



**S A R A W A K**

**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**

**14 MEI 2024**

**(5 Zulkaedah 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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**DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS**

*Penyata Rasmi*

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**MESYUARAT PERTAMA BAGI PENGGAL KETIGA**

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*Selasa, 14 Mei 2024*

*Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.06 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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11. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai  
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12. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Julaihi bin Haji Narawi  
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13. Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerawat Gala  
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*Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Buruh, Imigresen dan  
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14. Yang Berhormat Datuk Francis Harden anak Hollis  
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat  
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15. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Jerip anak Susil  
P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Penerbangan dan Jalan Raya)* N.19 Mambong
16. Yang Berhormat Datuk Liwan Lagang  
P.J.N., P.P.N., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.B.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi)* N.65 Belaga
17. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Rosey binti Haji Yunus  
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E., P.B.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan  
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18. Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh  
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., P.B.K., P.P.B.  
*Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan  
Alam Sekitar* N.41 Kuala Rajang
19. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi  
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Utiliti)* N.4 Pantai Damai
20. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed  
Aman Ghazali  
P.G.B.K., P.T.E., J.B.S.  
*Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang, MA63 dan  
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21. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh  
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E.  
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22. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail  
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23. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee  
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E.  
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24. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Penguang Manggil  
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.C., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kerajaan Tempatan)* N.76 Marudi
25. Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Saidol  
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26. Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew  
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27. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo  
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*Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur)* N.24 Sadong Jaya
28. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Ripin bin Lamat  
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29. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni  
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30. 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
31. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam  
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.  
*Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti)* N.35 Saribas
32. Yang Berhormat Dato Henry Harry anak Jinep  
P.S.B.S., A.B.S.  
*Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Sungai dan Laut)* N.2 Tasik Biru

33. Yang Berhormat Dato' Murshid DiRaja Dr Juanda bin Jaya  
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34. Yang Berhormat Dato Gerald Rentap Jabu  
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35. Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat  
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41. Yang Berhormat Dato Paulus Palu Gumbang  
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| 52. | Yang Berhormat Encik John anak Ilus<br>P.B.S., A.P.S.                            | <i>N.23 Bukit Semuja</i> |
| 53. | Yang Berhormat Encik Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman<br>J.B.K., P.B.S.           | <i>N.6 Tupong</i>        |
| 54. | Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris<br>P.B.S., A.B.S.                             | <i>N.25 Simunjan</i>     |
| 55. | Yang Berhormat Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang<br>P.B.K.                | <i>N.59 Tamin</i>        |
| 56. | Yang Berhormat Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin                                     | <i>N.48 Meluan</i>       |
| 57. | Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi<br>B.B.S., A.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.K. | <i>N.58 Balingian</i>    |
| 58. | Yang Berhormat Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad<br>J.B.K., P.P.B.                     | <i>N.43 Daro</i>         |
| 59. | Yang Berhormat Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon<br>J.B.S., P.P.N., A.B.S.              | <i>N.66 Murum</i>        |
| 60. | Yang Berhormat Encik Allan Siden Gramong<br>P.B.S., A.B.S.                       | <i>N.50 Machan</i>       |
| 61. | 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>       |
| 62. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim<br>A.M.N., P.M.W.                    | <i>N.17 Stakan</i>       |
| 63. | Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang<br>A.B.S.                                | <i>N.74 Pujut</i>        |
| 64. | Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor<br>P.B.S.                    | <i>N.28 Lingga</i>       |
| 65. | Yang Berhormat Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada<br>A.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N.      | <i>N.21 Tebedu</i>       |
| 66. | Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang<br>P.B.S., P.P.B.                         | <i>N.1 Opar</i>          |
| 67. | Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan<br>P.B.S.           | <i>N.3 Tanjong Datu</i>  |
| 68. | Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin<br>P.B.S., K.M.N.                               | <i>N.12 Kota Sentosa</i> |
| 69. | Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri<br>P.B.K., A.B.S.                      | <i>N.38 Kalaka</i>       |

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| 70. | Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa<br>J.B.S., P.T.E.               | N.33 Engkilili    |
| 71. | Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian   | N.81 Ba'Kelalan   |
| 72. | Yang Berhormat Encik Friday anak Belik<br>A.B.K., P.P.S., P.P.B., P.B.K., P.P.C. | N.39 Krian        |
| 73. | Yang Berhormat Encik Anyi anak Jana<br>P.B.K.                                    | N.49 Ngemah       |
| 74. | Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek<br>P.B.S.                                     | N.51 Bukit Assek  |
| 75. | Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine<br>J.B.K., A.B.S.                     | N.57 Tellian      |
| 76. | Yang Berhormat Encik Lidam anak Assan<br>P.B.S.                                  | N.62 Katibas      |
| 77. | Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai<br>P.B.S.                         | N.64 Baleh        |
| 78. | Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming<br>P.B.S.                            | N.68 Tanjong Batu |
| 79. | 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 Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn<br>P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E.<br><i>Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat</i>                               | N.20 Tarat          |
| 2.          | Yang Berhormat Datuk Snowdan Lawan<br>P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.T.E.<br><i>Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan)</i> | N.30 Balai Ringin   |
| 3.          | Yang Berhormat Dato Majang anak Renggi<br>P.S.B.S., P.B.K., A.B.S.<br><i>Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan)</i>                        | N.70 Samalaju       |
| 4.          | Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Tiong King Sing<br>P.J.N., P.N.B.S., D.P.M.K., D.P.M.K., S.S.S.A., D.S.S.A., J.P.  | N.52 Dudong         |

#### 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. Inspektor Nelson anak Ensit  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
5. Encik Abang Nasiruddin bin Abang Mohd Khalid  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
6. Encik Lydwilkyn Andar anak Umbau  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
7. Encik Hadyan bin Abd Rahman  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
8. Encik Mohd Saiful bin Ahmad Zaidi  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
9. Encik Dylan Tan Hock Ming  
*Bentara Mesyuarat*
10. 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 Noorina binti Hamdan *Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)*
8. Puan Ratna Airwati binti Haji Md. Junaidi *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
9. Puan Sabtuyah binti Adeng *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
10. Puan Nori Othman *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
11. Puan Mariana binti Brahim *Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan*
12. Puan Zuriawati binti Mohd Laili *Pustaka Negeri Sarawak*
13. Encik Azhwan bin Bujang *Regional Corridor Development Authority*
14. Encik Mohd Alfadger bin Tuah *Pejabat Residen Bahagian Kuching*
15. Puan Pauline anak Bunin *Penjara Puncak Borneo*
16. Puan Dorina Asort *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
17. Puan Florence Jalong *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
18. Puan Leidiana binti Azahari *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
19. Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin *Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak*
20. Puan Dayang Duraiza binti Haji Awang Jangka *Lembaga Sumber Asli & Alam Sekitar Sarawak*
21. Puan Margaret anak Francis Bohui *Lembaga Penyatuan dan Pemulihan Tanah Sarawak*
22. Puan Anieta Sylvester Pungga *Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak*

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| 23. | Puan Juliana Lugom                | <i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>   |
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| 25. | Puan Derna anak Johin             | <i>Unit Pemantauan Pelaksanaan Sarawak, Jabatan Premier Sarawak</i>   |
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| 27. | Puan Rosline anak Dominic Maon    | <i>Kementerian Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat Sarawak</i>  |
| 28. | Puan Nur Izzatul Fatimah Abdullah | <i>Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak</i>  |
| 29. | Puan Nurhaida binti Amin          | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Kawasan Sarawak, Jabatan Penyiaran Negeri Sarawak</i>                                    |
| 30. | Puan Valarie Jane anak Aitman     | <i>Pejabat Pembangunan Persekutuan Negeri Sarawak, Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan, Jabatan Perdana Menteri</i> |

#### **JURURAKAM PERSIDANGAN**

- |    |                                |                                  |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Puan Nordiana binti Rabaee     | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i> |
| 2. | Encik Hussein bin Shuini       | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i> |
| 3. | Puan Sandora Jelema            | <i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i> |
| 4. | Encik Fareez Azizi bin Zakeria | <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. | Cik Zuraidah binti Zaidi            | <i>SAINS</i> |
| 3. | Encik Sufian Sulaiman               | <i>SAINS</i> |
| 4. | Encik Salihin bin Abu Seman         | <i>SAINS</i> |
| 5. | Puan Kartini binti Asman            | <i>SAINS</i> |
| 6. | Encik Bong Siak Fung                | <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 Riwandry 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 9.06 pagi)*

*[Tuan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**DOA**

**PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER**

**Tuan Speaker:** Bismillahirrahmannirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Selamat pagi dan Salam sejahtera.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted Leave of Absence under Standing Order 81 to Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn, Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development, and Honourable Member for N.20 Tarat, for today's Sitting.

**USUL DI BAWAH PERATURAN MESYUARAT 15**

**Tuan Speaker:** Is the Honourable Member for Padungan here?

**Setiausaha:** Not here yet.

**Tuan Speaker:** He brought in a Motion. He is not here, so I stand down the Motion. *(Applause)*.

**SAMBUNGAN PERBAHASAN USUL PENGHARGAAN ATAS UCAPAN TUAN YANG  
TERUTAMA YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI SARAWAK**

*[Penggulungan daripada Para Menteri]*

**Tuan Speaker:** Dengan hormatnya saya menjemput Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan, untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan.

**Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah):** Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Selamat pagi. Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Sarawakku Sayang.

Before I proceed with my winding up speech, I wish to express my condolences to the family of our late Sarawak Governor, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud who left us on 21<sup>st</sup> February of this year. Sarawakians are deeply saddened by this loss as he has sacrificed most of his years to Sarawak's development which earned him the title of "*Visionary Builder of Modern Sarawak*". Through the introduction of his "*Politics of Development*" in 1985 built on three pillars which are the close unity among all ethnic communities; a strong government under an efficient and strong leadership; and a strong cooperation between the government and the people, have resulted in the very solid foundation that we are continuously building on presently. It was also during this period when Sarawak started to seriously focus on the tourism industry with the formation of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and subsequently led to the incorporation of the Sarawak Tourism Board under the Sarawak Tourism Board (Incorporation) Ordinance, 1994.

Allahyarham Tun Taib is like a father, a mentor as well as a leader and a friend to me. Tun, kepada diri saya adalah satu institusi yang telah mencorak Sarawak menjadi apa yang dapat kita lihat pada hari ini. He has devoted the whole of his life to Sarawak and Malaysia. Becoming a state minister at a tender age in the 20s and continuing on as a full minister in the federal cabinet and then, coming back to lead the state as a Chief Minister for 33 years. And later, to helm the state as the Governor as well as TYT. I would say that nobody else could ever achieved that feat in a hundred or million years from now. When he came back to lead the state, our state's coffer was just a few RM100 million and when he left, the state coffer was about RM30 billion; making it easier for the

subsequent Chief Ministers and the administrators to manage the state. I had the opportunity to serve Tun Taib as his political secretary as well as right up to Chief Political Secretary from the year 2000 right up to 2012 and could see the other side of him. Unfortunately, there are many, there are some who had looked at him adversely and even in this august House; there are some who are not even willing to acknowledge the contributions that the late Tun Taib has devoted or has brought to Sarawak. My late father was his Political Secretary for almost the whole duration of when he was a federal minister in the federal cabinet.

Selain daripada itu, kalau kita lihat, Tun Taib memulakan kerjaya politiknya di Samarahan, di tempat yang kita panggil Asajaya pada hari ini, tetapi pada masa itu, kawasan DUN itu dipanggil Sebandi, N.7 Sebandi *and I have fond memories of what is happening at the time because even when he was the State Assemblyman or the leader in Asajaya or Sebandi, my late father was always with him, serving that area.* And I am very, very honoured to inherit the place where he started his political career, that is in the DUN seat of Asajaya in the year 2001 when he left to contest in the seat of Balingian in the Central Region.

Samarahan has seen tremendous development under his leadership and when he was there and I believe without Tun Taib as the Chief Minister then as well as the ADUN of Sebandi and Asajaya, Samarahan would not have been able to see what it is today, *ya, jadi saya mendoakan agar roh the late Tun Taib diberkati Allah S.W.T dan akan terus menjadi kenangan kepada kita di negeri Sarawak.*

Secondly, I wish to extend my congratulations to His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar for his recent appointment as the Sarawak Governor on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and also being conferred the nation's highest award, Sri Maharaja Mangku Negara, which carries the title of "*Tun*" together with the state's highest award, Darjah Satria Bintang Sarawak, which carries the title "*Pehin Sri*". I am confident that Tun Pehin Sri Wan Junaidi wealth of experience with our Royal Malaysian Police, reinforced with his legal background and knowledge when serving both at the federal parliament as well as the Senate shall bring much wisdom to serve as the Eighth Sarawak Governor.

Thirdly, I am deeply saddened that we have lost another prominent figure, the late Yang Berhormat Senator Mutang Tagal, the president of Senate Malaysia on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024. On behalf of my Ministry, constituency, and my family, I wish to convey my heartfelt condolences to his family. His passing is a great loss to Sarawak and Malaysia, as he too has contributed so much to his Lun Bawang community in particular and to Sarawak in general. May his soul rest in peace.

Alhamdulillah, saya bersyukur ke hadrat Allah S.W.T kerana diberi peluang untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan untuk Kementerian Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan pada pagi ini. Dengan izin, saya mulakan penggulungan saya dengan dua rangkap pantun:

*Mari berjalan sambil beriadah,  
Singgah sebentar di tokong beliung,  
Bumi Kenyalang sangatlah indah,  
Destinasi utama para pelancong.*

*Mengayuh perahu jauh ke tanjung,  
Menikmati keindahan flora dan fauna,  
Perjuangan MTCP tiada penghujung,  
Seni dan warisan terus dipelihara.*

Tuan Speaker, the Ministry continuously strives to attain the Vision for "*Sarawak to be a Premier Tourism Destination and A Showcase of Unique Arts, Culture and Heritage*" with the mission "*To lead the advancement of Sarawak's Tourism, Culture and Heritage*". There are five state agencies under the jurisdiction of my Ministry, namely the:

- (a) Sarawak Museum Department;
- (b) Sarawak Tourism Board;
- (c) Business Events Sarawak;
- (d) Sarawak Arts Council (Majlis Seni Sarawak); and
- (e) Sarawak Craft Council.

The three federal agencies in Sarawak under my Ministry's watching brief are:

- (a) Perbadanan Kemajuan Kraftangan Malaysia
- (b) Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Malaysia dan
- (c) Lembaga Penggalakan Pelancongan Malaysia

## **TOURISM SECTOR SCENARIO AND OUTLOOK**

Tuan Speaker, according to the first United Nations Tourism Organisation (UNTO) World Tourism Barometer of the year, international tourism ended 2023 at 88% of pre-pandemic levels, with an estimated 1.3 billion international arrivals. The unleashing of remaining pent-up demand, increased air connectivity, and a stronger recovery of Asian markets and destinations are expected to underpin a full recovery by the end of 2024. International tourism receipts reached USD1.4 trillion in 2023 according to preliminary estimates, about 93% of the USD1.5 trillion earned by destinations in 2019. International tourism is expected to fully recover pre-pandemic levels in 2024, with initial estimates pointing to 2% growth above 2019 levels.

Tourist arrivals into Malaysia in 2023 increased by 100% to 20.1 million compared to the same corresponding period in 2022, generating tourism receipts of RM71.3 billion. In 2024, Malaysia aims to attract 27.3 million international tourist arrivals, with a target of over RM102.7 billion in tourism receipts. Looking forward to Visit Malaysia year 2026, Malaysia anticipates the arrival of 35.6 million visitors, generating target receipts of RM147.1 billion.

In 2023, Sarawak received 3.92 million visitors, which was an increase of 93.82% as compared to the same period in 2022 and generated RM9.99 billion (RM9,985,143,725.69) in tourism receipts, an increase of 101.41% which contributed about 7.11% to Sarawak's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Sarawak visitor's arrivals accounted for about 20% of Malaysia's visitor arrivals in 2023. For 2024, the Ministry's projection is to have four million visitor arrivals, bringing in an estimated RM10.19 billion (RM10,193,695,000) in tourism receipts and contributing 7.25% to Sarawak's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

We can see we are, we should be able to achieved that because from January to April 2024, visitor arrivals to Sarawak showed an increase of 21.46% jumped from 1.3 million (1,288,036) from the same corresponding period in 2023 to 1.62 million (1,612,912), generating an estimated RM4.17 billion (RM4,169,010,116.74) an increase of 27.43% as compared to the first four months of 2023 which is with RM3.27 billion (RM3,271,713,837.82) in tourism receipts. From May right up to December we are expecting it to gallop much more than the previous year so, probably by September we will have achieve our target of RM4 million.

My ministry forecasts that the tourism industry will continue to recover throughout 2024 as both local and foreign visitors return. By the end of 2024, the industry is expected to reach around 90% of its pre-pandemic levels. This is in line with UNTO World Tourism Barometer prediction of 85% recovery rate in 2023.

## **TOURISM INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT**

### *Sarawak Tourism Steering Committee (STSC) 2024*

Tuan Speaker, STSC Meeting 2024, which my ministry chaired, was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, with both Federal and Sarawak Government agencies, tourism stakeholders, and local education

institutions participating. This meeting was to inform all parties of the ministry's plans as well as targets for the year 2024.

Meanwhile, the Sarawak Tourism Coordination Committee (STCC) Meeting, which will be chaired by YB Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew, is scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024, in Betong. This meeting is a follow-up to the STSC meeting to make sure the plans as well as the targets that we have formulated for of this year are achieved and are on target.

#### *Sabah-Sarawak-Labuan Joint Tourism Co-Operation and Collaboration (SSLJTCC)*

SSLJTCC is a joint tourism promotion and marketing collaboration among Sabah, Sarawak, and Federal Territory Labuan to strongly position Sabah, Sarawak, and Labuan Federal Territory as an attractive Borneo destination. The 11<sup>th</sup> SSLJTCC meeting was successfully held this year in February at Perkasa Hotel, Kundasang Sabah whereby we have 67 delegates of various agencies from Sabah, Sarawak, and Labuan had participating.

Among the initiatives achieved under SSLJTCC are Malaysian Borneo Showcase in Kuala Lumpur, Joint digital tourism promotion and Borneo War Memorial Trail digital package and brochure. The upcoming initiative is Rice Heritage Festival of East Malaysia which will be held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 in Kuching, Sarawak.

Through this platform, the 3 regions visitor arrivals jumped 64.25% to 7.75 million visitor arrivals in 2023 as compared to 4.72 million visitor arrivals in 2022. For 2024, the regions project an increase of 14.75% to 8.9 million visitor arrivals.

#### *Sarawak – Malaysia My Second Home (S-MM2H) Programme*

S-MM2H is a programme that allows high-valued foreign visitors who fulfil certain criteria to stay in Sarawak with multiple-entry visa. My ministry continues to enhance requirements and regulations through cabinet's approval to protect the interests of Sarawak while attracting high-valued tourists. To date, 2,462 participants have been approved since 2007. The top 10 countries include China (340), United Kingdom (335), Taiwan (246), Hong Kong (240), United States of America (184), Singapore (182), South Korea (157), Australia (114), Japan (114) and Indonesia (113).

The total number of S-MM2H participants has increased 22.90% from 441 in 2022 to 542 in 2023. In 2023, the Fixed Deposits (FDs) placement from S-MM2H participants was RM56.7 million in Sarawak local banks. As of March 2024, 146 participants have been approved with Fixed Deposits placement of RM28.8 million in Sarawak local banks.

#### *Capacity Building*

Tuan Speaker, my ministry continuously invests in capacity building and harnessing the skill and knowledge for tourism industry players. This year, the Ministry will organise 20 capacity building programs targeting 800 participants for industry players covering the areas of hospitality, guest service, gastronomy, food and beverages, housekeeping, digital marketing as well as tourist guides.

### **REGIONAL COOPERATION**

#### *Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-The Philippines (BIMP-EAGA)*

BIMP-EAGA persists in establishing strong alliances to enhance the business environment and regional challenges. This year, the BIMPEAGA Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM) 2024 was hosted by Malaysia from 11<sup>th</sup> of March until 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 at the Waterfront Hotel in Kuching, whereby my ministry was the lead cluster of Joint Tourism Development for Malaysia delegations and encompassing Sarawak, Sabah, and Labuan. The Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM) 2024

assessed the progress made by the clusters and working groups in implementing Vision 2025's strategies and action plans.

It also identified new priority programs, projects, and convergence initiatives with the Transport Cluster, Environmental Cluster, Socio-Cultural and Education Cluster, and Customs, Immigration, Quarantine, Security (CIQS) Cluster. The outcome of this Strategic Planning Meeting provided inputs on the convergence that needs to be planned in detail to meet the deadline, and the assessment of the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 agenda and visions as well as deliverables for the 30<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Senior Officials Meeting.

#### *Sosial Ekonomi Malaysia-Indonesia (SOSEK-MALINDO)*

SOSEK-MALINDO is a bilateral social-economic cooperation between Sarawak, Malaysia, and Kalimantan, Indonesia with the main objective of accelerating the growth within the border areas relating to tourism, social and cultural, sports, economy, and security at the borders. Various initiatives have been designed with West Kalimantan, Indonesia through *Kluster Kerjasama Sosial dan Budaya*, SOSEK-MALINDO. Among initiatives carried out are cycling events the Tour de Malindo, Sukan SOSEK-MALINDO, *Malam Titian Muhibbah*, Bario Highland Games, and other collaboration activities such as joint tourism packages, cultural event, and festival.

#### *East Asia Inter-Regional Tourism Federation (EATOF)*

EATOF was founded in Gangwon Province, South Korea in 2000 to enhance collaboration and cooperation among 10 members provinces to promote tourism from Northeast and Southeast Asian provinces. The 18<sup>th</sup> EATOF General Assembly is expected to be held in Tuv, Mongolia from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. Malaysia is represented by Kuching, Sarawak. The meeting is led by member province governors and acts as a platform to present tourism policies, exchange tourism information and organise programs to jointly promote the tourism industry through the Standing Committee Meeting, Bilateral Meeting, Governors Networking and Governors Conference. Through such meetings, my ministry hopes to develop sustainable tourism cooperation as well as strengthen partnerships and collaboration in promoting regional tourism through event and festival performances, programs, and trade fairs, as well as perform as a marketplace to exchange ideas to broaden the joint business of tourism, sports, and culture through the practical cooperation.

#### *Sarawak Trade and Tourism Office Singapore (STATOS)*

Since June 2019, STATOS has been pivotal in promoting trade and investment in Sarawak, particularly within Singapore. Despite Singapore's diverse destinations, STATOS strategically raised awareness about Sarawak's appeal for both leisure and as well as business. Hosting over 150 Singaporean travel agents and Key Opinion Leaders (KOL), STATOS showcased Sarawak's attractions and as well as cuisine.

My ministry is delighted to share that, in 2023, a significant increase in tourist arrivals from Singapore, with numbers rising by 29.8% to a total of 60,760 compared to the 46,812 visitors we welcomed in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

This growth underscores the effective strategies implemented by MTCP, STATOS and STB to enhance Sarawak's appeal as a premier tourist destination. For 2024, STATOS has successfully secured commitments from three school groups from Singapore, bringing approximately 280 young visitors to our shores. This achievement highlights STATOS's efforts to position Sarawak as a leading destination for educational tours, offering rich, and diverse learning experiences.

STATOS continues to strengthen its collaborations with top-tier academic institutions in Singapore, fostering significant educational and research partnerships that will benefit our communities. Under the initiatives coordinated by STATOS, the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector saw the successful hosting of a medical association group and three



business study groups in Kuching from Singapore over 2023 and 2024, with a total of 350 participants.

These events not only bolster our local economy but also reinforce our capabilities as a host for international business events. My ministry is also happy to announce that STATOS is eagerly anticipating the upcoming golf plus business mission in Kuching in June 2024 and a collaboration with Miri City Council, scheduled for September 2024 in Miri. These events are part of STATOS's active collaboration with the Sarawak Golf Tourism Association. Through STATOS office, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from Singaporean visitors, many of whom have expressed their admiration for Sarawak's natural beauty, the hospitality of our people, and the region's safety. This enthusiasm is a testament to the successful promotional strategies implemented by STATOS.

My ministry warmly welcomes the expansion of air connectivity with Scoot Airlines, which will begin operating three weekly flights to Sibuluan, Singapore. It will have its inaugural flight starting 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This will enhance our connectivity and facilitate more frequent visits, supporting our tourism sector.

The strategic partnership between STATOS and Scoot Airways have effectively opened up the China market via Singapore, bringing increased visitor numbers and greater visibility to Sarawak in key markets.

#### *Tourism Matters*

Tuan Speaker, Item 25A in the 9<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Federal Constitution Sarawak Government has been negotiating with the Federal Government to assert its rights as stipulated under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) to include tourism matters.

The negotiations regarding the proposal to amend Item 25A of the Federal Constitution are still ongoing. My ministry will continue to actively pursue the proposal to amend Item 25A of the Federal Constitution. We will work together with Deputy Minister of the Premier's Department the one in-charge of law (Law, MA63 and Federal-State Relation) and the Sarawak State Attorney-Generals Chambers to ensure that Sarawak gains the special rights and position regarding tourism matters as agreed under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63).

#### GRANT AND FACILITATION FUND

##### *Event Grant*

I am pleased to announce that my ministry has allocated a total grant amount of RM40.4 million (RM40,448,462) to support 222 local and international tourism events and festivals in the year 2023. As of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, my ministry has allocated RM7.5 million to support 57 events and festivals this year. Some of the notable events we have supported include, the one for this year:

- (a) *Karnival Jom Heboh-Segulai Sejalai* in January;
- (b) Miri Marathon, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024;
- (c) Silabur Ultra Trail (SUTRA) in May 2024;
- (d) *Kejohanan Tinju Terbuka Sarawak 2024 (Edisi Ke-3)* and World Boxing Championship that was just held last weekend;
- (e) *Sape' Junior* which was just last few days in May 2024;
- (f) Samarahan Food and Cultural Festival which is still ongoing now, from 10<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024;
- (g) *Sambutan Gawai Dayak Peringkat Negeri Sarawak* for the year 2024;
- (h) Samarahan Bike Challenge which will be held in May;
- (i) *Pesta Sebauh* which will be at the end of June; and
- (j) Rainforest Youth Summit which will be held also in the end of June.

Several iconic events are scheduled to take place this year in Sarawak, including:

- (a) Siol International Mountain Bike Challenge which will be held in June;
- (b) Rainforest World Music Festival 2024 which will be held at the end of June;
- (c) What About Kuching Festival which will be held in the whole month of October;
- (d) *Pesta Kaul Mukah 2024* which will be in July;
- (e) *Pesta Benak in Sri Aman* which will be in September 2024;
- (f) *Pertandingan Bintang Kecil peringkat kebangsaan* which will be held in September this year;
- (g) *Pertandingan Bintang P. Ramlee* which will be televised nationally. Will be from September up to November of this year;
- (h) The 9<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards which will be in September;
- (i) *Pertandingan Tok! Buskers Challenge* which is also a collaboration with RTM which will also be televised nationally in October;
- (j) The 10<sup>th</sup> Edition Sarawak International Dragon Boat Regatta which will be at the end of October;
- (k) The Kuching Marathon, also at the end of October; as well as
- (l) The Sarawak Regatta which will be on the first week of November.

#### *The 9<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards*

The 9<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards will be held this year on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 at the Hikmah Exchange, Kuching with the Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, the Premier of Sarawak, being the guest of honour at the award dinner.

Like previous years, we have the following theme “*Seeds of Life*” for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards, “*Flowing Stream*” for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards and “*On Fire for Sarawak*” for the 8<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards. And for this year, the theme “*Winds of Resilience*” was chosen for the 9<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards.

The idea of resilience showcases the industry's ability to overcome challenges and invites attendees to embark on exciting, unexplored journeys in Sarawak. Through the turbulent winds of the global pandemic, Sarawak's tourism industry has emerged resilient. Navigating challenges with determination, we now stand on the cusp of recovery.

This year's awards will feature eight main awards categories with 30 sub-categories. New categories are being introduced to better reflect our commitment to recognize and celebrate excellence across all aspects of the tourism industry.

As of to date, we have received a total of 237 nominations. A panel of 45 judges representing a combination of private and public sectors will judge these award categories. The winners of this 9<sup>th</sup> Sarawak Hornbill Tourism Awards will receive prize money, a trophy, media recognition as well as a certificate.

#### *Research Grant*

Since the year 2021 to date, 20 research grants, totalling RM5.3 million were awarded to various learning institutions, universities, and NGOs in Sarawak. Among the completed research are:

- (a) Borneo Cultures Museum: Marketing Strategies from Domestic and International Perspectives;
- (b) Experiential Tourism in Bau: Packaging, Positioning, and Promoting Green and Gold Tourism;
- (c) Tua Pek Kong Temples as Tourism Attractions: An Ethnographic Approach Towards Sarawak Chinese Heritage;
- (d) Sarawak Road Trip – Self-Drive Travel Guide Proposal, among others, this is among the researches where the research grant were given;

- (e) Sarawak Indigenous Cuisine: Preserving Its Identity and Heritage;
- (f) Journal of Responsible Tourism Management for the year 2021, 2022, and 2023;
- (g) Sustainable Tourism Development: Community-Based Tourism Value-Added Programs as The Vehicle for Socioeconomic Enhancement; and
- (h) Planning, Mapping, and Research of Sarawak Best Golf Destination.

This is to make known that we have at the ministry a research grant for those who are keen on doing some research and along the way to further develop the tourism industry. List of research that are still on going and newly approved by the ministry, among others:

- (a) S-MM2H Participants' Perception on Its Programme;
- (b) *Kajian Pendokumentasian Alat-Alat Muzik Tradisional Etnik-Etnik di Sarawak*;
- (c) Community-Based Tourism Sustainable Development: Developing a Blueprint for Rural Homestay Community in Sarawak;
- (d) Inclusive Tourism Manual, Brochures, And Video in Relation to Persons with Disabilities Towards an Inclusive and Equitable Sarawak; and
- (e) Developing Creative Industry Directory.

#### *Facilitation Fund for Heritage, Arts, and Culture*

I am glad to announce the approval of the Facilitation Fund for Heritage, Arts, and Culture by the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) or Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, marks a significant milestone in Sarawak's commitment in nurturing its cultural heritage. With an annual budget of RM10 million allocated to the ministry, this fund represents an important development for creative industry and performing arts' ecosystems.

This fund plays a pivotal role in introducing, preserving, and sustaining the arts, culture, and heritage of Sarawak. By supporting wide range of programmes and activities, it aims to ignite interest and create a career path within the creative industry.

The Facilitation Fund for Heritage, Arts, and Culture represents a strategic social investment in the future of Sarawak, fostering creativity, preserving traditions, and ensuring that the diverse heritage of Sarawak's 34 different ethnic groups continue to thrive for generations to come.

From January until 22<sup>nd</sup> April this year, 40 programmes and activities have been approved under this grant amounting to RM2.4 million. So, there is still quite a lot of balance and we do hope those who are enthusiast in this creative industry to come forward and try to develop the enthusiasm into a greater height.

### **ECO-TOURISM AND COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM**

#### *Community-Based Tourism*

Tuan Speaker, with collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC) Sarawak, three homestay clusters from the Kayan and Kenyah villagers involving 19 families with 46 rooms in Belaga District were registered, namely:

- (a) Long Urun;
- (b) Uma Bakah; and
- (c) Lusong Laku.

This makes the total current numbers of homestay clusters increased from 50, since November 2023, to 53 clusters, with 718 homestay operators as compared to 699 in November 2023 and 1,544 rooms, as compared to 1,498 rooms in November 2023. As of March 2024, these homestay operators throughout Sarawak have recorded 15,554 visitors and collected a revenue amounting to

RM1.5 million. This year, with continuous collaboration effort with MOTAC Sarawak, my ministry is targeting to add another three more homestay clusters.

### *Sarawak Delta Geopark (SDGp)*

The Sarawak Delta Geopark, located to the west of Sarawak in the first division, covering Kuching Division and part of Serian, Bau, among others, with an acreage of 3,112 km<sup>2</sup>, became the 6<sup>th</sup> National Geopark on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, and with plans to attain the UNESCO Global Geopark status. My ministry is actively involved in the Technical Working Groups for Geotourism Product Development and Promotion.

Collaborative efforts with Tourism Malaysia in developing SDGp as tourism as well as a destination have led to the development and promotion of 37 tourism packages for SDGp. These packages, showcasing geological, biological, and cultural heritage, have seen promising sales and revenue.

One of the objectives of SDGp is to empower and engage local communities in geotourism, aiming to enhance their wellbeing while simultaneously conserving the environment as well as heritage. Capacity building programmes are planned to enhance the knowledge and skills of local operators as well as guides. Various community development initiatives are in the pipeline, such as tourism and conservation awareness campaigns, craft-making workshops, hospitality and service quality, health and safety, event management training, and nature-based guiding programmes. These efforts align with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for geoparks, such as:

- (a) Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning;
- (b) Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- (c) Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
- (d) Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities;
- (e) Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production;
- (f) Goal 14: Life below water; and
- (g) Goal 15: Life on land.

Furthermore, the Sarawak Museum Department made a significant contribution to the aspiring Sarawak Delta Geopark Project. The Department is one of the agencies for the Committee on Heritage and Scientific Conservation in compiling scientific data related to culture and heritage in Sarawak Delta Geopark areas in preparation for the dossier application to UNESCO Global Geoparks.

### *Niah National Park as a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

The nomination of the Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex for UNESCO World Heritage Site status under the Cultural Heritage Category has progressed significantly. The final decision regarding the UNESCO World Heritage Site status of Niah Caves will be announced during the World Heritage Committee Conference in July 2024.

So, *insya-Allah*, by July 2024 we should know whether our Niah Caves will be given that kind of recognition by UNESCO or it will stay as it is now where we pray that it will be given that kind of recognition because that will be good for tourism especially for the Miri Division. There is a prevailing sense of optimism that Niah Caves will secure this prestigious designation, following in the footsteps of Gunung Mulu National Park, thereby further boosting tourism in the region.

### *National Parks*

The National Parks and Nature Reserves in Sarawak continue to be the most preferred ecotourism destinations for both domestic and foreign visitors. As at March 2024, visitors' arrivals to national parks and nature reserves have increased by 31.39%, with 99,364 visitors as compared to

95,897 visitors in the same period in March 2023. Out of these figures, 23,718 are foreigners and 75,646 are domestics travellers' visitors. The most popular parks are the Semenggoh Nature Reserve, the Wind Cave Nature Reserve, the Fairy Cave Nature Reserve, Bako National Park, Niah National Park, and Gunong Mulu National Park.

Tuan Speaker,

#### TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Under the Sarawak Government's 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, my ministry has been allocated RM392.23 million (RM392,225,200) for implementation of various infrastructure developments. An additional RM133.25 million (RM133,250,000) was also approved under the Sarawak *Projek Rakyat* allocation. From the Federal Government, MOTAC Malaysia has also approved various projects with allocation amounting to RM34.68 million (RM34,680,000) to be implemented throughout Sarawak.

From November 2023, my ministry has completed various infrastructure projects among others:

- (a) *Menaiktaraf Kemudahan Pusat Pelancongan Air Terjun Melasak di Lawas* (December 2023);
- (b) *Projek Menaiktaraf dan Penyelenggaraan Kemudahan dan Infrastruktur Bangunan di Muzium Arkeologi Niah* in November 2023;
- (c) *Menaiktaraf dan membaikpulih Kampung Budaya Sarawak* in January 2024;
- (d) *Menaiktaraf Struktur Gazebo Menara Tinjau di Pantai Kala Dana, Mukah* in March 2024.

The balances of the projects that are still progressing in various stages of implementation, among others, are:

- (a) Transformation of Brooke Dockyard into Industrial Heritage Museum;
- (b) Performing Arts Centre at Old DUN Building site project which was only recently handed over on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 by the Right Honourable Premier to the consortium of contractors;
- (c) The Proposed Sarawak Crafts Centre;
- (d) Redevelopment of MBKS Swimming Pool into a Water Fun Park and Centre of UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy;
- (e) Content and exhibition development for the Old Sarawak Museum Building, historical forts, and Santubong Archaeological Park;
- (f) Transformation of Miri Old Resident Office to Miri Cultural and Heritage Museum;
- (g) Pembangunan Ecotourism di Taman Negara Similajau, Bintulu, Taman Negara Kubah, di Kuching and juga Pusat Hidupan Liar Matang.

I also would like to mention that MOTAC has recently approved the *Projek Kerja-Kerja Awalan Pembinaan Sandbar Park di Durin, Sibul, Sarawak*, under the 4<sup>th</sup> Rolling Plan (RP4) of the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan.

#### SARAWAK TOURISM BOARD (STB): THE WAY FORWARD

Tuan Speaker, my ministry together with our State and Federal Government agencies, remain committed in supporting Sarawak's tourism industry. We are implementing both short and long-term plans in line with Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sarawak Tourism Master Plan 2020-2035 which aim to make the tourism sector as one of the key contributors to the Sarawak's GDP.

STB initiatives aim to build the industry's resilience and to increase both domestic and international visitor arrivals. The major initiatives include:

- (a) Visitor Incentive Packages (VIPs);
- (b) Sarawak Tourism Online Ecosystem Fund (STOEF);

- (c) Strategic Partnership Collaboration Fund (SPCF);
- (d) Airline Alliances and Partnerships; and
- (e) Tourism Marketing and Promotion.

These initiatives since its inception, support stakeholders to build the industry's resilience, and create opportunities for small and new Sarawak tourism players to reach and connect with potential customers from a wider audience.

## FLIGHT CONNECTIVITY

### *Airlines Alliances and Partnerships*

The Sarawak Tourism Board is continuously collaborating with homegrown airlines such as Malaysia Airlines, Firefly, Air Asia, Batik Air, and regional airlines such as Indonesia Air Asia, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA), and Scoot Airlines. These airline partnerships are important to boost our air connectivity and to enhance our visibility in domestic as well as international markets.

Indonesia Air Asia participated under STB's booth during the Association of Travel Agencies in Indonesia Travel Fair, the one that we call ASTINDO. It is one of the largest travel fairs in Indonesia organized by ASTINDO which was held from 29<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 at the Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE), Bumi Serpong Damai (BSD City), Tangerang, Indonesia.

The fair attracted bookings for medical and leisure tourism. STB also collaborated with Air Asia and Tourism Malaysia Bangkok in organizing a familiarisation trip to Kuching for travel agents, KOL, media from Thailand also in March 2024. This familiarisation trip is to strengthen Sarawak's position as a premier travel destination by providing key stakeholders with an immersive experience of Sarawak's unique offerings.

The media value generated was RM58,000 through TV5HD Thailand with 300,000 eyeballs. In conjunction with Arabian Travel Mart 2024, STB is collaborating with RBA and conducted Sarawak Tourism Product Updates in Dubai from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024. For the upcoming Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF), we have secured Malaysia Airlines (MH) as our official airline partner to fly in performers, media, and festival goers in addition to other forms of collaboration that will drive the visitor arrivals into Sarawak.

## TOURISM MARKETING AND PROMOTION

In 2024, STB'S marketing direction is based on "*leapfrog – expansion strategy*" to strengthen the market penetration, continuous engagement with tourism stakeholders in focus markets while expanding into 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier destinations internationally. There are a total number of 45 marketing and promotional activities scheduled in 2024 in STB's focus markets to achieve 4 million visitors' arrival target this year. In the first quarter of 2024, the Sarawak Tourism Board had completed 14 or equivalent to 31% of its initiatives in all key markets inclusive of Europe (Germany, Finland), North Asia (Taiwan), new market (India), ASEAN (Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia) and domestic market.

The Sarawak Tourism Board launched its transformative overarching campaign "*GATEWAY TO BORNEO*" and the new refreshed destination logo "*SARAWAK MORE TO DISCOVER*" at ITB Berlin Germany which is Europe's largest travel fair held on 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The media coverage of this campaign has garnered a total reach of 7.2 million viewers and over RM1.7 million in public relations (PR) value. This campaign signifies a brand refresh and strategically positions Sarawak as the premier gateway to Borneo.

The ITB Berlin Travel Fair was also attended by other agencies in my ministry such as the Sarawak Museum Department to promote heritage tourism. Sarawak aims to amplify and maintain the vigour and excitement of the region's marketing strategy by positioning the state as offering a

plethora of culture, adventure, nature, food, and festivals, along with authentic experiences not found anywhere else in the world.

India is one of the largest outbound tourists generating markets around the world. In 2023, Sarawak recorded a total of 24,274 Indian visitors with an increased growth rate of 129.69% as compared to the year 2022. In the first quarter of 2024, we received the highest number of Indian visitors to Sarawak with a total of 10,014 a significant growth rate of 103.83% as compared to the first quarter of 2023. STB's communications collaborated with a number of high profiles online and print media such as National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Marie Claire and Vogue and Travelution, among others, to ensure Sarawak's visibility and brand recall among our various target markets in 2023. These, in addition to our various out-of-home advertising, road shows, and media coverage resulted in a total 331.9 million eyeballs and public relations (PR) value of almost RM98 million (RM97,877,595).

In the first quarter of 2024, Sarawak continues to extend its reach to various markets via international media such as Cable News Network (CNN), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Channel News Asia (CNA) International and Forbes Asia. STB also hosted two Media Familiarisation trips (FAM) in the first quarter of 2024. These two Media Familiarisation trips generated an approximate PR value of RM773,250. The media were from Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia as well as Malaysia. In 2023, STB Digital Communication team collaborated with top content creators, Online Travel Agents (OTA) and platforms such as Tripzilla, Untraveled, Trip Advisor, Traveloka, Expedia, Klook, among others – to record a total of over 170 million impressions towards improving Sarawak's visibility on the global stage.

STB continues its efforts to improve and strengthen Sarawak as a preferred destination among our various target markets this year, having recorded over 60 million impressions in the first quarter of 2024. STB is thrilled to unveil the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF) from the 28<sup>th</sup> of June until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. It is set to be a transformative celebration under the theme "EVOLUTION". This year, the festival promises an immersive experience that transcends music, incorporating responsible tourism, cultural celebration, and environmental stewardship.

The festival line-up features a diversity that showcases 68 international musicians from 15 countries alongside 63 talented local artists. Among the festival's headlining acts is the Grammy and Golden Globe Award winner, Kitaro, a Japanese recording artist renowned for his groundbreaking electronic-instrumental music. I received calls from a number of *Menteri Besar*, Ministers wanting to be there for this Rainforest. So, we will be sending out invitation because recently we have been going around Malaysia inviting them for SUKMA, and they come to know about Kitaro is coming to Sarawak. Probably this will be his last world tour. So, we are extending. So, this year, we are also expanding the venue. I wish to invite the Members of this august House to come over for this year's Rainforest World Music Festival. I am not to sure whether probably some of you have never been there in this renowned Rainforest World Music Festival. It will be good to have the feel of it, you know. Have the feel of what we have been showing, it is a very popular music festival, whenever I go, to ITB Berlin, or WTM in UK, the European journalist, the moment they know that we are from Sarawak, the first thing they will say, Rainforest World Music Festival. So, that is how they get the info.

In conjunction with Rainforest World Music Festival 2024, the Sarawak Tourism Board is also organizing Rainforest Youth Summit or what we called in short RAYS just before the Rainforest World Music Festival. It will be held at the Borneo Cultures Museum with the theme "Empowering Youth for Sustainable Future". This homegrown event will help in positioning Sarawak as a hub for exchange and dialogue on matters of the rainforest and sustainability which aligns with Sarawak's tourism ecosystem in tandem with PCDS 2030. It is our way to show to the young leaders in ASEAN what Sarawak has been doing, on renewable energy, on our green energy, hydrogen, you know. 300 of them the leaders from all the ASEAN countries, youth leaders will be brought over down here, together with our local youth leaders that will be attending this Rainforest Youth Summit. So those

that come over, the youth leaders when they finish, they will be also joining us at the Rainforest World Music Festival.

Tuan Speaker,

## **BUSINESS EVENTS**

In 2023, Sarawak hosted 107 business events, generating RM372 million in Total Economic Impact. Direct delegate expenditure amounted to RM202.02 million, while we earned RM22.3 million in taxes. Some major events hosted in 2023 included:

- (a) 27<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Innovation and Technology 2023, with 2,000 delegates and 178 exhibitors;
- (b) The Congress of the International Primatological Society 2023, with 1,200 delegates; and
- (c) 24<sup>th</sup> Asia-Australasia Conference of Radiological Technologists 2023, with 1,000 delegates.

From 2024 until 2028, Business Events Sarawak secured 95 business events, worth RM346.5 million in Total Economic Impact. Approximately RM188.3 million will be generated from direct delegate expenditure and earning RM20.8 million in taxes. Amongst the major international bids are:

- (a) Asia Pacific Green Hydrogen and Exhibition 2024, with an estimated 5,000 delegates, exhibitors, and visitors which will be held in June 2024;
- (b) International Water Association World Water Congress and Exhibition 2028, with an estimated 10,000 delegates, exhibitors, and visitors which will be held in September 2028. That's why we have to get our second BCKK to be ready before then, or else where to put these 10,000 delegates? And
- (c) International Council on Monuments and Sites Triennial General Assembly 2026, with an estimated 2,000 delegates which will be held in October 2024.

This year, the business events industry will work towards reinforcing Sarawak's position as the Legacy Capital of Business Events in Malaysia and Borneo. On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, we have successfully hosted the first Association Impact Masterclass by International Congress and Convention Association in collaboration with Meet-4-Impact and GainingEdge. Business Events Sarawak seized the opportunity and became the seed grant contributor to this unique education programme. 19 associations and industry leaders from Malaysia are now Certified Association Impact Leaders – the first group to receive this recognition.

As of 13<sup>th</sup> May, until 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, that is yesterday until the 16<sup>th</sup> of May two days from now, Sarawak's business events industry will head to Incentive Travel, Meetings and Events (IMEX) Frankfurt in Germany under the leadership of YB Datuk Snowdan Lawan. That is why YB Datuk Snowdan, my *Timbalan* is not here because he is in Frankfurt now. He texted me this morning, he was already on his way. This will mark Sarawak's second year of exhibiting with its pavilion, with its own pavilion at Incentive Travel, Meetings and Events IMEX Frankfurt, and one of the key highlights is the launching of Volume 2 Issue 2 of the International Journal of Business Events and Legacies.

Tuan Speaker,

## **ARTS, CULTURE AND HERRITAGE**

### *Museum Exhibitions, Activities, and Events*

I am proud to inform that on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024, the Borneo Cultures Museum welcomed its one millionth visitor since its opening on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, which is an amazing achievement. To date,



BCM has accumulated 1,007,716 visitors from 155 countries. This indicates that the Borneo Cultures Museum remains a prominent attraction for museum-goers, and museum lovers locally and globally.

The museum also attracts dignitaries, delegates, and royal visitors. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, BCM was honoured by the visit of His Royal Highness, the Regent of Pahang, Tengku Hassanal Ibrahim Alam Shah Ibni Alsultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah. Noteworthy visitors in the first half of this year included, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, 25 European Union Ambassadors following their attendance at the EU-Malaysia Business Day 2024. Apart from that Ambassador of Uruguay, Her Excellency Valeria Csukasi Cabrera on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2024. The Singapore High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency Vanu Gopala Menon also came on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. Delegates from ASEAN Tourism Committee Meetings visited Borneo Culture Museum on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, engaging in activities like traditional dance, *sape'* playing, and beads necklace making. And, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, 131 delegates from BIMP-EAGA visited the Borneo Culture Museum. I am not too sure whether there are any Members of this august House who have not been to the BCM? If you have not been there, I think I better send in an invitation because it is a shame for Honourable Members of this august House not even having step foot at the BCM. I won't want to call up to show your hands because you will never put up your hands to show that you have not been there. Takut malu sendiri.

Beginning 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the department launched e-ticketing for public admission to BCM, in line with the Sarawak Government's digital initiatives to promote the region as a premier tourism destination in Malaysia. This online platform enables visitors to conveniently explore available museums and purchase tickets securely from anywhere. By eliminating long queues and operating hour restrictions, visitors now can gain flexibility in planning their visits. Upon purchase, the QR code tickets are promptly delivered via email and the Sarawak Government mobile apps, facilitating seamless entry upon scanning. We keep on improving ourselves so it will be much easier. There are times before where you see many of them lining up in front of the BCM, but things have changed because of this online access.

The BCM also received students from preschool to higher institutions, including from 194 schools and universities. The BCM's charisma extends beyond schools in close proximity, as it also attracts schools located outside of Kuching. I have given my instructions to the Pengarah Museum to encourage all these young students to know their heritage, to know their culture. Visit this Borneo Culture Museum. Invitations should be given to the schools. Likewise, I do hope that the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat could assist schools within your constituency to be able to come over and visit BCM. Notable examples, the schools:

- (a) SK Sungai Passin, Daro; *ne sidak Daro tek?* YB Daro *tek?* He has made arrangement for this school to come over;
- (b) SK Batu Luking, from Kanowit;
- (c) SK Ulu Pedanum, from Bintangor;
- (d) SK Nanga Semawang, from Julau; and
- (e) SK Nanga Bawai, Kapit.

These are among the *sekolah-sekolah rendah* that have come to visit the Borneo Culture Museum. I think, it's high time also for the other Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat to assist, use a little bit of your MRP to bring the kids down to Kuching. That will be a very memorable trip for them. I am very sure, whether they are from the primary school or whether they are from the secondary schools. Since January 2024, BCM has benefited 14,755 students.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, the department opened the Limbang Museum to the public. It features two galleries highlighting the region's history from the Brooke era to the present, attracting visitors, many visitors since its opening. In addition to the newly opened Limbang Museum, Sarawak also boasts, boasts 10 museums and one monument open to the public.

In February 2024, a joint interpretive workshop was held to enhance the Miri Resident and District Office as well as the Miri Petroleum Museum projects, crafting engaging narratives to spotlight Miri's culture and history. These plans guide future development and gallery content.

*Protecting our Heritage, Preserving our Future*

The department upholds heritage with the Sarawak Heritage Ordinance (SHO 2019). They organized a knowledge sharing session on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at the Borneo Cultures Museum, covering enforcement, gazettelement, licensing, and conservation. The department has maintained and preserved 17 monuments and sites in Sarawak since January 2024. Among them are:

- (a) Sultan Tengah Mausoleum, Santubong;
- (b) Limbang Regional Museum;
- (c) Sarawak Museum Old Building;
- (d) Natural History Museum, Kuching;
- (e) Liu Shan Bang Flag Pole, Bau;
- (f) Japanese Dam, Miri;
- (g) Japanese Air Raid Shelter, Miri;
- (h) Klirieng Klivang at Kampung Pandan, Sebauh, Bintulu;
- (i) Four Jerunei at Kampung Tellian, Mukah (Jerunei Puteri, Jerunai Basungou, Jerunei Sungai Teloh and Jerunei Aneak Uda);
- (j) Effigy of Crocodile Mound at Nanga Putai, Baleh, Kapit;
- (k) Archaeological site at Nanga Putai, Baleh, Kapit;
- (l) Archaeological site at Bongkizam, Santubong;
- (m) Archaeological site at Sungai Jaong, Santubong; and
- (n) Archaeological site at Gua Sireh, Serian.

The department's dedication to heritage preservation is evident in its stellar collection care. Public trust in preserving family heirlooms has led to notable donations, including six items from Datin Seri Fatimah Jamil, the wife of the late Sarawak Deputy Police Chief, Datuk Seri Alli Kawi.

The donation has enriched the museum's collection with a gong, brassware tray, betel nut tray, coconut grater, and old Chinese wooden tiffin. The department's commitment to heritage preservation continues through public donations.

The Sarawak Museum adopts digitalization as a sustainable approach through the Sarawak Museum Collection Management System (SMCMS) digital system to preserve and enhance collection accessibility while aligning with global museum standards. Utilizing the system, they've digitized 157,160 items, spanning archaeological, zoological, ethnological, audiovisual, and archival collections. To comply with the SHO 2019, the department has conducted inspections of antique dealers in Sri Aman, Betong, and Sibu in January and February 2024. To date, there are 25 antique dealers registered under the ordinance.

*International Museum Day 2024*

The department actively participates in the National-Level Celebration of International Museum Day 2024 in Penang from 12<sup>th</sup> until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2024, joined by 44 museum agencies from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and France. With the theme "*Museum for Education and Research*," the department showcases the exhibition "*Urang Sarawak: Come Learn with Us*," emphasizing niche practices like taxidermy, conservation, and heritage research. Additionally, we sent 35 participants to engage in various sports and activities including Museum Titan, Tug of Dragon Boat, seminars, workshops, and cultural demonstrations, contributing to a vibrant celebration highlighting the educational role of cultural institutions.

*International Collaboration*

The department actively pursues national and international collaborations to achieve its goal of becoming a globally engaged centre of history and heritage by 2030. Noteworthy collaborations include research with the Natural History Museum of London on an ancient elephant tooth found in the Niah Caves. This is the one that I questioned the Museum, that means once upon a time we have elephants also in Sarawak because we found an elephant tooth in the Niah Cave which enhances the understanding of Borneo's past.

Additionally, a collaborative training workshop was held with Thermo Lignum International Germany in strengthening staff's competency on Thermo Lignum handling. Sarawak and Hungary had forged a significant relationship through collaborations with the Embassy of Hungary, Museum of Ethnography, and University of Debrecen, Hungary, in organising a joint exhibition about Hungarian explorer Janos Xanthus while in Sarawak during the 1870s. Collaboration between French School of Asian Studies in Kuala Lumpur (EFEO) and the Sarawak Museum which started end of last year has resulted in a discovery of an ancient metallurgy site between 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century at Sungai Jaong Archaeological site in Santubong. Many of us will not know there is a metallurgy site place for people to make iron ore, doing iron ore toilings and all that in Santubong. This significant finding enhances Sarawak's archaeological history and inspires future archaeological research.

*Museum Research Excellence*

The department conducts research and shares findings through publications and exhibitions to deepen understanding of Sarawak's heritage. Among the research are:

- (a) Study on Cultural Heritage in Bau Division;
- (b) Study on Papan Turai, Patung Kenyalang, Paddle and Stamps collection in Sarawak Museum Department;
- (c) Tikar Bergerang, Kg. Semera, Sadong Jaya, Samarahan;
- (d) Beting Maro Battle, Pusa, Betong;
- (e) Pengiran Matussin Pengiran Amir Abbas, Telaga Air, Kuching;
- (f) Datu Pengiran Hj. Metussin bin Datu Pengiran Abu Bakar, Kuala Lawas, Limbang; and
- (g) Sheikh Haji Othman Abdul Wahab, Sarawak Islamic prominent figure.

The department publishes the Sarawak Museum Journal annually since 1911, featuring articles spanning various disciplines with Volume No. 108 forthcoming in December 2024.

*UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)*

Since the last DUN sitting, Kuching's proposed new gastronomy centre has been successfully tendered and the site is now in the hands of the appointed contractor, with a construction period of 24 months. This public infrastructure project aims to set a new standard in Sarawak in urban placemaking and community building. From the extensive engagement sessions held with stakeholders during the design phase, we are now seeking to engage experts in these fields to support the ongoing management plan. This will position the centre as a vital public resource, driving preservation, innovation, and public awareness in our gastronomic sector.

My ministry is working closely to support the councils, UCCN Kuching team and the various stakeholders in securing the long-term sustainability of this project, including the role of this creative cities membership and the new gastronomy centre in driving our creative industries forward.

**SARAWAK CRAFT INDUSTRY**

Tuan Speaker, my ministry through the Sarawak Craft Council (SCC) will continue to drive and develop the local craft industry into a viable and relevant economic contributor to Sarawak's tourism.

Strategic planning and intended actions are crafted aimed toward increasing the market sizes of Sarawak's craft products both at domestic and global markets. There are a few initiatives undertaken by the Sarawak Craft Council to promote the growth of Sarawak's crafts. Among the programmes and activities slated for 2024 in providing platforms and avenues for Sarawak craftsmen are through sales and promotion, events, and community development.

*Sales and Promotion*

Sales and promotion are effective to provide craft entrepreneurs avenues to showcase and market their products. The Sarawak Craft Council will continue to ensure the active presence of Sarawak's crafts in local, domestic, and international markets. Among the programmes and activities in the first quarter 2024 which saw the participations of Sarawak's Craft were as follows:

*Local Market*

- (a) JOM HEBOH 2024 at Kuching Stadium Petra Jaya in January;
- (b) Festival Kraf Kebangsaan at Plaza Merdeka (by Kraftangan Malaysia) in March 2024;
- (c) Kuching Craft Bazaar at Waterfront Kuching end of March; and
- (d) Sri Aman Craft Bazaar at Sri Aman Waterfront (during the Pesta Benak).

*Domestic Market*

- (a) HARI KRAF KEBANGSAAN 2024 at Conlay Craft Complex, Kuala Lumpur: 21<sup>st</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024; and
- (b) ASEAN Tourism Committee Meeting (ATCM) in Kuching: In the first week of March.

*International Market*

*INACRAFT 2024 Jakarta –  
End of February until early March (28<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024)*

A Sarawak delegate was led by Yang Berhormat Datuk Snowdan Lawan, Deputy Minister MTCP to INACRAFT 2024 Jakarta with the mission to foster networking and rapport with other delegates at the event. Among the few notable personnel met at the event was Mr. Aziz Murtazaev, the President of World Craft Council, who took over from Madam Ghada who passed away during COVID-19. He is the President of the World Craft Council, Asia Pacific Region, and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Creative Economics Indonesia.

These meetings hope to see inroads into creating a sound and stronger regional networking for Sarawak's craft industry. Sarawak Craft's strong presence at the international event was evident through the ASEAN Handicraft Promotion & Development Association participation where some of the members from Sarawak had showcased Sarawak's unique crafts to the delights of the visitors.

*International Meetings and Events*

The Sarawak Craft Council will be part of the Ministry's team at selected international events and meetings such as:

- (a) INACRAFT JAKARTA 2024 : 28<sup>th</sup> February - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 (attended);
- (b) IMEX Frankfurt 2024. I know the Head of Sarawak Craft Council now is together with Datuk Snowdan in IMEX;
- (c) Benchmarking visit to Singapore in July; and
- (d) Bali Arts Festival 2024 also in July;

*Craft Community Development*

The Sarawak Craft Council together with Kraftangan Malaysia Sarawak and other related agencies will continue to synergise their efforts to ensure the healthy growth in the numbers of craft producers and entrepreneurs. The Craft Community Development initiatives does not only emphasise on preserving traditional skills and conservations of cultural heritages, but it must also be able to monetise the efforts in order to generate incomes for the local economies through deliberate initiatives, creativity and innovations. As of the first quarter 2024, Sarawak Craft sales recorded total of RM5.43 million sales.

*Sarawak Craft Council Initiatives in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024*

- (a) 171 new craft producers were registered;
- (b) five new activities under the Craft Community Development programme were planned for 2024 namely:
  - (i) Handicraft Home Training Programme;
  - (ii) Monitoring and Data Collection Exercises;
  - (iii) Raw Material Processing;
  - (iv) Skill Training in Production; and
  - (v) Educational Visits

*Kraftangan Malaysia Sarawak*

In the national craft scene, Kraftangan Malaysia reported a total sale of RM89.48 million for the first quarter of 2024. For the year 2024, Kraftangan Malaysia Sarawak is putting a target sale of RM27 million by craft entrepreneurs registered with them. To date, there are about 1,232 local craft entrepreneurs registered with Kraftangan Malaysia Sarawak.

*Accolades and Achievements in 1st Quarter 2024*

My ministry is glad to announce on the notable achievements by Sarawak's craftsmen in the early quarter of 2024, among them are:

- (a) Puan Bangi anak Embol, a Pua Kumbu Weaver. She was awarded the Tokoh Kraf Negara 2024;
- (b) Cik Ramtiniwati binti Ramlee, Tenunan Songket Sarawak: Sole representative from Malaysia under National Information Dissemination Centre or (NADI) to participate at the Mobile World Congress Barcelona 2024 (MWC2024); and
- (c) Puan Norinda binti Suut, Kain Keringkam Sarawak. She won 3rd Prize winner at the Zar International Gold Embroidery and Gold Jeweller Festival in Bukhara Uzbekistan 2024.

My ministry would also like to urge everyone here to support the Sarawak Craft Industry by buying only genuine Sarawak Authentic Crafts.

**SARAWAK ARTS COUNCIL (MAJLIS SENI SARAWAK)**

Tuan Speaker, the Majlis Seni Sarawak has conducted 70 programmes and activities, including arts development and training throughout Sarawak, from January until May 2024. Among the programmes are:

## MSS ANNUAL PROGRAMMES

### *Kelas Bimbingan Seni*

A year-long training weekend classes for the communities (2 hours per session) that include traditional dance, traditional music, modern music (guitar, piano, and violin), acting, vocal, and drawing. This year, 1,370 students have registered for the Kelas Bimbingan Seni under MSS throughout Sarawak. As for now a total of 7 divisions in Sarawak are involved in these programmes weekend classes which is in Kuching, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Sarikei, Sibul, Mukah, and Limbang. The trainers consist of eight full-time staff of Majlis Seni Sarawak and 17 part-time teachers hired to train the students registered for the classes throughout the year.

### *Programme Training of Trainers (TOT)*

A total of seven intensive courses – Training of Trainers (TOT) in Performing Arts was organized at Majlis Seni Sarawak to provide further understanding and skill in teaching. 500 participants including MSS staff and dancers throughout Sarawak have attended the course. Professional facilitators outside of Sarawak were invited to this programme to facilitate this training.

### *Promotion of Arts and Cultural Performances*

Earlier this year, Majlis Seni Sarawak participated in the cultural dance performance at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London United Kingdom (in collaboration with University of Pendidikan Sultan Idris Malaysia, Malaysia High Commissioner Office in London as well as School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK). The performance was presented by students from Kelas Bimbingan Seni Majlis Seni Sarawak whose ages are from 13 to 15 years old.

Majlis Seni Sarawak also in collaboration with Sarawak Tourism Board and Business Event Sarawak participated in international tourism fair and promotion overseas such as in Germany, Finland, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates, and Singapore by showcasing cultural dances performances.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Simfoni Orkestra Negeri Sarawak (SONS), the pride of the State, or SONS Orchestra will be performing a series of Concert Musical Harmony (Pop, Jazz & Traditional Orchestra) in Belaga, Kapit entitled “*Dekat di Hati*”. This is our way to “*Merakyatkan lagi*” SONS Orchestra. As I have mentioned in my press conference, we do not want SONS Orchestra to only be performing in Kuching, only for the state function in Kuching. We want them to be also exposed to all parts of Sarawak. That was the directive given by the Right Honourable Premier to me and we’ve been doing that for the last few years. A total of 45 musicians will be participating in this performance. Aside from that, there will be cultural performances and a few local artists from the area who will be performing in this programme also.

In enhancing tourism, creative industry, and performing arts in Sarawak, Majlis Seni Sarawak also provides supporting grants – MySeni Grant to various communities throughout Sarawak, for innovation and sustainability of the arts. In collaboration with the Resident offices, Jerayawara MySeni programmes were held in Sri Aman, Betong, Miri, Sibul, Bintulu, and Mukah to create awareness of MySeni supporting grants.

For the development of arts and culture, last year 2023, Majlis Seni Sarawak approved a total of RM1 million MySeni supporting grant to individuals, associations, and schools including IPTA or Institut Pengajian Tinggi Awam throughout Sarawak. For the first quarter of this year, Majlis Seni Sarawak has received several applications throughout Sarawak and approved RM138,000 to organise their programme.

The recent handing over ceremony of Sarawak Performing Arts Centre at the old DUN Building, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, was officiated by the Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, our Premier of Sarawak, to the consortium of contractors. The renovation works of the center is expected to be completed in 2027. Majlis Seni Sarawak as the end user will ensure the center becomes the hub for local and international performers to showcase their artistic performance with high standards of artistry, equivalent to other performing arts centers worldwide.

For one of this year's main programme, Majlis Seni Sarawak will be performing for the opening as well as the closing ceremonies for the 21<sup>st</sup> SUKMA or Sukan Malaysia games and 21<sup>st</sup> PARA SUKMA 2024 games. Currently, a total of 2,000 individuals from various schools, from IPTA, from IPTS, from agencies, from NGOs, and associations throughout Kuching as well as other divisions from Sarawak are being trained by MSS or Majlis Seni Sarawak just for this purpose.

#### *DUN Debate*

I would also like to thank Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Repok, Telang Usan, Batu Kitang, Ba'Kelalan, Pujut, Katibas, Tebedu, Opar, Tanjong Datu for their proposals, suggestions and issues raised in this august House in relation to my ministry. My ministry will study the proposals and issues raised and take necessary action to ensure that all your concerns are addressed.

#### *The Way Forward*

The outlook for Sarawak's tourism industry to achieve recovery by 2025 can be realised if all the stakeholders concerned play their part to implement the policies and strategies already put in place under our PCDS 2030 Action Plan. This includes the improved connectivity with completion of physical infrastructure i.e. completion of the Pan Borneo Highway, the completion of various tourism development attractions complementing the existing ones, most importantly, the acquisition of our own airlines; which yesterday has been announced will be commencing early next year; info-structures i.e. internet and communications that will allow industry players to fully utilise technology to ensure wireless business transactions and promotions online.

However, the main challenge to full recovery will very much depend on the ongoing economic and geopolitical headwinds that can derail this sustained recovery as it affects international tourism confidence levels from the European as well as the United States Markets. However, this setback can be resolved through improved regional cooperation between countries within the Asian vicinity namely China and India through the introduction of visa-free travel facilities and also more incentives. Sarawak should have this solidly in place to gear up for visit Malaysia year 2026. Rest assured; we are confident to welcome our best visitors' arrivals during this campaign.

#### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tuan Speaker for your excellent handling of proceedings including the new Dewan Undangan Negeri Secretary and all his staff for the efficiency in handling the *Dewan's* proceedings.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Honourable Sarawak Secretary, and all Sarawak and Federal Government officers who are involved, not forgetting the staff of my own ministry for their hard work, commitment, and dedication in giving the necessary support, input and information.

I would also like to convey my greetings to those celebrating Wesak Day, Hari Gawai Dayak, which is just around the corner, as well as Hari Raya Aidil Adha. And I wish to conclude my winding up speech with *dua rangkap pantun*.

*Tikar bemban, tikar bergerak;  
Tarikan utama hati pembeli;  
Pelancongan Sarawak terus terbilang;  
Nadi utama kelestarian ekonomi.*

*Bala pengabang datai nemuai;  
Duduk di ruai beranchau tikai;  
Selamat ngintu Hari Gawai;  
Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai.*

With that, I hereby wish to state my support to the official address by the Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Sarawak. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Honourable Member for Padungan, I stood down your motion. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, I received a motion dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from the Honourable Member for N.9 Padungan. I shall now call upon the Honourable Member for Padungan to read out his motion.

**Encik Chong Chieng Jen:** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. This is my Motion tabled; Notice of Motion tabled pursuant to Standing Order 15 Emergency Motion.

**WHEREAS:**

1. On 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, a durian hawker, Ignatius Anthony Ang Kai Lun, has been served with a Notice to cease trading at the hawker, as a hawker at the Padungan Season Fruit Market (Padungan Roundabout) within seven days from the date of the notice by the Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan (MBKS). The alleged offence in the Notice was that the hawker was selling durian Musang King without license from the MBKS at the market.
2. About six months ago on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the MBKS first issued a notice requesting the hawker to remove the sun-tent erected at the market. When the hawker, together with the other hawkers through my office, requested for a meeting to clarify the matter. The MBKS refused to meet up.
3. The inconsistent reasons given by the MBKS in its notices ordering the cessation of trade and the non-transparent manner in the conduct of the matter smack of impropriety in the decision-making process of the MBKS.
4. The said hawker has been trading there for more than 10 years and selling durian including the Musang King durian which is a seasonal fruit and had been paying the MBKS daily license fees up until about two months ago when the MBKS, without any reason, stop collecting the license fee.
5. Through years of effort, the hawker has built up a reputation and his durian stall has now become a place of interest for tourists visiting Kuching to have a feast of durian.
6. Such abrupt stop to his business will severely impact the hawker's livelihood and that of his family. He is only trying to earn a living and the authority should not be making it so difficult and forcibly closing down his business.

**THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED THAT THIS HOUSE HEREBY RESOLVES THAT,** MBKS been directed to review its decision to cease the trade of the hawker, Ignatius Anthony Ang Kai Lun, at the Padungan Seasonal Fruit Market and to allow the said hawker to continue carry out his trade at the market. Thank you, Tuan Speaker.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, this is my ruling. The facts of the case of Ignatius Anthony Ang Kai Lun is a lone hawker, illegally selling durian at the Padungan Season Fruit Market. In the



words as contained in the Notice of MBKS as quoted in a motion, that the hawker was “*selling durian Musang King without license from MBKS at the market*”.

Notwithstanding the so-called claim that he had been trading on daily license for a number of years, nonetheless the fact remains he is selling fruits without proper and legitimate notice. It is, therefore, against the Public Policy of the MBKS to allow an illegal hawker without a license to sell durian at the MBKS Market. Public interest must be safeguarded and upheld. To condone the illegal practice of selling fruits without license at the Padungan Season Fruit Market would flash a wrong signal and triggers widespread illegality, malpractice, and breakdown of MBKS authority to the detriment of public interest.

There is no urgency on the subject matter because the MBKS is acting within the law and within its authority. The MBKS had made the decision that the said hawker must be removed from the Padungan Season Fruit Market. In any event, the aggrieved hawker has a legal remedy which is to apply to the court for a judicial review under Order 53 of the Rules of Court 2012 in order to quash the notice issued on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to cease trading as a durian hawker, and for an Order of Mandamus to issue a license to him.

The period to apply for judicial review has not expired. The hawker himself must seek his personal remedy. Until he does so the matter is not considered urgent as a matter of policy. This august House should not encroach on the rights of the judiciary which is vested with powers to review administrative decisions. The Doctrine of Separation of Powers between the Executive, Judiciary, and Legislature must be respected. To succeed under Standing Order 15, three ingredients must be satisfied:

- (a) It must be definite;
- (b) It must be urgent; and
- (c) It is of public importance.

The Motion satisfies only the first ingredient, that is, it is definite. It fails to satisfy the second and third ingredients, that it is urgent and of public importance. The motion therefore fails, motion is dismissed. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, we adjourned. The sitting resumes at 11.30 a.m.

*(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 11.07 pagi)*

*(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 11.36 pagi)*

*[Timbalan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Timbalan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, dengan hormatnya dipersilakan Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah untuk menyambung ucapan penggulungan. Terima kasih.

**Menteri Belia, Sukan, dan Pembangunan Usahawan (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah):** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam *Segulai Sejalai*.

Saya ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk merakamkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah dan syabas kepada Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar di atas pelantikan sebagai Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak Ke-8 pada 26 Januari 2024 juga atas pengurniaan Darjah Kebesaran Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara yang membawa gelaran, “*Tun*” pada 26 Januari 2024 dan atas penganugerahan Darjah Satria Bintang Sarawak yang membawa gelaran “*Pehin Sri*” pada 28 Januari 2024.

Saya juga ingin menyampaikan salam takziah kepada semua ahli keluarga mantan Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, Almarhum Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud,

yang telah kembali ke rahmatullah pada 21 Februari 2024 bersamaan dengan 10 Syaaban 1445 Hijrah.

Salam takziah juga diucapkan kepada ahli keluarga mendiang Yang Berhormat Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal, Yang di-Pertua Dewan Negara yang telah meninggal dunia baru-baru ini pada 10 Mei 2024. Pemergian Allahyarham Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud dan mendiang Yang Berhormat Datuk Mutang Tagal merupakan satu kehilangan besar bagi Sarawak. Segala jasa, perjuangan dan juga pengorbanan mereka akan tetap dikenang oleh setiap pemimpin dan juga rakyat Sarawak dalam memacu kemajuan Sarawak ke tahap yang lebih tinggi lagi. Insya-Allah.

Setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak di atas ucapan sempena Pembukaan Mesyuarat Pertama bagi Penggal Ketiga Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Ke-19 pada 6 Mei 2024 yang lepas. Kementerian saya menyokong sepenuhnya agenda pembangunan negara berteraskan *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dan Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030)* dalam menerapkan setiap pelaksanaan dasar serta program-program yang memperluaskan mesej berkaitan pembangunan mampan di Sarawak.

#### SUKMA XXI SARAWAK 2024

Tuan Speaker, SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024. For the information of this august House, SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024 will be held in Sarawak from 17<sup>th</sup> until 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024 involving nine divisions namely Kuching, Samarahan, Serian, Sri Aman, Betong, Sibul, Mukah, Bintulu, and Miri. All these nine divisions have been chosen to be the venue for certain sporting events. Apart from concentrating on the event itself, this is our chance to tap into sports tourism sector, providing opportunities to boost our domestic economy and visitors to Sarawak. Apart from generating interest in sport in all these nine divisions. Other than showcasing international sports infrastructure, this will be a golden opportunity for the athletes as well as visitors to explore into Sarawak's diverse and rich cultural heritage.

With that, Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Mohammad Abu Bakar bin Marzuki, Sarawak State Secretary is appointed as the Chairman of the SUKMA XXI Organising Committee supported by 25 Working Committees from various Sarawak and Federal, Departments, and Agencies, in preparing Sarawak to be the best organiser for SUKMA XXI and set to make history as the largest ever organised, featuring 488 events across 37 different sports.

My ministry has established the SUKMA Secretariat led by Yang Berbahagia Datu Hii Chang Kee, Deputy State Secretary (Operation), to coordinate with the 25 Working Committees in ensuring the seamless organisation of this unprecedented event. The Working Committees are as follows:

- (a) Jawatankuasa Khas Teknikal;
- (b) Jawatankuasa Media, Publisiti, Seranta, Siaraya, Percetakan, dan Kewartawanan;
- (c) Jawatankuasa Pengangkutan;
- (d) Jawatankuasa Perkampungan Sukan, Penginapan Pegawai, dan Atlet;
- (e) Jawatankuasa Teknologi Maklumat dan Laman Sesawang Rasmi;
- (f) Jawatankuasa Tenaga Kerja, Sukarelawan, dan Pegawai Perhubungan;
- (g) Jawatankuasa Teknikal dan Pertandingan;
- (h) Jawatankuasa Majlis Perasmian Pembukaan, Penutupan, dan Majlis Makan Malam Rasmi SUKMA;
- (i) Jawatankuasa Kebajikan;
- (j) Jawatankuasa Persembahan Sambutan, Kebudayaan dan Kesenian;
- (k) Jawatankuasa Bantuan Kecemasan, Perubatan, dan Kesihatan;
- (l) Jawatankuasa Keselamatan dan Kawalan Trafik;
- (m) Jawatankuasa Bapa Angkat/ Jabatan Angkat;
- (n) Jawatankuasa Penyokong, Pasukan Sorak, dan Penonton;
- (o) Jawatankuasa Persiapan dan Kelengkapan Venue;

- (p) Jawatankuasa Telekomunikasi;
- (q) Jawatankuasa Anti-*Doping*;
- (r) Jawatankuasa Ketibaan Pegawai dan juga Atlet-atlet (Imigresen);
- (s) Jawatankuasa Bagasi;
- (t) Jawatankuasa Sajian Makanan;
- (u) Jawatankuasa Promosi Pelancongan;
- (v) Jawatankuasa Kebersihan dan Keceriaan;
- (w) Jawatankuasa Penganjuran Golf Jemputan;
- (x) Jawatankuasa Karnival SUKMA; dan
- (y) SUKMA *Secretariat inclusive of Games Management System*.

So, you can see the magnitude of this national sports this time around where we have to introduced 25 different committees just to make sure that everything runs smoothly. 13 state contingents, along with the federal territory are confirmed participants in SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024. With negara Brunei Darussalam recently expressing interest, the total number of participating contingents now stands at 15.

#### *Facilities Preparation*

Our facilities now stand as glimmer of hope, ready to welcome athletes from every corner of our nation. These international levels of facilities are also a symbol of unity, inclusivity, and spirit of sportsmanship, which goes beyond the structures of concrete, brick, and steel. I hope that every athlete gracing our sporting grounds will recognise that every corner of the arena is imbued with our wishes for their successful endeavours.

#### *Promotional Activities*

As we are currently intensifying the promotion of SUKMA, extensive efforts and event exposure are underway through our official website and various social media platforms including Facebook, X, TikTok, Instagram and Threads. The State Public Communication Unit (UKAS) serving as our Media, Publicity, Focal, Broadcasting, Printing and Journalism Working Committee is diligently promoting the event by sharing the latest news and activities related to SUKMA, not only on our official social media platform or accounts but also through mainstream media channels such as TVS, RTM and Astro Arena. In addition to electronic promotional activities, UKAS is actively promoting SUKMA through physical promotional materials such as billboards installed at various locations across Sarawak.

In addition to the electronic updates, another promotional effort is via a courtesy call to the *Menteri Besar* as well as Chief Minister all over Malaysia including to Brunei Darussalam later and together with the one who incharge of PARA SUKMA that is my colleague Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah. We have been going around all over Malaysia to promote and invite the Head of every State personally for them to come for the Opening Ceremony as well as the Closing Ceremony. These visits commenced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024. The purpose of these visits is to promote SUKMA as well as PARA SUKMA and to extend our official invitation. As I had mentioned just now, to the Opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony as well as the Gala Dinner. The Opening Ceremony will be graced by the Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, the Official Dinner will be graced by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak and the Closing Ceremony will be graced by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia.

As for domestic promotion, the Baton Run spanning across all 12 divisions in Sarawak, commenced on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 and will continue until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2024. That means its start from Lawas, where I was there personally to flag it off and we will be receive on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, the last leg will be in Kuching which will be officiated flag off by the Right Honourable Premier, Insyah-Allah. Each pit stops involving our former athletes and sports legends from the respective divisions to lead the run. This programme stands as a testament to the strength of unity, commitment, and steadfast support in showcasing the excellence of what SUKMA has to offer and our effort to

vibe up the game so that every Sarawakian will get excited and go to the game venue when the game started and of course to support our state team.

*Launching Of Sukma and Para Sukma XXI Sarawak 2024*

I am delighted to inform this august House that the launching of SUKMA and PARA SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024 took place successfully on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 at Pullman Hotel, Kuching with the theme “*Semangat Perpaduan Membara*”. Nearly 1,000 attendees comprising of athletes from various sports, presidents of sport associations, coaches, Sports EXCO from participating states and officials from Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia, Olympic Council of Malaysia, Institut Sukan Negara, and Majlis Sukan Negara, Majlis Sukan Negeri-negeri, and Jabatan Belia dan Sukan Negeri-negeri witnessed the launching of SUKMA logo, songs as well as the mascots. After using the old mascots for so many years already, this year we have introduced the new mascot which looks more *garang* and hopefully with that new mascot, it will drive our athletes to excellence.

Our mission is to meticulously plan and execute every aspect of SUKMA by ensuring an unforgettable experience for the participants as well as the spectators. As of today, I am delighted that most of our plan is progressing well. In promoting the spirit of fair play with unwavering determination and teamwork, each working committee plays a vital role in bringing our vision to be the best organiser as well as to be the overall winner. I will not be happy just to be the best organiser. We must be the overall winner and there is no other second fiddle that we would want to see.

*100 Days Countdown “Our Star, Our Pride”*

My ministry’s main emphasis has been on ensuring the readiness of Sarawak’s athletes for the upcoming competitions. Among the key preparations include:

- (a) Appointment of the Team Managers, the Head Coaches and other coaching staffs;
- (b) Preparation of training and competition venue, provision on training and meal allowances;
- (c) Decentralised and centralised training phases;
- (d) Preparation and procurement of sports equipment including gym equipment;
- (e) Domestic and international exposure programmes;
- (f) Enhancement of High-Performance Programmes – strength and conditioning, sport nutrition and supplement, sports psychology, performance analysis and sports medicine;
- (g) Athlete motivation camp “Warriors Camp” and coaches camps; and
- (h) Medal target workshop.

100 days SUKMA Countdown for Sarawak Contingent was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024, well it was just a last few days at Pullman Hotel Kuching and more than 1,200 athletes and officials gathered there, practically almost all our athletes were there to hear the motivational speech by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak. As of today, we are left with 95 days before commencement of SUKMA game. The objectives are to render extensive support and to uplift the morale of Sarawak athletes which was done by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak, that was the day we also introduced the Chef De Mission (CDM) of Sarawak contingent and fostering unity for the forthcoming SUKMA.

Prior to this event, Sarawak Warriors Camp 2024, two Sarawak Warriors Camp were held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to prepare for our athletes mentally, physically, and emotionally ready for the SUKMA. Dubbed as “*Our Star, Our Pride*” and rallying under the war cry of “*Agi Idup Agi Ngelaban*”, the athletes participated in this programme to uplift their fighting spirit, recognising their critical role in achieving our aim of becoming the runaway winner or the runaway champion in this forthcoming SUKMA.

*The New Dimension for Youth Development*

Tuan Speaker, in moulding the youth into future leaders, my ministry has aligned a new dimension of youth development of Sarawak which integrates Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. Through the SDGs, my ministry has prioritised nine goals aimed to global transformation, including promoting good health and well-being, ensuring quality education, fostering gender equality, supporting decent work and economic growth, reducing inequalities, building sustainable cities and communities, promoting responsible consumption and production, advocating for climate action and encouraging partnership for the goals, as highlighted in the Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak's speech during the opening.

The new dimension of youth development entails acknowledging the youth as pivotal drivers of change rather than merely beneficiaries of development efforts. It underscores the importance of empowering young people to engage actively in decision-making process, nurturing their leadership qualities and abilities and creating avenues for their impactful involvement in tackling global issues.

*Youths In Action*

Programmes such as MYSED Go Rural which was done in Awat-awat, Lawas; Jelajah Belia Sarawak at Kanowit; Juh Sungkei at Bintulu, Miri and Kuching, that have been implemented in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of this year has successfully involved more than 17,000 youths. We are proud to inform this august House that all of these programmes have been implemented by our passionate Sarawak Youth Associations.

My ministry believes that by empowering the youths, Sarawak can harness their potential to drive innovation and social progress, ultimately contributing to a sustainable and inclusive future for Sarawak. This approach acknowledges the potential of youth to drive positive social, economic, and environmental transformation.

For future engagement, there will be the first ever youth social experiment, *Projek Bee Orang Baik* (Projek BOB) conducted by Kelab Belia Bagas Bandar Bintulu (BAGAS) to involve our youths in acts of kindness, promoting our eastern cultures and values of empathy and compassion throughout Sarawak.

Hari Belia Sarawak (HBS) is set to make an impactful return, featuring a range of activities with the theme "*Neon and Beach Party*" aimed at highlighting the talents of Sarawakian youths at Mukah Division scheduled in October 2024. This year, the programme would be based on 5G concept that is; Growth Mindset, Global Connection, Glorious Tradition, Grateful Society and Go Green Awareness to accelerate the mission toward World Class Youth 2030.

In addition, it aims to recognise and appreciate the achievements of individuals and youths' organisations who have significantly contributed to the State through the presentation of *Anugerah Belia Sarawak 2024*. I hope for overwhelming support from the locals and national level with the support given, the Hari Belia Sarawak (HBS) would surely be successfully implemented and will be able to achieve its targeted goals.

*Nurturing Future Leaders*

Youth engagement for leadership is crucial for fostering and nurturing future leaders in Sarawak as the youths is able to offer fresh perspectives and sustainable development. Providing opportunities for the young people to participate in decision making process and develop various leadership platform such as the MYSED Go University are efforts by my ministry in nurturing leaders that focus on sustainable environment aligned with our Right Honourable Premier's Aspiration.

The Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak has introduced a range of new energy resources like hydrogen technology, cascading dam, solar power, and biomass waste to energy, to diversify the energy mix and reduce resilient or reliance on fossil fuels. My ministry is preparing the youths to harness Sarawak abundant natural resources for sustainable energy production that could boost economic growth while preserving the environment by introducing engagement programmes.

The programmes are by advocating the university's sustainable policies, participation of youths in climate-related projects and initiatives, promoting green energy, raising awareness about climate change impacts, and the role of youths in protecting and pursuing sustainable environmental development.

Among programmes aim to raise awareness and youth mindset change are *Program Komuniti Belia: Pemandangan Ilmu Mengurus Sisa Dapur Menjadi Produk Kompos dan Sabun*, Leave No Trace Behind Programme, *Rakan Muda Bumi* and upcoming international event, Rainforest Youth Summit in June this year. After the successful implementation of *Program Integritas Belia Sarawak*, with Johor as well as with Sabah youth (SJS) 2023, my ministry has been approached by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia as well as State of Pahang and an international youth association "*Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programmes (SSEAYP)*" to collaborate in implementing youth integration programme for the national and international level.

Further discussions are being held from time to time to ensure the integration programmes become reality. My ministry believes, through these experiences and exposures, Sarawak's youths can develop empathy, intercultural communication skills and a deeper appreciation for diversity, preparing them to thrive towards becoming youth leaders in present global village.

In line with PCDS 2030, the Sarawak Government has set no clear goals for our youths to uphold the region's excellence in social, economics, sports, creativity, volunteering and more. My ministry acknowledges the vital role of youths in the development of PCDS 2030. We have successfully collaborated with the Sarawak Economy Planning Unit (EPU) of the Sarawak Premier Department to promote PCDS 2030 and raise Sarawak's youths to global standards.

*Sarawak State Youth and Sports Department*  
*(Jabatan Belia Dan Sukan Negeri Sarawak)*

Tuan Speaker, Jabatan Belia dan Sukan, this is the federal outfit that oversees youth. Jabatan Belia dan Sukan Negeri Sarawak (JBS) plan to organize 38 youth development programmes in 2024 involving more than 90,000 participants throughout Sarawak. These include courses, workshops, seminars, camps, recreational pursuits, physical fitness, and sports, as well as community service projects, such as *Semarak Hari Belia Negara* in all 45 districts, State Level National Youth Day, Majlis Perundingan Belia Negara, 2024 National Youth Award, *Genta Belia* and Yellow Ribbon.

*Rakan Muda* under JBS, consists of 10 wildlife elements as a platform for spending quality time and a unifying factor within the community. The elements are *Rakan Aktif, Rakan Bumi, Rakan Demokrasi, Rakan Digital, Rakan Ekspresi, Rakan Litar, Rakan Muzik, Rakan Mahir, Rakan Niaga* and *Rakan Prihatin*. Each element consists of programmes including courses, workshops, training, outdoor recreational activities, volunteering or community service, capacity building, and seminars.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, also known as *Anugerah Remaja Perdana Rakan Muda* (ARPRM), is an ongoing comprehensive programme that can build young individual of calibre. This internationally recognized programme, which covers all the components of volunteering, community service, recreational sports, and also encourages creativity and skills for individuals who follow this programme, was also offered to schools (Ministry of Education Malaysia) and universities.

This year, there will be a commissioning ceremony for silver and bronze medal achievers involving 251 youths throughout Sarawak. A course for leaders of ARPRM will also be held this coming 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of May this year.

*Rakan Muda* secretariat is another programme that emphasize on giving our youth opportunities to realize their potential, acquire worthwhile experiences and contribute to the community through sports, leisure, and community activities. Mukah Polytechnic has been elected as one of the emerging *Rakan Muda* secretariat this year.

### SABERKAS

Pertubuhan Belia Kebangsaan Bersatu Sarawak (SABERKAS) is no exception in carrying out and developing youth activities throughout Sarawak. Nearly 700 programmes were organized last year for their Golden Jubilee Celebration held across the state, branches, and unit level. Mind you, in one year, we have got 365 days, but SABERKAS came up with 700 programmes last year. So, you can imagine practically if you are to look at it on a day-to-day basis practically every day, we have got an event, but all of these are lumped into the weekend.

These programmes indirectly encouraged volunteerism and leadership among SABERKAS members. The highlight of the Golden Jubilee Celebration was officiated by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024, where the *Jasamu Dihargai* award was presented to former leaders for their significant contributions to SABERKAS.

This year, SABERKAS arranged various programmes such as the SABERKAS Sports Carnival, SABERKAS Prihatin and the SABERKAS Bubur Lambuk in collaboration with the corporate sector. The launch event for the SABERKAS Bubur Lambuk Roadshow 2024 took place in Sri Aman, and it was later held at 72 other locations across Sarawak. SABERKAS anticipates in organizing more programmes in the future and hope for more agencies involving to support Sarawak's youths development agenda. For the upcoming SUKMA 2024, SABERKAS will play a vital role in supporting and coordinating supporters for our Sarawak SUKMA contingent apart from being volunteers, I think as volunteers at all the SUKMA venues.

### PEMADAM

In addressing the issue of drug and illegal substance abuse among the youths, my ministry is working closely with PEMADAM in various programmes. For this year 2024, PEMADAM Sarawak has planned various activities which include the Launching of State Level Antidadah Day Celebration 2024, Drug Free Family Seminars, Break Off 2024, *Hero Anak Sarawak*, Women's Stabilization Programme (HAWA) and Futsal Friendly Match 2024. CENTEXS, UNIMAS and UPM Bintulu Campus in Sarawak have formed the PEMADAM Student Club and PEMADAM wishes to extend this initiative to all the other higher learning institutions.

In line with government's mission of Drugs Free Nation by 2030, my ministry through PEMADAM Sarawak, in collaboration with government agencies such as Agensi Anti Dadah Kebangsaan (AADK), The Narcotic Crime Investigation Department of Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sarawak and SABERKAS will continue to implement the five thrust programmes namely:

- (a) School-based Drug Prevention Programme;
- (b) Drug Prevention Programme in Family;
- (c) Drug Prevention at Work Place;
- (d) Drug Prevention Programme in Community; and
- (e) Outreach Programmes.

So far, from January until May 2024, 45 activities have been carried out involving 14,915 participants had attended these activities which involved students, teachers, youths, parents, community leaders, professionals, workers, and government officers. Among the programmes are *anti-dadah* awareness talks, anti-drug exhibitions, anti-drug poster and slogan competitions for school children, short video making competition, membership drives and anti-drug awareness pro-

campaigns at the district level. My ministry will continue to work closely with PEMADAM in organising educational and drug awareness programmes for our youth as well as our school children.

### *Mass Sports Community Programme*

Tuan Speaker, Mass Sports Community Programme. From January until April of this year, in championing “*Sports for All*” among Sarawakians, the Sarawak X-Tive Programme was participated by more than 10,000 participants statewide. Our ongoing engagement strategy involves different strata of our society in organizing various activities tailored to suit the local needs of all walks of life. As of May 2024 Tuan Speaker, Sarawak X-Tive Society has participated in two events namely, *Sukan Antara Kementerian Sarawak* (SUKEMSAR) and Sports Administrator Course in collaboration with the Olympic Council of Malaysia, implemented by my ministry.

Our counterpart, JBS, has also scheduled to organize 28 programmes, including *Hari Sukan Negara*, *Program Kemahiran Asas Latihan Sukan* (ASAS), KLASS Cub Prix, wall climbing, recreational nature exploration and basic outdoor recreation course.

In addition, Inspire I-Talent and Inspire I-Train are programmes tailored to empower individuals with disabilities, guiding them to explore their abilities in competitive sports for the disabled. Participants selected for these initiatives will benefit from specialized coaching and opportunities to compete, nurturing their skill development towards becoming world class athletes. My ministry will continuously gauge our collaboration level in order to achieve the optimum level of satisfaction and its outcome on our local communities.

Our ongoing and remaining events highlights for the year, namely Sarawak X-Tive activities in conjunction with SUKMA Baton Run which had started on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 in Lawas, 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 in Miri, 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 in Bintulu and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 in Mukah. Other programmes in the pipeline are Sarawak Tower Run, *Karnival Sukan Rakyat Sarawak*, Sarawak Open Extreme Games Competition, Tug of War Officials Course and Tour De Malindo Fun Ride in collaboration with our Indonesian counterpart in West Kalimantan Province with an approximate distance of 62 kilometre from Balai Karang in Kecamatan Sekayam to Serian Conference Centre in Serian Division, Sarawak.

### *World Boxing Council Championship*

For the first time ever, Sarawak and Malaysia have hosted World Boxing Council (WBC) Championship last few days that was on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. Actually, this championship was supposed to be held in Bangkok, but I have requested for Sarawak Boxing Association to appeal to bring it to Kuching, that was several months ago. Because one of the athletes that is going to be competing for that World Championship is a Sarawakian. That is why I want it to be in Kuching to open it up and then with the local support we might be able to be a world champion and so it happens to be that way.

This is a historic milestone for Sarawak as well as Malaysia, especially because Sarawak was given the opportunity to host an international boxing tournament featuring professional boxers from all over the world. 11 countries have participated for this event namely Japan, India, Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Brazil, South Korea, Indonesia, the United States of America and of course the host, Malaysia. I managed to speak to some of the boxers especially the one from the United States, he said he fell in love with this state, and he wants to live in Sarawak, he said. But it's not that easy, just after coming for the first time and he fell in love with the state.

We are very proud because one of Malaysian representatives, our very own “*Kilat Boy*” Daeloniel McDelon Bong had won and been crowned as the World Boxing Council Asia Silver Super Bantamweight in this championship. It is a big achievement for him, and it is a big achievement for Sarawak, and we hope that with this kind of achievement, it will build up the interest of boxing in Sarawak and hopefully also this one will extend into the SUKMA game whereby we hope to capture



many golds in boxing which I have purposely chosen Sri Aman as the venue. *Kilat* Boy come from Sri Aman. We know that Sri Aman produces a lot of boxers so we chose Sri Aman as the venue for boxing, hoping that the whole Sri Aman will be there at the venue backing our boxing athletes.

I can see also that night when the whole stadium erupted with that spirit. Whoever is our opponent will definitely be feeling jitters and I want to see that also in Sri Aman during SUKMA, insya-Allah. That is also the reason why when Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Nangka request for boxing to be brought from Sibu so I told him we can't because I have seen how the crowd in Sri Aman is when it come to boxing. Give this to them this time around. So, this is the reason why the venue stays in Sri Aman. There are so many others who would want to see boxing be brought to their hometown or their town.

Before the World Boxing Competition, the Sarawak Amateur Boxing Association (SABA), had also organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> series of Sarawak Open Championship 2024 from the 6<sup>th</sup> until the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 which includes boxers from Peninsular Malaysia, from Sabah, from Sarawak, West Kalimantan, Sumatra, Singapore as well as Sri Lanka. We believe through this competition we would be able to expose our young boxers create the interest in boxing as well as produce more international athletes from Sarawak.

#### *International Tournaments*

In anticipating the PCDS 2030 plans, which is to grow Sarawak's economy by 8% per annum, through one of the six economic drivers or sectors namely tourism, my ministry will continuously pave greater development of Sarawak's sports industry such as the WBC Championship, Spartan Race, Deka Fit, World Junior Team Competition Under-14 and many, many more. In addition to these initiatives, smart partnerships with our local Sports NGOs enable several international sport events to be hosted in Sarawak. It benefits Sarawak by creating economic and social opportunities for the communities.

We have seen apart from boxing, tennis also. The 2024 International Tennis Federation or (ITF) World Junior Team Competition Under-14 Asia/ Oceania Final Qualifying tournament for boys and girls was held from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, at the Sarawak Lawn Tennis Association (SLTA) centre in Kuching. A total of 32 teams for both boys and girls are from Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Uzbekistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Malaysia took part in this tournament.

Well definitely these are the age groups, these are the same pool of athletes which one day we will see, playing at the professional level, whether it is in Paris or whether it is in the Grand Slam matches. The prestigious Sarawak International Open Tenpin Bowling Championship 2024 is scheduled to be held from the 10<sup>th</sup> until the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 in Kuching. This international event hosted by the Sarawak Amateur Bowling Association, is sanctioned by the International Bowling Federation. From the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 this year, Sarawak will be hosting the last two laps or the last two stages of The Petronas Le Tour De Langkawi (LTDL) 2024. I am not too sure when was the last year, Le Tour De Langkawi reached our shore down there.

It has always been held in West Malaysia, but somehow this year it comes back here again and two stages of it will be held in Sarawak, tentatively Stage 7 from Miri to Bintulu which is a total distance of 199.3 km, as well as Stage 8 which is held in Bintulu, it might be a criterium race just within Bintulu covering a loop a total distance of 166.8 km. As described by the race organizer in their recent committee meeting, the challenging and tough route stages in Sarawak will determine the overall championship title, who will be the overall champion and this event is expected to be telecast live for more than 12 hours on Eurosport channel. So that will help in a lot of ways in promoting Sarawak as well as promoting our tourism. This year having given two of its final stages, my ministry hopes that the Sarawak race route will continue to feature in the many, many years of The Le Tour De Langkawi upcoming races.

*Achievements of Sarawak Athletes in International Tournaments*

*“Champions aren’t made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside of them; a desire, a dream, a vision.”* – this is the quote by the legendary boxer the late Muhammad Ali. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Sarawakian athletes who have made it big outside of our show among them:

- (a) Ashley Lau – as Malaysia’s No. 1 Women Golfer with 237<sup>th</sup> Rolex Women’s World Golf Ranking; if I am not mistaken, she is the first golfer from Sarawak to turn pro. She came down to see me, she started her Golf World Tour through SUKMA where at one time she won Silver Medal if I am not mistaken, in one of the SUKMA before and now she is in the States moving all around the world and I do know that she won one of the tournament in Australia, the Queensland one if I am not mistaken.
- (b) Coming from Sarawak, then we have got, Mirabel Ting who is the Augusta National Women's Amateur (11<sup>th</sup> placed-world ranking) – she will be representing Sarawak in the next SUKMA and God-willing she will be able to deliver Gold. If nothing happens, I don't think anyone can beat her. At her level she is just too good.
- (c) The third one who made it big, Gillian Lim Siew Giok, we might not really know but those from the ten-pin bowling would know this name very well. Recently she has won Champion in the Women’s Open Masters Final in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Malaysian International Open Bowling Championship 2024. It is a very-very big achievement, because I know in this particular event, the one who had won champion and the one that got second, were both Sarawakians.
- (d) Number four, Nur Hazirah Ramli, she ranked the top 16 Youth World Cup held on the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 in Peru and has won Champion in Girls Open Category in 42<sup>nd</sup> Malaysian International Open Bowling Championship, another bowler. Another name that has made Sarawak as well as Malaysia very, very proud is,
- (e) Muhammad Johan Ghazali Zulfikar, nicknamed Jojo – Professional Muaythai fighter who will be going to contest in the upcoming One Championship Friday Night in Bangkok, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. I am watching this Jojo, how he has moved up from SUKMA because he was a Gold Medalist in the last SUKMA also. And I am very confident looking at how he has developed himself, he will be a world champion one of these days.
- (f) Cordelia Wee Li Xin – she’s the Sixth World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF) Open International Adult Solo Latin Category and won third place in Malaysia Dance Sport Federation (MYDF), National Closed Adult Solo Latin;
- (g) The seventh name, somebody that will be making us proud because he is the only Malaysian athlete that is able to qualify in the next Olympics in Paris; Summer Olympics. That is Bertrand Rhodict Lises – the first Malaysian athlete to have qualified to Paris 2024 Summer Olympics in diving. The only one in diving, actually;
- (h) Bonnie Bunyau anak Gustin – he has qualified to Paris 2024 Summer Paralympic in Powerlifting;
- (i) Jong Yee Khie – has qualified also to Paris 2024 Paralympic; also, in Powerlifting;
- (j) Muhammad Nur Syaiful bin Zulkafli – has qualified to Paris 2024 Summer Paralympic in Swimming. If I am not mistaken, he is an athlete from Asajaya. Ya, ya. We’re very proud of him; and
- (k) Abdul Razzaq bin Abdul Rahman – has qualified to Paris 2024 Summer Paralympic in Boccia.

*Youth Entrepreneur Development*

Tuan Speaker, in 2024, my ministry has led numerous efforts to support and empower youth entrepreneurs. The Youth Entrepreneur Setup (YES 1.0) focuses on the awareness and promotion of youth entrepreneurship, while YES 2.0 is on digitalisation stand out as a flagship initiative, has attracted 4,112 participants, with 3,654 in YES 1.0 and 458 in YES 2.0. This participation not only demonstrates strong interest in our initiatives but also highlights the potential and enthusiasm among future young entrepreneurs.

A comprehensive survey was conducted in 14 locations throughout Sarawak to understand the interests and trends among the youths and as well as the participants. Based on the data that was collected, the top five sectors; where the youth seems to have an interest are:

- (a) Food Based Industry (F&B, Bakery);
- (b) Retail and Services (especially Fashion, Beauty and Health, GIG economy);
- (c) Agriculture;
- (d) TVET sectors (Constructions, Electrical as well as Electronic and Automotive); and
- (e) Tourism and Creative Industry.

With this data and information, Tuan Speaker, my ministry will tailor its initiatives and programmes to meet the evolving needs and aspirations of our young entrepreneurial community.

In light of this, my ministry is actively involved with relevant Federal and State Agencies in designing a comprehensive youth start-up programme tailored specifically to cultivate and empower young entrepreneurs in Sarawak. This programme is meticulously crafted to offer aspiring entrepreneurs the necessary motivation, the start-up capital, the guidance, and as well as resources to begin their entrepreneurial journey. Through this programme, our goal is to create an environment that nurtures entrepreneurial talent, digital and entrepreneur drive, creativity and innovation, borderless networking, and sustainable growth for young entrepreneurs.

In recognising the crucial role of digital entrepreneurship in shaping our future economy, we have established a strategic partnership with the Sarawak Digital Economic Corporation (SDEC). Together, we are embarking on a journey to nurture entrepreneurs and promote digital innovation among our youth, aiming to position Sarawak as a hub of technological excellence.

In our ongoing efforts to showcase the creativity of our local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), we launched the *Gerai Keusahawanan* during the *Sukan Sarawak* (SUKSAR) 2023 in Sibu. This platform not only offered a lucrative opportunity for our entrepreneurs to exhibit their products but also facilitated networking and market expansion. The remarkable success of this initiative, generating total sales of more than RM30,000 over four days, underscores the untapped potential of our local businesses.

Additionally, in our commitment to broaden horizons for our entrepreneurs, we facilitated their participation in the Sabah International Expo (SIFEX) in Kota Kinabalu and the upcoming Borneo Native Festival (BNF) 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. This provided our local entrepreneurs with the chance to showcase their products on an international platform, with local favourites such as *gula apong*, *ikan tahai*, black pepper and local fruits products receiving attention and appreciation beyond borders.

Another opportunity for this upcoming SUKMA, *Gerai Keusahawanan* which is part of *Karnival SUKMA* which we planned in every of the venue; the nine divisions that we are hosting the SUKMA, *Gerai Keusahawanan* which is part of *Karnival SUKMA* presents a significant opportunity for our local entrepreneurs to exhibit their products to a diverse and extensive audience, propelling their businesses to greater success.

Way forward, in advancing entrepreneurship development, my Ministry is actively engaged in enhancing various aspects including benchmarking visits, education and training, capital support, networking and mentoring, market access, digital initiatives, entrepreneurial ecosystem, and awareness programmes. Through these efforts, we aim to create a conducive environment for entrepreneurial growth and innovation, empowering our entrepreneurs to thrive and contribute towards the socioeconomic development of Sarawak in line with SDGs, EGS and PCDS 2030.

*Development of Social Facilities as well as Sports Facilities*

Tuan Speaker, my ministry has been persistent in encouraging and supporting athletes and sportsmen to accomplish their mission to winning competition in national as well as international level. The continuous efforts by the Sarawak Government to allocate sport facilities throughout the divisions and district level have benefitted especially in strengthening communities, promoting social bonds, and supporting youth in the urban as well as rural areas. This is in accordance with the PCDS 2030, in ensuring Social Inclusivity by narrowing urban and rural development with greater urban rural economic integration, capacity building, and community participation for sustainable development.

Under the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (12MP), RM144.6 million was approved and RM237 million also approved under *Projek Rakyat* with a total sum of RM381.6 million. With 22 *Projek Rakyat* and 61 RMK-12 physical projects approved, my ministry is committed to provide a conducive, safe, and standard sport facilities for youths, rural communities and sportsmen as well as identifying, polishing, and developing the sports potential. At present, these projects are in various stages of implementation:

- (a) Under Planning – There are 38;
- (b) Under Implementation – There are 35 projects; and
- (c) While that have been completed are 10 projects.

For information of this august House also, the Under-Planning projects are mostly new projects approved under *Projek Rakyat* and Mid-Term Review of 12MP, while others are under tender documentation, finalising the design, drawing, and siting application. The proposed improvement works to Kapit Indoor Stadium and the proposed improvement works to Kapit Swimming Pool is expected to be tendered in June 2024 and to kick-off by early September 2024. I have personally gone over to see the swimming pool as well as the indoor stadium which was a little bit *rosaklah selepas digunakan untuk COVID-19* last time, a lot of it.

Meanwhile, my ministry will also kick off Project Proposed Retrofitting and Covered Outdoor Learning Areas (COLA) of Swimming Pool for Miri Public Swimming Pool. Now, we don't build swimming pool where the swimmers will be swimming under the hot sun. All swimming pool that we are building will have the cover, gone are those day where you swim just like you swim in the river. Tentatively, the one in Miri will be awarded in third quarter of 2024 and expected to be completed by first quarter of 2025. The implementing agency for this project is Sarawak Sports Corporation (SSC). Besides, my ministry will also kick off the Proposed Improvement works in Miri Public Swimming Pool to carry out full scope of the repair works for the pump and filtration systems for the swimming pool. The implementing agency for this project is the Miri City Council. My ministry and its implementing agencies will continue to work together in ensuring all projects under the *Projek Rakyat* and the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (12MP), will be implemented and completed as scheduled.

In preparation for SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024, my ministry and its agency, the Sarawak Sports Corporation have joined effort in ensuring that the venues are well prepared and in accordance to sport standards specification. 24 facilities have been identified to be upgraded and three new facilities under construction and expected to be completed by July this year to meet the target whereby SUKMA will be in August. The facilities are as follows:

- (a) Stadium Sarawak in Kuching;

- (b) Stadium Negeri in Kuching;
- (c) Pandelega Rinong Aquatic Centre also in Kuching;
- (d) Lawn Bowl Arena in Petra Jaya;
- (e) Stadium Hoki Negeri Sarawak in Padungan;
- (f) Stadium Hoki Petra Jaya;
- (g) BMX Track Hill, Bukit Siol in Kuching;
- (h) Archery Range in Petra Jaya;
- (i) Lapang Sasar Menembak, Petra Jaya;
- (j) Pusat Skuasy Sarawak also in Petra Jaya, Kuching;
- (k) Pusat Petanque Sarawak in Santubong;
- (l) Stadium Perpaduan, Petra Jaya;
- (m) Gelanggang Tenis SLTA is also in Kuching;
- (n) Gelanggang Bola Keranjang, Dewan MBKS which will be upgraded;
- (o) Stadium Tertutup Samarahan in Samarahan;
- (p) Stadium Tertutup, Kompleks Sukan Sri Aman in Sri Aman; and
- (q) Stadium Tun Ahmad Zaidi in Sibul;
- (r) Indoor Stadium in Sibul;
- (s) Stadium Mukah;
- (t) Stadium Terbuka Bintulu;
- (u) Stadium Muhibbah Bintulu;
- (v) Perkampungan Sukan Petronas in Miri;
- (w) Stadium Miri; and
- (x) Stadium Bandaraya Miri.

And the three new facilities are:

- (a) Sarawak Cricket and Rugby Ground, Petra Jaya;
- (b) Wushu Training and Competition Centre, Petra Jaya; and the
- (c) Sarawak Sports Village also within the Sports Complex in Petra Jaya.

#### *Kem Belia and Dewan Suarah*

In line with the ministry's mission to nurture and execute a holistic youth development programme, *Kem Belia Mukah*, *Kem Belia Kemuyang* and *Kem Belia Pueh* play vital roles in providing venues to organising activities and programmes to build leadership values, team spirit, and highly determined figures among the youths. Apart from that, it is also to inculcate the sense of togetherness and close rapport among youth from various social and racial backgrounds.

Dewan Suarah in Sarawak are still widely utilised by state events and general public, such as *Hari Belia Sarawak*, *Pengurniaan Darjah Kebesaran Negeri*, *Majlis Tilawah Al-Quran*, *Majlis Penamaan Calon dan Pengundian*, conventions, seminars, exhibitions and sales, wedding banquets and many more. My ministry will continue to execute the maintenance action plans by phases for all Dewan Suarah by prioritising the sustainability of the premises to serve the communities.

#### *Issues Raised by the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat on Matters Related to Ministry of Youth, Sports, And Entrepreneur Development Sarawak*

I would like to thank Ahli-Ahli Yang Berhormat from Satok, Bukit Assek, Pelagus, Telang Usan, Pujut, Tellian, Jepak, Balingian, Tamin, Meradong, Meluan, Kabong, Batu Danau, Ngemah, and Bukit Semuja for their proposals, issues, and suggestions raised in relations to SUKMA, youth, sports and young entrepreneur programmes, and sports facilities throughout Sarawak.

The government will continue to formulate and implement various youths, sports, and entrepreneurship development programmes and activities in Sarawak to produce healthy, creative and skilful youths as well as high performance athletes.

*Conclusion*

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin mengambil kesempatan di sini untuk mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Tuan Speaker dan semua warga Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak atas kecemerlangan dan komitmen yang tinggi bagi melancarkan persidangan kali ini. Tidak dilupakan juga kepada Yang Berhormat Setiausaha Kerajaan Sarawak, Yang Berbahagia Setiausaha Persekutuan Sarawak dan semua jentera kerja Perkhidmatan Awam Sarawak dan Persekutuan. Setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada Timbalan-timbalan Menteri dan semua kakitangan kementerian saya yang telah bertungkus-lumus menyediakan input dan informasi serta sokongan padu.

Saya juga ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat Senator Tuan Pele Peter Tinggom, he used to be our Secretary of the DUN, mantan Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak yang telah dilantik sebagai Ahli Dewan Negara pada 5 Mac 2024 yang lepas, dan juga setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada Yang Berusaha Tuan Nur Azhar bin Bujang atas pelantikan sebagai Setiausaha Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak yang baharu pada 28 Mac 2024 yang lepas. Selamat maju jaya dalam menjalankan tugas yang diamanahkan dengan ikhlas dan berdedikasi.

Saya juga ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan Selamat Hari Wesak kepada yang beragama Buddha dan kepada mereka yang akan meraikan sambutan Hari Gawai pada bulan Jun hadapan, Selamat Hari Gawai, *Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai, Lantang Senang, Chelap Lindap, Nguan Menua*. Dan kepada orang Islam, baru saja lepas Hari Raya Aidilfitri, kita akan menyambut Hari Raya Aidil Adha, selamat menyambut Hari Raya Haji ataupun Hari Raya Aidil Adha.

Dengan ini, saya menutup ucapan penggulungan bagi Kementerian Belia, Sukan, dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak dengan dua rangkap pantun:

*Mesej Premier jelaslah sudah,  
Satu tujuan satu Haluan;  
Kita lakarkan SUKMA terindah,  
Semangat perpaduan satu acuan.*

*SUKMA kembali di Bumi Kenyalang,  
Keringat mengalir membakar cabaran;  
Kembalilah memori zaman gemilang,  
Runaway champion laungan kejuaraan.*

Wabillahi Taufiq WalHidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Sekian, terima kasih.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Menteri. The Chair ardently acknowledges the support and strong effort put up by the minister and his ministry to prepare for SUKMA 2024. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, let us give a resounding applause to the minister, his ministry and all our Sarawakian athletes in order to lift and boost the spirit of our athletes to succeed in this upcoming SUKMA 2024 particularly to be the overall champion. Thank you.

Next, may I call upon Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi, dan Pembangunan Wilayah untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan.

**Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Anak Utom):** Thank you, Tuan Speaker. You don't mind skipping lunch? Okay.

**Timbalan Speaker:** At your request. Are you insisting on ... (*Interruption*)...

**Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom):** It's okay. I continue. One hour.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Are you insisting on lunch or speaking?

**Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom):** Well, it is 12, almost 1 now. It's only fair for us to have lunch.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Alright.

**Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom):** I don't mind.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Humbly agreed.

**Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom):** You all agree with me? I'm sure they're happy.

**Timbalan Speaker:** This House stands adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

**Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom):** Thank you.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Thank you.

*(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 12.51 tengah hari)*

*(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 2.34 petang)*

*[Timbalan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]*

**Timbalan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, dengan hormatnya saya ingin menjemput Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah, untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan. Silakan.

**Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah (YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom):** Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Selamat petang dan Salam sejahtera. Salam Sarawaku Sayang, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, *Salam Segulai Sejalai*.

Tuan Speaker, let me begin by joining all my cabinet colleagues and the other Honourable Members in congratulating and thanking Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak for his gracious opening address for the First Meeting of the Third Session of the Nineteenth State Legislative Assembly on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

I would also like to congratulate Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, on his appointment as the eighth Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and at the same time, being bestowed with Darjah Satria Bintang Sarawak which carries the title "*Pehin Sri*" on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The coronation of Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Ibrahim as the seventeenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia is a very auspicious occasion for Malaysia. We, in Sarawak, would like to convey our heartiest congratulations to His Majesty.

Tuan Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of the late Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud on his demise on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The late Tun Pehin Sri has been a respected figure known for his significant contributions to the development of Sarawak and his passing is, indeed, a great loss to all of us. He has left behind a legacy that will be cherished by all Malaysians particularly Sarawakians.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Yang Berhormat Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal, the first Dayak Yang di-Pertua Dewan Negara, on his passing on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

*Pergi ke Kapit mencari semah,  
Dipesan oleh orang Tabuan;  
Kementerian saya sangat berhemah;  
Dalam mentransformasikan industri pertanian.*

*Duduk berehat di tepi titi,  
Sambil melihat burung kedidi;  
Seruan YAB Premier kami sahuti;  
Untuk memantapkan industri padi.*

## TRANSFORMING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Tuan Speaker, agriculture is one of the key economic sectors that drives Sarawak's economic development. Agriculture sector is the fourth largest contributor to Sarawak's Gross Domestic Production (GDP). In 2022, the agriculture sector contributed 10.4% or RM14.5 billion to Sarawak's GDP.

Despite facing numerous challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, unsustainable practices, inadequate infrastructure, dynamic economy, and geopolitical crisis; the sector strives to remain resilient and continue to transform, in-line with our aspiration under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030) to be a technology-driven and sustainable agriculture sector that will ensure food security and safety, create wealth for the agro-community and establish Sarawak as a net food exporter by the year 2030.

## IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

### *Increase Rice Self-Sufficiency Level (SSL)*

Increasing the Rice Self-Sufficient Level is our target. Tuan Speaker, as a staple food for Sarawak for Sarawakians, adequacy of rice is very critical. In the year 2023, the total production is about 118,000 metric tonnes or 32% of Self-Sufficiency Level (SSL). In 2023, about 61,000 hectares of land was planted with paddy, of which 32,000 hectares is classified as wet paddy while the balance 29,000 hectares is mainly for hill paddy. Thus, to achieve 60% SSL, Sarawak needs to produce approximately 236,000 metric tonnes of paddy which is equivalent to 142,000 metric tons of rice.

To achieve 100% SSL, Sarawak needs a total of 17,500 hectares of a new area equipped with tertiary infrastructure to produce approximately 392,000 metric tonnes of paddy which is equivalent to 235,000 metric tonnes of rice by 2030.

Tuan Speaker, my ministry in collaboration with the Economic Planning Unit Sarawak (EPU) and the Department of Agriculture Sarawak had convened *Bengkel Pemantapan Pengeluaran Padi dan Beras di Sarawak* from March 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, this year. The three days workshop was attended by 114 participants, who are relevant to our endeavour to produce higher production of paddy and rice. These are including people representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (KPKM) Malaya, various Federal and State Agencies, Government-Link Companies, Higher Learning Institutions, and private sectors. This workshop served as a platform to discuss and share ideas how to transform rice industry in Sarawak. Among others, the workshop's findings recommend following strategies and initiatives.



*Development of New Area and Upgrading of Existing DID Schemes*

Tuan Speaker, my ministry has identified new areas to be equipped with tertiary infrastructure. Tertiary infrastructure means here irrigation and drainage and so on. These areas will be focusing mainly on the cultivation of high-yielding paddy varieties. The new areas are located in Sri Aman, Kapit, Mukah and Limbang Division, used to be called Limbang Valley. To increase paddy production, the government also need to rehabilitate and upgrade some of the existing DID Schemes throughout Sarawak.

Based on the PCDS 2030, to achieve SSL of 60%, an amount of RM1.2 billion is required to establish and upgrade the paddy infrastructure which consists of 4,500 hectares of new area and 8,800 hectares of existing DID Schemes. However, to achieve 100% SSL, we need 17,500 hectares of new area and 8,800 hectares of existing DID Schemes are required with the estimated cost of RM4.68 billion.

*Exploring Availability and Suitability of State Land for Paddy Production Area*

The other steps are exploring availability and suitability of state lands for paddy production area. Tuan Speaker, my ministry acknowledged the main challenges to develop paddy infrastructures throughout Sarawak where most of the new potential and existing DID Schemes are located within NCR land or some in titled land. Therefore, my ministry will collaborate with Department of Land and Survey Sarawak to identify State Lands which are suitable for paddy cultivation as aspired by the Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak.

*Potential of Sarawak Premium and Traditional Rice*

Tuan Speaker, recognizing Sarawak's abundance of traditional rice varieties, it has been our responsibility to maintain and conserve the agricultural heritage of Sarawak. In regard to ensure the sustainability and maintaining the genetic purity of Sarawak traditional rice varieties, my ministry has established zones for these selected varieties:

- (a) Bario in Bario Highland .
- (b) Adan in Ba'Kelalan ;
- (c) Biris in Lubok Punggor, Samarahan; and
- (d) Bajong in Lubok Nibong, Betong

All these four are varieties have attended their Geographical Indication (GI). And there's another two varieties that is also a premium value:

- (a) Wai and Saga in Daro; and
- (b) Mamut in Sri Aman.

My ministry is embarking on conserving traditional rice genetic resources through upgrading the existing of paddy seed storage facility at Agriculture Research Centre Semongok to a proper and modern gene bank. This initiative is critical as gene bank preserves plant genetic resources. The upgrading of the existing paddy seed storage facility will be done in phases. Phase one of the upgrading costing about RM300,000 is expected to be completed by November of this year.

*Development of Paddy Seed Industry*

Sufficient supply of quality paddy seeds is very crucial to ensure the sustainability of rice industry. My ministry is pursuing the cultivation of high quality and high yielding paddy varieties such as MR297 and MR315 that has the potential yield of eight to nine metric tonnes per hectare.

It is estimated that 4,800 metric tonnes of quality paddy seeds are required to achieve the 60% rice SSL by the year 2030. Therefore, 600 hectares of land is needed for paddy seed farm. Currently,

Sarawak has only one seed farm with the area size of 180 hectares in Stumbin Bijat, Sri Aman. This area is being developed by the Department of Agriculture Sarawak and FELCRA Berhad. More seed farms will be developed in other locations across Sarawak in the future.

The establishment of Seed Production and Processing Centre (SPPC) is crucial in processing and supplying certified high quality paddy seeds. In addition to SPPC Stumbin Bijat, Sri Aman, my ministry will establish more SPPCs, as I have mentioned earlier, throughout Sarawak.

My ministry through the Department of Agriculture Sarawak will introduce *Skim Pengesahan Benih Padi* (SPBP) which will form a group of certified paddy seed inspectorate team. The paddy seed inspectorate team ensures that the paddy seeds provided to farmers are of high quality and free from impurities, ensuring that only certified paddy seeds are being distributed to the local markets.

Research and Development (R&D) play a vital role for the sustainable rice industry. My ministry through Department of Agriculture Sarawak (DOA) is in collaboration with various research agencies, led by Malaysian Nuclear Agency, to develop a new high yielding rice variety. The research funded by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) will commence in October 2024 on a seven hectares land at Stumbin, Sri Aman.

#### *Hybrid Rice*

Tuan Speaker, lately there has been a growing interest among private sectors on hybrid rice cultivation. It was reported that this hybrid rice adapted well to our local climate and produced high yield. However, these results are preliminary and need to undergo several trials and verification by the Department of Agriculture Sarawak.

I would like to reiterate in this august House on the importance of complying with the biosecurity regulations governing the importation of planting materials. Apart from complying with the importation procedure, paddy industry players are only allowed to plant hybrid variety at designated isolated areas to prevent cross pollination of hybrid and traditional varieties and thereby preserving our genetic purity of traditional paddy.

#### *Post-harvest Facilities*

Tuan Speaker, currently there are only 13 registered and active rice millers in Sarawak. Considering that Sarawak is embarking on large scale paddy cultivation, my ministry will enhance paddy post-harvest capacities by collaborating with rice industry players to establish post-harvest complexes at the southern, central, and northern regions of Sarawak.

#### *Strategic Collaboration*

Tuan Speaker, my ministry remains committed to foster strategic alliance and collaboration initiatives with rice industry players comprising private sectors and higher learning institutions. The objective of this collaboration is to ensure optimum benefit in rice industry. Currently, the Department of Agriculture (DOA) Sarawak and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) are exploring collaboration opportunities under Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Research and Development (R&D).

My ministry through the Department of Agriculture Sarawak also received collaboration proposal from FELCRA Berhad with the objective to develop paddy seed farm in Stumbin, Sri Aman.

#### *Mechanisation and Automation*

Tuan Speaker, the promotion of farm mechanisation and automation is the key initiative to assist the paddy planters to increase not only the yield, but their productivity. In 2023, my ministry through the Department of Agriculture Sarawak has distributed 21 units of paddy threshers and one

unit of rice miller that benefited 529 paddy planters. Meanwhile, Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) in Sarawak will be strengthened to provide mechanisation and automation services to paddy planters.

#### *Business Development Model*

Tuan Speaker, my ministry has identified several business development models to develop paddy cultivation. In the year 2021, the SMART Sawah Berskala Besar (SMART-SBB) program, employing a leasing model, was introduced in IADA Batang Lupar, Sri Aman at Block C, Tanjung Bijat, that has been equipped with tertiary infrastructure. Leasing model is one of the several business development models that has been identified by my ministry in order to enhance rice industry in Sarawak.

The SMART-SBB program promotes the use of farm machineries and automation for more organised and efficient farm management. The adoption of mechanisation and automation will improve yield compared to the traditional paddy planting method. The implementation of SMART-SBB has increased the yield of MR269 variety from 2.7 to 5.5 metric tonnes per hectare per season.

#### *Establishment of Sarawak Paddy and Rice Board*

Tuan Speaker, acknowledging the importance of the rice industry in ensuring food security, my ministry will establish Sarawak Paddy and Rice Board to spearhead and regulate the development of rice industry in Sarawak. This Board will coordinate strategic initiatives aim at enhancing the whole supply chain of rice industry.

Meanwhile, prior to the establishment of the Sarawak Paddy and Rice Board, my ministry will form Paddy and Rice Task Force to be chaired by the Sarawak State Secretary involving the relevant agencies.

#### *Paddy Production Incentives*

Tuan Speaker, the implementation of the paddy production incentives by the government aim to encourage more farmers into paddy cultivation. Currently, the Federal Government has provided input and output incentives such as:

- (a) *Skim Baja Padi Kerajaan Persekutuan (SBPKP)*;
- (b) *Skim Insentif Pengeluaran Padi (SIPP)*;
- (c) *Skim Subsidi Baja dan Racun Padi Bukit (SBRPB)*;
- (d) *Skim Insentif Benih Padi Berkualiti*; and
- (e) *Skim Subsidi Harga Padi (SSHP)* for white rice.

Besides, the Federal government through Agrobank has introduced the *Skim Takaful Tanaman Padi* (STTP) with the objective to protect paddy farm damages caused by natural disaster. This scheme will benefit 65,000 paddy planters throughout Sarawak.

#### *Increase Beef Self-Sufficiency Level (SSL)*

Tuan Speaker, presently, self-sufficiency level (SSL) for beef is merely 13% with current population of cattle and buffalo in Sarawak is about 20,000 heads. Under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS 2030), we are targeting to achieve a 25% SSL for beef by the year 2030. In order to accomplish this, Sarawak requires 80,000 heads of animals which are made up of 60,000 cattle and 20,000 buffalo. My ministry is initiating several development programmes and projects that comprise as follows.

*Developing Local Breeder Stock*

Sarawak is highly reliant on imported livestock breeders and Sarawak having been recognised and given as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Free Status Without Vaccination by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). So therefore, we can only import from countries that are of the same status such as Australia and New Zealand.

The establishment of Ruminant Biotechnology Centre located in Sungai Pinang, Simunjan, was approved under the Mid-Term Review of the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan. Once in operation by 2026, this centre serves to produce semen of ruminants and boost breeding programme and also serves as a modern training and extension centre for farmers and industry players.

The Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVS) has explored strategic collaboration with an established company from Denmark in the field of local breeder stock development such as the latest technology of animal husbandry, best practise for biosecurity and artificial insemination (AI).

This year, my ministry through the Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA), is upgrading the capacity of Mayang Cattle Breeding and Fattening Centre from 300 heads to 500 heads. The Centre is adopting the Artificial Insemination (AI) technology starting May 2024 and the result is expected to be known in August 2024.

Tuan Speaker, my ministry also encourages the involvement of private sector in the breeding programme. Two private companies had been appointed to utilise our existing livestock stations in Karabungan, Miri and the other one is in Maragang, Lawas.

For Karabungan Livestock Station, it is progressing very well and has successfully increased the initial cattle population from 200 to 244 heads for the year 2023, for this year, so far. In addition, the private company has conducted several training programmes for smallholder cattle farmers in Miri Division.

For Maragang Livestock Station, the private company is collaborating with DVS Sarawak for Buffalo Management Training covering both theory and practical training. Up to now, 50 buffalo farmers have undergone the training.

*Strengthening the Cattle Oil Palm Integration and the Cattle Pawah Scheme*

Tuan Speaker, the Sarawak Government will continue to implement the Cattle Pawah Scheme. Since 2016, a total of 13,500 heads of cattle and 1,619 heads of buffalos were loaned to nine oil palm plantation companies and agencies as well as 113 smallholders. The current cattle population is 14,000 which are mostly contributed by this programme and 75% are in the oil palm estate.

Sarawak has utilised the existing resources such as the oil palm plantation for cattle rearing. It is estimated about 600,000 hectares of existing oil palm with a potential carrying capacity of 120,000 heads of cattle at any one time. My ministry will continue to promote this initiative to achieve the targeted 25% SSL for beef. Presently, 11,300 heads of cattle have been delivered to various companies, of which 60% have been repaid.

*Animal Feed Initiative*

Tuan Speaker, in view of the increased cost of animal feed, my ministry has entrusted SALCRA and the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) to venture into the production of animal feed by utilising the agricultural biomass that is in line with the Sarawak Government's Green and Circular Economy policy.

The Sarawak Government has approved RM30 million for SALCRA to develop quality and affordable oil palm based animal feed. This fund will be utilised for the construction of the Palm Kernel Crushing Plant in Lubok Antu, a ruminant feed plant in Saratok and in producing other ingredients for animal feed.

To date, the construction of the Palm Kernel Crushing Plant at Lubok Antu is progressing as scheduled. This plant will produce 13,500 metric tonnes of palm kernel expeller annually once the plant is in operation in second quarter of next year or 2025. As for ruminant feed plant in Saratok, the installation of machine and equipment is expected to complete third quarter of this year. The plant has the capacity to produce 20,000 metric tonnes of palm pellet for ruminant feed annually.

In addition, SEDC is also venturing into the manufacturing of pelleted cattle feed utilising oil palm biomass. The plant is located in Sibu and is expected to operate within this year with annual production of 3,200 metric tonnes.

#### *Promoting Downstream Activities*

Tuan Speaker, apart from depending solely on live wholesale cattle and buffalo, SEDC through the PPES Ternak Sdn. Bhd. is embarking on downstream industry for meat processing. This comprises establishing Halal abattoir, beef processing and corned beef canning factory. It is expected to be in operation by third quarter of this year and able to produce 18,000 cans per day.

#### *Human Resource*

Tuan Speaker, to meet the demand for the veterinary services in Sarawak, DVS Sarawak is collaborating with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) and Yayasan Sarawak to increase the number of Sarawakian students to further their study under the Private Wing Program or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

To support the Ruminant Biotechnology Centre at Sungai Pinang and strengthen veterinary services, my ministry will attach 10 relevant officers from Sarawak to Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia to further enhance their knowledge and skills in animal husbandry particularly in artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer this year. My ministry welcomes the proposal to set up the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Science (FVAS) in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Sarawak to cater for the demand of the livestock industry.

### **IMPROVING FOOD TRADE BALANCE**

Tuan Speaker, the Sarawak food trade balance deficit has risen in the last decade. In 2023, Sarawak recorded a food trade deficit amounting to RM5.67 billion, *rugj kita*, so compared to in the year 2014, RM3.04 billion mainly due to increase in food consumption, inefficiency in food production, under utilisation of local raw materials to make up for our food, animal feed and of course weakening of the Ringgit. Considering the current food trade deficit, the Sarawak Agriculture Strategic Development Plan is emphasising on proliferating both food self sufficiency and food export earnings.

My ministry will actively pursue the industrialisation of the agriculture sector which emphasises on increasing domestic agricultural productivity, promoting value-added processing industries, diversifying export products, and improving trade facilitation measures to reduce reliance on food imports and enhance export competitiveness.

The following are the key strategies and initiatives taken by my ministry to spur the industrialisation of the agriculture sector and also to improve the food trade balance:

*Scale-up Production of Promoted Food Crops*

Tuan Speaker, my ministry has been promoting the development of large-scale and modern high-value food crops production to achieve economies of scale and producing export-quality farm products in compliance with the requirements of export markets.

*Agropark Sg. Baji, Sarikei*

Tuan Speaker, I am pleased to inform this august House that the farming facilities at Sg. Baji Agropark, comprising of 32-unit greenhouses and open farming lots has been completed. My ministry is in the process of selecting a potential anchor company to operate the agropark by the third quarter of this year.

In addition, the Sarawak Government has approved an allocation of RM2 million for the installation of Internet of Things (IoT) system at the existing greenhouses of Sg. Baji Agropark. This installation work is also expected to be completed by the third quarter of this year. In fact, agropark, we have 10 agropark and three already approved, Bebulung at Spaoh and *apa nama ya*, Lubok Tamang. And the rest already approve, and we are waiting for the siting approval.

*High Impact Projects*

Tuan Speaker, in regard to the high-impact projects such as Sarawak Agrotechnology Park (Semongok and Tarat), the Precision Farming Park (Sg. Sebieu and Kabuloh), and Aquaculture Parks (Samariang Batu), my ministry will expedite the development by improving and upgrading existing facilities as well as the development of production areas.

The development works will commence in the third quarter of this year. We will need the full support from all relevant authorities or shot enables to expedite the approval of our siting application for these high impact projects to ensure the said projects can be implemented by January 2025. I would like to inform this august House that Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri Sarawak (PPNS) has a joint venture (JV) with an established private company to produce shallot using close system in Sarawak Agrotechnology Park (SARTECH) Tarat.

The JV Company can produce 240 metric tonnes of shallot worth RM1.44 million market value annually. To date, the said project is under the development stage and is expected to commence operation in third quarter of this year. Another venture in SARTECH Tarat is the rearing of crayfish. The farm developed on 2.1 hectare of land generating revenue of RM1 million since operating in 2022.

In addition, the Sarawak Government has approved the development of Aquaculture Park Samariang Batu with a total area of 123 hectares. This area of Batang Salak is conducive for shrimps and brackish water fishes and also for the freshwater prawns. The Aquaculture Park is mainly for inland fisheries research and development activities (R&D) focusing on the production of fish and prawn fry as well as commercial activities.

Six hectares out of 8.45 hectares have been rehabilitated for the commercial production of tilapia and prawn by a private investor at this same Samariang Batu Aquaculture. The first stocking of tilapia fish and prawn fry is expected to be carried out in the third quarter of this year.

*Pig Farming Area (PFA)*

Tuan Speaker, the swine industry is another major export earner for Sarawak. Since 2017, Pig Farming Area (PFA) Pasir Puteh has exported over 350,000 porkers worth around RM312 million with a weekly of 2,500 live pigs to Singapore. In view of the huge demand, the government has allocated RM27 million to develop the new Pig Farming Area (PFA). To date, the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak has appointed an anchor company for the development of PFA at

Selangau, Sibuan. The development of infrastructure is expected to commence by the third quarter of this year.

In addition, my ministry is also promoting the development of Modern Pig Farming (MPF) in other areas. A private company has started to develop MPF in Ensengei, Serian with the area of 519 acres. The total capacity of this MPF is 50,000 Standing Pig Population (SPP). By the year 2030, PFA Pasir Puteh should have 250,000 Standing Pig Population (SPP); MPF Ensengei - 50,000 SPP; PFA Selangau - 125,000 Standing Pig Population (SPP). So, these MPFs should have 425,000 Standing Pig Population (SPP) and projected to produce 850,000 porkers annually worth of RM1.5 billion of that RM0.75 billion of export value.

#### *Edible Bird's Nest*

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak has exported top-quality bird nests from its edible-nest swiftlet ranching and continued to export Edible Birdnest (EBN) in the years to come. In 2023, the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak recorded 15,570 kilogrammes of Raw Cleaned Edible Birdnest (RCEBN) with the export value of RM124.5 million. My ministry recorded an increasing trend among farmers involving in edible-nest swiftlet ranching.

Given the high contribution of EBN to export earnings, my Ministry through DVS Sarawak continues the introduction of blockchain technology known as myWalet to register swiftlet premises for product traceability and quality assurance to meet the China import requirement. Up to now, a total of 2,163 premises including Swiftlet House, Processing plants, cave nest collection centres, service providers, traders, and exporters have been installed with Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID).

Tuan Speaker, it is proposed that the white-nest swiftlet which nests in its own manmade houses to be removed from the supervision of the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) through the Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 1998 and placed under the supervision of the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak as in Peninsular as also in Sabah, while only black-nest swiftlet nests from caves remain under the supervision of SFC.

Due to huge potential of the EBN industry, my ministry will continue to work closely with relevant authorities to support the growth of swiftlet industry in Sarawak, including registration and licensing.

#### *Aquaculture Industrial Zone (AIZ)*

Tuan Speaker, the Aquaculture Industrial Zone (AIZ) is a dedicated area for commercial aquaculture activities. Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri Sarawak (PPNS) has JV or Joint-Venture with an established local company to develop an area of 186 hectares in AIZ Rambungan, Loba Stoh, Kuching for shrimp farming. To date, the JV company has developed two ponds to produce Vannamei Shrimp. The JV company has recorded 12 metric tonnes worth RM204,000 of production last month. The farm projected to produce 80 metric tonnes valued at RM1.2 million this year. The JV company will expand its production in 2026 with 96 new ponds and projected to produce 260 metric tonnes valued at RM3.9 million.

Besides, the government through Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) has undertaken an aquaculture project to Loba Stoh, Rambungan covering about 263 hectares. As of now, there are four companies operating in this project mainly on shrimp farming. In 2023, the production in this project was about 263 metric tonnes that's worth of RM5.1 million.

The Sarawak Government had approved the funding amounting to RM52 million for the development and upgrading of infrastructure and facilities for the project.

*Development of High-Value Crops and Indigenous Fish*

In the efforts to develop the high-value food crop industry, my ministry has declared Sebuyau District as the Coconut-Belt and Bau-Padawan area as the Coffee-Belt. I have created so many belts right now. I hope they make a way and progress well. To be the production hub for coconut and coffee respectively. This is to ensure sufficient supply of raw materials for both said food crops downstream industries. For the Coconut-Belt, the Sarawak Government in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) will establish an Agro Research Lab in Sebuyau and planting on high-yielding coconut varieties. The government has approved RM34.42 million for this purpose.

Meanwhile, for Coffee-Belt, the government has approved RM2.72 million for the planting of 228 hectares of coffee in Bau and Padawan areas since 2021. In addition, the Sarawak Government through Greater Kuching Coordinated Development Agency (GKCDA) has set aside RM15 million to establish one Collection, Processing and Packaging Centre (CPPC) for coffee and develop farm infrastructure at Kampung Emperoh Jambu-Bayur. Apart from Coconut and Coffee Belts, the Sarawak Government has also allocated RM1.3 million to implement Dabai Rehabilitation Programme in Kanowit, Song and Kapit Districts involving 220 smallholders.

Tuan Speaker, pineapples have been identified as one of the potential crops to be developed commercially. In 2024, a total of RM16.32 million has been allocated by the State and Federal Government to develop 480.3 hectares and benefiting 517 farmers throughout Sarawak. I would like to inform this august House, a new pineapple variety, Sarawak Gold 1 (SG1) was introduced in Miri Division in 2023. This variety has the following characteristics suitable for the export market:

- (a) high planting density;
- (b) resistance to diseases;
- (c) very short gestation period; and
- (d) longer shelf-life.

Currently, a total of 30 hectares are planted with SG1 variety and the government through Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board (MPIB) will expand additional 20 hectares to produce SG1 pineapple in 2025.

In supporting the planting of SG1 pineapple, Pertubuhan Peladang Negeri Sarawak (PPNS) has JV with a private company to develop 100 acres of land in Tukau, Miri Division to produce SG1 pineapple sucker to meet the market requirements. This farm is expected to produce 5 million suckers this year worth RM12.5 million. The JV company will develop another 50 acres in Kabuloh, Miri to produce 15 million suckers valued at RM22.5 million in the year 2025. MPIB is also actively involved in developing the complete supply chain for pineapple industry in Sarawak such as collaborating with i-CATS for the research and development and a private company to develop 2,200 hectares of land in Tanjung Manis, Mukah Division, into a pineapple commercial farm.

Tuan Speaker, apart from food crops, my ministry has also implemented two initiatives to accelerate the development of Sarawak indigenous fishes by establishing the Empurau Belt in Kapit and Tapah Belt in Bintulu. The Federal Government has approved RM5 million to support the development of Empurau-Belt in Kapit and Tapah-Belt in Bintulu. Currently, DOA Sarawak is upgrading the facilities and equipment in Kapit Indigenous Fish Hatchery Centre, Song to produce indigenous fish fry such as *empurau*, *semah*, *tengadak* and *labang*. This is a premium fish value. This project will incur RM250,000 and expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of this year. Another RM250,000 has been allocated to improve the existing facilities in Kemena Tapah Research and Development Centre, Bintulu for artificial breeding in captivity. This project is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2024.



### *Sarawak Agro Fund*

Tuan Speaker, a total of RM150 million was allocated for Sarawak Agro Fund (SAF), RM112.2 million has been approved to support 58 companies in the form of grants and soft loans. Notably, the three recipients of the fund have successfully exported their products to various regions, including West Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, even all the way to Europe, China, and Taiwan. The exported products encompass Batang Ai red tilapia, Sarawak Heirloom rice, and Nipah palm sugar.

### *Development of Marine Fisheries*

Sarawak has the largest Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Malaysia with a total area of 172.41 kilometres square. This EEZ often contains rich marine biodiversity which can offer vast potential for fisheries development and increase the export earnings. In simple English, it is fishing industry.

### *Malaysia Agreement 1963 – Deep Sea Fishing License*

Tuan Speaker, under the Malaysia Agreement 1963, the Federal Government has fully empowered the Sarawak Government to issue written approval and deep-sea license to C2 vessel. This is to enable them to operate at C2 zone. To date, 10 written approvals have been granted to three companies.

### *Deep-sea Fishing*

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is an important fishing state with a long coastline within the Federation of Malaysia and offers immense potential for deep-sea fishing due to existing infrastructure, abundant marine resources, limited competition, and the country's status as a net seafood importer. However, value-adding, and downstream activities are currently underdeveloped, presenting an opportunity for expansion, job creation and export growth and ultimately the fishing industry. Among the challenges faced in operating deep sea fishing vessels are:

- (a) High operating cost in term of maintenance and fuel;
- (b) Lack of interest among the locals to be engaged as deep sea fishing crew; they have to get someone from foreign countries and so on;
- (c) Encroachment by foreign fishing vessels; and
- (d) Lack of high-end value-added activities of fishing produce.

Currently, the quota for deep sea fishing licenses for Sarawak is set at 560 units for various types of commercial fishing equipment. To date, there are 35 licensed deep-sea vessels operated in Sarawak. I would now like to inform this august House that SEDC has ventured into deep sea fishing since 2023 with the aim to operate 13 vessels by end of this year with targeted catch of 200 metric tonnes per month valued at RM1 million. In addition to deep-sea fishing endeavours, SEDC has embarked into downstream activities like surimi and fishmeal processing, as well as value-adding activities, thereby enhancing export potential and creating more than 1,500 job opportunities.

### *Conserving Marine Resources*

Tuan Speaker, the Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak enforces the stewardship of the fisheries resources by carrying out Artificial Reef Development Project to prevent encroachment of trawlers, enhance marine resources, improve economy of coastal fishermen and support the development of eco-tourism. To date, a total of 201,972 pieces of artificial reefs have been deployed in 77 locations along the coastal in Sarawak.

*Establishment of Department of Fisheries Sarawak*

Tuan Speaker, in view of the overlapping of roles and function among different agencies of similar importance due to the source authority and jurisdiction, this creates grey areas in legislation and this needs to be clarified to avoid confusion and delays in enforcing the rules and regulations. My ministry, therefore, through the Department of Agriculture Sarawak is actively engaging with relevant authorities such as State Attorney-General's Chambers, Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak and Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak to deliberate the proposal to amend the State Fisheries Ordinance 2003.

To date, the drafting of the new Ordinance is at finalizing stage, and my ministry will hold engagements with relevant agencies to harmonize and streamline the drafted Ordinance with other existing Acts and Ordinances. Concurrently, my ministry is preparing the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) Paper for the approval of the establishment of Department of Fisheries Sarawak.

**AGROFOOD SECTOR ENABLERS**

*Enhancing Distribution and Marketing Network*

Tuan Speaker, enhancing distribution and marketing network for agriculture is essential to increase logistic efficiency, promote market access, stabilise prices and ensuring food quality. The development of Collection, Processing and Packaging Centres (CPPCs) and Agro-Food Terminals remains one of the key enablers to address the inefficiency in distribution and marketing issues faced by farmers. Thus far, my ministry has constructed two CPPCs, namely CPPC Tarat in Serian, which is in operation, and CPPC Limbang which is expected to be operational in the fourth quarter of 2024; while four CPPCs, namely CPPC Lawas, CPPC Sebangon, CPPC Lachau and CPPC Long Lama are in various stages of implementation. Currently, two Agro-Food Terminals are undergoing construction, one in Spaoh and one in Sarikei, which are expected to be completed in August this year. Meanwhile, one Agro-Food Terminal in Kapit is in the early planning stage.

*Trade Promotion and Conference*

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak Agrofest 2024 is with the theme "*Enhancing Agro Sector: Empowering Community*". This is to promote agriculture and agro-based industry by showcasing the latest agriculture technology, agriculture products and services of the industry and serve as a platform for business matching. The event is also aimed at acknowledging farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen contribution to food security and economic growth to Sarawak. For this year, Sarawak Agrofest will be held in Bintulu from 12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024. It is expected that 24 government agencies and private companies will exhibit their products and services. About 210 entrepreneurs and companies will participate in this event.

It is expected to attract 450,000 visitors and about RM5 million worth of sales. In conjunction with Sarawak Agrofest, my ministry and Universiti Putra Malaysia Kampus Bintulu will co-organise the Congress on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security (COSAFS 2024) on 10-12 July at Park City Everly Hotel, Bintulu. The conference anticipates more than 300 international and local participants to share their views and ideas to enhance food security and sustainability in agriculture industry. My Ministry will also participate in Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Expo (MAHA) which will be held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) in Selangor. This is a good platform for us to exhibit and promote Sarawak agriculture products and cuisine.

*Development of Farm Roads*

Tuan Speaker, this is a favourite subject to all my fellow Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat friends, in 2024, a total of RM28.7 million was approved for the Department of Agriculture Sarawak to

implement 124 farm road projects. The total length of the projects is 119 kilometers, and it is very impactful and benefits about 1,300 farmers.

In 2024, DID received an allocation of RM42 million to implement 216 MARRIS projects in drainage and irrigation schemes throughout the State. Currently, 11 projects have been completed, 102 projects are under construction stage, and 103 projects are still under planning stage.

DID Sarawak also had received an allocation of RM2.15 million from Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW) Malaysia for implementation of nine projects under *Program Jalan Ladang Pertanian (JLP)*. Currently, all these projects are still under planning stage. Meanwhile, under Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (MPIC) Malaysia, DID had received an allocation of RM6.097 million to implement 16 projects under *Program Jalan Ladang Pekebun Kecil (JLPK)*. And currently only one project is on going implementation, but 15 projects are under planning stage.

In addition, a total of RM5.7 million has been allocated to SALCRA in 2024 to implement nine farm road projects with total length of 34 kilometres. Currently, these projects are in the tendering stage.

#### *Drainage and Irrigation Infrastructure in Food Basket Area*

Tuan Speaker, a total sum of RM153 million has been allocated to the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Sarawak (DID) to implement 11 infrastructure projects in this Food Basket Area under *Projek Rakyat* Fund. As of April 2024, five projects have been completed while another three projects are being constructed. Three other projects are still in final design stage and tender expected to be called, and tender expected to be called by the end of this year.

Tuan Speaker, DID Sarawak has also been approved a sum of RM74 million under *Projek Rakyat* to implement five projects. Quite handful for DID. These projects consist of four projects for rehabilitation of existing schemes and one project for proposed new agriculture development scheme. Four of these projects are still in final design stage and tender expected to be called by end of this year while another project had completed.

Tuan Speaker,

#### *Regional Infrastructure Development Projects*

Under the Integrated Regional Samarahan Development Agency (IRSDA), the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) has been allocated a ceiling of RM816 million to implement 17 major projects and 354 minor projects. So, many projects for them. This includes coastal bund and drainage system, river improvement works, flood mitigation, and riverbank erosion protection. As of April 2024, a total of 278 projects have been completed while the remaining projects are in various stages of implementation. Under the Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA), DID has also being approved a ceiling of RM136.25 million to implement four new drainage and irrigation areas and one rehabilitation of existing agriculture scheme which currently all these projects are at design stage and tender are expected to be called in third and fourth quarter of year.

Apart from that, under the Betong Division Development Agency (BDDA), DID is also being approved or being tasked to handle RM92 million to implement eight projects new drainage and irrigation areas which currently all these projects are under planning stage. An allocation of RM13 million is also approved for the implementation of an upgrading of farm road project which is under planning stage. Under Rajang Delta Development Agency (RADDA), DID has been allocated a ceiling of RM149.7 million for nine projects to implement two rehabilitation works of existing drainage and irrigation scheme and seven road projects which currently all these projects are under planning stage. You can total how much tasks assigned to DID. A total of RM165 million has been approved under M-FICORD Alternative Funding System to implement three new drainage and irrigation areas which currently all these projects are at planning stage.

Tuan Speaker,

*Talent Development*

The Department of Agriculture Sarawak has implementing Agriculture Community Outreach Program (AgriCOP) to enhance the farmers' knowledge in farm management and adoption of modern agriculture technology. In 2024, 15 AgriCOP sessions were planned and implemented, expected to benefit 1,500 farmers. In addition to the AgriCOP, the Department of Agriculture Sarawak is also actively conducting training courses across seven Agriculture Training Centres throughout Sarawak. In 2024, the Department of Agriculture Sarawak is targeting to conduct 235 courses with an estimated participation of about 7,300 farmers.

In order to encourage and attract the involvement of youth in agriculture sector, Sarawak Government has implemented Young Agropreneur Program. Within the period from 2021 - 2023, a total of RM 676,205 has been allocated for technical courses and training and benefited 2,492 young agropreneurs in Sarawak. The Department of Agriculture has recently organised the *Konvensyen Usahawan Tani Sarawak (KUTS)* from 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. This convention aims towards providing a platform for the participating entrepreneurs and officers to share views, ideas, latest information on agriculture, showcasing agrofood products, and technology in the agro based downstream processing. This convention has successfully attracted more than 1,000 participants and visitors.

Tuan Speaker,

**BIOSECURITY AND DISEASE ERADICATION PROGRAMME**

Biosecurity is the vital key undermine agriculture industry in Sarawak due to its geographical region. Without proper biosecurity measures, pests and diseases outbreak may occur and lead to adverse economic impact which as well corelated with food security and safety.

*Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)*

Tuan Speaker, Foot and Mouth Disease is a highly contagious viral disease affecting all cloven-hooved animals such as cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and swine. Sarawak is recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as a FMD Free Without Vaccination since 2004. This recognition enables Sarawak to export live pigs to Singapore and generating an export revenue of RM346 million annually.

With the FMD incursion into Indonesia in 2022, the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak, has enhanced and upscaled its FMD prevention and control strategies to ensure continued freedom from FMD. These strategies include:

- (a) Immediate ban of FMD susceptible livestock and its products from Indonesia;
- (b) Gazetting the five major divisions bordering Kalimantan namely Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman, Miri and Limbang as FMD Disease Control Areas made under Section 35 (1) of the Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999;
- (c) Increased awareness to all relevant stakeholders consisting of farmers, importers, exporters, and border of control agencies;
- (d) Enhanced surveillance targeting high risk areas near the border to Kalimantan and areas with high concentration livestock and its movement i.e. cattle integration and traders; and
- (e) Last one, development of FMD laboratory testing capability and capacity at the State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

As of now, Sarawak is still free from FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease). This is scientifically proven that 754 livestock premises and 40,940 livestock were free from FMD when inspected and 1,903 livestock samples tested negative for FMD as well. A total of 426 livestock premises and 23,618 heads of livestock were examined and found to be free from FMD in 2023. A total of 4,783 livestock were sampled and tested and all are negative from FMD.

#### *Update on Rabies*

Let me update this august House on rabies. Tuan Speaker, in the wake of rising rabies cases worldwide, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, it is time to understand the scenario better and suggest technically sound and plausible countermeasures. Although it isa critical zoonotic viral disease, rabies is actually preventable. Stray dogs became aggressive primarily due to their food shortage during the pandemic lockdown. As many adopted stray dogs were disowned post-pandemic, decreased human-dog interactions increased the aggressiveness among dogs. As a result, “*dog-bite*” cases increase, with a sudden spike in rabies cases and dog-bite-induced deaths especially country like India and some of the other countries in the world.

In Sarawak, since the outbreak declared in 2017, 71 human fatalities were reported from 78 rabies cases including three death this year. To date, five Divisions (Kuching, Samarahan, Serian, Sri Aman and Bintulu) were all declared as Rabies Infected Division as new animals rabies positive were detected in the division recently. This declaration is necessary to ensure that more effort to eradicate rabies in the affected division carried by the relevant agencies. This year, a total of 61 animals and out of 409 samples were tested positive for rabies.

#### *State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC)*

Tuan Speaker, due to the high numbers of dog rabies positive in Kuching, an Integrated Rabies Operation was carried out in Kuching Division from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, specifically in the hotspot area of Tabuan Jaya, if I may share, Desa Wira, Taman Landeh and Sungai Maong. A total of 200 personnel from various agencies involved in this operation. The objective of the operation is to ensure pets are vaccinated and licensed under Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999 and Local Authority (Dog Licensing By-Laws) 2018. The teams do house to house check for compliance of the aforementioned laws.

The operation inspected 1,529 houses and issued 63 compounds under Section 40 Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999 and 73 compounds were issued by the Council, by my friend here, from the Council. This operation has successfully created huge awareness among the pets’ owners. This is evident from the increased number of dogs being licensed (3,231), micro-chipped (1,572) and vaccinated (7,246) after the operation.

With this opportunity, I would like to remind all pet owners to vaccinate their dogs in compliance with the Section 40, VPHO 1999. Pet owners are also advised to neuter their pets to prevent unwanted litters. If I may repeat, rabies is preventable. This one we can do. In view of the success of the recent operation, in our effort to fight against rabies, it is proposed that this initiative to be carried out Statewide by establishing Veterinary Mobile Team including creating 133 new posts for this purpose.

Tuan Speaker,

#### **IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD OF RURAL COMMUNITIES**

To enhance the well-being of our rural communities, the Sarawak Government is dedicated to implement programmes focusing on socioeconomic wellbeing. These initiatives aim to boost productivity while also protecting the environment and strengthening the economy in rural areas.

*Rural Road & Infrastructure Projects*

Tuan Speaker, under 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW) Malaysia has allocated RM1.72 billion to DID Sarawak to implement 19 projects under *Program Jalan Luar Bandar*. Currently, three projects are completed, have been completed, one project is under construction, 10 projects are at design stage and five projects under planning stage, which I have mentioned much earlier. An allocation of RM22.25 million is also approved under the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan to implement five projects under *Program Jambatan Luar Bandar*. Currently, four projects are in the design stage and one project is still under planning stage.

In 2024, KKDW has also allocated RM6.5 million to DID Sarawak to implement 12 projects under Program Ameniti Sosial (PAMS) which all the projects are under planning stage. KKDW also has allocated RM4.85 million for implementation of 12 projects under *Program Jalan Perhubungan Desa* (JPD) and currently, all these projects are under planning stage.

*River Engineering - State Fund*

Tuan Speaker, for the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the State Government or Sarawak Government has allocated fund amounting to RM4 million under 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan for River Clearing and River Rehabilitation Works in Sarawak. In 2024, the fund approved for the year is RM1 million and all the projects are scheduled to be completed latest by December of this year.

Under the 12th Malaysia Plan Mid-Term Review, the Sarawak Government has allocated fund amounting to RM23 million for the implementation of six Riverbank Protection Projects. All the projects are currently under consultant appointment to carry out survey, Soil Investigation (SI) and design.

The Sarawak Government has also allocated fund amounting to RM29.516 million under State Disaster Management Committee for river clearing and river rehabilitation works throughout the State in 2023. The allocation is for the implementation of riverbank protection projects and river clearing works to reduce flood risk based on the priority and critical areas throughout the State. In 2023, 146 projects were completed with a fund of RM2.78 million. In 2024, the fund approved for the year is RM26.21 million and all the projects are scheduled to be completed latest by end of the year.

Under the *Projek Rakyat* program, a total of RM449 million was approved for the implementation of 23 riverbank protection projects, one study and one upgrading of existing jetty project. Out 25 projects, eight projects have been completed, one mutually terminated, and the project will be implemented in 2024, two under construction, one under tender evaluation stage, nine under detailed design stage and four projects under Architect, Consultant and Surveyor appointment. The projects under detailed design stage are scheduled to be tendered out latest by fourth quarter of this year.

Under the Greater Kuching Coordination Development Agency (GKCDA) program, a total of RM24.345 million was approved for the implementation of six riverbank protection projects. All the projects are currently under consultant appointment to carry out survey, Soil Investigation (SI) and design.

Under the Integrated Regional Samarahan Development Agency (IRSDA) program, a total of RM61.5 million was approved for the implementation of four riverbank protection projects. Out of the four projects, three projects have been completed and one project has been terminated. The tender of the terminated project titled "*Proposed Riverbank Erosion Protection Works at Sg. Kpg. Sageng, Simunjan*" is expected to be in June 2024, re-tender, to be retendered.

Under the Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA) program, a total of RM47 million was approved for the implementation of one riverbank protection project and the project is currently under detailed design stage and is scheduled to be tendered out by the third quarter of 2024.

Under the Betong Division Development Agency (BDDA) program, a total of RM176,279,800 was approved for the implementation of six riverbank protection projects. All the projects are currently under consultant appointment to carry out survey, Soil Investigation (SI) and design.

Under the Rajang Delta Development Agency (RADDA) program, a total of RM36 million was approved for the implementation of three riverbank protection projects. All the projects are currently under consultant appointment to carry out survey, Soil Investigation (SI) and design.

#### *River Engineering - Federal Fund*

Tuan Speaker, the Federal Government has allocated fund amounting to RM35 million under 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan for River Rehabilitation Works to Reduce Flood Risk (*Pemuliharaan Sungai Untuk Mengurangkan Risiko Banjir*) and also this allocation is for the implementation of riverbank protection projects and river clearing works to reduce flood risk based on the priority and critical areas throughout the state. In 2024, the fund approved for the year is RM4 million and all the projects are scheduled to be completed latest by end of this year.

Under the Denai Sungai Kebangsaan (DSK) program, the Federal Government has allocated around RM900,000 in 2024 for the development of DSK programs, Denai Sungai Kebangsaan throughout the State. All the projects are scheduled to be completed latest by end of the year.

Under the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) study, the Federal Government has approved seven river basins out of 21 river basins submitted under the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan. The seven river basins are Sungai Sibuti, Batang Rajang, Batang Samarahan, Batang Saribas, Batang Kemena, Batang Lupar and Batang Kayan. All batang. Out of the seven studies, four is on-going and three under planning stage (i.e. preparation of Terms of Reference, TOR).

#### *Coastal Erosion Protection and River Mouth Rehabilitation Projects*

Tuan Speaker, under the federal funding, the Department of Irrigation and Drainage currently have four coastal erosion protection projects with a total allocation of RM76.05 million. One project is completed. Two projects are currently under construction and expected to be completed by the end of the year. One project is expected to be tendered in June this year 2024.

Under the Program "*Projek Tebatan Banjir Berkeutamaan Tinggi (TBBT)*", the Federal Government has approved allocation amounting to RM316,282,000 to mitigate coastal flooding and erosion in 17 areas of State of Sarawak. Currently, the project is under procurement stage.

For state funding, the department had approved two coastal projects under the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan with a total allocation of RM168,170,000. One project is expected to be tendered in September this year, and another project is expected to be tendered June next year.

Under the Rajang Delta Development Agency (RADDA) program, three coastal projects have been approved with allocation of RM38,000,000. All the projects are still under planning stage. Under the Greater Kuching Coordinated Development Agency (GKCDA), one coastal project has been approved with allocation of RM10 million. The project is still under planning stage.

For the river mouth dredging project, these are, there are three projects under Federal funding, with a total allocation of RM26.0 million for river mouth improvement at Sungai Buntal, Sungai Limbang and Sungai Sebuyau. One project is currently under construction, another is in the design stage, and the third one is in the planning stage. These projects are to mitigate flooding and facilitate river navigation.

#### **STRENGTHENING AGRO-COMMODITY DEVELOPMENT**

Tuan Speaker, the community, the commodity, Agro-Commodity Development the commodity sector has been the backbone of Sarawak's agriculture sector and expected to continue to contribute

significantly to Sarawak export earning, especially with palm oil as the second largest export commodity, contributing RM19.2 billion or 12.5% to Sarawak total external trade in year 2022.

### *Palm Oil Industry*

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak's palm oil sector continues its upward trajectory, making, marking robust growth in the first quarter of 2024, with a total export value of RM3.62 billion during January until March 2024.

The remarkable growth in Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) production can be attributed to several factors, including enhanced labour supply and the expansion of mature palm areas. Sarawak boasts the largest oil palm planted area in Malaysia, spanning 1.62 million hectares.

Furthermore, Sarawak's palm oil industry diversification is evident with the presence of five palm kernel crushing plants, six palm oil refineries and a biodiesel plant. However, there is currently no oleochemical plant operating in this region, indicating potential avenues for future growth and investment.

With the resilient performance and strategic initiatives, Sarawak's palm oil sectors or sector remains a cornerstone of Malaysia's economy, poised for sustained growth and development in the coming years.

### *Rubber Industry*

Tuan Speaker, the establishment of Sarawak Rubber Industry Board (SARIB) is to transform rubber industry in Sarawak towards developing sustainable rural economy and optimise the land use to give higher economic return to the smallholders. It is estimated that the total area planted with rubber in Sarawak is 87,460 hectares in 2023 and 62,098 hectares of mature rubber. If we can produce of the yield comparable to the national average of 1.25 metric ton per hectare annually, Sarawak has the potential to produce 77,000 metric ton per annum.

However, Sarawak's raw rubber production stood at 23,300 metric ton per year in 2023 is a very significant reduction. From 31,047 hectares yielding at only 0.75 metric ton compared to 1.25 metric ton in national average. That indicated our rubber production is well below national average productivity.

In view of the declining trend of rubber production, my Ministry has directed SARIB to undertake the following strategic measures:

- (a) To collaborate with the Kementerian Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah and Kementerian Perladangan and Komoditi, Malaysia to carry out rehabilitation program of 2,500 hectares of existing rubber estates, we will target improving, target of improving the yield from 0.25kg to 1.0kg dry rubber per tree per tapping;
- (b) To increase the production-based incentives (IPG and IPGT) from RM3/kg to RM4/kg. That is to attract smallholders to carry out tapping. This can give incomes of between RM1,080 to RM4,320 per hectare per month;
- (c) To explore the potential viable downstream of rubber from latex to rubber timber. Two main downstreams activities that will be implemented includes (i) latex concentration processing plant worth RM5 million, and rubber timber treatment plant worth RM4.5 million. Rubber wood will be the driving factor for rubber-based furniture industry and biomass; and
- (d) To sustain the rubber production for sustaining the industry needs, SARIB in collaboration with private sector will manage the smallholder farms on a leasing or joint venture basis. The private entity will manage the tap and sell the rubber to the factory and pay the smallholder owners



either by leasing or profit sharing. SARIB will do, will do continuous monitoring and training for both the smallholders and management operators.

Thus, the roles of SARIB are to increase the rubber yield, improve the rubber smallholders' incomes and sustain the rubber industry. SARIB are targeting to have 200,000 hectares of rubber with the capacity production of 108,000 metric tonnes per month through the adoption of clean agriculture management technology. This will give rural income of RM432 million per month and become the precursor of the rural economic transformation.

### *Sago & Nipah Industry*

Tuan Speaker, the growth and evolution of the Sarawak Sago Industry is dominated by the smallholder sector which accounted for 97% of the total estimated planted area of 32,747 hectares as recorded by the Department of Agriculture Sarawak in 2022, found mainly in Mukah and Betong divisions. As of today, there are seven sago processing factories with monthly production capacity of 200 to 500 metric tonnes of dry sago starch per factory. Malaysia is one of the major sago producing countries after Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Currently, Sarawak is the sole world exporter of sago starch despite not being a major sago growing area compared to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and we should be taking advantage of this.

According to the Department of Statistic Malaysia (DOSM), Sarawak exported 35,000 metric tonnes of sago starch valued at RM113 million, mainly to Peninsular Malaysia and Japan. To Peninsular Malaysia 41% and 45% to Japan of the total export volume respectively in 2023. Nevertheless, the sago starch export volume has not increased for the past 10 years due to the low and inconsistent supply of raw material (sago logs). The current production scenario showed, the production rate is only 1 metric tonne of starch per hectare per annum. Very low. One of the factors that contributed to the low production rate is 3T (Tanam, Tinggal, Tuai) when system practiced by smallholders and also type of soils where the palms were planted. Still very traditional.

The Sarawak Government therefore established the Sago and Nipah Development Board (SNDB) with the following objectives:

- (a) To promote, facilitate, and develop the Sago and Nipah industries as a new frontier to maximise the economic returns and increase smallholders' income; and
- (b) To formulate strategic objectives, policies and priorities for the orderly development and administration of both Sago and Nipah in Sarawak.

The immediate plan to be carried out by SNDB, the low hanging fruits are:

- (a) Registration of sago and nipah smallholders and industry players;
- (b) Establishing pricing mechanism for sago logs and nipah products;
- (c) Identifying actual area, sago and nipah growing areas through Artificial Intelligence (AI); and
- (d) Increase the productivity of sago and nipah growing areas.

And with that my ministry will continue to give full support to make sure that including infrastructure have to be improved and developed.

The SNDB aims to boost sago production from the current smallholders' areas spanning 32,747 hectares which currently yield only 7% of the total output of 35,000 metric tonnes, very, very low yield in 2023 valued at RM113 million. As you can see, the potential of sago industry. With the anticipated productivity rate of 15 tonnes per hectare per year at a price of RM2,500 per tonne and scaling up production to 40% of the smallholder's area (13,098 hectares) would significantly enhance revenue to the state reaching RM491.2 million annually.

In order to achieve this projection, the budget of RM550 million is required to implement the following components:

- (a) Establishment and improvement of infrastructure (RM90 million);
- (b) Technology acquisition (RM325 million); and
- (c) Rehabilitation and field maintenance (RM135 million).

For us to kick off and to be more effective and increase our efficiency.

#### *Karnival Balau 2024*

Tuan Speaker, we are pleased to inform that my ministry through SNDB will organise *Karnival Balau 2024*. My sister here knows about this. This is a biennial event to create awareness on the importance of sago among local community specially in Dalat area. The objectives of the event are as follows:

- (a) To empower the sago industry in Sarawak;
- (b) To ensure continued focus on the development of upstream and downstream technologies to enable sago to be one of the major commodities for Sarawak;
- (c) To strengthen the socioeconomic of the local communities; and
- (d) To serve as a platform fostering unity and cooperation among local communities.

The theme of the carnival this time is “*Berakar Rumbia Berinti Budaya*”. Ini mesti cikgu yang buat ni. And tentatively to be held in Dalat in October 2024.

#### *15<sup>th</sup> International Sago Symposium*

Tuan Speaker, in view of advancing sago industry in Sarawak, my ministry together with TROPI is organising 15th International Sago Symposium to be held in Kuching, Sarawak from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The theme for this symposium is “*Unlocking the Potential of Sago Palm: Towards Sustainable Food Systems and Environmental Restoration*”. The objectives of the symposium are:

- (a) Elevate global awareness and acceptance of cultivating sago palm;
- (b) Promote alignment with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- (c) Foster collaborative international research and innovation;
- (d) Strengthen policy support and investment for sago palm cultivation and use; and
- (e) Enhance knowledge exchange and capacity building.

The event will assemble researchers from across the globe all over the world to share their findings, ultimately contributing to the future growth and development of the sago industry.

#### *Pepper Industry*

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak stands as the primary pepper producer, contributing to 98% of pepper planted in Malaysia. I have actually mentioned this much earlier in previous Sitting. As of 2023, Sarawak boasts approximately 8,015 hectares of pepper plantations, marking a 1.8% increase from 7,870 hectares compared to year 2022.

Registered under Geographical Identification (GI) and using strict profiling method to prevent and protect the exploitation of the Sarawak pepper brand in the market, the global demand for Sarawak Pepper remains high particularly from countries such as Japan, China, Taiwan, and South Korea. However, despite this Sarawak has predominantly exported it as a commodity, indicating an

untapped potential in downstream initiatives. Meaning you have to add value don't just sell the grain and so on.

To fortify the development of the pepper industry and ensure its sustainability as a leading pepper-producing region in the nation, my ministry through the Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB) will spearhead strategic downstream initiatives for Sarawak Pepper by establishing a modern packaging plant. This initiative aims to propel the pepper industry in the region while incentivising or giving incentives to private sector involvement in pepper downstream ventures.

### *Cocoa Industry*

Sarawak's export of dried cocoa beans in 2023 dropped from RM4 million to merely RM0.82 million in 2022. This was the result of more cocoa farmers abandoning their cocoa farms, particularly in the Cocoa Belt area, due to the increased production costs, especially for fertiliser and so on and they rather convert their land into something else, a better or more lucrative crop i.e. of course oil palm.

In an effort to assist farmers in obtaining better returns, Malaysian Cocoa Board (MCB) is currently implementing four major programs throughout Sarawak, costing RM3.60 million and covering 311.38 hectares, benefiting 329 cocoa planters for the year 2024. These programs include:

- (a) Program Pemodenan Pertanian;
- (b) Projek Pembangunan Bahan Tanaman "*Fine or Flavour Cocoa*" dan Koko Organik;
- (c) Program Ransangan Pengeluaran Hasil Koko; and
- (d) Projek Pemulihan Kebun Koko di Sarawak.

The limited availability of dried cocoa beans has been adversely impacting the 50 metric tonnes annual demand of Sarawak's sole Malaysian Cocoa Board (MCB) cocoa processing factory in Samarahan.

Therefore, a Cocoa Belt stretching from Asajaya, to Sebuyau and Simunjan districts, needs to be established to ensure a consistent and ample supply. The total production of dried cocoa beans in 2023 for this area is 6.44 metric tonnes, a decline compared to 14.17 metric tonnes and 11.95 metric tonnes in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

The Cocoa Belt can potentially be expanded to cover Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman, Betong and Sarikei divisions, which produced 24.15 metric tonnes of dried cocoa beans in 2023 despite the fact that most of them have also shown a downward trend in production.

### **NCR LAND DEVELOPMENT**

Tuan Speaker, the main objectives of NCR Land Development is to improve the socioeconomic status of the Bumiputera community living in the rural areas through various NCR land development models.

#### *Project Management Model (Organised Smallholders Model)*

Tuan Speaker, to date, under the Project Management Model or Organised Smallholders Model, a total of 60,771 hectares has been developed by various agencies such as SALCRA, SLDB, and FELCRA involving 84,991 NCR landowners throughout Sarawak.

#### *Joint Venture Model*

One model is the Joint Venture Model. Under the Joint Venture Model, a total of 93,453 hectares of NCR land in 48 NCR Land Development Areas have been developed by Joint Ventures

Companies (JVC) with Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) as the Trustee representing 18,067 registered participants as the managing agent.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the NCR Land Development JV Projects has granted a total of RM571 million in the form of Upfront Payments, Annual Incentives and some Dividends has been paid to the participating NCR landowners.

#### *Leasing Model*

Tuan Speaker, I wish to inform this august House that my ministry has obtained approval from the State Task Force for NCR Land Development Committee (STF) during the last meeting we had on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to implement Leasing Model to develop NCR Land.

This new model serves as an option for NCR landowners to choose which type of models they prefer to develop their land. With this new model, the NCR landowners will enjoy guaranteed fix income compared to waiting for the dividend, as compared to the profit sharing.

All applications under this new model will be processed by my ministry and deliberated in One Stop Committee Centre and the State Taskforce on NCR Land Development to ensure sustainable development.

#### *Investment Value on NCR Land*

Tuan Speaker, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, a total of RM3.6 billion investment was recorded for oil palm plantation development on NCR land.

#### *Response to the Issues Raised by the Honourable Members*

Now, I would like to respond on issues brought by the Members of the Dewan. Tuan Speaker, I would now like to respond to some various issues, requests, comments, and views and suggestions made by my Honourable colleagues in this august House on the subjects relating to my Ministry. And before that, I would like to express my appreciation to all the Honourable Members for your concern, advice, recommendations, and various applications that you have put forward. The Honourable Members who have actively participated in the debate are also being recorded by my ministry. There are few headings that I need to just mention so that the Honourable Member will know which one falls under your category of interests.

#### *Insentif Pengeluaran Getah (IPG)*

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tamin, kementerian saya melalui Lembaga Industri Getah Sarawak (SARIB) juga sedang mempertimbangkan untuk melaksanakan Insentif Pengeluaran Getah Tambahan (IPGT) sebagaimana yang telah dilaksanakan pada tahun 2020 apabila harga lantai getah ditetapkan pada RM2.50 oleh Kerajaan Persekutuan.

Sementara itu, SARIB akan melaksanakan program peningkatan produktiviti melalui rehabilitasi kebun getah matang dengan penggunaan amalan agronomi mampan. Pelaksanaan program ini dijangka akan meningkatkan pengeluaran daripada 700 kilogram setahun kepada 1,244 kilogram sehektar setahun. Oleh yang demikian, ia akan meningkatkan pendapatan pekebun kecil getah.

#### *Development of Paddy Industry*

For the information of the Honourable Member for Daro, my ministry has identified 17 focus areas for paddy cultivation throughout Sarawak including Daro Paddy Controlled Drainage Scheme in Mukah.

Second, for the information of the Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan, the development of Batang Lupar Paddy Granary Area is not a failure project. The development of the granary area is being varied out in phases with a total cost of RM 530 million and 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan ceiling of RM147 million. During 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, under Phase 1: Stumbin-Bijat Package 1, the Government has developed 1,500 hectares with secondary infrastructure. However, only 600 hectares are being planted due to the lack of interest among the landowners to plant paddy. About 196 hectares out of 1,500 hectares has been developed up to tertiary infrastructure. This is very crucial in order for us to increase the yield, we need to have a complete tertiary infrastructure which is enable double cropping under Stumbin-Bijat Package 2.

So, the development of tertiary infrastructure for paddy will be extended further to cover another 400 hectares under Stumbin-Bijat Package 3 and is expected to be completed by 2026. Meanwhile, for Phase 1 Lingga-Banting scheme which covers 2,100 hectares with an estimated cost of RM102 million and expected to be completed in the 13<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan.

The Sarawak Government also collaborate with the Federal Government to encourage the adoption of SMART Sawah Berskala Besar (SMART SBB) model. To encourage more private sector involvement in paddy planting, the Sarawak Government is actively identifying available and suitable land to be developed into large scale commercial paddy area.

#### *Agriculture Stations*

For the information of the Honourable Member for Daro, my ministry is actively engaging with Unit Pembangunan dan Pengurusan Sumber Manusia, Jabatan Premier Sarawak to strengthen manpower capacity of the departments and agencies under my purview to provide better service to the farming community, especially those in far fetch in interior part of Sarawak including Nanga Singat and Nanga Ngemah Agriculture Stations.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Simunjan, Kementerian saya amat prihatin dengan keadaan Pejabat Pertanian Daerah Simunjan yang agak usang pada masa ini. Oleh itu, sementara menunggu pelaksanaan Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Sarawak Daerah Simunjan yang diluluskan di bawah Kajian Separuh Penggal Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12, kerajaan telah meluluskan peruntukan sebanyak RM200,000 untuk kerja-kerja baik pulih dan penyenggaraan yang akan dilaksanakan pada tahun ini.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pelagus, oleh kerana permohonan pembinaan *Agriculture Training Centre* (ATC) di Nanga Mujong belum dapat dipertimbangkan di bawah Kajian Separuh Penggal Rancangan Malaysia ke-12, maka Kementerian saya akan mengangkat semula cadangan pelaksanaan projek ini di bawah Rancangan Malaysia ke-13.

#### *Jalan Perhubungan Desa (JPD)*

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, sebut harga bagi Projek Jalan Perhubungan Desa bagi Rumah Bidah akan dipelawa pada 15 Mei 2024 dan akan ditutup pada 29 Mei 2024. Manakala, permohonan JPD Rumah Saka, Rumah Renang dan Kampung Sesok Baru masih dalam pertimbangan oleh Kementerian Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah.

#### *Coastal and Riverbank Protection Project*

For the information of the Honourable Members for Balingian and Kalaka, the Government is taking the problem of riverbank erosion seriously in respective constituencies and my ministry will investigate and put up the project proposal under the 13<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Telang Usan and Kabong, the status of *Projek Rakyat – Projek Pembinaan Hakisan Tebing Kampung Long Watt, Sg. Apoh and Baik Pulih*

*Koridor Sungai Seblak* Di Kampung Sungai Benang, Daerah Kabong, Betong are still in design stage.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Jepak, my ministry will carry out the river clearing works in the said areas with a total allocation of RM660,000 and are in various stages of implementation.

For information of the Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan, my ministry will carry out maintenance works on the existing bunds within the said areas. At the same time, the flood mitigation projects in Seduku area have been approved under the Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA) and currently, all the projects are in final design stage and expected to be tendered out this year.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Tellian, the *Projek Waterfront Mukah* and *Projek Pemuliharaan Tebingan Batang Mukah* antara Sungai Penakub dan Sungai Tellian are currently at the stage of consultant and surveyor appointment to carry out the survey, soil investigation and design.

#### *Skim Insentif Tanaman Semula Pekebun Kecil Sawit*

For the information of the Honourable Member for Telang Usan, my ministry will actively engage with relevant stakeholders to review the current requirements under Skim Insentif Tanaman Semula Pekebun Kecil Sawit.

#### *Indigenous Fish Hatchery Centre*

For the information of the Honourable Member for Katibas, my ministry is in the process of upgrading Kapit Indigenous Fish Hatchery Centre in Song which will serve as a facility for the breeders and larviculture. The upgrading works are expected to be completed in fourth quarter of this year. Meanwhile, the Satellite Station at the Engkuah Agriculture Station will commence operations in second quarter of next year.

#### *Issuance of NCR Land Title*

For the information of Honourable Member for Opar, the survey works of all land lots participating in SALCRA estates under Bau – Lundu Region had been completed in 2022. Presently, out of 8,225 lots which is about 14,202 hectares that have been surveyed, 5,538 lots which is 9,878 hectares have been issued with titles and the remaining 2,687 lots equivalent to 4,324 hectares are expected to be issued with land titles as soon as other administrative works are completed.

For Sebako Oil Palm Estate, 1,061 lots or 1,167 hectares have been issued with land titles. The remaining 484 lots with an estimated area of 499.67 hectares are pending issuance of land titles. In 2024, Lands and Survey Department in Kuching targets to issue 315 land titles containing an area of approximately 325 hectares for Sebako Oil Palm Estate.

#### *Infrastructure Facility for Fishermen*

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro, Kerajaan telah meluluskan Projek *Construction of Reinforced Concrete (RC) Jetty* in RGC Beladin di bawah Rancangan Malaysia ke-12 dengan siling sebanyak RM5.3 milion. Projek ini telahpun ditender pada 29 September 2021 dan ditutup pada 27 Oktober 2021. Namun, kesemua pembida telah menawarkan harga yang melebihi siling peruntukan. Then we have to review, we have to increase the ceiling.

Justeru, Kementerian saya telah mengemukakan permohonan penambahan siling bagi Kajian Separuh Penggal Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 sebanyak RM9 juta namun permohonan

tersebut belum diluluskan. Untuk itu, permohonan ini akan terus diangkat semula sehingga ke Rancangan Malaysia ke-13.

### *Industri Sagu dan Gula Apong*

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Beting Maro, Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri baru-baru ini telah meluluskan peruntukan sebanyak RM6.362 juta kepada SNDB, Sago Nipah Development Board untuk membiayai kos operasi bagi tahun 2024. Dengan kelulusan ini akan membolehkan SNDB untuk menjalankan operasi dan aktiviti yang telah pun dirancang pada tahun ini. Selain daripada itu, SNDB telah dilantik sebagai agensi pelaksana bagi projek-projek di bawah Betong Division Development Agency (BDDA) di daerah Pusa dan Spaoh bagi Bahagian Betong bernilai RM18 juta. Senarai projek-projek ini adalah seperti berikut:

- (a) Pembangunan ladang dan perusahaan nipah bersepadu (CPPC) gula apong *and* Kampung Tambak Pusa;
- (b) Post upgrading one stop centre or processing centre for gula apong *and* Kampung Buda, Spaoh; dan
- (c) *Proposed one stop rumbia or sago processing centre* in Kampung Git, Debak.

Pelaksanaan projek nipah ini dijangka akan dapat meningkatkan pendapatan komuniti setempat seterusnya membangunkan industri nipah di Sarawak.

### *Farm Road*

For the information of the Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan, the status of the construction of 9.6 km farm road link Lingga to Banting is progressing with 4.7 km or 49% of road has been gravelled. It is delayed due to the site flooding issues. Currently, IADA Batang Lupar is in the process of reapplying for siting application for new barrage location.

### *Agriculture Assistances and Proposals by the Honourable Members*

For the information of the Honourable Members for Balingian, Katibas, Tebedu, Jepak, Machan, Serembu, Meradong, Pelagus, Beting Maro, Meluan, Stakan, Opar, Engkilili, Bukit Begunan and Tupong, my ministry duly noted all your requests, comments, recommendations and appreciations related to the agriculture assistances and development in your constituencies.

### *Conclusion*

In conclusion, Tuan Speaker, with that I wish to express my gratitude to Tuan Speaker for your wisdom and firmness in ensuring that the proceedings were conducted with proper decorum and dignity in this august House.

My appreciation and thanks also go to the State Secretary, Head of Departments, officers of various State and Federal Ministries and Agencies for their dedication and hard work in providing input and support for the smooth proceedings of this august House and my special thanks to the media for their coverage of the proceedings.

And also, my special thanks to my team, my two Deputy Ministers, my Permanent Secretaries, all the Head of Agencies who help me to prepare for what I need to share with the Dewan today. And I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all Sarawakian Happy Wesak Day, *Selamat Hari Gawai Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai, Lantang Senang, Nguan Menua and Selamat Hari Raya Haji and Selamat Hari Ibu kepada ibu-ibu termasuk ibu yang sebelah kiri saya ini. Saya tidak pernah berpantun. Jadi, hari ini saya nak berpantun, boleh ya?*

*Gelap malam pasang pelita,  
Buat peneman membuat tapai,  
Demi Sarawak negeri tercinta,  
Kelestarian tanaman akan dicapai.*

*Kementerian kami industri makanan,  
Tidak lupa Pembangunan Wilayah dan Komoditi,  
Segala amanat dan juga pesanan,  
Kita patuhi demi biosekuriti.*

*Hari Wesak kita bercuti,  
Hari Raya Haji kita hormati,  
Gawai Dayak kita sambut,  
Semoga perpaduan ini kekal abadi.*

Thank you very much. With that I support the address by the Tuan Yang Terutama Tun. Thank you very much.

**Timbalan Speaker:** Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Menteri Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom *for a very comprehensive reply, Minister's reply*. Dengan hormatnya saya menjemput Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah, Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan. Silakan Yang Berhormat.

**Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (YB Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah):** Bismillahirrahmanirahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam Sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Salam *Segulai Sejalai*.

Tuan Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the physical presence in the DUN gallery, 38 women leaders from GPS, made up of PBB, SUPP, PRS, and PDP. Also from NGO, Majlis Wanita dan Keluarga Sarawak, from Persatuan Ibu Tunggal Sarawak, from Kuching Love Book Association and not forgetting the presence of forty staff from our ministry. Kehadiran kebersamaan ini sangat dihargai.

**Timbalan Speaker:** *Terima kasih*, may I just take part in the Yang Berhormat Menteri, also suami yang tercinta ada di dalam chamber.

**Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (YB Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah):** Okay. Thank you for mentioning it, Tuan Speaker. Kalau saya sebut, tak sedaplah. Kalau daripada Tuan Speaker, ada *umph...*

## PENDAHULUAN

Tuan Speaker, izinkan saya memulakan ucapan penggulungan ini dengan menyampaikan ucapan tahniah di atas pelantikan Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar sebagai Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak yang kelapan berkuat kuasa pada 26 Januari 2024, dan atas kurniaan Darjah Kebesaran Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara yang membawa gelaran "*Tun*" dari Duli Yang Maha Mulia Yang di-Pertuan Agong, dan kurniaan Darjah Utama Yang Amat Mulia Satria Bintang Sarawak yang membawa gelaran "*Pehin Sri*" dari Kerajaan Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, adalah menjadi harapan kami dalam Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti, Sarawak untuk mendapat manfaat daripada pengalaman luas Tun Pehin Sri yang sebelum ini pernah memberi perkhidmatan cemerlang sebagai Yang di-Pertua Dewan Negara, Menteri Persekutuan, Timbalan Menteri Persekutuan, dan Timbalan Speaker Dewan Rakyat.



Tuan Speaker, dengan kesempatan ini, izinkan saya mewakili Kementerian merakamkan penghargaan di atas sumbangan yang tidak ternilai yang telah dicurahkan oleh Almarhum Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, mantan Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak dan Ketua Menteri Sarawak. Tun Pehin Sri Taib telah memulakan usaha secara sedar dan bersungguh-sungguh untuk menambah bilangan dan penyertaan aktif kaum wanita dalam bidang politik dan kepimpinan melalui peningkatan bilangan ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri dan Ahli Dewan Rakyat. Tuan Pehin Sri telah memulakan tradisi mensejahterakan kehidupan rakyat, menyantuni kebajikan golongan yang memerlukan, melalui pelbagai inisiatif sosial dan bantuan kemanusiaan sejak menjadi Ketua Menteri Sarawak dan seterusnya sebagai Tuan Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak. Jasa bakti Almarhum Tun Pehin Sri Taib akan terpahat dalam lipatan Sejarah Negara amnya dan Sarawak khususnya. Moga Allah S.W.T menempatkan rohnyanya di kalangan roh orang yang dirahmati dan diberkati oleh Allah S.W.T.

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin menzahirkan rasa dukacita dan salam takziah kepada seluruh ahli keluarga mendiang Yang di-Pertua Dewan Negara, Yang Berhormat Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal yang telah meninggal dunia pada Jumaat lepas, 10 Mei 2024 di Institut Jantung Negara (IJN). Sesungguhnya pemergian beliau merupakan satu kehilangan besar kepada negara amnya, dan Sarawak khususnya. Mendiang mencipta sejarah apabila dilantik sebagai Yang di-Pertua Dewan Negara Ke-20 pada 19 Februari 2024, sekaligus merupakan Orang Ulu dari suku kaum Lun Bawang yang pertama di Malaysia yang memegang jawatan tersebut. Beliau juga pernah berkhidmat sebagai Ahli Parlimen Bukit Mas, Sarawak pada tahun 1982 hingga 1990. Sumbangan dan jasa beliau kepada masyarakat dan negara akan dikenang sampai bila-bila. Semoga keluarga mendiang diberikan kekuatan dan ketabahan dalam menghadapi ujian ini.

Tuan Speaker, seterusnya saya ingin menzahirkan rasa bangga dan Syukur sebagai anak Sarawak kerana di bawah kepimpinan Premier Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg yang bertunjangan jati diri setempat dan aspirasi sejagat, melalui pelbagai inisiatif pembangunan ekonomi dan kebajikan berdigniti bukan sahaja telah dapat mempelbagaikan punca dan menambah pendapatan Sarawak, tetapi turut mendapat pengiktirafan dunia. Pengiktirafan ini adalah kerana langkah bijak YAB Premier dalam mengurus sumber asli dan tenaga dalam bagi memakmurkan ekonomi dan mensejahterakan rakyat dalam persekitaran politik, sosiobudaya dan alam semulajadi yang lestari.

#### **KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN WANITA, KANAK-KANAK DAN KESEJAHTERAAN KOMUNITI – PENCAPAIAN BIDANG KEBERHASILAN UTAMA KEMENTERIAN**

Tuan Speaker, sukacita dimaklumkan bahawa ucapan penggulungan ini akan dibahagikan kepada tiga bidang keberhasilan utama Kementerian, iaitu:

- (a) Pengupayaan Kanak-Kanak (Empowering Children);
- (b) Pengupayaan Wanita dan Keluarga (Empowering Women and Family); dan
- (c) Pengupayaan Sistem Sokongan Sosial dan Keterangkuman Sosial untuk Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Empowering Social Support System and Social Inclusivity for Community Wellbeing).

#### *Temasya Para Sukma XXI Sarawak 2024*

Pada tahun ini, Sarawak selain menjadi tuan rumah untuk SUKMA, Sarawak telah diberi mandat sebagai tuan rumah Temasya Para SUKMA XXI Sarawak 2024 yang akan berlangsung pada 20 sehingga 28 September. Berbaki 129 hari lagi, dengan membawa semangat persaudaraan dan kecemerlangan sukan, atlet para 15 kontinjen daripada seluruh pelosok Malaysia sedang bersiap sedia untuk menyertai temasya ini. Sebanyak 334 acara meliputi 10 jenis sukan para akan dipertandingkan. Dalam temasya kali ini, para atlet Sarawak menyasarkan untuk membawa pulang 83 pingat emas, 83 *gold* sekaligus merebut kembali kejuaraan untuk kali ke-14. Berilah tepuk.

*Nyjur gading puncak mahligai,  
Sayang ketupat berisi inti,  
Hancur daging tulang berkecai,  
Belum dapat belum berhenti.*

*“Agi Idup Agi Ngelaban”, our tagline “Go Sarawak Go, Go Sarawak Go and Go for Gold”.*

Tuan Speaker, buat julung kalinya, klasifikasi Ralat Sifar atau *Zero Error Classification* ke atas semua atlet yang akan bertanding di Kejohanan Temasya Para SUKMA ke XXI akan dilaksanakan di negeri masing-masing sebelum mereka bertolak ke Sarawak. Ini bagi memastikan setiap atlet para yang hadir ke Sarawak dapat bertanding tanpa terdedah kepada risiko salah klasifikasi dan tidak dapat bertanding. Untuk itu, seramai 139 Classifier dan 14 Ketua Classifier dari seluruh Malaysia telah diberi kursus klasifikasi pada 19 hingga 21 April 2024 anjuran Majlis Paralimpik Malaysia dan mereka telah berjaya ditauliahkan.

*Berlaki anak pergi ke huma,  
Mencari belut di dalam lumpur,  
Pembangunan kanak-kanak tunjang utama,  
Kearah Sarawak maju dan makmur.*

#### *Pengupayaan Kanak-Kanak (Empowering Children)*

Tuan Speaker, as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, there are 2,440 registered TADIKA and 234 registered TASKA in Sarawak. In line with Sarawak Post COVID-19 Development Strategies (PCDS 2030), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Four, that is Quality Education, Sarawak Early Childhood Development Council together with State and Federal education agencies and the private operators share a common goal of achieving access, equity, and quality for Sarawak Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) through collaboration and strategic partnerships.

This year, we focus on inclusivity, experiential learning, and character building, in addition to our previous area of focus and initiatives. These three elements are indeed intricately interconnected and often complement each other within various initiatives, programmes, and activities aimed at holistic early childhood education and development. Some of the new policies and practices implemented towards this end among others are:

(a) *SeDidik Open-Door Policy, Leading the Way in Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Education*

Since the implementation of the Open Door Policy in 2021, the number of special needs children registered in SeDidik Early Childhood Institutions has increased every year from 45 in 2021 to 142 in 2024. Besides SeDidik, as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, KEMAS has 302 special needs children registered in its 183 IPAKK, *Institusi Pendidikan Awal Kanak-Kanak* and 201 pupils in Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak’s Pre School classes.

(b) *Toy Eight*

To ensure, to ensure early detection of children with developmental delays and learning disabilities, SeDidik and the Association of Kindergarten Operators Sarawak are currently collaborating with Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation Berhad (SDEC) for the implementation of Toy Eight Program. This is a pilot program on child developmental screening and intervention which starts with a session entitled, *“Empowering Educators: Comprehensive Training for Nurturing Young Children to Their Fullest Potential”*.

From resolving the intricacies of different learning difficulties and disabilities to providing practical tips for effective teaching, this program aims to equip educators with the knowledge and skills necessary for fostering an inclusive and enriching learning environment to discover and develop children’s potential. To date it has benefited a total of 210 teachers.

Apart from this training, a total of 35 teachers from 11 different kindergartens participated in the developmental screening training, and from that training, 290 children had received early screening, and 43 children were selected to undergo six months intervention after which a post-intervention developmental screening will be conducted.

#### *One Stop Early Intervention Centre (OSEIC) Sarawak*

Tuan Speaker, in our efforts to reduce inequalities as stipulated in the United Nations SDG 10 Reduce Inequalities, we are committed to provide opportunities for special children to undergo early intervention and education. Since the establishment of OSEIC Sarawak in 2020, the number of registered special children has shown significant increase. As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, there are 484 children in OSEIC Sarawak Kuching and 44 in Dalat. A total of 366 children (69.3%) from these two centres are from the B40 group. An affordable monthly contribution of RM50 for a session per week has enabled even low-income households to send their special-needs children for early intervention.

In 2024, a total number of 82 special children graduated from OSEIC Kuching and nine from Dalat. 15 of them have successfully been enrolled in the mainstream for Primary 1, while the rest were placed in Program Pendidikan Khas Integrasi (PPKI) and Sekolah Kebangsaan Pendidikan Khas. One girl, who had speech delay, defied all odds, and made her way to the mainstream of Sekolah Kebangsaan Madrasah Datuk Haji Abdul Kadir Hassan, where she had undergone a placement test beforehand and secured a place amongst the 197 from 679 candidates.

#### *KIDS Bits and Bytes digital Program*

Bridging technological gaps in early childhood development is increasingly important in today's digital age, to promote equity, prepare children for the digital age, enhance learning experiences, and foster innovation and collaboration in education. This aligns with the PCDS aspiration for Sarawak to become the region's major digital economy powerhouse by 2030. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Sarawak Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) between the Ministry, Yayasan Kebajikan Rolf Schnyder, and Swinburne University for the KIDS Bits and Bytes digital program.

This program has been a remarkable success, Alhamdulillah. Engaging children, and empowering teachers in digital literacy. It was piloted in six preschools in Sarawak, starting in January 2023, and involved 178 preschool children. Persatuan Kebajikan Rolf Schnyder contributed 488 tablet computers for this program.

#### *Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI)*

To realise the rights of children to various social and recreational support facilities, five local authorities have signed MOU with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to implement CFCI in Sarawak. They are The Commission of Kuching North City Hall, Kuching South City Council, Miri City Council, Padawan Municipal Council and Sibu Municipal Council. In tandem with the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), these local authorities are determined to address the rights and attend to the needs of their youngest citizens in ensuring their meaningful participation and involvement in urban life.

The implementation of CFCI by the participating local authorities is at the stage of Situational Analysis Survey (SITAN) conducted by competent consultants appointed and funded by UNICEF Malaysia to assess the respective participating local authorities' strengths and weaknesses based on the CFCI parameters. Upon completion of SITAN in the first half of 2024, a CFCI Action Plan will be drawn for each local authority to implement and comply with, before a recognition for Child Friendly City Candidate could be awarded within two to five years. Implementation of action plans are scheduled to commence in the second half of 2024 to advance the rights of children and youths under their jurisdiction.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN AND FAMILY

Tuan Speaker, Empowering Women and Family. In line with Sarawak's vision for a thriving and inclusive society and also commitment to SDG such as: SDG 1 No Poverty; SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being; SDG 4 Quality Education; SDG 5 Gender Equality; SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals; our Ministry empowers women and families to actively engage in the development agenda. Through various support, resources, opportunities, and collaboration with strategic partners, we aim to foster a cohesive and inclusive society.

*Wanita mandiri bangun ekonomi,  
Kerja keras tidak terhenti,  
Wanita Sarawak tidak terkecuali,  
Menyumbang bakti kepada pertiwi.*

### *Pemeriksaan Ekonomi Wanita*

Kementerian melalui Jabatan Wanita dan Keluarga Sarawak meneruskan pelaksanaan Program *Women Skills Training*, Bantuan Ketua Isi Rumah Wanita Sarawak (KIRWaS) dan Jelajah Kerjaya Wanita Sarawak dalam memastikan agenda pemerikasaan wanita direalisasikan selaras dengan sasaran hasil utama sektor perkhidmatan sosial, PCDS 2030, iaitu mengeluarkan isi rumah miskin daripada belunggu kemiskinan, mewujudkan purata pendapatan sebulan sebanyak RM2,150 sehingga RM3,750 menjelang tahun 2030. Pelaksanaan program-program ini akan mempersiapkan wanita Sarawak dengan ilmu dan kemahiran berkaitan bidang keusahawanan sekali gus meningkatkan penyertaan mereka dalam sektor ekonomi.

### *Women Skills Training (WST)*

Pengupayaan kapasiti wanita melalui latihan kemahiran seperti kursus jahitan, kulinari, kecantikan dan spa dan urut yang menyasarkan golongan ibu tunggal, suri rumah dan ketua isi rumah wanita telah dilaksanakan secara bersemuka dan atas talian. Sejumlah 199 sesi kursus dan empat siri *outreach* telah dirancang untuk dilaksanakan pada tahun ini dengan menyasarkan seramai 4,590 orang peserta yang melibatkan peruntukan berjumlah RM312,000.

Pada suku pertama tahun ini, sebanyak 47 sesi kursus dan dua siri *outreach* telah diadakan di Julau dan Belaga. Seramai 1,138 orang wanita telah dilatih dan hasil pemantauan mendapati seramai 602 orang Wanita, iaitu 53% peserta telah berjaya menjana pendapatan menggunakan kemahiran yang telah diperoleh.

### *Bantuan Ketua Isi Rumah Wanita Sarawak (KIRWaS)*

Seterusnya, Bantuan Ketua Isi Rumah Wanita Sarawak (KIRWas). Keutamaan akan terus diberikan kepada usahawan wanita Sarawak terutamanya golongan ibu tunggal dalam mewujudkan peluang penjana pendapatan melalui Bantuan KIRWaS. Sejak diperkenalkan pada tahun 2022, bantuan ini telah memberi manfaat kepada seramai 1,218 orang penerima. Daripada jumlah tersebut, seramai 534, iaitu bersamaan dengan 43.8% penerima berjaya menjana pendapatan melebihi RM1,200 sebulan dalam tempoh hanya tiga bulan selepas penerimaan bantuan.

### *Geran Modal Pemerikasaan Wanita Sarawak*

Seterusnya, Geran Modal Pemerikasaan Wanita Sarawak. Keprihatinan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak dalam memastikan sasaran hasil utama sektor perkhidmatan sosial tercapai, telah memberi peluang kepada pihak kementerian untuk meningkatkan produktiviti perniagaan usahawan wanita Sarawak melalui penambahbaikan peralatan perniagaan mereka.

Geran Modal Pemeraksanaan Wanita Sarawak bernilai RM2.5 juta yang diperuntukkan pada tahun lepas telah dimanfaatkan oleh 1,274 orang penerima yang telah berhasil meningkatkan pendapatan mereka sebanyak 23.29% daripada pendapatan asal. Alhamdulillah.

Berdasarkan penilaian permohonan yang telah diterima, masih ada seramai 883 orang usahawan yang layak memerlukan peruntukan tambahan berjumlah RM1.8 juta.

#### *Program Jelajah Kerjaya Wanita Sarawak*

Sejak tahun 2022, program Jelajah Kerjaya Wanita Sarawak telah membimbing 1,347 pengunjung yang terdiri daripada usahawan penerima bantuan keusahawanan kerajaan dengan khidmat konsultasi mengenai pendaftaran dan pelesenan perniagaan, dan pengurusan perniagaan.

Sepanjang tempoh tersebut, sebanyak 250 pelbagai permohonan berkaitan perniagaan telah dimajukan kepada agensi-agensi kolaborasi di tiga lokasi, iaitu Kuching, Bintulu dan Dalat untuk diproses pada peringkat selanjutnya.

Dalam mendukung inisiatif ekonomi digital, satu sesi latihan keusahawanan digital telah dilaksanakan semasa Jelajah Kerjaya Wanita Sarawak di Sibu bersama-sama *Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation Berhad* (SDEC) bagi meningkatkan tahap literasi digital 89 orang peserta. Susulan daripada siri tersebut, tiga lagi siri akan diadakan di Limbang, Mukah dan Samarahan dengan sasaran seramai 450 orang usahawan yang melibatkan peruntukan sebanyak RM207,000.

#### *Geran Pemeraksanaan NGO*

Seterusnya, Geran Pemeraksanaan NGO. Geran Pemeraksanaan NGO adalah bertujuan untuk melaksanakan program pemeraksanaan wanita dan pementapan institusi keluarga (*family institution*) yang melibatkan komuniti setempat. Setakat bulan April 2024, Jabatan Wanita dan Keluarga Sarawak telah menyalurkan sejumlah RM47,125 kepada 12 Badan Bukan Kerajaan (NGO) yang berperanan sebagai rakan strategik bagi melaksanakan pelbagai program.

#### *Penglibatan Wanita dalam Kepimpinan*

Seterusnya, Penglibatan Wanita dalam Kepimpinan. Sebanyak 11 siri kursus *Women Leadership Program* dan empat siri kursus *Leadership Bootcamp for Youth* telah dianjurkan sejak tahun 2019. Hasil penilaian peserta kursus yang dijalankan pada tahun 2023, sebanyak 94.79% peserta bagi kedua-dua program telah menyatakan persetujuan mereka bahawa kursus ini telah membawa kepada peningkatan *soft skills* mereka seperti kemahiran berkomunikasi, membuat keputusan dan bekerja secara berpasukan. *Women Leadership Programme* telah dirancang untuk diadakan di Mukah dan Limbang, manakala *Leadership Bootcamp for Youth* akan diadakan di Betong dan Sibu dengan sasaran seramai 120 orang peserta yang melibatkan peruntukan berjumlah RM200,000.

#### *Pemantapan Institusi Keluarga*

Tuan Speaker, Pemantapan Institusi Keluarga bagi memantapkan institusi keluarga. Pelaksanaan pelbagai kursus keibubapaan, pasca perkahwinan, pengurusan keluarga dan *sustainable wellness for young women* akan diteruskan pada tahun ini dengan sasaran seramai 890 peserta melibatkan peruntukan berjumlah RM267,000. Sejajar dengan agenda SDG 1 *no poverty*, kementerian juga menyediakan bantuan secara inklusif bagi meningkatkan kesejahteraan keluarga yang terjebak dalam isu sosial melalui program *Low Income Family Empowerment* singkatannya LIFE dengan menyediakan keperluan modal kepulihan berbentuk bantuan bernilai maksima RM5,000 secara *one-off* untuk menjalankan aktiviti peningkatan pendapatan atau bantuan berkaitan sokongan kesihatan dan pendidikan. Pada tahun ini, sejumlah RM3.75 juta diperuntukkan bagi pelaksanaan LIFE.

*Sistem Sokongan Pengupayaan Wanita dan Keluarga*

Dalam usaha melahirkan masyarakat yang berpengetahuan dan peka tentang hak *rights*, perundangan dan keselamatan wanita dan keluarga, kolaborasi dengan rakan strategik diteruskan dalam melaksanakan pelbagai program kesedaran keselamatan dan hak wanita dan keluarga seperti program *know your rights, family and women safety, pocket talks, anti-scam literacy* dan kursus kemahiran asas menolong. Pada tahun ini, sebanyak 19 siri akan dilaksanakan dengan sasaran seramai 1,750 orang peserta, melibatkan peruntukan berjumlah RM300,000.

*Inovasi dan Teknologi ke Arah Sarawak Maju Makmur Menjelang 2030*

Kita ingin berkongsi dengan Dewan yang mulia ini bahawa wanita Sarawak turut menjadi penyumbang dalam bidang inovasi dan teknologi yang telah dikenal pasti sebagai salah satu daripada pemboleh utama *or key enablers* bagi memacu pertumbuhan ekonomi dan produktiviti Sarawak. Hasil rekaan inovasi dan teknologi wanita Sarawak yang mempunyai hak cipta, dipaten dan dikomersialkan telah memberi impak kepada komuniti malah memenangi pelbagai anugerah di peringkat nasional dan global. Sebagai menghargai sumbangan dan mengiktiraf pencapaian 26 orang personaliti wanita ini, sumbangan mereka akan didokumentasikan dalam bentuk buku yang bertemakan Wanita Sarawak dalam inovasi dan teknologi sempena sambutan Hari Wanita 2024.

Tuan Speaker,

*Empowering Social Support System and Social Inclusivity for Community Wellbeing*

Our Ministry is also fully committed to the agenda of social inclusivity by providing social and welfare support to the vulnerable and needy, to sustain community wellbeing for a dignified existence, in tandem with the aspiration of PCDS 2030; relevant SDGs; Environment, Social and Governance philosophy; and the call made by our TYT Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak in His Excellency's State Opening Speech at this Sitting.

*Menangani Isu-isu Sosial dalam Komuniti*

(a) Social Research –

Through the Social Development Council or Majlis Pembangunan Sosial (MPS), the ministry is determined and committed to effectively address 14 pertinent social issues to sustain community wellbeing. In the journey, the ministry is guided by data, research findings, science and lived experiences to provide evidence-based input to influence social policies, program development, and targeted intervention to advance positive social impact and change in the community.

(b) Mental Health Issues –

At this sitting of the august House, I would like to touch on mental health, one out of the 14 social issues of focus. Our ministry is steadfast in addressing mental health and related issues through integrated social support and intervention, collaboration with relevant strategic partners, implementation of targeted programs and initiatives, appropriate robust support systems, resources availability, and diverse opportunities to ensure meaningful impact to the vulnerable groups.

Our ministry is very passionate in erasing the stigma related to psychological distress, and enabling people who need remedies for various spectrums and stages of mental health disorders. Based on the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) conducted by the Ministry of Health Malaysia between 2012 and 2022, numerous findings related to mental health issues are worrying. These include:

- (a) The prevalence of mental health issues in Sarawak is 35.8% and highest amongst the rural bumiputera community above 16 years old;
- (b) Risky behaviours amongst teenagers in secondary schools could lead to psychological and behavioural dysfunction;
- (c) One in eight teenagers had suicidal thoughts and one in ten had attempted suicide, and the trend was on the rise since 2012;
- (d) One in four felt depressed and girls showed more tendencies of depression than boys; and
- (e) There is an increase in secondary school students in Sarawak who are feeling lonely and unable to sleep due to worry.

In comparative research conducted by Yong Kang Cheah and others in 2021, titled "*Mental health and risk behaviour among secondary school students: A study on ethnic minorities in Malaysia*", they reported that bumiputera teenagers in Sarawak with anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation were more likely to smoke, drink and use illicit drugs compared with their peers without any mental health disorders.

On suicide, the Royal Malaysian Police recorded 286 cases in Sarawak between 2017 and 2023. Out of the total, 243 (85%) were men and 43 equivalent to 15% were women, with the highest incidences in Kuching (72 cases), followed by Miri (46 cases) and Sibü (44 cases). For 2024, as of May, 20 suicide cases were recorded.

Tuan Speaker, every suicide is a tragedy. Families, friends, school friends, work colleagues and communities affected or bereaved by suicide or suicide attempts are often left without assistance. The impact on them is devastating and far-reaching, even long after people dear to them have taken their own lives. Hence, the Ministry hopes that amendments to the Mental Health Act 2001 in 2023 to decriminalise suicide attempts will encourage vulnerable individuals to seek help without fear.

To address concerns on the research findings, the ministry is building capacity, coordinating integrated social support, and implementing targeted intervention to address mental health and the issues affecting the vulnerable groups in the community to support SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing. Among our robust integrated actions are:

- (a) Completion of the Sarawak Mental Health Study in November 2022;
- (b) Organising series of social and community development outreach programs (88 series) with components on mental health issues and series of specific mental health awareness and advocacy forums, Mental Health First Aid training, community mental health literacy and screening and suicide prevention (20 series) between 2018 and 2023 in collaboration with relevant strategic partners. In 2024, the ministry plans to conduct 46 series of social and community development outreach in all districts;
- (c) Providing NGO empowerment grants amounting to RM502,845 to support strategic partners to conduct mental health awareness and advocacy; social support; and intervention for vulnerable groups between 2019 to 2023;
- (d) Conducting monthly community mental health programs and services at our established Community Social Support Centre (CSSC) in Kuching and Transit Place for Homeless Individuals in Sibü; and

- (e) Setting up Halfway Homes for Low Income Recovery Community in Kuching, Sibu and Miri commencing 2024 for individuals with mental health illness duly stabilised and released from Government mental health facilities.

Tuan Speaker, on 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2024, this is recent, very recent, the ministry organised a *Wacana Bestari* on Suicide Prevention to provide awareness and advocacy with collaboration of Persatuan Kebajikan Perkhidmatan Psikiatri Hospital Miri together with Content Forum and AWAS, an NGO with lived experiences, in tandem with the World Health Assembly Mental Health Action Plan and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals to reduce the rate of suicide in Sarawak.

The highlight of the forum was launching of the Sarawak Suicide Reporting Card (SASar) for journalists, editors, content creators, experts in suicide prevention and people with lived experiences to utilise as a vital guide to cover news relating to suicide attempts, self-harm, and death by suicide. Harmful media reporting can lead to a rise in suicidal behaviours due to imitation. It may also spread myths and prevent people from seeking help.

For public awareness and consumption, several hotlines and digital helplines are available for vulnerable groups to get free and immediate mental health support. I think this is shown on the screen, Tuan Speaker.

#### SISTEM SOKONGAN SOSIAL, KEBAJIKAN DAN PERKHIDMATAN RUJUKAN INTERVENSI

##### *Program Outreach: Santuni Komuniti (POSKOM)*

Program ini bertujuan untuk menyantuni rakyat bagi memudahkan akses kepada perkhidmatan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak (JKMS). Program ini telah bermula pada 3 Mei 2024 dan dirancang untuk dilaksanakan di semua bahagian. Pengisian aktiviti merangkumi ceramah, dialog bersama-sama pemimpin tempatan, saringan kesihatan, pameran dan pembukaan kaunter perkhidmatan serta Khidmat Bantu Di Rumah (KBDR).

Setakat ini, seramai 2,553 orang telah disantuni melalui program ini. Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak menyasarkan 10,000 orang menjelang Ogos 2024.

##### *Bantuan Kebajikan Bulanan*

Sejajar dengan SDG 1 *No Poverty* dan SDG 2 *Zero Hunger*, kerajaan menyediakan bantuan kebajikan bulanan kepada kumpulan sasar untuk kelangsungan hidup. Mulai Januari sehingga April 2024, seramai 54,508 orang penerima bantuan kebajikan bulanan di Sarawak yang memenuhi syarat pendapatan di bawah Paras Garis Kemiskinan (PGK) iaitu RM1,198 sebulan dengan perbelanjaan berjumlah RM85.96 juta. 54,500 *monthly recipients from* Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat.

*Buah tin buah bidara;  
Terasa kelat daun pegaga,  
Kerajaan prihatin mandat negara;  
Rakyat terbela kebajikan terjaga.*

##### *Bantuan Kesihatan Bersasar Kepada Rakyat*

Dalam usaha merealisasikan aspirasi PCDS 2030 agar tiada masyarakat tertinggal dalam menikmati kemakmuran ekonomi dan keterangkuman sosial, Bantuan Kesihatan Bersasar telah disediakan melalui inisiatif Kerajaan Sarawak dan diimplementasikan oleh Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak.

Untuk makluman Dewan yang mulia ini, mesyuarat jawatankuasa penilai bagi Bantuan Kesihatan Bersasar ini diadakan pada setiap bulan untuk memastikan kelulusan permohonan dapat



disampaikan dengan segera. Ini untuk membolehkan pesakit mendapat bantuan peralatan, ubatan atau menjalani rawatan sebagaimana disarankan oleh pengamal perubatan.

Pada Januari hingga Mac 2024, seramai 48 orang pesakit telah dibantu di bawah Skim Bantuan Alat Tiruan, dengan peruntukan berjumlah RM140,652.70. Manakala 134 orang pesakit telah diluluskan Bantuan Pesakit Buah Pinggang (BPBP) dengan peruntukan berjumlah RM2.69 juta.

Di samping itu, seramai 27 orang pesakit dengan perbelanjaan berjumlah RM483,941.42 telah diluluskan untuk Bantuan Perubatan. Dengan ini, saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan kepada Kerajaan Sarawak kerana memperkenalkan Skim Bantuan Perubatan yang telah banyak membantu terutama sekali golongan sasar Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak.

Semasa persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri pada November 2023, saya telah melaporkan kelulusan untuk perolehan sebanyak 30 buah mesin dialisis oleh Kerajaan Sarawak. Untuk makluman Dewan yang mulia ini, kesemua 30 buah mesin dialisis tersebut telah diperolehi dan ditempatkan di 13 hospital dan dua klinik kerajaan. Ini ditunjukkan juga dalam slaid.

Dengan ini, lebih ramai pesakit buah pinggang di Sarawak boleh mendapat slot rawatan di hospital dan klinik kerajaan dengan hanya membayar sebanyak RM13 sekali rawatan berbanding sekitar RM130 hingga RM350 di pusat perkhidmatan rawatan dialisis kendalian NGO atau swasta.

*Program Pembangunan Ekonomi JKMS  
(Memperkasakan Penerima Bantuan dan Ahli Isi Rumah)*

Tuan Speaker, Program Pembangunan Ekonomi JKMS (Memperkasakan Penerima Bantuan dan Ahli Isi Rumah) melalui:

(a) Pemantapan Usahawan *Wellbest*

Pada tahun ini, kolaborasi bersama Institut Keusahawanan Negara (INSKEN) diadakan untuk memberi latihan dan bimbingan bagi melahirkan Usahawan *Wellbest* yang lebih kompetitif serta berdaya saing. Seramai 25 orang Usahawan *Wellbest* telah menyertai *Start-up Coaching* selama enam bulan bermula Mac sehingga September 2024.

Di samping itu, Karnival Usahawan *Wellbest* yang telah diadakan pada tahun 2016 sehingga tahun 2019, akan diteruskan semula pada tahun ini. Dijangka seramai 109 orang Usahawan *Wellbest* Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat di seluruh Sarawak akan menyertai karnival ini. Ini adalah usaha kerajaan untuk memperkenalkan Usahawan *Wellbest* ke pasaran lebih kompetitif dan terbuka. Karnival ini menyasarkan seramai 24,000 orang pengunjung dengan sasaran hasil jualan sebanyak RM1.2 juta.

(b) Program Latihan Kemahiran Kerjaya (PLKK)

Untuk makluman Dewan yang mulia ini, kerajaan menyasarkan 20,000 isi rumah miskin yang akan mendapat pendapatan bulanan RM2,150 pada tahun 2030. Selaras dengan itu, pelbagai syarikat telah menjanjikan *Letter of Intent*, untuk menawarkan 519 peluang pekerjaan dengan gaji minimum RM2,200 sebulan kepada pelatih PLKK, iaitu Program Latihan Kemahiran Kerjaya.

Untuk itu, Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak telah menyediakan pelan latihan dan mengenal pasti Ketua Isi Rumah (KIR) dan Ahli Isi Rumah (AIR). Mulai Januari hingga Mac 2024, seramai 77 orang telah berjaya menamatkan latihan kemahiran bagi Kursus *Basic Scaffolding Level 1* Siri 1 – 4 dan *Emergency Response Team* (ERT) Siri ke-5 dan telah berjaya ditawarkan pekerjaan dengan gaji purata RM2,200 hingga RM2,800 sebulan.

*Dari hulu kayuh ke muara;  
Malam gelap pasang pelita,  
Modal insan penekanan kita;  
Tingkat kemahiran rakyat sejahtera.*

*Kesejahteraan Warga Emas*

The Government will continue to implement existing social protection and intervention programmes affecting the elderly that include:

(a) Pusat Perkhidmatan Warga Emas (PPWE) dan Pusat Aktiviti Warga Emas (PAWE)

Untuk makluman Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, pada tahun 2028, Sarawak dijangka akan mencapai status wilayah tua. Sebagai persediaan awal, kerajaan sentiasa menggalakkan anggota masyarakat termasuk juga Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat untuk mengambil inisiatif bagi penubuhan PPWE dan PAWE di kawasan masing-masing melalui Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak.

Sukacita dimaklumkan bahawa kelulusan penubuhan PPWE adalah di bawah bidang kuasa Kerajaan Negeri, manakala PAWE adalah di bawah bidang kuasa Kerajaan Persekutuan. Dengan adanya PPWE dan PAWE, kerajaan berharap agar warga emas tempatan terus aktif, sihat, produktif, positif dan saling menyokong.

*Anak dara harum mewangi;  
Mandi di kali sebelah titi,  
Orang muda kita sayangi;  
Warga emas kita hormati.*

Sehingga kini, sebanyak 15 PPWE dan 21 PAWE telah ditubuhkan oleh komuniti termasuk lapan buah PAWE yang baharu.

(b) Kenyalang Gold Card (KGC) Initiatives

All Sarawakians aged 60 years and above can apply for KGC. Since 2020, 374,998 of the elderly population in Sarawak are KGC holders. As of today, 612 strategic partners and merchants are currently providing benefits in the form of discounts, memberships, and other privileges. Meanwhile, 18,016 next-of-kin to the deceased KGC holders have received the *Bantuan Ihsan Kematian (BIK)* amounting to RM54.05 million.

(c) Kursus Penjagaan Asas Warga Emas

Dua siri akan dilaksanakan pada tahun ini masing-masing di Betong dan Sibul dengan sasaran 100 orang peserta. Peserta akan didedahkan berkenaan aspek pengetahuan dalam bidang penjagaan asas dan pengurusan warga emas melalui pembelajaran teori serta praktikal.

(d) Digital Literacy for Elderly Women

Pada tahun 2023, Kementerian telah mengadakan kursus *Digital Literacy for Elderly Women* di Tanjung Manis, Debak dan Lingga, di mana 87.7% daripada pesertanya telah menyatakan peningkatan kemahiran mereka dalam penggunaan aplikasi teknologi digital. Berpandukan dapatan positif ini, kementerian memutuskan untuk melaksanakan program yang sama pada tahun ini di Daerah Tatau, Pakan dan Subis.

**PENUTUP**

Tuan Speaker, since the launching of PCDS 2030, robust social intervention, intervention referrals, and community support have taken place to enhance early childhood, women, and family development, and to address social issues and challenges faced by the vulnerable and high-risk groups in Sarawak.

The implementation of catalytic facilities, projects and programmes related to integrated social intervention and community support, welfare, childhood, women, and family empowerment, are instrumental in boosting evidence-based, integrated, and collaborated actions across public, private, civil society and community based organizations to leapfrog inclusive, continuous, and collective responsibility in sustaining community wellbeing to achieve higher social wellbeing index for all citizens in Sarawak by 2030.

This is further triangulated by the preliminary report of the Sarawak Social Wellbeing Index (SSWI) 2023, which shows a positive increase in the social wellbeing index for Sarawakians to a score of 7.12 compared to 6.21 out of 10 in SSWI 2019.

These invaluable social investments are vital to support the realization of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1 No Poverty; SDG 2 Zero Hunger; SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 4 Quality Education; SDG 5 Gender Equality; SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals. Over the years, we have been moving in the right direction towards economic prosperity, social inclusivity, and sustaining community wellbeing.

In this context, I would like to record our Ministry's appreciation to all stakeholders, strategic partners, community leaders, concerned individuals, and not forgetting our own *warga Kementerian* (KWPK) for the commitment, tireless contribution, and unwavering support to ensure that the implementation of our children, women, families, and community wellbeing agenda contribute to Sarawak economic prosperity, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability.

I would like to thank Honourable Members for Tamin, Tanjong Batu, Jepak, Katibas, Tanjong Datu, Krian and Beting Maro who had debated on various issues pertaining to subject matters under the purview of my ministry. We had taken notes on your comments, concerns, requests, and suggestions as input for our way forward. For the Honourable Member for Pending, we will provide written answers as requested.

Tuan Speaker, inclusivity, solidarity, partnerships for the goals as a foundation for community wellbeing will continue to be our guiding principle towards *Sarawak Maju Makmur*. Akhir kata, kepada semua yang berada dalam Dewan ini dan semua rakyat Sarawak amnya, saya mengucapkan Selamat Hari Ibu kepada semua yang bergelar ibu.

*Tanam keledak tumbuh melata,  
Tumbuh subur di tepi telaga,  
Kasihkan anak bersengkang mata,  
Sanggup berkorban jiwa dan raga.*

Ibu adalah ibarat kembangan orkid yang dalam kesederhanaannya sentiasa tenang, sabar dan ayu dan sentiasa dekat di hati memikat jasad dan jiwa anak-anaknya. Saya juga ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan Selamat Hari Guru untuk semua warga pendidik.

*Berburu ke padang datar,  
Dapat rusa berbelang kaki,  
Berguru kepalang ajar,  
Ibarat bunga kembang tak jadi.*

Selamat Hari Wesak dan Selamat Hari Gawai Dayak Tahun 2024. *Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai, Lantang Senang Nguan Menua*, Sarawak Maju Sarawak Damai, Rakyat Sejahtera Matlamat Semua.

Dengan ini saya menyokong penuh Usul Penghargaan Atas Ucapan Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak sempena perasmian Mesyuarat bagi Penggal Ketiga Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak Ke-19. Sekian, *Wabillahitaufiq Walhidayah*, Assalamualaikum Warahmatullah. Terima Kasih.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, under Standing Order 9 (1), I determine today's sitting goes beyond 6.30 p.m. Dengan hormatnya saya menjemput Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, Timbalan Premier; dan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan.

**Timbalan Premier; dan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian):** Thank you very much, Tuan Speaker. First and foremost, I, together with the other Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House wish to congratulate the Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak for his appointment as the 8<sup>th</sup> Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak. I wish to record my sincere appreciation and thanks to His Excellency Governor of Sarawak for his address during the opening of the First Meeting of the Third Session of the 19<sup>th</sup> Dewan Undangan Sarawak on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

His Excellency Governor of Sarawak in his address, has reiterated on the importance of a strong and stable government in spearheading Sarawak towards socioeconomic development in line with the current global challenges of international trades, climate change, regional and international conflicts that have direct bearing on Sarawak's drive towards prosperity and stability within our region. The GPS Government of the day under YAB Premier Abang Jo's leadership enjoys a strong mandate and support given by the people of Sarawak and these are paramount and crucial in ensuring all our demands under the MA63, IGC Report, Sarawak Constitution and the Federal Constitution are honoured by a Federal Government under YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is simultaneously supportive of GPS Government.

Tuan Speaker, the GPS Government through its excellent relationship with the Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim's Federal Government look forward to more and continuous support for fundings and related developments of Sarawak including improvement of our healthcare services and facilities as well as other related developments from the broader perspectives, uplift security measures and better road connectivity. His Excellency Governor of Sarawak also touches on the importance of proper decorum, respect and good rapport and collaborations amongst our multi-ethnicity society which must now be benchmarked to become a pillar of reference to emulate.

I also would like to extend my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud the former Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak and the family of the late Yang Berhormat Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal, the 20<sup>th</sup> Senate President of Malaysia on their passing. Their immense contribution to the nation building and developments especially for Sarawak are greatly appreciated. Their good hearts have stopped beating, but their hearts had touched so many lives and will live on in all of us. They will walk besides us in our hearts and memories.

I would also like to record my greatest appreciation to all Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat who, during the course of their debates, either have commented or raised matters related to my ministry as well as agencies and departments under my purview or watching brief. I will now proceed with my winding up speech and I will respond to issues raised by the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat.

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MPHLG)**

Tuan Speaker, there are 29 agencies under my charge, namely, Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Sarawak, Sewerage Services Department (SSD) Sarawak, the Housing

Development Corporation (HDC), the Borneo Development Corporation (BDC) and 25 local authorities. In addition to these State Departments and agencies, two Federal Departments are under my watching brief. They are the Sarawak State Health Department and the Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia, Sarawak. We pledge to do our very best and are committed to continuously enhance our service delivery in order to improve the quality of life of the *rakyat*.

#### *Development Projects and Programmes under Local Authorities*

Tuan Speaker, for the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House, under RMK-12, my ministry was allocated with a ceiling of RM489.95 million for the implementation of various projects by 24 local authorities. As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, RM207.66 million (42.38%) of the approved allocation has been disbursed for various infrastructure projects such as roads and drainage improvements, improvement of waterfronts, upgrading of markets, provision of street lightings, traffic lights, public toilets, public libraries, town and landscape beautification and also rural facilities and amenities. All of these projects are at various stages of implementation by various local authorities.

The Rural Transformation Project (RTP) spearheaded by the Sarawak Government plays a pivotal role in rejuvenating rural regions by enhancing infrastructure and public facilities for the benefit of the *rakyat*. Over the span of 2015 to 2023, the Sarawak Government has approved 5,499 projects as part of the RTP, allocating a total of RM912.67 million to my Ministry. To date, my ministry has successfully completed 4,778 projects, equivalent to 87% of the total approved projects under the implementations of various local authorities.

From July 2018 until 2024, the Sarawak Government has approved 372 projects under *Projek Rakyat* with a total allocation of RM2.31 billion for my ministry. These projects are implemented by DID, JKR, HDC, LCDA, and local authorities. For this year alone, 10 projects have been approved with an allocation of RM68.1 million. To date, 227 projects had been completed, while the remaining 145 are at various stages of implementation.

#### *SMART Community Development and Engagement Programmes*

Tuan Speaker, my ministry actively engages with the community through our SMART Community Development Programmes, nurturing self-reliant community groups while steadfastly aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular emphasizing SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. This year, my ministry has been allocated with a grant of RM2 million for the implementation of various community programmes carried out by 23 local authorities. To date, my ministry has approved 114 programs and RM779,862 has been disbursed. All of the approved programmes are currently in various stages of implementation.

In acknowledging the involvement of communities in upholding the importance of the environment and innovation, my Ministry has held the SMART Community Award in 2023. The objectives of the award are aimed at honouring communities that exemplify the core values of SMART concept which are Sustainable, Measurable, Achievable, Responsible and Transformational. This award recognizes local communities' proactive engagement in enhancing socio-economic sustainability through self-reliance and acknowledges their collaborative efforts with local authorities to deliver impactful community services.

#### *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) City Roadmap*

My ministry is developing the Sarawak SDGs City Roadmap for 25 local authorities in order to ensure their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by localizing the approach within their respective areas. This roadmap aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of local progress, encompassing initiatives, policy responses and addressing the challenges and issues associated with SDG implementation and achievement from a local perspective. Through a strategic partnership with URBANICE Malaysia, my ministry is in the process of producing three SDG City

roadmaps, namely the Sarawak SDG City Council Roadmap, the Sarawak SDG Municipal Council Roadmap and the Sarawak District Council Roadmap. These roadmaps are instrumental in enabling local authorities in Sarawak to implement localized SDGs more effectively. The roadmaps are expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2025.

*Strata Management Ordinance, 2019*

Tuan Speaker, I would like to update this august House on the status of the enforcement of Strata Management Ordinance, 2019 (SMO, 2019). As of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, there are 603 strata developments approved in Sarawak consisting of 68,988 parcels. Of these, 242 development consisting of 15,136 parcels under various categories of land use have been completed and issued with strata titles.

All of these 242 strata development has formed the Management Corporation or by virtue of Section 2(1) Strata (Subsidiary Title) Ordinance (SSTO), 2019, come into existence a Management Corporation. The remaining 361 developments consisting of 53,852 parcels are in various stages of strata development implementation. A total of 159 developments consisting of 29,686 parcels under various categories out of 361 have successfully conducted their First Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the establishment of a Joint Management Body (JMB) and has been registered with the Commissioner of Buildings (COB) under Section 18(2), SMO, 2019. The remaining 202 strata development consisting of 24,166 parcels are still in the process of submitting the Strata Subdivision Plan (SSP) as required under Section 5 or Section 7, SMO, 2019 before the developer can sell the strata unit or before the developer can call for the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM for the Joint Management Board. To date, Controllers of Building had issued 58 reminders to the developers that fail to convene the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM of a strata development. Compounding action will be initiated if the developer still fails to convene the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM within the period stated in the reminder.

*Strata Management (Strata Management Tribunal) Regulations, 2024*

The Strata Management (Strata Management Tribunal) Regulations, 2024 has been gazetted and has come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. My ministry will continue to advise the strata owners and the management body of the strata scheme development on their rights and lodgement of their cases.

**ISSUES RAISED BY THE AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT**

*Allowance for Councillors*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, allowance for Councillors has been reviewed several times with the last review for Councillors' allowance being in July 2019. For the first time since Sarawak Independence, all the Councillors have been given a Special Fixed Monthly Allowance in the sum of RM300. My ministry is now finalizing Councillors' allowance and to be implemented soon.

*Kuching Food Festival – Lucky Draw Issue*

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pending, Kuching Food Festival 2023 is part of Kuching Festival, which is a key Sarawak Government's initiative to position Sarawak as a vibrant tourism destination, despite connectivity challenges. The food festival registered participation of 1.1 million visitors including visitors outside Sarawak, with a wide range of traditional and contemporary cuisines solidify Kuching's status as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.

On the concern of Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pending that the results of the lucky draw have yet to be announced, I wish to clarify that this is due to underwhelming registration to the lucky draw event despite the high turnout just over 8,000 registered for lucky draw despite 1.1 million visitors. The prizes last year still being exhibited to show transparency of organizers. The prizes are properly recorded, listed, and kept with MBKS with the knowledge and based on suggestion of the sponsors.

As part of the effort to publicise the event this year, the organising committee with the consent of the sponsors have strategized that the lucky draw will be conducted one week before this year food festival to create momentum and fresh awareness on the lucky draw event. Through this strategy, it is hoped that more people will be enthusiastic and participate in the coming Kuching Festival 2024.

The use of digital QR code is to speed up the process of registration and participation in the lucky draw event, to avoid undue crowding and congestion that may affect not just the visitors' experience but most importantly their safety during such a massive event. Rest assured that MBKS adopts *Dasar Keselamatan ICT* by the Sarawak Government and officers in-charge of the event are well-informed of the ICT policy. There is a strict SOP practice by the MBKS as a custodian of data for over 58,000 properties under its jurisdiction. Therefore, there is no basis, be it fair comments or qualified privilege at all for the accusations which are false and untruthful for being disguised in a question form by Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending that the public were "*scanned to be scammed*" and that this was "*scam fiasco by MBKS*". The only one being scammed is the public by DAP Sarawak.

#### *KMC Flat*

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Padungan, KMC flats were built in the 1950s to help the urban poor. Since its occupancy, the MBKS has assisted numerous families by providing temporary residence in proximity to educational institutions and workplaces.

The majority of these flats are let out according to their original aims and objectives. The MBKS has diligently strived to maintain the building, considering the low rental rates last revised in 1980s set to support the tenants and have managed the property as a full functioning community. However, inevitable wear and tear of the structures, particularly, those constructed over 60 years ago, cannot be disregarded. Therefore, some units require renovations on a rotational basis which resulting several units of the properties to remain vacant. Additionally, some of these units are left vacant for emergency housing.

One of the biggest urban renewal projects in Kuching is the Darul Hana Resettlement Scheme for the Malay *kampung* along Sungai Sarawak. YAB Premier had declare that he wants to be fair to all races and had allocated RM2 million for the master plan on urban renewal of KMC flat and surrounding areas. This is Premier Abang Jo's inclusive policy. I hope YB for Padungan were not insist people living in a run down 1950 flat so that he has these topics to continue to harp on.

#### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION**

For the information of the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Semuja, Beting Maro, currently, the Federal Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT) is reviewing the criteria for upgrading and establishment on local authority. My ministry will process applications on upgrading and establishment of local authority once the new criteria are available.

#### *Dewan Serbaguna Pekan Kanowit*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Machan, the site for *Bina Baharu Dewan Serbaguna*, Pekan Kanowit which has been approved under *Projek Rakyat* with an allocation of RM5 million in September 2023 has been identified. Jabatan Kerja Raya Sarawak as implementing agency will implement the project once the siting approval for the identified site is obtained.

#### *Development Status for Pengurusan Tapak Pelupusan Sampah Project*

For the information of the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Serembu and Opar, as of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024, the physical progress of the construction of 7.7 kilometres access road under Phase 1 of the proposed Level 4 sanitary landfill is 10% against scheduled 15.38%. For the Phase 2 of the project

which involved the physical construction of the proposed Level 4 sanitary landfill, the design has been completed and tender will be called upon completion of Phase 1. The project for Phase 2 is expected to take 18 months to complete.

*Parking Spaces in Kapit Town*

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pelagus, Kapit District Council has plans to address shortage of parking space problem, which includes the development of parking lots for future development such as:

- (a) 50 parking lots under the proposed development of new van station at Jalan Memora, an allocation of 20 parking lots under the Proposed New Dry and Wet Market which has been tendered out;
- (b) An additional 30 parking lots under the proposal for the development of Hawkers and Recreational Centre at Kapit Waterfront, which is still in planning stage; and
- (c) The council is also in the process of identifying suitable sites for the development of a new multi-storey car park in Kapit town for consideration under the RMK-13.

*Improvement or Upgrading of Jalan Ke Sk Ulu Awik*

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Krian, the spur roads leading to various long houses such as Jalan Ulu Kabo, Sungai Jirak/ Ulu Awik, Jalan ke SK Ulu Awik, Jalan Lubok Kepayang and a few others, will be monitored and maintained by Saratok District Council (MDS) periodically and will be included in the MDS rural project master list to be progressively upgraded to fulfil the inclusion criteria under the MARRIS maintenance. Jalan Rumah Jimmy, Brayang and Jalan Kawang/ Sungai Engkabang/ Drau have fulfilled the MARRIS criteria and has been registered under the council's MARRIS list hence maintenance was done in 2021 and 2023 respectively.

*Rotation of Chairman in Saratok District Council*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong, currently, there are 13 District Officers who are the Chairman of the 13 District Councils including Gedong District Council. A District officer is not a full time Chairman of the District Council. They have their own substantive work as District Officer looking after their own respective district where they are serving.

For the purpose of uniformity and consistency of practices in the 13 District Councils, my Ministry is still studying and looking into the possibility that the Chairman of the District to be a full time Chairman instead of District Officer. This is to enable the 13 District Councils to have similar practice with City Councils, Municipal Councils and Divisional Councils whereby the mayor or chairman are political appointees.

*Equal Distribution of Councillorship in Saratok District Council for Three DUN Areas*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong, the matter will be discussed in the next Selection Committee for the appointment of Councillors. I will now deliberate on housing.

*Housing*

*Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK-12) Projects*

The Housing Development Corporation (HDC) has been approved an amount of RM104.3 million for 2024. This is part of the RM262.8 million approved allocation under RMK-12 Mid-Term Review for the implementation of 16 physical projects including 742 units of affordable house and



Rumah SPEKTRA Permata (RSP) in Kuching, Serian, Betong, Sarikei, Mukah, Miri and Limbang and one non-physical project in the form of grant for issuance of strata title for HDC flats.

To date, 12 projects consisting of 655 units are on-going, while the remaining four projects are at planning stage.

#### *Projek Rakyat*

Of the eight projects approved under the *Projek Rakyat* as reported by me in November session, one project has been completed which is the upgrading of infrastructure works at RSP Skim Pembesaran Kampung (SPK) Igan, four projects are on-going of which three projects are involving 162 units RSP in Kuching, Gedong and Kabong while the other is on upgrading of infrastructure works at SPK Tian, Matu. The remain three projects are under planning stage.

#### *Sarawak Rental Assistance Scheme (SRAS)*

Tuan Speaker, to date, Sarawak Rental Assistance Scheme (SRAS) has committee has approved 3,917 applications with a lock amount of RM21.8 million. The approved applications comprise of 2,493 new applications from public and HDC flat tenants, 1,037 second-year renewals and 302 third-year renewals and 85 students from higher institutions.

Out of the 3,917 applications, 2,701 applications are from Kuching district, 10 applications from Samarahan, 422 applications from Sibu, 109 applications from Miri, 590 applications from Bintulu.

For students, SRAS Selection Committee has approved 85 applications out of 127 applications received. Amongst the approved applications, two students are from University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), two students from Swinburne and 81 students are from Technology College Sarawak (TCS).

#### *Longhouse Loan Scheme*

Tuan Speaker, for the information of this august House, between 1978 until 2023, the Longhouse Loan Scheme in Sarawak has benefited 1,081 longhouses comprising 23,539 doors. This involved an allocation of RM453.3 million with RM250.96 million from the Federal Government and RM202.34 million from the Sarawak Government. Since 2022, RM50 million has been allocated annually by the Sarawak Government to uplift and expedite the transformation of the living environment in the rural areas and to reduce the long waiting list of longhouse loan application throughout Sarawak due to the increasing and overwhelming number of applications received to date.

As of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, a total of RM182.88 million has been disbursed, benefiting 289 longhouses consisting of 6,152 doors. To date, 55 longhouses consisting of 1,182 doors involving an allocation of RM52.6 million has been approved and pending disbursement. Currently, there are 187 longhouses involving 3,704 doors in the waiting list.

#### *Housing Deposit and Repayment Assistance Scheme (HDRAS)*

The Sarawak Government in 2021 has introduced Housing Deposit Assistance Scheme (HDAS) initiative which was further enhanced in October 2022 and renamed as Housing Deposit and Repayment Assistance Scheme (HDRAS). This initiative provides financial assistance of 10% of the purchase price or RM10,000 whichever is lower, to the eligible applicants. This house upfront deposit payment is for first time house buyer under housing schemes sanctioned by the Sarawak Government. Any house buyer who is approved with a 100% financing from financial institution is also eligible for repayment assistance of RM200 per month up to 48 months. My ministry will further enhance this programme to benefit more first-time house buyers and an announcement of it will be done soon.

As reported by me in the last session, RM10 million has been allocated in 2022 and an additional RM40 million in 2023 to Mutiara Mortgage & Credit Sdn. Bhd. (MUTIARA) which will benefit about 5,000 house buyers. To date, MUTIARA has received 1,570 applications of which 1,398 applications have been approved amounting to RM12.9 million.

*Mutiara Mortgage & Credit Sdn. Bhd.*

To address the end-financing problem affecting low-income group (B40) and middle-income group (M40) house buyers, the Sarawak Government through MUTIARA has approved 1,526 applications involving financial allocation of RM99 million. To date, out of these approved applications, a total of RM65 million has been disbursed to 1,211 house buyers at a interest rate of 1% and 3% per annum for B40 and M40 respectively.

*Tribunal for Housing Purchaser Claims*

The number of cases presided over the past three years between 2021 to April 2024 are 255 cases. There are 97 cases involving in 2021, 82 cases in 2022, 49 cases in 2023 and 27 cases solved as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. All cases solved are located in the various districts in Kuching, Sibul, Miri and Bintulu.

Since 2022 until April 2024, the Tribunal has filed 21 criminal cases of non-compliance of Award under Section 53 of the Housing Development (Control and Licensing) Ordinance, 2013 in several district's Courts in Sarawak. 13 cases have been successfully prosecuted while the remaining is still ongoing.

**ISSUES RAISED BY THE AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT**

*Affordable Housing*

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for Kota Sentosa, Lingga, Kabong and Beting Maro, during their course of debate, have highlighted various issues related to the provision of affordable housing such as a status of the implementation, its enhancement, issuance of OP (Occupation Permit). My ministry through Housing Development Corporation (HDC) will address those issues accordingly and will keep the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in the loop. I hope the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat can work closely with the relevant agencies and facilitate in addressing those issues.

**DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE SARAWAK (DID)**

Tuan Speaker, Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) is a Sarawak Government agency. However, the development projects are funded by both Federal and Sarawak Government under the Concurrent List of the Federal Constitutions.

**STATE FUNDED PROJECTS**

*Urban Drainage and Flood Mitigation*

For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House, under the RMK-12, the Sarawak Government has allocated RM99.61 million for the implementation of 23 projects inclusive of 14 projects approved under the Mid-Term Review. All of these projects are under various stages of implementation.

*Rural Transformation Projects (RTP)*

For 2024, the Department has been entrusted to implement 480 RTP projects in various divisions with a total allocation of RM78.851 million.

*Projek Rakyat*

From 2018 to 2024, Sarawak Government has also approved 141 projects under *Projek Rakyat* with a total allocation of RM968.364 million for DID. To date, 100 projects (71%) has been completed whereas nine projects (6%) are under construction, and 32 projects (23%) are under pre-contract stages.

*Projects under Regional Development Authorities*

Tuan Speaker, for the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House, a total of RM221.04 million for 61 flood mitigation and drainage projects throughout Sarawak were allocated to DID Sarawak by various development agencies such as the Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA), Integrated Regional Samarahan Development Agency (IRSDA), Betong Division Development Agency (BDDA), Bintulu Development Authority (BDA), Rajang Delta Development Agency (RADDA), and Northern Region Authority (NRDA) for the implementation of various flood mitigation, drainage improvement works and other related infrastructure works. Of these, 42 projects have been completed, four flood mitigation projects in Sri Aman and Bintulu are expected to complete in 2024 while 15 are still under various stages of implementation.

**FEDERAL FUNDED PROJECTS**

*Federal Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA)*

Tuan Speaker, for the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I would like to update this august House on the various ongoing progress of Federal funded projects under the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA) under YAB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof.

In 2024, DID Sarawak received a total of RM78 million for the implementation of various projects as follows:

- (a) Seven flood mitigation projects in various divisions including the recently completed *Rancangan Tebatan Banjir (RTB)* Sibu (Fasa 3) on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, RTB Sungai Miri and RTB Sungai Stakan which are under implementation and the remaining four RTB projects which are RTB Beradek Semilang, RTB Limbang, RTB Bandaraya Kuching Fasa 2 and RTB Bandaraya Kuching Fasa 3 are still in pre-implementation stage;
- (b) Two flood mitigation master plan studies for Lembangan Batang Saribas, Betong are under implementation and Lembangan Batang Lupar, Sri Aman are still under pre-implementation stage;
- (c) On the progress of projects under *Pembangunan Lembangan Sungai Bersepadu (PLSB)* Sungai Sarawak by PETRA, Package 1 and PLSB Sungai Sarawak Package 3, both packages will be handed over to the successful contractors soon. PLSB Sungai Sarawak Package 2 is still pending decision from PETRA Tender Board in Kuala Lumpur;
- (d) RM15.11 million which has been allocated for *Kerja-kerja Kecemasan Luar Jangka Sebelum dan Selepas Banjir, Kolam Takungan* and *Naik Taraf Infrastruktur Mekanikal dan Elektrikal untuk Kawalan Banjir* will be fully utilised by end of this year;
- (e) Under the National Hydrological Network Programme, the Department will set up 10 new hydrological stations and upgrade 76 existing hydrological stations throughout Sarawak at the cost of RM8.6 million. The project is currently ongoing and scheduled to be completed by the second quarter of 2024; and

- (f) The Federal Government through the department has also approved the installation of a flood forecasting and warning system at Sungai Sarawak and Batang Rejang with a total project cost of RM34.2 million. It is currently under the detailed design and a tender is expected to be called by DID Sarawak by the third quarter of 2024.

#### ISSUES RAISED BY THE AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT

##### *Flash Flood*

For the information of the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House, while we acknowledge that inadequate drainage systems built years ago, obsolete drainage master plan, haphazard and rapid development as well as inefficient maintenance and siltation of our drains and waterways, might be the causes of the occurrences of flash flood or flood in our cities, towns and rural areas, one must not forget that the global phenomenon known as climate change is equally responsible.

As everyone in this august House is aware, experience and can even feel and see with our own naked eyes, climate change is already happening all over the world over, and Sarawak is not spared. Climate change is here to stay, as it can be seen by many significant “*tell-tale signs*” such as:

- (a) Increased in global average surface temperature by about 0.6 Celsius since 1990s causing extreme temperature and heat waves as experienced by many countries throughout the world;
- (b) Rise in sea level by about 1cm per decade;
- (c) Decline in Artic Sea ice thickness by 40% in the past 40 years;
- (d) Major glaciers throughout the world are retreating; and
- (e) Precipitations have increased particularly as intense rainfall leading to more frequent and severe flash floods and flooding like what had happened in countries and continents where flooding was unheard of before such as the recent events in Dubai, Kenya and Saudi Arabia;

All these phenomena have already impacted on our socioeconomic wellbeing, the way we live and the world we are living in. Having said these, the Sarawak Government being a people centric government will continue to undertake direct in-situ intervention measures and for flash flooding issues and in 2016 has adopted and implemented Sarawak Urban Stormwater Management (SUStoM) Guideline which is deemed to be a promising solution for flash flood mitigations in the region. It is timely to take proactive measures to change the rapid disposal of surface water runoff to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly approach of “*controlled-at-source*” or “*make rooms for water*”.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kota Sentosa, Opar, Engkilili, and Stakan have raised issues and problems relating to the occurrences of flooding, flash floods, drainage improvement, and suitability of our methodology and solutions to drainage improvement in their respective constituencies. Rest assured that the DID Sarawak will continue to convey to Putrajaya and Sarawak Government on the issues and fighting for bigger share of funding for the drainage development projects.

#### SEWERAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (SSD)

##### *Urban Sewerage*

Tuan Speaker, Sewerage Services Department (SSD) is another one of our agencies which is implementing projects funded by both the Sarawak Government and the Federal Government under

the Concurrent List. I will now update the various sewerage projects in Sarawak which are undertaken by the Department.

### *Centralised Sewerage Systems*

Tuan Speaker, the implementation of Phase 1 of the Miri Centralised Sewerage System with a scheme value of RM428 million commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017. It has a capacity of 50,000 population equivalent to cover the Central Business District of Miri City. We have completed all the main work of the project. We are now decommissioning the existing septic tanks and switching over to the centralised system. With the strong cooperation from the property owners, the switching over works is progressing well. We anticipate full commissioning of the system by the third quarter this year.

In 2022, the Federal Government has also approved Miri Centralised Sewerage System Phase 2 with a scheme value of RM450 million. This Phase 2 has a capacity for another 50,000 population equivalents. It covers mainly the residential areas in Piasau, Pujut and Krokop. This will further expand the coverage of the centralised sewerage system for Miri City. The design work is progressing well, and we schedule to call tender by the end of this year.

The Kuching Centralised Sewerage System Package 2, costing RM750 million, commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017. It covers Kampung Gita, part of Jalan Matang, Jalan Tun Abdul Rahman Yaakub and Padungan areas. The scheduled completion date is 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024. To date, the project has achieved 90% completion, which is a delay of 7%. The contractor has implemented a catch-up plan to reduce the delay.

The Federal Government has also approved Kuching Centralised Sewerage System Package 3 with a scheme value of RM382 million. The appointment of civil and structural consultant is in progress. The physical work is expected to commence next year.

### *Septic Sludge Treatment Plants*

Tuan Speaker, the Federal Government has reactivated the Sarikei and Betong projects in 2023. Due to the price increase of the construction materials and specialized equipment, the Department must review the scope to meet the scheme's value. Therefore, the tenders for both projects have been delayed to the third quarter of this year. The physical work is expected to start within the fourth quarter of this year.

Kapit and Limbang projects have been reactivated this year also. Tender for these two projects is scheduled early next year. Once completed and commissioned, these four septic sludge treatment facilities will improve the efficiency of the individual septic tanks and the small package plants in our smaller towns. This will reduce the pollutant load to our streams and rivers.

## **ISSUED RAISED BY THE AHLI YANG BERHORMAT**

### *Construction Site Accident*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tupong, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024, next to the mosque along Jalan Pinang Jawa, a construction equipment belonging to our sewerage project contractor, lost balance and fall onto its side. The injured equipment operator was trapped in the seat. He was subsequently rescued by the Bomba personnel. The fence of the mosque and a motorcycle parked within the mosque area were damaged too. The equipment was seriously damaged and immobilised. The contractor is still repairing the construction equipment so that it can be removed from the site in order to repair the damaged mosque fence accordingly.

As this is a serious construction site accident involving personnel injury, a stop work order has immediately been issued on the same day by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health

(DOSH). DOSH is still investigating the case. The Sewerage Services Department is monitoring the progress and shall take further appropriate actions once the investigation is finished.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### *Sarawak Health Department*

Tuan Speaker, I will now proceed to update on the health services provided by the Sarawak Health Department, one of the Federal departments under my watching brief. I would like to update this august House on the status of Malaysia Agreement 1963, Healthcare.

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 marks the first *Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Tindakan Bersama Pembangunan Kesihatan Sarawak* which was co-chaired by the Federal Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Haji Dzulkefly bin Ahmad and myself.

Following the said meeting, four subcommittees have been formed to discuss further affairs related to *Cawangan Kawalan Amalan Perubatan Swasta (CKAPS)* under Akta 586, Food Act 1983, Human Resources, and Finance and Development. These four subcommittees will continue to discuss further decentralization matters and issues for consideration by the *Jawatankuasa Teknikal Majlis Tindakan Pelaksanaan Perjanjian Malaysia 1963* chaired by YAB Dato' Sri Fadillah bin Haji Yusof, our Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, later this month.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the Sarawak Health Department has received RM2.32 billion operating funds and RM441.62 million development funds from the Federal Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) for operational expenses, human capital development, minor upgrading as well as repair on health facilities, hospital and clinic support services including procurement of medical equipment. As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, there are 26,633 government healthcare personnels including 2,252 on a contract basis serving in Sarawak against 27,784 approved posts.

### *Development Projects*

As of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the overall physical progress of Petra Jaya Hospital is 71.24%. The project is now scheduled to be completed in August 2025.

As of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the construction of an additional block in Miri Hospital has been completed. It is scheduled to be handed over to the Department in July this year. The physical progress for the new Lawas Hospital is 75.02% and is scheduled to be completed in December this year.

I am pleased to update this august House that the fire safety requirement for Klinik Kesihatan Nanga Kemalih, Sarikei (Type 6) has been completed. Inspection by Bomba Sibu was done on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and is pending the rectification of Bomba non-compliance. The clinic is expected to be operationalized by second quarter once Bomba support letter for the occupancy of the clinic building is issued. Klinik Kesihatan Bandaraya Miri (Type 2) has been operationalized on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

As of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the physical progress for Klinik Kesihatan Siburan is 99.42%. The remaining work involving the connection of electrical supply and testing and commissioning works. To date, 76% or 206 out of 271 health clinics throughout Sarawak are in poor physical condition. These include 175 Klinik Kesihatan, 20 Klinik Komuniti, nine Klinik Kesihatan Ibu dan Anak and two Klinik Desa.

For 2024, the Federal Ministry of Health has allocated RM42.74 million for repair upgrading works of health clinics in Sarawak. Of these, RM11.74 million under BP0600 budget is for upgrading, renovation, and repair works, RM19 million is under *Klinik Daif* budget and RM12 million under BP201 budget for rural clinic services.

*COVID-19 Programme*

Tuan Speaker, I wish to update this august House on the current situation of COVID-19 in Sarawak. As of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024, a total of 332,674 COVID-19 cases and with 1,802 deaths due to COVID-19 were reported in Sarawak, since the first reported case on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. A total of 329,736 cases or approximately 99.12% have recovered from the disease. Until 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024, there were a total of three deaths caused by COVID-19 reported this year, resulting in a mortality rate of 0.54% cumulatively.

The utilization rate of Intensive Care Units (ICUs) for COVID-19 has been minimal with occasional admission since Epid one this year. Thus, the inpatient management is still within our capacity.

*Human Rabies*

Tuan Speaker, I would also like to provide an update on the situation in Sarawak from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 until 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024, Sarawak State Health Department has received a total of 102,780 animal bite reports. From 1<sup>st</sup> January until 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024, a total of 6,111 animal bites were reported with an average of 382 cases per week or 55 cases per day. The number of human rabies cases remains alarming. There have been 78 cases of human rabies since the outbreak until 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

To date, there are three cases as compared to 20 cases reported throughout 2023. As part of the effort to reduce the human rabies cases, Sarawak State Health Department has increased the number of post bite clinics from 107 facilities in June last year to 270 facilities this year, all of which are equipped with anti-rabies vaccines. These include 241 Federal Ministry of Health facilities and 29 private facilities. Rabies is indeed preventable.

**ISSUES RAISED BY THE AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT**

*Klinik Kesihatan*

Tuan Speaker, for the information of the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kalaka, Kabong, Daro, Pelagus, Opar and Krian, as Deputy Minister for Public Health in Housing have mentioned in the previous question and answer session, the Sarawak Government will be pioneering the provision of initial financing for the upgrading and development of healthcare infrastructure and facilities to expedite their implementation including revitalizing the rundown clinics in Sarawak. Under this initiative, Klinik Kesihatan Kabong, Klinik Kesihatan Nyabor, Klinik Kesihatan Bena and Klinik Kesihatan Mujong have been identified for redevelopment and rebuilding.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March this year, the Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri' Anwar Ibrahim while on his working visit to Sarawak hailed a historical first that Sarawak is the first state to offer finance for federal education and health projects first and pay back later, in order to speed up implementation on these federal projects. This will enable the realization of long-term plan for new healthcare development projects in Sarawak such as Klinik Kesihatan Nanga Sama, Klinik Kesihatan Nanga Pelagus, Klinik Kesihatan Saratok, Klinik Kesihatan Biawak, Klinik Kesihatan Sarikei and Lundu Hospital. The Sarawak Government is determined to expedite the completion of all delayed projects related to Klinik Kesihatan Daro and Klinik Pergigian Daro through this proposed mechanism.

Preliminary estimate for all this hospital and *klinik daif* may cost up to RM17 billion and we hope that the Federal Government will endorse some of these projects rather than keep on waiting for Ministry of Health Malaysia RMK funding. At this rate, some of the federal healthcare projects may not even have funding under RMK-14 let alone the next RMK-13. The technical committee headed by the Ketua Setiausaha Negara from the Federal Government and Setiausaha Sarawak from the Sarawak Government had been formed to work through the details of this proposed initiative.

*Klinik Kesihatan Jalan Oya*

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Assek, currently, the Sarawak State Health Department plans to relocate Klinik Kesihatan Jalan Oya to a temporary location at Jalan Wawasan due to the current unsafe condition of the existing clinic's building, as declared by JKR Sarawak. However, the Sarawak State Health Department will need an urgent allocation of RM600,000 per year for the shop lot rental and one-off allocation of RM6.5 million for the renovation and upgrading works from the Federal Ministry of Health in ensuring the continuity of service for the affected population.

*Increment Project Cost for Klinik Kesihatan Julau*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan, the Ministry of Economy has recently approved RM62 million for the construction of Type 4 clinic, health district office and quarters. The project is now under pre-implementation process by JKR Malaysia.

*Placement of Medical Doctors at Meluan*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Meluan, one doctor has been stationed in Klinik Kesihatan Entaih since March 2022. The remaining four clinics in Meluan are yet to be staffed with medical doctors as their average daily attendances are less than 15 patients per day. The Department is monitoring the clinics' needs and workload periodically and will post medical doctors in those clinics once the daily attendances reach 30 patients. Currently, the clinics receive visiting doctor services from Klinik Kesihatan Julau.

*Hemodialysis Unit (HDU)*

For the information of the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Balingian, Meluan and Krian, majority of Klinik Kesihatan in Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat's areas are less than 60 minutes away from the nearest hospital with hemodialysis service. Furthermore, Klinik Kesihatan Balingian, Kuala Balingian, Sesok, Nanga Budu, Nanga Aloj and *klinik-klinik kesihatan* in Meluan does not meet the criteria to set up their own Hemodialysis Unit yet.

*Sibu Heart and Cancer Centre*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Bukit Assek, Sibu Hospital has received allocations from the Ministry of Health Malaysia to upgrade the existing MRI room to accommodate the donated Cardiac MRI machine through the initiative of the Sarawak Heart Foundation making it the second Ministry of Health hospital in Sarawak capable of doing cardiac MRI. The Department is planning on the provision of visiting cardiologists at Sibu Hospital.

However, cardiac patients who require an open-heart surgery would still need to be referred to Sarawak Heart Centre in Samarahan due to the limited number of cardiothoracic surgeons' availability in Sarawak. Furthermore, the Department is also proposing the building of new additional clinical block which include Cardiology Unit in RMK-13. The Department's main focus at the moment is building Pusat Kanser Sarawak in Kuching.

*Cardiology Services at Bintulu Hospital*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tanjong Batu, the Department plans to provide the medical subspecialties including Cardiology, Nephrology and Neurology once the proposed additional block for the expansion of Women and Children and Surgical based services is approved.

The access to Sarawak Heart Centre in Kota Samarahan remains a challenge for many patients and carers from other parts of Sarawak due to the physical distance that they have to travel.



The process of upgrading the existing infrastructures and setting up new services can take number of months and years to approve. Sarawak Heart Foundation has worked closely with Sarawak Heart Centre to upgrade facilities and services since 1996 including improving access and care of cardiac patients in Sarawak through fund raising and collaboration with corporate owners. In realising the needs for cardiology services access to Sarawakian, Sarawak Heart Foundation has written to Ministry of Health Malaysia for approval to provide some seed funding to upgrade the current radiology and geographic system in Bintulu Hospital to cardiac and angiography system making it also a second Malaysia Ministry of Health Hospital in Sarawak capable of doing coronary angiography.

#### *Carpark Issue at Limbang Hospital*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Batu Danau, Limbang Hospital has upgraded the area near to the Emergency and Trauma with additional 10 car parks in 2023 with a funding from Ahli Lembaga Pelawat Hospital (ALPH). The proposal for new buildings which includes the car park facilities has been submitted. For now, RM437,500 is approved for preliminary works under RMK12 Rolling Plan 4.

#### *Ambulance at Klinik Kesihatan Nyabor*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kabong, the ambulance for Klinik Kesihatan Nyabor is now expected to arrive in the first quarter of 2025.

#### *Microwave at Palliative Care at General Hospital*

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Pending, the Sarawak General Hospital policy statement issued in 2023, Item 4.8.1., six patients meals stated that “*non-Halal food must be kept using self-prepared container*”. However, in the event of an additional microwave specifically designated for non-halal food, non-muslin individuals must use the designated microwave for their food reheating needs.

As we all know, health clinic in Malaysia especially Sarawak is severely underfunded. The Sarawak General Hospital like Pusat Jantung is our community hospital. We all should play our roles and do our part in helping the public hospital even though it is under the Federal Government.

In April this year, together with the Lions Club, we donated 28 units of microwave to Pusat Jantung Sarawak. Sarawak General Hospital is four times bigger than Pusat Jantung Sarawak. Since Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending has told this august House that she is willing to help, perhaps she can emulate such a good deed like the Lions Club by donating at least 15 units of microwave to Sarawak General Hospital with some to be used for halal food.

### **FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA SARAWAK**

#### *Fire Safety Awareness Programme*

The Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia Sarawak is committed to implement Public Educational and Awareness programmes on fire safety for the communities of Sarawak. As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the Department has carried out 618 Public Awareness Programmes involving 76,096 participants as compared to 256 involving 15,872 participants for the same period in 2023.

#### *Statistic of Emergency Calls*

A total of 3,194 emergency calls comprising of 779 calls on fire outbreaks, 2,404 rescue calls and 11 calls for special services were received from January until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The Department managed to save RM178 million worth of properties.

## SARAWAK NATIONAL BUILDING

Lately everyone in Malaysia admires and singing praise of Sarawak. I always ask why? Is this because Sarawak is not divided and polarised by the 3R – Race, Religion and Royalty as in West Malaysia? Or we don't have DAP Sarawak in the Sarawak Government.

Sarawak after 60 years of formation of Malaysia, the opportunity for the era of Sarawak Nation Building is finally here. Sarawakian would like to see the Unity Government being sincere and meaningful in the implementation of religious autonomy, health autonomy, education autonomy, one third Members of Parliament from Sabah and Sarawak, greater share of financial taxation from Sarawak 112(d) and all those outstanding issues listed under MA63 and IGC Report. Sadly, some members of our august House called the aforementioned aspiration as regionalism which they claim to be a form of discrimination. But luckily their boss, YAB Dato Sri Anwar Ibrahim has agreed in principle for MA63 to be implemented as he called it *adil* or fair to the people of Sabah and Sarawak. We are grateful for YAB Dato Seri Anwar's stance.

As Sarawak undergoes exponential progress towards 2030, no longer "*hot air*", there will be many *mata merah* in Malaysia. Sarawakians needs to remain united and stand in solidarity together for these few critical years till 2030. We must be on high alert for *anai-anai* from both within and outside Sarawak, including beware of *musuh dalam selimut* inside GPS.

## CONCLUSION

Tuan Speaker, before I conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Tuan Speaker for your wisdom in ensuring that the proceedings in this august House were conducted with dignity and proper decorum, reflecting being the longest Speaker in Malaysia.

I would also like to put on record my thanks and appreciation to Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar State Secretary of Sarawak and all officers from the various Ministries, State and Federal Departments as well as Government agencies for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the smooth proceedings of this august House. My special thanks also go to our friends from the media who have provided coverage throughout the sittings.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Sarawakians Happy Wesak Day, *Selamat Hari Gawai, Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai*, and also Happy Mothers' Day. And Tuan Speaker, with that I support the Motion of Appreciation of the Tuan Yang Terutama's opening address. Sekian, terima kasih, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur, *Salam Segulai Sejalai. Oohaa. (Applause)*.

**Tuan Speaker:** Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, that wraps up today's sitting. 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)*