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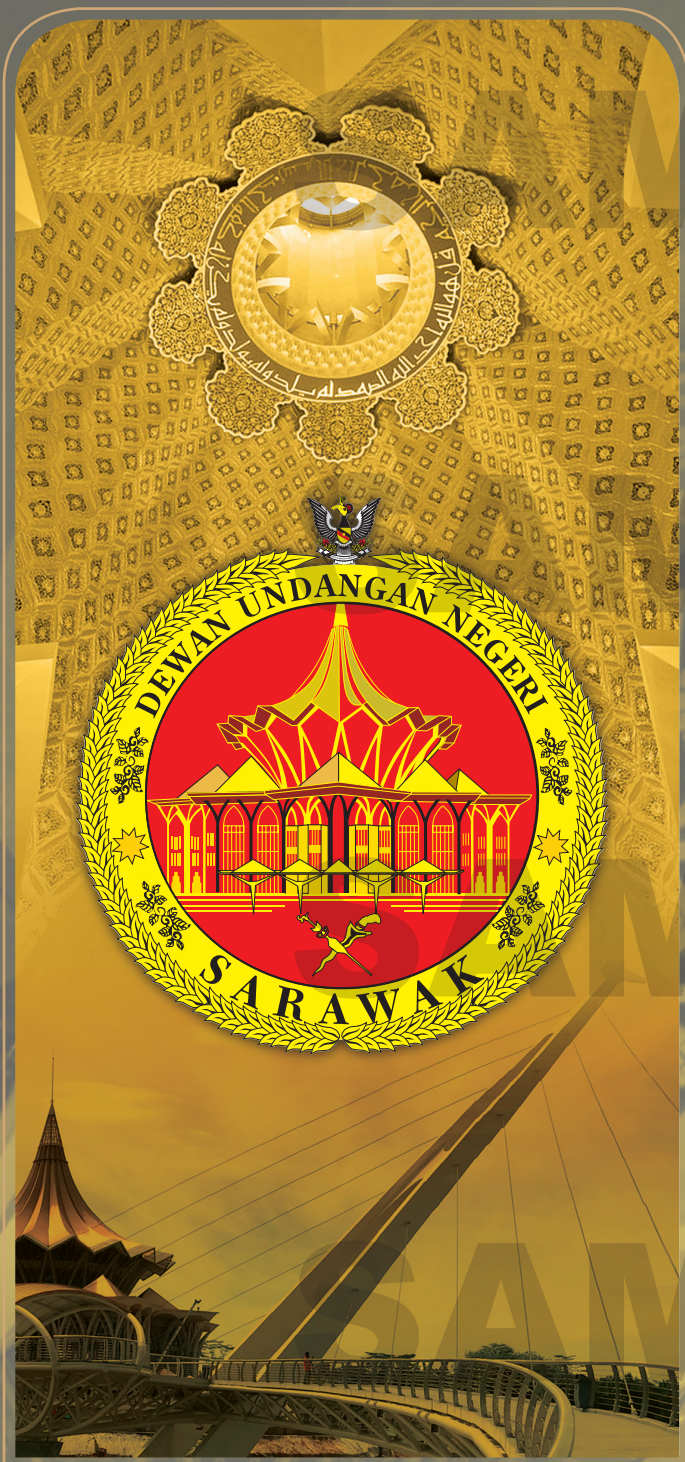


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**SARAWAK STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
*Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak*





## Visitors

Visitors without appointment may only be allowed into DUNS building during DUNS sitting. Visitors may obtain a visitor's pass from the DUNS security officials at the main entrance of the DUNS building.

Visitors are to strictly adhere to and comply with the DUNS prescribed dress code during their visit. Entry and guided tours to DUNS is free.

### i) Visits during DUNS sitting session

Subject to seats availability, the public are welcomed to witness the DUNS sitting at the 9th floor public gallery.

### ii) Normal/Ordinary visits of the DUNS building

Visitors may write to the Secretary of DUNS to request for a visit. Kindly note that the schedule for visiting hours are as provided herein below:-

Day	Time	
	Morning Session	Noon Session
Monday - Thursday	8:30 am – 12:30 pm	2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Friday	8:30 am – 11:30 am	
Weekends/Public Holidays	Closed	





## **Assent by His Excellency T.Y.T. Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak**

Upon a Bill being passed during the DUNS sitting, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of DUNS to forward the Bill to His Excellency The Governor for his assent and seal over the said Bill.

Once the Bill is assented and sealed by His Excellency The Governor, the Bill will be gazetted and will then be known as Ordinance. As a result, the Ordinance is enforced as law in the State of Sarawak.

## **Official report of DUNS Sitting/Hansard**

The Official Report known as the Hansard is the DUNS Report of which speeches made during the Sitting is recorded word for word (verbatim).

The proceedings of the DUNS which has been recorded are then transcribed by the appointed transcribers into the unedited Hansard and published the day after the daily sittings.

Upon corrections being made and the contents of the Hansard approved and agreed upon by each ADUNS, it will then be printed and classified as edited Hansard and will be distributed to the members.

## **Mace**

It is an instrument which symbolizes the power of the Speaker of DUNS and the honour of DUNS. During the DUNS sitting, the Mace will be placed on the Table in front of the Speaker of DUNS.



## **Introduction**

The Sarawak State Legislative Assembly (DUNS) building is a symbol of the People Sovereignty and Parliamentary Democracy. It is where the state representatives' debate, make policies and speak on behalf of the people. Often described as an 'august House', it depicts the reverence and prestige accorded to the assembly.

The DUNS is of unicameral (one house) structure and is based upon the Westminster model of Parliamentary democracy.

The history of DUNS began with the General Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1867 in Bintulu, Sibul, the Astana, the Old Courthouse, the Dewan Tun Abdul Razak, the old Dewan Undangan Negeri Complex and now the present DUNS building by the Sarawak river. It can be seen that the development of the composition of DUNS as a whole and its reformation is one of the indication that Sarawak is moving towards its objective of becoming a developed state by the year 2030 and beyond.

The Government may change from time to time and the political phenomena has far-reaching consequences. Regardless, history has shown that the constitutional reforms and laws passed by the legislature have an everlasting impact.

Therefore, the objective of this booklet is to provide the readers with an in-depth understanding of the history of DUNS including the processes and procedures of this legislative body.





## Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

### History of the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

The first Sarawak State Legislative Assembly meeting in Sarawak, initially known as the General Council, commenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1867 at Bintulu, Sarawak. The meeting was chaired by Rajah Charles Brooke. Excluding Rajah Charles Brooke as President, the General Council comprised of five British Officers and 16 Muslim Malay and Melanau local community leaders to assist in the administration of the territories under the reign of Rajah Brooke which, during that time only covers the coastal areas. The main issue discussed during the meeting were on matters of great importance to the people of Sarawak. In 1903, in tandem with the change of time, the General Council meeting began its transition into a meeting known as the Council Negri.

In 1941, a new written constitution was enacted whereupon the members of the Council Negri were increased to 25 official and unofficial members appointed by the Rajah in Council.

Immediately after the Japanese occupation in 1946, Sarawak witness the convention of the Council Negri to end the reign of the White Rajah's Family in Sarawak and the surrender of Sarawak to the British Colonies.

In 1956, the membership of the Council Negri increased to 45 members comprising 14 ex-officio members, 24 elected members, four nominated members and three standing members.



### Second Reading

During the Second Reading, the Minister presenting the Bill will outline the objectives and details of the Bill. Upon the Bill being seconded, the Speaker of DUNS will proceed to allow the Bill to be debated by the ADUNS' once.

### Committee Stage

During the House Committee or the Supply Committee stage, the Speaker of DUNS will assume the role of Chairman for both Committees and will remain seated in his chair.

#### i) The House Committee

The function of the House Committee is to consider and examine any Ordinary Bill other than the Supply Bill (Supply and Development Estimates).

#### ii) The Supply Committee

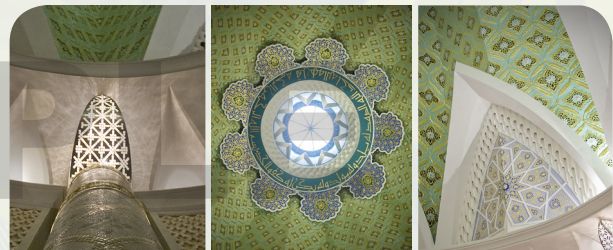
The function of the Supply Committee on the other hand is to consider and examine the State's expenditure; Supply and Development Estimates.

### Third Reading

Once a Bill is considered and examined by the Committee, the Bill will then be reported back to the Chamber. The DUNS sitting will resume and the Bill is read a third time and considered passed.

### Winding-up by Minister

Ordinarily, the last three days of the DUNS sitting are allocated for the Ministers to give their winding-up speech. In the Minister's winding-up speech, the Minister will answer and clarify any questions or comments from ADUNS during the current DUNS sitting over any matters under the jurisdiction of their respective Ministries. The last day of the sitting is usually allocated to the YAB Chief Minister for his winding up speech.





## Questions and Answers Sessions

During the allocated one-hour questions and answers session for oral questions, the relevant Ministers will answer the ADUNS questions in the order in which they stand in the Order of the Day.

The ADUNS whose question had been answered by the Minister is allowed to forward two supplementary questions in relation to the main question. Upon the Minister's discretion, he may answer immediately or at a later date in writing.

## Bills

Presentation of Bills may be divided into two categories: -

- i) **Presentation of Ordinary Bills; and**
- ii) **Presentation of Supply Bills.**

## Tabling of Bills

A Minister or an Assistant Minister may after at least one day notice present a Bill without an order of the Dewan for its introduction.

In general, the process to present and approve a Bill during a DUNS sitting involves the (i) First Reading; (ii) Second Reading; (iii) The House Committee / The Supply Committee; and (iv) Third Reading.

## First Reading

The First Reading of a Bill is an introduction to the Bill. The Secretary of DUNS will read the title of the Bill and the Bill shall then be deemed to have been read for the first time. The First Reading of a Bill is not required to be supported or seconded.



Members of the Council Negri were appointed by the District Advisory Council and three local councils (Kuching, Sibü and Miri) had several appointed representatives from their respective constituency.

In 1968, the Council Negri membership increased to 48 members to represent their respective constituency (one representative per constituency). The name Council Negri was changed to Sarawak State Legislative Assembly or Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak (hereinafter referred to as "DUNS") in 1976 in tandem with other State Legislatures in Malaysia and its membership was expanded in 1985 to 56 democratically elected members by the people from the 56 constituencies.

The DUNS membership subsequently increased to 62 and 71 members in the year 1996 and 2006 respectively. The latest delineation of the constituencies was done in 2016 which resulted in DUNS increasing their membership to 82 elected members.

Malaysia is a country which adopts parliamentary democratic system and practices the doctrine of separation of powers which consists of three major branches of the Government, namely the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary. This doctrine of separation of powers are practiced at the Federal and State level including the State of Sarawak.

One of the main functions of DUNS is to enact laws under the "State List" and "Concurrent List" as provided in the Federal Constitution of Malaysia.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Sarawak, His Excellency Tuan Yang Terutama (T.Y.T.) Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak (hereinafter referred to as "The Governor") has the right and authority to call or to dissolve the DUNS. His Excellency The Governor also has the power to assent Bills passed by DUNS.





Generally, DUNS consist of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and assemblymen (hereinafter referred to as “ADUNS”) whom are elected through the Sarawak State Elections to represent their respective constituency.

The Secretary of DUNS supervises the administration and management of DUNS.

### **DUNS Sitting**

The Sarawak State Legislative Assembly meeting (hereinafter referred to as “DUNS sitting”) are generally held twice a year in the Chamber at the DUNS building located at Petra Jaya, Kuching. The first DUNS sitting of a session (opening session) is typically held in the first-half of the year whereas the second DUNS sitting of a session (budget sitting) are held in the second-half of the year.

The duration of every DUNS sitting is generally held for eight days excluding Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. The ADUNS will be notified of the DUNS sitting at least 28 days before the commencement of the sitting to allow them to prepare and submit their questions for the questions and answers session with the Ministers.

DUNS Sarawak is the only legislative assembly in Malaysia which allows for the use of Malay, English and local native languages during the DUNS sitting. This is expressly provided for in the DUNS sitting rules commonly known as the Standing Order.



### **DUNS Sitting Session Opening**

His Excellency The Governor will first inspect the Parade of Honour at the assembly area of the DUNS building before the delivery of his opening speech in the DUNS Chamber.

At every opening ceremony of the DUNS sitting, the Secretary of DUNS will read a Proclamation calling the Sitting of DUNS. The Speaker of DUNS will then deliver his communication and announce the attendance of His Excellency The Governor to deliver the opening speech. The Sitting will then be temporarily adjourned to await the entrance of His Excellency The Governor into the DUNS Chamber.

Generally, His Excellency The Governor will only be present to deliver his speech during the opening ceremony.

### **DUNS Sitting Quorum**

The sitting will only commence when there is sufficient quorum. The Standing Order states that the quorum of the meeting shall not be less than one-third of the total number of ADUNS excluding the Chairperson/Speaker of DUNS.

### **Order of the Day**

The daily sitting Order of Business is listed in writing and is known as Order of the Day. It contains detailed scheduled arrangement of the meeting i.e. Prayers, Communication by the Speaker, Questions to Ministers for Oral Answers, tabling of the Government Bills, Motion from Ordinary Members and other matters as set out in the DUNS Standing Order. The Order of the Day are circulated to the ADUNS before the commencement of DUNS sitting.

