the financial penalty is to deter the offenders from repeating similar offences in the future and to provide compensations to those affected by their actions.

Tuan Speaker, menjangkau perubahan iklim dan kekuatan alam sekitar untuk bertahan, kita perlu berhati-hati dalam merencanakan pembangunan. Dasar dan strategi Kerajaan Negeri sedia ada telah mencakupi isu-isu dalam pembangunan dan alam sekitar serta perlu dinilai berdasarkan perkembangan semasa dalam kemajuan teknologi dan digital. Saya menyeru semua rakyat Sarawak untuk bekerjasama dengan Kerajaan Sarawak untuk sama-sama menjaga alam sekitar dan menjadi rakyat yang bertanggungjawab dalam menjamin integriti alam sekitar. Alam sekitar yang dinikmati kita hari ini adalah diwarisi kepada generasi yang akan datang dan menjadi amanah kepada kita untuk memeliharanya.

Oleh itu, pindaan terhadap *Natural Resources and Environment Bill*, *2024* perlu disambut baik oleh semua pihak. Secara langsungnya, pindaan ini memberi impak yang positif kepada alam sekitar di Sarawak melalui pengurangan kos kerajaan dalam menangani impak alam sekitar. Cadangan pindaan secara menyeluruh undang-undang ini termasuklah mengenakan hukuman yang berat terhadap pesalah adalah satu pendekatan pencegahan bukannya sekadar untuk menghukum.

Selain itu, pindaan ini juga satu langkah jangka panjang ke arah mencapai kelestarian Sarawak dalam mencapai *Nett Zero Emission* pada tahun 2050. Selaras dengan agenda Sarawak *sustainability blueprint, sarawak energy transition dan green economy*, Rang Undang-Undang ini adalah bertepatan pada waktunya. Sebagai anak Sarawak dan demi Sarawakku Sayang, Tuan Speaker, Daro menyokong penuh *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024*. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Lingga.

YB Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor: Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua merangkap Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.82 Bukit Sari.

Tuan Speaker, isu pemanasan atau perubahan iklim adalah cabaran terbesar di seluruh dunia khususnya pelepasan gas rumah hijau dengan peningkatan pelepasan karbon dioksida yang telah berterusan sepanjang abad yang lalu akibat daripada pelbagai aktiviti. According to the *Greenly Earth* article written by Kara Anderson, UK's best copywriter on August 19th, 2024, there are five top sectors responsible for high CO_2 emissions:

(a) Transportation Sector

Which roughly one fifth or 20.2% of global green house gas emissions are attributed to the transportation sector and compassing the vast network of cars, trucks, jeeps, trains, and planes that relies on fossil fuels.

(b) Electricity Sector

The global electricity sector stands at the forefront of carbonization even as electricity demands continue to rise. According to the IEA in 2023, Global Renewable Capacity addition increase by 50% reaching a total of 550 gigawatts. This can largely be attribute to the growth of solar and wind farms in Europe, the United States, Brazil, and China. China has seen a phenomenal isolation in this sector with solar PV capacity expanding by 160% and wind farm capacity increasing by 66% together with other green sources like nuclear renewable made up over 30% of the global electricity supply.

(c) Industrial Sector

The industrial sectors which largely relies on fossil fuels particularly holds a quarter of global energy related CO_2 emissions in 2022 totalling 9.0 Gigatonne despite a modest decline due to decrease activity in China's industrial sector and the Global Energy crisis this figure still fails to align with the Nett Zero Emission by 2050.

Building sector

The building sector is responsible for over a third of global energy consumptions and emissions. This encompasses the energy used in the construction, heating, cooling, and lighting of residential and commercial spaces, as well as the appliances and equipment contained within.

Agriculture Sector

Agriculture grapples with a unique challenge when it comes to climate change. On one hand, it's extremely liable due to its weather dependence, yet on the other hand, it's a significant contributor to greenhouse gases (GHG) emission, both directly through an on-farm production and indirectly via land use change due to agricultural expansion. In total, agriculture itself, forestry, and other land use accounts for roughly 23% of global GHG emission, and most direct emission can be attributed to methane and nitrous oxide.

Tuan Speaker, sebentar tadi saya telah menjelaskan faktor utama yang telah menyumbang kepada isu pemanasan global yang semakin meruncing. Sarawak dan Malaysia secara menyeluruh tidak terkecuali dalam isu tersebut. Pada November 2021, Malaysia bersama-sama lebih 190 negara menghadiri Persidangan Perubahan Iklim PBB ke-26 (COP26) di Glasgow. Sidang kemuncak COP26 membawa semua pihak bersama-sama untuk mempercepatkan tindakan ke arah matlamat Perjanjian Paris dan Konvensyen Rangka Kerja PBB mengenai Perubahan Iklim.

Semasa COP26, Malaysia komited untuk mengurangkan intensiti pelepasan GHG sebanyak 45% menjelang 2030 daripada tahap 2005 dan mencapai sifar bersih menjelang 2050. Selaras dengan komitmen Malaysia untuk mengurangkan pelepasan GHG, Kerajaan Sarawak turut komited mengawal selia sumber asli dan alam sekitar melalui pelaksanaan PCDS 2030. Justeru itu, Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak telah mengambil langkah untuk pengawalan mutlak / kuasa autonomi dalam pengurusan sumber asli dan alam sekitar daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan, di mana Jabatan Alam Sekitar Negeri (DOE) akan diserap di bawah Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (NREB) pada tahun 2025.

Tuan Speaker, Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak (NREB), bukanlah satu lembaga yang asing atau baharu. Ianya telah ditubuhkan sejak 1 Februari 1994 dan tahun ini merupakan tahun ke-30 penubuhan NREB. Jelas sekali, dengan pengalaman selama 30 tahun pentadbiran, ianya membuktikan NREB telah berjaya melaksanakan tugasnya berdasarkan mandat yang diberikan oleh negeri di bawah Seksyen 5 Ordinan Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar. 30 tahun penubuhan NREB bukanlah merujuk kepada pengiktirafan pengedaran masa, tetapi ianya satu pengiktirafan kepada kakitangan NREB yang berdedikasi dan kompeten di seluruh tujuh bahagian di dalam negeri Sarawak. Dengan kuasa autonomi diberikan Kerajaan Persekutuan kepada NREB menjelang tahun 2025, ianya juga adalah satu mandat yang tinggi dan bermakna kepada Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak di mana pengambilalihan itu adalah selaras dengan autonomi Sarawak terhadap alam sekitar di bawah Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MA63).

Tuan Speaker, merujuk kepada latar belakang NREB mengikut Seksyen 3(1) Ordinan Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, 1993 (Bab 84 – Undang-undang Sarawak), awalnya NREB adalah ditugaskan dengan tanggungjawab untuk melindungi dan menguruskan alam sekitar dan pemuliharaan sumber asli berdasarkan prinsip-prinsip pembangunan mampan. Maka setelah kelulusan *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024*, NREB akan diamanahkan dengan fungsi baharu, khususnya mengenai

perkara yang berkaitan dengan penangkapan dan penyimpanan karbon, kawalan pelepasan gas rumah hijau dan inisiatif hijau lain.

Merujuk kepada laporan media *Suara Sarawak* pada 1 Februari 2024, daripada Timbalan Premier dan Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua telah menyatakan bahawa antara fungsi tambahan yang dijangka akan dilaksanakan oleh NREB hasil daripada inisiatif baharu tersebut ialah kawalan pengangkutan, pengesahan dan pemeriksaan gas berjadual yang akan dibawa ke luar negara untuk penyimpanan di Sarawak; mengawal selia, mengawal dan inventori pelepasan gas rumah hijau; penilaian levi karbon dan pelaksanaan strategi, pelan tindakan dan insentif ke arah pengurangan atau pengurangan gas rumah hijau.

Dengan fungsi tambahan baharu tersebut, ianya membuktikan Sarawak telah mengambil langkah bersiap siaga bagi menghadapi sebarang cabaran untuk mengembangkan ekonomi dengan mengambil kira keselamatan negeri dan alam sekitar. Semestinya, tanggungjawab ini bukanlah sesuatu yang mudah untuk dilaksanakan, namun Kerajaan Sarawak *has foreseen these important issues for sustainable development.*

Tuan Speaker, after I had observed all the details on this Bill, the Sarawak Government is very committed to utilizing the green and sustainable economy to a higher level along with the implementation plan for PCDS 2030. So, therefore, I hereby, fully support the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Krian.

YB Encik Friday anak Belik: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana telah memberi saya peluang untuk mengambil bahagian dalam membahaskan *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* yang telah dibentangkan oleh Timbalan Premier Sarawak, Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua dan juga Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi N.82 Bukit Sari.

Pada kesempatan ini juga saya ingin mengucapkan syabas dan tahniah kepada Timbalan Premier atas kejayaan dalam membentangkan satu Rang Undang-Undang baharu yang bertujuan untuk memperincikan secara detail tatacara pengurusan sumber asli dan alam sekitar yang mampan dan holistik bagi Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, sebelum ini kuasa untuk mengurus sumber asli dan alam sekitar di Sarawak adalah di bawah bidang kuasa Kerajaan Persekutuan melalui Jabatan Alam Sekitar, Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Kelesterian Alam. Segala kuasa dan tatacara pengurusan sisa adalah berdasarkan kepada peruntukan di bawah *Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Act 127).* Namun, hasil daripada rundingan yang dipersetujui antara Kerajaan Pusat dan Kerajaan Negeri di bawah MA63, iaitu Kerajaan Sarawak telah diberi kuasa untuk melaksanakan beberapa peruntukan di bawah Akta 127, maka Sarawak memerlukan undang-undangnya sendiri untuk mengurus, memelihara dan mengawal apa-apa yang berkaitan dengan alam sekitar dan sumber asli.

Oleh itu, dengan terbentangnya Rang Undang-undang Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, 2024 ini, dilihat sebagai satu langkah yang amat signifikan dan strategik bagi Sarawak bukan sahaja untuk memastikan kelestarian alam sekitar tetapi juga ianya selari dengan agenda kerajaan untuk memperkasakan ekonomi hijau dan alam sekitar yang mampan.

Therefore, it is yet another manifestation by the government to ensure that in its pursuit for greater development, the element of environmental sustainability is still of paramount importance. This Ordinance will also pave the way for Sarawak to control, manage and exploit our own natural resources and environment conservation effectively and efficiently. Tuan Speaker, some of the salient features of the Bill.

Firstly, the Ordinance seeks to establish a body to be known as the Natural Resources and Environmental Board, a corporate body to be vested with the power to administer and enforce the provision of the law, that is to sue; to be sued; to acquire; to own; to hold; to lease or dispose off property; and to discharge any function and duties as spelled out in the Ordinance. The Board, which will be made up of a properly appointed Board Members, will function as the main policy making body while the day to day administrative and managerial function will be performed by a Controller. This is provided for in Part II, Section 3 to Section 32 of the Ordinance.

Number two, Powers and Functions. Through Section 7 of the Ordinance, also empowers the Board to systematically conserve, control, regulate, manage, manipulate, protect and to enforce any regulations that aims to enhance the usage and ensure the sustainability of the natural resources and environment. The Ordinance will spell out what are the functions of the Board. These include the determination of quality and benefits of fauna and flora to human, to liase and coordinate with the relevant ministry on environmental issues, to recommend to the ministry with regards to the policy on pollution, promote, encourage, coordinate and carry out planning on environmental management, waste management and to recommend measures and activities to reduce carbon emission as provided for under the Environment (Reduction of Greenhouse Gases) Ordinance, 2023 or any other relevant laws in force.

Thirdly, with regards to conservation and improvement of natural resources and protection of the environment. One of the most important features of the Ordinance is that it provides for the manner in which natural resources can be conserved and the protection of the environment. The Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN), upon the recommendation by the Board and by notification in the gazette, can declare any area of land (either alienated or unalienated) as a conservation area to be managed by the Board for the protection and conservation of natural resources to provide for the safeguard and enhancement of the environmental on such land.

Therefore, Tuan Speaker, before I conclude, I would like to echo and agree to the point that was raised by my colleague from Daro, that is in order for to ensure the effectiveness of this law, it is of paramount importance that the people at large are to be involved to make sure that this law can be enforced and observed by the general population.

Therefore, Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, secara keseluruhannya, Rang Undang-Undang ini menggariskan secara terperinci tatacara pengurusan sumber asli dan alam sekitar dengan menyediakan satu *legal framework* yang cukup *comprehensive* dan *inclusive*. Ordinan ini nanti akan memberi kuasa kepada Sarawak untuk menentukan bagaimana kita hendak mengurus dan memelihara sumber asli dan alam sekitar mengikut keperluan dan cara kita sendiri. Ianya juga merupakan satu inisiatif yang holistik oleh kerajaan selaras dengan PCDS 2030 Sarawak yang menitikberatkan kemampanan alam sekitar dalam kita merancakkan usaha pembangunan negeri Sarawak.

Oleh itu, Rang Undang-Undang yang telah dibentangkan oleh Timbalan Premier, harus disokong oleh semua Ahli Dewan yang mulia ini demi untuk menjaga kelestarian alam sekitar dan juga sumber asli negeri Sarawak. Maka, dengan ini Tuan Speaker, saya mohon untuk menyokong. Terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Murum.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Good morning. Salam Sarawak Maju dan Makmur dan Salam Segulai Sejalai. Thank you for the honour and the opportunity given to debate on the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 tabled by the Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier, Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak N.82 Bukit Sari.

Tuan Speaker, I stand before you today to voice my unwavering support for the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. A Bill that marks a historic turning point in our approach to

environmental stewardship and sustainable development in Sarawak. This comprehensive legislation reflects our commitment to address the environmental challenges we face, today as well as those that will arise tomorrow.

As we are all aware, Sarawak is blessed with abundance of natural resources – lush rainforests, majestic rivers, and a rich diversity of flora and fauna that make our state unique and valuable not only within Malaysia but also globally. However, with these blessings comes significant responsibilities. It is our duty as a representative of the people to enact laws that protect and preserve our natural heritage. The Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 is a proactive response to these duties, as it establishes clear guidelines, strong oversight mechanism, and enforceable regulations to ensure that our environmental resources are protected for future generations.

I would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciations to the Federal Government for entrusting the Sarawak Government with the autonomy to manage matters related to natural resources and environment that fall within the State List. The acknowledgment of Sarawak's unique context not only strengthen our governance but also demonstrate a respectful partnership that aligns with the Malaysia Agreement 1963. By the enabling Sarawak to assume responsibility in this realm, we are fostering a collaborative approach, one empowers our local authorities while safeguarding the environment.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill introduce several essential provisions that I believe will form a robust foundation for environmental conservation and pollution control in Sarawak. A key feature is the establishment of the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), a Body dedicated solely to overseeing the conservation, management and enhancement of our natural resources and environment. This Board will be responsible for setting strategies, guiding policies and making critical decision on environmental matters that affect us all. By establishing the Board, we are institutionalizing our dedicated structure that will ensure continuous focus and action on environmental issues.

The Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 also empower the Board with a broad and necessary powers to take decisive action to prevent and control pollution. Pollution is one of the gravest threats to our environment. Air, water and soil pollution endanger the health and livelihood of our people and they threatened the biodiversity of our forests and rivers. By granting the Board authority to regulate, license and monitor activities that may contribute to pollution, we are creating a strong deterrent against irresponsible practice. This provision will help ensure the industries and other entities operating in Sarawak respect our environmental laws and take responsibility for their impacts on the environment.

In particular, Clause 33 to 37 of the Bill addresses specific forms of pollution control, including restriction on hazardous substances in our water and atmosphere. This specificity is essential because it enables the Board to apply targeted measures against particular pollutants. It allows us to protect the health of our rivers and lakes from hazardous discharges, safeguard our soils from contamination and preserve our air quality for the health of our communities. Additionally, restriction on noise pollution will further contribute to a healthier living environment for all Sarawakians.

Tuan Speaker, another critical element of this Bill is the establishment of the Natural Resources and Environmental Quality Control Fund. This fund will be instrumental in supporting our conservation effort. The fund will be allocated toward activities such as reforestation, preservation of endangered habitats and environmental awareness programme that will educate our citizens on the importance of protecting our natural resources. The Bill allows for innovative funding mechanism, including grants, loans and other form of financial assistance to ensure that conservation activities are well-supported and can be continued to expand. This demonstrates our commitment not only to regulate and prevent harm but also to actively enhancing and restoring our environment.

Furthermore, the Bill introduced the requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for any activity that may pose significant risks to our environment. This requirement will allow us to

assess and evaluate the environmental sequences of major projects before they are approved. The EIA process is a powerful tool for ensuring the development and environmental protection can coexist. It will ensure that our land use decision is based on careful analysis and that potential environmental impacts are mitigate in an early stage. This will not only benefit the environment, but also enhance the sustainability and long-term success of developing of development project in our state.

The Bill also empowers both the Minister and the Controller to issue a directive that will ensure prompt response to any environmental threats that arise. The authority includes the ability to act decisively, this in case where there is a significant risk to our natural resources. This proactive approach will help prevent environmental damage before it becomes irreversible, and it demonstrates our resolve to hold polluters accountable.

Tuan Speaker, another vital provision of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024, it is approaches to public health and safety. The Bill includes clauses indicated to waste management, noise control and the handling of hazardous substance reflecting a comprehensive strategy for addressing both traditional and emerging environmental issues. These measures are designed not only to protect our natural resources, but also to safeguard the health of our citizens. Pollutions and expose to hazardous substance can have severe health consequences especially for vulnerable population including children and elderly. By implementing stringent control and requiring licenses for activities that could force environmental and health risks, this Bill addresses these concerns head-on.

The Bill further emphasizes transparency and accountability mandating that the Board submit annual report to the Minister. This report will provide detail account of the Board's activities, expenditures and conservation effort ensuring that all stakeholders including the public are keep informed. This accountability framework will help build public trust and confidence in our commitment to environmental protection.

Tuan Speaker, one of the Bill's unique features is its' provision for community's involvement. By enabling landowners who benefit from conservation project to share the costs associated with these efforts, the Bill encourages local community to take an active role in environmental protection. Additionally, by allowing affected parties the right to appeal certain decisions, we ensure that our environmental policies are not only effective but also fair and inclusive. This Bill is a model of participatory environmental governance, as it recognizes that environmental protection is a shared responsibility.

Moreover, Clause 56 and through 71 provide for enforcement measures, such as search, seize, detention and other actions that authorized persons may take to enforce the provision of this Ordinance. These clauses grant the necessary authority to act swiftly and decisively when environmental laws are breached. The power to arrest and seize, combined with the authority to impose financial penalties, ensure that this Bill has real teeth. It sends a clear message that Sarawak will not tolerate actions that endanger our environment or compromise public health.

Tuan Speaker, another commendable aspect is the provision of training and certification. This Bill requires the employment of competent persons to conduct specified environmental activities. This ensures that those responsible for implementing and enforcing the Ordinance are well-trained, capable, and fully equipped to uphold Sarawak high environmental standards.

I would like to emphasize that this Bill is not just a legal document. It is a promise to the people of Sarawak. A promise that we are committed to protecting the unique ecosystem, precious resources, and diverse biodiversity that makes our state so exceptional. It is a promise that we will strive to achieve sustainable development that respects the balance between progress and preservation. This Bill represents our shared vision for Sarawak where economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment, where development and nature can coexist harmoniously.

Tuan Speaker, however, we recognize that the path ahead will not be without challenges. Effective implementation will demand adequate funding, resources and the training necessary for industry and communities to comply with the new regulation. We must ensure that the required infrastructure is in place to support this essential work. The success of this Bill also hinges on the collaboration of all stakeholders, government, businesses, non-governmental organization and the public alike. Together, it is imperative that we forge a united path toward environmental stewardship and sustainability.

In conclusion, let us impress the opportunities to pass the Natural Resources and Environmental Bill, 2024. This legislation reflects our collective commitment to sustainable development and ecological preservation. With its strong provision for the conservation, pollution control, and local governance, we can set a precedent that not only benefits Sarawak but the entire nation as well.

Together let us walk diligently for a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment honouring our commitment to the past while proactively shaping our shared future. Let us send a clear signal to future generations that we are determined and to leave behind a legacy of conservation, responsibility and respect for the land that sustain us. I urge all the Members of this august House to support this Bill, for the benefit of our environment, our communities, and the future of our beloved Sarawak. With that, I beg to support the motion for the passing of this Natural Resources and Environmental Bill, 2024. Jaga Sarawak, Intu Sarawak. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for N.10 Pending.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to debate on this Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. Sarawak aspires to be an international leader in renewable energy and a pioneer in climate action. We have witnessed a surge of initiatives, such as the Kasawari Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project and the state's ambition to become a global hydrogen provider.

However, Tuan Speaker, there is a growing concern that we are neglecting the fundamental rights of Sarawakians in the race towards industrial scale climate projects. While Sarawak champions large scale ventures, it seems that there is a disproportionate lack of effort in safeguarding the rights of our people and the environment. In the face of the climate crisis, genuine and just climate actions must include protections for human rights and environmental sustainability. We cannot afford to overlook these issues. Therefore, I urge the State Government to consider improving the following three areas that have critical impact on the environment:

Safeguards in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Projects

Firstly, on the safeguards in carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects. Tuan Speaker, Kasawari is the largest offshore CCS project located at Block SK316 about 200 km off Bintulu is being hailed as a milestone in Sarawak's energy transition, but there are serious doubts about its efficacy. Although the global proponents claims that CCS can capture up to 90% of CO_2 emissions and consequently disposed, the reality is far less promising. In fact, the global average capture rate is around 49% with some project capturing as little as 10%.

So, what actions will be taken if the Kasawari PROJECT falls short of its target? Will the project proponent be held accountable? And more importantly, what are the measures in place to monitor and access the effectiveness of the CCS Project? CCS is far from exact science. The Sarawak Government should know that there have been many critiques levelled against the CCS technology. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), carbon capture is the most expensive and least effective method of reducing CO_2 emissions. In fact, nearly half of the CCS projects announced globally between year 1995 and 2019 were either cancelled or put on hold.

Tuan Speaker, given these realities, why is Sarawak pushing ahead with such confidence that this project will succeed? The Kasawari Project may carry international prestige, but prestige should not come at the cost of public funds and environmental integrity. We must question whether Sarawak's resources are being spent wisely on a technology which is under performance. Furthermore, we must consider long-term implications of investing in such projects. Even if the Kasawari Project is positioned as a solution for reducing emissions, we must be cautious not to invest into a technology that may fail to deliver the desired results. The Sarawak Government must demand rigorous evaluations, independent assessment and hold stakeholders accountable at every stage of this project. As stewards of the state's resources, it is our responsibility to ensure Sarawak's energy transition is not only bold but also credible and sustainable.

Concerns about the Green Hydrogen

Secondly, concerns about the green hydrogen. Green hydrogen is often touted as a clean energy source, yet there are serious concerns that the green hydrogen economy will drive up demands for hydroelectric dams as the production requires significant water and energy resources. These dams have been linked to numerous human rights and environmental violations.

Sarawak has already expressed interest in building hydroelectric cascading dams in Sungai Tutoh (Baram District), Sungai Gaat (Kapit) and in the Belaga District. While the Right Honourable Premier has claimed that local communities consented to this project, a petition signed by nearly 1,000 affected residents from Sungai Tutoh suggests otherwise. They asserted that no consultation was ever conducted, and no consent was given at the time of the announcement. Copies of these petitions have been presented to the Right Honourable Premier's Office and the local YBs Office, yet it seems that their concerns have not been adequately addressed.

Tuan Speaker, how can this discrepancy exist between what the Right Honourable Premier said and what the communities are experiencing on the ground? This raises a fundamental question about transparency and public consultation.

Sarawak Ombudsman Ordinance, Transparency and Access to Public Information

Thirdly on Sarawak Ombudsman Ordinance, Transparency and access to public information. When the Sarawak Ombudsman Bill was introduced, the Deputy Premier who is also the Honourable Member for Bukit Sari assured that the Sarawak Ombudsman Bill will enhance transparency and accountability by allowing the public to report maladministration. However, recent public statement made by Tuan Speaker, your good self indicates that this law has yet to be implemented in practice. The state ministry and agency are still not prepared to execute it. Tuan Speaker, at least, the state acknowledged this delay.

When we talk about protecting Sarawak's natural resources, whether is our forest, rivers or biodiversity, we must acknowledge that the public's oversight is essential. This is where the Ombudsman Ordinance could play a critical role. The challenges Sarawak faces in addressing environmental degradation, deforestation and large-scale development projects demand strong mechanisms of accountability. Without them environmental regulation risk being undermined, and local communities may be left powerless when their livelihoods and ecosystems are threatened.

Tuan Speaker, a functional Ombudsman system could serve as powerful tool to hold government agencies accountable. This will allow Sarawakians to demand explanations, transparency and corrective actions in cases of environmental mismanagement. However, having the Sarawak Integrity and Ombudsman Unit to report directly to the Dewan Undangan Negeri alone is insufficient. If Sarawak truly aims to emulate the Swedish Ombudsman Model, we should go further. Sweden's model does not stop at the Ombudsman's oversight. It includes robust transparency law…*(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Standing Order 32(1), "*A member shall confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matters irrelevant thereto*". Standing Order 32 (1), and I think, Tuan Speaker, you need to make a ruling on this because it is not fair for the other members of this august House to listen to this kind of rhetoric which has nothing to do with the Bill. (*Applause*).

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Tuan Speaker… (*Interruption*)…

Tuan Speaker: I uphold and sustain the objection. You confine to what is in the Bill. This is not about the Ombudsman.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Tuan Speaker. As a Speaker of this House, for so many years and so many decades. Yes. You will know that a Bill, when we debate a Bill, it covers everything concerning policies regarding the environment. So, I think the Deputy Premier is paying attention to my speech here. So why would you let the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kota Sentosa to interrupt? You can ask your Deputy Premier. He is nodding his head. He understands what I have said. If Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kota Sentosa doesn't understand what I argued here or what is my debate in this House…(*Interruption*)...

Tuan Speaker: You move to another point.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: No. I am almost finish. It's only another two paragraphs. Let me finish and that's it. He is only trying to make a hero out of himself but he's otherwise.

Tuan Speaker: This is not about the Ombudsman.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: No. I know but effectiveness of implementing environmental policy**.** You need the Ombudsman and this Ombudsman Bill that was tabled by the Deputy Premier. So, are you saying that this Ombudsman Bill is not relevant?

Tuan Speaker: Apart from Ombudsman, we have the Public Account Committee. The Public Account Committee is still doing its' job. The Ombudsman is additional.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: No. Deputy Premier, you let me finish and we can go for lunch break, okay?

Tuan Speaker: You move to another point.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Its' only two paragraphs you see. I am almost finish.

Tuan Speaker: You move to another point.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: No, no. Let me finish.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: I think the Member for Pending is also breaching another Order. Order 32(6) because by raising this particular Ombudsman Ordinance, the Ombudsman that she is raising you are anticipating that this particular NREB will be making, will be acting out of the scope of these particular natural resources and environment. So, you are imputing improper motives, so you are making allegations that they might not function as they should function and that's out of order.

Tuan Speaker: No, if you don't move to another point I'll stop you.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: No, its only two sentences. Concluding already. I will continue on this point and that's it, then I sit down. That is my observation and suggestion. If you are not happy about my suggestion, brush it away, ignore it. But I have the right to speak it out here, right Tuan Speaker?

Tuan Speaker: Ya. Are you going to talk about the Ombudsman?

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: No, I am just asking the State Government to emulate the Swedish Model which includes the transparency law, public access to information and the Secrecy Act to implement that as well and also the freedom of the Press Act. Because we cannot allow ourselves to be captivated by *pukau* or be hypnotized by superficial actions that looks good on paper but lacks substance. Transparency must be more than a façade. It must be a practice embedded into the core of governance and with that I conclude, and I support this Bill.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: You are breaching Standing Order 32 (6). You can just read it, *"No member shall impute improper motives to any other member or make any statement or allegation which the said member is not able to substantiate".* You are talking about the Ombudsman, and we are here debating a Bill, the Natural Resources and Environment Bill.

Tuan Speaker: This Bill is a handing over from the federal authority to the state to clean up Sarawak. That's it. Okay, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Batu.

YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to participate in the debate on the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. I will concentrate in this, august House. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Sarawak Government and the Deputy Premier of Sarawak, the Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development who is also the Member for N.82 Bukit Sari for tabling this Bill.

Representing N.68 Tanjong Batu and the Heavy Industrial Hub of Bintulu

As the representative for N.68 Tanjong Batu, I stand here with the consent and aspirations of Bintulu's people close to heart. Bintulu is Sarawak's industrial powerhouse, hosting significant heavy industries, each contributing substantially to our state's economy. However, it is also these industries that pose complex environmental and safety challenges. We have recently seen industrial incidents that have led to the tragic loss of our own people, Sarawakians, who are the backbone of our community.

These incidents remind us that our commitment to safety and sustainability is paramount. The Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 is a step towards ensuring that our communities, especially those in industrial zones like Bintulu, are safeguarded. The provisions within this Bill will equip the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) with the authority and framework to better manage and oversee these risks in a structured and responsible way.

Preserving Sarawak's Rich Natural Resources

This Bill is not only about regulation, it is about protection. Sarawak is blessed with vast and valuable natural resources, a true legacy of our land that we have a duty to protect. The careful management of our forests, rivers, and other natural resources is crucial to our economic sustainability and to the legacy we leave to future generations. The Bill empowers us to put in place comprehensive measures that safeguard these natural resources from over-extraction, pollution, and degradation. The Natural Resources and Environment Board's enhanced role, as outline in this Bill, will be crucial in protecting these invaluable assets.

Empowering the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) to Govern and Protect

Tuan Speaker, through this Bill, the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) gains the authority to enforce robust measures for industrial practices, particularly in areas where pollution or hazardous waste threatens our environment and the well-being of our communities. The Bill empowers the NREB to assess and regulate activities that may significantly impact the environment, such as requiring Environmental Impact Assessment for high-risk projects. This oversight is essential for areas like Bintulu, where the density of heavy industry presents unique environmental challenges.

With the NREB's increased powers, we can ensure that factories and industrial plant operate responsibly and that safety standards are met consistently.

Welcoming Investors with Environmental Accountability

Sarawak remains open and welcome to our investors. We recognize the importance of foreign investments in creating jobs, spurring development, and diversifying our economy. However, while we welcome these industries, we must establish clear guidelines that prioritize the safety of our people and the preservation of Sarawak's natural beauty. This Bill enables us to create a harmonious balance between industrial progress and environmental stewardship, safeguarding the interests of both our communities and investors who share our commitment to sustainable growth.

Strengthening Sarawak's Autonomy in Environmental Management

Furthermore, Sarawak is progressing towards greater autonomy in environmental governance. Currently we are still subject to the Environmental Quality Act of 1974, a federal law. This Bill represents Sarawak's ambition to develop its own comprehensive and specialize environmental legislation tailored to our unique needs and challenges.

In the future with the successful implementation and adoption of this Bill, I hope that Sarawak will be able to fully manage its own environmental policies and regulations, further strengthening our autonomy and allowing us to protect our resources in ways that align with our local priorities.

Tuan Speaker, in closing, I urge the Members of this august House to support this Bill recognizing that it represents more than legislation. It embodies our collective commitment to protect Sarawak's natural beauty, uphold the safety of our communities and ensure the well-being of future generations. As such, I would like to record my full support for this Bill to provide our Natural Resources and Environment Board with the authority it needs to serve the people and protect the precious land we call home. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, we have a break. Sitting resumes at 2.30 p.m.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 12.37 tengah hari)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 2.38 petang)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Telang Usan.

YB Dato Dennis Ngau: Thank you, Tuan Speaker and good afternoon to you also, sir. Tuan Speaker, this Bill being formulated based on the principle of the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) to provide a more modern and comprehensive approach to the management of Sarawak's natural resources and environmental conservation which finally includes provisions that will empower us to exercise full authority over critical areas such as:

(a) Resource conservation;
(b) Environmental management;
(c) Pollution control; and
(d) Sustainable development.

With the world today placing environment protection as one of its top agenda, the timely move by our State Government in introducing this Bill will enables us to safeguard Sarawak's natural resources as well as to promote responsible sustainable development in alignment with global environmental standards, taking into consideration the latest development on environment and emerging environmental concerns. I was made to understand that this also has adapted and fit to

the local context of Sarawak. This Bill could also be called *"Sedia Payung Sebelum Hujan"*, meaning this Bill, once passed, will protect Sarawak's environment sustainability for foreseeable future.

With this Bill, Sarawak will have the necessary regulatory power, leveraging on data as stated to mitigate environmental risks and to ensure environmental sustainability which facilitates the implementation of Post Covid Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030 especially with reference to the third pillar on environmental sustainability which is and furthermore, the salient features such as:

(a) Management of scheduled wastes,
(b) Regulation of industries through issuance of licenses,
(c) Enhancement of the enforcement capabilities; and
(d) Introduction of new offences and penalties.

With further enhance our ability to minimize environmental degradation while offering a higher level of deterrence and to encourage economic development by regulating initial ways and pollution from industries. This will ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for Sarawak citizens which will foster a better quality of life.

Tuan Speaker, the State move with this ordinance will guarantee keeping Sarawak as clean and healthier environment, augurs well with Sarawak's Tourism Products Pillars which is Culture, Adventure, Natures, Food and Festival in short (CANFF) and our tagline *"Sarawak More to Discover"* Through our Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) active participation and continuous efforts, promotion of our State at World Travel marts in London and ITB Berlin and other travel events all over the world, Sarawak have stood strong among our competitors, be it in this region as well as the world as Sarawak could offer nature beauty with pristine nature (jungle, river and array of flora and fauna) and adventures challenges based destinations.

In fact, Sarawak offer *"non-to-other"* country fantastic nature and adventure tourism spots and attractions especially in this region. Indeed, our natural beauty is our great asset and we must therefore do all we could to protect our God's gift asset. I am very confident the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak and in particular, Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) will give our strongest support to this initiative.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill also demonstrates that economic growth and environmental sustainability are not mutually exclusive but can, in fact, complement each other, ensuring that future generations inherit a thriving, resilient environment. It also allows Sarawak to exercise full autonomy over its environmental governance, thereby strengthening its ability to preserve its unique ecosystems while fostering sustainable economic and social development.

At this juncture, I wish to see the new authority fall on and within the Sarawak Government will be used to enhance basic benefits from natures beauty. We are so blessed with especially among the very rural communities in Sarawak.

Therefore, the Sarawak GPS Government's commitment to this Bill demonstrates a forward-thinking and proactive approach to governance, where the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. With this legislation, Sarawak is reaffirming its commitment to a greener, clearer and more sustainable future.

Tuan Speaker, environmental matters in Sarawak which are currently regulated by Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Act 127), a federal law, and the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance [Chapter 84] (1958 Edition), a state law has, I believed created confusion among the public and overlapping of jurisdiction between Department of Environment Sarawak (DOE) and Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB). Hence, this new comprehensive piece of legislation is timely that I strongly feel the right move or the right time for us to have only NREB to look after the environment.

Before I take my seat, I wish to rebut the statement made by Pending earlier on, on the opposition to the proposed Tutoh Cascading Dam. She is not here. Where she stated that the State Government ought to look and listen to the protest by locals and documents signed by, I am not sure whether it is truly 1,000 local people which was handed to YAB Premier Office, and it goes also to say that there was lack of engagement with there would be affected locals.

I thought that as a people representative from a political party that have *"Democratic"* word to their name, Pending should also listen to both parties before coming up with a comment. You preached democracy; therefore, you should seek to get information from people who support the State Government to not only from a small group from their side. She mentioned that there was signed document by 1,000 people but I dare to say if this is the yardstick, whether to go on or not with the project. The four YB's in Baram can easily get 40,000 signature to support the project. This is what we know. The local *memang setuju untuk kerajaan melihat kepada pelaksanaan Cascading Dam di Sungai Tutoh* and she also mentioned there was no engagement with the local people. This is truly untrue because the Ministry of Tourism, SEB and all relevant authorities have done a number of engagements. Not only with the people that represent the *kampung* or the community leaders *termasuk NGO yang lawan Kerajaan.* Termasuk *political party*, *whereby* saya, Datuk Gerawat *also sat in the engagement session*. Di mana kita bersedia bertentang, bertengkar, bergaduh dengan mereka. But during that kind of session, they are very quiet. Mereka tak tunjuk belang mereka. We are actually ready to say what we know about the proposed project but, there is none, *ya*. But what I am trying to say here is, as said by Pending there is no engagement, which is not true. I am very sure that the Government of Sarawak are doing and proposed the project *secara yang betul iaitu* engagement *dengan berperingkat-peringkat Ketua Masyarakat dan* level of a community.

The GPS State Government is not a naive government. We are a caring Government. In fact, all the statement made by YAB Premier is done after he collects the facts *(fakta)* including when he mentioned that Tutoh Cascading Dam was given green light by local community to go ahead with the planning. *This is very very true, and I believe YAB Premier, we are not dare to say it* kalau tidak ada kenyataan, surat yang sedemikian daripada komuniti termasuk orang daripada kawasan saya N.77 Telang Usan yang melihat kepada keperluan pembangunan. Ini salah satu cara untuk kita membawa pembangunan ke kawasan kita. We have learnt from Baram Dam. I experienced whereby after it was not done, now we are back to square one. Everyday *saya dengan* Datuk Gerawat, YB Anyi *menerima mesej, menerima video bahawa jalan kita putus, jambatan putus,* landslide here and there because logging company is no longer there but the people who opposed the development before, is nowhere to be seen also. Jadi kita juga yang terpaksa memikul bebanan. Which we don't complain. We are trying our best to do it. So, Tutoh Cascading Dam actually *telah mendapat* green light *daripada komuniti kita yang mahu melihat projek ini dinilai, diteliti.* Kalau dia baik, kita akan menyokong. So, at this point of time, it is all in planning process. Jadi, *thank you so much* Tuan Speaker. Therefore, I fully support this Bill to be passed in this august House in the spirit of the Malaysia Agreement (MA63). Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Opar.

YB Encik Billy anak Sujang: Honourable Tuan Speaker and esteemed members of this august House, congratulations to Honourable Deputy Premier, the 2nd Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development and ADUN Bukit Sari for presenting this Bill here in this august House today.

Today, we stand at a critical juncture in our journey towards a sustainable future. Thank you for this opportunity for me to speak in favour of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024, a vital piece of legislation that seek to enhance the conservation or the prevention of damage to our natural resources, control of such activities which may cause pollution, manage, protect and improve our environment and safeguard our biodiversity.

Thank you to the Federal Government for allowing Sarawak to handle our own environmental matters, especially those that are related to our waste management that can be processed to generate power. This practice has been established in many countries.

First and foremost, the urgency of this Bill cannot be overstated. Our planet is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, from climate change and deforestation to pollution and biodiversity loss. These issues threaten not only our ecosystem but also our health, our economy, our future generation. This Bill is our opportunity to take decisive action to safeguard our natural heritage and ensure our sustainable environment for all.

One of the key provisions of this Bill is the establishment of a comprehensive framework for the conservation of natural resources. Our forests, rivers, wildlife are invaluable assets that must be protected. By implementing sustainable management practice, we can restore degraded ecosystems, preserve biodiversity, and ensure that these resources remain available for future generations. This is not just an environmental imperative; it is an ethical responsibility.

Furthermore, the Bill emphasizes the control of pollution, which is a pressing concern in our community. Air, water and soil pollution have far reached health impacts, disappropriately affecting the vulnerable population. By instituting stricter regulation and enforcement mechanism, we can hold polluters accountable and promote cleaner practices across industries. This will result in healthier communities, improved quality of life, and reduce healthcare costs.

The management and enhancement of the environment through this legislation will also create economic opportunities. Investing in sustainable practices and green technologies will drive innovation and job creation. As we transition to a greener economy, we can stimulate growth while preserving our natural resources. This Bill aligns economic development with environmental stewardship, demonstrating that we can indeed have both. What we must do is to conduct stringent monitoring, continuous enforcement and take legal action including financial penalties, and imprisonment to non-compliance.

Moreover, the Bill foster community engagement and participation in environmental decision-making. By empowering local communities, we can harness traditional knowledge and innovative solutions to address environmental challenges. This collaborative approach not only strengthens our democracy but also ensures that voices of those most affected by environmental policies are heard and valued.

Some may raise concern about the potential costs associated with implementing the Bill. However, I urge you to consider the long-term benefit. The cost of inaction far outweighs the investment required for conservation and pollution control. Protecting our natural resources today will yield dividends for our economy, health and environment tomorrow.

With approximately 2,500 metric tons of waste generated daily, amounting to an alarming 912,500 metric tons annually, we are faced with a significant challenge that requires our immediate attention and action. We need to address these pressing issues that affect the health of our environment and the well-being of our communities in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, however, moreover, the scheduled waste from industries, totalling between 28,000 to 37,000 metric tons per year, poses an even greater concern. These figures are not just numbers, they present the potential hazards that threaten our environment, our health, and the sustainability of our resources. The proposal of Sarawak Government for a general waste management development represents a transformative shift in our strategy. By focusing on renewable energy solution, we can turn waste into a resources rather than a burden. We can harness energy from the west, reduce our reliance on landfills and minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal. This approach not only addresses the immediate concern of waste management but also contributes to our long-term goal of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

In conclusion, the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 represent a bold commitment of the GPS Government to a sustainable future for Sarawak. It is a comprehensive approach to addressing the urgent environmental challenges that we face and safeguarding our precious natural

resources. Let us seize this opportunity to be proactive steward to our environment, ensuring a liveable planet for generations to come.

Together, we can create a legacy of environmental responsibility and sustainability that will serve as a beacon of hope for our children and our grandchildren. I urge all of you in this august House to support this vital legislation.

With that, Tuan Speaker, I fully support this Natural Resources and Environmental Bill, 2024 with this *pantun.*

Dari Sebako pergi ke Kuching,
Menaiki ekspress dipandu laju,
Kalau semua kita menyokong,
Sarawak berdaulat dan terus maju.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Tebedu.

YB Dr. Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. My utmost gratitude and sincere thanks for the opportunity rendered to me to participate in the debate of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Right Honourable Deputy Premier cum the Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development, a Member for N.82 Bukit Sari, for the successful tabling of the Bill this morning in this august House.

Tuan Speaker, in the course of preparing this debate to support this Bill, I asked myself. Are there any laws other or ordinance in Sarawak readily available to protect the environment and our natural resources? My research found that there are five other Bills or Ordinances dedicated for this purpose, namely:

(a) Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance, 1993;
(b) Environment (Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Ordinance, 2023;
(c) Forest (Forest Carbon Activity) Rules, 2022;
(d) Land (Carbon Storage) Rules, 2022; and
(e) Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 1998.

In 1993, a law was passed in Sarawak called the Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance under Cap. 84 – Laws of Sarawak. Pursuant to that, the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) was established. The NREB is tasked with the responsibility of protecting and managing the environment and the conservation of natural resources of the State based on the principle of sustainable development.

Tuan Speaker, today we witnessed the tabling of another Bill called the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 in this august House with the aim to enhance the enforcement powers of the agency to achieve our goal to better protect our environment and manage our natural resources.

This enhanced Bill seeks to provide for better provisions to conserve, manage and enhance the environment and natural resources, control pollution and other matters related to the management of the environment and better control of environmental pollution.

The enhanced Bill also allow Sarawak to implement the provisions on scheduled waste and other provisions on scheduled wastes and other provisions in the Environment Quality Act 1974 (Act 127) to be carried out by Sarawak in phases agreed between the Federal Government and Sarawak Government under the 18 Point Malaysia Agreement 1963.

On this note, we thank the Federal Government for agreeing to allow Sarawak to better manage our environment and our resources. Sarawakian knows Sarawak better. Sarawakian can manage our environment and our resources better. We hope that the Federal Government will not stop here, will not stop in this matter but continue to grant us more autonomy in the future in other matters such as education and health as enshrined in Point 14: Education and Healthcare. Our government, the GPS Government, will continue to fight for our rights as enshrined in MA63 (1963).

Tuan Speaker, the objective of the Bill can be achieved with the establishment of Natural Resources and Environment Board with a total number of 13 to 18 members headed by a chairman appointed by the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Sarawak. The appointment of the Controller Environmental Quality is then made by the Board with the approval of the Minister. He will be responsible for the day-to-day administration and management of the Board.

This enhanced Bill provides the power and authorizes the enforcement officers to investigate, to arrest, to search, to seize, to detain and to issue a compound to the environmental would-be offenders.

Tuan Speaker, Clause 27 which empowers the Minister on recommendation of the Board to prescribe any activities which may have significant impact to the environment and provides for the requirement for the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report by any person intending to carry out such prescribed activity to the Controller.

This will help to mitigate and regulate activities that have far reaching and damaging effect on the environment to protect and conserve our very delicate biodiversity, our land, our air, our water and our soil.

Clause 86 provides for the imposition of financial penalty for any non-compliance or breach of any provisions under the ordinance should be adequate to deter would-be offenders. A significant increase in the compound issued to offenders from 30% to two-thirds of the maximum fine is definitely and surely, a deterrent to would be offenders.

Uncontrolled economic activities, uncontrolled and unregulated disposal of waste and scheduled waste have brought great and irreversible damage to our environment.

This Bill has provisions to protect us humans, animals, protect our resources and the habitats, that all these micro-organisms live in. It also provides legislation to regulate issues on pollution contamination and most importantly how we respond to any calamities and environmental disasters like oil spill.

Tuan Speaker, let me share an incident not too long ago happening in Penang. There was an oil spill in Penang, as reported by *Sahabat Alam* has polluted a 5 km coastline on the island has caused major harm to the ecosystem, marine life and seabirds. It brought economic losses especially for fishermen and those involved in mariculture. Hence, with this Bill, the responsible authority can step up its monitoring and thereafter enforce this regulatory role provided in this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, unscrupulous dumping of scheduled waste especially radioactive materials can be very dangerous and this needs to be regulated. I am very certain and very sure that this Bill provides all the provisions to regulate anything that falls under this matter.

Open Burning and Deposit of Refuse

I wish to enquire from the Minister on Clause 38, Section 1, 2 and 3 in the case of hill padi shifting cultivators who cut down an area for the purpose of padi planting and did an open burning. I appeal to the Minister and the Controller to probably exclude these activities from the requirement to apply for license and offences of open burning. These poor farmers, if compounded, will definitely leave behind a very deep and big hole in their pocket. So *kita kesian lah*, Timbalan Premier.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, I believe this Bill is a bold and pragmatic step to ensure our environment, our air that we breathe, water that we drink, food that we eat are safe for all of us and our natural resources are protected.

Tuan Speaker, on that note together with my fellow Members who spoke earlier than me, I beg to support this Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Ngemah.

YB Encik Anyi anak Jana: Tuan Speaker, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberi ruang dan peluang kepada saya untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-undang Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, 2024 yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier Sarawak merangkap Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Rang Undang-undang ini sangatlah penting kerana ianya akan memperkukuhkan lagi kuasa dan mengawal selia urusan sumber asli dari kerajaan pusat kepada Kerajaan Sarawak. Tahniah kepada Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar kerana berjaya membuat undang-undang yang sangat penting ini. Berkuat kuasa pada 1 Januari 2025, Sarawak sekali lagi mendapat kawal selia kuasa yang lebih menyeluruh, terutamanya melibatkan pengurusan alam sekitar dan sisa bahan industri terutamanya dengan lebih menyeluruh. Penghargaan terima kasih kepada Premier Sarawak dan Menteri-menteri Sarawak yang dipertanggungjawab menguruskan peralihan kuasa pada awal-awal lagi. Seperti yang kita sedia maklum, bidang kuasa yang kita perolehi ini adalah rangkaian dari bidang kuasa yang termaktub dalam perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MA1963). Tidak keterlaluan jika saya katakan di sini bahawa setiap kali kita bersidang untuk membentangkan Rang Undang-undang, Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang berada di sini mencipta sejarah baharu untuk Sarawak. We must be proud of ourselves because we are all history makers for our future generation, *dengan izin.*

Tuan Speaker, dalam Rang Undang-undang yang dibentangkan ini, penugasan Lembaga Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar (NREB) akan bertambah dan bidang kuasa mereka juga akan lebih luas berbanding sebelum ini di mana ianya dibahagikan kepada dua bahagian iaitu di bawah kawal selia Jabatan Alam Sekitar. Saya berkeyakinan tinggi bahawa NREB mampu menggalas tanggungjawab yang besar ini berdasarkan pengalaman mereka bertahun-tahun sebelum ini.

Sedikit kekangan yang mungkin timbul adalah dari segi penambahan sektor baharu dalam inisiatif ekonomi hijau terutamanya. Kekangan lain adalah seperti kekurangan pegawai dan petugas terutamanya yang melibatkan bidang penguatkuasaan dan perundangan. Tetapi saya amat yakin perkara sebegini telah diperbincangkan di bahagian tertinggi pengurusan NREB itu sendiri. Justeru, NREB mampu menjadi peneraju di dalam pelaksanaan polisi yang baharu dan yang telah sedia ada. Tadbir urus dan pelaksanaan yang baik di dalam bidang-bidang ini akan memperkukuhkan misi dan visi Sarawak untuk menjadi masyarakat maju dan berpendapatan tinggi menjelang tahun 2030.

Tuan Speaker, dengan penerangan yang ringkas ini, saya sangat optimis dan berkeyakinan tinggi Sarawak di dalam delegasi urus selia kuasa yang diturunkan oleh Kerajaan Persekutuan kepada Kerajaan Sarawak. Oleh yang demikian, saya menyokong penuh agar Rang Undang-udang Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, 2024 ini yang dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier merangkap Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua, di negeri Sarawak yang mulia ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Ba'Kelalan.

YB Encik Baru Bian: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, in allowing me to participate in the debate of this Bill, the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024.

I rise to express my support for this Bill because once approved it would be a crucial piece of legislation. It seeks to address the urgent need to conserve, manage and enhance the environment and natural resources in our beloved State of Sarawak.

This Bill is a step forward in ensuring that we not only protect our environment but also manage our natural resources responsibly for the benefit of future generations. May I record my appreciation and thanks to the Honourable Deputy Premier and also the Honourable Member for Bukit Sari for tabling this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill as we know, includes provision to control pollution and improve the management of various forms of environmental degradation that affect our communities. It also seeks to strengthen our ability to manage hazardous and residual wastes as outlined under the Environmental Quality Act 1974, with the Sarawak Government assuming greater responsibility for enforcement as agreed under the Malaysia Agreement 1963.

The scope of this Bill encompasses a wide range of natural resources; resources that are the lifeblood of our economy, our cultural heritage and the well-being of our people. Air, biodiversity, minerals; oil and gas, forest produce, land, water and marine lives. These are our treasures. These are the resources that sustains not only our economic development but also the unique way of life that has existed in Sarawak for generations.

Tuan Speaker, I fully support the Bill particularly because it recognises the need to better manage these invaluable resources. It ensures that our environmental policies are not only comprehensive but also responsive to the challenges of today's world. We are at a crossroads where we must make choices that balance economic progress with environmental sustainability and this Bill lays the foundation for that balance.

Tuan Speaker, however, while I am in full support of this Bill, I wish to raise one important point of caution particularly with regards to provision under Section 23 concerning the gazetting of conservation areas. This section allows for the designation of both alienated and unalienated land as conservation areas which is a critical move to protect our environment, but I urged respectfully that the government to take into account the significant presence of native customary rights holders in these areas. Our indigenous communities have lived on and cared for these lands for centuries. They have a deep intrinsic connection with the land, forests and rivers that sustains them. Their lives are interwoven with the natural environment and their livelihood often depend on sustainable use of these resources.

As we move forward with this Bill, it is essential that we ensure NCR lands are not negatively impacted by conservation efforts. The recognition of native customary rights must not be overlooked or diminished in the process of establishing conservation areas. Rather we should find ways to protect and uphold these rights ensuring that the indigenous people of Sarawak are partners in the conservation process, not excluded or deprived of their rights.

Tuan Speaker, I proposed that in implementing this Bill, the government should take proactive steps to engage with NCR landowners and communities ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected. Any conservation measures must be inclusive and equitable. Balancing the need for environmental protection with the rights and needs to those who have traditionally relied on the land.

Tuan Speaker, conversation should not be a tool of disenfranchising our indigenous communities. Instead, it should be an opportunity to foster partnership between the government and local communities. Encouraging sustainable land management practices that benefit both the environment and the people who have always cared for it.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 as it represents a significant step towards preserving our natural heritage for future generations. Let us

work together to ensure that conservation efforts protect not only our environment but also the livelihoods and cultural practices of the indigenous people of Sarawak.

Thank you, Tuan Speaker, and I look forward to the successful passage of this Bill. Much obliged.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Satok.

YB Dato Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Baki: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam sejahtera dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Tuan Speaker, thank you Sir for allowing me to participate in this debate for the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 in this august House. My appreciation goes to Honourable Deputy Premier and member for Bukit Sari for the tabling of this Bill which is timely given our current climate, in both our economy and our environment.

Ensuring protection and preservation of the environment is the priority of the Sarawak Government and the right Honourable Premier, the Honourable Member for Gedong as he has pivoted our approach towards sustainable energy development and production since assuming office in 2017.

Through this, not only are we able to explore, pioneer and produce our energy sources in doing so, we are able to become among the global leaders in the new economy. It goes without saying, the aspect of environmental preservation as well as energy production derived from sustainable sources such as hydrogen, ammonia and methanol amongst others must go hand in hand.

We must look at the big picture and while we continue to focus on our energy transition agenda and we should not be in abject neglect of the environment.

Sustainability and Viability

Tuan Speaker, it is vital that our long-term strategies remain viable and our future resources remain sustainable. The success of our strategies, be it the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy, the Sarawak Gas Roadmap and the Sarawak Hydrogen Roadmap as well as development masterplan hinges on the preservation of the environment.

These will be the movers of the current economy and the economy of the future. There is an inherent value sustainable resources green resources, but failing to maintain it, means the value is lost.

Mitigating climate change and achieving net zero in carbon emissions could not, and should not be achieved solely by energy transition, in fact, it begins with efforts of preservation and this is what we seek to achieve.

Carbon Capture

Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) is a crucial step in mitigating our carbon footprint. Sarawak's natural advantages and resources position us to be a leader in this technology with the potential to not only reduce emissions but also to create economic opportunities through carbon trading and carbon solutions.

Sarawak has an estimated 30 trillion cubic metres of carbon storage capacity in the seabed of its continental shelf. With our location, outside the ring of fire, the space that we have in depleted oil wells and saline aquifer, it positions us as a major player in CCUS.

However, if we are to advance in CCUS, robust regulatory frameworks are essential. Through this Bill, authority is given to the Natural Resources and Environmental Board to provide guidelines pertaining to environmental preservation when undertaking carbon capture, utilisation and storage activities.

At the same time, it also oversees the environmental requirement for forest carbon licence activities. I believe that with the NREB being the regulatory authority, we can undertake CCUS activities to the highest safety and environmental standards. This will allow us to put a stamp on our position as a reliable global partner in climate initiatives while attracting responsible investments in green technology.

Tuan Speaker,

Waste Management

Waste management is another area where strong regulation can make a significant impact. While Sarawak has made strides in waste management, inconsistent enforcement and lack of standardization in waste disposal processes hinder our progress.

To improve, we need a system that enforces standards for recycling, composting and waste-to-energy facilities. We must push for the adoption of sustainable waste practices by businesses and municipalities. Those engaging in improper waste management and disposal must be held accountable.

I welcome the imposition of cess upon waste generated by industries and businesses. This will nudge our economy to be more efficient and reduce wastage going to the landfill. This aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the concept of environmental, social and governance (ESG).

Waste management is costly and the cost of generating more waste should be offset by those who are producing it. We must incentivize waste reduction given its impact on the environment and we must push for the implementation of green waste solutions.

I suggest that the Board explore the need for public waste management campaigns as well as the provision of equipment needed by SMEs to undertake proper waste management using the Environmental Fund. This promotes a circular economy whereby we can minimize waste, using natural resources sustainably and regenerate the nature.

Tuan Speaker,

Emissions Reduction

Another significant priority is reducing emissions from industries. We have set a target of net zero emissions by 2050. Our two-pronged approach must encourage industries to adopt cleaner technologies and invest in renewable energy sources while at the same time, reduce pollution to the environment. Materials and substances that are hazardous to the environment, emitted as a byproduct of our industries must be reduced.

This requires a top-down approach whereby the authority is given to the Sarawak Government through the NREB to identify and prohibit these pollutants. We should move with the times and ensure our processes in the industry to be as sustainable as possible and do not pose any harm to the environment as well as the people.

I hope that the industry players will take heed of our new regulations to ensure that they can continue their business in the new economy, one that is more vibrant and responsible for the

environment. Failing to do so, I support the strongest of actions to be meted on errant individuals and businesses as we must not compromise on the aspect of health and safety.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Sir, this Bill is our commitment to securing the health, prosperity and sustainability of our beloved Sarawak and the environment. We are known globally for our climate leadership and our inroads in energy transition. However, we must not rest on our laurels and allow destruction to the environment that we fought so hard to preserve.

With that, I beg to support the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pujut.

YB Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 in this august House.

Firstly, I would like to commend the Honourable Deputy Premier, Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development and Minister for International Trade Industry and Investment and Honourable Member for N.82 Bukit Sari who tabled this Bill in this Dewan.

The comprehensive Bill is a broad and timely initiative by the Sarawak Government underscoring our commitments towards a responsible environmental stewardship and sustainable development. I, thereby commend the government for initiating such proactive steps, especially during the time when global and local needs for natural resources management and the environmental preservation is more pressing than ever.

The establishment of the Natural Resources and Environment Board through this Bill is considered as a timely and proactive move. The Board will have the mandate and authority to ensure that Sarawak's natural resources are managed in a way that protects our environment, benefits our people and preserves these resources for future generations.

The establishment of such a Board signals the government's recognition of the importance of structured oversight and regulatory frameworks to safeguard Sarawak's rich environmental assets.

Tuan Speaker, the introduction of this Bill is crucial as Sarawak continues to grow and develop as we push forward with ambitious projects under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), we must also be vigilant to mitigate environmental risks that could arise from the increase economic activities.

This Bill provides the framework to regulate, monitor and guide all resources related activities. Ensuring that they are align with Sarawak's vision for a sustainable and green economy. Through the establishment of Natural Resources and Environment Board, we will be better equipped to address critical environmental issues. The Board will have the authority to regulate activities such as man used, mining, vegetation clearance and water usage. All areas that are essential to the well-being of our environment. The power will enable the Board to take swift actions in preventing pollution, protecting water resources and preserving natural landscapes. This Bill focuses on controlling pollution and environmental degradation and is an essential part of safeguarding Sarawak's natural heritage.

Tuan Speaker, the most significant benefits of this Bill to Sarawak are as follows. Firstly, it enhances our ability to protect biodiversity by allowing the Board to set goals and policies to maintain environmental quality. This is critical for sustaining our rich flora and fauna which is not only a source of pride but also a valuable asset for eco-tourism.

Secondly, the Bill also commits us to take proactive steps in climate action especially through the provision for carbon capture, utilization and storage. This aligns with global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate climate change. Most importantly, this Bill enables Sarawak to exercise greater autonomy in managing our natural resources, particularly water resources. By empowering the Board to oversee and regulate activities related to water use, pollution control and conservation. The authority to implement policies that are tailored to our Unit's environmental needs and development priorities. This increase in control strengthens our position in addressing local challenges directly without relying on directives from the Federal Government. Ultimately, this autonomy fosters self-reliance and ensures that the decisions about Sarawak's natural resources are made in the best interests of our people and our sustainable development.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is greatly connected to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, it supports SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 15 on live on land and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production. By enacting a law that surely protects natural resources, reduce pollution and promote responsible land use, we are actively committed in contributing to this international goals. Sarawak is making it clear that we are not just focused on economic growth but also equally dedicated to ensuring that our development respects and safeguards the environment.

The Bill also plays a critical role in Sarawak's transition to a green economy. Through strict regulations, our resource extraction and waste discharge, this Bill helps us to reduce environmental harm from industrial activities. Moreover, by encouraging carbon reduction initiatives this legislation will attract more investors interested in eco-friendly and sustainable practices. The Board's power to support carbon reduction efforts and environmental audits further position Sarawak as a leader in environmental responsibility and makes our Sarawak more attractive to sustainable industries.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill significant steps towards achieving the PCDS 2030 goals. A well managed environment is key to sustainable growth, and we need to ensure that the development activities are balance with the environmental protection. The creation of the green economy will not only preserve Sarawak's natural beauty but also open doors to green jobs, eco-tourism and sustainable industries that are aligned with our vision for an inclusive and more resilient economy.

In closing, this Bill are the defining moment for Sarawak, symbolizing our commitment to a future where growth and sustainability goes hand in hand. With that, Tuan Speaker, Pujut supports the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 as it represents a milestone in Sarawak's journey towards sustainable development and environmental excellence. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Serembu.

YB Encik Miro anak Simuh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for the opportunity given to me, to debate on the Natural Resources and Environmental Bill, 2024 at this revered august House. Thank you and congratulations to YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Member for N.82 Bukit Sari, Deputy Premier; and Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development for taking the initiative to table such important amendment to the current NREO, by ensuring it meets the current needs and demands of modern and thriving era of developments.

The anthropogenic pressure on the environment has escalated over the past centuries and the need of environmental protection measures has increased. This has led to considerable experimentation with the domestic and international measures that are used to achieve environmental protection objectives. Thus, the importance of laws are paramount parameters and measures that introduce by any government to ensure that the environment must be protected from any harm. Environmental law describes a network of regulations and customary laws that address the effect of human activity on the natural environment. Environmental laws play a huge part in protecting humans, animals, resources and habitats. Without this law, there would be no regulations concerning pollution, contamination, hunting or even response to disaster. The purpose of the

environmental law is to protect and preserve the environment for present and future generations, and to ensure sustainable development.

As for this NRE, I was made to understand that the purpose is to introduce of new offences and penalties to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations, and to punish those who break the law. I will put my concern on the most offences for restricted activities with or without license.

Water quality is another critical area of focus in the environmental law. Contaminated water can pose significant risks to human health, leading to illnesses and even death. I hope this law too will cover more stringent measures to monitor and control water pollution, ensuring that water resources are safe for consumption and other uses.

I take for example that those company or shop that are doing the vehicle servicing at any commercial area. We can see with our bold eyes on how they disposed their used engine oil and others synthetic oil using a simple gallon, and if not been handled properly, it might leak and dispose in the drain. If we pass by any of those we so called as 'Mechanic Shops' and look at the nearby drains, the drain itself with black oily colour tells us what the content is. So, who will be responsible to impose law against these activities.

The same goes to the many conventional pig farms situated in various places throughout Sarawak. Many intense conventional pig farms disposed their wastes or faeces directly to the nearby streams or rivers. Again, I take for example from the study that had been carried out by researchers at Sg. Serin at Padawan on the impact of pig farming on the water quality of the said river. Results of the analysis shows that the tributary that received pond effluent has significantly higher mean of total suspended solids (TSS), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5), chemical oxygen demand (COD), ammonia nitrogen (NH3-N), reactive phosphorus (SRP) and Escherichia coli (E-coli) concentration, when compared to those tributaries that did not receive waste pond effluent.

From the analysis results, show that this Serin River is severely polluted from the conventional pig farming activities surround it. And might be the tributary of this river is the source of water for treatment plant. I agree with the intention of the amend Natural Resources and Environmental Ordinance (NREO) that, those who purposely break the environmental laws and regulation must face severe actions and penalties.

So, we need to imply stringent laws for all these activities from keeping, polluting our water source and environment at large. There must be counter measures methodology that can be introduce by any relevant agencies by ensuring that any economic activities must be in line with our environmental protection policies.

This commitment in formulating the legislation is anchored in the principle that robust legal frameworks are essential for achieving environmental goals within the broader context of sustainable development and governance (SDG), both globally and at the regional and national levels.

I believe the introduction of the new offences and penalties is aims to foster cohesive decision making, ensuring that enforcement actions as well as higher deterrence on pollution of environment are effective and efficient. With that Tuan Speaker, I begged to support.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pelagus.

YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang: Tuan Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to thank for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 table by our Honourable Deputy Premier of Sarawak; and Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development, also Assemblyman for N.82 Bukit Sari. This new Bill is important step for Sarawak Legislation to reclaim back our rights of the Natural Resources and Environment. It is critical because the Bill seek to provide for better to provisions to conserve, manage and enhance the environment and natural resources, control river pollution or air pollution and other matters related

to management in environment. This Bill is also allowed the implementation of the provisions on schedule wastes and other provisions in the Environmental Quality Act, 1974 (Act 127) to be carried out by Sarawak in phase as agreed between the Federal Government and Sarawak Government under the Malaysia Agreement 1963.

The tasks on the environmental issues are under the Sarawak's Natural Resources Environment Board (NREB) and Federal Government's (DOE). This task created division especially on the enforcement and monitoring issues.

With the introduction of this new Bill, all matters related to environmental and waste issues will be under the Sarawak authority and we have full control on the jurisdictions especially involving the management of environmental and the management of waste under the new schedule of the Bill.

Tuan Speaker, related to this Bill, Sarawak NREB may face several challenges to implement this Bill. The challenges prior to the delegation of power from the Federal's DOE to Sarawak's NREB are as such.

First, is on the Environmental Degradation. The NREB must be prepared to address the environmental impacts of development in Sarawak.

Next challenge will be on the enforcement. The NREB needs to improve its enforcement capabilities and equip itself with the skills to drive sustainable solutions. But I believe with this Bill there are part of the clause said that they have to train and reskilling the work force.

Next will be on the revenue. The NREB needs to find ways to Increase its revenue to cover the costs of environmental management and protection. The NREB needs to engage with stakeholders to foster a collaboration approach to environmental protection.

And lastly, on the Environmental Laws whereby the NREB needs to enforce environmental laws and regulations. Despite these challenges, we still optimise that the NREB can overcome these obstacles and rise to the challenge. The first hurdle is always difficult but given the time frame, NREB definitely can work it out.

As being explained by the Minister in charge, NREB is also developing the Environmental Information System Sarawak (EnvISS), a scheduled waste management system equivalent to DoE's, such as the Electronic Scheduled Waste Information System (eSWIS), Mypremis, and the Environmental Quality Electronic System (eKAS). These systems are one step forward as the process of transferring environmental autonomy under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) will be carried out again in phases.

Before concluded, Tuan Speaker, I would like to thank the Sarawak Premier, the Ministry in charge, the steering committees, technical committee and committees responsible for legal matters, human resources, system development and infrastructure. Well done to everybody for making this Bill a reality.

Finally, with that being said, Tuan Speaker, I strongly support the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 presented by our Deputy Premier. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Engkilili.

YB Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Saya memberikan ucapan syabas dan tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua; dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.82 Bukit Sari yang telah membentangkan Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 pada pagi ini. *Bill* yang sedang dibahaskan ini amatlah sesuai sekali dalam mengambil kira keadaan semasa yang semakin mencabar.

Ordinan ini untuk membuat peruntukan yang lebih baik bagi pemeliharaan sumber asli, keadaan pencemaran, pengurusan dan penambahbaikan alam sekitar di Sarawak serta segala perkara-perkara yang berkaitan yang bersabit dengannya, khasnya untuk memperkasakan *empower* Kerajaan Sarawak, khasnya memberikan kuasa yang lebih efektif dan eksklusif bagi Sarawak menguruskan sumber asli dan alam sekitarnya secara autonomi dan holistik serta mempunyai hak yang penuh melalui NREB seperti yang termaktub dalam hak-hak Sarawak dalam MA63.

Di samping itu juga, *Bill* ini akan dapat memperkasakan NREB supaya mempunyai kuasa yang mutlak sewaktu menjalankan tugas-tugas rasmi atau semasa mengambil tindakan undang-undang bagi kesalahan-kesalahan yang dilakukan oleh mana-mana pihak khasnya yang bersabit dengan kesalahan-kesalahan yang melibatkan pelanggaran alam sekitar.

Bill ini besarlah maknanya kerana dengan kelulusan nanti akan memberikan kuasa yang penuh pada Kerajaan Sarawak melalui NREB daripada DOE yang mewakili Kerajaan Persekutuan selama ini supaya kepentingan Sarawak khasnya rakyatnya serta generasi-generasi yang akan datang akan dapat menjaga dan memelihara, menikmati alam sekitarnya sendiri termasuklah tanah, air, pencemaran bunyi atau apa-apa sahaja yang berkaitan dengan alam sekitar seperti yang telah dibahaskan oleh rakan-rakan saya yang terdahulu sebentar tadi.

Secara langsung atau tidak langsung, *Bill* ini juga selepas berkuat kuasa nanti akan dapat mempertingkatkan pendapatan ekonomi, sosial dan alam sekitar dan mesra alam sekitar akan lebih berkesan dan lebih bertanggungjawab oleh rakyat Sarawak keseluruhannya. Oleh yang demikian, adalah amat dialu-alukan kesemua wakil rakyat termasuk pihak pembangkang agar tidak mempersoalkan tujuan dan objektif baik, objektif murni *Bill* ini, dalam usaha kerajaan kita di Sarawak bagi menjaga hak-hak kita yang bersabit dengan masalah pengurusan alam sekitar.

Tuan Speaker, dengan ini Engkilili menyokong penuh Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. Sekian terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Kota Sentosa.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024.

It cannot be disputed that Environmental Laws and Governance are paramount in protecting and restoring our planet and forging a sustainable tomorrow. Protecting the environment is not only essential for preserving the natural world but also to protect human health. As such, Environmental Laws must be designed to address various environmental concerns that can directly or indirectly impact human health, such as air pollution, water pollution, and dangerous waste. Air pollution, for instance, has been linked to numerous health issues, including respiratory diseases, heart disease, and even cancer. Environmental laws regulate emissions from various sources, including vehicles, factories, and power plants, to protect air quality and reduce the risks associated with poor air quality. Water quality is another critical area of focus in environmental law. Contaminated water can pose significant risks to human health, leading to illnesses and even death.

Tuan Speaker, Environmental Law and Governance stand as pillars in the journey of Sarawak towards sustainable development. Recognizing the intricate connections between the environment, social dynamics, and economic dimensions, this Bill shows that the Sarawak Government is committed in developing and implementing integrated environmental policies. This commitment is anchored in the belief that robust legal and institutional frameworks are essential for achieving environmental goals within the broader context of sustainable development.

The Natural Resources and Environment Bill 2024 covers various aspects of law that focus on protecting the natural environment, human health, and natural resources. It is a complex web of regulations, policies, and statutes designed to address issues such as air and water quality, waste

management, and pollution control. This Bill also focuses on a wide range of topics such as: air quality laws, water quality, waste management, chemical safety and the protection of endangered species. These laws are designed to minimize the environmental impact of human activities and prevent environmental contamination.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill is farsighted in that it also provides for the implementation of the provisions on scheduled wastes and other provisions in the Environmental Quality Act, 1974 which to be carried out in phases as agreed between the Federal Government and Sarawak Government under Malaysia Agreement 1963. Thank you for pursuing this matter our Deputy Premier from Bukit Sari.

Tuan Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to protect human health, preserve the environment for present and future generations, and ensure sustainable development. The *Natural Resources and Environment Board* established under this law will be tasked with setting environmental quality goals for protection of flora, fauna and human health. This Board will also be tasked with making recommendations to the Minister on the policies for protection and enhancement of the environment including the extent to which the discharge of waste may be permitted. This Board will also be monitoring and regulating activities that have an impact on the environment, including industrial operations, environmental impact assessment and conservation.

Tuan Speaker, environmental law is constantly evolving in response to emerging environmental challenges, advances in environmental science, and societal demands for greater environmental protection. As a result, the field of both environmental science and law continues to grow in importance and complexity, making it a crucial component of modern society. As such it is timely for this *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* to replace the *Natural Resources and Environmental Ordinance, 1958.*

Tuan Speaker, as a developing region, Sarawak could be faced with the problem of the competing demands of greater urban development and conserving our environment. The environmental predicament in Sarawak cannot be overstated. The indifferent attitude of policy makers towards a long–term development in preference to short–term fast economic gains have the potential to contribute to the environmental woes of Sarawak. Sarawak Government could learn from history that it has clearly shown that one of the main reasons for societies' collapse is conscious destruction of their natural resources. A society seeking rapid development could achieve its aspirations without necessarily having to compromise its environment. As such it is essential for any society to ensure that it develops without necessarily compromising its environmental needs so as not to undermine the present achievements. In short, Sarawak Government must be resolute to fully implement and enforcing the law.

Tuan Speaker, to conclude, I hope that once this Bill is passed into law, the Sarawak Government will focus on improving implementation and enforcement of the environmental measures to achieve sustainable development envisaged in Post COVID Development Strategy 2030.

On this note, I fully support this *Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024* which will replace the *Natural Resources and Environmental Ordinance, 1958.* Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Batu Kitang.

YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity to debate on the *Natural Resources and Environment Bill 2024.*

This *Natural Resources and Environment Bill* will shift environmental regulatory control from the Federal Government to Sarawak, beginning with scheduled waste management in 2025. It is heartening to see the Sarawak GPS Government taking more control over our own resources.

And it is timely for Sarawak to take over waste management, which includes metal waste, pollution licensing, air and water discharge and noise control. This indeed marks a significant move towards greater autonomy in managing Sarawak's environmental matters, all in accordance with MA63.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak can manage these types of waste that require licensing of specific activities, premise operation, waste transportation, discharge of oil into waters and air and noise pollution management. The Bill is designed to address pollutants and discarded materials which are no longer usable or profitable and which will otherwise be dumped into the environment causing harm to our people. NREB will be the authority responsible to manage and to fund these efforts.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak under the philosophy of our Honourable Yang Amat Berhormat Premier is moving towards zero waste and aims to eliminate waste by designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not to bury or burn them.

Sarawak's zero waste agenda includes minimizing consumption and waste generation, extending the life of products through reuse and repair, processing materials into new products, extracting energy from waste materials and composting organic waste.

Circular Economy

Sarawak is also moving towards a circular economy encompassing a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. The key principles of Sarawak's Circular Economy includes:

(a) Creating products that are durable, repairable, and recyclable;
(b) Extending the lifespan of products through reuse, repair, and refurbishment; and
(c) Restoring Sarawak's ecosystems and natural resources.

While zero waste is a goal, a Circular Economy is a system that can help achieve that goal. A Circular Economy is a practical approach to implementing zero waste principles. By designing products for longevity, minimizing waste, and maximizing resource efficiency, Sarawak is moving towards a more sustainable future.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak, under the stewardship of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier is actively pursuing waste-to-energy (WTE) initiatives to address its growing waste management challenges and to promote sustainable development. There is money to be made from waste to energy and this Bill will enable Sarawak to be in full control of this resource, Sarawak's resources. The GPS Government through the initiatives of our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, intends to build two high-tech incinerators to process waste from Kuching to Limbang and these incinerators aim to reduce the need for landfills and generate electricity from waste. Sarawak is considering adopting the Swedish model for waste management, which involves advanced incineration technologies and energy recovery.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak also plans to convert agricultural waste, such as paddy and oil palm residues, into biomass for energy production. This technology combines biomass with coal to produce *"blue energy"*, a cleaner alternative to traditional coal-fired power plants. Sarawak aims to export surplus energy generated from waste and other renewable sources to neighbouring countries like Indonesia and Sarawak's Waste to Energy initiatives has demonstrated a commitment to sustainable waste management and energy production. By harnessing the potential of waste as a resource, Sarawak will reduce its environmental impact and contribute to a greener future.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill enhances enforcement besides the establishment of an environmental fund as well as new penalties for those who do not comply. This Bill also aims to streamline

processes for managing pollution, licensing, and resource conservation, aligning with Sarawak's specific environmental needs and to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

I do support the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 for Sarawak to regulate its authority over environmental management from the Federal Government to Sarawak's Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) by 2025.

Tuan Speaker, I rise in support of this Bill. Thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Meluan.

YB Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin: Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to debate on this Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024. Today we gather here to discuss and advance a critical piece of legislation, the Natural Resources and Environmental Bill. This Bill represents a significant step forward in the responsible management of our nation's resources and the preservation of our environment for future generations. It underscores the urgent need to safeguard the natural wealth of our land and to balance our economic development with the sustainability of our ecosystems.

The Importance of Obeying Environmental Regulations

Tuan Speaker, first and foremost, this Bill seeks to establish a clear and enforceable framework for the protection of our environment. Obeying environmental regulations is not merely a matter of compliance; it is a fundamental obligation to ensure the well-being of our people, our wildlife and the very land we depend upon. When we abide by these regulations, we protect the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land that sustains our agriculture and biodiversity. The enforcement of these regulations is critical to combat environmental degradation. For far too long, reckless industrial activity, unchecked deforestation, and pollution have threatened our natural heritage. By adhering to the provisions to go forth in this Bill, we not only prevent further harm but actively begin the process of environmental restoration. Compliance ensures a sustainable future where both industry and nature can thrive in harmony.

As responsible citizens, we must understand that every action we take, whether as individuals, businesses, or government has an impact on the environment. Regulations are not burdens but safeguards. They are the guidelines by which we ensure the prosperity of future generations. Therefore, it is imperative that we all commit to not only obeying these regulations but also supporting their enforcement.

The Establishment of Environmental Fund

Tuan Speaker, in tandem with this, the establishment of an environmental fund is a crucial component of the Natural Resources and Environment Bill. The fund will serve as a dedicated resource to support the implementation of sustainable environmental practice, restore ecosystem damage by human activity and encourage the development of green technologies by creating a financial mechanism to invest in our environment. We signal our commitment to sustainable future one that values environment preservation along aside economic growth.

This fund will be instrumental in financing projects that rehabilitate the endangered ecosystem, protect biodiversity, and mitigate the effect of climate change. It will also provide much needed resources to communities and businesses striving to adopt sustainable practices. In doing so, it will empower every citizen to take part in the preservation of our shared natural legacy, while simultaneously fostering the creation of green jobs and sustainable industries.

The fund represents an investment not only in environmental but in economic resilience of our nation. As we confront the realities of climate change and environment degradation, this fund will

allow us to act swiftly and decisively to protect the most vulnerable region and ecosystem. It ensures that our future growth does not come at the expense of the very resources that sustain us.

Tuan Speaker, for conclusion, in closing, the National Resources and Environment Bill is not just a legal framework. It is called to action for every individual, every business, and every government to fill their duty as stewards of our environment. By obeying the regulation set forth in this Bill, we protect our natural resources and ensure the health and the prosperity of our citizens for generation to come. By establishing an environment fund, we invest in a sustainable future one where economic development and environment protection go hand in hand. Let us pass this Bill with full understanding of its importance. Let us uphold the principle of responsibility, sustainability and stewardship. And let us move forward together, committed to preserving the natural beauty and resources that make this nation so unique. With this, I here strongly support the Bill. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Batu Lintang.

YB Encik See Chee How: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to debate on this Bill which is expected to be on par or better than the federal legislation on environmental matters, particularly the Environmental Quality Act, 1974, as we look forward to compliance with Malaysia's and our obligations under the various environmental treaties and agreements that we have signed and the environmental sustainability goals that we have envisaged and are committed too.

It must therefore be a holistic regulatory framework which shall include precautionary, equity, polluters pay principle to protect and conserve natural resources, protect human health and the environment from pollution and waste and minimise risks of harm to human health, and the environment from pollution and waste. Allow me to refer to and comment on the following specific clauses in this Bill:

Clause 4(1) on the composition of the Natural Resources and Environmental Board (NREB), and sub-clause (1)(n) states that there be not more than five other members with appropriate experience, knowledge or expertise.

I would humbly suggest that we express and include the participation of non-governmental organisations which are active in promoting and enhancing environmental sustainability and quality, in the Board, as that could provide oversight and lend credence to the Board. And they could also serve as check and balance in the state on matters concerning the environment.

The Environmental Quality Act, 1974 has established the Environmental Quality Council and under that subsection 4(2)(r) of the EQA 1974, specify that two members shall be appointed by the Minister from registered NGOs which are active in promoting and enhancing environmental quality.

Clause 7(g), with respect the powers of the Board, it is my respectful view that it should make clear that such companies to the Board may want to acquire, subscribe or accept offer of, shares, equity or interest in, or from, either wholly owned by, or as a subsidiary of the Board, or in association or joint venture with other persons, that those companies should not put the Board into a position that there may arise, conflict of interest. In fact, why should the Board need to acquire shares or form companies?

Clause 23(7) with regards to the designation of any area of land as conservation area, I do not need to repeat but would express my support to the relevant points raised by Honourable Member from Ba'Kelalan, that the conservation areas should be subjected to all inherent rights of the indigenous communities and peoples to their customary territories and access.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)

Clause 27(11) – why is the Board interfering in the approval of the EIA report and allowing for the work to start before the approval or rejection of the report? This should not be the case. It is the

practice of many, and actually being contemplated by the Federal Government as well to incorporate into the EQA 1976, that there must be a list of registered qualified persons and through that the project proponents choose their experts to conduct the EIAs. Project proponents should not pay the qualified persons directly. A separate fund should be set up and managed by the NREB to ensure that the report is done in an unbiased manner. The project proponent contributes to this fund and the NREB pays the qualified person. This is something that the Federal Government is also planning to do. They would like to stop the direct engagement and payment of qualified person to do EIA reports by the project proponents. There is a guideline documents for EIA consultants which registered with the Department of Environment (DoE).

And I would point to section 34A, are section 34AA, 35 and 36 of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 which covers EIA reports, prohibition orders for prescribed activities, appeal against the decision of the Director General and who comprise the Appeal Board. They are generally good provisions for the enhancement of protection of the environment.

And also in the federal legislature, that affected communities can also challenge the decision of Controller and I hope that such appeal process is also set up here.

In our proposed Bill, there is no limit to how many times a project proponent can submit and amend the EIA Report. The federal legislature does not have this either, but this should not. This is a matter for debate. Once an EIA report is rejected because it does not comply with the overarching principles of environmental protection, it should stay rejected. Project proponents should not be allowed to amend report continuously to proceed with a project. EIA reports are only a tool to measure impacts but it cannot be a tool to justify a project through mitigations.

Therefore, I would also like to respectfully pray that it be expressed that all EIA processes must undergo a mandatory public participation process as it is practiced in Peninsular Malaysia.

Precautionary and Polluter Pay Principles

Both this precautionary and polluters pay principle must be incorporated (although even the federal legislation does not have it yet) but we should have it within our Ordinance. There must be a clear provision for any clean-up of the pollution caused, and that we should not go back to taxpayers for the cleaning up.

There must be full monitoring and follow-up checks when there is a clean up. The polluted areas must be cleaned up to the stage where it was prior to any pollution taking places. The legislative provision must make it clear that all these must be undertaken by the polluters.

Generally, Clause 99(e) states the MMKN may make regulations for rehabilitation of any land, soil, premises and other elements which have been damaged as a result of pollution or activities which adversely affect the environment. However, I think it is important that this Ordinance has a separate section on rehabilitation to the way it was at the expense of the polluter. Tuan Speaker, with these reservations, I support this Bill. Thank you.

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

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua; Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.82 Bukit Sari (YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan): Tuan Speaker, saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang turut serta dalam perbahasan on Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024.

Ramai yang berucap, ramai yang memberi pendapat, pandangan yang sungguh baik. Terdapat seramai 26 orang Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat telah menyertai perbahasan dan menyokong sepenuhnya Rang Undang-Undang ini.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill represents a significant step in Sarawak's commitment to sustainable development offering a comprehensive framework that strengthens environmental protection laws and promotes long-term social-economic growth. By instituting these stringent legislation, this Bill addresses the critical need to combat climate change and environmental degradation. As the world grapples with this urgent issues, Sarawak positions itself as a part of a global effort to protect the planet, aligning with international environmental standards and practices. In addition, this Bill provides Sarawak with the tools needed to minimize environmental degradation while encouraging economic development. This includes activities for the green economy, CCUS project, circular economy, and as mentioned by Ahli Yang Berhormat Batu Kitang on waste to energy, *banyak lagi lah,* all of these are catered under this Bill. *Ini adalah sesuatu yang amat penting* including the CCUS project as mentioned by the Honourable Member for Satok.

By regulating imation waste and pollution from industries it ensures a cleaner healthier environment for Sarawak citizen postering a better quality of life. This Bill demonstrates that economic growth and environmental sustainability are not mutually exclusive but can, in fact, complement each other, ensuring that the future generations inherit a thriving, resilient environment.

The purpose and intent of this Bill are clear to grant Sarawak the necessary legal framework to responsibly manage its natural resources and protect its environment. This Bill, grounded on the principles of the Malaysian Agreement 1963, allows Sarawak to exercise full autonomy over its environmental governance, thereby strengthening its ability to preserve its unique ecosystem while fostering sustainable economic and social development. Sarawak commitment to this Bill demonstrate a forward-thinking approach to governance, where the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own. With this legislation, Sarawak is reaffirming its commitment to a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.

Tuan Speaker, on the issues raised by several Ahli Yang Berhormat on the public engagement and transparency, please rest assured that the Sarawak Government through NREB and other relevant agencies are conducting and will continue with various awareness program to increase the level of awareness among Sarawakians on the importance of environmental protection. There are also ongoing exercises to engage the public in various platforms such as community outreach and stakeholders' consultation.

Several Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat touched on the issue of enforcement. In order to achieve the objective of this Bill, Sarawak Government recognized the importance of enforcement. We will strengthen our enforcement, as well as capacity building through increasing expertise, manpower and adapting advance technologies such as AI and Big Data.

In response to Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending, any project proposed must comply with the regulatory requirements prior to its implementation, including CCUS project. Anyway, Kasawari project is about the extraction of sour gas, and it is not CCUS project. This project is progressing very well, and it is fully funded through a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) under PETRONAS.

On the issue of the Cascading Dam, *Yang Berhormat Telang Usang telah pun menerangkan secara jelas tentang kedudukannya dan kita pun mengetahui majoriti rakyat di kawasan itu bersetuju supaya projek di Sungai Tutoh, Baram itu dilaksanakan.* Only if majority of the people there objecting to such development, the project will not be proceeded.

Dalam hal ini, Yang Berhormat bagi Telang Usan sudah menerangkan ianya mendapat sambutan yang begitu membanggakan, jadi pendirian kita ialah kalau mereka mahu, kita jalankan kerja-kerja *Feasibility Study, Technical study*; dan kalau majoriti tidak mahu, *sik boh!* Tapi untuk kita nak memastikan 100%, memang tidak ada di dunia ini, kita mesti ada persetujuan barulah kita dapat laksanakan. Tapi kalau majoritinya setuju kita teruskan dan jalankan kajian; dan kalau ianya *flexible, then we move forward*, kalau majoriti *objecting,* mun nya *sik mauk sik boh*. Jadi itulah pendirian kita.

Tuan Speaker, in reply to Ahli Yang Berhormat for Tebedu, this Bill empowers the Minister to declare through an Order published in the gazette, that certain types of fires used for specific activities are not considered open burning. The Government will take the necessary steps to assess the type of activities that may be exempted through this Order from time to time.

Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Lintang, terima kasih atas cadangannya. *We will consider your suggestion* dan apa juga prosedur-prosedur, kita akan selidiki untuk kita perbaiki, apa yang perlu. Apabila Rang Undang-undang ini diluluskan, kita akan *formulate the regulation.* The regulations are to be made after this Bill is pass.

Dan saya juga ingin mengucapkan berbanyak-banyak terima kasih atas pandangan termasuklah yang dicakapkan berhubung dengan *the conservation area* harus mengambil kira tanah-tanah yang dimiliki oleh rakan-rakan kita, saudara-saudara kita, di bawah NCR itu. Itu kita akan ambil kira.

Tuan Speaker, on various point raised by Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the Government will take this in to consideration in formulating the regulation to be made after this Bill is passed. Once again, I would like to thank all members of this August house for participating in the debate and supporting this Bill. Thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is a that the Motion standing in the Order Paper in the name of the Honourable Deputy Premier; Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development; and Member for N.82 Bukit Sari be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as are of the opinion say *"Yes".*

Government: Yes… (Resounding *"Yes"*)

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

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

COMMITTEE STAGE

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now consider the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024.

Clauses 1 to 101

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that Clauses 1 to 101 are ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as are of the opinion say *"Yes".*

Government: Yes… (Resounding *"Yes"*)

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are of the contrary opinion say *"No".* The *"Yes"* have it. Clauses 1 to 101 are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedules

Tuan Pengerusi: The question is that the First and Second Schedule be ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as are of opinion say *"Yes".*

Government: Yes… (Resounding *"Yes"*)

Tuan Pengerusi: As many as are of the contrary opinion say *"No"*. The *"Yes"* have it. The Schedule are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clauses, Schedule and Title

Tuan Pengerusi: The Dewan shall now resume.

HOUSE RESUMED

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua; Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.82 Bukit Sari (YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan): Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without amendment.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT BILL, 2024

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua; Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.82 Bukit Sari (YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hassan): Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 be now read a third time and do pass.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Natural Resources and Environment Bill, 2024 be read at 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 contrary opinion say *"No".* The *"Yes"* have it. The Bill is read a third time and passed.

Bill is read a third time and passed.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli Yang Berhormat, we will have a break. Sitting resumes at 5.10 p.m.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 4.46 petang)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 5.19 petang)

[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

USUL UNTUK MEMINDA PERATURAN-PERATURAN MESYUARAT DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I had received a Ministerial Motion from the Honourable Minister for Tourism Creative Industry and Performing Arts; Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development under Standing Order 23(1)(a). I shall now call upon the Honourable Minister and Member for N.15 Asajaya to move the Motion.

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Assalammualaikum Warrahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. A very good afternoon.

Tuan Speaker, I have a Motion under my name and has duly given notice of the Motion dated 7th November 2024 under Standing Order 23(1)(a) to move the following motion:

WHEREAS there is a need to debate the Standing Orders to address new developments and challenges that have arisen, which are not adequately covered by the Standing Orders of Parliament and State Legislatures in Malaysia;

WHEREAS the proposed amendments, attached herewith as **APPENDIX I**, are aimed at improving the governance of proceedings in the Dewan by ensuring that allegations made in the Dewan are substantiated and verified and;

WHEREAS the said amendments are necessary to address the misuse of social media and press conferences, which have seen members making vitriolic and insidious comments ridiculing and scorning the ruling of the Speaker;

WHEREAS the proposed amendment involve changes to the following Standing Order:-

(i) Standing Order 29;
(ii) Standing Order 32(10);
(iii) Standing Order 40(3);
(iv) Standing Order 86; and
(v) Standing Order 90;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Orders and Selection Committee of Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak had on 30th October 2024 consented to the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders;

NOW THEREFORE THIS AUGUST HOUSE OR THIS DEWAN HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

(1) the provision of the Standing Orders shall be amended in the manner shown in **APPENDIX I;** and
(2) copies of the Standing Orders including all amendments shall be printed by the Government Printer, or other printers as approved by the Speaker of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, the proposed amendment, are aimed at improving the governance of proceeding in the Dewan by ensuring that allegations made in the Dewan are substantiated and verified.

Through these amendments, it is imperative to address the recent development and emerging challenges that are not sufficiently covered by the current Standing Orders of both Parliament and State Legislatures in Malaysia. As the legislative landscape continues to evolve, these amendments are crucial to ensuring that the governing rules remain adaptable, comprehensive, and capable of effectively managing contemporary issues and maintaining the integrity of parliamentary proceedings.

Further, the proposed amendments are also critical to address the growing misuse of social media and press conferences, where certain members have made inflammatory and contemptuous remarks that seek to undermine and ridicule the authority of the Speaker's rulings.

For the information of this august House, the Standing Orders and Selection Committee of Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak which was held on 30th October 2024 had consented to these proposed amendments to the Standing Orders.

Tuan Speaker, this Dewan is the highest legislative body of the state. Proceedings of this Dewan should be conducted with dignity, with solemnity and decorum. What is said in this Dewan and reported outside could influence the unity and harmony of the multiracial multi-ethnic community in the state. Therefore, it is important that all deliberations and decisions of this Dewan should be honoured and respected. Misrepresentation of anything that is said or transpired in this Dewan either to the press or to the public generally must be avoided.

Additionally, we already have the avenue to discuss and debate in this august House. Therefore, all rulings and decisions later made by the Speaker ought to be duly respected and should not be made a matter of public ridicule and contempt through comments and misrepresentation to the media, as we have seen cases where members ridiculing the ruling of the Speaker with verbose and vitriolic remarks the minute the meeting of this august House was adjourned.

Tuan Speaker, it is therefore necessary to amend Standing Order 20; Standing Order 32(10), Standing Order 40(3), Standing Order 86 and Standing Order 90 to address the misuse of social media and press conferences, which have seen members openly ridiculing the rulings of the Speaker through lengthy, inflammatory and vitriolic remarks, undermining the authority and decorum of the proceedings.

The proposed Amendment to the Standing Orders of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak which is referred to as Appendix 1. I think I just read Appendix I, Tuan Speaker, for it to be in the Hansard.

Proposed Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak

(1) Amendment to Standing Order 20

Standing Order 20 is amended by substituting sub paragraphs (i), of paragraphs (2) with the following new sub paragraph (i):

"(i) be asked to verify statements allegation or comment in newspapers, online news portal social media or any online platform or of private individuals or bodies are accurate or truthful;"

(2) Amendment to Standing Order 32

Standing Order 32 is amended by:

(a) Substituting paragraph (10) with the following new paragraph:

"(10) It shall be out of order for any Member to use or refer in his speech or content in his speech –''

(b) substituting for the full stop at the end of sub-paragraph (c) a semicolon and adding immediately thereafter, the word "*and*"; and

(c) Adding the following new sub-paragraphs (d) after sub-paragraphs (c):

Sub-paragraph (d) reads:

"(d) *any information, allegations or comment by any person or organisation including those publish in the newspapers, online news portal, social media or any online platforms, the veracity or truth whereof he is unable to or has not been able to verify;"*

(3) Amendment to Standing Order 40(3)

Standing Order 40(3) is amended by:

(i) substituting the full stop at end of paragraph (e) with a semi-colon and adding immediately thereafter, the word "*or*"; and

(ii) adding the following new paragraph (f) after paragraph (e);

"(f) persistently using or repeating any information, allegation or comment contained in any newspaper, online news portal, social media or any online platform which he has not verified or the truth or accuracy whereof he could not justify when called upon by the Chair to produce proof of such verification or justification;"

(4) Amendment to Standing Order 86.

Standing Order 86 is amended by;

(a) inserting number "(1)" before the words "The decision" and substitute the full stop at the end thereon with a semi-colon and inserting immediately thereafter, the word "and"; and

(b) adding the following new paragraph (2) and (3) thereto,

"(2) No Member may whether within or outside the Dewan by conduct action or words ridicule, dispute, show contempt for or deliberately refused to obey such ruling of the Chair"; and

(3) Any Member who is in breach of paragraph (2) may be named by the Chair and the provisions of the Standing Order 40(4) shall apply to him".

(5) Amendment to Standing Order 90.

Standing Order 90 is amended by inserting after the definition of "*sitting*" the following new definition of "*social media*";

This is a putting in a new definition, that is social media. "*Social media*" refers to the means of interaction, or communication or dissemination among people in which they create, share, exchange, or post information or ideas through virtual networks and communities".

For all of the above reasons, Tuan Speaker, I hereby urged all the Honourable Members of this august House to fully support this motion so that improvement can be made to the Standing Orders to achieve the objectives which I have outlined. I beg to move.

Tuan Speaker: I shall now call upon the Honourable Deputy Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development, and Member for N.55 Nangka to second.

Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi) dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.55 Nangka (YB Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee): Tuan Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

PERBAHASAN ATAS USUL UNTUK MEMINDA PERATURAN-PERATURAN MESYUARAT DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Motion in the name of the Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development; and Member for N.15 Asajaya be approved. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, under Standing Order 31(8), I hereby limit Members' speeches to a maximum of 20 minutes. Any of the Honourable Member who wishes to speak? Honourable Member for Tellian.

YB Encik Royston bin Valentine: Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Salam Damai, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terima kasih di atas kesempatan yang diberikan kepada saya untuk turut serta di dalam perbahasan pindaan Peraturan-Peraturan Mesyuarat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak yang dibawa oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Asajaya merangkap Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan Sarawak.

Cadangan pindaan kepada Peraturan-Peraturan Mesyuarat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak yang sedang kita bahaskan yang dibuka untuk dibincangkan pada hari ini adalah langkah yang sangat penting untuk memastikan proses penggubalan undang-undang dan pengurusan mesyuarat berjalan dengan lebih berkesan dan relevan dengan perkembangan semasa sekali gus meningkatkan keberkesanan pelaksanaan segala urusan yang membabitkan Dewan yang mulia ini. Pindaan-pindaan yang dicadangkan ini amat diperlukan untuk menangani perkembangan dan cabaran baharu yang timbul, yang tidak dapat ditangani secukupnya oleh Peraturan-Peraturan Mesyuarat sedia ada dan sudah sampai masanya juga untuk dikaji semula.

Tuan Speaker, dalam usul pindaan ini dinyatakan bahawa terdapat keperluan untuk mengemaskini peraturan mesyuarat bagi menangani cabaran dan perkembangan baharu yang tidak diambil kira dalam peraturan sedia ada. Pindaan yang dicadangkan bertujuan untuk memastikan semua tuduhan atau kenyataan yang dibuat di dalam Dewan disahkan dan dapat dibuktikan dan mengatasi penyalahgunaan media sosial dan sidang akhbar, dimana anggota Dewan sering membuat komen yang merendahkan atau menghina keputusan Speaker.

Pindaan-pindaan utama yang dicadangkan adalah seperti yang dimaklumkan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri sebentar tadi. Ianya adalah seperti:

(a) Standing Order 20

Pindaan kepada Standing Order 20 bertujuan untuk memastikan Ahli-ahli Dewan bertanggungjawab terhadap kenyataan yang mereka buat. Ahli-ahli akan diminta untuk mengesahkan ketepatan atau kebenaran sebarang kenyataan, tuduhan atau komen yang dibuat di media cetak, portal berita dalam talian, media sosial atau mana-mana platform atas talian.

(b) Standing Order 32(10)

Pindaan kepada Standing Order 32(10) pula melarang Ahli-ahli daripada menggunakan atau merujuk kepada sebarang maklumat, tuduhan atau komen yang tidak dapat disahkan kebenarannya dalam ucapan mereka.

(c) Standing Order 40(3)

Pindaan ini membolehkan tindakan diambil terhadap Ahli yang berterusan menggunakan atau mengulangi maklumat yang tidak disahkan atau tidak dapat dibuktikan kebenarannya. Ini akan menggalakkan Ahli-ahli untuk lebih berhati-hati dan bertanggungjawab dalam ucapan mereka.

(d) Standing Order 86

Pindaan kepada Standing Order 86 adalah penting untuk memastikan keputusan Speaker sentiasa dihormati. Ia melarang Ahli-ahli daripada mempertikaikan, menghina atau sengaja mengingkari keputusan Speaker, sama ada di dalam atau di luar Dewan. Ini akan memelihara integriti dan kewibawaan institusi Dewan yang mulia ini.

(e) Standing Order 90

Pindaan kepada Standing Order 90 memperkenalkan definisi ’media sosial’ ke dalam Peraturan-Peraturan Mesyuarat Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak. Ini penting untuk

menangani cabaran era digital dan memastikan peraturan kita meliputi semua bentuk komunikasi moden selari dengan peredaran zaman ketika ini.

Tuan Speaker, pada pandangan saya, pindaan-pindaan yang dicadangkan ini diyakini mampu mempengaruhi keberkesanan pelaksanaannya dalam setiap urusan Dewan seperti:

1. Meningkatkan ketepatan dan kewibawaan

   Pindaan kepada Standing Order 20 dan 32(10) menekankan keperluan untuk mengesahkan kebenaran kenyataan yang dibuat oleh Ahli Dewan. Dengan mewajibkan ahli untuk mengesahkan maklumat sebelum menyampaikannya, ini akan mengurangkan penyebaran maklumat yang tidak tepat atau tidak berasas yang boleh menimbulkan fitnah dan mengelirukan Dewan. Kewajipan ini akan meningkatkan ketepatan dalam perbahasan dan keputusan yang diambil, sekali gus memperkukuh kewibawaan Dewan yang mulia ini.

2. Mengurangkan penyalahgunaan media sosial

   Pindaan yang berkaitan dengan penggunaan media sosial bertujuan untuk mengatasi masalah penyalahgunaan platform tersebut oleh Ahli-ahli Dewan. Dengan menetapkan peraturan yang lebih ketat mengenai rujukan kepada maklumat yang tidak disahkan, pindaan ini akan mengurangkan kemungkinan ahli membuat kenyataan yang boleh mencemarkan reputasi institusi dan merosakkan integriti proses perundangan.

3. Memelihara kedaulatan dan ketenteraman Dewan

   Dengan memperkenalkan peraturan yang melarang penghinaan terhadap keputusan Speaker, seperti dalam pindaan kepada Standing Order 86, ini akan membantu memelihara kedaulatan Dewan. Ahli-ahli akan lebih menghormati keputusan yang dibuat dan ini seterusnya akan mengurangkan ketegangan dalam perbahasan serta memastikan prosiding berjalan dengan lancar tanpa gangguan yang timbul dari tuduhan yang tidak berasas.

4. Meningkatkan tanggungjawab Ahli

   Pindaan kepada Standing Order 40(3) dan 86 menambahkan elemen tanggungjawab kepada Ahli untuk tidak mengulangi maklumat yang tidak dapat disahkan di dalam ucapannya di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini. Ini bukan sahaja meningkatkan disiplin dalam Dewan tetapi juga mendorong Ahli untuk lebih berhati-hati dalam membuat kenyataan, menjadikan perbahasan lebih berfokus dan konstruktif berbanding perbahasan yang berniat untuk menimbulkan kekacauan.

5. Memudahkan proses perundangan

   Dengan penekanan pada pengesahan maklumat dan pengurangan gangguan semasa sesi persidangan, pindaan ini akan mempercepatkan proses perundangan. Ahli-ahli Dewan dapat memberi tumpuan kepada isu-isu penting tanpa terganggu oleh pertikaian yang tidak relevan atau maklumat palsu dan ianya sekali gus menjadikan sesi lebih produktif dan efisien. Dalam era digital ini, kita perlu memastikan peraturan-peraturan Dewan kita kekal relevan dan berkesan untuk diguna pakai.

Tuan Speaker, pindaan peraturan-peraturan mesyuarat ini mencerminkan usaha untuk memperbaiki tatacara pengurusan Dewan serta memastikan bahawa semua anggota Dewan bertindak dengan integriti dan bertanggungjawab dalam menggunakan platform komunikasi terutamanya dalam era digital ini. Ini adalah langkah proaktif untuk mengekalkan ketertiban dan keadilan dalam proses perundangan di Sarawak. Ia adalah langkah yang tepat ke arah memodenkan prosedur Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak selaras dengan cabaran era digital sekali

gus dapat memastikan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak kekal sebagai institusi yang dihormati dan berkesan dalam melaksanakan fungsinya.

Maka dengan itu, Tuan Speaker, Tellian menyokong sepenuhnya cadangan pindaan ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Meradong.

YB Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me the chance to debate on the amendment of the Standing Orders of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak. Being responsible for what we say is crucial because our words can have the power to influence, hurt or heal others, and to be mindful of what we say ultimately reflects our integrity and maturity.

Social media can offer numerous benefits like connectivity and access to information. But it also has negative impacts like addiction and time wasting. Cyber bullying and the creation of eco chambers. Many people cannot differentiate what they see in online news portals and social media. Whether they are true or fake news and often they start to viral until serious damages are done.

Therefore, it is important that one must ensure what one say is true and ready to substantiate it. The amendment through the Standing Orders is aimed at improving the good governance or proceeding and ensuring that allegations made in the Dewan are substantiated and verified.

However, it is sad to note that some members of this august House with their compulsive behaviour is ready to give half-baked or ill-conceived theories or allegations in this august House that there are not ready or unable to prove or substantiate and very often they can say one thing in this august House than go to the media room to say something else. These can be most misleading and can tarnish the image and good name of another Member or that of the government.

To maintain and safeguard that decorum of this House we must conduct this exercise to update our Standing Orders so that the Members of the House are duty bound to stand for what they say in the House or in the social media or any other online platforms. Again, being mindful out of what we say ultimately reflex our integrity and maturity with above observations, I support the amendment of the Standing Orders of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Beting Maro.

YB Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Selamat petang, Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Tuan Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Member for N.15 Asajaya, Minister for Tourism, Creative and Industry and Performing Arts; and Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development Sarawak for moving this Ministerial Motion amendment to the Standing Orders of this august House.

Tuan Speaker, I am compelled to raise in fervent backing of the motions set forth to revise our parliamentary rules of engagement. These timely changes are not only prudent but essential in safeguarding the credibility and decorum of this revered legislative chamber. In this digital age, Tuan Speaker, we find ourselves awash in a torrent of unverified information, dubious allegations, and outright falsehoods propagated across myriad online platforms. And yet, as stewards of the public trust, we have a solemn obligation to uphold the standards of transparent and fact-based deliberation.

The amendments to Standing Order 20 strike at the heart of this imperative. By prohibiting Members from legitimizing unsubstantiated claims, we send a clear message, this House shall not be a conduit for the dissemination of the untruth. Our debates must be anchored in verifiable evidence, not fleeting hearsay.

Furthermore Tuan Speaker, the proposed revisions to Standing Orders 32 and 40 empower the Chair to maintain the dignity and integrity of our proceedings. By empowering the presiding officer to censure the use of unverified information and to discipline those who defy their authority, we fortify the very foundations of parliamentary democracy.

Honourable Members, let us not forget that the mandate entrusted to us demands the highest standards of conduct. We are not here to engage in the spread of misinformation or to lend credence to unfounded assertions. Our solemn duty is to deliberate, debate, and decide on matters of the state with the utmost care and diligence.

These amendments, Tuan Speaker, will be a bulwark against the corrosive forces of obfuscation and disinformation. They will ensure that the discourse in this hallowed chamber remains firmly grounded in truth, accountability and the unimpeachable principles of parliamentary democracy.

I, therefore, urge all Honourable Members to lend their steadfast support to this crucial revisions. Let us send a resounding message that this House will stand united in our commitment to uphold the sanctity of our democratic institution. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, under Standing Order 9(1), I determine that today's sitting goes beyond 6.30 p.m. Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Murum.

YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. I stand before you to support the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders of this esteemed Assembly moved by the Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development; and Member of Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak N.15 Asajaya.

These amendments are not just a response to the ever-evolving landscape of communication and information dissemination; they represent our collective commitment to uphold the integrity, respect and decorum of this Dewan.

Upholding Accountability and Credibility

Tuan Speaker, in recent times, we have witnessed an alarming trend where unverified information, baseless allegations, and inflammatory comments have permeated various platforms, including social media and online news portals. This constitutes not only an attack on the honour of this Assembly but also undermines the trust that the public places in us as their representatives.

The proposed amendments seek to ensure that any statements made by Members within this Dewan are substantiated and verified. By doing so, we are not just protecting the dignity of this assembly; we are fostering a culture of accountability. The Members will be required to back their assertions with evidence, thereby enhancing the credibility of our discourse.

Combating Misuse of Social Media

Tuan Speaker, the rise of social media has transformed the way we communicate; however, it has also facilitated the spread of misinformation and vitriol. The proposed amendments directly address the misuse of these platforms. By preventing the Members from using unverified information, we are taking a proactive stance against disinformation and ensuring that our discussions remain fact-based.

Furthermore, the landscape of public communication has shifted significantly. As representatives, we must not only be aware of what we say within these walls but also how our words may echo beyond them. These amendments will serve as a necessary check against the irresponsible use of our platforms, ensuring that we engage in constructive dialogues rather than inflammatory rhetoric.

Strengthening Respect for the Chair's Authority

Tuan Speaker, the integrity of this Assembly is also reflected in our respect for the Chair and the rulings that governs our proceedings. The proposed amendments to Standing Order 86 emphasize that any Members who ridicules, disputes, or disobeys the Chair's ruling is acting against the very ethos of decorum that this assembly represents. By reinforcing this principle, we are fostering an environment where order, discipline and respect prevails.

Defining Social Media Clearly

Tuan Speaker, in our connected world, the ambiguity surrounding terms such as '*social media*' can lead to misinterpretations. By defining '*social media*' within our Standing Orders, we are providing clarity and setting the framework for what constitutes acceptable discourse. This transparency will aid the members in understanding the boundaries within which they must operate.

Conclusion

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders are a necessary evolution to ensure that we, as a Legislature, remain relevant, accountable, and respected. They address the challenges posed by misinformation and uphold the dignity of our deliberations. By supporting these amendments, we are ensuring that our Assembly is not just a forum for discussion, but a bastion of truth and integrity.

Let us take this vital step towards creating a more responsible, respectful and credible legislative environment. I urge all the Members to support these proposed amendments. Together, we can strengthen the foundations of our democracy and uphold the values we represent. With that, I beg to support the Motion. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Any other Members who wishes to speak? Honourable Member for Bawang Assan.

YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh: Thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Motion tabled by the Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development.

Tuan Speaker, this Motion may be viewed as an important move in this Dewan. Statements or utterances make by some Members of this august House particularly outside the Dewan to the press or worse still in the social media testify to the need of this august House to solemnly reflect on how we can better restraint our Honourable Members and from doing something which may undermine the dignity of this Dewan.

In fact, Tuan Speaker, if you look at the history of this Dewan, we have a distinguished record of upholding the tradition of parliamentary democracy even when there were significant numbers of Members of the Opposition such as I remember after the 1965 political crisis, after the 1974 or even 1987 state election. Even during those periods of the Dewan's history, if you look at the Hansards, deliberations in this august House were conducted without affecting its dignity and with the observance of the time-honoured rules of parliamentary democracy.

Tuan Speaker, I remember when I was the Speaker in the 1990s, most if not all the Honourable Members would abide strictly with the Standing Orders of the Dewan and accord due respect to all rulings and decisions of the House. The decisions of the House and the rulings of the Speaker.

But after the 2006 and 2011 state elections, the number of Opposition Members increased significantly. Perhaps because of the influence of the west Malaysian politics in those days, somehow the Opposition Members in this Dewan became more outspoken, sometimes making disparaging remarks and comments about the decisions made by the majority in this Dewan or decisions made by the House and the rulings made by the Speaker.

Some of the times immediately after the decisions made by the House, or when the Speaker came to a ruling, some Members would quickly leave the chamber and call a press conference to denounce the decisions of the House and the rulings of the Speaker. By right, if some of the Members do not agree to any decisions of the House or the rulings of the Speaker, there are adequate provisions in the Standing Orders to seek reconsideration thereof. I think it is improper for the Members to belittle or show their contempt by questioning or at times ridiculing the decisions of the House or the rulings made by the Speaker.

Nowadays with social media coming into play, a lot of the social media statements and allegations may not be true and could not be substantiated by facts. One can go to social media which can be perverted or subverted to create fiction, to manipulate information to mount attacks and ridicule people or ridicule the government and inflicting damages. In other words, skillful manipulation or deceitful exploitation of social media indeed could create havoc in the cyber world.

Tuan Speaker, social media is a good thing or a bad thing depending on how you perceive it and use it. It is a revolutionary invention. If used properly, it can lead to a feeling of connectedness and help us flourish in our personal and professional life. Used improperly, it will have negative impact on us and on our society.

Tuan Speaker, in view of the above observations, I think the introduction of this amendment to this Bill, the introduction of this Motion by the Minister is timely.

Tuan Speaker, we know that as the Members of this august House, we must at all times be governed or regulated by three things:

(a) The Standing Orders; of course, plus the Dewan Undangan Negeri (Privileges and Powers) Ordinance, 2007;
(b) The rulings or decisions of the Speaker;
(c) The norms of democracy.

In any parliamentary system that observes the norms of democracy, there will be a majority which form the government and the minority that constitutes the Opposition. The majority is entrusted with the duty to govern and constitutionally the government of the day is accountable to the Legislature. The minority is expected to play a constructive role in the Dewan. This does not involve harassing the majority or creating an atmosphere of you will against the majority or disrespect for the Speaker. It is important that the minority should appreciate that they must submit to the will of the majority as determined by the people in the general election. The minority cannot assume that the views must prevail otherwise the voices of the majority will be suppressed by the minority contrary to the basic tenants of democracy. If the minority wants its view to dominate, it must wait for an opportunity to secure the mandate of the people to become the majority.

So, Tuan Speaker, particularly with this social media coming into picture, life can be made worse because one can easily go online. As I say using media to spread or manipulate or fabricate information without being substantiated, I therefore fully agree to the motion tabled and said by your good self.

Tuan Speaker, I think during the press conference, at the end of the Pre-DUN Meeting on 8th November 2024, the amendment that contains in the motion defines what social media is and provides a nexus, a link between the current Standing Orders and the punishment meted out against the offending members. I hereby give full support to the Motion proposed by the Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts and Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development. Well done, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan.

YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the motion tabled by the Yang Berhormat Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts today which seeks to amend, update certain provisions in the Standing Orders of the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, the Standing Orders is a permanent written rules and procedures which may contain many important constitutional norms, that governs the procedures and conduct of the parliament's business in this case, the Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak.

Thus, Tuan Speaker, the Standing Order is a very important piece of document that I would say govern the operation and running of the Dewan Undangan Negeri. However, after decades, the Standing Order may be outdated. Therefore, it may be necessary to amend or to even change the Standing Order as some provisions may not be relevant any more thus are not suitable to deal with the modern context. In this case, a new provision may be required to facilitate the smooth running of the Dewan.

For example, the term 'social media'. In the past decades, it does not attract much attention as people use various social media for its intended purpose. Now, everyone talks about the use of various forms or types of social media, online news portal and so on, not only as a mean to communicate with one another or to disseminate information to targeted groups or market segments, but more often than not, it was used by unscrupulous people to spread lies, slanders, rumours to discredit one another including politicians. This is a challenge that we are all facing now.

Therefore, Tuan Speaker, in my opinion, there should be a provision in the Standing Order to deal with the members who often use various types of social media or online portals to belittle another member of the DUN including the ruling of the Chair. And what we see today, we are moving in the correct direction.

Tuan Speaker, we all need to protect and uphold the sanctity of the Dewan Undangan Negeri. The Dewan Undangan Negeri is a place where laws are made, government policies and programs are deliberated and approved. Therefore, the members of the Dewan Undangan Negeri need to maintain a high degree of integrity, decorum, professionalism and should be made accountable to what he or she have said in this august House.

Tuan Speaker, as I have said earlier, the Standing Order should be dynamic and relevant to the modern context. So, in my opinion, the motion to amend certain provisions of the Standing Order is not to curtail the members' privilege of freedom of speech but to ensure that the members would speak or debate within the ambit in the provisions of the Standing Order.

So, with that short comment, Tuan Speaker, I wish to support the motion to amend the Standing Order. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Pending.

YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui: Tuan Speaker, thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate of this motion.

This motion to amend the Standing Order is deemed as a gag order to oppress and suppress the Oppositions' voices by stifling meaningful discussions when the members of the House and those in authority are queried or questioned. Exposing issues and truth to maintain the public's trust or ensure good governance is a check and balance that we, as the Opposition, must bring up in the hopes of stopping any malpractice.

Tuan Speaker, is it because the truth hurts so much that the Standing Order with new amendments has to be imposed on the Opposition Members to stop us from spilling the beans. I believe by zipping our lips with the new amendments will lead to more and wider abuse of power or corruption with no fear of anyone talking about it.

How can the Standing Order be made so that anyone who ask questions or make statements, to verify statements, allegations or comments in the newspaper, online news portals, whether they are accurate or truthful? In my view, it is just ridiculous. If we need to verify news reported in the newspaper or news portal, they might as well close shop if the news reported were deemed to be inaccurate and not true.

Tuan Speaker, there are many avenues for the Members in this House to clarify themselves but gagging us should be the last thing to do. It is obvious that the Standing Order is to create a culture of fear to stop the Oppositions from speaking against the government or individuals, and to expose malpractice, abuses of power, or even scandals.

We, in the Opposition are just carrying out our responsibilities expected from the people, but this august House is forbidding us from speaking out. Where is democracy? Democracy is dead I would say. These proposed changes are a step backwards to undermine our duty for an open debate.

Tuan Speaker, why does this House feel the need to be so protective of its Members? Should the Members act with responsibility and integrity, they should have no fear of exposure to any wrongdoings. The motion to amend the Standing Order make us wonder, are the Members from the GPS so vulnerable or are even so problematic that they need the protection of the Standing Order to prevent anyone from speaking out about them?

By such oppression, it will cause the public's distrust on the government. f the State Government is genuinely committed to transparency and good governance, it should welcome criticism as part of the democratic process. Constructive criticism is a vital check on power and helps identify areas for improvement. By tightening the Standing Order in this Assembly, there is a real risk that these rules will prioritize protecting political interest over the public good.

Tuan Speaker should a Member feel that he should not be criticized for any wrongdoings or for common good, then I would say the platform of being a people representative' is not a job for them. He or she might as well stay at home and sleep. For the above reasons, I cannot support this motion. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Kota Sentosa.

YB Encik Yap Yau Sin: Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to debate this motion. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequences. What we say, why we say it and how we say it, is our individual and collective responsibility. We can communicate in more ways and more instantly than we have ever been able to in human history. However, the damaging and even tragic consequences of the words we use can be catastrophic.

As the Honourable Members of this august House, we must lead by example and set a good example to our younger generations, and we must hold ourselves and each other to that as well. Whether you are the Opposition or whether you are a backbencher or whether you are part of the executive, everyone is entitled to an opinion and to share their thoughts and feelings but why and how we do that requires care and accountability too.

However, the right to freedom of speech and expression is taking an increasingly dark and deeply malicious tone. While the members of this august House enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of expression, it doesn't come without responsibility because freedom of speech doesn't mean freedom of consequences. This is something that many likely don't realise when speaking in

this august House, especially when feelings are hidden behind the perceived safety of legislative immunity for accountability for their actions.

Tuan Speaker, one of the most common abuses of free speech and freedom of expression in this august House from some members comes through the claim that it is just an opinion, a discussion someone is sharing about a situation or another person on social media. Opinions are just that and they ought to remain as such. Members have a right to an opinion and there is nothing wrong with sharing an opinion and having something to say, including when that opinion is perhaps controversial and / or challenging the status quo. This is what often drives ideas and the society forward. And we can see that the Members from this august House do give constructive criticisms even though they are just the backbenchers.

What crosses the line though is when the opinion is used as a veil or excuse to try and mask an intention to cause harm and / or damage and / or ridicule another Member of this august House, a group of people or an organisation. It's not just what the Members say, it is why and how he is saying it too. Saying things that are deliberately or intentionally damaging and harmful, hateful or malicious and doing so under the given of sharing an opinion or discussion does not make it okay! This particular amendment does not seek to suppress or silence the Opposition. On the contrary, it guises the Oppositions' the opportunity to express the truth and to give constructive criticisms and to work within ethics that this Honourable House deserves.

Tuan Speaker, the Honourable Members of this august House should be ethically and professionally required to ask questions and debate based on facts from reliable sources which are accurate and not on half-cooked facts in the words of the Member for Balingian. Where any allegations against another Member is made, it is only proper and ethical and responsible that this Member cites the source of his allegation from a reliable source. This is to allow the public to draw their own conclusion based on accurate facts and not on hearsay or based on half-cooked facts.

This amendment, Tuan Speaker, this amendment will prevent any Member including myself to create a negative allegation or negative insinuation or negative opinion without first verifying the facts against another Member to create a negative perception against another Member.

Tuan Speaker, the proposed amendment to the Standing Order is, therefore, timely and on that note, I fully support this Motion by the Minister. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member for Padungan.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for giving me this chance to participate in the debate on the Ministerial Motion to amend the Standing Orders. I will go straight to the proposed amendments to Standing Order 32, which I will read out together with the original Standing Order.

Standing Order 32 sub-paragraph (10) reads, it shall not, as proposed by the Honourable Minister, reads as follows, "*It shall be out of order for any Member to use or refer in his speech or contained in his speech –*

(a)
(b)
(c)
(d) …"

(d) is the additional, new addition to the Standing Order 32 (10). But (a), (b), (c) as it stands in the existing Standing Orders,

(a) treasonable word;
(b) seditious word; and

(c) words which are likely to promote feelings of ill-will or hostility between different communities in the State or infringe the Constitution of the State of Sarawak or the Sedition Act 1948.

Now with the proposed amendments, the addition of clause (d) which is any information. I will quote, "*Any information, allegation or comment by any person or organisation including those published in the newspapers, online news portals, social media or any online platform, the veracity or truth whereof he is unable to or has not been able to verify*."

Tuan Speaker, I have no quarrels to include some restrictions on the use of information of social media, allegations on social media or online platforms. However, I take strong exception and objection to include the words, "*those published in the newspapers*".

Tuan Speaker, I just give you an example just to put in context how this amendment is going to work and how far-reaching, in fact, it's going to curtail and suppress debate in this House. Last week Donald Trump won the US State Election. How do we know that? We know it through CNN, BBC, news portals. Alright. With this amendment we can't use that information because we can't verify it unless you want to call Donald Trump. Hey Mr President, or Donald, have you won, or you have won the election? You can't verify it by reading the newspaper. You have to read; you have to verify it beyond what is published in the newspaper or news portals. That is how it reads. Because what is published in the newspaper, you have to verify the truth.

Here, I give you an example. UNIMAS moves up in QS Asia University ranking, is published. This is the information published in the newspaper. Sarawak Tribune today's newspaper. This is the information; university moves up in QS Asia university ranking. Alright, one of us would like to congratulate UNIMAS. One of us may want to use this information in our debate but cannot. You have to go and ask UNIMAS, *ehh* are you sure you move up the QS ranking? Oh, that may not even be sufficient. That may not even be sufficient for the case of verification. You have to call QS. QS's ranking body to verify. That is what it means by verify. Verify from the source of information. The mere fact that it is published in the newspaper is not good enough for even debate in this House. When the whole world is reading the same news, you can't even raise it in your debate in this Dewan Undangan Negeri. This is ridiculous. And this amendment has the far-reaching effect that I have mentioned just now.

Tuan Speaker, here there are still reporting, right, house breaking suspect nabbed. It deals with security issues. When Members of the House wish to raise an argument on or debate on security of our state, he has to rely on newspaper reports on crime rates reported in the newspaper. And how do you expect him to go and call up, call up who, call who, call police? To say, *ehh* how is it? And I call which police? CP of Sarawak, IGP, KDN Minister? Verify, because otherwise he cannot use it in the debate. That is how it is.

And it was even reported here, Tuan Speaker, let me show you how ridiculous this is, this amendment is, by the inclusion of the word '*newspapers'* and *'online news portals'*. Alright here, business times, business portion of the Sarawak Tribune, positive growth continues for our country. When it is reported in the newspaper you cannot rely on it. You cannot base your argument on it. You cannot even raise it in your debate on it. Because it is an information published in the newspapers.

Tuan Speaker, how are you going to debate based on contemporary information? How are you going to get contemporary information and to base your argument or debate on? *Ya*, I think Satok is seeking clarification. *Ya*, I will give him clarification.

Tuan Speaker: Who is asking for clarification? Oh, Satok.

YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki: Can *ah?* Boleh? I am just saying that you are quite emotional today. Very emotional actually, you know. But we are here having a friendly debate and the points that you raised specifically is the issue that you raised well it is agreeable to me, you know.

Firstly, because the issue that you brought up just now about Trump, about the paper, this public, what you call this is public news you know. It is known to the public. It is not a specific sort of news that is questionable in a way. But, if you want to question, you can. You can, I mean if you want to verify it, for example like Trump winning the election, you know, so you can verify it too. So many sources. You have CNN. *…(Interruption)…*

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

YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki: No. I mean, you don't have to ask me. That's why I said it is public, you know. Like the newspapers, if you want to verify it, you know, you can ask the newspapers. But what I think is that this particular Motion is to deal with specific issues, specialized issues you know. Which I think is more on personal matters being raised by the Members, *ya*. You agree with me, *ya?*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I'll answer you.

YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki: Ok, thank you.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, I take the question from Satok. He said, you know Donald Trump won, you can verify, verify from where? From the news. But you cannot because by virtue of this amendment, Satok you are a lawyer, I am a lawyer. We are legally trained. The Minister who tables this is a lawyer.

Read, read it. Any information, allegations or comments by any persons or organizations including those published in the newspapers, online news portals, you must verify beyond reading the newspapers. War on Ukraine, you want to talk about it? You cannot rely on any report in the newspaper or news portal. You have to go there and call up Zelensky. *Ehh*, are you having a war with Russia or Putin? Are you invading Ukraine? That is what you call verifications, right? But if you are unable to call Putin, if you are unable to call Zelensky, then you can't verify. You can't rely on the news portals, newspaper reports to mention that there is a war in Ukraine. Even when you read, you read the amendment. You read the amendment, proposed amendment. *…(Interruption)…*

YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki: …*(Inaudible)…*

Tuan Speaker: I think you have to get a better example *…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: You look, you look at it. It should be out of order*…(Interruption)…*

YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki: …*(Inaudible)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: *Ya*. But how are you going to verify that there is war in Ukraine? Are you going to fly over there to have a look at yourself? You can't. How are you *…(Interruption)…*

YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki: …*(Inaudible)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: No, no, no, no. Alright. No, the whole thing is that you can only verify it through news reporting. International news reporting, credible mainstream news reporting. Alright this are… but, but that is what exactly this amendment prohibits. Alright. It doesn't give you the right to verify through other news reporting. Are you saying that, if there are two newspapers reporting the same thing, that is sufficient verification. If that is the case, then, so be it. Then, state it in the amendment, if there are more than newspapers reporting, then it's okay. Anyway, Tuan Speaker *…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: No. Honourable Member for Padungan, you get a better example to say Donald Trump is the President is neither criminal nor scandalous nor libelous. So, you don't need to verify *…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, Tuan Speaker, in the proposed amendment, the wording is any information. There is no qualification that the information has to be scandalous. There is no information, there is no qualification that the information has to be scandalous or defamatory or hurting someone*…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: That's what *…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Not like (a), (b), (c) the one before. This is (d)*…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: That's what it (a), (b), (c) then, (d) *…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: No, you see. There is, there is, there is… it stands by itself alone. There is no requirement that it has to be read together (a), (b) or (c). It stands by itself alone. Tuan Speaker, you are a lawyer by training. You can look at the wordings and come to the conclusion and if you think that, if you are of the opinion that (d) must be read and interpreted together with (a), (b), (c) then, make a ruling now. I'm okay with that*…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: You are a lawyer*…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: And now you don't dare to make the ruling*…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: Honourable Member, you are a lawyer. Any repeat of a libel, is a fresh libel. If something is libelous*…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I'm not talking about libel. I'm talking about this*…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: You will repeat*…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I'm not talking about libel. I'm talking about this*…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: This is libelous*…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, I'm talking about this amendment. Look at the amendment, read the Standing Orders. Look at the amendment, how it will affect the debate in this House. Look at the amendments together and read it with the Standing Orders. You see there is nothing to talk about libel. Nothing to talk about defamatory. *…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: It is*…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: It talks about sedition, it talks about. So, Tuan Speaker, I raised my argument on this point. I think this proposed amendment is too wide. I can accept it if the Minister would be kind enough and reasonable enough to take out the words "*in the newspapers, online news portals*". Take those out and I can accept the cost that you know about social media, online platforms, yes. These are platforms that reports news that is not accountable that they are unlikely to be accountable by any authority like Facebook postings, like *TikTok* and all these. But newspapers, online news portal they are licensed. Every year they have to report to the KDN.

So, if they published something very wrong, criminal, they are liable. I can accept that this proposed amendment if the words in the newspapers, online news portals are taken out. I believe that it is a more reasonable proposed amendment to our standing order.

Tuan Speaker, don't be too prejudice in your opinion of what I am saying. Read the proposed amendment. Read the proposed amendment and think twice, alright and see whether it falls exactly within what I said. Positive growth continues. How to verify? Cannot verify. You see. You can't verify, verify with who? It's a news report. Information obtained in the newspaper. Alright, Tuan Speaker, therefore, for amendment to Standing Order 32…*(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: I think the words and there, you missed out. There is and.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I have stated my stand, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: And.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: You may not. Are you saying that because of the word '*and*' so the information allegation or comment reported in the newspaper has to be either seditious or what is it, seditious, treasonable or likely to promote feelings you wish among different communities. Are you making the ruling on that? If there is, please make it clear and that such information is only relating to treasonable sedition comment. Is that your stand? Is that your interpretation?

Tuan Speaker: And.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Is that your interpretation? So, it has to be sedition, treasonable, am I right?

Tuan Speaker: And.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes, and. That is what you are saying. So other allegation, other than treasonable, sedition will not be caught in the amendment to (d). Is that right, Tuan Speaker? Is that right? Is that what you are saying? What are you ruling today? Make up your mind. You can't have the cake and eat. Tuan Speaker, that is what it is about. When you say and I take it there. You are saying that (d) must hold together with (a), (b), (c), (d). (a), (b), (c), (d) are all together. I am addressing the Chair; I am addressing the Speaker. That is point number 1.

Point number 2, there is about no member that may whether within or outside the Dewan by conduct action or was ridicule dispute shall contempt for or deliberately refuse to obey such ruling of the Chair.

Tuan Speaker, you may be the Lord in this House but outside this House we are subject to the same law and constitution. You can't regulate what I am doing or what I say, how I act outside this Dewan, is it? And also, Tuan Speaker it is a cardinal convention in the Westminster practice which we are. This is the House of Commons and you have always mentioned that the Opposition should have the say, the government shall have its way. Now you are even trying to take away our rights to have our say, now I go out, Tuan Speaker. That is not right and also, Tuan Speaker, even court's judgement is subjected to dispute, subjected to commence. There are so many legal articles about criticizing certain court's judgement.

Tuan Speaker: How you say, what you say, the words you chose, the phraseology you use, they all matter. You are an Honourable Member of this august House, you cannot be blasé, using seditious, contemptuous…*(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, since when did I use sedition words?

Tuan Speaker: Libelous words and all that. You are a Member of this august House.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes, I know.

Tuan Speaker: You have to choose your words, your phraseology carefully.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes.

Tuan Speaker: You be considered and thoughtful about it.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes, I know.

Tuan Speaker: If you are blasé about it, you are also subjected to the law.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes, I am subjected to the law, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: You have no licence to criticize anybody if the veracity of the statement is questionable and the source is not verified. Surely, this House has the right to regulate its meetings. Surely this House has the right to judge the words you use, the phraseology you used.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: The Speaker doesn't speak**.** That is the rule of our parliamentary convention, the Speaker doesn't speak. But Tuan Speaker, if you are prepared to make a decision you are so one sided or impartial that is subjected to criticism of the public. Bearing in mind that this is the House of Commons. The House of common people. This is not the house of elite. This is the House of Commons, where the common people of Sarawak, they formed their opinions, they formed their court of judgment outside and your decision is bias in this room, this House, this Dewan. Outside the Dewan I can give comment, anyone can give comment on how the Speaker decides whether it is fair, whether it is not fair.

Tuan Speaker: In this House, a Member enjoys immunity, outside you repeat it, you are talking about Westminster, how thick is a book on libel, how many statements has been sued in the courts in England?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, I'm just saying*…(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: Democracy under the law of libel takes away that right*…(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Commenting on your ruling outside the Dewan. Disputing on your ruling outside the Dewan. I can dispute and I don't agree with you. I'm entitled to not agree with you and I'm entitled to speak my mind. I don't agree with your judgement or ruling in this House. Is that wrong in this, in this, in this proposed amendment? You're going to take away my rights of that.

Tuan Speaker: You are allowed to disagree but when you disagree contemptuously and use words that are libel…(*Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I'm not using words that are libel.

Tuan Speaker: That's why it is being judged. You're not being gag, you're not being gag.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: The words here, the words here are disputed, the proposed amendments here are disputes. Okay, I agree that I may not be allowed to bring you, to ridicule you, to show contempt of you, your rulings, alright but definitely I will outside of this Dewan I am entitled to not to obey your rulings, and I am entitled to dispute your rulings. I am entitled to not agree, disagree with you. Are those the rights that you want to take away with this proposed amendment? Is that the intention of this proposed amendment? This is ridiculous.

Tuan Speaker, we are elected by people here to speak without fear or favour, fear and favour and you are trying to instil fear into Member of State Assemblymen in their debate.

Tuan Speaker: You can speak without fear or favour but with facts. Facts.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Yes facts, I have always lay out the facts, I have always lay out the facts.

Tuan Speaker: Then why are you always landed in court? And you lose the case. How many times have you been sued? You have been sued, how many times and you have to pay?

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

Tuan Speaker: Don't tell in this House, you are talking facts and truths. You have been sued.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, you are getting very personal in this matter already.

Tuan Speaker: You lost your case.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: You are getting very personal, as a Speaker you have to be impartial and the Speaker doesn't debate with me, argue with me, the person to argue with me is the Minister, not you.

Tuan Speaker: I did not see you.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Is that your Motion?

Tuan Speaker: But because you address it to me and you take it personal, I never sue you, the other Members sued you and you lost the case. You have to pay fines, how many times? You insulted the government about blackhole, and so forth and you are fine, the others are talking about facts.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: There was no fine, Tuan Speaker. Choose your words properly, I was not fine, I was not fine, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: You have to pay damages.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Damages? I was not fine.

Tuan Speaker: Ya. The same thing. You have to pay.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: You have to know the difference. Fine and damages are different. And mind you, Tuan Speaker, the case is on appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Tuan Speaker: Don't quote Donald Trump, Donald Trump…*(Interruption)…*

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Today, you wrote judgement on my case…*(Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: Donald Trump was convicted as a felon, you are quoting him.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: What is that?

Tuan Speaker: Donald Trump is a convicted felon; you are quoting him as an example.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: You want to condemn him from across the door?

Tuan Speaker: You don't need to condemn; he is convicted by the court in New York.

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: I am not praising him. I was just saying a fact that he is elected as a President and I use that as an example that with this proposed amendment, you can't even…(*Interruption)…*

Tuan Speaker: How many times have you been sued in the High Court of Borneo? How many times you been sued in Borneo?

YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen: Tuan Speaker, you said that he is convicted a felon. How do you know that? Did you verify that? Did you verify? Did you call him out? Did you call the Department of Justice?

Tuan Speaker: I'll ask the Minister to do the winding up. Now, you demonstrate a conduct. That is why the Standing Orders has to be regulated. This time of conduct, you speak for yourself, with this conduct, you are demonstrating why the amendment are necessary to curb this type of conduct.

Okay Honourable Minister, your wind up. Wind up. Honourable Members, surely this Dewan has the right to regulate how the meeting should be, what the words should be, surely, if you tell lies about me, I will tell the truth about you.

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, I wish to express my thanks and appreciations to the Members of this august House for participating in the debate on this motion, Members from Tellian, Meradong, Beting Maro, Murum, Bawang Assan, Bukit Begunan, Pending, Kota Sentosa and Padungan.

I am very much inspired by what I have heard from Members for this august House. It has been our overwhelming support for this particular motion except for the Members from Pending and Padungan, but I can understand. But one thing I would like to say down here, the Standing Orders are meant for each and everyone of us. It is not meant only for the Oppositions.

Quoting what the Honourable Member for Pending had mentioned that the introducing of the motion is meant to suppress and oppress the Opposition and to create a culture of fear. It is not meant to be that way, I believe each and everyone of us know that the moment we get elected, we are here, putting in our vow, our oath, as Honourable Members and to do our best in the Dewan, as well as outside of the Dewan. The **'**Honourable' title and the *'Yang Berhormat'* title needs to be earned. We have to show that we are responsible not just inside the Dewan or outside the Dewan.

Well, a lot have been said about why the Motion was introduced. It was meant to improve the sanctity of this Dewan. I am very much encouraged, I am very much inspired, as I mentioned just now, my raft, the Members of this august House, I mentioned, it is the responsibility of each and everyone of us when we are debating, when we are outside of the august House, when we having press conferences to tell the truth and not to do the opposite, that is to tell the untruth. And I fully believe that, that is the whole intention of this motion, why I introduce this motion.

Things has changed, those days how we communicate with the public is different from how we communicate these days. With social media being introduced, we hardly used *surat layang* or in return forms that is why the Standing Orders need to undergo this kind of revolution too. And that is why, it is just timely for us to come up with this kind of motion with me to guide us so that we can preserve this august House and make us as well as this august House be respected not just by the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat but also by those outside, the members of the public as well as those from other states or other countries, how they will look at us.

Well, I don't have much more to say even though I've written so much down here, I have to say once again express my thanks to all those Members who have debated on this Bill. As it is, as I mentioned just now, it is not meant to penalize, it is not meant for the Members of Opposition but any changes on the Standing Orders applies to each and every one of us, each and every one of us in this august House whether it is now or whether in the future after the election, those who are going to be elected, it will still apply to them.

On that note, Tuan Speaker, I wish to express my thanks to all the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat who has given their opinion to support this particular motion that I am introducing today and the views of the two Honourable Members for Pending and Kota Sentosa, we will look into that. As it is, Padungan has mentioned about newspaper. Personally, I see it is still relevant down here. When you say it is the newspaper, you cannot just limit the newspapers that are in Malaysia. We know for the newspapers to be able to be in the streets, they need to be licensed, they need to have permits from the Kementerian Dalam Negeri, but then you can also be quoting the newspaper, they come from other countries that is also newspaper. And that is where the responsibility needs to be there. Whatever we want to introduce into the Dewan or outside of the Dewan, if you are to quote, wrongful, untruth information from newspaper or news portals, or whatsapp, or other forms of social media, it would still be applicable in this particular case. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker: What is meant by the Amendment is the lie repeated outside must not be dignified in this honourable House. Alright, Honourable Member for Nangka to second.

Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi) (YB Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee): Tuan Speaker, I beg to second the motion, thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question is that the Motion in the name of Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development; and Member for N.15 Asajaya be approved. 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: Only one voice, the Motion is approved. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhomat, I shall put this Ministerial Motion to the vote. As many of the opinion say "*Yes*".

Government: Yes… (Resounding *"Yes"*)

Tuan Speaker: As many of the opinion say "*No*", the "*Yes*" have it. I hereby declare that the Ministerial Motion in the name of the Honourable Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts; Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development and Member for N.15 Asajaya be approved.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the sitting is now adjourned, and the House shall resume its sitting at 9.00 am tomorrow.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 7.06 petang)