



**SARAWAK**

**PENYATA RASMI PERSIDANGAN  
DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI**

Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Official Reports and Debates

**MESYUARAT PERTAMA BAGI PENGGAL KETIGA**  
First Meeting of the Third Session

**06 – 15 MEI 2024**

**DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS**  
Nineteenth Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

**SELASA**

**07 MEI 2024**

**(28 SYAWAL 1445H)**

**KUCHING**

**Peringatan untuk Ahli Dewan:**

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

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**SARAWAK**  
**DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS**

*Penyata Rasmi*

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**MESYUARAT PERTAMA BAGI PENGGAL KETIGA**

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*Selasa, 7 Mei 2024*

*Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.07 pagi*

**HADIR**

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

9. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah  
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E.  
*Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan  
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10. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin  
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*Menteri Pengangkutan* N.75 Senadin
11. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai  
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*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  
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*Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Buruh, Imigresen dan  
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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  
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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  
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*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
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*Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan)* N.30 Balai Ringin
27. Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Saidol  
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.K., P.T.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Hal Ehwal Korporat dan Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak)* N.42 Semop
28. Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew  
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29. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo  
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*Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur)* N.24 Sadong Jaya
30. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Ripin bin Lamat  
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*Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Pembangunan Usahawan)* N.72 Lambir
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*Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar* N.5 Demak Laut

32. Yang Berhormat Datuk Maclaine Ben @ Martin Ben  
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah (Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah)* N.22 Kedup
33. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam  
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.  
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34. Yang Berhormat Dato Henry Harry anak Jinep  
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35. Yang Berhormat Dato' Murshid DiRaja Dr Juanda bin Jaya  
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37. Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat  
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| 50. | Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How  | <i>N.11 Batu Lintang</i> |
| 51. | Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang<br>P.S.B.S., B.B.S., J.B.K.              | <i>N.13 Batu Kitang</i>  |
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| 61. | Yang Berhormat Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad<br>J.B.K., P.P.B.                     | <i>N.43 Daro</i>         |
| 62. | Yang Berhormat Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon<br>J.B.S., P.P.N., A.B.S.              | <i>N.66 Murum</i>        |
| 63. | Yang Berhormat Encik Allan Siden Gramong<br>P.B.S., A.B.S.                       | <i>N.50 Machan</i>       |
| 64. | Yang Berhormat Encik Mohd Chee bin Kadir<br>A.B.S., P.B.S., P.J.P.N., J.B.S.     | <i>N.40 Kabong</i>       |
| 65. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim<br>A.M.N., P.M.W.                    | <i>N.17 Stakan</i>       |
| 66. | Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang<br>A.B.S.                                | <i>N.74 Pujut</i>        |

67.	Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor P.B.S.	N.28 Lingga
68.	Yang Berhormat Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada A.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N.	N.21 Tebedu
69.	Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang P.B.S., P.P.B.	N.1 Opar
70.	Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin P.B.S., K.M.N.	N.12 Kota Sentosa
71.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri P.B.K., A.B.S.	N.38 Kalaka
72.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa J.B.S., P.T.E.	N.33 Engkilili
73.	Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian	N.81 Ba'Kelalan
74.	Yang Berhormat Encik Friday anak Belik A.B.K., P.P.S., P.P.B., P.B.K., P.P.C.	N.39 Krian
75.	Yang Berhormat Encik Anyi anak Jana P.B.K.	N.49 Ngemah
76.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek P.B.S.	N.51 Bukit Assek
77.	Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine J.B.K., A.B.S.	N.57 Tellian
78.	Yang Berhormat Encik Lidam anak Assan P.B.S.	N.62 Katibas
79.	Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai P.B.S.	N.64 Baleh
80.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming P.B.S.	N.68 Tanjung Batu
81.	Yang Berhormat Encik Iskandar bin Turkee	N.67 Jepak

**TIDAK HADIR**

*(Kebenaran di bawah Peraturan Mesyuarat 81)*

<b>Bil.</b>	<b>Nama</b>	<b>Konstituensi</b>
1.	Yang Berhormat Dato Majang anak Renggi P.S.B.S., P.B.K., A.B.S. <i>Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan)</i>	N.70 Samalaju
2.	Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan P.B.S.	N.3 Tanjung Datu

## TURUT HADIR

1. Encik Nur Azhar bin Bujang  
*Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak*
2. Encik Abang Mohammad Adib bin Abang Sallehadin  
*Pemangku Timbalan Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak*
3. Inspektor Ahmad Khairul Aiman bin Hassan  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
4. Encik Abang Nasiruddin bin Abang Mohd Khalid  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
5. Encik Lydwilkyn Andar anak Umbau  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
6. Encik Hadyan bin Abd Rahman  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
7. Encik Mohd Saiful bin Ahmad Zaidi  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
8. Encik Dylan Tan Hock Ming  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
9. Encik Nizle anak Junep  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*

## PETUGAS PERSIDANGAN

### PEGAWAI UNDANG-UNDANG DAN PEMBACA PRUF

1. Encik Simson Sim Zhao Yao *Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*
2. Cik Vanessa anak Jawa *Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak*

### PEMBACA PRUF

1. Puan Dorensia Dyonie Dominic *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*
2. Encik Chiew Serit *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 Ratna Airnwati binti Haji Md. Junaidi *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
8. Puan Sabtuyah binti Adeng *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
9. Puan Nori Othman *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
10. Puan Mariana binti Brahim *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
11. Puan Zuriawati binti Mohd Laili *Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*
12. Encik Azhwan bin Bujang *Regional Corridor Development Authority*
13. Encik Mohd Alfadjer bin Tuah *Pejabat Residen Bahagian Kuching*
14. Puan Pauline anak Bunin *Penjara Puncak Borneo*
15. Puan Dorina Asort *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
16. Puan Florence Jalong *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
17. Puan Leidiana binti Azahari *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
18. Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
19. Puan Dayang Duraiza binti Haji Awang Jangka *Lembaga Sumber Asli & Alam Sekitar Sarawak*

- |     |                                   |   |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 20. | Puan Margaret anak Francis Bohui  | <i>Lembaga Penyatuan dan Pemulihan Tanah Sarawak</i>  |
| 21. | Puan Anieta Sylvester Pungga      | <i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>   |
| 22. | Puan Juliana Lugom                | <i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>   |
| 23. | Puan Rosemary Langub              | <i>Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak</i>  |
| 24. | Puan Derna anak Johin             | <i>Unit Pemantauan Pelaksanaan Sarawak, Jabatan Premier Sarawak</i>   |
| 25. | Puan Azah Mohamad Jally           | <i>Kementerian Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak</i>  |
| 26. | Puan Rosline anak Dominic Maon    | <i>Kementerian Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak</i>  |
| 27. | Puan Nur Izzatul Fatimah Abdullah | <i>Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak</i>  |
| 28. | Puan Nurhaida binti Amin          | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Kawasan Sarawak, Jabatan Penyiaran Negeri Sarawak</i>                                    |
| 29. | Puan Valarie Jane anak Aitman     | <i>Pejabat Pembangunan Persekutuan Negeri Sarawak, Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan, Jabatan Perdana Menteri</i> |

#### **JURURAKAM PERSIDANGAN**

- |    |                                |                                  |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Encik Hussein bin Shuini       | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i> |
| 2. | Encik Vong Choon Chan          | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i> |
| 3. | Encik Fareez Azizi bin Zakeria | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i> |
| 4. | Puan Sandora Jelema            | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i> |

#### **JURUCETAK**

- |    |                                      |  |
|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Encik Mohamad Nor Majidi bin Marekan | <i>Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad</i> |
| 2. | Encik Vincent Vyner ak Tubom         | <i>Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad</i> |

#### **JURUTEKNIK IT**

- |    |                                     |              |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Encik Abang Hasmadi bin Abang Wahab | <i>SAINS</i> |
| 2. | Encik Alan Chai                     | <i>SAINS</i> |
| 3. | Puan Kartini binti Asman            | <i>SAINS</i> |
| 4. | Puan Natasya binti Abdullah         | <i>SAINS</i> |

#### **MESSENGER**

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Encik Mohamad Zahari bin Hamden            | <i>Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak</i>  |
| 2. | Encik Helmy bin Abdul Rahman               | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>  |
| 3. | Encik Shah Riwandu Sia bin Ridzuan         | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>  |
| 4. | Encik Mohammad Zaidi bin Rambli            | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>  |
| 5. | Encik Edry Saiful bin Abdul Hamid          | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>  |
| 6. | Encik Lawrence Encharang                   | <i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>  |
| 7. | Encik Mohamed Nazeerudin bin Gulam Mohamed | <i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i> |
| 8. | Encik Fadillah bin Lokman                  | <i>Jabatan Tanah dan Survei Bahagian Kuching</i>                              |

#### **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. Cik Nurhaffizah Abdullah
11. Puan Natasha Nadia binti Mohd. Saidi
12. Puan Angela Lisa anak Mathew Linol
13. Encik Felix Aaron anak Michael
14. Cik Calista Abbie anak Sapa @ Patrick Sapa
15. Cik Sharina binti Sopian
16. Puan Norziana binti Haji Ahmad
17. Encik Mohd Hasfia bin Abdullah
18. Puan Nur Eliana Abdullah
19. Puan Nazmah binti Darham
20. Puan Tracy Lyana anak Bana
21. Encik Mohd Zulkhairi bin Mohammad Hejemi
22. Puan Dayang Nazira binti Abang Martaza
23. Puan Jasmine Sinja anak Robinson
24. Puan Dayang Noorazilla binti Jasni
25. Cik Parcelia Renyelia anak Pamg
26. Cik Nur Zafirah binti Affendy Michael
27. Puan Deidre anak Wilson
28. Encik Muhammad Elliyas bin Matali
29. Cik Siti Nur Marsitah binti Roslan
30. Puan Nur Amira Lystiani binti Poniman
31. Encik Alwie bin Haji Ali
32. Cik Hawa binti Morsad
33. Encik Razali bin Awi
34. Puan Nora binti Atem
35. Encik Zahari bin Bolhi
36. Encik Lukas Jammany anak Kated
37. Encik Hazrin Syah bin Hamzah
38. Encik Salman bin Jaya
39. Encik Romzi bin Bujang
40. Encik Musa bin Julai
41. Puan Suraya binti Hamden
42. Puan Noraisah binti Ahmad
43. Cik Siti Zalilah binti Samsawi

#### **PELAJAR PRAKTIKAL**

1. Encik Mohammad Aizzat Rahman bin Ismail
2. Cik Nurathirah binti Talang
3. Encik Mohammad Naufal bin Sharzalee
4. Encik Alikhan bin Adil Rahman
5. Encik Muhamad Arish Syameer Ruka bin Mohd Hafiz Beckwell

*(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 9.07 pagi)*

*[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan mesyuarat]*

**DOA**

**PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER**

**Tuan Speaker:** Bismillahirrahmannirahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Selamat pagi dan Salam sejahtera. Honourable Members, under Standing Order 12(1) and (2), government's business shall take precedents over private members' business and government's business shall be set down in such order as the government thinks fit and communicate it to the Secretary.

Four days that is, today, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week are set aside for the daily one-hour question time. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week shall be devoted to the debate on the TYT's interests. The Ministerial reply shall take the remaining three days of next week that is Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), I have appointed the following Honourable Members to be Members of the Standing Orders for the Selection Committee for this session:

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

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

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted leave of absence under Standing Order 81 to the Yang Berhormat Datuk Majang anak Renggi, Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development (Port Development) and Honourable Member for N.70 Samalaju for today's sitting until 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan, Honourable Member for N.3 Tanjong Datu for today's sitting.

**PERTANYAAN-PERTANYAAN BAGI JAWAPAN-JAWAPAN LISAN**

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

**YB Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmannirahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

*Bunga seroja mekar di taman,  
Harum mewangi kesukaan sang ratu;  
Mohon YB Datuk Menteri beri jawapan,  
Soalan saya nombor satu.*

*Program Bantuan Bersasar*

**(1) YB Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor** bertanya kepada Premier Sarawak: Kerajaan Persekutuan telah melancarkan Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) sebagai mekanisma melaksana Program Bantuan Bersasar kepada rakyat. Apakah perancangan dan strategi Kerajaan Sarawak untuk melaksanakan bantuan bersasar kepada rakyat Sarawak yang layak?

**(58) YB Encik John anak Ilus** bertanya kepada Premier Sarawak: Apakah tindakan selanjutnya oleh pihak Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak terhadap isu yang berkaitan dengan Pangkalan Data Utama

(PADU) dan apakah tindakan susulan atas maklumat-maklumat yang telah dimuat naik ke dalam sistem tersebut?

**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 dan terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro. Tuan Speaker, izinkan saya untuk menjawab soalan ini bersama dengan soalan no. 58 kerana kedua-dua soalan berkaitan dengan perkara yang sama. Soalan no. 58 adalah daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi N.23 Bukit Semuja.

Tuan Speaker, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro, Kerajaan Sarawak akan berbincang dengan Kerajaan Persekutuan mengenai kaedah pelaksanaan penyaluran bantuan bersasar kepada penerima yang layak dalam kalangan rakyat Sarawak dalam masa yang terdekat. Ini adalah penting untuk memastikan kepentingan rakyat terutamanya dari segi data mereka agak terlindung atau selamat.

Kerajaan Sarawak melalui agensi-agensi berkaitan termasuk juga agensi persekutuan di Sarawak akan mengenal pasti mekanisme yang terbaik mengikut penyaluran bantuan bersasar kepada penerima yang layak dalam kalangan rakyat Sarawak untuk memastikan tiada rakyat Sarawak yang layak tercicir daripada menerima bantuan. Sebenarnya kita bersedia untuk melaksanakan bantuan subsidi bersasar dari Kerajaan Persekutuan menggunakan data yang sedia ada pada agensi-agensi di Sarawak. Actually, it is similar to what we have implemented for our *Bantuan Khas Sarawakku Sayang (BKSS)*.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Semuja, Kerajaan Sarawak akan berbincang dengan Kerajaan Persekutuan dalam usaha melindungi kepentingan rakyat terutama dalam hal berkaitan keselamatan data. Kerajaan Sarawak juga telah menyatakan pendirian untuk menengahkan pelaksanaan PADU di Sarawak. Ini bagi memberikan ruang kepada Kerajaan Sarawak untuk mengadakan perbincangan dan mendapatkan penjelasan lebih lanjut daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan berkenaan isu keselamatan data dan ancaman keselamatan siber yang menjadi kerisauan rakyat. Kaedah pelaksanaan pendaftaran PADU di Sarawak turut akan dibincangkan bagi memastikan keberkesanan pelaksanaannya di Sarawak. Terima kasih.

**YB Tuan Haji Razali bin Haji Gapor: (Soalan Tambahan).** Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri atas jawapan. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Apakah isu-isu utama dalam pelaksanaan PADU di negeri Sarawak?
- (b) Apakah langkah-langkah yang diambil untuk memastikan keselamatan data individu dan keluarga dalam mencapai kejayaan program bantuan bersasar yang dilaksanakan oleh Kerajaan Sarawak?

**Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-Undang MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) (YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali):** Terima kasih, *you want to ask another question?* Terima kasih Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro atas soalan tambahan itu. Isu utama yang berkaitan dengan pelaksanaan PADU di negeri Sarawak adalah kebanyakan mengenai sekuriti dan integriti data kita. Sekuriti dan integriti data merupakan satu perkara yang tidak boleh dipandang ringan. Untuk pengetahuan Dewan yang mulia ini, kes-kes atau insiden yang berkaitan dengan jenayah siber, berkaitan pelanggaran data telah meningkat di seluruh Malaysia.

Dan pada tahun 2023 telah mencapai rekod yang tinggi, *it has reached a record high*. Jenayah siber meningkat tahun ke tahun terutama berkaitan dengan salah guna data. Dengan tiadanya undang-undang yang kukuh, sistem PADU menjadi *vulnerable* ataupun terdedah seperti yang saya sebut tadi ya. So, the lack of legal framework implies that there is no guarantee that the system is

fully protected. A consolidation of data of all Malaysians in one central database would have to be equipped with the highest level of security.

Bagi soalan yang kedua, seperti yang saya telah maklumkan, Kerajaan Sarawak akan mengadakan perbincangan lanjut dengan Kerajaan Persekutuan bagi mendapatkan penjelasan mengenai pelaksanaan keselamatan dan protokol PADU bagi memastikan kepentingan data individu terlindung. Pada masa yang sama, Kerajaan Sarawak melalui Sarawak Multimedia Authority (SMA) akan terus menyelia dan memantau tadbir urus keselamatan siber serta data bagi sektor awam, swasta dan rakyat Sarawak pada umumnya. Ini untuk memastikan data dan maklumat semua pihak akan terpelihara dan terlindung. Kerajaan Sarawak juga akan memastikan maklumat dan data bagi tujuan bantuan bersasar di semua peringkat agensi Sarawak akan mematuhi tadbir urus dan keselamatan siber demi melindungi data peribadi rakyat. Terima kasih.

**YB Encik John anak Ilus:** *Thank you*, Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri yang menjawab soalan walaupun sejauh nombor 58. I think the answer that you have given is very detailed. So, I do not have any supplementary questions. Thank you.

**Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-Undang MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan (YB Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali):** *Thank you*, terima kasih.

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

**YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang:** Tuan Speaker, my question is no. 2.

*Projek Bekalan Air Luar Bandar (BALB)*

**(2) YB Datuk Mong anak Dagang** to ask the Minister for Utility and Telecommunication: Whether there is any plan to extend treated water supply from Bandar Sri Aman to Selepong and Gua?

**Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Utiliti) (YB Datuk Dr. Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi):** Thank you Tuan Speaker. For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Begunan, the project named, "*Projek Bekalan Air Luar Bandar (BALB) ke Bukit Begunan, Bahagian Sri Aman, Sarawak*" to provide treated water supply to Selepong and Gua has been submitted under Rolling Plan 5 (RP5), 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (12MP) to the Kementerian Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah (KKDW) for implementation. This project will benefit approximately 450 new households at Bukit Begunan and the surrounding areas, thank you.

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

- (a) I would like to know how many villages or longhouses that will benefit from the programme of this work; and
- (b) The scope of work involved.

**Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Utiliti) (YB Datuk Dr. Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi):** Thank you, Tuan Speaker, thank you Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Begunan. For the first supplementary question, this project will supply water to the following villages and longhouses in three areas in Bukit Begunan. Namely Kampung Engkaramut, Kampung Elang, Kampung Puai, Kampung Panggau and Kampung Batu Besai. Secondly from Melugu to Kampung Pangil and Kampung Selupong and thirdly from Kampung Selupong Jingau to Kampung Gua and Kampung Fran.

For the second supplementary question, the scope of work in this proposed *Projek Bekalan Air Luar Bandar ke kawasan* Bukit Begunan, Bahagian Sri Aman, Sarawak, involve the laying of 65

km pipelines of various sizes as well as the construction of high-level water tank, booster station and other associated works, thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek, Bukit Assek.

**YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. My question is no. 4.

**Tuan Speaker:** No, your question is no. 3.

**YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek:** My question is number 3, you are right, Tuan Speaker.

**Tuan Speaker:** No. 4 is Kabong.

*Flats and Affordable Apartments in Sibu*

**(3) YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek** to ask the Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development: When will flats and affordable apartments in Sibu within or nearby Bukit Assek Redevelopment Project area be built to resettle those tenants and asset owners respectively before this re development commenced in year 2026?

**Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar (YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh):** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Assek. For a while, I felt a bit confused because I do not have the answer for no. 4. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Assek, kerajaan melalui Lembaga Pembangunan dan Lindungan Tanah (LCDA) sedang menyediakan Pelan Induk Projek Pembangunan Semula Bukit Assek, Sibu di mana draf laporan akhir dijangka siap pada suku ketiga tahun 2024 tahun ini dan akan dikemukakan kepada Majlis Perancangan Negeri untuk pertimbangan. Cadangan untuk membina flat dan rumah mampu milik (*affordable housing*) turut diambil kira dalam penyediaan pelan induk tersebut. Terima kasih.

**YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek:** (*Soalan Tambahan*) Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Apakah status terkini kajian-kajian yang sedang dilaksanakan oleh perunding yang telah dilantik bagi penyediaan Pelan Induk Projek Pembangunan Semula Bukit Assek? Dan
- (b) Selain daripada rumah mampu milik, iaitu *affordable housing*, apakah komponen lain seperti pusat komersial juga turut diambil kira dalam cadangan Pelan Induk Projek Pembangunan Semula Bukit Assek?

**Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar (YB Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh):** Terima kasih sekali lagi Tuan Speaker, terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Assek. Untuk menjawab soalan pertama, status terkini bagi kajian-kajian yang sedang dilaksanakan oleh perunding yang telah dilantik bagi Penyediaan Pelan Induk Projek Pembangunan Semula Bukit Assek ialah pertama, *Flood Risk Assessment*, peringkat kedua, *Study Area Crowd Verse Master Plan* dan peringkat ketiga, *Detailed Master Plan for Bukit Assek*. Setakat ini survei topografi dan lapangan dan kajian peringkat pertama untuk mengenal pasti kawasan *flood risk* telah siap sepenuhnya manakala kajian peringkat kedua dan ketiga sedang dilaksanakan dan dijangka siap pada suku ketiga tahun ini.

Untuk menjawab soalan kedua, selain penyediaan rumah mampu milik, *affordable housing*, komponen-komponen lain seperti pusat komersial, institusi kerajaan, pusat rekreasi, pendidikan, kesihatan dan komuniti serta kemudahan-kemudahan awam akan turut diambil kira dalam penyediaan pelan induk ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat Encik Mohd Chee bin Kadir, Kabong.

**YB Encik Mohd Chee bin Kadir:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, soalan saya no. 4.

*Masalah Penagihan Dadah dan Judi Atas Talian*

**(4) YB Encik Mohd Chee bin Kadir** bertanya kepada Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti Sarawak: Gejala penagihan dadah dan judi atas talian dalam kalangan penduduk semakin tenat di Sarawak dan kawasan Kabong tidak terkecuali. Apakah tindakan agensi-agensi yang dipertanggungjawab dalam membendung masalah ini?

**(25) YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri** bertanya kepada Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti Sarawak: Apakah Langkah yang diambil Kerajaan bagi menangani masalah penyalahgunaan dadah dan berapa jumlah tangkapan kes kesalahan pengedaran dadah di DUN N.38 Kalaka?

**Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti) (YB Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, terima kasih juga Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong. Tuan Speaker, saya mohon izin untuk menjawab soalan urutan no. 4 daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong ini bersama dengan soalan urutan no. 25 daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kalaka.

*Isu Penyalahgunaan Dadah dan Substans*

Tuan Speaker, isu penyalahgunaan dadah dan substans seperti yang ditanya, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong, isu penyalahgunaan dadah dan substans dan jenayah siber, termasuk judi haram atas talian, adalah dua daripada 14 isu sosial yang diberi fokus oleh kementerian kami. Bagi isu penyalahgunaan dadah dan substans ini, kerajaan mengambil langkah-langkah bersepadu, komprehensif, holistik dan bersasar dengan kolaborasi ahli-ahli tadbir urus *One Stop Committee (OSC)* bagi Menangani Isu Dadah dan Substans (MIDS) peringkat negeri dan daerah di Sarawak.

Melalui Pelan Tindakan Bersepadu OSC MIDS, kementerian komited untuk terus:

- (a) Menyekat bekalan dadah dan substans terlarang melalui tindakan penguatkuasaan yang agresif oleh Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Narkotik (JSJN) IPK Sarawak dan Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia;
- (b) Menyekat permintaan terhadap dadah dan substans terlarang melalui tindakan pengesanan dan pencegahan yang mantap oleh JSJN dan Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan (AADK) Negeri Sarawak;
- (c) Rehabilitasi terhadap komuniti terjebak dadah dan substans dengan menyediakan akses kepada rawatan dan pemulihan yang meluas dan berterusan oleh Pusat Pemulihan Narkotik AADK dan One Stop Centre for Addiction (OCSA) di klinik-klinik kesihatan terpilih di Sarawak;
- (d) Memperkasakan daya tahan komuniti rentan dan berisiko melalui aktiviti kesedaran dan advokasi yang bersasar oleh Majlis Pembangunan Sosial, AADK, Sarawak State Department of Health, Persatuan Mecegah Dadah Malaysia (PEMADAM), Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah dan Biro MIDS Kawasan Penghulu; dan
- (e) Menubuhkan tadbir urus dan terma rujukan yang berfungsi dan berkesan bagi MIDS di peringkat akar umbi dengan penubuhan Biro MIDS Kawasan Penghulu dan Jawatankuasa Pemulihan Dadah Daerah (JKPD).

Bagi kawasan Kabong, Pegawai Daerah Kabong telah menubuhkan OSC MIDS Daerah pada 23 Disember 2020. Perkhidmatan OCSA disediakan di klinik kesihatan yang terdekat di Bahagian

Betong iaitu di Klinik Kesihatan MIDS Layar, Betong sejak tahun 2021. Manakala JKPD Daerah Kabong juga telah ditubuhkan pada tahun 2023.

Sebagai langkah berterusan untuk membanteras dan mencegah penyalahgunaan substans dan isu judi haram dalam talian, kementerian giat melaksanakan program intervensi sosial secara bersepadu dan bersasar di kawasan berisiko tinggi di seluruh Sarawak. Manakala bagi kawasan Kabong, sebanyak empat siri program intervensi sosial telah dilaksanakan sejak tahun 2018.

Tuan Speaker, untuk menjawab soalan daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kalaka, Pegawai Daerah Saratok telah menubuhkan OSC MIDS Daerah pada 30 April 2019. Perkhidmatan OSCA disediakan di klinik kesihatan yang terdekat, iaitu di Klinik Kesihatan MIDS Layar, Bahagian Betong sejak tahun 2021. Manakala JKPD Daerah Saratok juga telah ditubuhkan pada tahun 2023 untuk melestarikan usaha pencegahan dan pemulihan komuniti terjebak substans.

Berkaitan jumlah tangkapan kes kesalahan pengedaran dadah di DUN N.38 Kalaka, sepanjang tahun 2023, Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Narkotik Ibu Pejabat Kontinjen PDRM Sarawak telah merekodkan sebanyak 31 kes melibatkan 31 tangkapan merangkumi pelbagai kesalahan aktiviti penyalahgunaan dadah di Daerah Saratok. Daripada jumlah tersebut, enam kes dengan tujuh tangkapan adalah melibatkan kesalahan mengedar dadah di Daerah Saratok.

Antara Januari hingga Mac tahun ini, sebanyak 12 kes melibatkan 14 tangkapan direkodkan di Daerah Saratok. Daripada jumlah tersebut, dua kes dengan empat tangkapan melibatkan kesalahan mengedar dadah di Daerah Saratok.

#### *Isu Judi Atas Talian (Online)*

Tuan Speaker, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong, antara usaha penguatkuasaan agresif yang dijalankan bagi membanteras aktiviti perjudian di Sarawak adalah serbuan secara berterusan yang diketuai oleh Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Komersial (JSJK) PDRM Sarawak ke atas premis-premis yang dikenal pasti menjalankan aktiviti perjudian tersebut. Penganjur yang terlibat diambil tindakan di bawah Akta Pencegahan Jenayah, 1959. Melalui tindakan bersepadu dengan Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB), premis-premis yang terlibat juga dikenakan pemotongan elektrik di bawah Seksyen 21(a) Akta Rumah Judi Terbuka 1953. Dengan kolaborasi Suruhanjaya Komunikasi Multimedia Malaysia (SKMM), laman sesawang perjudian, sindiket perjudian terlibat dipantau dan dikenakan sekatan. Kita sangat mengalu-alukan kerjasama orang awam, komuniti setempat untuk menyalurkan maklumat yang berkaitan jika berlaku di kawasan mereka.

Bagi kawasan Kabong, sebanyak 98 serbuan berjaya dilakukan antara tahun 2022 dan Mac 2024 melibatkan 99 tangkapan. Daripada jumlah serbuan tersebut, 67 kes berjaya dituduh di mahkamah. Bagi menangani isu tersebut secara bersepadu, kementerian kami telah mengangkat gejala jenayah siber yang merangkumi judi atas talian ini sebagai isu baharu daripada 14 isu fokus Majlis Pembangunan Sosial Sarawak (MPS) dalam Mesyuarat Ahli-ahli MPS pada 21 Mac 2022. Melalui MPS juga, kementerian kami memberi kesedaran dan advokasi tentang kesan jenayah siber yang turut melibatkan judi atas talian dalam Program Randau Solidariti Komuniti sejak tahun 2020. Antara tahun 2020 hingga tahun 2023, sebanyak 43 siri program Randau Solidariti Komuniti telah dilaksanakan. Manakala bagi tahun ini, sebanyak 33 siri dirancang untuk dilaksanakan. Terima kasih.

**YB Encik Mohd Chee bin Kadir:** *(Soalan Tambahan)* Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Timbalan Menteri. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan.

- (a) Berapakah bilangan tangkapan melibatkan aktiviti penyalahgunaan dadah dan substans di Daerah Kabong sejak tahun 2021?
- (b) Berapakah bilangan Orang Kena Pengawasan (OKP) semasa di Daerah Kabong?

**Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti) (YB Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam):** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong, sepanjang tahun 2021 hingga Mac 2024, sebanyak 16 tangkapan melibatkan pelbagai kesalahan berkaitan aktiviti penyalahgunaan dadah dan substans direkodkan oleh Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Narkotik IPK Sarawak dan AADK Sarawak.

Manakala di bawah seliaan AADK Daerah Betong, seramai 23 orang individu kepuhian atau dikenali sebagai Orang Kena Pengawasan (OKP) sedang menjalani rawatan dan pemulihan di Daerah Kabong.

Terima kasih.

**YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri: (Soalan Tambahan)** Tuan Speaker, saya ada dua soalan tambahan:

- (a) Berapakah bilangan Orang Kena Pengawasan (OKP) semasa di Daerah Saratok? Dan
- (b) Berapakah bilangan tangkapan melibatkan kesalahan menyalahgunakan dadah di Daerah Saratok sejak tahun 2021?

Terima Kasih.

**Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti) (YB Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam):** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kalaka, di bawah seliaan Agensi Anti dadah Kebangsaan (AADK) Daerah Betong, sebanyak lima orang individu kepuhian atau dikenali sebagai Orang Kena Pengawasan (OKP) sedang menjalani rawatan dan pemulihan di Daerah Saratok.

Manakala, soalan tambahan kedua. Bagi bilangan tangkapan melibatkan kesalahan penyalahgunaan dadah dan substans di Daerah Saratok pula, sepanjang tahun 2021 hingga tahun 2023, sebanyak 116 tangkapan telah direkodkan hasil daripada operasi yang dijalankan oleh Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Narkotik dan AADK Sarawak. Antara tempoh 1 Januari hingga 31 Mac tahun ini, 10 tangkapan direkodkan melibatkan aktiviti penyalahgunaan dadah di Daerah Saratok. Terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, Dudong.

**YB Dato Sri Tiong King Sing:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya soalan no.5.

*Menara Telekomunikasi di DUN N.52 Dudong*

**(5) YB Dato Sri Tiong King Sing** bertanya kepada Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi: Adakah kerajaan mempunyai perancangan untuk menambah bilangan menara telekomunikasi untuk menangani masalah liputan telekomunikasi yang kerap terputus di Jalan Naman dan Jalan KJD serta kampung-kampung yang terlibat di kawasan DUN N.52 Dudong?

**Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi) (YB Datuk Liwan Lagang):** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bagi menjawab soalan untuk Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Dudong. Seperti yang kita sedia maklum, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Dudong juga adalah Menteri Persekutuan dan sedia maklum bahawa penyediaan kemudahan telekomunikasi ini merupakan tanggungjawab Kementerian Persekutuan. Akan tetapi, Kerajaan GPS, saya ulang Kerajaan GPS, Kerajaan Sarawak begitu prihatin dengan melaksanakan program intervensi untuk menambah baik dan mempercepatkan lagi penyediaan kemudahan telekomunikasi internet di Sarawak menggunakan dana Sarawak sendiri yang mulanya berjumlah RM1.89 bilion dan sekarang ini telah meningkat kepada RM2.25 bilion.

Selaras dengan intervensi Kerajaan Sarawak seperti yang saya sebut tadi, usaha untuk menambah baik liputan internet di kawasan DUN Dudong juga mendapat perhatian apabila sebanyak lima buah menara telekomunikasi *Sarawak Multimedia Authority Rural Telecommunication* iaitu yang kita panggil SMART diperuntukkan. Dua buah menara telah beroperasi manakala tiga buah menara lagi masih di peringkat pelaksanaan dan dijangka siap secara berperingkat sehingga suku pertama tahun 2025.

Selain itu, Kerajaan Persekutuan telah juga memperuntukkan sebanyak 16 buah menara telekomunikasi di bawah inisiatif Pelan Jalinan Digital Negara ataupun JENDELA melalui Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (MCMC). Daripada jumlah tersebut, sebanyak 13 buah menara telah siap dan beroperasi manakala baki tiga buah menara masih di peringkat pelaksanaan sehingga suku keempat tahun 2024.

Mengenai isu liputan di Jalan Naman dan Jalan KJD, terdapat 14 buah menara telekomunikasi sedia ada yang beroperasi di sepanjang Jalan Naman dan Jalan KJD, yang menyediakan perkhidmatan 4G untuk kawasan berpenduduk, di sepanjang jalan tersebut.

MCMC sentiasa menjalankan aktiviti audit rangkaian merangkumi ujian kualiti panggilan suara secara berkala di seluruh Sarawak termasuklah di kawasan Dudong bagi memastikan pematuhan ke atas standard mandatori yang telah ditetapkan dan untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Dudong, aktiviti audit di kawasan DUN Dudong akan dijalankan pada suku kedua tahun ini termasuk di Jalan Naman.

**YB Dato Sri Tiong King Sing:** (*Soalan Tambahan*) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri. Terima kasih, saya walaupun sebagai Menteri Persekutuan, saya jaga pelancongan, saya minta kalau bolehlah Timbalan Menteri daripada kementerian tersebut, buat *engagement* yang lebih bersama-sama kita *same portfolio* di Kerajaan Persekutuan. Memang saya sudah banyak kali beritahu Menteri di Kerajaan Persekutuan, dia kata dari dia mengikut senarai ataupun cadangan daripada Kerajaan Negeri. Saya ucapkan terima kasih atas jawapan tadi. Saya mahu bagi soalan tambahan, Tuan Speaker.

- (a) Adakah kerajaan mempunyai senarai liputan telekomunikasi yang akan dibina terutama sekali di kawasan N.52 Dudong? Dan
- (b) Apakah kerajaan akan mengeluarkan pembiayaan penambahan bilangan menara telekomunikasi bagi mengatasi masalah liputan telekomunikasi dalam masa terdekat di Sibul terutama sekali di N.52 Dudong?

Sekian, terima kasih.

**Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi) (YB Datuk Liwan Lagang):** Terima kasih Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Dudong dan terima kasih Tuan Speaker. Untuk soalan satu, iaitu untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Dudong, jumlah menara yang dalam fasa pelaksanaan seperti yang disoalkan adalah berjumlah enam buah, iaitu Sungai Assan, SJK (C) Sang Ming, Kemantan Road, Kampung Banyok, Jalan Salim-Stabau 2 dan SK Nanga Pak. Dan bagi menara yang ditambah dalam pelaksanaan di Kawasan DUN Dudong adalah seperti Sungai Assan, SJK (C) Sang Ming, Kemantan Road, iaitu bagi SMART di Julau, Kampung Banyok, Jalan Salim-Stabau dan SK Nanga Pak. Ini yang dalam pelaksanaan selain daripada yang saya nyatakan tadi, 16 yang telah beroperasi. Terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh, Bawang Assan.

**YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. My question is no.5.

**Tuan Speaker:** No, it's no.6.

**YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh:** Sorry, no.6.

*Rehabilitating and Upgrading Rural Clinics in Sarawak*

**(6) YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh to ask the Minister for Public Health, Housing & Local Government:** Has there been any definite plan to rehabilitate and upgrade the physically poor and ill-equipped rural clinics in Sarawak?

**Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kesihatan Awam dan Perumahan) (YB Datuk Micheal Tiang Ming Tee):** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Let me answer question no.6. For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bawang Assan as well as Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House, equitable healthcare in Sarawak, as in any region, is about ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background or location, has access to the healthcare services they need. Sarawak, with its diverse population and varied geography, faces unique challenges in achieving healthcare equity.

Therefore, addressing these healthcare infrastructure gaps and challenges is the way forward towards ensuring that all Sarawakians have access to quality healthcare services, regardless of their location. In an effort to revitalize the run-down clinics and healthcare services in Sarawak, the Sarawak Government with the assistance of the Sarawak State Health Department is looking into new implementation mechanisms that would expedite the development and upgrading of the dilapidated healthcare infrastructure and facilities throughout Sarawak.

As announced by the YAB Prime Minister during his recent visit to Sarawak in early April 2024, Sarawak will be pioneering the provision of initial financing for the upgrading and development of healthcare infrastructure and facilities to expedite their implementation. Under this initiative, the Federal Government will reimburse the Sarawak Government for the entire costs at a later stage under the concept of deferred payment or other business model as may be agreed by both parties. By adopting this proposed mechanism, the Sarawak Government will be able to proceed with the planned programme on addressing the dilapidated clinics and health facilities efficiently and at a lower cost. We will not want to wait for the fund to be made available by the Federal Government to do these as these dilapidated clinics and health facilities in the rural areas are in urgent need of care and repairs.

The proposed mechanism will also be able to push forward the long-awaited critical healthcare projects that have been delayed due to various factors, especially the funding aspect. This initiative will enable the Sarawak Government to assist the Federal Government and Ministry of Health Malaysia in upgrading the healthcare services for the rakyat by providing better equipment in our healthcare facilities faster.

Tuan Speaker, a special taskforce jointly headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Malaysia and the Sarawak State Secretary will be formed to look into the term of reference of this forward-looking mechanism and come up with the details on its implementation. Therefore, all issues raised by the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House pertaining to the status of implementation and timeline of the upgrading of dilapidated clinics and hospital in Sarawak, which have funding issues will hinge on the success of the Term of Reference (TOR) and details of the new funding mechanism for upgrading our healthcare infrastructures and facilities.

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bawang Assan, the Ministry of Health Malaysia has been consistently implementing programmes to upgrade healthcare facilities, including rural clinics, nationwide. The total dilapidated clinics and health facilities based on the new assessment and scoring system implemented by the Department in December last year are 206 clinics which include 51 dilapidated clinics in urban areas. In 2023, the Ministry of Health Malaysia approved a total of 39 projects valued at RM8.497 million for Sarawak to upgrade dilapidated clinics

and healthcare facilities such as partly repairing of infrastructure, provision of treated water, rewiring, replacement of genset, repainting, etc.

All these projects were completed in the same year. For 2024, a total of RM19 million has been allocated for the implementation of 39 dilapidated clinic projects including six urban dilapidated clinics throughout Sarawak. Under this fund, one clinic will be rebuilt with the balance of 38 projects will involve the upgrading and improvement of infrastructures, acquiring equipment and enhancing medical services in underserved areas.

**YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh:** (*Supplementary Question*) Thank You, Deputy Minister. Tuan Speaker, I have two supplementary questions:

- (a) According to the Deputy Minister, a special mechanism has been devised to rehabilitate these rural clinics. Can you please elaborate on this special mechanism? and
- (b) How many clinics are considered physically poor, how many are considered ill-equipped in terms of main power, the medical equipment provided, and the medicine made available?

Thank you.

**Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kesihatan Awam dan Perumahan) (YB Datuk Micheal Tiang Ming Tee):** Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bawang Assan for the supplementary questions. Tuan Speaker, as I have mentioned, the proposed funding mechanism was made during the recent visit by the YAB Prime Minister to Sarawak in early April. Both the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Sarawak have come out with this new mechanism for funding. In short, that is for the Sarawak Government to do to pay for the cost of upgrading and development of the dilapidated clinics in Sarawak and the Federal Government will reimburse the cost at a later stage and the model will be discussed shortly when the special task force which will be formed with the Chief of Secretary for the Government of Malaysia and Sarawak State Secretary according to the cabinet's order.

As for the supplementary question no.2, for the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bawang Assan, the clinic will be deemed as *daif* based on poor physical condition of the clinic building. These include dilapidated or severely damaged structures, dysfunctional mechanical or electrical system which is directly affecting the clinic's operations or other safety issues, safety risks such as structural settlement, building cracks and fire hazard. As for how many dilapidated clinics have been identified by the departments, as for year 2023, there were all together 39 which had been completed as I had mentioned as for the project *klinik daif* for year 2024, there will be another 39. For further information for the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bawang Assan, annually, the Sarawak State Health Department conducted a thorough assessment of the physical condition of health facilities. Based on this assessment, the Department will prioritize repair and upgrading works to ensure optimal infrastructure. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri, Kalaka.

**YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker.

*Sudah terang lagi bersuluh,  
Soalan saya no.7.*

*Menaik Taraf SK Abang Abdul Rahman*

**(7) YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri bertanya kepada Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat:** Adakah kerajaan bercadang untuk menaik taraf SK Abang Abdul Rahman dengan menambah keluasan kawasan sekolah tersebut memandangkan keadaan kawasan sekolah yang sempit?

**Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi) (YB Datuk Dr. Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee):** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kalaka. Tuan Speaker, persoalan yang dibawa oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat adalah mengenai keluasan SK Abang Abdul Rahman di Saratok. Sekolah ini dibina pada 1 Januari 1924. Maksudnya sekolah ini sudah berusia satu abad pada tahun ini. Saya ucapkan tahniah kepada orang Saratok, ada sekolah yang berusia 100 tahun.

Tuan Speaker, walau bagaimanapun, sekolah ini keluasannya hanyalah 1.51 ekar. Kalau mengikut piawaian ia hanya 25%, sepatutnya sebuah sekolah rendah mesti meliputi enam ekar. Dan sekolah ini dikelilingi oleh Pejabat Daerah, padang Majlis Daerah Saratok, jalan dan juga kuarters. Ini bermaksud tidak ada ruang untuk kawasan sekolah ini diperluaskan disebabkan terletak di kawasan bandar. Oleh yang demikian, Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia tidak mempunyai rancangan atas sebab-sebab tersebut untuk memperluaskan kawasan SK Abang Abdul Rahman ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

**YB Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri:** (*Soalan Tambahan*). Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker dan terima kasih kepada Timbalan Menteri. Saya ada dua soalan tambahan:

- (a) Berapakah bilangan enrolmen di sekolah tersebut dan trend kemasukan semenjak beberapa tahun yang lepas? Dan
- (b) Adakah pihak Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak (JPNS) mempunyai perancangan untuk memindahkan SK Abang Abdul Rahman ke lokasi yang lebih kondusif?

**Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi) (YB Datuk Dr. Annuar bin Rapa'ee):** Terima kasih Yang Berhormat. Mengenai *enrolment* sekolah ini sepanjang lima tahun yang lepas amat menunjukkan suatu perkara yang pelik sedikit untuk SK Abang Abdul Rahman ini.

Pada tahun 2019, *enrolmentnya* adalah seramai 677 orang pelajar tetapi pada tahun ini semenjak lima tahun kebelakangan ini menunjukkan kadar penurunan dan pada tahun ini kemasukan ataupun jumlah keseluruhan pelajar adalah 579 orang. Ini menunjukkan penurunan sebanyak 14%. Dari segi jumlah darjah ataupun bilik kelas, terdapat 24 buah kelas di sekolah tersebut. Kalau kita menggunakan maksimum 30 pelajar satu kelas maka kapasiti sekolah ini adalah seramai 720 orang. Sedangkan jumlah pelajar setakat ini ialah 579 orang. Ini bermaksud sekolah ini walaupun keluasannya kecil tetapi dari segi kapasiti bilik darjahnya mencukupi untuk sekolah ini. Oleh yang demikian, yang terbaiknya untuk lebih kondusif, cadangan Yang Berhormat tadi untuk memindahkan sekolah ini ke tempat lain adalah merupakan satu cadangan yang baik dan harus difikir secara panjang agar kepadatan sekolah ini dapat diatasi sedangkan ia juga pernah berlaku dan sedang juga berlaku ataupun berada di dalam bandar. Sekian, terima kasih Yang Berhormat.

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian.

**YB Encik Royston bin Valentine:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya no. 8.

#### *Kesinambungan Pembinaan Stadium Mukah Fasa 2*

**(8) YB Encik Royston bin Valentine** bertanya kepada Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak: Apakah status perancangan pembinaan *indoor stadium* baharu, padang sintetik bola sepak dan padang hoki bagi kesinambungan pembinaan Stadium Mukah Fasa 2 dan bilakah Dewan Sukan Tertutup Mukah yang sekarang dalam keadaan daif akan dinaik taraf?

**Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Belia dan Sukan) (YB Dato Gerald Rentap Jabu):** Tuan Speaker, terima kasih dan selamat pagi. Pertama saya bagi pihak warga penduduk Layar ingin mengucapkan dan menzahirkan tahniah kepada Tuan Yang Terutama,

Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, yang telah dilantik sebagai Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, melambangkan perpaduan dan kedaulatan negeri Sarawak. Kita juga menzahirkan ucapan takziah kepada keluarga Allahyarham Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud yang telah meninggalkan kita. Bagi pihak penduduk DUN Layar, saya juga ingin merakamkan terima kasih kepada sumbangan, perjuangan dan pengorbanan arwah Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud daripada kemerdekaan Sarawak daripada koloni, penumbuhan Malaysia dan apa yang kita kecapai sekarang. Thank you, Tun, and may God bless your soul.

Tuan Speaker, untuk pertanyaan Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian. *Manuk engkukuk ari Tellian, mintak tulung minta bantu, kemudahan sukan cemerlang, kami MYSED merik perhatian enggau perancangan sukan SUKMA dolok enti bandar Mukah ari kitai menang.*

Tuan Speaker, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian. Pihak Kementerian pada masa ini belum ada perancangan untuk membina *indoor stadium*, padang sintetik dan padang hoki di Bahagian Mukah. Ini memandangkan kajian dan perancangan secara terperinci perlu diadakan untuk mengambil kira keperluan masa hadapan minat dalam sukan, aktiviti sukan dan juga prasarana sukan yang ada di Bahagian Mukah. Namun begitu, fasiliti sukan yang sedia ada di Mukah seperti Stadium Mukah sedang dinaik taraf untuk Sukan SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024 bagi acara sukan bola sepak. Ini meliputi penyelenggaraan dan penjagaan kualiti padang dan kemudahan asas. Pada masa itu, pihak kementerian pada masa ini memberi tumpuan kepada fasiliti-fasiliti khusus untuk *venue* penganjuran SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024 pada tahun ini. Untuk makluman Yang Berhormat, kementerian juga telah melaksanakan kerja-kerja menaik taraf dan penyelenggaraan Dewan Sukan Tertutup Mukah di bawah kelolaan Perbadanan Sukan Sarawak (SSC). Terima kasih.

**YB Encik Royston bin Valentine:** (*Soalan Tambahan*) Tuan Speaker, memandangkan Bahagian Mukah adalah sebuah bahagian yang DUN Tellian berada di kawasan pentadbirannya, Mukah, saya berharap pihak kementerian mempunyai perancangan untuk mengadakan ataupun mewujudkan kemudahan-kemudahan sukan seperti yang kita mohon ini. Jadi Tuan Speaker, saya ada satu soalan tambahan:

- (a) Sarawak adalah tuan rumah kepada SUKMA XXI pada tahun ini, dan sebanyak sembilan *venue* telah ditetapkan oleh Kerajaan Sarawak. Apakah rasionalnya pihak kementerian, pihak Kerajaan Sarawak menetapkan sembilan *venue* ini dan termasuk Mukah sebagai salah satu tumpuan untuk acara-acara sukan yang akan diadakan semasa SUKMA XXI ini? Sekian.

**Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Belia dan Sukan) (YB Dato Gerald Rentap Jabu):** Tuan Speaker, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian dan juga semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat. Sarawak telah diberi penghormatan untuk mengelolakan SUKMA pada tahun ini dari 17 Ogos hingga 24 Ogos 2024. 37 jenis sukan dan 488 acara akan diadakan di Sarawak. Ini memberikan sukan SUKMA menjadi lebih besar daripada Sukan Olimpik.

Dalam pada itu, kita mendapat cabaran yang besar dari segi *venue* untuk mempertandingkan 488 acara sukan ini dan keperluan teknikal yang tinggi bersama dengan tempat penginapan untuk lebih daripada 15,000 atlet dan pegawai. Oleh yang demikian, kita telah memilih sembilan Bahagian di Sarawak sebagai *venue* sukan ini dengan Bahagian Kuching ada 23 jenis sukan akan ditandingkan, Samarahan (2), Serian (1), Sri Aman (1), Betong (1), Sibu (3), Bintulu (3), Miri (6) dan Mukah (3), iaitu acara bola sepak lelaki, acara bola jaring dan acara judo.

Oleh yang demikian, kita juga mengambil kira berasaskan faktor-faktor seperti kemudahan prasarana sukan yang sedia ada, kemudahan logistik seperti jaringan perhubungan pengangkutan, penginapan, perkhidmatan sokongan dan pada masa yang sama memberi peluang kepada masyarakat untuk menyaksikan acara sukan terbesar Malaysia yang dilaksanakan di kawasan masing-masing. Selain itu, untuk memeriahkan sokongan masyarakat setempat bagi memastikan Sarawak menjadi *runaway champion* SUKMA 2024 dan menarik minat golongan belia setempat menceburi bidang sukan terbabit dan juga secara tidak langsung merancakkan sektor ekonomi dan

sektor pelancongan di kawasan tersebut. Yang lebih penting, saya mohon semua rakyat Sarawak memberi sokongan penuh kepada kontinjen Sarawak pada SUKMA ini untuk menjadikan kita sebagai *runaway champion* tahun ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat bagi Satok.

**YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Soalan saya no. 9.

*Character Statement Blueprint of Old Kuching Smart Heritage (OKSHE)*

**(9) YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki** to ask the Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Art: Old Kuching Smart Heritage (OKSHE) is an initiative that gives inner soul in enhancing character to boost tourism in Kuching City. To date, is there any character statement Blueprint being made for reference and guidance for the future development?

**Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Pelancongan) (YB Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew):** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you, Honourable Member for Satok.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Satok, the Old Kuching Smart Heritage (OKSHE) initiative spearheaded by our government marks a groundbreaking endeavour to rejuvenate Old Kuching into a heritage tourism destination. This visionary project stands as a testament to the collaboration between local authorities, private enterprises, and various industries.

The involvement of non-governmental organizations, media, and the local community, together with higher educational institutions and training centers, underscores a collective commitment to the OKSHE mission. The OKSHE initiative encompasses *Kampung* Heritage, historical monuments heritage, historical business heritage and riverfront heritage, covering large areas of the city from Old Padungan to Kubah Ria. This initiative is a strategic endeavour to harness both the tangible and intangible heritage assets of Old Kuching by transforming them into unique tourism products and services tailored for both international tourists and domestic visitors. The development principles of OKSHE's groundbreaking initiative with its achievement along the years shall be reviewed and refined for future development. Mandated to oversee this initiative, Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara shall further translate the OKSHE practices and framework into the local city character statement for the North Kuching City development. Thank you.

**YB Dato Ibrahim bin Baki:** (*Supplementary Question*) Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Deputy Minister. I have two supplementary questions.

- (a) How much has been done throughout the implementation of the OKSHE initiative; and
- (b) What is next in plan for OKSHE initiative?

Thank you.

**Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Pelancongan) (YB Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew):** Thank you very much, Honourable Member for Satok for your two supplementary questions. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Satok, since the establishment of OKSHE in 2018, a total of 103 projects have been planned with 68 completed, 17 in progress and the rest will commence this year 2024. Among the projects completed are:

- (a) *Kampung* Heritage;
- (b) *Perahu Tambang* Festive;
- (c) *Program Temasya Warisan*;
- (d) Old Kuching Smart Heritage;
- (e) *Bengkel Seni Hadrah Melayu*;

- (f) *Pertandingan Bertuntong untuk Warisan Satok*; and
- (g) *Bengkel Tenun Songket Sarawak*.

As for the second question, Tuan Speaker. For the information of the Honourable Member for Satok, under Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara's initiative a re-alignment workshop of OKSHE functions will be organised this year.

Among the other programs to be implemented are:

- (a) The revitalization of Kuching City's River Transport; we seek to create awareness and enhance the beautification of Sarawak River Heritage.
- (b) The *Perahu Tambang* and *Warisanku 2024*; cultural programmes with various activities such as food heritage, traditional martial arts performances, traditional performing arts, and traditional games; and also
- (c) Kuching Heritage Lighting and Flora Festival; programs put forward the prominence the beauty of Kuching City Heritage highlighting dazzling display of lights, structures, flower, and garden related activities.

Thank you.

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

#### **RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA**

##### **SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (2023) BILL, 2024**

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce the Supplementary Supply (2023) Bill, 2024, be read for the first time.

*Bill is read a first time*

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Supplementary Supply (2023) Bill, 2024 to be read a second time on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the Second Reading, Committee Stage, and Third Reading of the Supplementary Supply (2023) Bill, 2024 is set on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

#### **RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA**

##### **SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (2024) BILL, 2024**

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce the Supplementary Supply (2024) Bill, 2024, be read for the first time.

*Bill is read a first time*

**Timbalan Premier; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Supplementary Supply (2024) Bill, 2024 to be read a second time on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the Second Reading, Committee Stage, and Third Reading of the Supplementary Supply (2024) Bill, 2024 is set on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA**

**SARAWAK PORTS AUTHORITY BILL, 2024**

**Timbalan Premier; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024, be read a first time.

*Bill is read a first time*

**Timbalan Premier; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I wish to give notice that this Bill would be read for a second time today.

**RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA**

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

**Timbalan Premier, Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024, be read a first time.

*Bill is read a first time*

**Timbalan Premier, Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian):** Tuan Speaker, I wish to give notice that the Protection of Public Health Bill, 2024, to be read a second time today.

**RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG PERTAMA**

**SARAWAK FORESTRY CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

**Timbalan Premier; 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 Hasan):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to introduce the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, be read a first time.

*Bill is read a first time*

**Timbalan Premier; 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 Hasan):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to be read a second time today.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, we will have a break. Dewan resumes at 10.30 a.m.

*(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 10.18 pagi)*

*(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 10.50 pagi)*

*[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

## RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA

### SARAWAK PORTS AUTHORITY BILL, 2024

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to move a Bill intituled, *“An Ordinance to establish a central port authority to be known as the “Sarawak Ports Authority” to manage, regulate, control and administer all ports in Sarawak and to provide for the functions and powers thereof, the licensing of port operators, port undertakings; and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto”*, to be read a second time.

### PORT AUTHORITIES ORDINANCE, 1961

Tuan Speaker, the Port Authorities Ordinance, 1961 has been in existence for 63 years. However, over the years, the Ordinance was amended a number of times. The Kuching Port Authority was established in 1961 while the Rajang Port Authority was established in 1970. The Miri Port Authority was established in 1981. Under this Ordinance, these three authorities were established as statutory bodies to regulate and operate the ports.

In 2009, the government made a decision to detach the Tanjung Manis Terminal from the Rajang Port and established the Tanjung Manis Port Authority to regulate it. At that time, the Tanjung Manis Port Authority was the first port authority to act as a regulator while its operation was handled by an approved port operator, Tanjung Manis Integrated Port Sdn. Bhd., a subsidiary of the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC).

Due to the necessity for a port to serve industries in the Samalaju Industrial Park, the government decided to establish the Samalaju Port Authority in 2010 to regulate a new port in Samalaju. Similar to Tanjung Manis, the Samalaju Port Authority functions as a regulator while the operation of the Samalaju Port is handled by its approved operator, Samalaju Industrial Port Sdn. Bhd.

### THE NEED TO TRANSFORM SARAWAK PORTS' GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak has witnessed a massive economic development and transformation whereby port development plays a crucial role. Therefore, ports in Sarawak must undergo transformation by forming a central port authority.

The consolidation of the Sarawak Port Authorities into a central port authority could bring:

- (a) **Increased Efficiency:** A centralised authority can streamline operations, remove redundancy, and implement uniform policies across all ports. This can lead to more efficient use of resources, faster turnaround time and reduce operational costs;
- (b) **Enhanced Strategic Planning:** With a central body, strategic planning can be more coordinated and comprehensive, taking into account the development needs of the entire region rather than individual ports. This allows for better allocation for improvement in infrastructure;
- (c) **Improved Service Quality:** Centralisation can facilitate the standardisation of service quality across all ports. This uniformly can enhance the overall user experience, making it more predictable and reliable for shippers and carriers;
- (d) **Economies of Scale:** A central port authority can leverage economies of scale in purchasing, training, and investing, which individual port authorities might not be able to afford independently. This can lead to significant cost savings and technological advancements;

- (e) Stronger Negotiating Power: A centralised authority can wield greater bargaining power when dealing with international shipping companies, suppliers, and the government. This can result in more favourable terms and better rates of services;
- (f) Enhanced Security and Safety: Centralised control can lead to more consistent and higher standards of security and safety across all ports, which is crucial in today's security-conscious environment; and
- (g) Better Environmental Management: With central oversight, environmental practices can be more uniformly enforced, ensuring all ports adhere to sustainable practices and regulations.

The model of centralisation could help Sarawak ports become more competitive and efficient, aligning with the broader economic goals of the region.

The proposed new centralised port authority will replace all existing port authorities. The establishment of the centralised port authority is also in line with the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 which includes efficient port services as one of the catalytic initiatives under the enabler of basic infrastructure.

This Bill before this august House is to establish the central port authority to be called "*Sarawak Ports Authority*". This Bill, when passed, will replace the pre-Malaysia law, the Ports Authorities Ordinance, 1961.

#### LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCY TO ENACT THE BILL

It is well within the legislative power of this Dewan to enact this Bill as Ports and Harbours (except for those declared Federal Ports) is listed under Item 15 in List IIA (Supplement to State List for States of Sabah and Sarawak) in the Ninth Schedule of the Federal Constitution.

#### STUDY TRIP TO SINGAPORE

Tuan Speaker, arising from the government's decision to establish a central port authority, a study visit was made to Singapore port in March 2023, to understand and learn from the reformation of Singapore's port sector that took place in the 1990s.

From the visit, we were able to engage with the local authorities and commercial arm of the port sector. We got to better understand the process that the port sector had gone through and eventually becoming the world's busiest transshipment port that trans-ships about 20% of the world's shipping containers.

Historically, the Port of Singapore Authority was a statutory board that functions as a regulator, operate and promote the Port of Singapore since the 1960s.

In light of the port's success in becoming one of the world's largest container ports in the 1990s, the Singapore Government had decided to reform its port sector and passed a Bill in Parliament in 1997 to convert the Port of Singapore Authority, a state organisation, into an independent commercial company.

The regulatory functions of the Port of Singapore Authority were then transferred to Singapore's new maritime regulator, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

The success of Singapore's port policy portrays the importance of corporatisation or privatisation of port operations and at the same time having a centralised regulatory body to facilitate, standardise, safeguard, and take on the roles of Port Authority, Port Regulator and Port Planner.

Therefore, we are adopting this model as the way forward once this Bill comes into force.

## DISSOLUTION OF EXISTING PORT AUTHORITIES

Tuan Speaker, upon the coming into force of this Ordinance, the Sarawak Ports Authority will be established. It will immediately assume a regulatory control over all the existing port authorities. The regulatory control over all ports in Sarawak will be exercised through a licensing regime provided by this Ordinance that would facilitate the corporatisation and the eventual privatisation of the operations of the port and port undertakings to enable our ports to be operated as commercial entities embracing good corporate governance and financial discipline.

However, in respect of the taking over of the management or the operation of the ports, this will be implemented in three phases, namely:

- (a) the interim phase;
- (b) the corporatisation phase; and
- (c) the privatisation phase.

### *Interim Phase*

During this interim phase, the existing Port Authorities, which will not be dissolved yet, will continue to be in existence and undertake the operation of the ports subject to the terms and conditions of a licence issued to them by the Sarawak Ports Authority, until an Order is made under Clause 5 for their dissolution.

### *Corporatisation Phase*

Under the corporatisation phase, when the date for dissolution of an existing port authority has been appointed, the operational function of such existing port authority will be performed by a successor company. The successor company will either be wholly owned by the Authority or by the State Financial Secretary or it may be any other company incorporated under the Companies Act 2016 named in the Order made by Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN).

Before the dissolution, the existing port authorities shall surrender their lands to the Sarawak Government under Section 45 of the Land Code. These lands may, at the discretion of the Sarawak Government, be re-alienated either to the Sarawak Ports Authority or to the successor company under Section 15A of the Land Code.

Sarawak Ports Authority may then issue a licence to the successor company to undertake all port undertakings subject to the terms and conditions of the licence. All officers and employees of the existing port authorities shall be accepted into the employment of the Sarawak Ports Authority or a successor company on terms and conditions no less favourable than what they are enjoying under the existing port authorities.

### *Privatisation Phase*

During the privatisation phase, the Bill through its licensing provisions in Part VI will enable Sarawak Ports Authority with the approval of [Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN)] to privatise port undertakings and operations by licensing either a new entity which has private sector or investor involvement, or a successor company which has admitted new shareholders as investors in the successor company. The new entity will have to submit an application together with an operational and management plan as required under the new law.

Under Clause 9(3) of the Bill, officers and employees of the successor company may opt to either remain with the successor company or join the new entity licensed to take over the operation and port undertakings of the corporatised successor company. A licensed port operator is deemed an independent port operator and not an agent of the Authority.

The timing and strategy for this privatisation phase will be determined by the Sarawak Ports Authority as the regulator and licensing authority.

#### FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND POWERS OF SARAWAK PORTS AUTHORITY

Tuan Speaker, this Bill would enlarge the functions of the Sarawak Ports Authority to include the following:

- (a) To plan, streamline and coordinate the development, expansion, and improvement of ports in Sarawak;
- (b) To promote and facilitate the development of business of the ports and its hinterland and connectivity with other ports and transportation hubs outside Sarawak;
- (c) To license all port operators and port undertakings;
- (d) To promote efficiency and reliability of services and facilities in accordance with recognised international standards and best practices;
- (e) To act as authority for any Free Trade Zone established under and subject to Section 3(2) of the Free Zones Act 1990; and
- (f) To adopt low carbon solutions in the management and operation of port undertakings.

The powers of the Authority have been expanded as provided in the Second Schedule of the Bill to enable the Authority to carry on activities advantageous, necessary, expedient or incidental to the carrying out of its functions and duties under this law or any other written law.

#### OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF SARAWAK PORTS AUTHORITY

Tuan Speaker, the officers, and employees of the Sarawak Ports Authority would include:

- (a) A President;
- (b) A Secretary to the Authority;
- (c) Such other number of officers and employees as the Authority may appoint.

The Statutory Bodies (Conduct and Discipline) Ordinance, 2004, would apply to officers and employees of the Authority. Besides this, Standing Orders providing for a scheme and conditions of service may be made upon the approval of the MMKN.

#### SCOPE OF BUSINESS AND LEVYING OF DUES, CHARGES, FEES, ETC.

Tuan Speaker, the scope of port business has also been enlarged. This is affected by expanding the definition of "*port undertakings*" to cover all commercial and port operational activities so as to increase the sources of revenue of a port.

The expanded definition of "*port undertakings*" now include the provision of any facility or service of any description, including petroleum supply base, free zone, towage and pilotage service, ship to ship transfer and bunkering service, port terminal services and services for the handling, loading, and unloading, storage, delivery, and transportation of goods on land and passengers.

Tuan Speaker, there are no major changes to the provisions in respect of dues, charges, and fees. The Bill also maintains the followings:

- (a) Provision on port development cess;
- (b) Provisions on port dues, vessel dues and port charges, and other fees; and
- (c) The port dues and vessel dues are to be paid into the State Consolidated Account, but Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) may direct such dues to be paid to the licensed port operator.

The Bill also makes provisions for the enforcement for recovery of unpaid dues, charges, fees including lien over any property of any person who is owing money to the Authority or the licensed port operator, recovery by civil suit, arrest and sale of vessel and withholding of clearance for departure by Customs.

#### LIMITATION OF LIABILITIES OF THE SARAWAK PORTS AUTHORITY

Tuan Speaker, the liability of the Sarawak Ports Authority or a licensed port operator in the circumstances specified in Part X, include any loss or damage to vessel is limited. The Sarawak Ports Authority or a licensed port operator is not liable for personal injury or death, loss, or damage to goods arising from loading or discharging of goods, without actual fault or privity.

The Sarawak Ports Authority or licensed port operator is not liable for any loss, destruction, or damage to goods (whether for transshipment or otherwise) deposited with or placed in the custody of the Sarawak Ports Authority or licensed port operator or arising from *force majeure*.

#### OFFENCES, PENALTIES, AND PROCEDURES

Tuan Speaker, in line with the role of the Sarawak Ports Authority as a regulatory authority, Part XI of the Bill relating to offences, penalties, and procedures have been strengthened and enhanced. The Bill creates several offences, including:

- (a) evading dues or charges or fees;
- (b) disobeying orders of Port Traffic Manager;
- (c) hindrances or obstructions to any member, officer or employee of the Authority or a licensed Port Operator, etc.;
- (d) not keeping vessel so loaded with ballast or otherwise as to be safely removed;
- (e) false information on draught;
- (f) giving false information in return; and
- (g) throwing ballast, waste, etc. into wharf water.

The Port Traffic Manager or person authorised by the Authority or licensed port operator is empowered to order scuttling or removal of vessel in case of fire and to board a vessel if he suspects an offence has been or is about to be committed. An authorised person is also empowered to arrest without warrant in the circumstances specified in Clause 77, investigate any offences, and seize, remove, or detain goods which he reasonably believes to be or has been used in the commission of an offence.

#### PORT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

Tuan Speaker, to allow for better engagement with industry players, the provision for the constitution of a Port Consultative Council is maintained. The Council is to be chaired by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry having responsibility for ports and will have not less than five and not more than eight other members, to be appointed by the Minister, to represent port users and

organisations or institutions in Sarawak, established with the objectives to promote trade, transportation, marine shipping, and investment.

Among the functions of this Council are:

- (a) to study measures, to enhance the usage of facilities and services of ports and to improve the standard and quality of services and facilities;
- (b) to make a recommendation to improve the efficiency, operation and future developments of the ports; and
- (c) to recommend measures and policies for the sustainable development of ports in accordance with climate change goals, etc.

### REPEAL, TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS

Tuan Speaker, with the coming into force of the Bill, the Port Authorities Ordinance 1961 will be repealed. However, subsidiary legislation made under the repealed Ordinance would remain in force until revoked or replaced by new subsidiary legislations made under the new law.

The new law shall have effect in any agreements or arrangements made or executed by the existing port authorities or any provisions in such agreements repugnant to the new law is void.

Any prosecution, suit, etc pending or existing by or against the dissolved port authorities may be continued and enforced by or against the Authority or successor company.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, ports are gateways for domestic and international trade. They serve as important logistics and economic hubs that facilitate the movement of goods to businesses in domestic and worldwide markets.

Ports play a vital role in spurring economic growth and creating employment and business opportunities and other economic spin offs, including logistics and transportation businesses, distribution hubs, warehouses and so on. In fact, according to the report by International Maritime Organisation (IMO2008), over 90% of the global trade volume was transported via sea.

I am confident that the enactment of this new law and the establishment of the Sarawak Ports Authority will enable us to transform our ports. This transformation is crucial for Sarawak to leverage its strategic geographical position and abundant natural resources effectively, helping to secure its position as a key player in the regional and global trade networks.

Therefore, Tuan Speaker, I humbly urge all Members of this august House to give their wholehearted support to this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, I beg to move. Thank you.

**Timbalan Premier; 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 Hasan):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to second.

**Tuan Speaker:** Before I call upon the Honourable Members to debate the Bill under Standing Order 31 (8), I hereby limit the speeches to a maximum of 20 minutes. Any Honourable Members who want to speak? Honourable Member for Pelagus.

**YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang:** Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate, the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 which is being presented by our Deputy Premier, Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas who is the Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development.

First of all, I would like to commend our Sarawak Government under the leadership of our Right Honourable Premier, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg for making this Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 a reality.

As we look towards the future, it is imperative that we streamline our port operations to ensure optimal functioning and maximum benefits for our citizens and businesses alike. Therefore, it is timely for the Sarawak Government to introduce this Bill.

Tuan Speaker, this Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 will facilitate our Sarawak Government to establish a port centre called the central port authority, which will manage all ports in Sarawak including the ports of Kuching, Miri, Tanjung Manis, Sibul, Samalaju, and Bintulu.

This change will definitely have a positive impact on the ongoing economic development in Sarawak and indirectly on the Malaysian economy as a whole. Sarawak possesses immense energy resources and is developing a renewable energy industry. Beyond hydropower, Sarawak is also aiming to become a leader in the nascent hydrogen energy industry in the region.

Quoting the words from our Right Honourable Premier, *“All these ports will play an important role and at this moment, we are developing relatively new industries such as hydrogen and this industry requires a specialised terminal and will be the focus of development in Bintulu,”* just like liquefied natural gas terminal in Bintulu. And as such, this Bill is another step forward initiated by the Sarawak Government and it is a historic and significant moment.

Tuan Speaker, we have big challenges ahead of us, but I do believe with strong will and determination, we can overcome all of these barriers. Definitely, the introduction of this Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 is the first step to repeal the Bintulu Port Authority Act 1981, before we take over the Bintulu Port. This consolidation will serve several crucial purposes.

Firstly, it will smoothen the process of policymaking. Currently, with multiple port authorities, there is a fragmentation of the decision-making process which can lead to inefficiencies and inconsistencies. By centralising the authority, we can ensure a more cohesive and streamlined approach to port-related policies.

Secondly, a single port authority will greatly facilitate the promotion of our ports both domestically and internationally. With a unified brand and marketing strategy, we can more effectively showcase the strengths and capabilities of Sarawak’s port to potential investors, partners, and customers.

Thirdly, the consolidation will enable us to foster strong collaborations with neighbouring ports, such as those in Singapore. By presenting a single entity for partnership and cooperation, we can negotiate from a position of strength and leverage mutual benefits to all parties involved.

Lastly, Tuan Speaker, and perhaps most importantly, a single Port Authority will allow for the implementation of the unified system for monitoring and control. This will significantly enhance operational efficiency, reduce redundancies, and minimise the risk of error or discrepancies. With better oversight and coordination, we can ensure the smooth flow of goods and services through our ports, thereby boosting trade and driving economic growth for our Sarawak.

In conclusion, the consolidation of port authorities into a single port authority is not merely a matter of administrative convenience but a strategic imperative for the continued prosperity of Sarawak, for the benefit of our citizens, businesses, and future generations.

Tuan Speaker and all Honourable Members of this respected august House, I strongly support the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Murum.

**YB Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for the honour and the opportunity given to deliberate on a crucial piece of legislation, the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 tabled by YB Datuk Amar Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; and Ahli Dewan Undangan Sarawak N.37 Bukit Saban for the second reading.

Tuan Speaker, this transformative piece of legislation aims to revolutionise the management, operation, planning and development of all port authorities in Sarawak under the umbrella of a new centralised entity – the Sarawak Ports Authority. Maybe it can be in short “SAPA”.

The principal objectives of this bill are clear and compelling. Firstly, it seeks to streamline and consolidate the fragmented management of port authorities in Sarawak under a single unified body. By establishing the Sarawak Ports Authority, we will ensure better coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness in the governance of our ports, leading to improved services and infrastructures for the benefit of all stakeholders. By having a singular body overseeing all ports in Sarawak, we can eliminate redundancies, minimise bureaucratic hurdles, and optimise resource allocation. This will not only enhance the competitiveness of our ports but also attract greater investment and trade opportunities to Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, secondly, the bill aims to reform the governance structure and regulatory framework of port operations in Sarawak. This includes the harmonisation of port dues, vessel dues, port charges, and fees, creating a fair and transparent system that promotes competitiveness and sustainability in the maritime sector. The centralized approach also will ensure consistent standards, procedures, and practices across all ports, thereby enhancing safety, security, and compliance with international maritime regulations. Such uniformity is essential for fostering trust and confidence among stakeholders, including shipping companies, investors, and trading partners.

Tuan Speaker, furthermore, the Bill includes provisions for the privatisation of port management and operation, as well as port undertakings in Sarawak. Privatisation can bring in much needed expertise, innovation, and investment capital to the port sector, leading to improved efficiency, service quality, and competitiveness. By introducing private sector participation, the Sarawak Ports Authority can leverage market forces, incentivise performance, and drive continuous improvement in port operations, ultimately benefiting port users, stakeholders, and the broader economy. This will not only drive innovation and efficiency but also enhance the overall competitiveness of Sarawak’s port on the regional and global stage.

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of the Sarawak Ports Authority will also mark a new chapter in the maritime sector of Sarawak. This central authority will have the mandate to regulate all state ports, coordinate their planning, development, expansion, management, and exercise regulatory control to ensure compliance with the highest standards of operation and safety. Moreover, the Sarawak Ports Authority will be a corporate body with perpetual succession and legal capacity, enabling it to enter into contracts, engage in partnerships and protect the interests of Sarawak’s ports in legal matters.

Tuan Speaker, additionally, the Bill empowers the Sarawak Ports Authority with the necessary functions and powers to effectively manage and administer all port-related activities. From licensing operators to overseeing port undertakings, the authority will have the autonomy and capability to make informed decisions in the best interests of Sarawak. This autonomy is crucial for adapting to evolving industry trends, technological advancements, and global trade dynamics, thereby positioning Sarawak as a strategic hub for maritime commerce in the region.

Tuan Speaker, in conclusion, the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024, represents a bold and forward-thinking initiative to modernise and revitalise the port sector in Sarawak. By consolidating oversight, enhancing governance, and promoting privatisation, this Bill sets the stage for a more dynamic, responsive, and sustainable port industry that can better serve the needs of Sarawak and its people. We are laying the foundation for a more efficient, competitive, and sustainable maritime sector in Sarawak. Therefore, I urge all Honourable Members of this assembly to support this Bill for the collective prosperity and progress of Sarawak. With that, I beg to support the Motion for the passage of this *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024*. Sarawak Maju Makmur. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Ba'Kelalan.

**YB Encik Baru Bian:** Tuan Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given me to debate on the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 today.

This Bill seeks to legislate for all ports in the state to come under the Sarawak Ports Authority, with provision for the privatisation of port management and operations; and also to reform the governance structure and regulatory framework of port operations in Sarawak, including harmonising port dues, vessel dues, port charges and fees.

Tuan Speaker, the various Port Authorities i.e. Kuching Port Authority, Rajang, Miri, Samalaju and Tanjung Manis were set up under the Port Authorities Ordinance 1961 and each Port Authority is a body corporate which controls the port in its respective area.

Consolidating the separate port authorities under a central port authority is a positive step in the management of the ports as it will enable the government to streamline the operations, planning and development of ports in Sarawak. It will also allow for the implementation of a single vision and uniform policies for the development of ports. Crucially, by harmonizing port dues, vessel dues, port charges and fees, users are assured of certainty and uniformity of services and charges whichever port they utilise.

Tuan Speaker, on the composition of the Board, I wish to emphasise that members must comprise representatives from all Sarawakian businesses and professional sectors or stakeholders, and they must have the relevant knowledge and expertise to contribute. The appointments must be on merit and should not be politically motivated. Ports are important to rural economic growth so management of ports in Sarawak must be entrusted to the most able and astute professionals.

Tuan Speaker, with the completion of the Pan Borneo Highway, connectivity to the interiors of Sarawak will be improved, and it is expected that the volume of shipments of raw materials and manufactured goods through our ports will increase and boost our economic growth. It is timely therefore that the government is moving to centralise the management of the ports and to privatise the operations at the ports so that efficiency and productivity can be maximised.

The privatisation of port operations has been the trend in many ports worldwide and also in Peninsular Malaysia such as Penang Port, Port Klang and Johor Port. It makes good economic sense to allow licensed operators to manage port operations for several reasons. The knowledge and experience of the private sector as well as the strength in numbers will help to improve efficiency and productivity of the port operations. The speed of container handling and consequent vessel turn around time a crucial issue, therefore privatisation should bring an improvement in our ports' performance.

Tuan Speaker, the private sector is known to have strong management capability. This in turn will increase the revenue for the port authority. Private companies are also expected to implement new and better ideas and processes, learning from the more developed ports around the world.

The privatisation of port operations will boost the private sector's participation in the economy and lead to the creation of jobs as the volume of cargo is expected to increase with the opening of rural Sarawak once the Pan Borneo Highway is completed.

Tuan Speaker, the awarding of licenses to operate our ports must be done in a fair, open, and transparent manner. The parties chosen must have the necessary expertise, knowledge, and resources to carry out the operations optimally. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, around 80% of the volume of international trade in goods is carried by sea, and the percentage is even higher for most developing countries. We must do everything possible to ensure that we are ready to be a serious player in the global shipping industry and choosing the most qualified port operator is therefore crucial.

I understand that the Bintulu Port will be returned to Sarawak by the Federal Government by 2025 and I would like to commend the government on this move as the Bintulu Port is the premier LNG port in the country and should rightfully belong to Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, I believe that there is great potential for the growth of ports in Sarawak as we have a long coastline. There was a proposal for a deepwater port at Pulau Sari in Lawas, which I hope will be materialise, as it will be a major economic boost for Lawas, attracting investment, and development into the area.

Not only is there potential for the increase of movement of cargo through our ports – an untapped potential for our ports services is the provision of services for cruise ships. If we are able to provide good passenger terminals and transport services into our cities and towns, our tourism industry will be given a boost. It is my hope that the new Sarawak Ports Authority will include this in its vision for the ports in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, with these remarks and observations, I wish to record my support for this Bill, much oblige.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Bukit Assek.

**YB Encik Chieng Jin Ek:** Tuan Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity in participating in the debate of the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024.

I would like to congratulate our Deputy Premier cum Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development Sarawak for introducing this important Bill.

The introduction of the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 is a timely and much-needed step towards consolidating and amalgamating all port authorities in Sarawak under one central authority, and to establish a body corporate to be known as "*Sarawak Ports Authority*" to manage, regulate, control and administer all ports in Sarawak, and to provide for the functions and powers of the Authority, the licensing of operators of ports and port undertakings, and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Tuan Speaker, the Bintulu Port was built after the Parliament declared an area in the Bintulu District as a federal port through the Federal Port Act (Act 217) in 1981. Following the enactment of this Act, since then the Bintulu Port was declared as a federal port.

With the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Transport Malaysia and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development Sarawak witnessed by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim and the Premier of Sarawak Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, a significant milestone was reached in the process of returning Bintulu Port to Sarawak.

After 43 years, the Sarawak Government is finally on track to complete the acquisition of Bintulu Port from the Federal Government, marking a significant shift in control of one of Sarawak's key maritime assets. Congratulations to the Sarawak Government under the visionary leadership of the Premier of Sarawak, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, for turning this long-awaited vision into reality. Dreams do come true!

Tuan Speaker, while Part IV of the Bill delineates the functions and powers bestowed upon the Sarawak Ports Authority, I believe that it appears to underestimate a very crucial aspect and that is safety. As described in Part IV, Section 17(2)(b)(ii), which currently mandated the promotion of measures to ensure the safety of persons and property in the ports, there is a necessity to strengthen the responsibility of the Sarawak Ports Authority. It should be able to reflect a heavier duty, compelling the Authority *"to adopt and enforce necessary safety measures to ensure the comprehensive safety of ports, persons and property in the ports."*

By ensuring the comprehensive governance of ports, it is imperative to grant the Sarawak Ports Authority the explicit right to oversee and enforce safety measures within ports. Incorporating safety as a designated function would enhance the Authority's capacity to safeguard not only maritime operations but also the well-being of personnel and the environment.

With all these remarks, Tuan Speaker, I strongly support the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Bawang Assan.

**YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024.

First of all, I must thank the Deputy Premier, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas for tabling such a well thought out Bill which is highly comprehensive and all encompassing and which leaves no stones unturned.

Undoubtedly, the Bill is the product of a great deal of research on data and information on port management and operations. It covers 86 pages which I must say is one of the longest Bill if not the longest I have ever come across.

Tuan Speaker, I could recall when I was the Minister for Infrastructure Development and Communications in charge of port authorities from 1996 to 2001, the then Chief Minister, the late Tun Taib who had thought of consolidating and centralizing all ports into one entity. Subsequently, he had occasionally talked about trying to amalgamate all ports. But he did not do so.

Tuan Speaker, it takes a leader of great vision and far-sightedness in the person of our Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg and together with the Deputy Premier, YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas to do it now in 2024.

To me, from the perspective of the State Government, any Bill that is to be tabled in this Dewan is in the interest of Sarawak and is for the benefit of its people. The Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 is of no exception.

Tuan Speaker, I would venture to outline some of the advantages of a centralized body like Sarawak Ports Authority *vis-à-vis* separate individual smaller ports.

First, a single Port Authority would provide more coordinated efforts in total development and investment, a more cohesive overall plan instead of the usual ad hoc and piecemeal planning and development for separate individual ports.

Second, a centralised administration and management will bring about more efficient, standardized operations and services.

Third, a centralised port will enhance greater and more efficient utilisation of resources, from infrastructure, superstructure, to facilities, systems, people, and manpower.

Fourth, a centralized authority can improve enforcement and safety, synchronized safety standards and adherence to international safety regulations bringing about better compliance of international maritime standards.

Fifth, it will reduce overall operational costs, in labour and supply, bringing about enhanced economic benefits.

Sixth, strategic marketing – to better position as a wholesome unit, as a single point of contact for customers and stakeholders, leading to overall better regional and international competitiveness. It will also bring about improved clientele management to maintain a more efficient and quality client relation. It will establish better and more direct community relations with the business community.

Tuan Speaker, the Bill clearly encompasses multiple facets and has given much consideration to many implications. With reference to Clauses 17 and 18, on the functions of the Port Authority, it has included port development operation and management, financial arrangement and management, all facets of management, in fact, human resource development, port sustainability and even environmental observations, preservation and protection.

Also included are the Schedules. The First Schedule specifies the ports and port limits. The Second Schedule specifies the powers of the Authority. The Third Schedule sets out the functions, obligations and the power of the licensed port operators and the conditions and restrictions under the license. The Fourth Schedule prescribes the forms of license. As I have said, the Bill is very comprehensive, and it is encompassing.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is a huge landmass with hinterlands that extend deep into the inner core of Sarawak. The economic activities of these hinterlands and the businesses in each part of Sarawak have been served by various port activities. In the north by the Miri Port Authority (MPA), in the central regions by the Rajang Port Authority (RPA) and by Tanjong Manis Port Authority (TMPA), and the south by the Kuching Port Authority (KPA) and also there is the Samalaju Port in the industrial area. These ports, therefore, have been serving their respective markets and in a way, their respective niches. But in reality, as we all know, there has also been competition and lobbying for cargo bases between them.

Tuan Speaker, in consolidating all these ports under one single authority, there is no need to look deeper into the creation of an internal symbiotic relationship between these ports to achieve greater productivity and more efficiency.

Tuan Speaker, as the port industry is one built on heavy and huge capital investments, the Return of Investment (ROI) on these investments will be vastly improved leading to better utilisation of assets and the elimination of redundant and competitive activities.

Tuan Speaker, as the jurisdiction is now centralized and amalgamated and will be enlarged, so must the results in terms of efficiency, productivity and financial returns which should be one of the more important if not the most important Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of a body corporate such as the Sarawak Port Authority.

Tuan Speaker, there is a provision in the Bill that states that there shall be different phases for the coming into force of different parts or different provisions of this Ordinance. Clause 8(1) which states, "*Until an order for the dissolution of an existing port authority is made under 5(1), the Authority*

*shall, on the date of coming into force of this Ordinance, issue to the existing port authority license under 36 (C) to operate, manage and administer the port...*

Obviously, the affected port is the Bintulu Port, the ownership of which is the Bintulu Port Holdings Berhad in which State Government has an equity interest, I think 42% also equity interest. It is; therefore, the Bintulu Port is not a state port as per se, the Bintulu Port is not categorised as one of the state ports yet. Although the State and Federal governments have reached an understanding that Bintulu Port would be transferred to the State, it may need a legislative and administrative process to be completed. As the Federal Minister for Transport, Yang Berhormat Anthony Loke had said recently, "*The transfer of Bintulu Port would require a Bill to be tabled to the Federal to repeal the Bintulu Port Act*". The Bintulu Port will, therefore, not be dissolved soon and will continue to be in existence to undertake the operations of the port subject to the terms and conditions of a license issued to them by the Sarawak Port Authority.

Broadly, looking at the Bill as a whole, taking over the regulatory control of the existing port management and operations will be in three phases; the Interim Phase; the Corporatisation Phase leading to the Privatisation Phase.

The Bill has meticulously mapped out in detail every step of the way the manners by which each phase is to be carried out before embarking on the next phase. There are also various built-in safeguards to ensure good governance, such as Part III, composition, and membership of the Authority; Clause 10 and the establishment of the Ports Consultative Council spelt out under Clause 116. Financial arrangements are also meticulously laid down and put in place.

Tuan Speaker, on a less optimistic note, I would like to point out that there may be some possible disadvantages we must try to avoid:

- (a) A centralized entity might lead to the creation of a monopolistic situation where little or no competition results in complacency;
- (b) Bureaucracy and red tape might slow down decision making especially on operational matters or matters on the ground level;
- (c) The risks of overlooking the importance of local demands such as addressing the local needs of the niche markets and the niche cargo bases;
- (d) Over centralization sometimes can lead to paying less attention to specific and necessary needs in localized situations;
- (e) Some form of financial risks like putting everything in a basket; and
- (f) Resource allocations might be skewed and deemed non-fitting or even unfair.

In making sure a centralized and large entity to be successful, Tuan Speaker, we should try to refrain from committing any of those pitfalls, any of those shortcomings that I have just mentioned.

Tuan Speaker, in this context, the government should establish a clear set of guidelines and criteria on which kind of enterprises and services are suitable and feasible for privatisation. This will ensure that social equity and social justice prevail in the midst of economic progress. Moreover, in selecting the privatizing body, the emphasis must be on economic merits so that privatisation will bring about greater economic efficiency and social effectiveness. Then the government will be regarded or will remain the government of the people and for the people.

Tuan Speaker, as has always been said, the ports are catalysts of trade and commerce. But more than that, ports in fact spur economic and business activities that contribute towards nation building. So, as the way forward, the Sarawak Ports Authority when it comes into bay, when

established, should look into the development of total logistic network where it connects the sea and land transport. In the context of Sarawak, which has wide, extensive land areas, there is much to achieve in connecting river transportation with roads and rails. We should also look beyond the opportunity of tapping into our close proximity of the new capital of Indonesia, Nusantara in Kalimantan.

Tuan Speaker, finally, by no means the least important, the country's political stability must be maintained at all times if we are to continue to grow and prosper. We must never take stability for granted. Any multi-ethnic and multi-religious society will always have their fair share of ethnic and religious contradictions. We need strong governments, at both the federal and state level, to seek and enforce compromises. At the federal level, we want a strong Federal MADANI Government under Dato Seri' Anwar Ibrahim and at state level, is people's first government under our capable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Hajji Openg. We need a strong government at both the federal and state level. Only then will we be able to plan and execute economic and business ventures such as the establishment of the Sarawak Ports Authority to bring about better management, better operations of ports for the people of Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, with the above observations, I fully support the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 which is a very well-planned and I hope it will be well-executed soon. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Pending.

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for allowing me to participate in the debate of the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024.

In 2017, a RM370 million dredging project funded by the Federal Government under the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan was carried out at the Sarawak River with the aim to deepen the navigational channel of nine meters below chart datum of 23.4 km stretch. The project was completed in 2020.

The Kuching Port Authority claimed in year 2020 that the multi-millions dredging work is necessary to make the Sarawak River into a superhighway so that all ships or vessels do not have to wait for high tide to sail to either Senari or Pending Ports thereby will help the shipping community savings in cost and time as well as better navigational safety.

However, what I was made to understand, till now, the maximum draught for vessel channelling from the pilot station in Tanjung Po to Senari and Pending terminals is still 7.5 meters and not nine meters as claimed. This is confirmed in the Kuching Port Authority official website where it clearly stated physical restriction draught is 7.5 meters.

Does it mean that the so-called dredging project failed to meet its purpose? Where is the nine meters below chart datum or the superhighway as promised by KPA? For a ship to channel from the pilot station at Tanjung Po to Senari Port or Pending Port, it will still have to wait for high tide, referral to the daily tide table for tidal information is a must for all ships that wish to travel to either to Senari Port or Pending Port. There is no improvement in the draught condition. I was told that from Tanjung Po, it takes about one hour for the vessel to reach Senari Port whereas to Pending Port it is about two hours during high tide.

Furthermore, since year 2016, the Kuching Port Authority has started collecting channel maintenance fees of RM1 per tonne for general cargo, bulk cargo vessel or roro and RM33.25 for 20' container and RM72.50 for 40' container. KPA claimed that the fee is necessary for the maintenance of dredging of the Sarawak River to increase the draught that is the depth of water needed to float a ship of the river otherwise siltation will gradually reduce the draught of the river which will hinder navigation.

Tuan Speaker, the shipping community is asking what is the purpose of continuing collecting these channel maintenance fees when KPA, Kuching Port Authority cannot ensure them to enjoy a

superhighway service at Sarawak River? This is unfair for them; they are paying for nothing. The money is paid to KPA is not minimum but in millions and millions of ringgits each year. By bringing out this issue in this august House, I urged the Minister concerned, the Honourable Minister concerned to give an answer to it.

For this channel maintenance fee collection, could the Minister also inform this august House, why are the monies collected by KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. on behalf of Kuching Port Authority? Why is the money being collected by a Sdn. Bhd. and not Kuching Port Authority itself? In what capacity is KPA Port Sdn Bhd allowed to make such a collection? Is there a special arrangement made between KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. and Kuching Port Authority? Why Kuching Port Authority allows KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. to control its collection?

Why would KPA, Kuching Port Authority, entrust a Sdn. Bhd. to do the collection of revenue and not themselves? After the collection, who did KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. pay the money to? What is the type of maintenance work, if any, which has been carried out? Which company is appointed to carry out the dredging maintenance work?

Tuan Speaker, KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. has also been appointed by the Kuching Port Authority years back to build facilities for containers, bulk general and liquid cargoes, to provide handling services for these cargoes as well as to carry out all port services including those related to the Free Commercial Zone status.

Could the Minister concerned reveal why was KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. chosen to do the services? Was there any open tender called before the appointment? Where is the transparency and accountability of this appointment? All of a sudden, KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. popped up just like the RM31 million Musical Fountain. You go back, you check *ah. Dia nama ada sama punya*, similar *punya orang oh*, like the musical fountain.

Okay, as I understand, for the stevedoring services, KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. subbed out the services to others and did not carry out the job themselves. The Kuching Port Authority should be able to see clearly that the modus operandi of KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. particularly in handling the stevedoring services...*(Interruption)*... Yes? ... *(Inaudible)*... It is. You don't understand. For a Bill to be tabled, if it is a Bill, you can speak anything about port. It's about privatisation and about the management. So, today we are talking about management here. Kuching Port Authority.

Eh, you *jangan kacau saya lah. Jangan. Jangan. Eh. PRS. Jangan. Jangan. Jangan. Jangan lah. Jangan kacau. Okay ah.* I know my scope and I know what I'm talking. Okay? You see, these are the information I think all of us here you don't hear it outside. So, let me spit it here, spit out in this Dewan so that the Minister or the Ministry could look into it. To improve it. To improve it because we are going to, going to how to say consolidate all the ports. So, these are the areas, maybe these are the weaknesses, so we can look into it and to improve on it. Okay. you see, you *kacau saya*, now I stop *mana ah?*

Okay. Okay. Could the. Alright. Let me see. So, KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. subbed out the services to others and did not carry out the job themselves. The Kuching Port Authority should be able to see clearly that the modus operandi of KPA Port Sdn. Bhd., particularly in handling the stevedoring services. Once they got the job from consignees, they subbed it out to other stevedores to do the task at a lower rate. Let's say they get the price from consignee is RM10 per tonne, they sub out to their sub stevedores at the rate of RM2 per tonne. So, that is the huge difference. I don't know whether this is called *Ali Baba* or not *lah*. I leave it *lah*. I leave it for the Ministry to look into this modus operandi.

Okay, in addition, the consignees would like to enquire, why Kuching Port Authority also let KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. to issue convoy note and port bill for those vessels using Pending Terminal? These convoy note and port bill in earlier years before KPA Ports Sdn. Bhd. came in, were issued by the Kuching Port Authority themselves, not by this Sdn. Bhd. But now, they let the Sdn. Bhd.

issue the convoy notes and port bills. Why? Why this arrangement? So, on top of that, I was also told that the same arrangement was made for KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. to collect port wharfage. Is that how you pronounce wharfage? of RM2.80 per tonne? Why so? Why let KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. to collect the revenues that belongs to Kuching Port Authority? This is happening on the grounds now.

Tuan Speaker, KPA owns 30% share holdings in KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. through the Kuching Port Holding Sdn. Bhd. From the SSM search, there was zero revenue declared in SSM summary of financial information as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. You see here, the printout shows zero revenue, but we know that KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. is making money. They are making how much *ah*. Let me see, for the information of this Dewan, last year they made profit after tax is RM2,313,505. Before tax, the revenue is RM8,254,805. *Ada* making, *ada untung lah, ada untung. Tetapi, tidak* declare dalam Kuching Port Holding Sdn. Bhd. *punya* account. *Tidak* declare *lah* to SSM. *Tapi, saya tengok ini laporan pelaburan* Kuching Port Authority, inside there *ada* acknowledge*lah*. *Ada* acknowledged. *Tetapi*, if you look at this report. *Tidak* *ada* declare. Zero revenue. Why so? So, go and ask, go, and ask KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. *punya* management *kenapa ini?* Eh, this money belongs to the Kuching Port *boh*, why all keep inside this, all of the money are kept with KPA Port Sdn. Bhd.? So, I hope that the Minister can enlighten us on this part. Maybe there are some accounting purposes, some benefits, I am not sure. But why were there no dividends declared since there was profit made? *Ah*. See, my boss, this Asajaya agrees with me. *Ya lah*. Why like that *oh?* *Ya lah*. Why like that *oh?*

So, for a layman, it is beyond comprehension that Kuching Port Holding Sdn. Bhd. which is wholly owned by the Kuching Port Authority has zero revenue annually. I move on. Could the Minister enlighten this august House why, whether there is any conflict of interest for the General Manager of Kuching Port Authority. Listen *ah*. Whether is there any conflict of interest for the General Manager of Kuching Port Authority to be appointed as the Director of KPA Port Sdn. Bhd.? *Ada* conflict *kah?* Yes, on one hand, have to *jaga* Kuching Port Authority. On one hand, he has to *jaga* the interest of the KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. I don't know. I leave it to the Ministry or to the Government to explain on this part. Why did he sit in as the director, appointed as the Director to this KPA Port Sdn. Bhd.?

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Okay, the KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. is using KPA, that is the Kuching Port Authority punya logo... (*Interruption*)...

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Pending, this Bill is not just about KPA.

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** But it is one of the ports, that it will be dissolved... (*Interruption*)...

**Tuan Speaker:** This Bill is about putting all the ports in Sarawak under one umbrella.

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Yes, that is correct, but it is made, it is a big Bill about management, so, I'm highlighting the management of Kuching Port Authority, so the Minister can see it maybe take this as an example of how they manage a port, so next time you don't continue with such practice if it is not to the benefits of Sarawak Ports Authority. Jangan buta-butalah.

**Tuan Speaker:** Are you against or for the idea that all the ports in Sarawak should be under one common umbrella?

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** I agree, no problem if it is for benefit to spur the economy like what the Minister said to spur the economy of the state, no problem, but do it properly *lah*, in the proper way. You see I highlight all these areas is to let, is to, is for all to look into it and maybe have a detailed in-depth study so that we don't get, fall into that, how to say, don't let these weaknesses bogged us down. Don't repeat it because we want to make sure that we *untung bah*, but now you see your *untung* go to private companies, *duduk sana*, not declared. Why like that?

Okay, now, so Tuan Speaker, you don't stop me *ah, ada lagi ah*, because I've got 20 minutes. Okay, now is. I want to ask, because I don't want next time also the same problem occur. The KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. is using KPA, Kuching Port Authority *punya logo* in their name card, *betul kah?* You

know, you use your port authority, Kuching Port Authority punya logo and then you put, you print it in your business card. *Ah*, whether there is any misrepresentation or misinformation or not, I don't know. I leave it to the Minister *ah*, to study on this part. Alright, now we go on, Tuan Speaker.

Tuan Speaker, we know that the crossover bridge will soon be completed between Samarahan and Sejingkat. As I understand, once the bridge is completed, vessels above 35 meters air draught will not be able to pass through to Pending Port once the bridge is connected. By then all these big vessels will be forced to use Senari Port. We can expect a sudden surge of traffic going to Senari Port. Is the current capacity of Senari Port sufficient to cater for the high volume of shipments? Is there any immediate backup plan by KPA or soon to be Sarawak Port Authority to address this issue?

Okay, for Bintulu Port, I received some feedback saying that the crane and forklift is down daily causing many vessels to turn away due to slowness of the services rendered, frequent breakdown. So, I hope that when we take over this part, this area we can improve on it.

And then now, on the other note, I notice that Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu has being appointed as a Board member for two ports there is Bintulu Port and Port of Samalaju? Why is he appointed as Board member, sitting in two ports? What qualifications does he have or what expertise that he has that make him so good at sitting as a board member in two ports? Okay, what expertise that he has? Alright, now, I move to the last point now.

Tuan Speaker, let us now go to the definition of the word, "*government*" in this Bill. We turn to page 8 of the Bill. Tuan Speaker, this one is more directly related to you *lah*, so here in page 8, the word, "*government*" is defined means State Government of Sarawak. State Government of Sarawak, *okay*.

Tuan Speaker, last Saturday, your goodself in answering the press question, "*Whether it is Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak or Dewan Undangan Sarawak*", let me put what you said in the Hansard, so you don't stop me *ahhh*, *okay*. "*Whether it is Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak or Dewan Undangan Sarawak, that is the question, which one?*". That is what you said, you asked.

In tandem with the Malaysia Agreement 1963, in the spirit and intendment of the MA63, Sarawak is a region, not one of the 13 states. Since it is a region and not one of the 13 states, it is only logical and axiomatic that the word "*negeri*" be dropped. So, the State Legislative of Sarawak should be Dewan Undangan Sarawak, because you are no longer a state, you are a region. Last, last, the Member of Dewan Sarawak, Tuan Speaker, the Member of Dewan Sarawak, are Ahli Dewan Sarawak, we stick to the definition.

Tuan speaker, it seems that the State Attorney General of Sarawak is taking a different stand and still views Sarawak as a state instead of a region. So, as the Speaker, your goodself, so, does that mean with this definition of the word, "*government*", the Sarawak GPS government is not with you, on your argument.

So, may I know, what do you have to say on this point because from the definition of the "*government*" it is still defined as the State Government of Sarawak and not Sarawak Government. So, with that, I conclude my debate on this part, thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** You should raise this debate in the address by TYT. I think you are confused with the government, Dewan Undangan Negeri and the port. The Dewan Undangan Negeri or the Dewan Undangan Negeri, you are confused with the port. Honourable Member for Daro.

**YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad:** Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Taala Wabarakatuh, Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Terima kasih Tuan Speaker kerana telah memberi peluang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024* yang telah dibentangkan oleh YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Timbalan Premier Sarawak merangkap Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri bagi N.37 Bukit Saban.

Tuan Speaker, di kesempatan ini, saya mewakili masyarakat Daro mengucapkan tahniah dan syabas kepada Kerajaan Sarawak di bawah kepimpinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier kerana telah memberi perhatian yang khusus dalam membangunkan pelabuhan di negeri ini. Kesungguhan ini diterjemahkan dengan mewujudkan sebuah kementerian khusus membangunkan pelabuhan iaitu di bawah Kementerian Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak.

Ini adalah satu langkah yang tepat kerana kebanyakan negara yang maju di dunia ini seperti China dan Singapura umpamanya adalah disumbangkan oleh kemajuan dalam sektor pelabuhan di negara berkenaan. Pada tahun fiskal tahun 2022, seperti yang dilaporkan oleh Statista, Shanghai International Port telah berjaya mencatat penjanaaan pendapatan sebanyak 4.7 bilion USD. Manakala negara Singapura sepertimana yang dilaporkan oleh *The Business Times* pada tahun 2023, Temasek-owned port operator, Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) International telah menjana pendapatan berjumlah 7.1 bilion SGD.

Oleh itu, untuk memperkasakan sektor pelabuhan di Sarawak ini supaya ianya berdaya maju dan menguntungkan maka adalah penting agar satu Rang Undang-Undang baharu hendaklah diwujudkan bagi menyelaraskan, mengkoordinasikan semua urusan dan operasi yang berkaitan pelabuhan dengan lebih efektif dan efisien.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak sebagai wilayah pulau yang terletak di Kepulauan Borneo sememangnya menjadikan pengangkutan laut sebagai pengangkutan utama untuk membawa kargo masuk dan keluar daripada wilayah ini. Ini terbukti dengan beroperasinya tujuh buah Pelabuhan di perairan kita setakat ini, iaitu Pelabuhan Kuching, Pelabuhan Senari, Pelabuhan Tanjung Manis, Pelabuhan Samalaju, Pelabuhan Rajang, Pelabuhan Miri, dan termasuk Pelabuhan Bintulu yang akan kita ambil dalam sedikit masa lagi. Semua Pelabuhan-pelabuhan ini beroperasi berasingan dan bersaing antara satu sama lain.

Tuan Speaker, pembentangan *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024* ini adalah bertepatan sekali dengan hasrat Kerajaan Sarawak. Dengan menubuhkan satu badan "*authority*" untuk mengurus dan mentadbir kesemua pelabuhan yang ada di Sarawak ini yakini dapat mendatangkan banyak kebaikan.

Penguatkuasaan *Sarawak Ports Authority Bills, 2024* dapat memaksimumkan kutipan di setiap penguatkuasaan pelabuhan kita dengan penyeragaman dasar-dasar dan hala tuju di bawah satu badan kawal selia pelabuhan, iaitu Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak.

Dengan cara ini, pengurusan dan pentadbiran pelabuhan-pelabuhan Sarawak juga akan lebih bersepadu dalam penyelarasan fungsi-fungsi Pelabuhan-pelabuhan Sarawak, antaranya:

- (a) Penetapan kluster ekonomi setiap pelabuhan bagi mengelakkan persaingan yang negatif;
- (b) Pengurusan pengagihan sumber antara pelabuhan-pelabuhan bagi memastikan penggunaan sumber yang optima serta berfungsi dengan cekap;
- (c) Memastikan kualiti perkhidmatan pelabuhan dan KPI yang standard untuk manfaat pengguna-pengguna Pelabuhan;
- (d) Menyelaraskan pelaksanaan pengurusan alam sekitar pelabuhan-pelabuhan; dan
- (e) Memastikan program "*Capacity building*" staf-staf Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak lebih terancang dan memenuhi keperluan.

Tuan Speaker, selain itu, Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak juga akan membangunkan pelabuhan-pelabuhan Sarawak secara strategik dan kos efektif dengan:

- (a) merancang pembangunan pelabuhan secara menyeluruh berdasarkan kekuatan masing-masing;
- (b) Merancang pembangunan pelabuhan yang berarah kepada kluster ekonomi masing-masing;
- (c) Membolehkan penyusunan semula antara pelabuhan-pelabuhan secara strategik berdasarkan kekuatan pelabuhan masing-masing; dan
- (d) Mengelak risiko “*over-supply*” kapasiti dan kemudahan pelabuhan antara pelabuhan-pelabuhan kita.

Dalam pada itu, penguatkuasaan Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak juga akan menambah baik kemampuan kewangan pelabuhan-pelabuhan Sarawak dengan inisiatif-inisiatif berikut:

- (a) Dana yang disatukan boleh mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada dana kerajaan untuk membiayai projek pembangunan pelabuhan;
- (b) Dana yang disatukan membolehkan perancangan dan kawalan perbelanjaan yang lebih berkesan dan optimum;
- (c) Menyeragamkan dan mengharmonisasikan pelabuhan yang berbeza serta sumber pendapatan yang berbeza;
- (d) Mengagihkan peruntukan dana berdasarkan kepada *Business Case* yang kukuh; dan
- (e) Memastikan pelaburan yang mampan dan memberi pulangan yang positif.

Tuan Speaker, dengan melaksanakan pembaharuan ini juga, Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak akan memfasilitasikan pelabuhan-pelabuhan yang lebih menguntungkan melalui penswastan pelabuhan dan ini:

- (a) Membolehkan kajian dan penggubalan dasar penswastan pelabuhan yang seragam;
- (b) Memastikan model perjanjian penswastan boleh menjamin perkembangan pelabuhan yang positif dan menguntungkan; dan
- (c) Memudahkan pemantauan prestasi pengendalian pelabuhan secara menyeluruh dan mencadang penambahbaikan sekiranya terdapat kelemahan-kelemahan.

Dengan mempunyai satu badan kawal selia menggubal polisi, menjalankan fungsi-fungsi dan menyelaras aktiviti-aktiviti Pelabuhan di semua pelabuhan-pelabuhan Sarawak dan melaksana undang-undang dan peraturan-peraturan seperti yang termaktub dalam *proposed Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024* akan menjadikan pengurusan dan pentadbiran Pelabuhan di Sarawak menjadi lebih efektif dan efisien.

Tuan Speaker, walau bagaimanapun, adalah diingatkan supaya bagi memastikan pelaksanaan dasar baharu ini benar-benar berkesan, kerajaan adalah digesa supaya beberapa perkara seperti yang berikut diberi perhatian yang sewajarnya.

- (a) Risiko kebergantungan peruntukan dana yang disatukan oleh pelabuhan-pelabuhan yang berprestasi lemah dan kurang berdaya saing;

- (b) Risiko pelabuhan-pelabuhan berdaya maju dan berpotensi tinggi tidak mendapat sumber secukupnya sekiranya hasil pendapatan diagihkan kepada pelabuhan-pelabuhan yang tidak berdaya maju dan tiada *Cost-Benefit Analysis* dibuat; dan
- (c) Risiko keperluan khusus (*specific needs*) pelabuhan-pelabuhan akan terjejas akibat daripada terlepas pandang ekoran daripada penyeragaman dasar yang generik.

Tuan Speaker, secara keseluruhannya, saya berkeyakinan dasar baharu ini sekiranya dilaksanakan dengan baik dengan mengambil kira beberapa kelemahan yang mungkin berlaku, maka sudah pastinya boleh menjadikan pelabuhan sebagai sebuah sektor yang akan memberi keuntungan besar seterusnya meningkatkan pendapatan Sarawak pada masa akan datang.

Dengan ini, Tuan Speaker, saya menyokong *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024*. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Repok.

**YB Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii:** Terima kasih Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu, saya mengucapkan terima kasih kerana telah memberi peluang kepada saya untuk membahaskan *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024* yang telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, Timbalan Premier Sarawak, Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan, pada persidangan hari kedua Mesyuarat Pertama bagi Penggal Ketiga Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Kesembilan Belas di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini.

Tuan Speaker, pada era globalisasi ini, industri pelabuhan adalah antara industri yang sentiasa dinamik dan kompetitif. Memandangkan sebahagian besar perdagangan di dunia bergantung kepada pengangkutan laut, maka pelabuhan memainkan peranan yang sangat penting dan merupakan satu penanda aras pembangunan ekonomi dan kemajuan sesebuah negara. Tidak dapat dinafikan bahawa negara yang mempunyai pelabuhan yang bertaraf dunia dengan infrastruktur yang sempurna dan canggih dapat menonjolkan kekuatan ekonomi sesebuah negara sebagai sebuah daya tarikan.

Saya amat yakin bahawa *Bill* ini telah diperkenalkan pada masa yang tepat dan saya juga percaya Kerajaan Sarawak akan berusaha untuk meningkatkan daya saing dan memantapkan barisan pengurusan bagi menambah baik sistem penyampaian perkhidmatan dan pembangunan pelabuhan secara menyeluruh di bawah *Bill* ini.

*Bill* ini bukan sahaja dapat memupuk pertumbuhan perdagangan, meningkatkan pembangunan perindustrian dan logistik serta menjadi hab pengangkutan, malah pembangunan ini akan turut menjana peluang pekerjaan kepada rakyat Sarawak dan menggalakkan sektor pelancongan seperti perkapalan pelayaran. Melalui konsep "*Central Port Authority*", pengurusan dan tadbir urus pelabuhan yang kukuh dapat memastikan operasi yang cekap dan efisien di semua pelabuhan di Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, kita bersyukur kerana kita di bawah pimpinan Premier Sarawak yang berwawasan, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, telah menerajui Sarawak ke peringkat pembangunan yang mampan dan menjurus ke arah kemajuan ekonomi dan kemakmuran Sarawak.

Sekiranya Sarawak berjaya melaksanakan *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024*, ia pastinya akan menjadi sebuah *milestone* yang bersejarah untuk Sarawak menuju kecemerlangan yang telah disasarkan oleh Kerajaan Sarawak menjelang tahun 2030. Saya yakin inisiatif Kerajaan GPS yang mantap ini akan menerima sokongan padu daripada anak-anak Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, dengan ini, saya menyokong penuh *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024*. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Katibas.

**YB Encik Lidam anak Assan:** Tuan Speaker, thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate for this important Bill. Congratulations to Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar for Bukit Saban, Deputy Premier of Sarawak for successfully tabling the Bill called Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. I rise to support the bill referred to as Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 on the following merits:

- (a) The introduction of Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 is indeed timely as Sarawak aspire to achieve PCDS 2030;
- (b) The Bill enables Sarawak to centrally coordinate all aspect of its governance and operation to push for its trade, transportation and economic growth and advancement beyond its sealine to the rest of the world as global player and greater compliance to International Maritime Organisation (IMO);
- (c) As a crucial connection between sea and land movement, the ports support economic activities and growth for Sarawak, as well as Malaysia. Sarawak Mansang Malaysia pun Mansang!
- (d) With large areas in Sarawak made more accessible by highway especially Pan Borneo, the new developments in agriculture and manufacturing, resulting in more shipments of raw materials and manufactured goods throughout Sarawak's ports. Sarawak's ports will also be our collection and distribution centre. Even products from our rural areas, in that we can add value of our trades and contribute to the wellbeing of the people;
- (e) The Bill later once legislated and adopted will provides authority to serve and improve the supply chain ecosystem to ensure Sarawak generate another stream of income from reliable hubs as it is located strategically facing the shipping route connecting the west to the east along South China Sea.

Tuan Speaker,

- (f) As the functions of the Sarawak Port Authority are to manage, regulate, control and to administer all ports in Sarawak, it indeed provide strategic advantages to facilitate our business for Sarawak both domestic and global;
- (g) Currently Sarawak owns several ports including the newly acquired port belongs to Sarawak, it is even more so important the bill later will bring economic ecosystems in the ports supply chain to another platform to compete in the global business;
- (h) The introduction of this Bill in port managements will allow our Sarawak Port Authority to review and innovate the current level of efficiency and effectiveness to another level by adopting new ways of achieving the results, among others;
- (i) The advent of technology and digitalization, Sarawak Digital, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) has and will significantly impact ports in several ways. The automation of various port processes, such as cargo handling, container tracking, and customs procedures. Automated systems can improve our efficiency, reduce operational costs, and minimize human error; and
- (j) The digitalization of documentation and administrative processes, such as electronic bills of lading and online customs clearance, streamlines paperwork, reduces administrative function, and accelerates our cargo processing times. Implementation of smart technologies in port infrastructure, such as smart berths, automated cranes, and intelligent logistics systems will enhance our operational efficiency, reduces congestion, and improves safety and environmental sustainability.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill plays a crucial role in port management for several reasons. As stipulated in this Bill, once become enforceable will govern various aspects of port operations, including safety standards, environmental protection, security measures, labour practices, and customs procedures. The Sarawak Port Authority will ensure compliance with these legal requirements to avoid penalties, fines, and legal liabilities.

Ports are often public assets that serve the interests of various stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, shipping companies, and cargo owners. As such all the legal framework in this Bill provides the necessary structure, standards, and guidelines for effective port management, ensuring that ports operate lawfully, safely, and sustainably while serving the needs of global trade and transportation.

Tuan Speaker, to optimise revenue generation for Sarawak and its people, the port structure should prioritize efficiency, innovation, and sustainability. By modernising the port infrastructure, embracing artificial Intelligence technology, and fostering strategic partnership with big global ports operators, the port can unlock the new potential opportunities for growth and prosperities for Greater Sarawak and generations of Sarawakians to come.

For the effectiveness and meaningful outcomes of the Sarawak Port Authority, it is suggested that it must operate on the principle of Private Entity and Result/Profit-oriented. The Premier's Department shall be the custodian of the Bill while its implementing body may be referred to as Sarawak Port Holding Berhad and the subsidiary ports be incorporated under Government Own Company (GOC) or Government-Linked Company under the Sarawak Financial Office as shareholders. All dividend or profit must be repatriated to Sarawak coffer for Sarawak and its people to enjoy.

Tuan Speaker, with the foregoing merits and potential impacts to Sarawak's position in domestic and international trade Katibas therefore support the Bill. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Balingian.

**YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi:** Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

**Tuan Speaker:** Waalaikumusalam.

**YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi:** Salam sejahtera dan Salam Sarawakku Sayang. Thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion in debating the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 in this august House today. Congratulations to the Ahli Yang Berhormat Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Bukit Saban for successfully tabling this Bill today. I would like to praise the Sarawak Government for not being hindered by any of the *tunggu dolok* on this matter but to proceed boldly to strike the iron while its hot to table this Bill.

Guided by the principal objective of the Bill, which is to consider all port authorities in Sarawak under a new central port authority; reform the governance structure and regulatory framework; and provision for the privatization of port, I am of the opinion that the Bill should be passed with full support from all the Honourable Members.

As we know, Sarawak is a maritime region and being so, it raises the importance of having a good port infrastructure that will not only expand the capability of our beloved Sarawak but also stir up our economic development through more job and business opportunities, increased tax revenues and in a bigger perspective, the national income.

The introduction of the Bill should be taken as a testimony of the Gabungan Parti Sarawak or GPS Government's strong and continuous commitment towards ports development, following our success to secure an agreement with the Federal Government to take over Bintulu Port. This is also

a reflection of the Sarawak GPS Government's determination and not resting on past or present successes, but to ensure that these past and present successes will breed new successes.

The Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 that had been laid down by our Right Honourable Premier is guiding the way for all of us to move forward after being unfortunately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The post COVID-19 period had seen countries all around the world start to rebuild their economy which had been made stagnant by the pandemic for about two years.

We are in Sarawak was not spared and would need to rise back not only to regain back the momentum of economic growth that we enjoyed before the pandemic, but also to accelerate the growth even faster.

As I have said, being a maritime region, Sarawak would need to capitalise on its geographical location and condition as one approach to accelerate our economy, in particular the natural landscape of our Bumi Kenyalang, which had a number of suitable locations for the development of deep-sea ports. The creation of mere deep-sea ports would not only enhance our maritime transportation network but would also lead to the improvement in our land and even air transportation system.

The idea and spirit put in to come up with this Bill will be the right way to place Sarawak in the right and ideal position to become a major transport hub to serve the East ASEAN Region Area, as well as complementing the plan by our neighbour, Indonesia to develop their new capital, Nusantara in Kalimantan. With this note, Tuan Speaker, I beg to support this Bill. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Tellian.

**YB Encik Royston bin Valentine:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk turut serta dalam perbahasan ini. *Selamat tengah lau*, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Terlebih dahulu tahniah diucapkan kepada Bukit Saban merangkap Menteri Pembangunan Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan dan Timbalan Premier Sarawak selaku menteri bertanggungjawab yang membawa usul *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024*.

Tuan Speaker, Kerajaan Sarawak berhasrat untuk menyatukan semua pelabuhan yang terletak di Sarawak secara berpusat dengan membentangkan *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024* dalam persidangan kali ini.

Dengan adanya Ordinan ini nanti, pihak berkuasa pelabuhan berpusat akan ditubuhkan untuk mengendalikan semua pelabuhan yang ada di Sarawak seperti Pelabuhan Kuching, Pelabuhan Miri, Pelabuhan Samalaju, Pelabuhan Rajang dan Pelabuhan Tanjung Manis termasuklah Pelabuhan Bintulu yang akan diambil alih daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan sedikit masa lagi.

Lembaga berpusat akan bertanggungjawab ke atas semua pelabuhan terutamanya dalam struktur tadbir urus dan rangka kerja pengawalseliaan operasi pelabuhan di Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, keputusan yang dibuat oleh Kerajaan Sarawak untuk memusatkan kuasa ke atas semua pelabuhan di wilayah ini di bawah Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak dilihat berpotensi menghasilkan pelbagai kelebihan dan manfaat yang maksimum dari pelbagai sudut yang juga selaras dengan dasar dan agenda pembangunan Sarawak terutamanya Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 (PCDS 2030).

Saya tidak bersetuju dengan Pending sebentar tadi apabila beliau menyatakan bahawa kementerian tidak menyusun atur rang undang-undang ini dengan baik. Tidak ada kementerian, tidak ada kerajaan yang semborono ataupun membuat sembarangan dalam menyusun atur sesuatu

rang undang-undang. Keputusan yang dibuat oleh Kerajaan Sarawak untuk memusatkan kuasa ini sudah pasti membawa banyak manfaat dan kelebihan seperti yang akan saya sebutkan selepas ini:

*(1) Memperkemaskan Tadbir Urus dan Penyelarasan*

Pemusatan semua pelabuhan di bawah pentadbiran tunggal membolehkan pendekatan yang lebih sistematik terhadap tadbir urus dan penyelarasannya. Ini boleh membawa kepada pelaksanaan dasar yang lebih efektif, perancangan sumber yang lebih baik di semua pelabuhan, sekali gus meningkatkan kecekapan dan keberkesanan keseluruhan operasi pelabuhan.

*(2) Pembangunan Infrastruktur yang Lebih Baik*

Melalui pelaksanaan kawalan berpusat, Kerajaan Sarawak sudah pasti dapat mengoptimalkan peruntukan sumber, memastikan pendekatan yang lebih cekap dan berkesan terhadap pembangunan dan penyelenggaraan infrastruktur di semua pelabuhan. Ini berpotensi untuk menghasilkan peningkatan peruntukan sumber ke arah pembangunan infrastruktur pelabuhan, jentera, dan teknologi canggih yang sudah pasti akan meningkatkan daya saing dan keupayaan pelabuhan Sarawak di peringkat antarabangsa.

*(3) Mempertingkatkan Rangka Kerja Pengawalseliaan Pelabuhan*

Penubuhan *Sarawak Ports Authority* memberi peluang untuk melakukan pembaharuan dan mengukuhkan rangka kerja kawal selia yang mengawal operasi pelabuhan di Sarawak. Dengan menyeragamkan peraturan, dasar dan prosedur, *Sarawak Ports Authority* dapat menggalakkan ketelusan, akauntabiliti dan pematuhan yang lebih besar dengan piawaian antarabangsa, memupuk persekitaran yang kondusif untuk perdagangan dan pelaburan.

*(4) Peningkatan Penjanaan Pendapatan*

Mempunyai pengurusan berpusat dalam operasi pelabuhan berpotensi mewujudkan pilihan yang lebih baik untuk menjana pendapatan bagi wilayah ini. Kerajaan Sarawak mampu melaksanakan kaedah untuk meningkatkan perkhidmatan pelabuhan, meningkatkan trafik perkapalan dan mengejar prospek komersial baharu seperti perkhidmatan logistik, pergudangan dan taman perindustrian di bahagian pelabuhan yang terlibat.

*(5) Pemerksaan Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan dan Kuasa Autonomi*

Ini yang paling penting. Pemindahan pengurusan pelabuhan daripada agensi persekutuan memberikan Kerajaan Sarawak kuasa autonomi yang lebih jelas selaras dengan Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 dan keupayaan membuat keputusan sendiri atas aset ekonomi penting yang dimiliki oleh Kerajaan Sarawak. Ini selaras dengan tindakan yang diambil untuk memajukan agenda pembangunan wilayah mengikut matlamat ekonomi Sarawak.

*(6) Pembangunan Ekonomi Strategik*

Kerajaan Sarawak boleh menggunakan pelabuhannya secara strategik untuk memacu objektif pembangunan ekonomi menggunakan kawalan ke atas hab pengangkutan utama ini. Aktiviti-aktiviti ini merangkumi penggalakan perdagangan, menarik pelaburan antarabangsa, meningkatkan sektor domestik dan hubungan serantau yang semuanya sudah pasti akan menyumbang kepada kemajuan ekonomi keseluruhan dan kemakmuran Sarawak.

*(7) Pengurusan Sumber yang Cekap*

Tuan Speaker, dengan adanya pihak berkuasa pelabuhan berpusat di bawah kuasa penuh Kerajaan Sarawak, Sarawak boleh mengoptimalkan peruntukan sumber merentasi kemudahan pelabuhan. Dengan memperkemas proses membuat keputusan dan pengurusan sumber, pihak

berkuasa dapat memastikan penggunaan dana, tenaga kerja dan infrastruktur yang cekap untuk memaksimumkan kecekapan operasi dan produktiviti di semua pelabuhan.

*(8) Dasar dan Peraturan Standard*

Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak boleh mewujudkan dasar, peraturan dan prosedur operasi standard untuk semua pelabuhan di bawah bidang kuasanya. Konsistensi dalam tadbir urus ini memastikan pematuhan terhadap piawaian industri, protokol keselamatan, peraturan alam sekitar dan amalan terbaik antarabangsa, akhirnya meningkatkan daya saing dan reputasi pelabuhan Sarawak pada skala global.

*(9) Mempertingkatkan Connectivity dan Facility Perdagangan*

Pihak berkuasa pelabuhan berpusat ataupun *Sarawak Ports Authority* (SPA) boleh memacu usaha untuk meningkatkan kesalinghubungan, fasilitasi perdagangan dan kecekapan logistik di Sarawak. Dengan kerjasama pihak berkepentingan, mengoptimumkan rangkaian rantai bekalan dan melabur dalam peningkatan infrastruktur pelabuhan, pihak berkuasa dapat memupuk pergerakan kargo yang lancar, meningkatkan perkhidmatan pelabuhan, menarik laluan perkapalan baru dan peluang perniagaan sekali gus mengukuhkan kedudukan Sarawak sebagai hab logistik dan pengangkutan utama di rantau ini.

*(10) Kelestarian Alam Sekitar dan Inisiatif Pembangunan Mampan*

Tuan Speaker, dengan kuasa penuh dalam mengendalikan pelabuhan sendiri secara berpusat melalui Ordinan ini nanti, *Sarawak Ports Authority* boleh mengintegrasikan prinsip pembangunan mampan ke dalam amalan pengurusan pelabuhan, menggalakkan pengawasan alam sekitar, tanggungjawab sosial dan daya tahan terhadap kesan perubahan iklim. Dengan mengguna pakai teknologi hijau, melaksanakan amalan mesra alam, dan melibatkan pihak berkepentingan dalam usaha kelestarian, *Sarawak Ports Authority* pasti akan menyumbang kepada daya maju dan daya tahan jangka panjang pelabuhan Sarawak.

Mengutamakan kelestarian alam sekitar dan amalan hijau dalam operasi dan pembangunan pelabuhan amatlah penting. Dengan menggabungkan inisiatif mesra alam, penyelesaian tenaga boleh diperbaharui dan *eco-conscious strategy* ke dalam pengurusan pelabuhan, pihak berkuasa dapat mengurangkan kesan alam sekitar, mengurangkan jejak karbon, menegakkan amalan lestari yang memelihara ekosistem semula jadi dan menyumbang kepada persekitaran yang lebih bersih lebih-lebih lagi dalam perubahan iklim yang tidak menentu ketika ini.

*(11) Visi Strategik Bersepadu*

Penubuhan *Sarawak Ports Authority* membolehkan pembangunan dan pelaksanaan visi strategik bersepadu untuk pengurusan dan operasi pelabuhan di Sarawak. Dengan semua pelabuhan di bawah satu pihak berkuasa, terdapat koheren yang lebih besar dalam inisiatif perancangan, pelaburan dan pembangunan, memastikan sejajar dengan matlamat dan keutamaan ekonomi jangka panjang Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, secara kesimpulannya, kelulusan *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024* sekali gus pembentukan Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak merupakan langkah bijak Kerajaan Sarawak ke arah mengoptimumkan pengurusan dan operasi pelabuhan di Sarawak dengan implikasi yang meluas terhadap pertumbuhan ekonomi, daya saing perdagangan dan pembangunan mampan.

Dengan memanfaatkan kewibawaan dan sumbernya dengan berkesan, *Sarawak Ports Authority* diyakini mampu membentuk masa depan pengurusan terbaik pelabuhan yang ada di Sarawak khasnya dan Malaysia amnya, sekali gus memacu hasil positif bagi ekonomi, komuniti dan alam sekitar rantau ini.

Tuan Speaker, maka dengan huraian berkaitan kepentingan dan kebaikan yang bakal dinikmati oleh Sarawak dan rakyatnya, Tellian menyokong penuh usul ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Baleh.

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Tuan Speaker, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker kerana memberikan peluang kepada saya untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak, 2024 yang telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier Sarawak Datuk Amar bagi DUN N.37 Bukit Saban merangkap Menteri Pembangunan Infrastruktur dan Pelabuhan Negeri Sarawak di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Tuan Speaker, Kerajaan Sarawak telah membuat satu keputusan yang sangat tepat untuk menubuhkan Lembaga Pelabuhan Berpusat yang berfungsi sebagai pusat pengurusan untuk semua pelabuhan yang terletak di Sarawak.

Buat masa ini, Sarawak memiliki lima entiti yang mengawal setiap pelabuhan di kawasan masing-masing, iaitu:

- (a) Lembaga Pelabuhan Kuching;
- (b) Lembaga Pelabuhan Rajang;
- (c) Lembaga Pelabuhan Miri;
- (d) Lembaga Pelabuhan Tanjung Manis; dan
- (e) Lembaga Pelabuhan Samalaju.

Justeru, Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak, 2024 ini adalah sangat penting untuk menyatukan semua pelabuhan ini menjadi satu entiti. Entiti tunggal ini akan mengawal selia, memperkemas dan menyelaraskan pengurusan, operasi, perancangan dan pembangunan semua pelabuhan di Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, seperti yang kita semua sedia maklum, pada 22 Mac 2024, tercipta satu sejarah yang cukup bermakna kepada semua rakyat Sarawak apabila satu Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) berhubung penukaran status Pelabuhan Bintulu kepada Pelabuhan Negeri Sarawak telah dimeterai.

Memorandum Persefahaman ini dimeterai antara Menteri Pengangkutan Persekutuan dan Timbalan Premier merangkap Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak yang turut disaksikan oleh Perdana Menteri dan Premier Sarawak.

Objektif MoU ini adalah untuk menyelia dan melancarkan proses penukaran status Pelabuhan Bintulu daripada Pelabuhan Persekutuan kepada pelabuhan milik Sarawak sepenuhnya. Sebelum Pelabuhan Bintulu diserahkan kepada Kerajaan Sarawak, Akta Lembaga Pelabuhan Bintulu 1981 perlu dimansuhkan terlebih dahulu.

Pelabuhan Labuan masih kekal sebagai Pelabuhan Persekutuan. Jadi, Pelabuhan Labuan akan dikeluarkan daripada Akta Pelabuhan Bintulu yang akan dimansuhkan sebagai Pelabuhan Persekutuan.

Tuan Speaker, saya sangat yakin dan optimistik dengan kepimpinan Kerajaan Sarawak diterajui oleh Premier Sarawak dan pentadbiran yang ada ini. Pembangunan pelabuhan berdasarkan suatu pelan induk yang komprehensif melibatkan seluruh Sarawak dan malah boleh menjangkau keseluruhan Pulau Borneo akan memantapkan ekonomi Sarawak untuk menjadi sebuah ekonomi yang terunggul di rantau ini.

Perkara ini boleh dicapai apabila pelabuhan-pelabuhan di Sarawak diuruskan oleh sebuah lembaga pelabuhan pusat yang dikawal dan diurus selia oleh Kerajaan Sarawak.

Selama ini pembangunan pelabuhan secara menyeluruh tidak pernah dilihat sebagai inisiatif penting untuk memacu ekonomi Sarawak.

Potensi ini tidak harus dilepaskan kerana Sarawak sebagai ekonomi perdagangan dengan lokasi yang strategik di rantau Asia mempunyai masa hadapan yang cerah untuk membina ekonomi berasaskan pembangunan pelabuhan yang bertaraf dunia.

Tuan Speaker, sekitar 80% hingga 90% daripada jumlah dagangan dunia dikendalikan oleh pelabuhan dan hampir dua pertiga daripada ini dikendalikan di pelabuhan negara-negara membangun. Persidangan Pertubuhan Perdagangan dan Pembangunan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu menganggarkan 4% ke 5% pertumbuhan tahunan dan ini merupakan satu jumlah yang cukup besar.

Sehubungan itu, amat penting untuk Sarawak menjadi sebahagian pertumbuhan penting berkenaan dan meletakkan kedudukan dalam perdagangan laut global. Pelabuhan sebagai infrastruktur ekonomi adalah penting untuk menjadi pemangkin ke arah pembangunan sebuah negara.

Mengambil Pelabuhan Bintulu sebagai contoh teras, dengan Pelabuhan Bintulu bukan sahaja menjadi peneraju pelabuhan Sarawak dari segi eksport gas asli cecair (LNG) tetapi juga terminal eksport LNG terbesar di Asia Timur. Pelabuhan Bintulu juga adalah terminal kontena terbesar di Malaysia Timur, lebih besar daripada semua kontena yang dikendalikan oleh gabungan lapan Pelabuhan Sabah.

Memetik kata Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan Bintulu Port Holdings Berhad, anggaran gabungan Pelabuhan Bintulu dan Samalaju mengendalikan produk bernilai hampir setengah trilion ringgit setahun. Ini jelas membuktikan bahawa pengurusan pelabuhan yang efektif dan berkesan mampu menjana pendapatan yang tinggi untuk Sarawak. Dengan perancangan yang teratur dan strategik dikendalikan oleh pihak yang cekap dan efektif, Sarawak berada di landasan yang tepat untuk menjadi sebuah negeri yang maju menjelang 2030.

Dengan hujahan ini, saya menyokong penuh agar Rang Undang-undang Lembaga Pelabuhan Sarawak, 2024 diluluskan di Dewan yang mulia ini. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu.

**YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to speak on this transformative legislative proposal – the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development for introducing this Bill, which promises to significantly enhance our state's port management and global trade connectivity.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak stands on the brink of a new era in maritime commerce. With the establishment of the Sarawak Ports Authority (SPA), we are consolidating our efforts to manage, regulate, and administer all ports under a unified and efficient authority. This centralisation is not merely administrative it is a strategic alignment of our resources to catapult our state into a major maritime hub in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### *Strategic Centralization of Port Management*

The creation of SPA as a corporate body with perpetual succession marks a pivotal change in how we envision the future of trade through our ports. By centralising port management, we ensure that our ports can compete more efficiently on the global stage, offering streamlined services and integrated operations that can adapt to the dynamic demands of international trade.

*Privatization and Enhanced Regulation*

Tuan Speaker, this Bill facilitates the privatisation of port operations, allowing for greater involvement of the private sector. This move is designed to foster innovation, improve operational efficiencies, and attract significant private investment. The licensing provisions in this Bill will enable SPA to oversee these privatised entities, ensuring that they adhere to the highest standards of service and contribute positively to our economy.

*Promotion of Competitive and Fair-Trade Practices*

Tuan Speaker, under this Bill, SPA will standardise port dues, vessel dues, and other charges across all Sarawak ports. The harmonisation ensures a fair and competitive environment, preventing any discrepancies that could hinder our trade competitiveness. Such measures are essential for Sarawak to attract international shipping lines and establish itself as a reliable gateway to Southeast Asia.

*Development of a Free Trade Zone at Bintulu Port*

With the vision of fostering economic growth and enhancing our global trade relations, I humbly propose to this august House the consideration of establishing a Free Trade Zone at Bintulu Port, a game changer for Sarawak's economy. By offering streamlined customs regulations and attractive tax incentives, this zone will become a magnet for global businesses, reducing operational costs and enhancing our competitive edge in the international trade. The strategic location of Bintulu, combined with its robust infrastructure, makes it the ideal site for such a pioneering economic initiative. This Free Trade Zone promises not only to attract a wide array of industries but also to stimulate local economic growth and create numerous high-quality jobs.

*Enhanced Economic Opportunities through Bintulu Development Authority*

Tuan Speaker, furthermore, the establishment of this zone will drive demand for local services and boost various sectors of our economy, from logistics to manufacturing. The influx of businesses will necessitate advanced technological adoption and infrastructural upgrades, ensuring that Bintulu, and the Sarawak at large, becomes a key player in the Asia Pacific trade network. In line with this, I propose transferring the management of significant lands and resources from Bintulu Port Authority to the Bintulu Development Authority. This strategic move is essential to capitalise fully on Bintulu's economic potential and to support the Free Trade Zone's development, streamlining regulatory processes and leveraging BDA's expertise in managing and developing industrial and commercial infrastructure.

This transition will not only enhance the efficient utilisation of our resources but also stimulate economic growth, attract investments and investors, and create substantial job opportunities, thus fortifying Bintulu's strategic position as a key player in the global maritime industry. By supporting this Bill and the associated strategic enhancements, we are paving the way for a prosperous future, leveraging our geographical and political strengths to position Sarawak as a leading trading hub.

*Ports Consultative Council*

Additionally, the Bill proposes the constitution of a Ports Consultative Council, chaired by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development. This council will play a crucial role in advising on the enhancement of port facilities and services. It will focus on measures to improve the efficiency of operations and recommend policies for sustainable development, aligning our port activities with global environment standards.

Tuan Speaker, in replying to Yang Berhormat bagi Pending, my appointment as the Board Member of LPB, I don't know whether she knows what LPB is, which was by the Minister for Transport who is Yang Berhormat Tuan Anthony Loke, who is also the Secretary General. I will not

waste my time here to prove myself to you in this august House. But my actions and decision have always been in the best interest of public service and committed to transparency and ethical conduct in all roles.

Tuan Speaker, before I conclude, the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 is more than just a legislative measure. It is a blueprint for the future of our maritime industry. By supporting this Bill, we are not only enhancing our port management capabilities but also positioning Sarawak as a pivotal player in regional and global maritime trade.

I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to support the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 to usher in a new chapter of prosperity and development of Sarawak. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Batu Kitang.

**YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang:** Thank you very much, Tuan Speaker, for this opportunity to debate on the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. I rise to support Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 which will streamline and consolidate the management, operation, planning and the development of all port authorities in Sarawak. Under a new centralised body to be known as the Sarawak Ports Authority, this Bill will indeed reform the governance structure and regulatory framework of port operations in Sarawak including harmonising port dues, vessel dues, port charges and fees. At the lack of provisions for the privatisation of port management, operations and undertakings in Sarawak which will shape our region economic landscape.

There are six (6) ports throughout Sarawak. The effective operation of Bintulu Port for instance, and the individual strength of all these 6 ports can be drawn together to model the best practice under this new body, Sarawak Ports Authority, to further strengthen their operation and management of all our ports in the interest of Sarawak. Sarawak is in the strategic location of a major shipping route linking the west and the east and this position Sarawak as the vital hub of trade and commerce offering opportunities for economic growth.

Tuan Speaker, Bintulu will soon be among the first globally to generate electricity using kinetic energy from waves, apart from solar, biogas, gas, and abundance of other natural resources here. Furthermore, our abundant gas reserves, which are among one of the largest in the world, represent a valuable asset that must be harnessed effectively by leveraging technologies like carbon capture, utilisation and storage. We can optimize gas utilization for power generation, ensuring energy security for our region.

Thus, a robust port system is essential for facilitating domestic and international trade. Through strategic investments in port facilities, we aim to solidify Sarawak's position as a leading player in the energy market. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak for successfully convincing the Federal Government the latter of which has committed through an MoU signed in March 2024 to allow Sarawak to take full control Bintulu Port, an international port strategically located to serve the far east and Europe, and which is one of the largest LNG export terminals in the world.

I do fully support the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 and by doing so, we affirm our commitment to unlocking Sarawak's economic potential and securing its rightful place as a key player in the global energy sector. Thank you very much, Tuan Speaker.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli Yang Berhormat, we go for a lunch break. The Sitting resumes at 2.30 p.m.

*(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 1.18 tengah hari)*

*(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 2.38 petang)*

*[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Tamin.

**YB Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang:** Tuan Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate of the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 table by our Honourable Deputy Sarawak Premier; and Minister of Infrastructure and Port Development, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas. I would like also to place my gratitude to our Sarawak Government under the leadership of our Honourable Sarawak Premier, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, and our two Deputy Premier's, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and YB's for the realization of this Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024.

The significance of this Sarawak Port Authority Bill is the reclaiming of the Bintulu Port. After 43 years of its establishment, we are close to reclaim the Bintulu Port. This is not only because it should be under Sarawak' authority according to the Constitution, but also because Sarawak needs to be comprehensively plan its port development, which encompasses the whole Sarawak, including its resource rich hinterland.

There are 5 ports in Sarawak situated in Kuching, Miri, Tanjung Manis, Sibul, Bintulu. All these ports play an important role. This Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 will establish the authority of the Sarawak Government to manage all these port under a new centralized port authority, namely the port, Sarawak Ports Authority. This Sarawak Ports Authority Bill also seeks to reform the governance structure regulatory framework of port operations in Sarawak, including harmonizing port dues, vessel due, port charges and fees and to make provisions for the privatization of port management and operation and undertakings in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, today Malaysia counts eight federal administrative ports, which are respectively:

- (a) Port Klang;
- (b) Port of Tanjung Pelepas;
- (c) Penang Port;
- (d) Bintulu Port;
- (e) Malacca Port;
- (f) Kuantan Port; and
- (g) Kemaman Port.

According to Lloyd's list 100 busiest ports in 2023 ranking, two of the ports in Malaysia are in the ranking of the top 20. Port Klang is rank 13<sup>th</sup> and Tanjung Pelepas rank of 15<sup>th</sup>. Shanghai Port took the 1<sup>st</sup> rank while Singapore Port rank in 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In my point of view, we need to emulate or copy the management systems that these top rankings ports are applying to the success of their ports. Perhaps we can collaborate for instance with Singapore Port Authority to study their pattern of their port functions, services and administration models.

Large ports offer particularly attractive locations for the industries and distribution intensive enterprises. As a matter of strategic development policy, many ports encourage the co-development of various value-added services through franchising, licensing, and incentive leasing.

Today, ports attract enterprises that extend their logistics chains or provide them with the specialized capabilities to add value to cargoes that are stored and handled in the port. General services that many ports attempt to develop include ship repair, container maintaining, marine appraisals, insurance claims inspections, banking, and etc.

With Sarawak's strategic location as a trading economy in the Asian region, it holds a promising future in building a world-class port-based economy. By developing ports according to the comprehensive master plan covering the entire Sarawak and possibly extending to the entire of

Borneo Island, will strengthen Sarawak's economy and position it as a leading economy in the region.

With that Tuan Speaker, I strongly support Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 presented by Minister of Infrastructure and Port Development in this Honourable august House. Let us rise to the challenge and create a lasting impact for generations to come. Thank you very much.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Satok.

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

Tuan Speaker, thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate for the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 in this august House.

I would like to thank our Honourable Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development and Honourable Member for N.37 Bukit Saban for tabling this Bill. It is in my humble opinion, about time that we introduce such legislation that empowers the development, transformation as well as the management of our Ports in Sarawak.

This will provide a legal framework and a new dimension in our effort to consolidate and leverage on our resources in our economic transformation agenda under the leadership of the Right Honourable Premier and Honourable Member for N.26 Gedong.

Tuan Speaker, a centralized Port Authority will streamline in coordinate and coordinate the management, operation, planning and development of all ports located in Sarawak allowing better coordination, integrating it into the larger economic and trade development masterplan. This integration must also include improved accessibility to the ports as well as to major highways in Sarawak as part of the land transportation link.

With seamless connectivity from both sea to port and port to land, it will enable greater logistic transport capacity in the state with Sarawak being situated nearby neighbour countries Brunei and Indonesia in particular. This positions Sarawak as a focal point for trade transportation with a number of ports to drive the economic growth not only for regions within Sarawak but also the Borneo Island as a whole.

I am pleased to note that the Bill contains the provisions to license the private sectors who are qualified and reputable in the industry to manage any or all of the ports. It is a fact that all major ports in the world are managed by the private sectors who know the business and industry and networking.

#### *Acquisition of Bintulu Port*

Tuan Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Sarawak Government for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Transport Ministry to initiate the transfer process for the authority of managing Bintulu Port from the Federal Government to Sarawak.

The acquisition which hopefully will be finalized in next couple of months will mark a significant shift in control of one of our key maritime assets and crucial import and export gateway for Sarawak. It is also important to note that Sarawak retains the right to ports in the state under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) whereby the legislative authority over ports and harbours, except those declared by federal law as federal port, is vested in Sarawak.

This also signified the success of fulfilling a long-term goal of acquiring the Bintulu Port whereby it was first mooted 5 years ago by Right Honourable premier and Honourable Member for Gedong.

Bintulu Port will be one of the clusters of Sarawak ports in which its future development and growth will be harmonized or streamlined with the other ports in Sarawak and this will be a key piece of the puzzle alluding to its strategic importance to Sarawak's economic and logistical framework.

On a similar note, I would like to thank the Federal Government, Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the Federal Transport Minister, Yang Berhormat Anthony Loke for their approval and cooperation for this to materialize. This exemplified the importance of good state – federal relations and the understanding and respect of the instruments of the MA1963 which is an important document to the formation of Malaysia.

As has been said before we are only seeking for the return of Sarawak rights and matters that belong to us, nothing more and nothing less. With Bintulu Port firmly under our authority, I am confident that we can explore its full potential and strategic importance to Sarawak's economy. Currently, the integrated port is the largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) energy export terminal in East Asia.

With the vision and more importantly, effective management by Sarawak Government, Bintulu Port will be one of, if not the most important port in Southeast Asia and a key economic driver for the entire region. I have full confidence that Bintulu Port will not only mainly be the LNG terminal but also further be developed and expanded to support the incoming methanol plant (almost ready), the potential future supply base and bunkering services among others.

#### *Establishment of New Ports*

Tuan Speaker, I also welcome the announcement by the Right Honourable Premier for the Sarawak Government to build 2 new deep-water seaports in Tanjung Embang and off Kuala Baram.

The establishment of the deep-sea port in Tanjung Embang is timely to alleviate congestion issues in Kuching Port and will funnel the traffic towards the new port which will be built at sea. The development of Tanjung Embang is a major initiative to generate sustainable economic activities in Southern Sarawak – a major catalyst. A deep – sea port at Tanjung Embang is timely as Southern Sarawak only have riverine ports which are not suitable for larger vessels as well as being congested.

I am pleased to note that Tanjung Embang will not only be for containerised and dry bulk cargo but also have the capacity to handle petroleum cargo. This will greatly enhance the development of Oil and Gas trade as well as promote the growth of Oil and Gas activities in Southern Sarawak. This is especially so with the potential hydrocarbon availability. There is a positive indication of the presence of gas near Southern Sarawak paving the way for a potential setting up of another LNG plant like in Bintulu and the availability of gas supply to support the Kuching Gas Masterplan.

I am also pleased to note that the Tanjung Embang development will encompass the establishment of a large industrial park that will house businesses which in turn will bring tremendous trade and work opportunities to our *rakyat*.

In line with our Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030), I would also encourage that this development encompasses sustainable green initiatives incorporating the necessary framework of environment concerns and sustainable goals. Countries like China have championed the concept of smart ports that are environmentally aligned and utilises green technologies for their power-intensive port equipment and operations.

This project is a huge undertaking that involves a massive capital expenditure as a long-term masterplan to uplift the economic landscape of Sarawak. In order to mitigate the risks, the various components can be carried out in different packages so that we can tap on experts and specialists to undertake the development similar to other ports' success stories particularly driven by private sector who are reputable in the industry.

Tanjung Embang Port when on stream will not only be a boom to the Southern Region, particularly for the areas of Kuching and Kota Samarahan but it will also open up new opportunities given the strategic location of Sarawak and Indonesia whereby we can enhance trade and economic connectivity between the two regions.

Similarly, the deepwater seaport off Kuala Baram will serve as a game-changer for the northern part of Sarawak. This will complement the current Miri Port which is a shallow general cargo port.

I welcome the move by the Sarawak Government to deepen the shallow access channel at Kuala Baram Delta which will open up more capacity for ships and boats. The shallow passageway has restricted the entry of vessels and with the challenges resolved, it is poised to play a major catalytic role of economic growth for Miri.

### *Improvement to Logistics Sector*

I must thank the Sarawak Government and the Federal Government for their efforts to improve the road infrastructure in the State through the construction of major highway projects such as the Pan Borneo Highway, Second Trunk Road and the Coastal Road Network.

This has and will continue to benefit the people of Sarawak, allowing them improved access to major towns, cities and rural areas in the State. Not only does the new roads ensure comfort, but it provides shorter travel time from one location to another.

Definitely, the transformed road network in the State will boost our economic growth as it provides better land transport capabilities for cargos, goods and resources.

With more areas accessible via roads, it allows more shipments of raw materials through our ports, allowing the development of rural industries such as agriculture as well as manufacturing with greater export capacity for our products to outside Sarawak through our ports. With Sarawak's resource potential and the possible economic returns, we must explore method to improve connectivity with both Indonesia and Brunei through railway networks such as the High-Speed-Rail (HSR) Project implemented in other parts of the world.

Although this might be a costly endeavour, the benefits from it should not be ignored and therefore, its feasibility must be studied.

Tuan Speaker, lastly I would like to propose that the Sarawak Ports Authority be known in short as SPort similar to the abbreviation of Sarawak Global in short which is now known as SPay Global.

As we are still in the Muslim month of Syawal, I would like to wish all *Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Maaf Zahir dan Batin*.

To my colleagues and friends who will be celebrating incoming Gawai Dayak, I wish you all *Selamat Hari Gawai, Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai*.

With that I beg to support this Bill.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Thank you Tuan Speaker for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on the proposed bill, Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024.

As I observed from the debate and when the Honourable Minister tabled the Bill, the central philosophy underlying the proposal of this Bill, Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 is that centralisation is good. It will bring in efficiency and streamlined operation and thereby it is good. So,

therefore this Bill, Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 to consolidate all the other ports authorities under one roof.

My observation from this Bill and a comparison of the past Bills, past structure of the ports I do not see much of the differences because if you look at the authorities like Rajang Port Authority is under the purview of Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development likewise if you look at Miri Port Authority, it is also under the purview of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development. So, all the ports are under one same Ministry. So, if there is any policy that the Ministry or Minister wishes to push for or streamline that one Ministry will have the authority to direct all the other port authorities to go along that same authority. So as far as, Tuan Speaker we must not forget also that today we are pushing for centralisation.

But on other days, it seems like there are a lot of these disadvantages of centralisation. And that is why Sarawak Government has been pushing for devolution of power, you see we are a victim. We have been a victim of a centralised, over centralised federal system in the sense that a lot of decisions are made in the West Malaysia. And like what Honourable Member for Bawang Assan has said just now, one of the failures of or disadvantage of a centralised system is that the decision maker do not realise or do not understand the localised problem. So, that may be a part that I wish the Minister to take note after the passing of this Bill. And, also, I think at this tabling of this Bill, it is apt and proper and appropriate that the Honourable Minister highlight to us or enlighten us what are the problems we are facing, that the Ministry is facing with the current structure of the ports authorities and how are these problems are going to be resolved with the passing of the Bill? Whereby, all the other ports are structured under one authority.

Bearing in mind that the previous restructure or the current structure, it is all under one Ministry. Ministry of, what is that? ...*(Inaudible)*... Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development. And after the passing of the Bills, after the passing of the Bill, the authority would still be under the same Ministry of Transportation and Port Development. So, what would be the change of policy that can bring about, can resolve the current problem facing, experienced by all the ports or the Ministry. So, I think that, at this juncture where this Bill is proposed is a very proper, appropriate time for the Honourable Minister to enlighten us. So, what are the problems that currently we are facing and how with the new Bill these problems can be resolved.

Tuan Speaker, as I have, a few encounters and also, I have some feedback from the stake players, there are a lot, there are some problems and complaints they forwarded to me regarding the operation of the ports. And most of these problems are, they are very localised problems. They are, they concerned the day-to-day operation of the ports. And that it could very easily be handed or resolved at the operational level. And it would not require the consolidation of all the ports authority to resolve this problem. Alright, while the problem is the crane problem, crane to lift and load and unload these containers or *selalunya ada rosak*, crane *rosak*, so delayed the uploading and discharging of the cargo. That is so much so that happens in Kuching Port Authority and so much so that in 2021, there was a breakdown of the computer system of the Kuching Port, the Senari Terminal. And that, it went on for almost a month and the forwarders and shipping agents had force to charge what they called, cargo congestion fees because of the delayed in discharging. Computer system problem, and that caused us the delay. And just now, YB for Pending also mentioned about the frequent crane breaking down problem that happens in Bintulu Port. So, all these are very operational kind of problem. And also the rent-seeking, a form of rent-seeking activities that happened at the Kuching Port Authority. Whereby, the person who got the contract or Kuching Port Authority (KPA) Holdings, is it? KPA, the company that the... let me see, Kuching Port, what is it? KPA Port Sdn. Bhd., KPA Port Sdn. Bhd. got the statutory contract, from the Kuching Port Authority and thereby assigned some sub-contractors to do the job and well, along the way in the transaction got about RM8 per tonne profit while the person doing the job, only gets about RM2 per tonne remuneration. So, these are, these are problems that could have been resolved even with the current setting. Right, so that is one thing but to me, I think one of the more serious problems that is facing Sarawak's ports and economy is the lack of exports, the lack of exports from Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, if you look at the statistic, look at the statistic of the Kuching Port. I'll take you through 1 or 2 ports. Kuching Port in 2023, the import cargo figure is, import cargo, ya, in 2023 it was 7 million tonnes. But the total export figure is 1.4 million. There is a huge discrepancy for even in Kuching Port for the year 2023 and for this Miri Port Authority, right, for the same year 2023, I don't have the figure in 2023 but in 2022 the import figure was about 400,000 tonnes, that was import figure. But, the export figure, no, ya, the export figure was let me see, 2 million tonnes. Oh, it was a reverse, I, but the problem here is, that the figures are for the Miri Port is, the volume is decreasing. Decreasing a lot if we compare the year 2010 to 2022. Import the decrease is from about 750,000 tonnes to 400,000 tonnes. The volume of trade is decreasing. And for Sibu Rajang Port Authority likewise the export figure, the export is way below the import figure. Therefore, the export figure is way below the import figure. I think that what the main problem that is facing the Sarawak Ports.

In the sense that a lot of consignees, when they import their goods, given that the containers will be shipped out as empty containers therefore this transportation charges they have to charge double, the normal charges, so as to compensate the empty container return to the other country. So, I will ask to seek the Honourable Minister's comment on this issue and how we are going to resolve such discrepancy in the import and the export figures and how to, so as to ensure that the sustainability of the port?

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak we are situated in the marine shipping line, we are geographically, we are fortunate that we are location, our geography location is good. But unfortunately, we have to compete with a lot of other bigger ports like Port Klang, even Tanjung Pelepas and Singapore Ports. Which are, in terms of efficiency and handling of the goods, they are more efficient, and more recognized by the shipping line.

And just to quote the measurement on the standard measurement for port operation efficiency, I'll like to ask Honourable Minister what is this standing of Kuching Port, Miri Port, Bintulu Port, Tanjung Manis and Rajang Port? In terms of the containers port performance index ranking in the world. The few ports that I mention like Tanjung Pelepas Port, in Johor, is ranked number six in the world CPPI Index. Klang number 36, and Singapore I think is rank somewhere in around 20ish positions. So, these are the ports that we have to compete with and how the Ministry is going to work from that to improve our ranking and what is our current ranking? Because if I search the World Bank, the recent report that is the 2022, The Container Port Performance Index 2022 report which titled "*A Comparable Assessment of Performance based on Vessel Time in Port*" the 2022 report. Well, I can't find any of the Sarawak ports listed in the ranking. And then, so why is it so? There were about a few hundred ports mentioned in the ranking but why is Sarawak ports is not mentioned in it.

That is so much for our port's efficiency, and lastly my other issues on the Tanjung Embang Port proposed. Port that was been spoken a length by Yang Berhormat for Satok just now, the Feasibilities Study was carried out or started in 2022 July with the signing of MOU by the Antwerp Port, which is a port management company in Belgium and Hubline Berhad. A Sarawak based shipping company. My query is why was Antwerp Port chosen as a collaborating partner? Number one of course the reason, my question number one is what is the status of that study? Almost 2 years had gone by. And what is the result of the study? Number 2 the question is why was the Antwerp Port chosen as the collaborating partner?

Because if we see the ranking CPPI standing of Antwerp Port, which measures the efficiency the capability of a port management company. It is only rank 66 among all the ports in the world, when in China alone there are about 10 ports which are rank much efficient than the Antwerp Port. And even in Malaysia we have Port Klang, and Tanjung Pelepas Port which is ranked higher in efficiency and cargo discharge than Antwerp Port. And what can Antwerp Port bring additional benefit to Sarawak? Why is it chosen? And therefore, I ask the Honourable Minister to have some reservations on the proposal if the proposal has been prepared or maybe seek a second opinion from other more reputable ports on our proposed, the Government proposal, to build the Deep-Sea Port in Tanjung Embang.

For the main reason that, to build a Deep-Sea Port it will involve billions of Sarawakians' money and that, not all ports that were built in other countries were proven successful. Right, there are examples like Sri Lanka Ports which cause the government to go into debts on the billions and so that the people suffer.

Alright, we maybe adopt a lot of resources but definitely I don't think we can spend it lightly on a project that is going to cost us billions and therefore I think it would be more justified, it will be justified for the government to seek a second opinion rather than just relying on, with Antwerp Port. After all, it is not one of the best in the world, it may be the biggest container port in Europe or the second biggest container port in Europe, but as mentioned by Member from Satok, our Tanjung Embang Port is not going to be only a container port, it's going to be a port for liquified cargo export and so on.

So therefore, I think it is justified and it is appropriate or required of the government to seek a second opinion before embarking on this multibillion project in building a Deep-Sea Port in Tanjung Embang.

And lastly my question is, this Senari Port, Senari Terminal. As I received an answer from the Minister last year on a question posted by me on the Senari Port, on the capacity utilization capacity, the answer I got is that, at currently Senari Port the utilisation capacity is around 66%. So, my question is, what is the estimated time, that this terminal will reach its maximum capacity and when will be the appropriate time to start another port to serve the southern region of Sarawak and lastly given that the Sarawak population is only 2 million, 2.8 million close to 3 million. I think it will be advisable or it will be good that if we can embark on this Deep-Sea Port with the intention or with a planning to connect it to make it a hub, a port for the whole of Kalimantan.

On that point, I support Satok on his suggestion and that will involve the building of a more comprehensive network to move the cargos from the port to the other parts of Kalimantan. But, before doing that, seek a second opinion before you embark on this multibillion port building project.

With that, that's my observation on the Bill and hopefully the Honourable Minister, Deputy Premier can give answer to my query. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Member for Seremban, YB Encik Miro anak Simuh.

**YB Encik Miro anak Simuh:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

I am very pleased that I've been given the opportunity to debate the government's proposed Bill, Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. We've heard numerous interesting points from the Members of the House on the importance to have a single entity to manage the many ports that already exist in Sarawak and to measure the regulatory power in connection with port activities. Nowadays, sustainability issues are becoming a critical component of government policies and regulatory. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) aim is to transfer our world to be a better place to live. In the 17 SDGs that is emphasized by the United Nation, both SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) are well adapted to the establishment of the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. In order to achieve sustainable business, I believe the far-sighted Sarawak Government has introduced this single port authority entity as a devolution and regionalisation policies that has extended the autonomy and responsibility to our very own Government, in line with the MA63 spirit.

I totally agree and support the Bill as I see the ports industry in Sarawak, whereas by now all ports are standing on its own, with their own regulatory and power. It is time that all the ports in Sarawak need a total overhaul to meet the government of the day demand and the well expansion of our economy activities. Ports is a vital asset for us at Sarawak, where over 90% of Sarawak trade, encompassing everything from crude raw materials to finished products of all kinds are traded or transported via ports. Ports are essential for both domestic and international trade. Therefore, it is no small matter to make sure that they will continue to play their role as of today and toward the

future to meet the demand of both domestic and international trades and movements. With the various regulatory power and the different imposed of rates in every port in Sarawak, it's a high time to have a single entity, that is the Sarawak Port Authority to look into all port matters in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, for the information of the august House, the South China Sea is one of the most important and busiest maritime communication in the world, connecting both Pacific and Indian Oceans. About 50,000 merchant ships and nearly 50% of oil tankers of the world pass through the South China Sea every year. And based on the information gathered from the Business News, the annual trade passing through the South China Sea accounts for more than 60% of global maritime trade, more than 22% of total global trade, and one third of the global shipping.

From the China Power reports, found that an estimated USD3.4 trillion in trade passed through the South China Sea in 2016. This estimate represents a sizeable proportion of international trade, constituting between 21% of global trade in 2016. And Sarawak being strategically located along the South China Sea maritime highway should see this as huge opportunity to be part of the global maritime player, by providing services, such as ship maintenance, replenishing activities and other related maritime needs by offering the most competitive cost and highly professional manpower. Even our local learning institutions such as Centexs, ILP and Universities can start to plan forward by providing courses that needed by the port and shipping industries.

This is inline with PCDS 2030 aspirations and part of activities towards the high-income state by 2030. There would be related infrastructure needed by ports to connect them with many other places, especially those places in the interior to enable good to be transported efficiently to the port with such infrastructure for example road railways and even the latest technology of port machine and equipment's, will create newly are transport development Sarawak punctually. I do believe, one day, we will be the powerhouse of maritime industry, if not second to Singapore, considered as the best in the region.

With the enormous amount of trading that pass through South China Sea, and the capacity of ships the using the route, it a high time for us to grab such opportunity and with the establishment of this Bill, I really hope, will one day can make our dream come true. With a margin of China of economic power and the region, we should take our serve well with the greatest economic opportunities offered by China at its huge marketplace.

I personally said that it is a bold and brave movement by the Sarawak Government in tandem with the fighting spirits of MA63. The passing of the bill will allow the full authority and autonomy of all ports in Sarawak, which will be fully regulated and managed by Sarawak itself. With that Tuan Speaker, again I give why 100% support to the Bill for the betterment of Sarawak's economy and a way foward to make Sarawak conducive investment destination. I beg to support. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Member for Tupong, YB Encik Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman.

**YB Encik Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman:** Tuan Speaker terima kasih. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam sejahtera dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Tuan Speaker thank you for allowing me to participate in the debate for the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, (2024) in this august House.

I wish to record my appreciation to the Sarawak Government and the Honourable Deputy Premier for tabling the Bill. No doubt, this is a stepping stone towards realising the full potential of our ports in Sarawak as we look to leverage on our resources to grow our economy. Ports are essential nodes in global supply economy. Since the start of maritime trade, ports have played a central and important role in the economics and social development of countries. The development of high-quality port infrastructure, operated efficiently, with a strong legal framework of authority, has been a prerequisite for successful growth strategies.

It is timely that while we are looking to develop our ports to a higher standard in line with other parts of the world, we need a provision to manage our ports to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of our import and export strategies.

### **IMPROVING EFFICIENCY**

Tuan Speaker, in order to achieve maximum efficiency, it is crucial to ensure that our port infrastructure and system are of the highest quality. I commend the move by the Sarawak Government to provide the investment needed in our ports to ensure we have state-of-the-art equipment allowing us to compete with other successful ports in the region. A strong and efficient operation will foster the necessary confidence to attract investment in production, maintain as is distribution systems, supporting the growth of manufacturing and logistics. Thus, creating employment and increasing the level of income of the people.

Definitely, job creation is one of the objectives in the establishment of ports in Sarawak. With a streamlined port management, it will allow better distribution of human resources as well as explore new areas of port facility management. This provides the opportunity to Sarawakians to be fully involved and contribute towards the Sarawak economy as well as having the necessary experience, capacity and capability to be experts and certified professionals in the industry.

### **PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION**

Tuan Speaker, as we look to grow our ports further, a collaboration is needed between the public and private sector to ensure that the capital investment needed are met in order for us to leapfrog the standard of our ports. The participation of private sector is crucial as their strategies and action plans will always focus on achieving the efficiency of the capital invested and to get return on the capital invested.

Collaboration between the public sector would ensure the confidence of financial institution to participate in the finance of the projects. Financial models which allow flexibility and at the same time focusing on accountability and transparency is vital.

Definitely, we must benchmark our port standards with the best ports in the world. This is by addressing any possible shortcomings as well as pooling our resources.

I believe with good management and consolidation that will be made possible with this Bill, allowing a single port authority to manage all ports in Sarawak will further transform our ports, turning it into a major revenue generating asset.

### **MAINTAINING CONFIDENCE**

Tuan Speaker, at the same time, on the issue of awarded contracts, with the change in management of the ports, we must preserve long standing agreements and contracts that were awarded prior. This is to ensure the confidence of the private sector in the management of the ports as which is part of our economic policy to attract and maintain investments.

That being said, we must also have a balanced approach whereby we have the power and the authority to terminate contractors in the case where they could not perform. On the same topic of maintaining the confidence of industry players, our port management has to be in line or guided by the best practices to ensure sustainability as well as good management.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has outlined a port modelling process flow that can be used as a reference in our future undertakings.

## KLUSTER PELABUHAN

Tuan Speaker, di Sarawak kita mempunyai beberapa pelabuhan – Bintulu Port, Kuching Port, Miri Port, Samalaju Port, Tanjung Manis dan juga Rajang Port. Apabila semua pelabuhan ini diletakkan di bawah satu *authority*, maka lebih mudah untuk kerajaan membuat perancangan yang menetapkan fokus-fokus ataupun kluster-kluster yang perlu difokuskan kepada pelabuhan-pelabuhan ini. Kluster dan fokus ini juga akan mengambil kira fokus-fokus output ataupun *production* di kawasan-kawasan berdekatan dengan pelabuhan-pelabuhan ini.

Pendekatan untuk membangunkan sesuatu kawasan pada masa akan datang akan mengambil kira aspek pelabuhan dan rantaian bekalan untuk memastikan pembangunan ekonomi setempat di satu-satu kluster tersebut.

Saya yakin, perancangan pembangunan Sarawak yang telah lama kita mula laksanakan dengan penekanan kepada teknologi digital dan pembinaan infrastruktur akan menjadi sebahagian daripada jaringan pelabuhan-pelabuhan ini.

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak's development under the Right Honourable Premier has been multifaceted, we have seen success in our infrastructure development initiatives, our economic policies as well as our approach in renewable energy production.

We are moving towards reforming our approach, our work, our processes to ensure Sarawak becomes a developed State by 2030 and even in this august House we are trying to reform to be better members in order to serve best the *rakyat* but I'm a bit disappointed with the Honourable Member from Pending. Beliau tidak begitu beria-ia *to carry out the reform for the people*.

*At first, when I listened to her debate*, beliau telah menunjukkan perbahasan yang begitu baik sekali. Meminta *clarification* tentang isu-isu tetapi di penghujungnya beliau seolah-olah, apa, menyalahgunakan Standing Order 32(6) di mana pada pendapat saya, *she was questioning the qualification of Member for Tanjong Batu as the members of one of the Lembaga Pelabuhan*. Jadi, itu tidak baik pada pandangan saya, Tuan Speaker, dan saya mohon beliau untuk menarik balik kenyataan tersebut *in the spirit of reforming this august House*.

Tuan Speaker, it is high time that we shift our focus on developing our ports given its overwhelming future economic benefits as well as the opportunities that it provides to the people. This augurs well with our Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030) whereby transport is one of our economic sector's key enablers.

With that, Tuan Speaker, I beg to support this Bill. Thank you. Sekian. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Pending, the Member for Tupong would like you to withdraw your remark on the Member for Tanjong Batu.

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Tuan Speaker, if you can, you check the hansard, I was not making any allegations. I was just questioning so if, question also cannot *kah*? So, if he is qualified let the Minister answer to say he is bla bla bla, he can do this, he can do that so he can sit in the Board. That's why he is qualified to sit in the two Boards as the Board Member. So, what's wrong with that? I'm just questioning, I'm not saying he is not qualified. I said what qualification does he has? And what specialty does he has? Nothing wrong *bah*. So, if I'm making allegations here you can ask me to withdraw, you can ask me to say that apologize for whatsoever remarks that I here made against him, but I am not. So, let's the Minister say *lah* maybe Minister has high regards on him, right? Otherwise, why would he be appointed, so don't question what, don't give, how to say, don't answer for the Minister. I think the Minister will answer to my query. I think he is making himself as a Minister, he tried to act as one, but I think his time will come. I am not saying he would not be a Minister one day but now, let the Minister answer.

**Tuan Speaker:** Before the Minister answers, let me ask you. Is there a law that prohibits an elected Member of this House who resides in the local area to be appointed in the Board of the Board?

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Sorry, in what? I didn't get your question.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu resides in Bintulu.

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Ya.

**Tuan Speaker:** He is appointed as a Member of the Board there. He is an elected Member of this House. Is there a law that prohibits his appointment?

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Not that I am aware. So, I am saying that what qualification? I am not saying that he should not be sitting on the Board. If I made that allegation then you can question me, but I was saying sitting on two Boards at the same time, Samalaju Port, Bintulu Port and then Bintulu Port got so many problems so what constructive suggestion can he made to improve that problem. He is sitting in the Board ...*(Interruption)*...

**Tuan Speaker:** But it's not against the law.

**YB Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui:** Sorry, no. Of course this, I am just asking. Policy *lah*. If policy allowed, of course, then you let the Minister answer *lah*, policy didn't, prohibit he can sit in two Boards. If one day Violet Yong can, I put you three Boards also can, sit as Board member in three boards also can, so nevermind *lah* I mean I leave it to the Minister *lah*. It's just small matter, just to spice up the Dewan, the boring Dewan but if we cannot take it, it's just a question only *lah*.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Tanjong Batu wants to say something.

**YB Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming:** Tuan Speaker, I respond to YB Pending. Actually, I think she is confused who is appointing me as a Bintulu Port Authority or LPB. Just now I asked whether you know LPB or not, you see. So it's appointed by the Secretary General of DAP. You should ask him, you know, why you asking me? So you didn't even know who is the Minister in charge of Bintulu Port Authority so you must wake up, don't ask, we are boring you know.

**Tuan Speaker:** Okay. Already. You raised a matter, he responded, that's it. Honourable Member for Stakan.

**YB Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim:** Terima kasih Tuan Speaker. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Selamat petang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terlebih dahulu saya mengambil kesempatan ini untuk merakamkan tahniah kepada Timbalan Premier Yang Berhormat Bukit Saban atas usul Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024.

Tuan Speaker, *Bill* ini membuktikan pelaksanaan strategi yang begitu teratur dan selari dengan PCDS. Sekarang ini pembangunan jalan dan jambatan yang kita laksanakan sebelum ini seiring dengan keperluan pelaksanaan *Bill* ini.

Tuan Speaker, sebentar tadi saya sama-sama mendengar pandangan daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat Padungan tentang perkara-perkara yang berlaku di dalam urusan *Board* dan sebagainya. Dan kita akui ada dalam kalangan mungkin betul, mungkin salah, kita tidak dapat putuskan di dalam Dewan ini tetapi ini menunjukkan bahawa keperluan *Bill* ini perlu dilaksanakan sebulat suara kerana kita yakin kerajaan hari ini yang dipelopori oleh Kerajaan GPS dengan kementerian ini di bawah Bukit Saban dapat menjalankan urusan *port* lebih baik lagi selepas ini.

Tuan Speaker, saya berkongsi serba sedikit pengetahuan saya dalam sejarah. Kalau kita lihat pada zaman 400 – 500 tahun dahulu, kenapa Portugis sebuah kuasa besar datang mencero boh Kerajaan Melaka, kenapa Portugis datang memerangi Melaka, hanya untuk menguasai sebuah

negeri yang kecil tetapi mereka ingin menguasai pelabuhan kerana di tengah-tengah kawasan Melaka itu, mereka boleh menguasai perdagangan, membawa keluar hasil di dalam kawasan Tanah Melayu dan kepulauan Riau; dan juga dapat menjana pendapatan kerajaan mereka. Begitu juga kalau kita lihat kenapa Singapura sebuah kerajaan yang negaranya kecil, kalau diikutkan Singapura ini lebih kurang besar Samarahan tetapi pendapatannya begitu besar oleh kerana perniagaan di dalam pelabuhan. Maka itulah betapa pentingnya *Bill* kita hari ini *Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024* harus diluluskan sebulat suara.

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin mengambil peluang ini untuk menyentuh beberapa isu dan cadangan. Sekiranya *Bill* ini diluluskan selepas ini supaya kerajaan dapat mengenal pasti kawasan baharu yang berpotensi untuk dibuat pelabuhan baharu yang seterusnya menambah baik sistem pengurusan sedia ada termasuk seperti yang dinyatakan oleh rakan saya dari Tupong tadi, dari segi kontrak dan sistem perolehannya. Yang ketiga, memberi peluang kepada anak tempatan untuk menerajui serta memberi peluang untuk mereka membuat bisnes dan sebagainya, untuk anak tempatan.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga mencadangkan apabila *Bill* ini diluluskan dan kerajaan telah mengurus tadbir *port* seluruh Sarawak dapat memperbanyak bengkel yang inklusif dilaksanakan untuk mengambil info-info berkenaan pelabuhan-pelabuhan lain yang lebih maju dan berjaya dan kita harus juga mengambil inisiatif untuk bekerjasama dengan pelabuhan-pelabuhan yang telah berjaya sebelum ini. Bengkel ini harus melihat kepada model perniagaan dan model kewangan yang bersesuaian dengan objektif utama kita. Dan juga kita bersedia untuk menambah pelaburan untuk memastikan infra dan sistem pelabuhan kita setanding dengan pelabuhan-pelabuhan lain sebagai contoh apa yang dinyatakan oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat Satok tadi, Pelabuhan Tanjung Embang. Dan saya percaya kerajaan hari ini tidak semena-mena nak membuat pelabuhan semata-mata untuk membelanjakan wang rakyat.

Ini dibuat untuk kita melihat masa depan negeri Sarawak dan saya yakin kajian terperinci telah dijalankan untuk memastikan pendapatan Kerajaan Negeri Sarawak akan bertambah melalui pelabuhan-pelabuhan baru ini yang telah dikenalpasti, Insyaa-ALLAH.

Tuan Speaker, saya juga berharap disamping pelabuhan melalui jalan air kita dapat mewujudkan banyak pelabuhan-pelabuhan darat (*land port*) sepertimana yang sebelum ini saya telah menyebut di dalam ucapan saya sebelum ini harapan saya supaya ada *land port* atas kesinambungan perniagaan kita di sebelah Nusantara Indonesia. Peluang ini harus kita ambil bagi menjanakan pendapatan Sarawak semakin bertambah dari setahun ke setahun supaya kita menjadi sebuah negeri berpendapatan yang paling besar di dalam Malaysia, Insyaa-ALLAH.

Tuan Speaker, saya amat yakin dengan kelulusan *Bill* ini Sarawak akan lebih maju setapak lagi seiring dengan Sarawak Maju 2030. Tahniah Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, tahniah Yang Amat Berhormat Timbalan Premier di atas strategi serta tindakan yang begitu jelas. Dengan ini, Stakan menyokong Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024. Terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Any other of the Honourable Member wishes to speak? Now I call up the Deputy Premier to do his winding up.

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak, Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Some YB just want to make fun of the Dewan. Tuan Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the... ada 20 Ahli Yang Berhormat yang telah memberi pandangan, kebanyakan adalah memberi cadangan yang bernas, yang baik, yang akan membantu Kerajaan GPS untuk membangunkan pelabuhan-pelabuhan kita di Sarawak supaya pelabuhan kita dapat jadi satu pelabuhan standard dunia. Ini ialah matlamat kita. Kita mengambil maklum, YB-YB tersebut adalah YB Pelagus, YB Murum, YB Ba'Kelalan, YB Bukit Assek, YB Bawang Assan, YB Pending, Pending who wants to create some fun just now, YB Daro, YB Repok, YB Katibas, YB Balingian, YB Tellian, YB Baleh, YB Tanjong Batu, one of the star today, YB Batu Kitang, YB Tamin,

YB Satok, YB Padungan, YB Serembu, YB Tupong dan YB Stakan. Ini menunjukkan kebanyakan Ahli Yang Berhormat di Dewan ini memang menghargai bahawa *Bill* ini adalah satu *Bill* yang cukup bermakna yang akan membawa kemakmuran kepada negeri Sarawak. Saya tidak berhasrat untuk menjawab semua kerana kalau saya nak menjawab semua sampai malam nanti. So, I will pick up a few issues.

Yang pertama, tadi ada Ahli Yang Berhormat tidak berapa faham, apa dia, what is the State Port Authority, tujuannya? Tujuannya adalah Sarawak Ports Authority akan menjadi satu *regulatory framework, regulatory body*. Dia bukan, anda tidak menjalankan, *doesn't* mentadbir *the port*. It's different, different from like Miri Port Authority now. Miri Port Authority, is a port, is an authority at the same time operator for the port. Jadi di sini saya harap semua akan faham.

Yang kedua, I also share your appreciation on our success of getting the Bintulu Port back dari Federal Port to the State Port. So, I think it is timely that we record our appreciation to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier for successfully acquired Bintulu Port to become the state port. Ini bukan senang, saya tahu susah tapi oleh kerana *determination* dia dan dia memahami bahawa undang-undang memihak kepada kita maka dia tidak putus asa sehingga Yang Amat Berhormat *Prime Minister* announced that they agreed to hand over the Bintulu Port from federal port to state port. So, let us record our appreciation to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier...*(Applause)*..

Kita juga ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister, *he appreciates that Bintulu Port should be given to Sarawak*. I don't know whether YB Padungan *sokong dia ke tidak...(Inaudible)... ya... and I was recording my appreciation to your Minister because* dia memang membantu kita untuk mendapat *port*. So, I hope Ahli Yang Berhormat Padungan will have the same stand on Sarawak, that your Minister. Jangan *Minister you* pergi lain, *you* pergi lain...*(Applause)*.. nanti perahu karam.

Tuan Speaker, I want to proceed with the Bintulu Port. Tadi... tadi... Ahli Yang Berhormat Bawang Assan he was asking a question of how the Bintulu Port will be affected by the three tiers process yang kita akan jalankan selepas Sarawak Ports Authority being established. And *kita telah memberitahu tadi* in my *pembentangan bahawa selepas* Sarawak Ports Authority being established, *kita ada* interim measure and then *ada*, corporatisation measure *dan kita ada* privatization measure. Jadi bagi Bintulu Port, dia tidak melalui proses ini kerana apabila *Bintulu Port Act* repeal in the coming Parliament, I hope Ahli Yang Berhormat Padungan menyokong. Once the Bintulu Port is being repeal and then Bintulu Port Authority no more exist dan kita sudah menubuhkan Bintulu Port Authority (Sarawak) under our ordinance and Ports Authorities Ordinance 1961. Maka Bintulu Port Authority (Sarawak) was take over on the role on Bintulu Port Authority yang dipunyai oleh Kuala Lumpur.

Which means the operator will continue to be Bintulu Port Holding and subsidiary of the Bintulu Port Holding, Bintulu Port Sdn. Bhd. and Samalaju and holder Bhd. Jadi Ahli Yang Berhormat Bawang Assan, we don't go to that process and later on, apabila this Sarawak Port Authority were established, and that this Bintulu Port Authority (Sarawak) will be absorbed into Bintulu Port Authority *tapi operator dia masih yang operator sekarang* because to make sure that all this process will be similar *supaya kita tidak ada jadi masalah* because we want to make sure that the present operator, *kontraktor* feel very comfortable with the process of the transition and *kita berharap* MOU *kita dah sign dan kita pun* have a dateline by the end of the year, this Bintulu Port Authority should be reverted to Sarawak, so *tahniah* to all of you *atas kejayaan itu*.

Ladies and gentlemen, tadi Ahli Yang Berhormat Pending dia tanya mengapa *dragging* RM300 juta isn't it? RM390 juta, I got here, you cannot blame us because this contract is the contract under Ministry of Transport Federal Government implemented by Jabatan Laut Sarawak. So *aku cadang* Ahli Yang Berhormat Padungan *tanya* your *Menteri*, what is the programme, *mana yang gagal, bukan kami di Sarawak*, the rest I don't have to answer your question. Macam tadi apa salah, siapa *appoint* Ahli Yang Berhormat Tanjong Batu, *it's your Minister, do you agree with him or not?* You don't agree with him? Then you should register, go and tell the reporter outside that you are not

happy that YB Anthony Loke appoint Ahli Yang Berhormat Tanjong Batu *jadi* Board of Director Bintulu, record. Yang lain, let discuss the other venue, I'm not view on one point. Tadi Ahli Yang Berhormat Padungan, *he is a lawyer, we know how lawyer talks*, pusing sini, pusing sana, ok *I withdraw, I withdraw Tuan Speaker, because you are a lawyer*. Ok, ok, I withdraw.

Apa bezanya, dari apa yang kita hendak tubuhkan dan apa yang telah berlaku. How our port is managed now. Yang Amat Berhormat Premier *kita telahpun mengkaji dengan mendalam*, very hard, he makes a statement ports is going to play a very important role in his mission to develop Sarawak with all the new programmes that he had, I hope the two YB you take note what we have done for Sarawak and please appreciate it when you are here, for you also benefit. *Jadi dalam proses itu*, Yang Amat Berhormat *berpandangan bahawa* we need to improve the position of our port, we have to transform our port. Somehow, we have neglected our port development. Tadi Ahli Yang Berhormat Bawang Assan mengatakan satu ketika pandangan sudah ada cadangan untuk membangunkan satu *single port authority somehow, I don't know what happen*, boleh Ahli Yang Berhormat Bawang Assan tahu? But to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, this is our direction forward. The difference is, Sarawak Ports Authority is a regulatory body. If we look at the mechanism, just now, there are three stages, interim, privatization, corporatisation. Before that when I present the paper on the table, I deliberate inform you that we have visited Singapore, to see how Singapore develops the port that is being developed now. What are the modules they using, the modules are last time Port Authority Singapore is both the regulator and the operator, after that they find out there's a need for some reason which I don't want to elaborate for them to transform the port regulator go to separate from the operator.

That's why in this new Bill, our regulator, will be separated from the operator of all these ports. *Apa jadi sekarang, sekarang* Miri Port for instance, Miri Port is being managed by Miri Port Authority, a regulator as well as operator. *Jadi inilah sebabnya mungkin banyak masalah*, as I said just now, we admitted our port develops weaknesses. When we need it, we do something, Yang Amat Berhormat Premier suggests, let us go for single port authority and layout what we expect to get out of this new programme. I don't want to repeat it, *kalau you lupa*, you look at the hansard *esoklah*, that is our aim, that is our ambition. Jadi Ahli Yang Berhormat, kita, whatever this GPS Government is doing, is done with extensive study and with the vision to make sure that Sarawak will be developed in 2030. The present management, yes, I agree with you, this port is supervised by us but we always supervising and having getting policies be implementing at this various state authority Kuching Port Authority, Rajang Port Authority, Tanjung Manis Port Authority, Miri Port Authority and Samalaju.

Samalaju is different. Samalaju, the authority is a regulator. The operator is Samalaju Sdn. Bhd. So, I hope you see the difference because we can see the difference. Because we noticed all the problems that you have mentioned, our rating, our failure to service our customers or failure to extend, to spend, there is a limitation, there is an issue. So, we hope by having this single port authority will bring new vision, transformation that will be able to change because the port they want to build is not only for Kuching, not only for Sarawak. We are looking at this region, Borneo. You agree? And not only Borneo, four regions here. Because, you also noticed that *kita ada*, we are in the, along with the shipping link. So, while you *puji* port the other site, one day in the near future Sarawak Port will be equalling to them, follow their standard later on in the future as long as you support. Ya, saya sudah tua. Saya pun tidak mahu tunggu lama.

Next, Tanjung Embang. I don't know where you got the information that we have given the right to develop Tanjung Embang to company, Antwerp. I think you have some phobia with the owner of Hubline. I think you don't have to clarify. Saya tulis ...*(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** I was referring to feasibility study undertaken by Antwerp Port Authority. I am asking ...*(Interruption)*...

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** I am the Minister.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Yes.

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** I am not aware that the Antwerp Port is doing any feasibility study.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Oh, it was reported in the news. I can show you the news. Signed, witnessed by the Premier.

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** That is MOU, not feasibility study.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** No, it's here. It's here. You look, you look, it's here, here.

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** No, this is MOU with Antwerp. But it did not ...*(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** This is a feasibility study.

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** This is a private sector arrangement.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** I know. But...

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** We have not committed anything.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Endorsed by the State Government. Honourable Deputy Premier, the Premier is here, endorsing the signing. What do you mean you don't know. No knowledge of. That's maybe you have been bypassed by the Premier.

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** Yang Berhormat, Yang Berhormat. There are so many *MOU* being witnessed by Premier, initiative of the private sector.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** That amounts to nothing?

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** I didn't say it amounts to nothing.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** So, I would like to seek clarification.

**YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas:** YB for Padungan, I think you are very experienced Parliamentarian. ...if I didn't give way, you cannot speak. You got to sit down. I didn't say you cannot be trusted. So, ya, I agree with YB dari Satok tadi, memang there is a potential for this and we have appointed a consultant to study but not Antwerp. Make it correct. Okay? Alright. So, ladies and gentlemen, I think we have taken a lot of time on this Bill. So, with that once again I wish to thank everyone for your support and I hope our vision to see Sarawak Port will be a world class port will be realized in the new future. Thank you very much.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Motion standing in the Order paper in the name of the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development; and Member for N.37 Bukit Saban be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as the opinion say "Yes".

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

**Tuan Speaker:** As many as are of the contrary say "No". The "Yes" have it. The Motion is passed and referred to the Committee of the Whole House. The Dewan shall now resolve and the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill which then committed to the Committee.

## COMMITTEE STAGE

*[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The Dewan shall now consider the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024

*Clauses 1 to 118*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The question is that Clauses 1 to 118 be ordered to stand part of the Bill. As many as are the opinion say "Yes".

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

**Tuan Pengerusi:** As many as are of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Yes" have it. Clauses 1 to 118 are referred to and stand part of the Bill.

*Schedules*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The question is that the Schedules be ordered to stand part of the Bill.

**Tuan Pengerusi:** As many as are 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 Schedules are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Enacting Clauses, Schedules and Title*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The Dewan shall now resume.

## HOUSE RESUMED

*[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak, Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the Sarawak Ports Authority 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

SARAWAK PORTS AUTHORITY BILL, 2024

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak, Menteri Kewangan dan Ekonomi Baru Kedua; Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.37 Bukit Saban (YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 be now read a third time and do pass.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question for the Dewan is that the Sarawak Ports Authority Bill, 2024 be read a third time and do pass. As many as the opinion say "Yes".

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

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

*Bill is read a third time and passed*

**Tuan Speaker:** Proceed.

## **RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA**

### **PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

**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 move the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 be read a second time.

Tuan Speaker, the Public Protection of Public Health 1999 [Cap.30] (the “*Ordinance*”) has never been amended since it was passed by Dewan Undangan Negeri on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1999 and came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2000. Therefore, it is considered timely for the Ordinance to be amended in order to update and strengthen the provisions in the Ordinance to meet the changes and expectations of the present situation.

The proposed Bill seeks to amend and update certain provisions in the Ordinance to make it at par and in line with the current practices. It is also aimed to strengthen certain provisions relating to penalty and enforcement on public health matters.

The salient features of the Bill are as follows:

#### *Reference of Strata Title Ordinance, 1995*

Section 2 of the Ordinance is amended to reflect the new Strata (Subsidiary Titles) Ordinance, 2019 [Cap.75] which repealed the Strata Title Ordinance, 1995 [Cap.18].

#### *General Condition for licence of Food Premises - Temporary Licence*

The present provision of Section 22 of the Ordinance prohibits the usage or operation of food premises without licence. Some of these food premises operators cannot be issued with licence just because they are unable to comply with the provisions under the Local Authorities Ordinance, 1996 and Building Ordinance, 1994 or any other laws. Therefore, the proposed new provision will enable local authorities to issue temporary licence to the food premises operator, by giving them time frame to comply with the requirements of other relevant laws.

#### *Cleanliness of Food Premises*

Amendment to Section 23 by adding the new sub paragraph (3) which is to prohibit animals or pets from entering any food premises. This is to ensure the health of the public and consumers are protected from unacceptable and unhygienic food premises.

#### *Licensing of funeral parlour, cemeteries etc.*

Tuan Speaker, the proposed new subsection (3) of Section 38, is to add the word “*columbarium*” and to ensure that any land used as a licensed funeral parlour, cemeteries etc. to be maintained and cleaned regularly. It will be an offence if the licensee fails to clean and maintain funeral parlours, cemeteries or crematorium regularly.

#### *General Power of Entry, Power of Investigation and Power to examine*

Tuan Speaker, the amendment to Section 56 is to strengthen the power of inspection and investigation which enables any person to be authorized by the Director or the Chief Administrative

Officer. Section 56A is a new provision which enhances the procedures relating to examination of persons. These include power to seize, take possessions any documents, books, article or thing produced before him in the course of investigation.

*Power of closure*

The proposed amendment to Section 58 is to make it an offence for non-compliance with any closing order or notice to any person and to impose penalty and upon conviction, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand ringgit or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years or to both.

*General Penalty*

The proposed amendment to Section 62 is to increase the penalty from 3,000 ringgit to 10,000 ringgit. The penalty has never been increased since the Ordinance came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2000.

*Power to make regulations*

The proposed amendment to Section 64 is to give power to Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri to make regulation relating to:

- (a) the establishment, management and control of funeral parlours, cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria;
- (b) the manner of packaging food for consumption, its disposal, providing for segregation of waste; and
- (c) the use of styrofoam containers, plastic bag and plastic straw.

I, therefore, call upon members of this august House to support this Bill. I beg to move.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Any Minister?

**YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan:** Tuan Speaker, I beg to second.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Now I call upon Honourable Members of this august House to debate on the second reading of the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Is there any Member or Members who wish to speak? May I call upon Yang Berhormat Balingian, please.

**YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam sejahtera dan Salam Sarawakku Sayang.

Thank you, Tuan Speaker, for allowing this floor for me to participate in the debate for the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Public Health, Housing and Local Government for coming up with this Bill, which I believe has been tabled timely in tandem with the growing concern for a better public health.

I noted that this Bill provides the local authorities to be empowered to monitor continuously and to conduct food premises grading with the intention to ensure that these premises are up to the best standard of cleanliness.

I find that the standard of cleanliness to be assessed under grading system, as proposed under the Bill, to be more comprehensive as it is not only covering the basic amenities in the premises but also went beyond to cover wider aspects of cleanliness.

I strongly believe that the provision would provide additional enforcement power for the local authorities to act against food premises operators who could not care less about the health and the wellbeings of their customers, but merely thinking about making more dollars and cents for their business.

Another interesting and exciting provision introduced under this Bill is the power making regulation on waste management, which to my humble opinion, is a far-sighted step that will facilitate Sarawak in achieving its Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 or PCDS 2030 objectives.

The provision to empower local councils to make regulations in relation to segregation and disposal of waste, as well as to regulate the use of styrofoam containers, plastic bags and straws is relevant to the needs to reduce waste in Sarawak.

The reduction in the waste of unperishable waste materials like styrofoam and plastic materials would help to gradually reduce the needs to create new landfills or extending the existing ones, thus providing additional land areas that could be utilized for better public purposes.

I hope this provision will stand as not only to strengthen the existing laws pertaining to public health but would also pave the way for more initiatives that enhance Sarawak's policy of sustainable green environment and raise our image at the international level.

With that remark, I hereby give my utmost support for the Bill to be passed. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you, Yang Berhormat Balingian. May I call upon Yang Berhormat for Tebedu, please.

**YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker for the opportunity that you rendered to me in participating to debate the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Tuan Speaker, together with Yang Berhormat for Balingian, I would like to congratulate the Deputy Premier, who is the Minister of Public Health, Housing and Local Government and a Member of N.14 Batu Kawah, for introducing the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

My congratulations also go to Kuching City for being recognized as the 11<sup>th</sup> cleanest city in the world by IQAir which operates Airvisual, a real time air quality information platform. This speaks volumes of the continuous efforts taken by the City Council and the attitude of the people in Sarawak and the Sarawak Government led by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak.

The amendment to the Bill is timely in line with the need and demand of the Government, people and the need to keep our environment clean, sustainable and liveable.

It is crucial and imperative for the Sarawak Government to examine, to assess and to amend the Ordinance to keep abreast of the need and demand of today's challenges from the public.

The amendment to Section 23, I am not going to discuss or debate on the other amendment but I would like to debate on the amendment on Section 23 by inserting a new Subsection (3), animal or pet is not allowed to be brought in any premises by customers or to be reared by the owner, occupier or any stall holder of any food premises, is very timely and should be supported by the Members in this august House.

This provision relating to cleanliness of food premises will ensure that these food premises are up to the standards of clean premises set by the local councils. The council must continue to monitor and conduct food premises grading and these premises will be graded; I was a counsellor before. I know how the grading system works and has been graded A, B, C, D and so on and so forth. Any

food premises that are graded C and below will be closed until they improve the condition of the food premises, and they are allowed to open unless the local authority is satisfied with the improvement.

The measures on the cleanliness of food premises must include maintenance of toilets in the food premises. Food premises should be equipped with proper basic amenities such as clean and safe water supply, good air circulation and lighting provided with clean table and basin for hand washing and free from insecticides or pesticides.

Tuan Speaker, pets are animals reared primarily for companions or entertainment rather than working animals or livestock. They include cats, dogs, turtles, hedgehogs, rabbits, hamsters, birds, and so on and so forth. But the most common pets reared locally are cats and dogs.

Zoonotic diseases or zoonoses is an important issue and a danger that must be considered. We understand that these animals do carry certain diseases that spread from animals to humans, to name a few, Tuan Speaker, cat diseases such as, if I may mention a few. One of them is Toxoplasmosis, Ancylostoma, Toxocara, cat scratch disease, scabies, Dermatophytosis, Toxoplasmosis and any other zoonotic diseases. These are the diseases that can spread from animals to humans. So, with the introduction of this Bill, I think it is the right move by the State Government because this is in line with the aim and the objective that we want to keep the food premises that are being patronized by the public to be clean, to be safe, to make sure that they are safe from all these zoonotic diseases.

And in dogs, Tuan Speaker, there are diseases such as Dirofilariasis, Leptospirosis, Dipylidiasis, Echinococcosis, Trichuriasis ...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat, there is the intervention... Padungan, you are asking for a way, no? Your microphone is bleeping.

**YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada:** If he has any questions, he can come see me later.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Carry on, Yang Berhormat.

**YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada:** For these reasons, it is justified and rational to disallow or prohibit any pet being brought into eating premises, reared by the premises owner or stall holder of any food premises.

Tuan Speaker, this Bill amendment will provide the power for the government to regulate waste management. The power to regulate pertaining to segregation of waste, disposal of waste, as well as to regulate the use of styrofoam containers, plastic bags, plastic straws and other plastic materials part of the initiatives to support Sarawak's policy for a sustainable green environment under our Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030).

Reduction of waste generation which can involve segregation of waste such as food waste, organic waste, domestic waste, garden waste, kitchen waste, construction waste and demolition waste can be reused, recycled or turned into other items such as fertilizer.

Tuan Speaker, to support Sarawak's aspiration and agenda towards a sustainable development, therefore, it is vital for the conversion of disposal of waste from a conventional system to the modern types of waste management such as incinerators and asher machine.

Power making regulation under the proposed Bill relating to waste disposal and waste segregation will enable local authorities to play an active role towards community's participation in recycling and composting of waste. By making recycling as a habit and routine part of our daily life, we can contribute to a cleaner and greener future for our environment.

In conclusion, let me share a great health proverb left by our ancestors.

*Prevention is better than cure,  
Eat to live, not Live to eat,  
Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy.*

With these remarks, Tuan Speaker, N.21 Tebedu begs to support this Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Thank you.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tebedu. Next, I would like to call upon Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Opar, please.

**YB Encik Billy anak Sujang:** *Thank you* dan terima kasih, Tuan Speaker, kerana memberi ruang kepada saya untuk membahaskan Rang Undang-Undang, Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 yang telah dibentangkan oleh Yang Berhormat Timbalan Premier Sarawak, Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, dan juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Sarawak bagi N.14 Batu Kawah. Tahniah kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat Batu Kawah.

Pertamanya saya ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah juga kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Premier Sarawak yang telah berjaya mengemudi Kerajaan Sarawak dengan begitu jayanya sekali sehingga ke hari ini.

Saya bersetuju dengan Balingian dan juga Tebedu, selain ekonomi, kesejahteraan rakyat juga menjadi keutamaan termasuklah memastikan premis makanan sentiasa bersih dan selamat di bawah Local Authorities Ordinance dan juga Public Health Ordinance 1999.

In the wake of rabies outbreak in Sarawak, the Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government come to understand that stray dogs and cats are seen roaming rampantly around food premises and some people even brought the live animals into the food outlets which is unsightly, unhygienic and causing uneasiness to the customer and general public who are patronizing the food outlets.

The Ministry has received a number of complaints on the unhealthy practices by the food outlet operators or licensees for feeding the stray dogs and cats, encouraging or even inviting them, the stray dogs and animals to be in the food outlet and the vicinity.

Kenapa sangat penting bagi kita untuk tidak membenarkan haiwan ternakan seperti anjing, kucing dan lain-lain haiwan yang berada di premis makanan kerana kehadiran mereka ini boleh menyebabkan masalah kesihatan seperti jangkitan rabies akibat gigitan daripada anjing atau kucing yang dijangkiti virus rabies. Moreover, the faeces from the animal will create an unhygienic environment to the food premises due to all flies flying around within the area. Flies will infest and contaminate the foods with infective bacteria that will lead to food poisoning once the contaminated food is being consumed by the customers. Selain daripada penyakit-penyakit ini, penyakit-penyakit lain seperti yang disebutkan oleh Tebedu tadi merupakan antara yang kita takuti berlaku dalam kalangan pengunjung-pengunjung premis makanan. Okay.

Knowing very well that Sarawak is now currently declared under rabies outbreak. It is very important to ensure that there should be no animal or pet to be allowed in any food premises either by customer or to be reared by the stall owner or tenant of any food premises. The amendment of Section 23 of the principal Ordinance to insert Subsection (3) is timely in order to protect the general public and the food premises themselves from the risk of communicable diseases infection especially against the deadly rabies virus.

For the information of this august House and the general public, from April 2017 to date, a total of 78 cases of rabies was reported in Sarawak. And out of that numbers, 71 cases or 91% are casualties while another seven cases are discharged home. From the 78 cases of rabies reported in Sarawak, there are 3 cases of rabies reported very recently this year. And 20 cases of this numbers are from stray dogs.

The amendment of Section 23 shows the commitment of the GPS Government to protect the general public from deadly infected rabies and other related diseases from the animals and pets that linger around in the food premises or food outlet. Failure to comply to this Ordinance or any regulations in force in the Local Authority area will put the premises at risk to be closed or seal off by the Authority. Any person who fails to comply and/or found guilty under Section 1 shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding RM500,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or to both.

Tuan Speaker, the proposed amendment of Section 38 of the principal Ordinance, specifically the inclusion of the word “*columbarium*” following “*crematorium*”, represents a vital update to our current legislation. This modification acknowledges the evolving preferences in memorial practices and the need for regulated places for the storage of urns containing ashes of the deceased.

By officially recognizing columbaria under the scope of local authority licensing, this amendment ensures that these facilities meet specific standards of operation and maintenance. This formal recognition is crucial for maintaining the dignity and respect owed to the deceased and their families, providing a regulated environment that ensures these values are upheld. We are consistent in public health to ensure uniformity in public health protections across different post-life services. This is essential because this facility handles human remains and therefore must operate under stringent health and safety standards to prevent any public health risks.

The addition of a new subsection imposing regular maintenance responsibilities on licensed cemetery operators, including those managing columbaria, is a significant step towards improving the overall condition of these sites. Regular maintenance ensures that columbaria remain clean, well-kept and dignified places that provide solace to visitors and a respectful resting place for the deceased.

The growing preference for cremation over traditional burial in many communities’ necessities adequate provisions for columbaria. As cremation rates rise, so does the demand for columbaria. This amendment ensures that Local Authorities can adequately plan and provide for these changing community needs, facilitating a respectful and orderly process for honouring loved ones.

By empowering Local Authorities with the ability to license and regulate columbaria, this amendment aids in better municipal management of burial services. This support is crucial for ensuring that these facilities are integrated thoughtfully into community planning and development, respecting both urban aesthetics and the sensitivities of the populace.

### *Conclusion*

The amendment of the Protection of Public Health Ordinance 1999 (Cap. 30) as in the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by inserting a new Subsection (3) to Section 38 of the principal Ordinance and to include columbaria under the licensing provisions is a thoughtful, necessary update that aligns with contemporary societal needs. The inclusion of columbaria in Public Health Ordinance is to address the evolving preferences for memorial services and by amending Section 23 to insert a new Subsection (3) to regulate the presence of animal and pet in any food premises is essential to ensure that the food premises are free animals and pets that may cause risk to rabies infestation and other infectious diseases. By increasing the General Penalty from RM3,000 to RM10,000 shows that the government is serious in protecting the community of the public health at risk.

By adopting this amendment, we provide clarity and support to Local Authorities, ensuring they can meet their community needs effectively and respectfully. With that, Tuan Speaker, I hereby to represent N.1 Opar fully support the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

*Sik Maju Sarawak Mun N.1 Opar Sik Maju,  
Anak Maju Sarawak Kalo N.1 Opar Anak Maju*

Thank you very much.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you Ahli Yang Berhormat Opar. Next, I would like to call Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan please.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Just now, I pressed my mic, my mic was blinking because I just to register my intention to participate in the debate. Thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me this opportunity to participate in debate of this Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024. I like to go straight to, the proposed edition of Subsection 3 of 23, of the principal Act which appears in the in Clause 4 of this amendment Bill. I just quote the intended addition to the section, i.e. “(3) *animal or pet is not allowed to be brought in any food premises by customers or to be rare by the owners, occupiers or any stall holder of any food premises.*”

Alright, the intention of the drafter of this Bill obviously is to prohibit any customers or even the owner of the shop owners to bring in any pets, dogs, cats any other animals into food premises in the name of public health. I just like to seek a clarification whether the definition Section of this Ordinance which is Protection of Public Health Ordinance has been updated. Why I say so? Because according to the online search of a copy of the Protection of Public Health Ordinance, when I go to the interpretation section which is Section 2 of the Ordinance and I look for the definition of animal, “*animal*”, alright it appears the animal here, it says like this, I quote “*animals include any bird, fish, amphibian and reptile quadrupled domesticated or otherwise*”. Alright that is the definition section, that is the definition of animal in the Ordinance, principal Ordinance, and I try to snoop for the word pet, there is no definition of the word pet.

Tuan Speaker, when you read the proposed amendment adding clause Sub (3) Section 23, read it together with the definition section, it seems like dogs and cats are not included. Not prohibited to be brought into the food premises. Of course, you can argue that it is only natural that dogs and cats are animals right, therefore it is included in the definition section. But, Tuan Speaker, as we lawyer, we know we all are very well versed of this principle *expressio unius est exclusio alterius*. Like the maxim, the Latin maxim, *expressio unius est exclusio alterius*. For the benefit of the hansard recorder I will spell it out, *expressio unius est exclusio alterius*. What does that mean? What does that legal maxim mean? It means that is a principle in the statutory construction, interpretation in the statutory provision that when one or more things of a class are expressly mentioned others of the same class are excluded. I'll repeat, when one or more things of a class are expressly mentioned others of the same class are excluded, which if we apply this principle to the interpretation of the Protection of Public Health Ordinance, the animal definition read together with Clause 4 i.e. the prohibition to not allow the animals to be brought into any food premises will not cover dogs and cats ...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat, for the benefit of Members again, could you repeat the Principal Ordinance interpretation of what word you said animal are not right.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Here ah, okay. “*Animal*” includes any bird, fish, amphibian and reptiles, quadruped, domesticated or otherwise. So, it does not say, it does not mention dogs and cats. I don't know whether the online version is the latest version or otherwise. Maybe Honourable Minister can clarify that for me or this Dewan. If that is the latest version, then without further amendment...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Again, again. Have you considered the words includes, includes ...*(Interruption)*...

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

**Timbalan Speaker:** It means that animals in general, but includes those specific...*(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Yes, that is exactly why I quote the legal maxim *expressio unius est exclusio alterius* where certain classes of things are especially mentioned in the definition or in a law or provision of the law. That would exclude the other classes that is not mentioned. Therefore, when the drafter of this definition of animal when they expressly provide the animals include birds, fish, amphibian and reptiles, that means they intentionally exclude dogs and cats. That is a matter of legislative interpretation. Alright, if you want to make it clear, I mean there is no harm, it is so easy for the government to amend it, to include dogs and cats. If that word is the intention, if that is the intention. I am not sure whether the intention of the government is to exclude or prohibit dogs and cats in the eating premises. But from the debate of the other Members of this House, it seems that was intended, because all the funny, funny terms in Latin or Greek, medical terms in diseases were brought up in this House. So... *(Laughter)*... I am not, I take it that the dogs and cats are targeted, prohibited in the eating premises. So, therefore I like to seek clarification and so as not to confuse the public. *Yah*, Member from Tebedu seek clarification. I will give him.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Oh, alright.

**YB Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada:** Tuan Speaker, I would like to clarify on the definition of animals. There's a word quadruped. Quadruped means four legged animals. Cats, how many legs does a cat has. Dogs, how many legs does a dog has. They are four legged, so I think its covered under quadruped. Thank you.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Member of Padungan, please respond... *(Laughter)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Can I have my mic on. Okay ... *(Laughter)*... If you, if you are arguing it that way, how about monkey? Monkey has two legs. So, Monkey allowed is it? I mean, if you look at the whole thing, look at the definition section, alright... *(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat for Padungan. I don't want you to draw too much on this... *(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Yeah... *(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Do you agree quadruped... *(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Four legged.

**Timbalan Speaker:** It includes... *(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** I don't think that can be interpreted.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Dogs and Cats... *(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** I don't think that can be interpreted... *(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** There are also arguments that monkeys have four legs or four arms... *(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Ohhh, that upper limbs are called arms, only you can call it legs, that why it is called in Mandarin... *(Chinese dialects) (Laughter)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Anyway, just... *(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** I think, I think... the penalty against any offender is serious. Therefore, it is only to justify, it is only reasonable that if the government intends it to include animals like cats and dogs alright, in the prohibition lists, that should be included. That is point number one. Point number two, I have been to some eatery outlets whereby the owner of the premises keep in

aquarium, fishes swimming in the aquarium and that makes the whole place very pleasant and there is a sense of tranquillity, serenity in the place. You can see the fishes swimming in the aquarium while you are eating your food there. So, with the passing of this Act, all those eateries with aquariums will be prohibited because here it says, fish. So, what you have to say, Member for Tebedu.

It includes those eatery outlets with aquarium and is aquarium such a dangerous element in eatery place? I am sure, Tuan Speaker has the answer and that it does not spread disease. So, therefore I see that the drafting of this Bill is not as well prepared as the previous Bill which was tabled by Bukit Saban, Deputy Premier. I hope that the Minister member for Batu Kawa can be more prepared and look into all possibilities of the provision of the law that he seeks to get tabled and passed in this Dewan. There are some exceptions to all prohibitions of the law especially when it come to prohibition of certain things to be done. Alright, there should be some exceptions. Alright, thing like what I have mentioned where in a eatery place there are aquarium. There are also other outdoor, open space eatery place along the road to Damai Beach there whereby the restaurants also to keep some birds, parrots nearby the restaurants. Are they also be disallowed, prohibited and to be fined when the Amendment comes into action?

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat, I just want to ask for clarification seek to are the fishes in the restaurant to be eaten or what or to be just pets?

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Some are to be served on dishes, some are just for decorative like goldfish, the Japanese cub all this. This all to be prohibited and Mr. Speaker, you raised a very good point which I speak my mind, you go to Sibu Restaurant, Rock Road Sibu Restaurant a lots of live fishes there, swimming in the aquarium, ready to be eaten.

**Tuan Speaker:** I am sure the Government side will be ready to answer that.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Pardon?

**Timbalan Speaker:** I am sure the Government side will be ready to answer that.

**YB Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Yes, but according to the definition, I'm don't know how it is going to exonerate those premises owners from the offence created by this Provision. I believe in all legislative provisions whereby you prohibit the things, certain things or you regulate on licensing, there should be some exemption, clauses, to be inserted, so that special consideration can be given in special circumstances. But here I don't see any special provisions in this Amendment Act. So, with that observation, I do not think I can support this Bill although I do agree that we should not bring dogs or cats into eatery place in general but there are certain exceptions to that and also certain part now, certain eatery parts are designed with the theme for pets whereby you bring your cats, brings your dogs, those are exception, that should be provided in the Amendment or the Principal Ordinance. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you, Yang Berhormat Padungan.

**Tuan Speaker:** Next Yang Berhormat Baleh, please.

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan terima kasih kerana memberikan peluang kepada saya untuk turut serta dalam membahaskan Rang Undang-undang Perlindungan Kesihatan Awam (Pindaan), 2024 di Dewan yang mulia ini.

Ribuan terima kasih juga kepada Timbalan Premier merangkap Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan Sarawak, Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar ADUN N.14 Batu Kawah atas usul pindaan Rang Undang-undang Perlindungan Kesihatan Awam 2024 ini.

Dalam membincangkan isu rang undang-undang ini, saya amat tertarik dengan saranan Timbalan Premier merangkap Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan Sarawak mengenai betapa pentingnya autonomi diberikan sepenuhnya kepada Sarawak dalam memastikan tugas bidang itu dilaksanakan secara menyeluruh.

Saya mengambil maklum mengenai isu terbaru, iaitu seorang pesakit di Bintulu terpaksa menunggu selama 2 jam atau 120 minit di kaunter pendaftaran.

Ini bukan perkara baharu atau terencil di Sarawak. Malah inilah yang kerap atau kebiasaan yang berlaku di mana-mana hospital kerajaan di Sarawak termasuklah di daerah luar bandar dan pedalaman.

Cuma mungkin, perkara ini tidak diwar-warkan dalam media masa ataupun media sosial kerana bagi mereka, ini sudah menjadi rutin dan kebiasaan bagi mereka.

Tuan Speaker, keluhan sebegini belum lagi mengambil kira keluhan-keluhan seperti di Kawasan-kawasan luar bandar dan pedalaman seperti di kawasan saya di Baleh di mana pesakit terpaksa mengeluarkan kos belanja yang tinggi dan mengharungi perjalanan yang jauh untuk temu janji di hospital dan dimaklumkan temu janji pesakit tersebut ditangguh ke tarikh yang baru.

Banyak lagi keluhan lain yang sama cuma berbeza keadaan dan saya yakin rakan-rakan Yang Berhormat di sini turut menerima keluhan yang sama dari masyarakat di kawasan mereka.

Oleh sebab itu, saya menyokong penuh tuntutan Kerajaan Sarawak yang mahukan autonomi Kesihatan diserahkan sepenuhnya kepada Sarawak bagi memastikan semua aspek berkaitan Kesihatan dapat dilaksanakan dengan baik dan berkesan. Ini termasuklah infrastruktur hospital, sumber manusia, pentadbiran dan sebagainya.

Pada Januari 2024, Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) MENERUSI Menterinya bersetuju untuk meneliti semua permintaan Sarawak berkaitan Kerajaan Sarawak adalah munasabah dan dalam pertimbangan dan penelitian yang serius di peringkat Kerajaan Persekutuan. Ini merupakan satu berita yang baik dan positif.

Tuan Speaker, jika tadi berita baik, sekarang saya sampaikan berita yang kurang baik pula. Jika berpandangan sekolah daif di Sarawak memerlukan banyak dana, klinik kesihatan dan hospital daif di Sarawak memerlukan 4 kali ganda ...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** ...*(Interruption)*... Ahli Yang Berhormat Baleh. You are talking about this Bill Protection of Public Health (Amendment) 2024 or you are talking about...*(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** I'm talking about .. yes.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Ya. I think the relevant one ya, please.

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi Anak Jantai:** Can I continue?

**Timbalan Speaker:** Speak to *berkaitan* action of ...*(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** But this one is Public Health...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Public Health ya...*(Interruption)*...

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** But this *isu berkenaan dengan kesihatan awam* ...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** I think you get your points relevant first. You want to carry on or not. Have you drafted your speech for a long one?

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** With this one I ...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** This more public health concerned with a Local Government or rather.

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** Regarding the facilities ...*(Interruption)*...

**Timbalan Speaker:** Not the *Kementerian Kesihatan yang hospital-hospital besar dan sebagainya or klinik, okay?*

**YB Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai:** Okay lah. With this, I will support, *menyokong penuh usul yang dibentang dalam Rang Undang-Undang Perlindungan Kesihatan Awam bagi Pindaan 2024 di Dewan yang mulia ini.*

**Timbalan Speaker:** Terima kasih, Ahli Yang Berhormat. I would like to call Ahli Yang Berhormat Meluan, please.

**YB Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin:** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker kerana memberi peluang kepada saya untuk debat *Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024*. I'm going to touch on Amendment of Section 23 Subsection (3) animal or pet is not allowed to be brought in any food premises by customers or to be reared by the owner, occupier or any stall holder of any food premises. As pet keeping has become increasingly common nowadays, there has been more attention in society to bringing animals to use public facilities and premises. On the other hand, in recent years, there are also views in the society hoping to bring along pet dogs to dine in food premises. In general, the Government needs to take into account the pros and cons to it, to achieve the policy objective of facilitating animals and people to co-exist harmoniously. Regarding bringing pet into food premises, I strongly support Amendment of Section 23 Subsection (3) to not allowed animal or pet to be brought in any food premises by customers or to be reared by the owner, occupier, or any stall holder of any food premises. The reason for supporting this amendment is:

#### *Health Issues*

According to the Food Hygiene Regulations 2009, food premises means premises used for or in connection with the preparation, preservation, packaging, storage, conveyance, distribution, or sale of any food, or the relabelling, reprocessing or reconditioning of any food. As for that, it is important to ensure that animal or pet do not compromise food safety by having access to places where food is prepared, handled and stored.

Foodborne illness can be any illness that is transmitted to people through food. There is a misconception out there that foodborne illnesses are not easy spread. Some examples of illnesses that are easy to spread and can be transmitted through food include Salmonella, E.coli, norovirus and many others. So, what do pets, and other animals have to do with foodborne illness? Animals can carry bacteria, parasites and other pathogens that may contaminate food and pose a risk to human health. Animals can naturally harbour some organisms that cause disease. For Example, dogs can carry Campylobacter. Cats can carry Toxoplasma gondii. Birds, reptiles, and amphibians can carry Salmonella. While these are just a few examples of the germs that animals can carry, many others also spread through similar means and these germs can easily be passed, spread through similar means from animals to people and then to others. This often happens when an infected person contaminates the food or drink of a healthy person, and this is why it is important to keep animals out of the kitchen.

Some people have allergies or sensitivities to animals, like pet dander or species-specific allergens. So, the owner, occupier or any stall holder must provide a safe environment for all by trying to minimize the risk of allergic reactions or health issues related to animal exposure.

### *Safety*

Secondly, Tuan Speaker. According to the Food Hygiene Regulations 2009, Part III Chapter 1, the duty of proprietor, owner or occupier of food premises, Regulation 8 stated that proprietor, owner or occupier of food premises must display their certificate of registration, notices including the notice that disallow animal into food premises.

Animals can create disturbances or potential safety concerns for other food premises attendees. This includes issues like barking, aggressive behaviour, accidental tripping, or injury caused by animals. Not all animal or pet are well-behaved or trained. Anything can happen, and it is important to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience at the food premises.

The proprietor, owner or occupier of food premises have to deal with these issues as they arise. For example, will they ask the owner with a barking dog to leave? What will be the protocol when a dog has an accident near the dining area? No doubt, the proprietor, owner or occupier of food premises and pet owner have to consider these issues as well as the potential health risks.

Other than that, animals can create unsanitary conditions, such as waste deposition or shedding, which can compromise the cleanliness of the food premises and uncomfortable for other customers. I believe we all love our four-legged friends or any animal for that matter. but in order to prioritise the safety, cleanliness, and well-being of the food premises, the customers and the public and maintain the high standards necessary for serving clean food and drinks, I fully support the Amendment of Section 23, Subsection (3) in which animal or pet is not allowed to be brought in any food premises by customers or to be reared by the owner, occupier or any stall holder of any food premises.

With this, thank you very much to Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government to table the Bill. I beg to support. Thank you.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you, Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan. Next, I would like to invite the Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang, please.

**YB Dato Ir. Lo Khere Chiang:** Tuan Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to debate on the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024. I support the proposed Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to amend and update certain provisions in the Principal Ordinance to be in line with current practices.

This is timely as the provisions relating to cleanliness of food premises is to ensure that there is a standard of cleanliness and hygiene of which the local councils can monitor and conduct food premises grading. A, B and C of these premises gives food operators a clear guideline of their cleanliness status so that the councils can order the closure of them if they were graded below the hygiene level. This will prevent unnecessary food poisoning and confidence of our patrons.

Many toilets in our eateries are still not up to par with the standard required of them and it is the duty of food operators to ensure that their premises are equipped with proper basic amenities such as clean water supply, good air-circulation and proper lighting, clean tables and sink/basin for hand washing besides ensuring that the area is free from rodents and insects.

Tuan Speaker, I find the Honourable Member for Padungan's explanation on the word animals are very amusing. I remember when I was a little boy, at this subject called Nature Study in school, you know in primary school and my teacher taught me that the animal kingdom is broadly divided into two main categories. Vertebrates and invertebrates. A vertebrate is with backbone like fish, amphibians, reptiles like snakes, birds, mammals like monkeys. Invertebrates are animals without the backbone like insects, mollusc; molluscs are snails, octopus, squid, worms. Sea urchins; some worms and sponges, the animals that are living in the water and so, I would like to give an advice to the Honourable Member for Padungan; not to confuse the public. Even I get confused after listening

to how he explained on the terms of animals. Yes, precisely, I am not a lawyer. Precisely. But, I remember my teacher taught me all these. I don't know how come you explained in such a difficult manner.

Anyway, this Bill to empower the regulation of Waste Management which is an important aspect in this era of protecting our environment from pollution.

The power to regulate pertaining to segregation of waste, disposal of waste like plastic bags, plastic straws and the likes are all part of initiatives to support Sarawak's policy for sustainable green environment under Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030.

Tuan Speaker, recycling is also a must to ensure the reduction of waste generation which can involve segregation of waste at source such as food waste, organic waste, construction waste, etc. All these can be reused and recycled for fertilizers and other things.

To support Sarawak's aspiration and agenda towards sustainable developments, it is vital for the conversion of disposal of waste from conventional system to modern type of waste management like the use of incinerators. Power making regulations under the proposed bill relating to waste disposal and waste segregation also helps the local authorities to play a more active role towards community's participation in recycling and composting of waste. This will indeed contribute towards a cleaner and a greener future for our environment.

This Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is a crucial step towards enhancing public health standards and underscores our commitment to responsible governance while accommodating our community's needs. I do fully support this Bill. Thank you, Tuan Timbalan Speaker.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you, Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Kitang. Any other Honourable Member would like to speak? Otherwise, we call upon the Honourable Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government; and Member for N.14 Batu Kawah to wind up, please.

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian):** Tuan Speaker, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat who participated in the debate and support the Bill; YB Balingian, YB Tebedu, YB Opar, YB Padungan, YB Meluan, YB Batu Kitang and YB Baleh.

I also appreciate all the ideas and proposals by Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat during the debate to ensure smooth and effective implementation and enforcement of Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan, in reference to the interpretation of the PPHO the definition animal is not exhaustive. The reference to quadruple pets in the definition does refer to any animals which has 4 feet. Further, the definition of domesticated also entails that any species that have been selectively bred and inducted to live alongside human. Hence, the definition of animals does cater to cats and dogs.

Regarding the fish at restaurants which will be served to customers, Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan can refer to the interpretation of food premises. It defines food premises as any premises use or intended to be used for the preparation, processing, storage, packaging, or food for sells, and where food is served or offered for sell to the public.

Once again, I would like to thank all Honourable Members for your participation in expressing constructive views and suggestions while debating this Bill which might be taken into consideration in the implementation of the amendment to the legislation.

The proposed amendments are to strengthen the provisions of Protection of Public Health Ordinance relating to licensing and cleanliness of food premises, licensing and maintenance of any land used for cemetery, funeral parlour etc, power of entry, investigation, to increase the amount of general penalty which has not been revised since 1999 and also to expand the power of *Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri* to make regulations relating to waste and environment as one of the initiatives to support Sarawak Government Policy relating to green environment and sustainability. With that, thank you very much Tuan Speaker.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you Ahli Yang Berhormat. The question before the Dewan is that the Motion standing in the Order Paper in the name of the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government and Member for N.14 Batu Kawah be referred to the Committee of the Whole House. As many as are of the opinion say “Yes”.

**Government:** Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

**Timbalan 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 will now resolve into the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill which stands committed to the Committee.

## **COMMITTEE STAGE**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

*[Tuan Pengerusi mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The Committee shall now consider the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

*Clauses 1 to 10*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The question is that Clauses 1 to 10 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 10 are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Enacting Clauses and Title*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The Dewan shall now resume.

## **HOUSE RESUMED**

*[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian):** Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 has been considered by the Committee of the Whole House and agreed to without any amendment.

**RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KETIGA**

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

**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 move the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 now be read a third time and do pass.

**Timbalan Speaker:** The question before the Dewan is that the Protection of Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2024 be now read a third time and do pass. As many as are of the opinion say “Yes”.

**Government:** Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

**Timbalan Speaker:** As many as are of the contrary opinion say “No”. The “Yes” have it. The Bill is read a third time and passed.

*Bill is read a third time and passed*

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

**RANG UNDANG-UNDANG KERAJAAN – BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA**

SARAWAK FORESTRY CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) 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, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 be read a second time. This Bill seeks to provide for the amendments of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance, 1995 [Chapter 17], on the following:

- (i) streamlining and refinement of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation's (SFC) functions and powers to focus mainly on the provisions under the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1998 [Chapter 27], and the Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998 [Chapter 26];
- (ii) amendment to the appointment of Deputy Chairman of the Board;
- (iii) amendment to the provisions relating to the employees; and
- (iv) replacement of the style and title of “*Chief Executive Officer*” with “*General Manager*”.

In 2020, the Government mandated that the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) to assume all responsibilities previously held by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) as provided for under the Forests Ordinance, 2015, which includes forest management, research and development, compliance, engineering, and revenue collection.

Conversely, the SFC was tasked with duties specified under the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance 1998 and the Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998. Hence, to give effect to this mandate, amendments to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance, 1995 are necessary to streamline the overlapping functions between the Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

In light of the above, interpretation referring to the words “*Director*” and “*forest produce*” are deleted to reflect the current structure of SFC as an agent of the Government to enforce the provisions under the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1998 and the Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998.

In addition, the forestry functions such as sustainable forest management, reforestation, forestry research and forestry policy under the Ordinance, will now be taken out with this amendment. In other words, these functions would be under the purview of the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) so as to make a clear demarcation on the roles and functions between SFC and FDS.

SFC is optimally positioned under natural resources, aligning with its mandates of sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. The scope of the SFC's responsibilities includes managing natural resources such as flora and fauna within national parks and protection of wildlife throughout Sarawak. This is in tandem with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development's ("the Ministry") focus on balancing conservation with economic uses like eco-tourism.

Tuan Speaker, the appointment of the Deputy Minister in charge of natural resources as the Deputy Chairman of the Board will facilitate administrative and operational synergies, drawing on the minister's expertise in handling complex resource management issues across forestry, land use and wildlife.

Furthermore, being under the Ministry, it allows the SFC to operate within a legislative framework designed for integrated natural resource management, effectively balancing ecological preservation with human development needs.

This Bill seeks to delete Section 16 of the Principal Ordinance. This provision relating to employees under Section 16 is no longer relevant as it has fulfilled its intended purpose.

**REPLACEMENT OF THE STYLE AND TITLE  
"CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER" WITH "GENERAL MANAGER"**

Regarding the amendment to Section 19, the change in the top executive's title from "*Chief Executive Officer*" to "*General Manager*" mirrors the designation of top executives in other statutory bodies under the Ministry such as the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and the Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) whose designation is styled as the General Manager.

The change in title fosters consistency, and unity within the Ministry organizational umbrella. This change signifies a move toward improved compliance, cohesion, and effective leadership within all organisations under the Ministry and this will lead to continued success and growth.

*Conclusion*

This Bill is important and ought to be supported by Members of this august House, as the Bill aims to refine, strengthen and enhance the legal framework governing the protection and management of totally protected areas and wildlife in Sarawak and to ensure that there be no duplication of duties between Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC).

Tuan Speaker, I therefore beg to move.

**Tuan Speaker:** Another Minister to second?

**YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian:** Tuan Speaker, I beg to second.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I shall call upon the Members to debate on the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Honourable Member for Daro.

**YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad:** Assalammualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawakku Sayang dan Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur... (*Interruption*)...

**Tuan Speaker:** Yang Berhormat, before you proceed, let me remind Honourable Members. This is an Amendment Bill. So, confine your observation to the amendment without opening up the Principal Ordinance.

**YB Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad:** Terima kasih Tuan Speaker kerana telah memberi peluang kepada saya untuk mengambil bahagian dalam perbahasan Rang Undang-undang, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 yang telah dibentangkan oleh YB Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Timbalan Premier Sarawak merangkap Menteri Sumber Asli dan Pembangunan Bandar Kedua dan Ahli Dewan Negeri bagi N.82 Bukit Sari.

Tuan Speaker, flashback in 2003, from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, the Sarawak Government entrusted Sarawak Forestry Corporation or well known as SFC as a statutory body to exercise operational functions of Forest Department Sarawak while the Department continued to exercise its statutory functions. Back then, instead of a rigid government department, a new flexible model was needed to handle a rapidly changing environment. The Chief Minister recognised that this new environment required creating an independent entity able to work in a private sector environment.

In keeping with the model, the Forest Department was downsized, and its operational functions were vested in SFC. Under an innovative agreement, a private company, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn. Bhd., owned by and is a subsidiary company of SFC, supplied management personnels and general staff to the SFC to execute and perform its functions. Re-engineering exercise *pada ketika itu dipercayai bukanlah suatu bentuk dasar penswastaan*. Tetapi ianya adalah suatu model yang unik bila mana suatu jabatan kerajaan dioptimumkan dengan memindahkan hampir kesemua fungsi-fungsi operasi kepada sebuah badan berkanun, a *Government Corporation called Sarawak Forestry Corporation*. Jabatan hanyalah menjalankan fungsi-fungsi statutori.

Tuan Speaker, the Sarawak Government announced the restructuring of the Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) to strengthen the state forestry industry. The Premier of Sarawak (which was then as the Chief Minister) Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg said the restructuring process, which took effect on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 would see the role of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn. Bhd. being taken over by SFC.

The Forest Department Sarawak has been restructured to strengthen its position in excellent and more sustainable forest management, including to achieve international recognition in line with the newly enacted Forests Ordinance, 2015 [Cap.71]. The Forest Department Sarawak entrusted to exercise all its functions provided under the Forests Ordinance 2015 [Cap.71] which is forest management, research, development, engineering, compliance and the collection of forests products. Meanwhile, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) entrusted to exercise functions provided under National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1998 and Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998.

Penstrukturan semula tersebut adalah sangat penting dan *significant* bagi menjamin pengurusan dan koordinasi yang lebih teratur, efisien dan cekap oleh jabatan dan agensi dalam mengurus sumber hutan di Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, unjuran daripada penstrukturan semula tersebut, adalah penting atau *timely and relevant* untuk undang-undang penubuhan Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance (*SFC Ordinance*) diselaraskan melalui rang undang-undang pindaan ini.

Meminda *SFC Ordinance* dengan secara ringkasnya:

- (a) Memansuhkan terjemahan Pengarah Hutan dan Hasil Hutan dalam Ordinan;
- (b) Menggantikan *Permanent Secretary* kepada *Deputy Minister* sebagai *Deputy Chairman of SFC Board*;

- (c) Memansuhkan *national parks, nature reserves and wildlife* sebagai *subject matter or function*;
- (d) Memansuhkan rujukan kepada Pengarah Hutan dan *Forests Ordinance, 2015* dalam Seksyen 11, *powers of SFC*;
- (e) Memansuhkan Seksyen 16, *appointment of employee from Sarawak Forest Department who opted to serve in Sarawak Forestry Corporation*. Jika Seksyen 16 dahulu memperuntukkan pegawai-pegawai Jabatan Hutan Sarawak boleh memilih dan dilantik untuk berkhidmat di SFC, namun pemansuhan seksyen ini relevan agar pelantikan adalah selaras melalui proses prosedur sedia dan bagi lantikan ke perkhidmatan awam dan badan berkanun;
- (f) Menukar *designation Chief Executive Officer (CEO) SFC* kepada *General Manager SFC* selaras dengan badan-badan berkanun yang lain; dan
- (g) Mengeluarkan *Forests Ordinance, 2015* daripada senarai *immunity from legal action by SFC. Meaning to say, SFC is no longer acting as agent of the Government under Forests Ordinance, 2015*.

Dengan ini, adalah jelas yang membezakan hanyalah Jabatan Hutan Sarawak merupakan jabatan kerajaan tunggal yang mengawal selia *Forest Ordinance*. Manakala SFC adalah agensi Kerajaan yang mengawal selia *National Parks and Nature Reserve Ordinance, 1998* dan *Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998*.

Tuan Speaker, adalah tidak dinafikan dengan penstrukturan semula tersebut sejak tahun 2020, terbukti pengurusan sumber hutan yang mampan oleh Jabatan Hutan Sarawak semakin menyerlah dan diperkasakan malah mendapat pelbagai pengiktirafan sebelum ini termasuklah pencapaian melalui pindaan-pindaan *Forests (Amendment) Bill, 2022* serta inisiatif karbon hutan.

SFC semakin menyerlah dan diperkasakan terbukti melalui pencapaian-pencapaian dalam operasi penguatkuasaan perlindungan hidupan liar dan pengurusan *national parks and nature reserves*. Selain itu, *Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC)* dalam bahasa Melayu diterjemahkan sebagai Perbadanan Perhutanan Sarawak manakala *Forest Department Sarawak* diterjemahkan sebagai Jabatan Hutan Sarawak adalah bertepatan sekali kerana kebanyakan umum, baik agensi di peringkat Kerajaan Persekutuan, malah agensi-agensi antarabangsa, masih ada keliru dengan fungsi agensi dan jabatan ini kerana perkataan *forest* dan *forestry* terletak di pangkal namanya.

Dalam hal ini, untuk memastikan rakyat faham dan jelas, maka adalah penting untuk diwar-warkan kepada umum akan pembahagian fungsi Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan Perbadanan Perhutanan Sarawak supaya dapat mengelakkan berlakunya kekeliruan. Namun begitu, penting untuk difahami juga bahawa kedua-dua jabatan dan agensi ini adalah masih berkait dengan pengurusan hutan, baik di taman negara, *nature reserves* mahupun hutan simpan kekal serta pengurusan flora dan fauna di Sarawak ini.

Tuan Speaker, sebagai kesimpulannya, Rang Undang-undang, Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance ini secara *substantivenya* adalah teratur. Maka dengan ini saya memohon untuk menyokong *Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024*. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Balingian.

**YB Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawakku Sayang. First of all, I would like to thank Tuan Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate for Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which was tabled by Datuk Amar Timbalan Premier and Yang Berhormat for Bukit Sari this afternoon.

The proposed amendments to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance, 1995 are essential for refining, strengthening and enhancing the legal framework governing the protection and management of protected areas and wildlife in Sarawak.

These amendments address critical issues such as overlapping responsibilities, organisational alignment and leadership structure ensuring more effective governance and conservation efforts.

I would like to narrow my speech to benefitting the local community. The Bills helps in streamlining and improve the management efficiency in conservation and protection of Sarawak's wildlife and its habitats. At the same time, the Bill will be able to benefit the local communities in line with PCDS 2030 in such:

- (a) Saving in funds through the management exercise to liberate funds for other conservation activities;
- (b) Supporting the hiring of local communities in conservation; and
- (c) Improve the flow of conservation funds to those supporting or affected by the conservation.

Such streamlining to improve efficiency is seen globally from those working on resources extraction to that of those working in conservation.

Overall, the proposed amendments to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) Act are essential for refining, strengthening and enhancing the legal framework governing conservation and natural resources management in Sarawak.

These amendments also ensure more effective governance, promote sustainable development and safeguard Sarawak's natural heritage for future generations. With that, Tuan Speaker, I support this Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Pelagus.

**YB Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker for granting me to participate in debating Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 presented by the Right Honourable Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development; and Minister of International Trade, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development just now.

Tuan Speaker, the proposed amendments to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance, 1995 (SFC) are essential for refining, strengthening and enhancing the legal framework governing the protection and management of protected areas and wildlife in Sarawak. These amendments of the protected areas and wildlife of Sarawak address critical issues such as overlapping responsibilities, organisational alignment and leadership structure, ensuring more effective governance and conservation efforts.

By eliminating overlapping functions between the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and the SFC, the amendments clarify the roles and responsibilities of each entity, reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies and enhancing coordination in conservation efforts. This streamlined approach allows the SFC to focus on its core mandates of managing natural resources within national parks and protecting wildlife throughout Sarawak, leading to more targeted and impactful conservation initiatives.

The focus of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) on managing natural resources within national parks and wildlife protection is a strategic decision that aligns with the Corporation's core mandates and expertise. By narrowing its scope of responsibilities, the SFC can devote more resources and attention to areas where it can have the greatest impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources management.

Tuan Speaker, previously, the SFC was tasked with a broad range of responsibilities, including forest management, research and revenue collection, which sometimes led to overlapping function with other government agencies such as the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS). This fragmentation

of responsibilities could result in inefficiencies and a lack of focus, hindering the Corporation's ability to effectively carry out its conservation mission.

By relinquishing broader responsibilities to FDS, the SFC can concentrate its efforts on managing natural resources within national parks and protecting wildlife throughout Sarawak. This streamlined approach allows the Corporation to leverage its expertise in biodiversity conservation on ecosystem management, leading to more targeted and impactful conservation initiatives.

Furthermore, focusing on national parks and wildlife protection aligns with global conservation priorities the Sarawak Government's commitment to sustainable development. National parks are crucial biodiversity hotspots that serve as habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna, including many endangered species. By prioritising the management of these protected areas, the SFC can contribute to global conservation efforts and safeguards Sarawak's natural heritage for future generations.

Tuan Speaker, in addition, by specialising in wildlife protection, the SFC can address pressing conservation challenges such as poaching, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflicts. These issues require dedicated resources and expertise, which the Corporation can provide more effectively by narrowing its focus to wildlife conservation.

Overall, streamlining the responsibilities of the SFC to focus on managing natural resources within national parks and wildlife protection is a prudent and strategic decision that will enhance the Corporation's effectiveness in biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

So, in conclusion, Tuan Speaker, with all the comments and observations that I have made, I support this Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Ba'Kelalan.

**YB Encik Baru Bian:** Tuan Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given me to participate in the debate on this Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The forest management functions of Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn. Bhd. were transferred back to Sarawak Forest Department in a restructuring exercise in 2020, and rightly so. I must agree with the Honourable Premier who had said that, that was not an ideal arrangement and that forest management must be done, monitored and supervised by the Forest Department.

Tuan Speaker, these amendments are necessary to update the Ordinance to reflect the changes in their respective functions. It is a rational move to ensure that there is no duplication of duties by the Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation. Therefore, the crux of this amendment is the deletion of Section 10(d)-(i) of the Principal Ordinance. These set out the functions formally performed by the Forestry Corporation which are the fundamental roles that rightly belong to the Forest Department.

The Forests Ordinance, 2015 provides that the Forest Department carry out the functions of forest management, research and development, forest engineering, forest compliance, revenue collection and compliance. They are the correct body to do these as they have the qualified and experienced staff to do so.

One interesting observation Tuan Speaker, I made in this Bill is the change in the composition of the Board, replacing the Deputy Chairman position which was previously held by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry having responsibility over forestry. The amendment appoints the Deputy Minister in charge of natural resources as Deputy Chairman. That seems to be a counter-intuitive move and I would be keen to know the reason for the change.

Tuan Speaker, I have a final observation on the proposed amendment of Section 11 Clause (3) of the Principal Ordinance – with the deletion of the words as set out in this Bill, the reading of this subsection after this amendment becomes rather odd. It will read as follows and I quote:

*“For the avoidance of doubt, the powers of the Corporation shall include the powers vested in the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1998 [Cap. 27] or the Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998 [Cap 26].”*

Tuan Speaker, powers cannot be vested in an ordinance, there must be a person on whom powers are vested. The word ‘*Controller*’ should be added to the subsection to read correctly as both the Ordinances mention a Controller as the appointed person in charge.

With these observations, I wish to register my support for the Bill. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

**Tuan Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Telang Usan.

**YB Dato Dennis Ngau:** Good afternoon, Tuan Speaker Sir, thank you for giving Telang Usan this opportunity to participate in the debate for the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Thank you to the State Government of Sarawak for introducing this Amendment Bill.

Tuan Speaker Sir, to me the proposed amendment to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance, 1995 is timely to ensure that SFC to perform her role to meeting the Sarawak Government quest and aspirations to be a developed Region or (*Wilayah*) under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) by 2030. As I see it, the amendments will look into areas of:

- (a) Refining,
- (b) Strengthening,
- (c) To enhancing the legal framework governing the protection and management of protected areas and wildlife in Sarawak.

I do also agree with Balingian and Pelagus, these amendments will address critical issues such as overlapping responsibilities, organisational alignment, and leadership structure, ensuring more effective governance and conservation efforts, echoing well with our Sarawak government initiatives to better manage state assets, creating wealth for the people and the state of Sarawak, taking advantage of our state abundant natural resources via tourism activity among others.

Tuan Speaker Sir, by eliminating overlapping functions between the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), the amendments clarify the roles and responsibilities of each entity, reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies and enhancing coordination in conservation efforts.

I do also agree with Pelagus, the streamlined approach allows the SFC to focus on its core mandates of managing natural resources within national parks and protecting wildlife throughout Sarawak, leading to more targeted and impactful conservation initiatives.

It is also my hope that with more resources at its disposal, SFC could further create and develop more natures attraction such as unique waterfalls like the one in my constituency of Telang Usan the now famous Three Sisters Waterfall, Ulu Baram.

The refining, strengthening and enhancing of SFC, is very timely in our effort for positioning and promoting Sarawak as the premier Natural tourism destination in the region especially, if not the world. As national parks and natures attractions is key component in nature’s tourism, I am confident with a focus role, SFC could enhance our national park facilities and services making every visit to our national parks in Sarawak a world class experience by locals and foreign visitors alike.

The amendment should enable the Government to create highly effective and efficient management team from state level to park and wildlife with dedication, including having capable personnel to manage of our park accommodation and facility, visitors amenities, resource and information centre among others.

Tuan Speaker Sir, over the recent decades, this region of Asia with their picturesque landscape and unique nature have become the focus of growing nature tourist activity. Sarawak with her own uniqueness indeed is capable of offering quite a variety of adventure tourism possibilities on the world market.

Being one of the Bornean territories, we are blessed with unique environmental with climate suited for all-year-round travelling, historical and cultural qualities and economic significance to propel tourism growth.

Of course, tourism like no other sector of the economy depends on the ecological wellbeing of the natural resources environment. SFC with its focus function will ensure the preservation of the ecosystem in a pristine condition of our national parks and wildlife. Indeed, Sarawak though her experience of considerably young history has a unique experience in the development of ecological tourism in national parks.

Tourism as widely known is a reliable source of income not only for government but also for indigenous communities' surroundings. When studying the specific nature reserves and national parks of Malaysia, in wildlife sanctuary, Sarawak is where most number of nature reserves and national parks are found in this country. Something Sarawakian must be proud of and take good care of this Gods gift to our State.

Tuan Speaker, further on, the amendments reflect a proactive approach to adapting institutional structures to evolving environmental priorities. By aligning the SFC's responsibilities with its expertise and focusing on areas where it can have the greatest impact, the amendments ensure that Sarawak remains at the forefront of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources management. Moreover, the amendments demonstrate a commitment to improving governance and accountability within the SFC. By appointing the Deputy Minister in charge of natural resources as the Deputy Chairman of the SFC Board and standardising the title of the top executive to "*General Manager*", the amendments enhance leadership and governance structures, promoting transparency, professionalism, and effective decision-making.

Tuan Speaker, additionally, the amendments support the Sarawak Government's broader goals of promoting sustainable development and balancing conservation with economic growth. By streamlining responsibilities, aligning organizational structures and strengthening legal frameworks, the amendments create an enabling environment for achieving this objective. Under Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030: Way Forward and Focus Area, Tourism is one of the 6 key sectors that will drive Sarawak's Sustainable Growth by 2030.

As national parks and wildlife sanctuary is one of the key components under this sector, it is the hope that with SFC more focus role on Natures conservations, I am very confident that visitors experience visiting our national parks will be a memorable one. Thus, attracting more natures lovers from all over the world to our shore. Furthermore, the amendments are informed by best practices and lessons learned from other jurisdictions facing similar conservation challenges. By drawing on international expertise and experiences, Sarawak can adopt strategies and approaches that are tailored to its unique environmental context, maximising the effectiveness and impact of conservation efforts.

Tuan Speaker, I also do support Pelagus whereby, the proposed amendment to Sarawak Forestry Corporation are essential for refining, strengthening and enhancing the legal framework governing conservation and natural resources management in Sarawak. These amendments ensure more effective governance, promote sustainable development, and safeguard Sarawak's

natural heritage for future generations. I, therefore, would like to propose for the State government to continuously allocate sufficient funding for the maintenance and development of our park facilities maintaining its attractions against other national parks in our Country and the region.

An efficient and effective governance in SFC, with strategic plan will ensure maximise the effectiveness of financial and human resources. Tuan Speaker, I hope that SFC will study the market allows the exploring of shortcomings of activities and factors affecting further development consequently allowing for working out a proper planning for further development of our national parks.

It is my hope with a better structured management of our national parks, SFC can one day will have a mechanism for self-financing of national parks so that economic component prevails in this area of activities. With that Tuan Speaker, Telang Usan supports the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendments) Bill, 2024.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Meradong.

**YB Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate for the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024. I would just like to touch on the two amendments of the Section.

(a) Amendment to Section 6

Appointing the Deputy Minister in charge of natural resources as the Deputy Chairman of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) Board is a strategic move that enhances administrative and operational synergies. The Deputy Minister brings a wealth of experience and expertise in handling complex resource management issues across forestry, land use, and wildlife, which will inform and guide the corporation's decision-making processes.

Tuan Speaker, the alignment of the SFC's leadership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development (MUDeNR) ensures closer collaboration and coordination between the corporation and relevant government agencies. This integrated approach facilitates the implementation of holistic conservation strategies that balance ecological preservation with socio-economic development needs.

Furthermore, appointing the Deputy Minister as the Deputy Chairman of the SFC Board reinforces the government's commitment to conservation and sustainable development. It signals a high-level endorsement of the corporation's mission and priorities, which can enhance its credibility and influence in advocating for conservation policies and initiatives.

Moreover, the Deputy Minister's oversight of the SFC Board provides an opportunity for strategic guidance and direction, ensuring that the corporation's activities are aligned with broader government objectives and priorities. This alignment fosters a more cohesive and coordinated approach to conservation, maximizing the impact of the SFC's efforts.

(b) Amendment to Section 19

Next, I would like to touch on (amendment to Section 19, Tuan Speaker, changing the title of the top executive from "CEO" to "*General Manager*" within the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) promotes consistency within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development (MUDeNR) umbrella. This standardized nomenclature fosters clarity and cohesion across statutory bodies under MUDeNR, creating a sense of collective identity and purpose.

Tuan Speaker, the change in title does not diminish the authority or expertise of the top executive; rather, it reflects a structural adjustment aimed at streamlining operations and enhancing organisational alignment within MUDeNR. By adopting a common title for all top executives within

MUDeNR, the Corporation can facilitate communication, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among its various entities.

Furthermore, the title change from “CEO” to “*General Manager*” is consistent with industry norms and practices, aligning the SFC with other statutory bodies within MUDeNR such as the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) and the Land Custody Development Authority (LCDA). This consistency promotes a sense of professionalism and standardization within the organisation, enhancing its credibility and reputation.

Moreover, the change in title signifies a move toward improved compliance, cohesion, and effective leadership within all organizations under MUDeNR. By adopting a common leadership structure, the Corporation can streamline decision-making processes, promote accountability, and foster a culture of excellence and innovation.

Tuan Speaker, with the above observation, I fully support the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Thank you.

**Tuan Speaker:** Under Standing Order 9, I determined the sitting goes beyond 6.30 p.m. Honourable Member for Batu Kitang.

**YB Dato Ir. Lo Khery Chiang:** Tuan Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given me to debate on this Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

I support the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 recognising its crucial role in refining our forestry sector's operations. This Bill includes an important step towards enhancing efficiency and eliminating duplication of efforts within the organization and the management of our precious forest resources through clear and precise responsibilities between the Forest Department and the Sarawak Forest Corporation (SFC).

The proposed change in the appointment of the SFC Chairman, entrusting the role to the Deputy Minister of natural resources, shows a commitment to aligning leadership with the corporation's core objectives which will effectively improve the corporation's effectiveness and strategic direction.

It has always been the SFC's vision to manage the Totally Protected Areas (TPA) including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, nature reserves and at the same time protecting indigenous flora and fauna and conserving the biodiversity of Sarawak. With this Amendment Bill, 2024, all this will be realised.

Tuan Speaker, empowering the Corporation to enforce regulations under the National Parks and Wildlife Protection Ordinances will draw a clear outline of the SFC's dedication to proactive conservation measures. And this grants them the authority needed to fulfil its role as a guardian of our natural heritage. This amendments regarding employee appointments can help the agency to be more efficient and effective by employing faster or simpler working methods with the right people in place.

This will serve as a better and clearer guideline to implement processes in order to foster greater efficiency. The title of the Chief Executive Officer to align with similar positions in related agencies exemplifies our commitment to coherence and standardization across governmental structures. This Forestry (Amendment) Bill 2024 represents a comprehensive effort to modernize and to optimize our forestry sector, advancing sustainable management practices and ensuring that the long-term health of our natural resources is achieve. I therefore, support the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

**Tuan Speaker:** Any other Member who wish to speak? I shall now call upon Honourable Deputy Premier to deliver his winding up address.

**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 Hasan):** Tuan Speaker, minta maaf *lah* hari ini suara saya tak lancar, tersekat-sekat. Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang telahpun melibatkan diri dalam perbahasan rang undang-undang yang dibentangkan ini. Seramai 7 orang Ahli Yang Berhormat yang terlibat dalam perbahasan ini daripada Daro, Balingian, Pelagus, Ba'Kelalan, Telang Usan, Meradong dan Batu Kitang. Saya cukup bangga bahawa semua Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang berucap begitu jelas dan faham tentang objektif rang undang-undang ini dibuat iaitu *Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024*. Mereka faham tentang tujuan kenapa kita harus melakukan penstrukturan semula ini supaya pengagihan kuasa dan skop kerja itu jelas di antara SFC dan *Forestry Department*. Dan mereka juga mempamerkan kefahaman kenapa dalam rang undang-undang ini mengusulkan supaya *Deputy Minister in charge of the Natural Resources to be appointed as a Deputy Chairman*.

Tuan Speaker, to manage conservation issues is a very complex matter. It is not just touching on wildlife preservation. Ianya memerlukan kefahaman yang lebih menyeluruh *across forestry issues, land use matters* dan beberapa aspek yang harus diambil kira. With regard to the suggestion made by Ahli Yang Berhormat for Ba'Kelalan, such amendment is not necessary as Clause 11(3) is intended to be a general and saving provision to cater for power of the SFC vested in the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1998 and Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998.

Menyentuh tentang penglibatan komuniti setempat seperti yang dibangkitkan oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, saya amat menyokong cadangan ini dan dalam program-program yang dilaksanakan setakat ini termasuk aktiviti ekonomi jika masyarakat setempat itu mempunyai kebolehan, kita akan melibatkan sama komuniti setempat itu. Dan kita menumpukan supaya pengurusan *national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, nature reserves* ini akan dapat diperkukuhkan dari semasa ke semasa. Saya mengucapkan terima kasih atas pandangan Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Telang Usan yang menekankan bahawa penting untuk kita memperkukuhkan lagi pengurusan *national park, wild life sanctuary, and nature reserves* ini. Kerana ini adalah merupakan satu produk yang boleh kita *promote* untuk sektor *tourism, ecotourism* yang akan memberi manfaat bagi sektor pelancongan termasuk untuk komuniti setempat itu sendiri.

Tuan Speaker, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill represents legislative advancement in delineating and refining the mandates of both Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Forest Department. For the information of this Dewan, the Government is targeting to gazette 1 million hectares of land area as Totally Protected Areas in Sarawak by the year 2025. As of now, we have gazetted a total of 2,118,249.53 hectares consisting of 874,523.53 hectares on land, and 1,243,726.00 hectares on water bodies.

In our efforts in leading the initiatives to preserve marine life and manage Sarawak's diverse marine ecosystems, the Government through SFC has initiated the Sarawak's Reef Ball Project along the Sarawak coastlines from Tanjong Datu to Lawas, which has received international recognition honouring the Sarawak's outstanding achievement in building the world's longest artificial reef balls stretching up to 746 km.

Tuan Speaker, while the SFC's function is well defined under this Bill, the collective efforts and cooperation from all relevant departments and other agencies such as Forest Department, Land and Survey Department, STIDC, NREB, LCDA, PDRM, ATM, Sarawak Coastguard, Maritime Agencies, community leaders and the public are vital in ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness on the enforcement of this Bill.

Ini adalah satu yang penting. Jika kita bersendirian saja kita tidak akan dapat melakukan semuanya. Lebih-lebih lagi dalam *information sharing*. Memang *lah* ada *intelligence* kita, tapi semuanya tidak dapat bersama dalam satu-satu kawasan. Jika berlaku pencerobohan, masyarakat tempatan boleh melapor dengan segera supaya tindakan segera akan dapat dilakukan kerana apa yang penting ialah usaha untuk memastikan our *national park, wild life sanctuaries, nature reserved*

*is well preserved* dan ini adalah begitu penting sekali dan kita harap ianya akan dapat diteruskan, kerjasama daripada semua pihak ini.

Tuan Speaker, once again I would like to thank all Honourable Members for your participation in expressing constructive views and suggestions while debating this Bill which might be taken into consideration in the implementation of the amendment to the Ordinance. Thank you very much.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the question before the Dewan is that the Motion standing in the Order Paper in the name of Honourable Member Deputy Premier, Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development; and Minister for International Trade, Industry and Investment; 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 pass and referred to the Committee of the Whole House. The Dewan shall now resolve to the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Bill 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 Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

*Clauses 1 to 8*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The question is that Clauses 1 to 8 are referred 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 8 are ordered to stand part of the Bill.

*Enacting Clauses and Title*

**Tuan Pengerusi:** The Dewan shall now resume.

## **HOUSE RESUMED**

*[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Timbalan Premier 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 Hasan):** Tuan Speaker, I wish to report that the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) 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**

**SARAWAK FORESTRY CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) 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 Hasan):** Tuan Speaker, I beg to move that the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) 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 Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 be read a third time and do pass. As many as are of the opinion say “Yes”.

**Government:** Yes... (Resounding “Yes”)

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

*Bill is read a third time and passed.*

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the sitting is now adjourned and the House shall resume its sitting at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow.

*[Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 6.32 petang]*