



S A R A W A K

PENYATA RASMI PERSIDANGAN DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI

Sarawak State Legislative Assembly Official Reports and Debates

MESYUARAT KEDUA BAGI PENGGAL KEDUA

Second Meeting of the Second Session

20 – 29 NOVEMBER 2023

DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK KESEMBILAN BELAS

Nineteenth Sarawak State Legislative Assembly

SELASA

28 NOVEMBER 2023

(14 JAMADILAWAL 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

MESYUARAT KEDUA BAGI PENGAL KEDUA

Selasa, 28 November 2023

Dewan bermesyuarat di Petra Jaya, Kuching pada pukul 9.06 pagi

HADIR

Bil.	Nama	Konstituensi
1.	Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Asfia bin Awang Nasar P.S.M., D.A., P.N.B.S., D.S.A.P., D.I.M.P., P.B.K., P.C.E. (Emas) <i>Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak</i>	
2.	Yang Berhormat 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
Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan N.15 Asajaya
10. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin
P.N.B.S., P.J.N., K.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.B., B.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri Pengangkutan N.75 Senadin
11. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri John Sikie anak Tayai
P.N.B.S., P.J.N., P.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri di Jabatan Premier N.60 Kakus
12. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Julaihi bin Haji Narawi
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., P.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.D., P.B.E.
Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi N.27 Sebuyau
13. Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn
P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.B.S., P.B.E.
Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat N.20 Tarat
14. Yang Berhormat Datuk Gerawat Gala
P.G.B.K., P.S.B.S., P.B.K.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Buruh, Imigresen dan Pemantauan Projek) N.78 Mulu
15. Yang Berhormat Datuk Francis Harden anak Hollis
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pembangunan Bakat) N.32 Simanggang
16. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Jerip anak Susil
P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Penerbangan dan Jalan Raya) N.19 Mambong
17. Yang Berhormat Datuk Liwan Lagang
P.J.N., P.P.N., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Telekomunikasi) N.65 Belaga
18. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Rosey binti Haji Yunus
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Pembangunan Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak) N.71 Bekenu
19. Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Len Talif Salleh
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., P.B.K., P.P.B.
Timbalan Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar N.41 Kuala Rajang
20. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Junaidi
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., A.B.S., P.B.E.
Timbalan Menteri Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi (Utiliti) N.4 Pantai Damai

21. Yang Berhormat Datuk Hajah Sharifah Hasidah binti Sayeed Aman Ghazali
P.G.B.K., P.T.E., J.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang, MA63 dan Hubungan Negeri-Persekutuan) N.7 Samariang
22. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Malcolm Mussen anak Lamoh
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Industri dan Pelaburan N.34 Batang Ai
23. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ismail
P.G.B.K., A.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah (Industri Makanan) N.79 Bukit Kota
24. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Annuar bin Rapa'ee
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pendidikan, Inovasi dan Pembangunan Bakat (Pengajian Tinggi dan Inovasi) N.55 Nangka
25. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Penguang Manggil
P.G.B.K., D.J.B.S., K.M.N., P.P.C., P.P.B., P.P.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kerajaan Tempatan) N.76 Marudi
26. Yang Berhormat Datuk Snowdan Lawan
P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan) N.30 Balai Ringin
27. Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Saidol
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Hal Ehwal Korporat dan Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak) N.42 Semop
28. Yang Berhormat Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew
P.J.N., D.I.M.P., A.B.S.
Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan (Pelancongan) N.73 Piasau
29. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir. Aidel bin Lariwoo
P.G.B.K., P.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Infrastruktur) N.24 Sadong Jaya
30. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Ripin bin Lamat
P.G.B.K., J.B.K., K.M.N., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Pembangunan Usahawan) N.72 Lambir
31. Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr Haji Hazland bin Abang Hipni
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.
Timbalan Menteri Tenaga dan Kelestarian Alam Sekitar N.5 Demak Laut

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| 32. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Maclaine Ben @ Martin Ben
P.G.B.K., J.B.S., P.T.E.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah (Komoditi & Pembangunan Wilayah)</i> | N.22 Kedup |
| 33. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Ricky @ Mohammad Razi bin Sitam
P.G.B.K., K.M.N., J.B.S., P.T.E.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti (Kesejahteraan Komuniti)</i> | N.35 Saribas |
| 34. | Yang Berhormat Dato Henry Harry anak Jinep
P.S.B.S., A.B.S.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Pengangkutan (Sungai dan Laut)</i> | N.2 Tasik Biru |
| 35. | Yang Berhormat Dato' Murshid DiRaja Dr Juanda bin Jaya
P.G.B.K., DATO' MURSHID DIRAJA, S.S.P.
<i>Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Integriti dan Ombudsman)</i> | N.44 Jemoreng |
| 36. | Yang Berhormat Dato Gerald Rentap Jabu
P.S.B.S., A.B.S., P.P.N., J.B.K.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan (Pembangunan Belia dan Sukan)</i> | N.36 Layar |
| 37. | Yang Berhormat Dato Majang anak Renggi
P.S.B.S., P.B.K., A.B.S.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan (Pembangunan Pelabuhan)</i> | N.70 Samalaju |
| 38. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Jefferson Jamit anak Unyat
P.G.B.K., B.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.S.
<i>Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-undang dan Adat Bumiputera)</i> | N.63 Bukit Goram |
| 39. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Michael Tiang Ming Tee
P.G.B.K., P.B.S.
<i>Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (Kesihatan Awam dan Perumahan)</i> | N.54 Pelawan |
| 40. | Yang Berhormat Dato Ibrahim bin Baki
A.B.S., J.B.S., P.S.B.S. | N.8 Satok |
| 41. | Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Tiong King Sing
P.J.N., P.N.B.S., D.P.M.K., D.P.M.K., S.S.S.A., D.S.S.A., J.P. | N.52 Dudong |
| 42. | Yang Berhormat Tan Sri William Mawan anak Ikom
P.S.M., P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.D. (Emas) | N.47 Pakan |
| 43. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Mong anak Dagang
P.G.B.K., J.M.N., P.B.S., P.P.D., P.B.K., P.B.E. | N.31 Bukit Begunan |
| 44. | Yang Berhormat Dato Paulus Palu Gumbang
P.S.B.S., A.M.N., P.B.S., J.B.K., P.T.E. | N.80 Batu Danau |
| 45. | Yang Berhormat Dato Dennis Ngau
P.S.B.S., J.B.S., P.B.S., P.T.E., B.B.S. | N.77 Telang Usan |

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| 46. | Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Razaili bin Haji Gapor
P.T.E., P.B.S. | <i>N.29 Beting Maro</i> |
| 47. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing
P.J.N., A.B.S. | <i>N.46 Meradong</i> |
| 48. | Yang Berhormat Puan Violet Yong Wui Wui | <i>N.10 Pending</i> |
| 49. | Yang Berhormat Encik Johnichal Rayong anak Ngipa
J.B.S., P.T.E. | <i>N.33 Engkilili</i> |
| 50. | Yang Berhormat Dato Ir. Lo Khare Chiang
P.S.B.S., B.B.S., J.B.K. | <i>N.13 Batu Kitang</i> |
| 51. | Yang Berhormat Encik Wilson Nyabong anak Ijang
A.M.N., K.M.N., J.B.S. | <i>N.61 Pelagus</i> |
| 52. | Yang Berhormat Encik Miro anak Simuh
P.B.S. | <i>N.18 Serembu</i> |
| 53. | Yang Berhormat Encik John anak Ilus
P.B.S, A.P.S. | <i>N.23 Bukit Semuja</i> |
| 54. | Yang Berhormat Encik Fazzrudin bin Haji Abdul Rahman
J.B.K., P.B.S. | <i>N.6 Tupong</i> |
| 55. | Yang Berhormat Encik Awla bin Dris
P.B.S., A.B.S. | <i>N.25 Simunjan</i> |
| 56. | Yang Berhormat Ir. Christopher Gira @ Gira anak Sambang
P.B.K. | <i>N.59 Tamin</i> |
| 57. | Yang Berhormat Encik Rolland Duat anak Jubin | <i>N.48 Meluan</i> |
| 58. | Yang Berhormat Encik Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi
B.B.S., A.B.S., K.M.N., J.B.K. | <i>N.58 Balingian</i> |
| 59. | Yang Berhormat Encik Safiee bin Haji Ahmad
J.B.K., P.P.B. | <i>N.43 Daro</i> |
| 60. | Yang Berhormat Encik Baru Bian | <i>N.81 Ba'Kelalan</i> |
| 61. | Yang Berhormat Encik Kennedy Chukpai Ugon
J.B.S., P.P.N., A.B.S. | <i>N.66 Murum</i> |
| 62. | Yang Berhormat Encik Allan Siden Gramong
P.B.S., A.B.S. | <i>N.50 Machan</i> |
| 63. | Yang Berhormat Encik Mohd Chee bin Kadir
A.B.S., P.B.S., P.J.P.N., J.B.S. | <i>N.40 Kabong</i> |
| 64. | Yang Berhormat Datuk Hamzah bin Haji Brahim
A.M.N., P.M.W. | <i>N.17 Stakan</i> |
| 65. | Yang Berhormat Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang
A.B.S. | <i>N.74 Pujut</i> |

66.	Yang Berhormat Puan Dayang Noorazah bte Awang Sohor P.B.S.	<i>N.28 Lingga</i>
67.	Yang Berhormat Dr Simon Sinang @ Sinang anak Bada A.B.S., P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.21 Tebedu</i>
68.	Yang Berhormat Encik Billy anak Sujang P.B.S., P.P.B.	<i>N.1 Opar</i>
69.	Yang Berhormat Encik Azizul Annuar bin Pehin Sri Haji Adenan P.B.S.	<i>N.3 Tanjong Datu</i>
70.	Yang Berhormat Encik Yap Yau Sin P.B.S., K.M.N.	<i>N.12 Kota Sentosa</i>
71.	Yang Berhormat Encik See Chee How	<i>N.11 Batu Lintang</i>
72.	Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Mohamad bin Duri P.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.38 Kalaka</i>
73.	Yang Berhormat Encik Friday anak Belik A.B.K., P.P.S., P.P.B., P.B.K., P.P.C.	<i>N.39 Krian</i>
74.	Yang Berhormat Encik Anyi anak Jana P.B.K.	<i>N.49 Ngemah</i>
75.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chieng Jin Ek P.B.S.	<i>N.51 Bukit Assek</i>
76.	Yang Berhormat Encik Royston bin Valentine J.B.K., A.B.S.	<i>N.57 Tellian</i>
77.	Yang Berhormat Encik Lidam anak Assan P.B.S.	<i>N.62 Katibas</i>
78.	Yang Berhormat Encik Nicholas Kudi anak Jantai P.B.S.	<i>N.64 Baleh</i>
79.	Yang Berhormat Encik Johnny Pang Leong Ming P.B.S.	<i>N.68 Tanjong Batu</i>
80.	Yang Berhormat Encik Iskandar bin Turkee	<i>N.67 Jepak</i>

TIDAK HADIR

(Kebenaran di bawah Peraturan Mesyuarat 81)

Bil.	Nama	Konstituensi
1.	Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Huang Tiong Sii D.I.M.P., S.S.A.P.	<i>N.45 Repok</i>
2.	Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh P.N.B.S., P.G.B.K., A.B.S., P.C.E.	<i>N.53 Bawang Assan</i>
3.	Yang Berhormat Encik Chong Chieng Jen	<i>N.9 Padungan</i>

TURUT HADIR

1. Encik Pele Peter Tinggom
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. Inspektor Dylan Tan Hock Ming
Bentara Mesyuarat
10. Inspektor Nizle anak Junep
Bentara Mesyuarat

PETUGAS PERSIDANGAN

PEGAWAI UNDANG-UNDANG

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Encik Syed Rezif Afham bin Wan Alwi | <i>Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak</i> |
| 2. Cik Christie Sereni anak Philimon | <i>Jabatan Peguam Besar Negeri Sarawak</i> |

PEMBACA PRUF

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Puan Dayang Norazan Kartini binti Dato Pengiran Haji Zain | <i>Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak</i> |
| 2. Encik Shamsul Idzham Jamil | <i>Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Negeri Sarawak</i> |

JURUTRENGKAS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Puan Sharlina binti Mushar | <i>Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri</i> |
| 2. Puan Malin anak Arit | <i>Pejabat Setiausaha Kewangan Negeri</i> |
| 3. Puan Khadijah Dato Haji Khaider | <i>Jabatan Perbendaharaan Negeri Sarawak</i> |
| 4. Puan Dayang Siti Roszalina binti Abg Rosli | <i>Jabatan Kehakiman Syariah Sarawak</i> |
| 5. Puan Olivia Batan | <i>Jabatan Audit Negara Negeri Sarawak</i> |
| 6. Puan Bernadette Willon | <i>Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia</i> |
| 7. Puan Katerin Jemali @ Maria Jamali | <i>Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara</i> |
| 8. Puan Doris anak Francis Harris | <i>Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)</i> |
| 9. Puan Meri Sabas | <i>Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)</i> |
| 10. Puan Noorina binti Hamdan | <i>Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)</i> |
| 11. Puan Ratna Airnwati binti Haji Md. Junaidi | <i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan</i> |
| 12. Puan Sabtuyah binti Adeng | <i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan</i> |
| 13. Puan Nori Othman | <i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Perumahan</i> |
| 14. Puan Zuriawati binti Mohd Laili | <i>Pustaka Negeri Sarawak</i> |
| 15. Encik Azhwan bin Bujang | <i>Regional Corridor Development Authority</i> |
| 16. Encik Mohd Alfadger bin Tuah | <i>Pejabat Residen Bahagian Kuching</i> |
| 17. Puan Dorina Asort | <i>Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak</i> |
| 18. Puan Florence Jalong | <i>Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak</i> |
| 19. Puan Leidiana binti Azahari | <i>Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak</i> |

20.	Puan Noor Afifah binti Bahaudin	<i>Kementerian Utiliti dan Telekomunikasi Sarawak</i>
21.	Puan Dayang Duraiza binti Haji Awang Jangka	<i>Lembaga Sumber Asli & Alam Sekitar Sarawak</i>
22.	Puan Anieta Sylvester Pungga	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>
23.	Puan Juliana Lugom	<i>Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sarawak</i>
24.	Puan Rosemary Langub	<i>Perbadanan Kemajuan Perusahaan Kayu Sarawak</i>
25.	Puan Derna anak Johin	<i>Unit Pemantauan Pelaksanaan Sarawak, Jabatan Premier Sarawak</i>
26.	Puan Azah Mohamad Jally	<i>Kementerian Infrastruktur dan Pembangunan Pelabuhan Sarawak</i>
27.	Puan Rosline anak Dominic Maon	<i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i>
28.	Puan Nur Izzatul Fatimah Abdullah	<i>Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak</i>
29.	Puan Emely anak Edmund Beatie	<i>Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia Negeri Sarawak</i>
30.	Puan Nurhaida binti Amin	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Kawasan Sarawak, Jabatan Penyiaran Negeri Sarawak</i>
31.	Puan Dzuridah binti Haji Sariee	<i>Pejabat Timbalan Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri (Perancangan Ekonomi dan Pembangunan), Jabatan Premier Sarawak</i>
32.	Puan Valarie Jane anak Aitman	<i>Pejabat Pembangunan Persekutuan Negeri Sarawak, Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan, Jabatan Perdana Menteri</i>

RAKAMAN PROSIDING

1.	Puan Nordiana binti Rabae	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
2.	Encik Hussein bin Shuini	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
3.	Encik Vong Choon Chan	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
4.	Encik Wan Mohamad Zaki bin Wan Alias	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>
5.	Encik Fareez Azizi bin Zakeria	<i>Jabatan Penyiaran Sarawak</i>

JURUCETAK

1.	Encik Awang Faizul bin Awang Aboone	<i>Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad</i>
2.	Encik Vincent Vyner ak Tubom	<i>Percetakan Nasional Malaysia Berhad</i>

JURUTEKNIK IT

1.	Encik Abang Hasmadi bin Abang Wahab	<i>SAINS</i>
2.	Encik Mohamad Fadzly	<i>SAINS</i>
3.	Encik Sufian Sulaiman	<i>SAINS</i>
4.	Encik Alan Chai	<i>SAINS</i>

MESSENGER

1.	Encik Mohamad Zahari bin Hamden	<i>Jabatan Agama Islam Sarawak</i>
2.	Encik Lawrence Encharang	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
3.	Encik Helmy bin Abdul Rahman	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
4.	Encik Shah Riwandhy Sia bin Ridzuan	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
5.	Encik Mohammad Zaidi bin Rambli	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
6.	Encik Edry Saiful bin Abdul Hamid	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
7.	Encik Mohd Sahfizal Atoy bin Mohamad Faizal	<i>Jabatan Pertanian Sarawak</i>
8.	Encik Mohamed Nazeerudin bin Gulam Mohamed	<i>Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak</i>

ANGGOTA STAF DEWAN UNDANGAN NEGERI SARAWAK

1. Cik Noria binti Suut
2. Puan Nur Azira binti Abdul Kadir
3. Puan Rabiah binti Abdul Kadir
4. Puan Aisha Parveen binti Badron
5. Encik Abdul Rahman bin Suaidi
6. Puan Siti Norhiza binti Mohammad Yusri
7. Puan Hanisah Abdullah
8. Cik Siti Halimah binti Mohamad Nawawi
9. Puan Hasfarini binti Hassim
10. Cik Nurhaffizah Abdullah
11. Cik 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. Puan Norziana binti Haji Ahmad
16. Encik Mohd Hasfia bin Abdullah
17. Puan Nur Eliana Abdullah
18. Puan Nazmah binti Darham
19. Puan Tracy Lyana anak Bana
20. Encik Mohd Zulkhairi bin Mohammad Hejemi
21. Puan Dayang Nazira binti Abang Martaza
22. Puan Jasmine Sinja anak Robinson
23. Puan Dayang Noorazilla binti Jasni
24. Cik Parcelia Renyelia anak Pamg
25. Cik Nur Zafirah binti Affendy Michael
26. Puan Deidre anak Wilson
27. Encik Muhammad Elliyas bin Matali
28. Cik Siti Nur Marsitah binti Roslan
29. Puan Nur Amira Lystiani binti Poniman
30. Encik Razali bin Awi
31. Puan Nora binti Atem
32. Encik Zahari bin Bolhi
33. Encik Lukas Jammany anak Kated
34. Encik Hazrin Syah bin Hamzah
35. Encik Salman bin Jaya
36. Encik Alwie bin Haji Ali
37. Encik Romzi bin Bujang
38. Encik Musa bin Julai
39. Cik Hawa binti Morsad
40. Puan Suraya binti Hamden
41. Puan Noraisah binti Ahmad
42. Cik Siti Zalilah binti Samsawi

PELAJAR PRAKTIKAL

1. Cik Siti Zubaidah binti Arip
2. Cik Amyrna A'eisya binti Ranani

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 9.06 pagi)

[Timbalan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

DOA

PEMASYHURAN DARIPADA TUAN SPEAKER

Timbalan Speaker: Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Selamat pagi dan Salam sejahtera. Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I have granted leave of absence under Standing Order 81 to Ahli Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh, Honourable Member for N.53 Bawang Assan for today and tomorrow's sitting.

SAMBUNGAN PERBAHASAN ATAS BACAAN KALI YANG KEDUA RANG UNDANG-UNDANG PERBEKALAN (2024), 2023 DAN USUL UNTUK MERUJUK RESOLUSI ANGGARAN PERBELANJAAN PEMBANGUNAN BAGI TAHUN 2024

[Penggulungan daripada Para Menteri]

Timbalan 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. Silakan Ahli Yang Berhormat Menteri.

Menteri Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Terima kasih, Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur. Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih, tahniah dan syabas kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak di atas Pembentangan Belanjawan Sarawak untuk tahun 2024 di Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri yang Ke-19 ini pada 20 November 2023. Bajet 2024 ini memaparkan ketulusan Yang Amat Berhormat Premier memenuhi segala kehendak dan juga keperluan rakyat Sarawak.

Pada kesempatan ini juga, saya ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan juga tahniah kepada Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar Speaker di atas pelantikan semula sebagai Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak. Semoga Tan Sri Datuk Amar Speaker sentiasa dalam rahmat Allah S.W.T. untuk mentadbir serta memimpin Dewan yang mulia ini.

Alhamdulillah, saya bersyukur ke hadrat Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala kerana diberi peluang untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan untuk Kementerian Pelancongan, Industri Kreatif dan Seni Persembahan pada pagi ini. Dengan izin, saya ingin memulakan penggulungan saya dengan dua rangkap pantun:

*Perantau asing membawa dagangan,
Untuk dipersembah kepada kenamaan,
MTCP bertindak memacu pelancongan,
Merangsang ekonomi menjadi keutamaan.*

*Burung Helang burung Kenyalang,
Terbang rendah bermain lumpur,
Sektor pelancongan berkembang cemerlang,
Bumi Sarawak maju makmur.*

Tuan Speaker, the Ministry continuously strives to attain the Vision for "Sarawak to be a Premier Tourist 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:

- (a) Sarawak Museum Department (SMD);
- (b) Sarawak Tourism Board (STB);
- (c) Sarawak Convention Bureau (SCB) or normally been called Business Event Sarawak;
- (d) Sarawak Arts Council ataupun Majlis Seni Sarawak; and
- (e) Sarawak Craft Council (SCC).

The three Federal agencies under my Ministry's watching brief are:

- (a) Perbadanan Kemajuan Kraftangan Malaysia (Kraftangan Malaysia);
- (b) Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Negara (JKKNS); and
- (c) Lembaga Penggalakan Pelancongan Malaysia (Tourism Malaysia).

TOURISM SECTOR SCENARIO AND OUTLOOK

According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), international tourism recovered 84% of its 2019 pre-pandemic level in the period January to July 2023. Travel demand continued to show remarkable resilience and sustained recovery amid economic and geopolitical tensions. Compared to 2019, international tourist arrivals in 2023 was 80% in the first quarter, 85% in the second quarter and 90% in July 2023. International travel trend saw an estimated surge of 700 million tourists between January and July 2023, which is 16% short of the 2019 pre-pandemic figures. However, on a positive note, if we are to take the same period in 2022 this is a 43% increase.

Tourist arrivals into Malaysia in 2022 increased by 7,375% to 10.07 million as compared to the same corresponding period in 2021 generating tourism receipts of RM28.2 billion. As of September 2023, 14.4 million international tourist arrivals were recorded against the targeted 16.1 million for the year 2023, generating RM47.4 billion in tourism receipts.

As for Sarawak, my Ministry had projected 3 million visitors' arrivals in 2023 which should mean RM7.6 billion for tourism receipts. However as of October, Sarawak has received 3.18 million visitors, we have managed to hit that target of 3 million in the month of October, with the number of arrivals at 3.18 million visitors, which is an increase of 131.34% as compared to the same period in 2022. The tourism receipts stood at RM8.07 billion, an increase of 143.81%, which contributed to about 5.75% to Sarawak's GDP. Looking at this encouraging trend, my Ministry would like to revise visitors' arrival in 2024, if 2023 we have put the target of 3 million, for 2024 we are putting a target of 4 million tourists' arrival, which would bring in revenue estimated at RM9.76 billion.

TOURISM INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Sarawak Tourism Steering Committee (STSC) has conducted two meetings with Government Agencies and industry players in 2023, one in Miri on 29th May 2023 and the second one in Sri Aman on 30th October 2023. These meetings were used to gauge the performances of the various action plans set by STSC earlier in the year.

As of October 2023, my Ministry has organized 10 capacity-building programme for tourism workforce, six for tourism industry players on food and beverage workshop, hospitality training and skills, three Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Training Programme and four series of First Aid Training for Tourist Guide collaboration with Sarawak Tourist Guide Association (SKTGA).

SARAWAK - MALAYSIA MY SECOND HOME (S-MM2H) PROGRAMME

Since the adoption of Sarawak Malaysia My Second Home (S-MM2H) programme in 2007, my Ministry has approved a total of 2,286 participants. The top countries are from United Kingdom (315 participants), China (302 participants), Taiwan (219 participants), Hong Kong (216 participants) and Singapore (175 participants).

In line with Sarawak's digitalisation drive under PCDS 2030, my Ministry introduced the implementation of online application on 1st June 2023. As of November 2023, as at today, we have received a total of 203 applications online. This will certainly revitalize the S-MM2H Programme, restore, and attract ideal target groups into Sarawak and indirectly revive the economic activity in Sarawak.

REGIONAL TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNT (RTSA)

The second Regional Tourism Satellite Account (RTSA) 2023 is currently being conducted at various entry points in Sarawak. It is used to identify key trends in tourism, such as popular destinations, visitor demographics, and spending patterns which will be used to develop targeted marketing strategies and enhance overall visitors' experience. By 2024, the result of RTSA can be used to evaluate our various tourism initiatives, marketing campaigns and effectiveness of our policy planning.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

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

The BIMP-EAGA Group continues to forge strong partnerships to improve the ease of doing business and seek to resolve issues that affects the region whereby Malaysia covers Sarawak, Sabah and Labuan. The 19th BIMP-EAGA Joint Tourism Development Cluster Meeting was held in Zamboanga, Philippines from 13th to 17th August 2023 whereby my Ministry was the lead cluster of Joint Tourism Development for Malaysia. The 31st Senior Officials Meeting and 26th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from 23rd to 26th October 2023, attended by myself where I represented our Right Honourable Premier as Head of Malaysia's delegation.

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 the health sector, joint tourism promotion, cultural and sports events, education and various tourism-related activities.

On the 7th of October 2023, my Ministry participated and supported the Sukan SOSEK-MALINDO *yang Ke-15* or the 15th Sukan SOSEK MALINDO, and Malam Titian Muhibah *Ke-24* jointly organised by the Tebedu District Office and Camat Entikong Office, Sanggau, Indonesia at the Stadium Tertutup Dewan Masyarakat Serian and Serian Conference Centre respectively.

East Asia Inter-Regional Tourism Federation (EATOF)

My Ministry attended the 21st Standing Commissioner Meeting and Standing Bilateral Commission Mongolia held from 26th to 28th July 2023, led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. EATOF was founded in Gangwon Province, South Korea in 2,000 to enhance collaboration and cooperation among 10 member provinces to promote tourism from Northeast and Southeast Asian provinces.

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 fair.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

In line with the sustainability theme of both PCDS 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), my Ministry, through Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) continues to

develop partnerships with various international bodies, agencies and institutions to conduct programs align with SDG4: that is Quality Education; SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production; and SDG17: Partnership for the Goals. They are among others:

EcoGreen Planet - Tree Planting Programme

A Tree Planting Programme event in May 2023 to fulfill its pledge at the Rainforest World Music Festival to contribute 20% of the cash sponsorship and 10% of each ticket sale in 2022, raising a total of RM85,000 to purchase 1,706 seedlings. The seedlings were planted at Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary in conjunction with the signing of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between STB and Sarawak Forest Corporation (SFC) to continue and sustain this programme.

Community Waste Management Programme

STB organised awareness programmes in August and September 2023 on waste management for homestay operators, especially on waste that is produced from their tourism activities. This includes recycling: making soaps from used cooking oil; upscaling unwanted clothes into usable items; and recycling plastics into souvenirs. This programme has benefited 235 households from 13 homestays. Apart from that:

Community Empowerment and Partnership

STB has formed collaboration and partnership with NGOs and Government Agencies among others including TERAJU and WWF in empowering communities to be involved in offering sustainable tourism activities.

Community Education and Shared Knowledge

STB provided training and knowledge sharing sessions in October 2023 by experts on Handicraft Designing and Online Marketing to 40 local handicraft producers to enhance the quality and varieties of handicrafts products offered by the community so that it will attract higher demand.

STB also conducted online learning under e-Pelancongan for tourist guides in collaboration with PUSTAKA. This e-Pelancongan programme was launched on the 1st of November 2023 and will be closed on the 30th of November 2023, next few days.

Additionally, my Ministry supported the International Conference on Responsible Tourism and Hospitality (ICRTH) of which was held at Bogor, Indonesia in August this year. ICRTH is a Sarawak homegrown event, which is an avenue for my Ministry and Sarawak to build a responsible tourism network in Asia Pacific. This event will be held again in Sarawak next year in 2024.

GRANTS AND FACILITATION FUND

For the information of this august House, my Ministry disburses three types of grants to facilitate tourism events, conduct researches related to the industry, and to provide support for heritage, arts, culture and creative industry activities. In conjunction with Sarawak's 60th Independence Anniversary, my Ministry has supported State and Federal agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Divisional Tourism Task Groups (DTTGs), and associations to organise regional tourism, arts, and cultural events with a view to attract domestic and international participants.

Event Grant

This year, as of October 2023, my Ministry has allocated a total grant amounting to RM38,782,462 to support 213 local and international events and festivals. We have supported several iconic international events such as The Rainforest World Music Festival which was held in

June 2023, ASEAN International Film Festival and Awards (AIFFA) which was held in August 2023, the Kuching Marathon 2023 which is an international marathon which was held in October 2023, The 9th Edition of Sarawak International Dragon Boat Regatta which was held also in end of October 2023, which has gathered, if I am not mistaken, about 20 nations all over the world, and the 11th Sibu International Bike Week 2023 which will be held in December 2023. Besides that, among other major events, festivals and films supported by my Ministry this year are:

- (a) *Pertandingan Tok! Buskers* (24th June 2023 – 1st July 2023), which was collaborated together with RTM;
- (b) Lawas Asian Floating Market Festival 2023 (11th – 18th August 2023), the first time being held;
- (c) A film production “*Raya Emas - Divine Protector of The Salako*” (7th August 2023 - 30th December 2023);
- (d) *Pertandingan Bintang Kecil 2023* (20th August 2023 – 3rd September 2023);
- (e) What About Kuching 2023 (1st – 31st October 2023);
- (f) Borneo Sonic Music Festival (6th – 7th October 2023), a month programme which brought in the Kpop Music;
- (g) Borneo Opera Festival (12th – 15th October 2023), the first time International Opera was brought to Sarawak;
- (h) Miri Country Music Festival (24th – 25th November 2023);
- (i) New Year Countdown 2024 (31st December 2023), at the Waterfont Kuching.

Notable events organized by SFC and supported by my Ministry include Santubong Hiking Challenge and Maludam Explore Race.

Research Grant

Since 2021, 12 research grants, totalling RM4.4 million, were awarded to five higher learning Institutions/ Universities and four NGOs namely:

- (a) Penubuhan Kursi Tok Nan (Universiti Putra Malaysia);
- (b) Development of Responsible Tourism Blueprint, Measurement and Manual for Tourism and Hospitality Industry in Sarawak (University of Technology Sarawak);
- (c) Sustainable Tourism Development: Community-Based Tourism Value-Added Programs as The Vehicle for Socio-Economic Enhancement (Swinburne University of Technology);
- (d) Sarawak Best Golf Destination golf packages (Sarawak Golf Association); and
- (e) Sarawak Indigenous Cuisine: Preserving Its Identity and Heritage (UCSI University Kuching Campus).

Heritage, Arts and Culture Facilitation Fund

The Heritage, Arts and Culture Facilitation Fund received approval on 23rd May 2023 to utilise the remaining RM5.37 million from the RM10 million special allocation given by Right Honourable Premier in 2022. This year a total of 72 arts, culture and heritage programs and activities are supported by this grant amounting to RM3.65 million. The balance after commitment amounting to RM1.72 million will be brought forward to 2024.

The programs and activities are books' publications (7), capacity building workshops (13), visual arts programs (3), culinary, gastronomy related events (4); design related fashion events and interactive design forum (5), heritage seminars (8), literary arts on Arabic and Chinese calligraphy contest & exhibition (6), speech competition, and performing arts inclusive of dancing performances (26).

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The Creative Industry

To develop creative industry my Ministry has conducted four townhalls involving creative industry stakeholders covering various divisions; Kuching, Samarahan, Kapit, Sibul, and Sarikei, that's the other townhall events, and we also did one in Bintulu and Miri engaging actively with local artists, artisans, industry players and NGOs. More townhalls are being planned in the year 2024 to cover the remaining divisions so as to ensure the Ministry's creative industry policy and direction is inclusive.

Unesco Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

Kuching's membership of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network has just passed its two-year anniversary and the city continues to strive in implementing its action plans and develop partnerships for the goals under its sustainable development agenda. While the RM65 million Gastronomy Centre is under development, extensive groundwork is being implemented to prepare for its completion which is expected to be in 2025. This includes awareness campaign for its activities and promotion which are publicised and promoted via its website www.kuchingcreativecity.com. The city is set to be featured with 57 other cities in the combined Cities of Gastronomy website, also thus boosting our gastronomic profile on international stage. Ongoing collaboration with Sarawak Tourism Federation and Sarawak Tourism Board to curate a series of gastronomic tourism packages for launching in 2024 is also currently in progress.

Activities in 2023 to strengthen various levels of engagement home and abroad include the following among others:

- (a) Creatively Unique (CU) Sarawak festival which was held in February (18th – 19th February 2023);
- (b) SAGO incubator's SAGO Fest which was held in July 2023 (22nd – 23rd July 2023);
- (c) Kuching Creative City marquee at the Kuching Festival which was held from end of July until end of August 2023 (28th July – 20th August 2023);
- (d) Kuching Natural Farmer's Market (Monthly at MBKS);
- (e) Gawai Bazaar which was held from mid until the end of June 2023 (16th to 25th June 2023);
- (f) Food and Society Conference which was held in mid of November (15th November 2023); and
- (g) Malaysian Urban Forum which was held in the first week of November (6th November 2023).

To enhance its visibility, Kuching City has sent chefs to Macao and to Thailand to promote our unique cuisine. In addition, delegates from Kuching have shared knowledge at Creative City events during Hanoi Design Week and also to the ASEAN Cultural Centre in Bangkok, Thailand. We are also preparing information on Sarawak's unique creative and cultural context for the MONDIACULT survey which aims to advocate globally for the inclusion of culture in the post-2030 Sustainable Development agenda.

UCCN Kuching has also assisted in vetting new and existing cities applying to join the network namely Ipoh, Malaysia and Iloilo from the Philippines. For the record, Ipoh was successfully designated as a City of Music in October 2023. It also engages with other cities in Malaysia such as Seberang Perai, Penang and Kota Bharu to promote a national framework for Creative cities in Malaysia to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

Engagements with the creative communities of Kuching through a series of townhalls and forums were held to prepare submissions to the cabinet for a body to promote the role of the creative industries in urban regeneration. This will boost our destination profile as a Creative City and our creative industry exports through this important network of 350 cities worldwide under UNESCO.

ECO-TOURISM AND COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM

In conjunction with PCDS 2030 to develop ecotourism in Sarawak, my Ministry has accomplished the following:

- (a) Conducted assessments in August 2023 at nature-based sites among others (Bako National Park, Kuching Wetlands or the Ramsar site in Kuching, Lambir Hills National Park, Wind Cave & Fairy Cave) in collaboration with relevant authorities, and agencies which will provide vital insights for future strategies;
- (b) The number of licensed Sarawak Park Guides has increased from 173 in 2019 to 364 presently, surpassing the targeted goal of 300 park guides by 2030, we have hit that target number in the year 2023 when in actual fact our targeted goal of 300 is to be in 2023; and
- (c) The number of licensed Regional Specific Tourist Guides (RSTG) has increased from 219 to 224 in 2023 against the targeted goal of 400 as set in the PCDS 2030.

To bolster Community-Based Tourism (CBT), my Ministry has undertaken the following initiatives:

- (a) As of November 2023, Sarawak has enlisted 49 Homestay clusters, comprising of 689 operators with a total of 1,481 rooms. Additionally, two new homestay clusters have been introduced, featuring three operators and 20 rooms. Homestay operators in Sarawak generated a total revenue of RM 2,658,780 with 28,580 visitors recorded from January to September 2023.
- (b) To date, about 160 participants from among homestay operators, tour guides and boat operators attended the courses and awareness programmes. Among the courses held are the Basic Hospitality Training, Marketing and Product Packages Training, Event Management Training, Craft-Making Workshop and Safety and Life Saving Skills Training.
- (c) Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus had completed its six-month action research in October 2023 on the topic of *"Sustainable Tourism Development: Community-Based Value-Added Programs as the Vehicle for Socio-Economic Enhancement"*. The recommendations will provide a value-added framework that is sustainable with proper coordination to implement Community-Based Tourism (CBT) programs that will act as a catalyst for socio-economic development for CBT Homestay operators.

In forging ahead, my Ministry has also outlined the following initiatives for the following year or for the upcoming year:

Firstly, Integration of Agrotourism, Geotourism and Ecotourism. Arising from the recent Sarawak Agrotourism Conference and Expo which is held in August 2023, my Ministry aims to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to formulate a State Policy Tool to integrate ecotourism in rural CBT or Community Based Tourism areas with other sector of the economy such as agrotourism or agro-farm, geotourism or agroforestry tourism in creating mutually supportive linkages, reducing financial leakages and in providing expanded tourist markets for local produce and ecotourism products.

Secondly, Development of Geotrails within Sarawak Delta Geopark. In line with Sarawak's aspiration to inscribe Sarawak Delta Geopark or SDGp as UNESCO Global Geopark, geotrails will be develop in SDGp geosite at Santubong, in Padawan, Bau, and Bako to support education, conservation, tourism, and community development.

National Parks as Tourism Destinations

Tuan Speaker, National Parks are our pride. National Parks and Nature Parks in Sarawak continues to be the most preferred destinations for both domestic and foreign visitors. Sarawak has got the most National Parks and Nature Parks in Malaysia, actually.

Currently there are 67 gazetted Totally Protected Areas, comprising 47 National Parks, 15 Nature Park Reserves and five Wildlife Sanctuaries. Out of these many gazetted parks only 25 of the areas are open to visitors.

The 25 areas or the 25 National Parks or Nature Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries are among others:

- (1) Bako National Park in Kuching;
- (2) Kubah National Park in Kuching;
- (3) Gunung Gading National Park in Lundu;
- (4) Batang Ai National Park, Lubok Antu;
- (5) Tanjung Datu National Park in Lundu;
- (6) Santubong National Park in Kuching;
- (7) Talang Satang National Park which is a Marine Park also in Kuching;
- (8) Kuching Wetland National Park or the Ramsar Reserve which is also in Kuching;
- (9) Samalaju National Park in Bintulu;
- (10) Bukit Kana National Park also in Bintulu;
- (11) Niah National Park in Miri;
- (12) Lambir Hills National Park in Miri;
- (13) Loagan Bunut National Park in Miri;
- (14) Gunung Mulu National Park in Miri;
- (15) Miri Sibuti Coral Reef National Park also in Miri;
- (16) Maludam National Park in Betong;
- (17) Matang Wildlife Centre in Kuching;
- (18) Semenggoh Wildlife Centre in Kuching;
- (19) Wind Cave Nature Reserve in Bau;
- (20) Fairy Cave Nature Reserve also in Bau;
- (21) Sama Jaya Nature Reserve in Kuching;
- (22) Bukit Sembiling Nature Reserve in Limbang;
- (23) Bukit Hitam Nature Reserve in Limbang;
- (24) Piasau Nature Reserve in Miri; and
- (25) Bukit Lima Nature Reserve in Sibul.

These are the park nature reserves and sanctuaries that are open to public. The rest are still of bound from public. That is our way of preserving and conserving those national parks. The moment sometimes when it is open to public and if it is not properly managed, it can also spoil those National Parks or Nature Reserves.

As of October 2023, a total of 426,925 visitors had arrived at the 25 National Parks and Nature Reserves that are open for visitors, with 319,931 of them domestic visitors and 106,994 foreign visitors. This indicated an increase of 34% in total visitors' arrival to National Parks for the third quarter of 2023.

To enhance visitor's experience in the National Parks, nine highly visited National Parks and Nature Reserves namely Bako National Park, Kubah National Park, Gunung Gading National Park, Tanjung Datu National Park, Similajau National Park, Niah National Park, Lambir National Park, Matang Wildlife Reserve Centre and Semenggoh Wildlife Centre have been upgraded with Wifi connectivity.

Community Engagement

Beyond Timber Carnival (BTC) program was held in Bintulu from the 6th to the 7th September 2023 at Universiti Putra Malaysia involving five local communities from surrounding Bintulu area such as Ulu Anap, Ulu Kakus, Belaga, Sg. Asap and Long Urun. The same carnival was held in Miri from 26th to the 29th October 2023. The program aims to promote the usage of non-timber products,

train the community on how to market and set venues to sell their products to the tourists and visitors. Out of this event, a total of RM40,739 sales was generated for the community.

Niah National Park as UNESCO World Heritage Site

An ongoing door-to-door awareness campaign involving 453 households was organized by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) on the 16th March 2023 and on the 8th July 2023, as part of the initiatives undertaken to boost awareness and support for the nomination of Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park as a UNESCO World Heritage site, prior to the arrival of International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) assessor on the 29th September to the 5th October 2023 to Niah National Park.

In addition, a four-episode series documentary video entitled Inside Out Niah Caves were produced and is currently in the discussion stage to be broadcasted by TV Sarawak (TVS). The documentaries highlight the Outstanding Universal Value and other significant identities of The Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex which comprises the Archaeology, Bird's Nest Harvesting, Cultures of the Locals Communities as well as the Natural Features and Biodiversity of Niah National Park.

TOURISM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Under the State Government's 12th Malaysia Plan, my Ministry has been allocated RM360.265 million for the implementation of various infrastructure development. An additional RM133.25 million was also approved under the *Projek Rakyat* allocation. Terima kasihlah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier. From the Federal Government, MOTAC Malaysia has approved various projects with allocation RM19.128 million, RM19 million sahaja to be implemented throughout Sarawak as compared to the RM300 plus million by the State Government.

On top of that, while the Minister of Tourism Malaysia is not around to hear, unfortunately, but I hope he will read the Hansard and see why only RM19 million given for Sarawak Tourism. On top of that, from 2022 to November 2023, my Ministry has completed various infrastructure projects which include:

- (a) English Tea House, Waterfront Kuching in July 2023;
- (b) Improvement of Tourism Facilities at Lumpur Bebuak, Kampung Meritam, Limbang;
- (c) Improvement of Water Sport and Recreational Amenities at Batang Ai Hydro Lake, Lubok Antu in August 2023;
- (d) Proposed Electrical and Lights Provisions for Fort Margherita in September 2023;
- (e) Improvement on Tourism Facilities in Wind Cave Nature Reserve and Fairy Cave Nature Reserve in October 2022;
- (f) Rumah Sri Aman in 1st October 2023; and
- (g) Beautification of Pengkalan Sapi and its Surrounding Area in November 2023.

The other ongoing projects in various stages of implementation are:

- (a) Transformation of Brooke Dockyard into Industrial Heritage Museum;
- (b) Performing Arts Centre at Old DUN Building,
- (c) Sarawak Crafts Centre which we plan to set up also in Kuching;
- (d) Bau Gold Mine Museum and Park;
- (e) Redevelopment of MBKS Swimming Pool into a Water Fun Park and Centre of UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy;
- (f) Establishment of Lundu Tourists Support Centre for Lundu and Sematan;
- (g) Kampung Long Terawan Heritage Gallery and Resource Centre in Baram;
- (h) RASCOM Museum in Sibui; and
- (i) Content and exhibition development for:

- (i) the Old Sarawak Museum Building;
- (ii) the historical forts among others Fort Lily, Fort Brooke, Fort Emma, Fort Hose and Fort Sylvia; and
- (iii) the Santubong Archaeological Park.

I would like to inform the approval of several new projects under the State 12th Malaysia Plan Mid-Term Review as follows:

- (a) Restoration and upgrading of Islamic Heritage Museum Building and Exhibition in Kuching;
- (b) Transformation of Miri Petroleum Museum Building and Exhibition in Miri;
- (c) Transformation of Miri Old Resident Office to Miri Cultural and Heritage Museum; and
- (d) The construction of the Darul Hana Malay Heritage Museum.

Under the 12th Malaysia Plan, 4th Rolling Plan, the Federal Government via MOTAC Malaysia has also recently approved three new projects to be implemented in 2024 which are:

- (a) *Pembangunan* Ecotourism at Taman Negara Similajau, Bintulu;
- (b) *Pembangunan* Ecotourism at Taman Negara Kubah in Kuching; and
- (c) *Pembangunan* Ecotourism at Pusat Hidupan Liar Matang also in Kuching.

My Ministry would like to express our gratitude and thanks to all implementing agencies that have shown their commitment to ensure projects are completed in a timely manner.

SARAWAK MUSEUM DEPARTMENT

Conservation and Preservation of Heritage

My Ministry is continuously striving to enhance policies on cultural heritage. With this, the Sarawak Museum Department has made considerable efforts to safeguard tangible and intangible heritage through the implementation of the Sarawak Heritage Ordinance (SHO 2019), the curation of exhibitions, educational activities, collections care, heritage conservation and staff competency enhancement.

To further strengthen the implementation of SHO 2019, a Rules Development Workshop was conducted from the 25th to the 26th of October 2023 at the Raia Hotel and Convention Centre, Kuching to focused on crucial topics such as fees and forms related to the discovery, registration, export, and preservation of antiquities, historical objects, monuments, and underwater heritage.

The Department has carried out conservation, maintenance and preservation efforts on various heritage sites, buildings and monuments in Sarawak. Conservation work has been done on the Liu Shan Bang Old Flagpole in Bau and Fort Charles in Kabong. Site maintenance was successfully carried out on 10 monuments and sites that include heritage sites are:

- (a) Datu Pengiran Haji Matussin House, Lawas;
- (b) Japanese Air Raid Shelter Site, Kuching;
- (c) Fort Long Akah, Baram Miri;
- (d) Fort Lio Mato, Baram Miri;
- (e) Sri Tanjong Rest House in Tanjong Lobang, Miri; and
- (f) Five other archaeological sites in Sarawak, namely:
 - (i) Sungai Jaong Archaeological Site of Santubong, Kuching;
 - (ii) Bongkissam Archaeological Site of Santubong, Kuching;
 - (iii) Gua Sireh Archaeological Site in Serian;
 - (iv) Tembawai Temenggong Tandok Archaeological Site in Saratok; and
 - (v) West Mouth Archaeological Site in Gua Niah, Miri.

Under the SHO 2019, a total of 42 buildings, 15 monuments, and nine sites have been gazette, while another 29 historical monuments and heritage sites are to be gazetted under this Ordinance. Amongst the most notable gazetted sites include among them:

- (a) the Melanau longhouse in Kampung Sok, Matu;
- (b) the Lombong Arang Batu, Gunung Ngili in Simunjan which also known as (Brooke Coal mine); and
- (c) the Beting Maro Battlefield in Pusa, Betong.

In terms of enforcing the Ordinance, the Department has trained the enforcement personnel and conducted enforcement activities in various divisions to inspect antique dealer licenses. To date, there are 28 antiques dealers licenses registered under the Ordinance.

The Sarawak Museum Department diligently preserves and conserves its collections in ensuring they remain in best conditions for display in exhibition galleries. Today, the total number of collections which the Sarawak Museum Department has reached 402,256 items, of which the archaeological collection is the largest with 250,205 items which comes up to 62.2%, followed by zoological specimens 107,000 or 26.6%, ethnological artifacts 21,766 which comes up to about 5.4%, Audio Visual collections 16,885 which comes out to about 4.2% and finally historical documents 6,400 which comes up to about 1.6%.

At present, the artifacts of these collections is on-going to enhance their availability to a wider audience and also to also ensure the Department has a back-up record of all its collections. The Department has also converted 654 cassette tapes into digital format. This digital audio has been uploaded into the ATHENA system which is a Digital Content Management System. This year, the Department has digitalized 14,889 pages of historical documents including old maps, manuscripts, fieldnotes and collections logbooks.

The department has taken steps to enhance their heritage preservation efforts by using the Thermo Lignum System, a free-chemical pest control method. It is currently the only machine in Malaysia, we are very proud of this, making it a benchmark for collection preservation. Since its first introduction in June 2023, the Thermo Lignum System has successfully treated 322 museum collections. You can see them in the video.

The Department's excellent reputation for collection care has instilled confidence and led to the return of Borneo objects from around the world. Those that keep artifacts from Sarawak they are more confident of giving them back when we have got all these preservation and passion to keep all these items. Among the return objects are two orang ulu parangs originally obtained by Mr. Duncan Shimwell McDougal, an officer during the Brooke era in the 1920s. In addition, the Department also received 19 prints of old Sarawak pictures, 19 objects from Bau, one pua kumbu from Australia and two beaded accessories from the United States of America. Altogether, the Department has received 43 objects this year and we are still looking into where are the other artifacts that are being kept whether in private or in national galleries all over the world which if we are able to bring them back we would be very happy.

Museum Exhibitions, Activities and Events

The Department also acts as a hub for informal and multisensory education to promote cultural understanding, social cohesion and sustainable development via exhibitions, activities and events.

The Borneo Cultures Museum (BCM) remains a prominent attraction for museum-goers. It has become a must visit place for all visitor they come down to Kuching. Since its opening, on the 4th March last year and open to the public on 9th March, the museum has accumulated, has received a total of 859,559 visitors we have never seen this big number of visitor to museum before this actually. For this year, the museum has welcomed, just for this year alone, the museum has welcomed a number of 296,496 visitors.

Noteworthy BCM visitors in the second half of this year include the Duli Yang Maha Mulia (DYMM) Sultan and DYMM Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor recently they were in Kuching for four days, the Negeri Sembilan Royal Family, the Yang Amat Berhormat Chief Minister of Penang, as well as ambassadors from Austria, Turkey, Thailand, China and Brazil.

The BCM also receives visitors from various learning institutions, including 311 schools and 35 universities from all around the region. The BCM's appeal extends beyond schools in close proximity, as it also attracts schools located on the outskirts of Kuching. Notable examples include, these are from the 311 schools. I am naming those that come from quite far away. Terima kasihlah kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat *from this place*. Probably, they also assist to get the students in their constituency to come down visit Kuching and at the same time to visit the Borneo Cultures Museum. Among them;

- (a) SK Nanga Poi, Kanowit;
- (b) SK Kampung Tebaang, Daro, very far from Daro sampai ke Kuching;
- (c) SK Nanga Passa and SMK Spaoh from Betong;
- (d) SK Kampung Baru, Bintulu;
- (e) SK Nanga Bawal from Kapit, all the way from Kapit the students come down to Kuching and visit the museum; and
- (f) SK Gawang Empili from Simunjan.

The BCM also had the pleasure of hosting student visitors from international learning institutions like National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Taiwan, Universitas Muhammadiyah Pontianak, Indonesia, and Crest Secondary School from Singapore.

In addition to exhibitions, the Department has implemented several measures to improve visitor's engagement and experience, including educational talks, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, quizzes, and hands-on activities. These activities are designed to be inclusive and to cater for people from various backgrounds.

One significant program is the Scholars of Yayasan Peneraju for Transformation "*ShYFT Gives Back*" program, which was organised in collaboration with Yayasan Peneraju Pendidikan Bumiputera on October 15th, 2023. This program provided an opportunity for 85 orphans *ataupun anak yatim* from PERYATIM Kuching and Rumah Amal Nur Murni Kuching to visit and gain a deeper understanding of Sarawak's heritage.

The Department also organised a Cultural Dancing Class for 60 preschoolers from Krista Kong Ping Kindergarten on April 19th, 2023. The objective of the activity was to raise cultural awareness and appreciation of the Orang Ulu traditional dance.

The Department also organised another programme called *Program Kenali Diri, Kenali Potensi Diri Kanak-Kanak* in collaboration with the Sarawak Social Welfare Department on November 18th, 2023, involving 100 students. This program was specifically designed for primary and secondary school students to enhance their personal development, nurture their potential and instill good moral values.

In total, the Department has engaged with 12,224 students through exhibitions and activities. This includes 1,962 pre-schoolers, 7,345 primary school students, 1,678 secondary school students and 1,239 students from higher institutions.

Since May 2023, a total of 59 events have taken place at the Borneo Cultures Museum's premises. Among the notable events launched by the Right Honourable Premier was:

- (a) LATerasi Kewangan Exhibition, collaboration with Bank Negara Malaysia which is ongoing from the 9th of November 2023 until the 9th of May 2024;

- (b) the National Anti-Scam Tour by Cybersecurity Malaysia from the 2nd to the 3rd of September 2023; and
- (c) the MBOT (Borneo Symposium by Malaysia Board of Technologists), from the 11th to the 12th of May 2023.

In addition to BCM, Sarawak has 10 museums and one monument that are open for visitation across various locations. Among them;

- (a) Petroleum Museum Miri, Niah Archaeological Museum and Baram Regional Museum at Fort Hose in Miri;
- (b) Kubu Lily in Betong;
- (c) Sri Aman Heritage Museum at Fort Alice and Rumah Sri Aman in Sri Aman or Simanggang;
- (d) Islamic Heritage Museum, Sarawak Museum Old Building, Natural History Museum, Chinese History Museum, all of which are in Kuching; and
- (e) Sultan Tengah's Mausoleum in Santubong.

As at 24th November 2023, the cumulative number of visitors to these attractions has reached 114,386.

Museum of the Moon

A significant achievement by the Department of Museum was the "*Museum of the Moon*" art installation by Mr. Luke Jerram, a UK based artist. The captivating exhibition, which was featured for the first time in Malaysia, presented an internally lit inflatable sphere adorned with detailed NASA imagery, creating a realistic miniature moon model. The launch ceremony in June 2023 featured Datuk Dr. Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, the first Malaysian astronaut, who shared his experiences in outer space. Running from June 17th to the 5th of August 2023, the exhibition drew 60,786 visitors. During the exhibition, the Department invited 14 institutions such as SM Sains Kuching, SMK Asajaya, SMK Batu Kawa, SMK St. Joseph, SMK Balai Ringin for tours and special activities.

Rumah Sri Aman

Another significant milestone for the Department was the opening of the Rumah Sri Aman, which was officiated by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak on the 1st October 2023. This exhibition holds great historical importance as it commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Sri Aman Peace Declaration. The declaration was signed inside Rumah Sri Aman on October 21st, 1973, marking an agreement between the Malaysian Government, represented by the late Tun Abdul Rahman Yaakub, the Chief Minister then, and The North Kalimantan People's Army (PARAKU), represented by Mr Bong Kee Chok.

International Museum Day 2023

Sarawak hosted the National-Level Celebration of International Museum Day 2023 from the 31st of July to 5th of August 2023 and was officiated by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak. With the theme "*Museums, Sustainability, and Well-being*", the celebration has attracted 194,888 visitors outside the premise of Borneo Cultures Museum.

The celebration featured a wide range of activities, including temporary exhibitions, *Forum Perdana Ehwat Islam*, seminar, sports and games carnival, *Malam Kebudayaan*, Sunset Music DJ session, *Sape'* Workshop, Curator Crash Course, program *Berambek di Kampung Santubong*, Sarawak Heritage Kitchen, colouring contests and many more.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the "*Healing Crisis: Lessons from the Pandemic*" temporary exhibition, which was curated based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This exhibition, at BCM which starts from July 2023 until January 2024, has so far attracted 49,721

visitors. All these activities were designed to support various SDGs for Global Health and Well-being, Climate Action, Climate Change and Life on Land.

MoUs, Strategic Partnerships and Professional Training

The Museum Department actively seeks national and international collaborations with museums and institutions all around the world to fulfill its vision of becoming a Globally Engaged Centre of History and Heritage by the year 2030. Among these capacity-building and development of human capital includes:

- (a) The British Museum in London, where a curator was enrolled in the International Training Programme 2023;
- (b) The Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) Singapore, where the Department sent two of its officers for a work placement programme;
- (c) The Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, UK – for the return of the Kenyah-Badeng sun hat to Borneo;
- (d) Urbanice (Malaysia) in conjunction with the Malaysia Urban Forum (MUF) 2023 held from the 4th to 8th November 2023; and
- (e) National Gallery Singapore (NGS) collaboration on a travelling exhibition entitled “*Living Pictures: Photography in Southeast Asia*” which will be held at ILHAM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur next year.

The Department is also continuously pursuing other National and State collaborations as well. At present, discussions in regard to the signing of MoU and joint collaborations includes:

- (a) Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (Singapore);
- (b) Malay Heritage Centre (Singapore);
- (c) Asian Civilisation Museum (Singapore);
- (d) George Town World Heritage Incorporated (Malaysia); and
- (e) National Art Gallery (Malaysia).

Additionally, the Department has formed partnerships with various institutions in the field of history and heritage. One notable example is their key role in the nomination of The Archeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Cave's Complex to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Department, along with the Department of National Heritage Malaysia and Sarawak Forestry Corporation, is part of the technical committee for the Nomination Defense which was held from the 22nd to 26th November 2023, at the ICOMOS Headquarters in Paris, France.

The Department also collaborated with the Forest Department for the Aspiring Sarawak Delta Geopark Project. To prepare the Nomination Dossier for UNESCO Global Geoparks, several workshops involving stakeholders and local communities were conducted to showcase the local heritage, culture, archaeological sites, and socio-economic potential of Bau, Padawan, Kuching, Santubong, and Bako areas.

Research and Publications

The Sarawak Museum Department continues to produce The Sarawak Museum Journal, the oldest publication in this region, once a year. The journal, which dates back to 1911, publishes articles from a wide range of fields, including social science, history, archaeology, natural history, and heritage conservation. This December marks the publication of Volume No. 107, the annual issue for 2023.

Apart from the journal, the Department also conducted five research projects namely, Numismatic Collection in Sarawak Museum which is published in July 2023, Rumah Sri Aman: Sri Aman Peace Declaration, published in October 2023.

Three others scheduled for publication next month that is in December 2023 are:

- (a) Marine Turtles of Sarawak: Running Out of Time;
- (b) Shamanism: The Spiritual Journey; and
- (c) Childhood Games of Sarawak.

Incentivizing Tourism Industry

My Ministry through Sarawak Tourism Board remains committed to support Sarawak's tourism industry through the implementation of both short and long-term measures to enhance and sustain the tourism sector.

Visitor Incentive Packages (VIPs)

Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) continues to support Sarawak travel agents' efforts through Visitor Incentive Packages or VIPs to boost visitor arrivals into Sarawak. The packages started during the post COVID-19 pandemic.

From January to September 2023, STB disbursed a total of RM75,150 to 298 travel agents who brought in a total of 2,620 visitors arrival from Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, China, the Philippines, Myanmar, Italy, the Netherlands, USA, Germany, France, United Kingdom as well as the domestic market.

Sarawak Tourism Online Ecosystem Fund (STOEF)

The Sarawak Tourism Online Ecosystem Fund (STOEF) introduced in 2020 enters its fourth phase in 2023, where we continue to see interest from our tourism stakeholders and players to continue developing their digital footprint and online presence. From 2020-2022, a total of 154 successful applicants have resulted in approximately RM770,000. In 2023, there were 49 successful applications comprising 17 tour operators, eight hotels, six handicrafts, and 18 homestays for STOEF, totalling RM250,000.

Flight Connectivity

Airline Alliances and Partnerships

Airline alliances and partnerships are important to establish inter-organisational relationships to increase awareness and gain market growth. Malaysia Airlines (MH) campaign, named Bonus Side Trip entitles passengers of MH to get one free return trip to any Malaysia destination to increase inbound tourists into Malaysia where they are eligible for the free ride or free side trip to Sarawak.

"Discover New Malaysia in Malaysia" campaign is a campaign with Royal Brunei Airlines. The campaign's main target are Korean families, Flexible International Traveller (FIT) and golfers. The promotion is for those travelling from Incheon to Brunei and onwards to Kuching. Tourism and aviation are interconnected because a significant portion of domestic and international passengers travel for leisure purposes.

Tourism Marketing and Promotion

For the year 2023, STB has maintained its continuous presence in its focus markets which include traditional and new target markets. It is crucial to achieve the objective of conversion and growth through participation in domestic and international Trade and Consumer Fairs and Product Updates Roadshows.

From January to November 2023, Sarawak Tourism Board provided support to amounting to more than RM82,885 to 331 applications received from Sarawak travel agents which bring in 2,877

visitors from Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Denmark, Canada, among others. Under the Middle East and new market, Sarawak Tourism Board participated in four marketing initiatives with two others in Thailand.

Most notably, our promotional efforts in World Travel Market London (WTMLondon) 2023 has generated an estimated RM13.7 million in sales by Sarawak industry partners, an increase of 128.44% or RM6 million as compared to last year. The total average media value for all online coverage from the event is estimated to be at RM1,228,500 or in British Pound Sterling is GBP204,750.

The 26th edition of Rainforest World Music Festival held from 23rd to 25th June 2023 recorded a total of 20,723 festival-goers over the three-day festival, generating a social media reach of 30.2 million, total impressions of 82 million through various online channels and total PR value of RM8.7 million through mainstream media.

From January to September 2023, STB generated 309 million eyeballs in readership/ viewership/ listenership through traditional and online news platforms as well as digital and static billboards, generating a PR value of at least RM78 million. Among its advertisement and promotion efforts are Discovery Channel's Off-The-Grid series which highlighted Sarawak to the Korean, to the European, Nordic and Southeast Asian market, resulting in a TV campaign that generated 17.8 million impressions and 7.5 million reaches, and a digital campaign that garnered 6.2 million impressions.

In addition, Sarawak Tourism Board ongoing campaign from June to December 2023 with National Geographic Traveller targeting the UK market featuring Sarawak in print, broadcast and online has currently garnered a readership of 450,000, with its social media campaign generating 6.6 million in impressions and 2.6 million in reach. STB has also executed eight media familiarisation trips (fam trips) between January and October 2023, garnering a total estimate of 3.002 million in eyeballs and media value of RM4.7 million.

Meanwhile digital visibility for Sarawak for the months January to October this year, stood at over 150 million. This was achieved through cooperation with major online travel platforms and online tour operators such as Tripadvisor, Klook, Traveloka, Tripzilla, Vacaay and Family Travellers, among others.

We are very proud to announce that the CEO STB, Puan Sharzede Datu Haji Salleh Askor, was awarded the Nation's Pride Award for Tourism Promotion Excellence at the Brandlaureate Best Brands Awards for the year 2022-2023 that honours STB's achievement and various initiatives in positioning Sarawak as a global tourism icon and a leading ecotourism destination in Southeast Asia with Responsible Tourism being its core approach, twinned with Sarawak Tourism Marketing Campaign "*Sarawak, More to Discover*".

Additionally, Sarawak was also named as one of the top 10 most desirable regions to travel at the Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards during the recent World Travel Market (WTM) in London, cementing Sarawak's position as a top-of-mind destination in the global market.

Health Tourism

Sarawak is an attractive health tourism destination sector. Indonesia and Brunei are the main health revenue contributors while China is seen as the next potential source for market diversification. As reported by Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC), amongst the top treatments sought after in Sarawak are orthopaedic surgery, gastroenterology, cardiology, oncology, obstetrics, gynaecology, all these medical terms are really tongue twister to me, ophthalmology, and health screening.

This year, Sarawak recorded 28,000 health visitors with an estimated value of RM54 million, in comparison to a recovery of 71% of pre-pandemic achievement of RM76 million in 2019. The projected healthcare travel revenue for Sarawak in 2023 is currently at RM91.5 million. This indicates optimism and confidence in the continued growth of the sector and supports that Sarawak as a well-positioned destination to build on its success in attracting international patients.

Sarawak Tourism Board is working closely with Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) and had participated in its Malaysia Healthcare Expo (MHX) held in Jakarta in February 2023. Apart from participating in this expo, STB actively organised healthcare roadshows in three cities, namely in Jakarta, Balikpapan, and Banjarmasin, Indonesia along with Sarawak tourism industry players.

These initiatives were focused on health tourism. Besides that, due to the relocation of the capital city of Indonesia to Nusantara, Sarawak Tourism Board took the opportunity to be the first to promote health tourism in cities such as Pontianak, Balikpapan, Samarinda and Banjarmasin. In September 2023, STB had participated in Sabre Brunei Travel Fair, Bandar Seri Begawan, where it promoted specific treatments such as Dental, Endoscopy, Cardiology and Health screening for Bruneians.

Business Events

Business Events Sarawak has currently secured 90 out of 100 events. These are valued at RM336.8 million in total economic impact; RM183.1 million in delegate expenditure, and RM20.2 million in taxes, creating 26,732 job opportunities in Sarawak. All 90 secured events have the potential to develop a total of 411 impacts and these impacts work towards achieving the PCDS 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Some significant events secured among others:

- (a) Asia Carbon Conference 2023 (ACC 2023), with an estimated delegates of 400 held in March 2023;
- (b) Asia Pacific Green Hydrogen and Exhibition 2024, which will have an estimated 5,000 delegates, exhibitors and visitors which is going to held in June 2024; and
- (c) International Water Association World Water Congress and Exhibition 2028 (IWA 2028), which bring an estimated 10,000 delegates, exhibitors and visitors is going to be held in September 2028, where I believe we have to rush to build our second BCCK next to the present one to accommodate this 10,000 delegates.

Meanwhile, Sarawak has successfully hosted 96 business events out of the targeted 107 events valued at RM339.7 million in total economic impact; RM184.6 million in delegate expenditure and RM 20.3 million in taxes. Job opportunities approximately 27,000. Also, these 96 events contributed to a total of 318 impacts working towards achieving the PCDS 2030 and the UN SDGs.

Some major business events hosted this year were :

- (a) Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) 2023, in May which involves 700 delegates;
- (b) 24th Asia-Australasia Conference of Radiological Technologists (AACRT) 2023 which was held in August 2023 which involves 1,000 delegates;
- (c) Congress of the International Primatological Society 2023 which was held August 2023 which involve about 1,200 delegates;
- (d) The 27th World Congress on Innovation and Technology 2023, which was held in October 2023, which involves about 3,000 delegates; and
- (e) 12th Congress of the Asian Pacific Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis 2023, and which was held in October 2023, which involves 1,000 delegates.

This year also remains a successful year for bidding with Sarawak achieving 100% win rate. The major bids which we won included:

- (a) International Midwives Conference 2023, *ramailah* Midwives *datang tok* which was held in May 2023, with an estimated 750 delegates, *mak bidan*;
- (b) National Autism Convention 2023, an estimated 700 delegates which was held also in May 2023;
- (c) 15th International Conference on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology 2023, with an estimated 600 delegates which was held in August 2023;
- (d) Asia Pacific Conference on Zoonotic and Neglected Tropical Diseases 2023, with an estimated 600 delegates which was held in September 2023;
- (e) 20th Asian Society of Paediatric Anaesthesiologists Conference 2024, which going to be held in July 2024 with an bring in estimated;
- (f) ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly 2026, with is estimated to bring in about 2000 delegates.

The business events industry also made significant milestones this year under the Tribe Legacy Sarawak business events campaign. On the 12th of May 2023, the Right Honourable Premier announced that Sarawak has become the first legacy capital of business events in Malaysia as well as in Borneo.

Overall this year, we have completed 21 roadshows and tradeshow in 10 countries. We also launched the first Sarawak Pavilion at IMEX Frankfurt in Germany attracting 1,300 visitors, and also the Legacy Impact Master Action Plan 2023 to 2025. The Action Plan is a course of actions for the next three years that will leverage long-term change, or legacy impact, from business events to achieve the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 outcomes where each event must relate to at least one key economic sector and one enabling sector that will create the most impact in Sarawak.

Under capacity building and industry development, 179 industry partners were trained and certified as of today. We have also signed six Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), five with private and public universities to further develop the industry, and one with Goyang Convention and Visitors Bureau in South Korea to support the content development and promotion of the International Journal of Business Events and Legacies. On the subject of the journal, we launched Volume 2, Issue 1 of International Journal of Business Events and Legacies on 14th of November 2023 at the 62nd International Congress and Convention Association Congress in Bangkok.

Tribe Legacy Sarawak campaign activities succeeded in winning three international awards among others The Best Short Film at the Berlin Short Film Festival, Gold Award and Silver Award for Branded Content at the United State International Awards. Our Business Event Sarawak CEO, Puan Amelia Roziman, also became the first woman in Asia to be accepted into the Events Industry Council Hall of Leaders, elevating Sarawak's presence on the global business events arena. Congratulations.

The media value of all events, activities and achievements under the Tribe Legacy Sarawak campaign amounted to RM30.6 million — 422% above the targeted figure of RM7.24 million. The target was RM7.24 million instead we managed to secure RM30.6 million.

Sarawak Craft Industry

Tuan Speaker, the development of the sector is set to be more coordinated, vibrant and resolute in the coming years, especially with the impending commencement of Sarawak Craft Council Ordinance, which was passed on 16th May 2023, assented by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri on 23rd May 2023 and already gazetted on 30th May 2023. The council is currently set to begin its function after its organizational structure and operational funding is finalized in the first quarter of 2024 with the announcement of its first Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Meanwhile, the size of the handicraft market expanded from USD752 billion, this is the world, as in 2022 and is expected to reach USD789 billion in 2023 globally. In Malaysia, Kraftangan Malaysia reported, as of 31st August 2023, the market size has increased by 20% compared to 2022 with sales increasing from RM186.4 million in 2022 to RM223.6 million in 2023 during the corresponding period from January to August. Sarawak recorded total sales of RM21.5 million in 2022 and as of October 2023, the total sale is RM18.3 million.

Kraftangan Malaysia, Cawangan Sarawak also reported the number of registered crafts producers in Sarawak has increased from 1,096 in 2022 to 1,195 in 2023, with Miri Division recording the most at 340, followed by Kuching, 293 and Kapit, 234. Under the PCDS 2030, the target number of producers is 1,800 by the year 2030.

Sarawak Arts Council (Majlis Seni Sarawak)

The SAC has conducted a total of 180 programs and activities that include arts development and training throughout Sarawak in the year 2023. Among the programs are:

- (a) *Acara Tonggak*, such as the 60 years Sarawak Independence Day, Cultural Performances at *Acara Perarakan* and *Konsert Rakyat* at *Padang Merdeka Kuching*; *Hari Keputeraan Yang di-Pertuan Agong Peringkat Sarawak* and the incoming New Year Countdown 2024;
- (b) Yearly Sarawak Arts Council programs such as it's Open Day, Dialogue Seni 2023, Festival Tari dan Lagu Asli, *Ngelakar Seni*, *Rindok Hati* and *Festival Kesenian Sarawak 2023*;
- (c) Promotion of Arts and Cultural performances in Brunei, Islamabad, China, London, Germany, Singapore, and Makassar.
- (d) Ad-Hoc programs include Gawai Bazaar, Baram Regatta, Sarawak Regatta, Kembara Kenali Borneo Duli Yang Maha Mulia Yang di-Pertuan Agong ke Sabah dan Sarawak.

Training programs include *Kelas Bimbingan Seni*, *Program Kesenian Desa* and Programme Training of Trainers (TOT).

In enhancing tourism, creative industry and performing arts in Sarawak, Sarawak Arts Council also provides supporting grants - MySeni Grant to various communities throughout Sarawak, for the purpose of innovation and sustainability of the arts. For this year, SAC has received 80 applications (throughout Sarawak) for a total amount of RM2,375,350.84. Out of this number of applications, 40 applicants, with a total of RM1 million were approved to organize their program throughout Sarawak.

SAC is currently in preparation for the establishment of the Sarawak Arts Academy in preparation for the completion of the Sarawak Performing Arts Centre. SAC has conducted two brainstorming sessions and a benchmarking program at Universiti of Malaya (UM), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), and ASWARA Kuala Lumpur.

RESPONSE TO ADUN

Now, I wish to respond to queries and questions asked by Honourable Members of this House. Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat Serembu yang telah bertanya mengenai sama ada wujud geran atau pinjaman mudah pelancongan bagi membantu pemain-pemain industri. Kementerian tidak mempunyai geran ataupun pinjaman mudah pelancongan tersebut seperti yang ada disediakan oleh MOTAC. Namun demikian, pihak Kementerian ini ada menyediakan geran untuk penganjuran acara (*event fund*), program dan juga dana mudah acara bagi penganjuran bengkel yang berteraskan seni, budaya dan warisan untuk penggiat-penggiat industri pelancongan seperti yang saya telah terangkan di awal ucapan penggugungan tadi.

Kerajaan Sarawak melalui MINTRED dan juga MYSED juga memberi bantuan kewangan kepada SMEs yang berkecimpung di dalam sektor pelancongan. Maklumat tersebut boleh diperolehi di laman sesawang Kementerian masing-masing.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Kota Sentosa, Bukit Assek, Beting Maro, Bukit Semuja dan Murum, Kementerian saya mengambil maklum dengan permohonan pembangunan pelancongan di kawasan masing-masing; iaitu transformasi kuari di Kota Sentosa, cadangan penambahbaikan Memorial Lau King Howe Hospital di Sibü. Ahli Yang Berhormat untuk Nangka pun ada bertanya dengan saya juga berkenaan dengan ini, pewujudan *Tourism Discovery Centre* di Pusa dan promosi produk eko pelancongan di Murum dan juga di Belaga. Pihak *Divisional Tourism Task Group* di bawah Pejabat-pejabat Residen yang dipengerusikan oleh Residen-Residen Bahagian masing-masing, digesa untuk merancang bersama Agensi Pembangunan Wilayah seperti *Greater Kuching Coordinated Development Agency (GKCDA)*, *Betong Division Development Agency (BDDA)*, *Mid Rajang Development Agency (MRDA)*, *Ulu Rajang Development Agency (URDA)*. Kementerian saya akan menelitinya bersama jawatankuasa pelancongan agensi-agensi tersebut. Ini akan membolehkan perkara tersebut dipantau di peringkat *State Tourism Coordination Committee*.

Untuk makluman Ahli Berhormat daripada Kalaka, Kementerian saya sedang menilai semua permohonan-permohonan yang dikemukakan melalui DTTG masing-masing termasuk cadangan untuk Regatta Kalaka dan *Kalaka Criterium Challenge* (Lumba Basikal). Keputusan hanya akan dimuktamadkan pada awal tahun 2024 apabila kalendar tersebut diumumkan.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada Kabong, Kementerian saya akan memproses permohonan untuk acara *Kabong International Kite Festival* setelah menerima permohonan rasmi daripada Pejabat Residen Bahagian Betong yang mana mesti dikemukakan tiga bulan sebelum acara dilaksanakan.

For information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Bukit Assek the Standard Operation Procedure or SOP for development of the Convention Centres, because here he has requested for convention centre in Sibü, is already been highlighted in PCDS 2030. Currently my Ministry is still looking into the feasibility and viability of the project.

Tuan Speaker,

THE WAY FORWARD

The post COVID tourism industry in Sarawak is expected to grow exponentially corresponding with signs of positive growth in the global tourism scenario. Sarawak expects visitors' arrival to fully recover to pre-pandemic level by the year 2025. As Sarawak charts into new ventures especially with the acquisition of MASWing, development of tourism attractions expected to be completed by then and the willing participation of the private sectors in the form of PETROS in this industry, I am confident tourism shall flourish and become one of the main drivers to Sarawak's GDP growth and sustain its high-income status.

During the 2024 Madani Budget announcement, the year 2026 is set to be Visit Malaysia Year where the country is set to welcome 26.1 million tourists and projected to earn domestic spending of RM97.6 billion. Therefore, the generous funding by the Federal Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture's is sought to improve our existing tourism facilities, so as to enable Sarawak to be in an advantageous position to accommodate the influx of tourists heading our way.

Additionally, the completion of the infrastructures that will ensure full internet coverage and road infrastructure in the form of the 1,200 km Pan Borneo Highway will provide new opportunities for tourists to explore Sarawak seamlessly. It is indeed a ripe opportunity to invite more of the private sectors to invest in businesses and ventures related to the tourism industry, especially in building more hotels in Sarawak.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to Yang Berhormat Timbalan Speaker, and also Yang Berhormat Tuan Speaker and all staff of the Dewan Undangan Negeri for your excellent handling of all the dewan proceedings, the Sarawak State Secretary, the Federal Secretary in Sarawak and all Government Departments from State and Federal and not forgetting also the staff of my own Ministry and Agencies for their hard work, commitment and dedication in giving the necessary support, input as well as information.

I would like also to convey my greetings to all those who are celebrating Deepavali which has just passed, those who are celebrating Christmas, Merry Christmas to all of you and to all of us in this House and outside of this august House, Happy New Year 2024. I wish to conclude my winding up speech with *dua rangkap pantun*.

*Si burung belatok membuat sarang,
Sarang menumpang di atas dahan,
MTCP komited bukan sebarang,
Pejuang warisan sepanjang zaman.*

*Bungai rafflesia benung ngerembai,
Narit maioh orang datai,
Dagang temuai manah amai,
Mai kitai segulai sejalai.*

Sekian, terima kasih. Tuan Speaker, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih Yang Berhormat Menteri Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah for the very comprehensive profound reply. But, would you like to have a short break for half an hour Yang Berhormat? In that case, can we have a short break for 30 minutes? Thank you.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 11.01 pagi)

(Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 11.33 pagi)

[Timbalan Speaker mempengerusikan Mesyuarat]

Timbalan Speaker: Dengan segala hormatnya saya menjemput sekali lagi Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah sebagai Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya untuk menyampaikan ucapan Kementerian keduanya. Terima kasih.

Menteri Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.15 Asajaya (YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah): Terima kasih, Tuan Speaker. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam sejahtera, Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur dan Salam Segulai Sejalai.

*Hari belia disambut gemilang,
Kapit destinasi pencetus aspirasi,
Pemimpin cemerlang negeri terbilang,
Belia berwawasan pewaris generasi.*

*Konvoi Kembara Sarawak Merdeka,
Sarawak Maju Makmur laungan Bersama,
Demi Ibu Pertiwiku warisan pusaka,
Cabaran SUKMA kita jaya bersama.
Ekonomi hijau kelestarian bumi,*

*Premier bijak dalam merencana,
Usahawan belia pemacu ekonomi,
Masa depan tercerna negara terbina.*

Tuan Speaker, saya ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak atas pembentangan Belanjawan Sarawak 2024 majlis pembukaan Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak kali Ke-19 pada 20 November yang lepas di mana peruntukan sejumlah RM75 juta untuk pembangunan dan penambahbaikan fasiliti sukan yang sedia ada serta RM2 juta untuk program - program keusahawanan kepada Kementerian saya untuk memperkasakan belia, usahawan belia dan di dalam bidang sukan untuk mencapai visi dan misi Kementerian dan sekali gus mencapai visi dan misi Sarawak maju dan berpendapatan tinggi menjelang tahun 2030.

Tahniah juga diucapkan kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak yang telah menerima Anugerah Kejuruteraan ASEAN pada CAFE0-41 di Bali, Indonesia yang membawa gelaran "*Felo Kehormat*" atau "*Honorary Distinguished Fellow*" atas perkhidmatan cemerlang beliau di dalam bidang kejuruteraan pada 22 November yang lalu.

Saya juga ingin merakamkan tahniah dan penghargaan kepada Tuan Speaker di atas pelantikan semula sebagai Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak dan juga kepada rakan-rakan Kabinet yang menerima penganugerahan dan juga pengurniaan darjah kebesaran yang membawa gelaran terutama sekali kepada Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr. Ripin bin Lamat, Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Usahawan, di bawah Kementerian saya, yang menerima Anugerah Panglima Gemilang Bintang Kenyalang (P.G.B.K) yang membawa gelaran Datuk. Selain itu juga, tidak terlambat rasanya untuk mengalu-alukan keluarga baharu Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri kita iaitu Yang Berhormat Encik Iskandar bin Turkee, ADUN N.67 Jepak. Selamat datang dan selamat berkhidmat kepada rakyat.

Umum mengetahui, Sarawak Maju Makmur ialah tema Sambutan Ulang Tahun Kemerdekaan yang ke-60 tahun dan pelbagai aktiviti dijalankan untuk menyemarakkan rasa cinta dan sayang kepada Sarawak bumi yang bertuah ini dan di antara program utama yang dilaksanakan ialah Konvoi Kembara Sarawak Merdeka.

KONVOI KEMBARA SARAWAK MERDEKA

Sarawak 60th Independence Celebration has been celebrated on a grand scale with various programmes and activities starting from 28th May 2023 which was officiated by the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak in Lawas. My Ministry has been given the task to lead and coordinate one of the main events which is Konvoi Kembara Sarawak Merdeka. The convoy started its journey from Lawas, Limbang and ended in Kuching with a total journey distance of 3,516 kilometres throughout 12 divisions of Sarawak. The 56 days convoy journey, from 28th May 2023 until 22nd July 2023, with the aim to boost the spirit of patriotism and the spirit of love for our motherland.

At the same time, strengthening unity among people of various ethnicity in Sarawak. One of the most important aspects of the convoy is to celebrate 60th Sarawak Independence by greeting the people and conveying the message of the blessing of independence while distributing and waving the Sarawak flag along the journey and at each pit stop. The convoy managed to visit every division of Sarawak and at each stop there were various side events such as Digital Exhibitions related to the history of independence from 1963 to 2023 from Government Agencies, foods and products booth sales by local entrepreneurs as well as youth and sport programmes.

Yang Amat Berhormat Premier Sarawak led the convoy in two locations, for two sectors, namely from Miri to Bintulu and from Serian to Samarahan. This event has involved 676 cars, 806 motorbikes, two buses, one motorhome, 43 pitstops, 26 agencies and attracted a total of 55,455 community presence throughout the convoy tour. It is admitted that there are many concerns and challenges faced, with the large number participation of vehicles, involving a long convoy journey, I

am proud to inform this august House that the whole journey was conducted smoothly. It is the result of good relationship, good planning by the organizers as well as the good relationship between the various agencies be them the State Agencies together with the Federal Agencies and the cooperation of all the parties involved.

With this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to the convoy members that consists of all Resident and District Office, Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak (UKAS), Sarawak Media Group (TVS), Unit Keselamatan dan Penguatkuasaan Sarawak (UKPS), Unit Protokol, Istiadat dan Pengurusan Acara Sarawak (UPPAN), Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), Polis DiRaja Malaysia (PDRM), Sarawak State Health Department, Sarawak Immigration Department, Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan (JPJ), Royal Malaysia Customs Department, the mechanical team of the Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR), motoring club/associations and lastly not forgetting the staff of my Ministry (MYSED).

I would like to express my appreciation to the Members of Parliament, State Assemblymen, Community Leaders, NGO's for their unfailing commitment and support during the convoy. In addition, I would like to put on record also my gratitude and special thanks to the Consulate General of Negara Brunei Darussalam for their assistance rendered during the convoy passing through Negara Brunei Darussalam.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Designing Sarawak Future

Tuan Speaker, during *Sambutan Hari Belia Sarawak 2022*, Yang Amat Berhormat Premier has mentioned that the youth are the “torch” of Sarawak and the heir to the prosperity of Sarawak. Based on 2023 statistics (Department of Statistic Malaysia), there are 1.1 million youth or 4.4% of Sarawak population under the youth categories that is the age of 15 until 40 years old. Hence, they shoulder the future of Sarawak and lead the way forward for the betterment of our beloved society and State.

In shaping the youth as the future involves a multifaceted strategy, my Ministry believe empowering the youth with opportunities for talent, skills and leadership development can foster a more dynamic and progressive society in Sarawak.

The potential and talent of the youth of Sarawak in various fields can bring transformation to the Sarawak economy as they are the key agent for social change, for economic growth, participation and technological innovation. It is important in shaping strategies in making the youth become outstanding individuals in their own respective fields.

Youth Development Strategies

The Sarawak Youth Day celebration, Insyia-ALLAH, will be held in Kapit Division from the 1st until the 3rd of December 2023 at Dewan Suarrah Kapit and its surrounding areas. It is an appreciation and recognition towards the role of youth in Sarawak. It is also the first time the event is not being held in major cities in Sarawak. It is the first time its being held in Kapit. This show my Ministry are consistent in promoting social inclusivity among the youth across Sarawak that no small town or no Division will be left out. We cannot be holding this important event in only in the bigger city or in the State Capital, Kuching. We have to also move out to the smaller Division to the smaller city, because they also have their youth committee also in those areas.

Among the programmes that will be held this year are Public Arts, Glamscape, Forest e-Sport, Soul Concert, Colour Run, Belia and Bazaar Niaga, e-Kedey Digital Mall and highlight of the events are the Youth Icon Awards Ceremony.

The selection of the theme of “*Belia Maju, Sarawak Makmur*” for our *Hari Belia Sarawak 2023* with the burning spirit of the people and youth of Sarawak who are celebrating the 60th years of Sarawak Independence.

The young generation as the future heirs need to know and be aware of the importance of instilling a loyal spirit of identity with Sarawak through efforts to develop the youth and ensure Sarawak prospers.

In ensuring Progressive Youth and Prosperous Sarawak, my Ministry has been integrating the Sarawak’s youth development based on Post COVID Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS), Malaysia Youth Development Policy, Global Youth Development Index and Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs). SDGs are the new approach taken by my Ministry for the youth development and crucial for a sustainable future of Sarawak and in line with our Ministry’s Vision that is “*World Class Youth*”.

My Ministry are focusing on seven SDG such as Good Health and Wellbeing, Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequality, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Climate Actions and Partnerships for the goals.

Various programmes based on the Sarawak’s youth and community aspirations were laid out for implementation throughout Sarawak. Consistent with the MYSED Calendar of Programmes (COP) motto which is “*#Tiada Minggu Tanpa Program*”, my Ministry has implemented 67 youth development programmes and reaching out 15,000 youth throughout the State and includes national and international level.

Among the programmes that are enlisted in the COP 2023 are *Sambutan Hari Belia Sarawak*, *Jelajah Belia Sarawak*, MYSED Go Rural, Youth Got Skills, *Program Belia Prihatin*, Youth Camp Programmes, *Jum Sungkei*, MYSED Fishing Competition, MYSED Canva Course, *Kursus Kepimpinan Organisasi* and *Kursus E-Video*.

This year, my Ministry has introduced a new and fresh youth development programme such as Sarawak, Johor and Sabah Youth Exchange Programme (SJS 2023), MYSED Go University, *Jelajah Belia Sarawak @ Sabah* and Youth Survival Camp.

The SJS 2023 Youth Exchange programme that involve 45 youth leaders from Sarawak, from Johor and as well as from Sabah is a special initiative to engage and empower youth who are seemed as crucial in leading the development of the State and the nation as a whole in the future. Among the objectives of this programme is to encourage the participation of youth, communities, leaders, and locals to collaborate in creating strong harmony, unity and leadership. Through the programme, the youth leaders have exchange of various aspirations, ideas and knowledge. By providing diverse and accessible avenues for networking, the youth can expand leadership circles and fostering collaboration.

MYSED Go University is also a special initiative to encourage partnership between Ministry, university students and the community in providing platform of real-world Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Among the objectives, to establish a dedicated space of knowledge transfer from the university students to the community. For example, Innovative Agriculture for Sarawak Youth is knowledge transfer by the students themselves to the local community at Batang Sadong through Smart-Farming Technology and Digital Marketing. My Ministry has collaborated with Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Kampus Samarahan and Kampus Mukah and Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Tun Abdul Razak, Samarahan for this programme.

Jelajah Belia Sarawak @ Sabah is another special initiative by my Ministry with collaboration of Ministry of Youth and Sport Sabah in reaching out to the youth and community of Sarawak who are in Sabah especially the university students. It encompasses various activities, aimed to engage and empower youth through their aspirations, targeting more than 700 participants and various

partners. Among the activities are Youth Town Hall Session with the Ministers of Youth and Sport Sabah as well as Sarawak, Youth Exhibition, Youth Entrepreneur Booth and Sarawak & Sabah X-Tive.

My Ministry will continue to collaborate with relevant government departments and agencies, communities, youth and sport associations and NGOs to evaluate, plan, implement and monitor activities that are deemed beneficial, holistic as well as inclusive in line with the government policies, aspirations and expectations.

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

Tuan Speaker, this is the Federal agency. In 2023, JBS has organized 67 youth programmes involving 104,866 youths and 61 development programmes such as courses, workshops, seminars, camps, recreational activities, fitness and sports, and community work with a total of 100,698 participants.

Meanwhile, JBS has organized The State level National Youth Award 2023. The awards are contested in three categories namely *Male Individual Category*, *Female Individual Category* and *Organization Category*; were the association category. We would like to congratulate, we're very, very proud to mention here that the winner of the State Level, Female Individual Category which is representing Sarawak that is Miss Debbie Gibson Medan; from Bintulu if I'm not mistaken, won the same category at the national level that is *Anugerah Perdana Belia Malaysia 2023*. This is the first time that Sarawak youth managed to secure or to win that prestigious national level youth awards. Tahniah kepada Debbie.

In addition, JBS has implemented 123 sport programmes and activities engaging a total of 463,565 participants namely The Sports Taking Challenge, Fit @ Community and *Kelas Latihan Asas Sukan* (KLAS) (Swimming). JBS also successfully executed five projects that catered to 286 disabled (OKU) participants. Among these initiatives were Inspire ITalent and Synergy Inspire, which aimed to empower individuals with disabilities by nurturing their potential in competitive para sports. Selected participants were granted access to specialized coaching and competitions that facilitated skill development and ultimately paved the way towards becoming accomplished athletes.

JBS has also disbursed the sum of RM1.05 million from its "*Dana Sukan Komuniti*" to 100 sport bodies, youth organisations and other NGOs in the year 2023. The funds are used for the implementation of sports, fitness and recreational activities. It is aimed at making sports as a lifestyle, optimise the use of facilities, increase sports development activities and to foster unity and understanding among the communities.

In 2023, a nationwide reintroduction initiative was undertaken for the *Rakan Muda* programmes and activities. It consists of new segments that are relevant to youths presently.

JBS has successfully implemented 108 *Rakan Muda* programmes and activities with a turnout of 22,994 participants between the ages of 15 to 25 years old which include activities such as SATRIA where youths could volunteer in disaster emergencies for example, floods. There are also *Rakan Muda* programmes to ensure the youths equip with life saving skills.

SABERKAS

Sarawak United National Youth Organization (SABERKAS) as my Ministry strategic partner has conducted nearly 300 activities in 2023 involving workshops, forums, skills courses, sports, social, community, welfare, education, training, economic, entrepreneurship and agriculture activities throughout Sarawak. This year, I wish to inform that SABERKAS will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary, otherwise known as the SABERKAS Golden Jubilee Celebration.

Among the SABERKAS Golden Jubilee Celebration programmes that has received positives impact and feedback by communities are; among others:

- (a) Career and Education Carnival which are held in Bintulu, Sri Aman and Serian which is held in Bintulu, Sri Aman and Serian;
- (b) SABERKAS Prihatin Khas implemented in Serian, Pakan and Lawas;
- (c) SABERKAS Young Entrepreneur Tour Series in Daro;
- (d) SABERKAS Fertigation Course in Kuching, Bekenu, Sri Aman and Sibul;
- (e) Economic Digital Empowerment Workshop in Miri, Betong, Kuching and Mukah;
- (f) Creative Media Literacy in Lundu and Mukah; and
- (g) SABERKAS Sports Carnival throughout Sarawak.

PEMADAM

In addressing the issue of drug and illegal substance abuse among youth, my Ministry is working closely with PEMADAM in various programmes. PEMADAM Sarawak as one of my Ministry strategic partners has implemented 83 programmes throughout the divisions. Among the programmes that had been organised included anti-drug awareness talks, anti-drug poster and slogan competitions for school children, short video making competition and anti-drug awareness campaigns at the district level. PEMADAM with strategic partners like the State Education Department, National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK), PDRM, SABERKAS, Resident and District Offices of Sarawak together with my Ministry will continue to work hard in organising educational and drug awareness programmes which in the past few years, had received encouraging response from the target groups which included the youths and school children.

Youth Talents and Creative Development

The creative industry offers significant opportunities for youth development involvement and economic growth. Recently a Sarawakian youth, Imran Azim bin Iskandar are among the Sarawak's youth that has made Sarawak and Malaysia proud at the recent World Championships of Performing Arts in California through the support of Sarawak Youth Creative Industry Fund (SYCIF). Program Muzik Sedasawarsa by Sharnaz Saberi, Sarawak Youth Icon (Female) 2022, *Persembahan Tarian Teater Kembara Datuk Merpati, Raja Negeri Sarawak* by Amanah Khairat Yayasan Budaya Melayu Sarawak has directly benefited the youth to involve in creative industry. A total of 77 youth associations and individuals in Sarawak have already benefited from the fund. Set up in 2018 with an allocation of RM9 million, the fund aims to encourage the development of creative industry in Sarawak. My Ministry will create various platform to promote SYCIF and empowers the youth to strive and contribute meaningfully.

Sarawak Youth Index 2.0

To develop a comprehensive database on the level of quality and social well-being of youths in Sarawak, my Ministry is once again collaborating with the Institute of Youth Research Malaysia or in short IYRES to conduct the Sarawak Youth Index 2.0 study. This was first conducted in 2018, the updated data is imperative not only in assessing the development of youths' social wellbeing over the past five years, but also to review the effectiveness of current programmes and strategies, and to guide necessary interventions in moving forward.

The survey, which is expected to begin in 2024, will involve a sample of 19,600 youths from 45 districts across Sarawak. Six domains and 41 indicators will be applied in the development of the study, which are based on the current needs of the youths in the State. The six domains are as follows:

- (a) Education;
- (b) Economy;
- (c) Mental and Physical Well-Being;

- (d) Political Socialization, Nationhood and Democracy;
- (e) Values and Identity; and
- (f) Media and Digital Citizenship.

The findings, recommendations and proposals will be used as inputs and indicators in line and incorporate with PCDS 2030 for the formation of the Sarawak Youth Policy. The data gathered will also facilitate my Ministry in planning and implementing various youth development programmes and initiatives involving our Sarawakian youths.

With the completion of Sarawak Youth Index by IYRES, my Ministry will be able to derive and develop a data management system to monitor and tailor the policies for youth, sports and young entrepreneurship.

MASS SPORTS PROGRAMMES (COMMUNITY SPORTS PROGRAMMES) SARAWAK

Sarawak X-Tive Programme

Tuan Speaker, in 2023, through our strategic partnership with various NGOs Sarawak X-Tive Programme has met expectations of the various sport enthusiasts namely fitness activities, recreational, extreme sports and traditional games. For the period of May until November 2023, 35 Sarawak X-Tive activities were held state-wide which was highly anticipated and participated by all levels of the community throughout Sarawak and we received 95% of numerous positive and encouraging responses from the public through our online feedback form. Amongst all, most of them requested an increase in the number of activities and expanded the areas of our programme outreach.

To maximise our reach out strategy, my Ministry will be expanding our strategic collaboration with various NGOs throughout the division and district the number of activities, to enhance community participation in Sarawak X-Tive Programme 2024, by holding workshop to engage to all our stakeholder in order to produce plan for the mission. In a nutshell, we intend to add new component in 2024, to encourage local enthusiast to participate.

Tour De Malindo

In 2024, my Ministry will be reviving one of the most anticipated fun ride cycling events the Tour De Malindo, annually hosted between the West Kalimantan, province of Indonesia, and the Sarawak Government, Malaysia. Tentatively for the one-day event, we are proposing its flag-off in Balai Karangan, Kabupaten Sanggau, West Kalimantan Province, while the Serian Conference Centre, Sarawak will be the finishing point for the event, with a total distance of approximately 62.2 kilometres.

Motor Sports

Motor Sports has always been closely associated with our youth. My Ministry is in the process of initiating a revival of our active Motorsport activities, namely the Motocross Championship, Go-Kart Competitions, Cub Prix Racing, and many more down the list. Capitalizing on existing relevant facilities, namely in Sibu, as well as in Miri, we are welcoming interested Motorsport clubs and associations to come forward with their proposal to jointly organize the events with my Ministry in future.

Sukan Perpaduan (SUPER) 2023

Sukan Perpaduan or SUPER 2023 which was held last week. This *Sukan Perpaduan baru pertama kali*, first time being held involving the Ministry of Youth and Sports Federal together with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and Entrepreneur Development Sarawak. The two Ministries is not

a competitive sport but it is more to create the spirit of brotherhood, *perpaduan antara dua kementerian yang melibatkan belia dan sukan*.

Tuan Speaker, reflecting on the vibrant and spirited gathering at the Sukan Perpaduan (SUPER) 2023 which was held on the 18th and 19th of November 2023, my Ministry feels gratitude for the profound sense of unity, respect, and harmony that filled every corner of this remarkable event.

SUPER was not just about sports, it was a testament to our Ministry vision of fostering understanding, respect, and unity within our society. The objectives we set forth were not just met but surpassed, thanks to the wholehearted participation of the Federal side from the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia and my Ministry. From the Ministry of Youth and Sport Malaysia, 110 of them came down just to participate in the sports and from our side there are only 60 of us to make all together 170 dedicated staff of Youth and Sports from Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak. The presence of esteemed Minister from KBS Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Hannah Yeoh and our Deputy Ministers underscored the significance of this event in bridging Federal-State relations and promoting unity.

Our Ministry goals were clear; to nurture a society that appreciates and respects diverse cultures, to instill a love for fitness and well-being among the staff, and to strengthen the bonds between the Federal and State Government.

Through activities such as Tenpin Bowling, Badminton, Golf, Netball, and Lawn Bowl, we not only witnessed impressive displays of skill and sportsmanship but also embodied the spirit of unity and good will as well as teamwork. Each serve, each swing, and goal that are scored symbolizes our Ministry's commitment to working together and understanding the value of collaboration.

Moreover, the inclusion of sukan traditional activities like *Batak Lampung, menyumpit*, by the way, Minister Hannah Yeoh won the *menyumpit* event that was her first time I think, doing the *menyumpit* and first time lucky, she beat all the others including the men. *Menyumpit, terompah gergasi, tarik tali, bola sepak sarung* and *sukaneka* enriched our understanding of the cultural tapestry that binds us together. These traditional games highlighted the importance of preserving and cherishing the diverse heritage of our nation.

International Marathon

The Kuching Marathon, which is an international marathon and recognized by the Association of International Marathon (AIM) which was held on the 1st October 2023, emerged as a global phenomenon, with an impressive turnout of 10,093 participants from 45 countries and areas, including all states in Malaysia. Despite on the same day, another international marathon was held also in Malaysia, that is the Standard Chartered Kuala Lumpur International Marathon. So, there was fewer marathon athletes from Kuala Lumpur coming down because two marathons being held at the same time in Malaysia, International Marathon This annual extravaganza took place in the heart of Sarawak's capital, offering runners a unique experience that transcended national boundaries.

This year's marathon featured a challenging 42 km route, weaving through Kuching's historic streets and delving into the enchanting rainforest. The international allure of the event was palpable as runners from diverse backgrounds added to the vibrant atmosphere.

In a true display of global competition, the event's top honours has always been every year went to the runners from Africa that is this year the winners are all from Kenya, showcasing the international prowess that the Kuching Marathon has come to be known for. The grand finish line at the historical building of the Kuching Old Post Office, served as a symbol of unity, where cultures converged, and the diverse tapestry of participants celebrated their achievements.

Another international marathon which was held in Sarawak, altogether there are five international marathons in Malaysia, and out of this five, two are in Sarawak. These five are the one

that are recognised by the Association of International Marathon which place them on the same equivalent with the Boston Marathon and the Tokyo Marathon. Sarawak, we are proud to have two of those marathons, that is the Kuching as well as the Miri Marathon.

The Miri Marathon, known as the Miri Coastal Challenge, is a coastal spectacle held annually, with the most recent event taking place on the 19th of March 2023. This is still a new marathon because Miri came... This is the third year if I am not mistaken or the second year this being held. But despite still a baby, this event attracted 5,628 participants and creates an intimate and engaging experience against the stunning backdrop of Miri's coastal beauty. Participants in the Miri Marathon had the opportunity to navigate a challenging 42 km route, winding through Miri's urban landscapes and along the picturesque coastline of the South China Sea. The smaller scale of the event allowed for a more personalised and community-oriented atmosphere. Emphasizing environmental responsibility, the Miri Marathon incorporated recycling stations throughout the route, aligning with a commitment to preserve the natural beauty that graces Miri's coastline. The event fostered a sense of community engagement, celebrating both the coastal beauty and the cultural harmony of the northern gem.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SPORT

Nature Adventure Sport

My Ministry will strategise and improve events in promoting nature base, adventure sport, which have become a big draw to sport tourism. The aim is to promote beautiful landscape and unique characteristics of each zone among outdoor enthusiasts, across the country as well as overseas. In the Northern Zone, the Lambir Eco Amazing Race, was held in Miri on the 29th of October 2023 which feature a number of other elements as attraction among its followers.

The upcoming Kemuyang Nature Challenge will be held in Sibu on the 16th of December 2023 expecting to draw about 300 participants throughout the State. As this sport is still in its inception in Sarawak, my Ministry is in the process of establishing a locally based association to drive its promotion and improvement. We shall be able to promote the sport among our locals once everything is in place encouraging them to compete with competitors from other Malaysian States as well as foreigners. With an ongoing academy in the works, we should be able to attract with our own local stars who will be ready to compete in tournament alongside competitors from other countries.

Sarawak will foresee the expansion of Spartan race as one of the most anticipated International Level Obstacles Race. We are confident by working together with the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts (MTCP) as well as several dedicated NGOs. This event will continue to boost sport tourism industry by attracting more foreign and domestic participants from across the regions.

Sarawak Sport Corporation and Majlis Sukan Negeri Sarawak (MSNS)

Sarawak Athletes Achievements

Tuan Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Sarawakian athletes for their achievement:

- (1) Dato Pandeleta Rinong – who won bronze medal in the 10-meter platform (individual and women synchronize) at the recent 19th ASIAN Games Hangzhou, China 2023;
- (2) Bertrand Rhodict anak Lises – has qualified himself for the Olympic Games which will be held in Paris in 2024. He won the Bronze Medal for 10-meter platform men synchronize and silver medal for the 10-meter platform men individual at the 19th ASIAN Games Hangzhou, China 2023;

- (3) Enrique Maccartney anak Harold – won bronze medal for the 10-meter platform men synchronize at the 19th ASIAN Games Hangzhou, China 2023;
- (4) Muhammad Johan Ghazali Zulfikar or commonly known as JOJO – the youngest Muay Thai who has won four fights in the ONE Championship and received USD 100,000 Contract by ONE Championship;
- (5) Daeloniel Mcdelon Bong @ Muhammad Asyraf bin Abdullah who commonly known as the *Kilat Boy* - the first Sarawakian boxer to venture into the professional level, where he holds the title of the current Asian Boxing Federation Bantamweight Champion Spaceplus, Bangkok Thailand recently. He is one of the up and coming boxers which will be hearing more of him in future;
- (6) Lavina Kho Jia Jie – is the Champion for current 41st Malaysian International Open Bowling Championship. Besides, she also won a bronze medal representing Malaysia Team in the 22nd Asian Junior Tenpin Bowling Championship in Singapore;
- (7) Buda anak Anchah – has been bringing Sarawak to International level and his last debut is the 55th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal where he won the Gold and Bronze;
- (8) Philomena Dexclyn anak Siar – the first Sarawakian lady won gold medal in the 55th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal and a bronze medal in 14th World Body Building and Physique Sports Championship recently in South Korea;
- (9) Dr. Malvern Abdullah – won the silver medal in both the 14th World Body Building and Physique Sports Championship in South Korea (160 cm) and 55th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship 2023, in Kathmandu, Nepal;
- (10) Asri Asmat Sefri – the new bodybuilder who will start to shine by winning Bronze medal in the 55th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal recently;
- (11) Our famous Bonnie Bunyau anak Augustine – has break Para Asian Games record by lifting 230kg and won gold medal in the Para Asian Games, in Hangzhou, China 2023;
- (12) Muhammad Nursyaiful Zulkafli, this is the one from Asajaya – he won gold medal and creates new record in the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, China 2023 for Men's 50m Freestyles [S5].
- (13) Fraidden Dawan – another para swimmers shines by winning another gold medal for the Men's 200m [IMSM10] in Para Asian Games Hangzhou, China 2023. Sarawakian has been good name for Malaysia in the ASEAN Games. I think the athletes in the Para ASEAN games, that won gold most of them are from Sarawak. These are the others champion that I wish like to mention;
- (14) Cherry Yeo Xiao Wei – who won three gold medals at the Mallorca Dance Festival in Calvia, Spain just recently;
- (15) Another one is Amy Kho Yien Xing, age 19 – who become the champion of Hanoi Star Adult Solo Open Champion 2023, and Hanoi Star Adult Solo Grade C 2023 also in sports dancing. And finally... there are still many more;
- (16) Eunice Ling Chen Xin, age 14 – who is champion for the Hanoi Star Youth C Solo Open 2023 and bronze for the Hanoi Star Junior C Solo Open 2023;

- (17) Valery Chung, age 11 – who was champion Cebu Dancesport Open 2023 Solo Juvenile C, Solo Juvenile Samba, Solo Juvenile Chacha and Solo Juvenile Jive;
- (18) Arabelle Leah Pei Yu Qian, who's just age 12 – champion for Cebu Philippine Dancesport Open 2023 Duo Junior C and Bronze for Cebu Dancesport Open 2023 Solo Junior Rumba;
- (19) Erin Ung, age 12 – Champion for Cebu Dancesport Open 2023 Duo Junior C and finally;
- (20) Cordelia Wee Li Xin, age 20 – who won bronze for Hanoi Star Adult Solo Open 2023 and Hanoi Star Adult Solo C Open 2023.

21st Sukan Malaysia (SUKMA XXI) Sarawak 2024 which will going be held in Sarawak in 2024

The upcoming 21st SUKMA Sarawak 2024 will be held from the 17th until the 24th of August 2024, where 37 sports with a total of 489 events have been identified to compete in nine divisions namely in Kuching, Samarahan, Serian, Sri Aman, Betong, Sibul, Mukah, Bintulu and Miri with an estimated 16,000 athletes and officials participating. This will be largest SUKMA Game ever involving the biggest number of sports that is 37 sports. In order to achieve the goal of becoming the overall champion, I would want Sarawak to be the runaway champion in the upcoming 21st SUKMA Malaysia 2024 which is another 263 days to go, there is a need for Sarawak Sports Corporation (SSC) and Majlis Sukan Negeri Sarawak (MSNS) to establish and set up a robust solution to overcome the existing shortfall. Due to time constraints, it is necessary to place greater emphasis on analyzing gold medallist analysis to avoid the target set for any sporting event from being self-conceited, narcissistic, and failed to be realized by the athletes. Therefore, it is crucial to place the right people at the right positions who are able to build up the togetherness right from the sports associations, management team, coaching team, the athletes, as well as supporters in order to bridge the gap as a group. To continue and enhancing our excellence and strengthen the performance of our athletes in the upcoming 21st SUKMA, the Sarawak Government through Sarawak Sports Corporation (SSC) and National Sport Institute (ISN) has kicked off the following key focus programmes:

- (a) Firstly, Sports Science and Sports Medicine education programmes;
- (b) Secondly, High-Performance Team Coaching programme to support coaches working with the high-performance plans and tasks of their performance athletes; and
- (c) Thirdly, the empowerment promotion of the Athletes Sports Science Workshop, Sports Psychology Determine to Win Workshop, and Zero Free Anti-Doping Workshop.

To garner a quick meaningful impact, through the recently established High Performance Division in SSC, several initiatives have taken place, including the phases of fitness, body composition, sports injury, and recovery assessment, to ensure the effectiveness of the delivery support services mentioned.

Foreseeing that hosting the 21st SUKMA Sarawak 2024 is a massive undertaking, my Ministry has come up with a comprehensive plan to address the potential issues and challenges that have been identified. Besides the upgrading of the SUKMA facilities, a total secured funding of RM53.45 million had been specifically allocated to Sarawak Sport Corporation and MSNS for 21st SUKMA preparation in term of athletes training and exposure, sports equipment and competition and technical management.

The way forward towards 21st SUKMA Sarawak 2024 comprise of the several actions:

- (a) To implement Sports Psychology skills in term of counselling and monitoring which can help athletes to become more “*podium-ready to perform*” may also can influence a quicker and easier return back to baseline and beyond by educating and supporting for efficient recovery from injury, performance slumps and training stresses.

- (b) With the existence of the new SSC gymnasium and current MSNS gymnasium, the Strength Conditioning coach could plan to double up their extensive training work-out with enrolment of about 40 sports which aims to improve strength and endurance, prevent injuries and to improve the athlete's performances.
- (c) Presently, the role of sports technology is also playing an essential role products include Smart speed Timing Gate Pro for speed, power and agility, wearable technology of Heart Rate Polar Team Pro for heart rate monitoring as well as the data tracking and data collection, and sports injury prevention technology.
- (d) Lastly, the Sports Rehabilitation aims to facilitate the injury recovery process, restore functionality, and enhance performance for athletes which includes the importance of early intervention, individualized treatment plans, and the incorporation of injury prevention strategies.

Sukan Sarawak (SUKSAR) III Sibu 2023

Sarawak Government through MSNS will host SUKSAR III in Sibu from the 15th till 18th January 2024 for 13 selected sports, including Weightlifting, Cycling, Basketball, Volleyball, Futsal, Hockey, Judo, Karate, Pencak Silat, Sepak Takraw, Boxing, Taekwondo and Wushu. Sukan Sarawak was introduced actually as preparation for Sukan Malaysia, SUKMA. This is the 3rd Edition, and it will be rotated among the various divisions in Sarawak. And it is always going to be held just before the Sukan Malaysia.

Among the objectives of hosting SUKSAR is to becomes a platform of “*Talent Scouting*” for SUKMA, as an initial preparation for early exposure for SUKMA 2024 potential medallists, to explore sports associations for organizing competitions, as well as for the preparation of technical officers for certain sports, respectively.

Athletes from four zones will compete in this event, which comprises of the Northern Zone which involve Limbang, Miri, and Bintulu, the Central Zone which involve Mukah, Sibu, and Kapit, the Western Zone which involve Sarikei, Betong, and Sri Aman, and the Southern Zone which involve Samarahan, Kuching, and Serian. Altogether there will be about 1,800 athletes participating.

To bolster the presumption of sports as the Nation Sports Powerhouse, SSC has always continued the Sports Development Programmes. The programmes focuses on identifying young athletes from grass root level from urban and rural areas and equipping them with the necessary skills to perform at the higher level.

Among the initiatives that has been held and carried out in 2023 is Sports On the Wheels which to introduce sports and scout for potential talents for Sarawak, to promote the sport science services and to convey the innovative ideas of sports talent identification to public through the matching of physical intelligence and with game activities.

OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF MALAYSIA (OCM) EAST MALAYSIA COMMITTEE

In December 2022, the President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM), Tan Sri Dato' Seri (Dr) Norza Zakaria has announced the setting up of the OCM East Malaysia Committee, with the sole purpose of bridging the gap between East and West Malaysia in terms of Sports Capacity Building, bringing all the relevant sport programmes ranging from Sports Science, Sports Medicine, Sports Management and many others.

Programmes such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sports Administrator Course, the National Olympic Academy Sessions, Coaching Programmes from the National Coaching Academy, Sports Science Symposiums are all being planned now for 2024.

The Main Objectives of the OCM East Malaysia Committee are:

- (a) Promote Olympic Values;
- (b) Enhance Sports Education;
- (c) Capacity Building; and
- (d) Regional Collaboration.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT

Tuan Speaker, in our relentless pursuit of fostering a culture of innovation, economic growth, and empowerment, since the existence of the Entrepreneur Development Division of my Ministry, we have worked towards the advancement of our entrepreneurs through three key focus areas, among others:

- (a) Promotion and Entrepreneur Development;
- (b) Entrepreneurial Products Sales; and
- (c) Entrepreneur Training and Capacity Building.

In the realm of Promotion and Entrepreneur Development, I am proud to announce that our Ministry has successfully executed 39 comprehensive programmes. These initiatives have involved more than 4,000 participants, providing them with invaluable insights, and resources to navigate the challenging entrepreneurial landscape. I am delighted to spotlight one of our key programmes which is Youth Entrepreneur Setup, or in short YES, which has been a beacon of opportunity, conducted in 13 strategic locations throughout Sarawak, which are in Kuching, Lundu, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Serian, Betong, Sarikei, Sibu, Mukah, Bintulu, Miri, Bekenu and Limbang. The last destination would be Kapit which will be held early next year. The YES programme has been designed to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship and providing our youth on understanding the importance of business and license registration. This robust effort is a testament to our unwavering commitment to nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit within our youth.

Moving on to the second focus area, the Entrepreneurial Products Sales, our collaboration with various Ministries and Agencies has borne fruit. We have orchestrated 23 impactful programmes aimed at showcasing and promoting local products. One shining example is the Sarawak Kitchen, a flagship initiative conducted in conjunction with the 60th Sarawak Independence Celebrations. This programme, a resounding success, benefited 526 entrepreneurs, resulting in a commendable total sales record of more than RM1 million. It exemplifies the potential and prowess of our local entrepreneurs on a national scale. This has also resulted, actually I have received calls from these entrepreneurs asking for this kind of celebration, the 60th Independent Celebration to be held every year they said. Do it every year in all the Divisions.

Lastly, in the domain of Entrepreneur Training and Capacity Building, we recognize that knowledge is the bedrock upon which successful entrepreneur programme stands. To this end, we have conducted nine specialized programmes in collaboration with divisional offices, strategically focusing on local specialties and needs. One noteworthy initiative is Benchmark's Visit to key industry players, including the Malaysia International Halal Exhibition 2023 (MIHAS) in Kuala Lumpur and food product processing factories around the Klang Valley area. This visit brings together the dynamic forces of the Dewan Usahawan Bumiputera Sarawak (DUBS) and Koperasi Belia Inovatif Sarawak Berhad or KOBIS. Such benchmarking visits are invaluable as they offer entrepreneurs exposure to industry best practices, cutting-edge technologies and networking opportunities that play a vital role in driving their business to new heights.

My Ministry has proactively organised the "*Kursus Modal Keusahawanan – Beginner*" in conjunction with the Pesta Daro in Mukah. The programme serves as a basic stepping stone for new entrepreneurs, providing them with the basic knowledge and skills needed to begin their entrepreneurial journey. In addition to the holistic development of our youth, the "*Youth Biz Goes Pro-Skills*" programme has become the focus, with special emphasis on food production and

promotion. This initiative, implemented in Sibu, is in line with our commitment to nurture skilled professionals in the food industry. By imparting specialized knowledge and practical training, we aim to nurture entrepreneurs who can contribute significantly to the food production landscape in Sarawak. These programmes underscore our dedication to creating a robust ecosystem where entrepreneurs are not only equipped with theoretical knowledge but are also exposed to real-world scenarios and industry insights. My Ministry acknowledges the importance of continuous learning and hands-on experiences in shaping resilient and forward-thinking entrepreneurs.

Tuan Speaker, in this opportunity, I am pleased to share a pivotal aspect of our achievements in 2023 — the collaborative spirit that has defined our endeavours. My Ministry has forged meaningful partnership with various State Ministries, Agencies, and NGOs, all with a shared commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth in Sarawak.

In our ongoing efforts to cultivate entrepreneurship and innovation among the youth in Sarawak, my Ministry is pleased to share with you another exciting development name the Sarawak Youth Business Idea Challenge (SAYBIC). This impactful programme is the result of a collaborative effort with the esteemed Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Samarahan Campus, a programme that underscores our commitment to fostering a culture of entrepreneurship.

SAYBIC stands as a testament to the belief that innovative ideas, when given the right platform, have the power to transform societies. This business pitching programme provides a unique opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to showcase their creativity, resilience, and business acumen. It is a platform where dreams are articulated, ideas are refined, and the entrepreneurial spirit is celebrated.

My Ministry is thrilled to announce that at present we have 10 finalists emerging from various institutions of higher learning (IPT) across Sarawak. These finalists represent the diverse and rich pool of talent that our region possesses and my Ministry confident that their business ideas will contribute significantly to the economic landscape of our beloved State.

My Ministry extend our heartfelt appreciation to UiTM Samarahan Campus for their invaluable contribution in realizing the Sarawak Youth Business Idea Challenge. Their dedication and support have been instrumental in providing a nurturing environment for these budding entrepreneurs to flourish.

As we eagerly anticipate the final rounds of SAYBIC, let us recognize the potential that resides within the minds of our youth. By empowering them through initiatives like SAYBIC, we are sowing the seeds for a future where innovation, entrepreneurship, and prosperity go hand in hand.

WAY FORWARD

I would like to share some exciting prospects for the upcoming year. In 2024, my Ministry is poised to launch the Youth Entrepreneur Setup 2.0, affectionately known as YES 2.0. This transformative initiative will be centered around the pivotal theme of digitalisation, recognising the indispensable role that technology plays in the contemporary entrepreneurial landscape. YES 2.0 is designed not just to keep pace with the digital era but to propel our youth into the forefront of technological innovation, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital era.

Next, is The YouthPreneur Carnival which is designed to be a celebration of entrepreneurship, creativity, and the limitless potential that resides within our youth. This multi-faceted event will encompass various components, each contributing to the overarching goal of nurturing a generation of dynamic and forward-thinking entrepreneurs.

On the other hand, I would also like to share about the upcoming *Program Usahawan Muda Sarawak* (PUMS), which is currently in the planning stage. It strategically designed to provide

comprehensive training and guidance to our youth, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that come with entrepreneurship. Recognizing that successful business ventures require a strong foundation of knowledge, skills, and mentorship. This program will offer a structured curriculum to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the tools they need to thrive in the business world.

One of the distinctive features of this program is the Ministry's commitment to monitor the progress of participants closely. By establishing a robust monitoring system, we aim to stay connected with the entrepreneurial journeys of our youth, ensuring that they receive ongoing support, guidance, and resources as they navigate the complexities of business ownership.

We understand that access to capital is often a critical barrier for young entrepreneurs, and this program seeks to alleviate that challenge by providing financial support to deserving candidates. By doing so, the Ministry hope to turn their innovative ideas into tangible, sustainable businesses that contribute to the economic growth of the State.

The success of PUMS hinges on collaboration, mentorship, and a shared vision for a future where the youth of Sarawak play a pivotal role in shaping the economic landscape. For this, I would like the Youth of Sarawak to embrace this opportunity, to learn, to innovate, and to persevere as it is a pathway towards realizing your entrepreneurial dreams and contributing to the prosperity of our beloved State.

DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL FACILITIES AND SPORTS FACILITIES FOR SUKMA PREPARATION

I wish to quote, this quote from Stephen M. Ross, *"Sports is the common denominator in the world that brings everyone together. If there is any one place in the world where there is equality, it is probably in sports"*.

My Ministry is dedicated in encouraging and assisting athletes in fulfilling their missions and aspirations in order to raise the State and National flag. We are fortunate that the State Government's consented efforts have benefited significantly in strengthening communities, expanding social bonds, and helping youngsters across the divisions, both urban and rural.

Sports facilities are seen as the essential for participating in physical activities. In the light of this, the State Government has launched a project to build, provide, and renovate sporting facilities as well as social infrastructure related to communities and sports.

First of all, My Ministry wished to thank the State Government especially Economic Planning Unit that has helped us to secured funding for our preparation for SUKMA and other projects which my Ministry has planned under The Mid Term Review 12th Malaysia Plan. An amount of RM144.6 million has been allocated for on-going projects, new projects and upgrading of sports facilities to be made ready in terms of specifications and operations as SUKMA venues. 28 SUKMA venues have been identified involving nine divisions which are Kuching, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Betong, Sibu, Mukah, Bintulu, Miri and the latest one Serian.

In total, my Ministry has 21 Project Rakyat and 61 12th MP physical projects approved with the sum of RM367.8 million. With that, my Ministry is paving a path in providing the locals especially youth, rural communities and sportsmen a conducive, safe, standard sports facilities and identifying the facilities that will be used as competition for SUKMA. My Ministry has been working closely with the Sarawak Sports Corporation (SSC) to ensure that the facilities meet the needs of the athletes and are suitable for the upcoming SUKMA games in 2024.

In preparation for SUKMA, the Proposed Wushu Training and Competition Centre is currently ongoing. JKR as our implementing agency has been working extensively to ensure the project which is schedule to complete in June, 2024.

Therefore, the needs for the construction of Wushu building is important for the Wushu athletes to hold training or competitions since currently there is no proper place provided for the purpose of athletes training for Wushu. Despite Wushu having been contributing so many Golds in so many SUKMA for Sarawak. With the facility, it can help athletes train comfortably and providing facilities that follow international standards for the organization of Wushu sports. With the successful construction and completion of the Wushu training ground facility, not only will the surrounding communities (i.e. schools, Government Agencies, and the general public) be able to use the sports facilities, but potential sports talent within the local community will be unearthed and fostered. For the record, Sarawak has 30 Wushu athletes who has contributed in SUKMA as well as in international level. Two of the athletes are world champions. The Wushu training centre is crucial as this will motivates and boost the morale of our athletes in the sport.

Cricket is another sport which is included in SUKMA Games. My Ministry has been preparing Cricket ground for athletes training and local competition since the beginning of 12th MP. The first stage is schedule to complete by end of 2023. The scope for the first stage is earthwork and ground preparation. Meanwhile SSC is getting ready for the second stage of the project which will include the turfing, fencing, drainage, roadworks and pavement, and also mechanical and electrical works.

With the completion of Sarawak Sports Village in early 2024, it is timely for SUKMA preparation as the facility will be used as athlete's placement and hostel which can accommodate 500 athletes. The scope of work comprises of one female (four stories) and one male (four stories) hostel building, one multipurpose hall and one dining hall, ancillary building and infrastructure works.

Tuan Speaker, along the way, my Ministry foresee the significant impact and benefits of our existing sports facilities which not only for sporting event but also for other industries like the music and performance business. This opportunity comes when an international event or concert successfully held in Sarawak Stadium when the appearance of International Korean Singers Taeyang, K-pop idols and other distinguished performers has won the hearts of Sarawakian in the recent Borneo Sonic Music International Concert.

The stadium has been able to accommodate many concertgoers and at the same time has portray and give an impression to the outside world that Sarawak is capable of holding an international concert at home ground.

This year, three *Projek Rakyat* has completed and soon will be ready for public use. The projects are Project Mini Sports Complex at Pekan Beluru, *Projek Cadangan Menaik taraf Stadium Balingian* and *Cadangan Menaik taraf Dewan Suarah Sri Aman* that will be able to cater a platform for training and recreation in addition to provide facilities for athletes and sports organizers.

In line with my Ministry's mission to provide, nurture and execute a holistic youth development programme, three Youth Camps namely; Kem Belia Pueh, Kem Belia Kemuyang and Kem Belia Mukah has been approved under 12MP for upgrading and enhancement. The recent completion of Project Kem Belia Pueh has given an opportunity for my Ministry to be involved in the sports tourism calendar for the seventh Sarawak Adventure Challenge and Inaugural Borneo Outdoor Festival, which was held from 28th – 29th of October this year. It is a very proud moment when Kem Belia Pueh was chosen as the venue for the event. The event had drew over 900 participants, including both day-trippers and overnight campers. Impressively, over 30% of the participants came from outside Sarawak, representing regions such as West Malaysia, Sabah, Singapore, Brunei, Hong Kong, China, and expatriates working across the region.

For information of this august House, the existence of Youth Camps is to provide a platform, organizing activities, and programmes aimed at developing a confident generation of youth, nurturing a spirit of solidarity, and preparing them to face life's problems. Aside from that, it is to instil a sense of solidarity and intimate rapport among people from various social and racial origins. Since the opening of the three Youth Camps (1997), it has benefitted schools, it has benefitted higher

learning institutions, it has benefitted Government Departments and Agencies, NGOs, private entities as well as general public.

Tuan Speaker, other than sport facilities, my Ministry is also taking care of the 12 Dewan Suarah throughout the State. Since the operation of eight Dewan Suarah in 1988, Dewan Suarah Kapit (1989), Dewan Suarah Bau (1990), Dewan Suarah Baram (1991) and Dewan Suarah Kota Samarahan (1995); the maintenance and upgrading works for Dewan Suarah is managed under The Sarawak Dewan Suarah Fund Direction, 2021 and the Financial Procedure (Contingencies and Trust Funds) Ordinance, 1963.

As of October 2023, a total of RM7.7 million has been allocated to Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) to execute various scope of works for Dewan Suarah. The scope of works are painting works, flooring, toilet repairs, roofing, ceiling, procurement of furniture and fittings, other associated building works and mechanical and electrical works. For the record, works for Dewan Suarah Bintulu, Sarikei and Limbang will complete before end of 2023. Meanwhile, Dewan Suarah Samarahan and Dewan Suarah Baram are still under tender evaluation.

I am glad that My Ministry is blessed that four of the Dewan Suarah has secured *Project Rakyat* funding in sum of RM18.7 million. Dewan Suarah Bau has completed in 2022 and the recent completion of Dewan Suarah Sri Aman in May, 2023 has made a tremendous impact when it is used as venues for Sri Aman Divisional Gawai Celebration and the welcoming of Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia this year. Meanwhile, Dewan Suarah Mukah is still under tender evaluation stage under JKR. The recent approval under *Project Rakyat* is Dewan Suarah Baram that received the Notice of Change from EPU in September 2023 with an approved allocation of RM2 million for upgrading works.

My Ministry is very serious and concerned about the condition of Dewan Suarah Kuching which used to be an icon of Kuching City once upon a time. Looking at this scenario, my Ministry has started planning and initiate an Action Plan to ensure that this iconic building will shine again. With that a Dewan Suarah Lab has been conducted recently participated by JKR, Land and Survey Department, Consultants, BOMBA, and other relevant agencies were invited to discuss and to give feedback not only on repairing and refurbishing the building but also on the type of business model to ensure that it has a beneficial impact to all parties.

Meanwhile, my Ministry is also tackling the condition of Dewan Suarah Sibu, that has been badly affected in the bad storm in April 2023. The storm that hit Sibu, has damaged a large part of the building involving the roof, glass windows, doors and it's leaking now. At the same time, the building is unsafe for public. An initiative by my Ministry on conducting a site inspection meeting with the Sarawak Dewan Suarah Fund Direction Management committee members comprising of Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR), Treasury Department, State Financial Secretary Office, Unit Pentadbiran and other relevant agencies in Sibu recently to identify areas for major refurbishment and cost estimation.

The participation of Dewan Suarah in the 60th Anniversary for Sarawak as the venue in Sarikei, Mukah and Sri Aman divisions have marked that Dewan Suarah is still functional and relevant for all walks of life for them to continue enjoying the spirit of harmony and unity in celebrating the historical event. This is in line with the establishment of Dewan Suarah in each division that is to provide venue for the organisation to hold social, cultural, religious and sports activities involving all walks of life. Since its opening, it has fostered national integration, goodwill and understanding among all the communities in the State.

SARAWAK CIVIL SERVICE INNOVATION AND CONVENTION AWARDS 2023 (SCSICA)

Tuan Speaker, in line with PCDS Aspiration "*By 2030, Sarawak will be a thriving society, driven by data and innovation where everyone enjoys economic prosperity, social inclusivity and*

sustainable environment"; my Ministry has organized Innovative and Creative Circle (ICC) Convention on 7th & 8th September 2023 at Kuching Imperial Hotel, involving a total of 13 teams.

Team, the team "*Ready Steady Go*" from MYSED Miri Divisional Office had qualified to the Sarawak Civil Service Innovation and Convention Awards (SCSICA) 2023 which was held from 23rd to 25th October 2023 at Pullman Hotel, Kuching. Their innovation project which is called MYSED LINE MAKER, allows the process of lining the football field to be operated easily and more efficiently. During the SCSICA 2023, they had successfully bagged the Best Performance Award and were given a four-star rating for their overall performance. Tahniah dan syabas.

My Ministry will continue to organize this ICC Convention and annually in order to foster innovation and creativity among MYSED staff in implementing work processes to improve and enhance efficiency in MYSED's service delivery.

ISSUES RAISED BY AHLI-AHLI YANG BERHORMAT ON MATTERS RELATED TO MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT SARAWAK

Isu-isu yang telah di bawa oleh Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dalam Dewan yang mulia ini yang berkenaan dengan perkara-perkara di bawah Kementerian Belia Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan. I would like to thank Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat from Kabong, Bukit Assek, Ngemah, Daro, Tanjong Batu, Pujut, Balingian, Tellian, Beting Maro, Kalaka, Jepak, Kota Sentosa, Meradong, Bukit Semuja, Krian, Baleh, Satok, Meluan, Engkilili, Lingga, Batu Danau, Tamin and Machan for their issues, proposals and suggestions raised in relations to youth, sports and entrepreneur programmes and youths facilities throughout the State.

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

CONCLUSION

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

Rasanya, tidak terlambat juga untuk saya mengucapkan Selamat Hari Deepavali kepada semua masyarakat yang beragama Hindu yang meraikan Deepavali ataupun Devali dan juga saya ingin mengucapkan Selamat Hari Krismas, Selamat Hari Natal kepada semua yang beragama Kristian yang ada bersama-sama dengan kita di dalam Dewan ini ataupun di luar sana dan kepada semua kita, selamat menyambut Tahun Baru 2024. Semoga tahun 2024 akan membawa lebih keceriaan kepada kita. Insya-Allah. Dan saya ingin menutup ucapan penggulungan bagi Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak dengan tiga rangkap pantun:

*Segulai sejalai sejiwa senada,
Budaya perpaduan bumi kenyalang,
Kibaran bendera megah dipersada,
Kalungan emas maruah dijulang.*

*Jelajah belia menyantuni aspirasi,
Tanpa mengira bangsa dan ideologi,
Dari Johor ke Sabah jalinan integrasi,*

Membentuk generasi berprestasi tinggi.

*Hydrogen, nitrogen, karbon dioksida,
Ekonomi dipacu kehijauan dipelihara,
Rakyat dan pemimpin berpisah tiada,
Sarawak maju makmur, rakyat sejahtera.*

Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Sekian, terima kasih.

Timbalan Speaker: Terima kasih, YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah di atas ucapan penggulungan Kementerian Belia, Sukan dan Pembangunan Usahawan Sarawak. Seterusnya, kita akan memanggil Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom, untuk memberi ucapan penggulungan Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah. Tetapi sebelum itu, kita perlu ada *time management* sikit untuk kita, beri perhatian. Yang Berhormat Menteri kita, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom mungkin akan mengambil masa tidak kurang daripada 2 jam hingga ke 2 jam setengah kerana saya dapati teks ucapan beliau pun agak Panjang, hampir 80 muka surat. Jadi ini bermakna kita tidak dapat, mengambil *break*lah pada ketika ini. Jadi, mungkin kita akan mengambil masa 2 jam setengah, lebih kurang dekat nak jam 3.30 atau 3.30 petang. Agaknya lah. *Its my estimation for the completion your speech. So*, saya nasihatkan Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang ingin mengambil *lunch* termasuk ahli-ahli Civil Service ambillah secara berhemahlah. Jangan sampai Dewan kosong. Jadi seterusnya, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi anak Utom. *We don't have any break, we go marathon.* Insya-Allah, silakan.

Menteri Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.69 Kemena (YB Dato Sri Dr. Stephen Rundi anak Utom): Selamat petang, Selamat melepaskan jamuan tengah hari, berkorban apa saja. Tuan Speaker, I feel sorry for the Members to have to stay back, and I hope they don't miss their lunch.

Tuan Speaker, first and foremost, bear with me, although the timing is not really pleasant for me too, make sure that you remain awake. I don't have a joke, I don't have *pantun*, but just listen to what I have to say, the truth and whatever we have planned for, from my Ministry.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Tuan Speaker for his re-appointment as the Speaker of Dewan Undangan Negeri Sarawak to continue his excellent service to this august House.

I would also like to join my Cabinet to congratulate the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, for presenting a highly impressive 2024 Sarawak Budget themed "*Development for all: Together, Building A Prosperous, Sustainable and United Sarawak*". The 2024 Sarawak Budget is lauded as it is again a development-biased budget amounting to RM9.038 billion which represents 66% of the total 2024 budget.

My heartiest congratulations too, to Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg who has been recently honoured with the Distinguished Honorary Fellow Award by the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) in Bali, Indonesia.

I am very grateful to Sarawak Government for allocating RM230.56 million in the 2024 budget for my Ministry for agriculture development. My Ministry is committed to transform the agriculture sector in Sarawak into a profitable and sustainable industry towards achieving the Sarawak Government aspiration in making Sarawak as the net food exporter by the year 2030.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my heartiest congratulations to my fellow colleagues for being awarded the Datukship in conjunction with the 87th birthday celebration of our

Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak on 14th October 2023, the award as Datuk Amar, Dato Sri, and Datuk for the Deputy Premier Datuk Amar and also Dato Sri for all my colleagues, Ministers and also Datuk for Deputy Ministers and fellow backbenchers has been honoured with Datuk PSBS.

The theme for my delivery today is ensuring food security, industrialised and sustainable Sarawak agriculture and rural economy.

Tuan Speaker, my Ministry, Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development (M-FICORD) in short has developed six strategic development thrusts to spearhead the development of Sarawak agriculture sector with a theme of Ensuring Food Security, Industrialised and Sustainable Sarawak Agriculture and Rural Economy.

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

Let me begin by reporting on the performance of my Ministry's first strategic development thrust, that is ensuring and improving food security, focusing on the development of three major food items, namely rice, beef, and animal feed.

Ensuring Rice Availability and Affordability

My Ministry is fully aware of the current issues concerning rice. As rice is our staple food, any incidence of shortages in the supply of rice will certainly create great anxiety among our people. Sarawak has never been a significant producer of rice nationally, with our agriculture sector is dominated by the production of oil palm.

In the year 2022, Sarawak produced 85,700 metric tonnes of rice representing just mere 5.1% of the national total. Thus, this amount is equivalent to 34% of Sarawak rice Self-Sufficiency Level (SSL). To meet our local demand, Sarawak has to import 164,621 metric tonnes valued at RM362 million.

The high import of rice is largely due to the sharp reduction in paddy production as a result of the decreased in the total hectareage of paddy cultivation areas. In the last seven years, the total hectareage of paddy planting areas has decreased by 37%, from 124,111 hectares in 2016 to about only 78,000 hectares in 2022.

The decreased in the total of paddy planting areas are mainly due to combination of factors such as:

- (a) Reduction in the number of the active paddy planters from 165,159 in 2016 to about 70,881 in 2022;
- (b) Deteriorating condition of farm infrastructure in majority of the existing paddy schemes;
- (c) Rising cost of production inputs, that include fertilizer and the rest of the agriculture inputs;
- (d) Stiff competition of land for other lucrative crops like oil palm for example; and
- (e) Aging farmers and the younger generation showing lack of interest to go under the sun in the paddy planting.

Considering the current state of paddy and rice sector in Sarawak, our Government has taken the following intervention measures to increase local rice production towards ensuring a satisfactory level of food security.

Development of Paddy Cultivation Infrastructure

My Ministry viewed paddy policy to be driven by industrial, wet lowland and high-yielding paddy cultivation for food security reasons. Nonetheless, hill paddy is still continued to be practised by some farmers in the interior part of Sarawak despite the low yield, low return and longer planting

cycle, due to the terrain of their land and also, I believe, some sociocultural practices that they are practicing.

Therefore, my Ministry is giving a greater emphasis than ever to develop wet paddy farming in the low-lying land, mostly in the coastal areas. However, the low-lying land must be equipped with good farm infrastructure to ensure higher yield and to sustain these areas for productive paddy cultivation.

To date, my Ministry has identified more than 30 existing DID Schemes throughout Sarawak that were primarily developed for paddy cultivation, with an estimated area of more than 10,000 hectares. In certain areas, these schemes were developed in the 1970s and currently have been either totally or partially abandoned. Some are cultivated with other crops such as oil palm, instead of paddy. Considering this situation, my Ministry propose to gazette areas solely for paddy cultivation that covers some of the existing DID Schemes and newly identified areas that is to prevent this land to be converted to other crops.

To revive paddy cultivation in these schemes, my Ministry has proposed for the dilapidated farm infrastructure to be rehabilitated and upgraded. Under 12th Malaysia Plan, a total sum of RM8.3 million was allocated to upgrade the farm infrastructure in Tanjung Purun Irrigation Scheme, Lundu and to develop new infrastructure for the proposed Controlled Drainage Scheme at Kampung Mujat, Serian. Both projects are in the final stages of planning with a combined total area of about 350 hectares.

Other rehabilitation projects that are being carried out are at Lubok Punggor Scheme in Gedong and Tanjung Sebekut Controlled Drainage Scheme in Betong Division with an allocation of RM30 million and RM5 million respectively. The Tanjung Sebekut project has been completed while Lubok Punggor Scheme project is in design stage. Meanwhile, the proposed development of tertiary drainage and irrigation infrastructure at Selepong-Panggil, Sri Aman is in the process of confirming land boundary among the landowners.

Tuan Speaker, the present approach in providing infrastructure for paddy cultivation is still using conventional approach whereby the basic infrastructure is developed by DID Sarawak while the tertiary infrastructure development and paddy cultivation is under Department of Agriculture, (DOA) Sarawak, which found to be ineffective. Therefore, my Ministry will adopt a new approach for paddy development, where all farm infrastructure will be fully developed by DID Sarawak while DOA Sarawak will focus on paddy planting only. The coordination of future project development will be co-led by both parties or departments.

My Ministry is also monitoring the development of farm infrastructure that are being implemented in Batang Lupar Paddy Granary Area in Sri Aman. The total size of Batang Lupar Paddy Granary Area is estimated around 5,100 hectares. The infrastructure development in this area is divided into five main packages, covering Stumbin, Tanjung Bijat, Gran, Entulang, Seduku, Lingga and Banting.

As of now, the development of basic infrastructure and secondary pipeline for Stumbin-Bijat Package Phase 1 project covering Tanjung Bijat, Stumbin, Gran and Entulang has been completed with a total area of 1,500 hectares of which 196 hectares of Block C, at Tanjung Bijat has been developed with tertiary infrastructure. The next phase of development involves Blocks A and B at Stumbin, with an estimated size of 400 hectares, is currently in design stage and the construction work is expected to begin in 2024.

The Lingga-Banting Scheme also in Batang Lupar Paddy Granary Area, with a total area of 2,100 hectares will be developed in phases. The development of Phase 1 involving 260 hectares of Lingga-Banting Package comprising Block C and D is ongoing and it is expected to be completed in 2026. The other three packages are planned to be developed under 13th Malaysia Plan.

Tuan Speaker, once these projects are completed, the total hectareage of paddy production area that are equipped with tertiary infrastructure in Sarawak will increase to around 1,300 hectares. Areas that have been developed with tertiary farm infrastructure will enable the cultivation of paddy for at least twice a year or double cropping, and if fully cultivated on a double season annually, can contribute significantly to the increased of paddy production.

However, to achieve our target of 60% of rice self-sufficiency level by the year 2030, my Ministry requires a budget of at least RM3 billion to develop new area for paddy cultivation as well as to upgrade the dilapidated farm infrastructure in existing DID schemes, with an estimated total hectareage of more than 10,000 hectares.

Paddy Seed Development Programme

Paddy productivity and the quality of production primarily depend upon the quality of seed. For this reason, the Department of Agriculture Sarawak is embarking on a project to develop a designated area for quality paddy seed production centre in Stumbin, Sri Aman. The chosen site is located on 45 hectares of land that have been equipped with tertiary farm infrastructures.

To meet the farmers' demand for paddy seed of modern variety, DOA Sarawak is currently planting quality foundation seed, namely MR315 in Stumbin, Sri Aman. It is scheduled to be harvested in January 2024 and will be distributed to around 520 farmers who are willing to plant the modern paddy variety for the main planting season in September 2024.

For the current planting season, DOA Sarawak has distributed 22.5 metric tonnes of certified paddy seed, MR297 to around 350 paddy farmers in Tanjung Bijat, Sri Aman Division, involving a total planting area of 150 hectares. MR297, a modern paddy variety can yield between four to six metric tonnes of paddy per hectare as compared to the traditional paddy variety, with an average yield of 2.7 metric tonnes per hectare.

As the yield of the modern paddy variety is higher such as MR297 and MR315, my Ministry will continue to encourage our farmers to plant these varieties and to educate them on good agriculture and farm management practices for increased production, productivity and of course, their income.

In addition, my Ministry also welcomes the introduction of high-yielding hybrid paddy seeds into Sarawak. However, the importation of hybrid paddy seed must adhere to the State's regulations on the importation of grains and grain products into Sarawak to ensure the imported seed did not bring pests and diseases into Sarawak.

Strengthening Paddy and Rice Supply Chain

Tuan Speaker, my Ministry acknowledges the significance of embracing mechanisation and automation as pivotal measures to increase paddy production in Sarawak. Since the introduction of the farm mechanization and automation programme that are provided by Department of Agriculture Sarawak, the number of paddy farmers who have benefited from this programme has increased quite significantly. In 2023, DOA Sarawak has spent RM103,000 to assist around 300 paddy planters in Kuching, Sri Aman, and Serian Divisions, involving a total of 161 hectares of paddy areas. In addition, three Area Farmers' Organisation (PPK) are providing tractors and other machineries to paddy planters with the value of the assistance amounting to RM130,000 in 2023.

Tuan Speaker, my Ministry will also continue to assist paddy planters with adequate post-harvest facilities to mitigate losses and uphold the quality of rice grains. Recently, DOA Sarawak has equipped Tanjung Purun Irrigation Scheme with drying facilities with a maximum capacity of 6 metric tonnes per day.

The facilities have benefited around 100 paddy planters in this Scheme. Nine units of paddy threshers have been allocated to paddy planters in Kuching, Sri Aman, Serian and Limbang Divisions, benefiting around 270 farmers.

The mechanisation and automation programme will be extended to all major paddy production areas throughout Sarawak in future to boost operational efficiency and productivity. To improve on farm management in paddy cultivation, my Ministry is actively seeking the active involvement of private companies who have the expertise, capital and technology, as an anchor company to manage paddy farms. In 2022, the first Large-Scale Smart Padi Field (SMART SBB) Programme under the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry (KPKM) was launched in Batang Lupar Paddy Granary Area. Smart SBB programme is a centralised farm management system that allows private companies to be directly involved with farmers and rice paddy operators including landowners along the whole paddy supply chain. To date, more than 200 farmers are involved with SMART SBB programme in Batang Lupar Paddy Granary Area.

Tuan Speaker, besides promoting the modern paddy varieties, my Ministry also focuses on improving the quality of Sarawak's own traditional heirloom paddy. There are several local paddy varieties that are unique and could fetch a better price locally and internationally. As the price of these varieties isn't subject to Paddy and Rice Act 1994, they can be sold at a price based on market demand, hence contributing to the increase in farmers' income.

Therefore, my Ministry will continue to support the growth of Sarawak's premium traditional paddy variety by continuously improving the quality of paddy seed. Currently, DOA Sarawak is conducting several purification processes of selected paddy including Bario Sederhana and Bario Halus Paddy Seed to obtain excellent seed quality. DOA Sarawak is also collaborating with other public and private institutions to strengthen Research and Development or R&D initiatives to enhance the quality of Sarawak heirloom paddy seeds. For this, I applaud the initiative that is being undertaken by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Bintulu Campus for their research purification activity of Biris paddy under Paddy Transformation Project at Gedong.

Apart from R&D, DOA Sarawak is actively promoting farming best practices and encourages paddy farmers to apply for certification programmes under myGAP and myOrganic. These certifications acknowledge farms that adopt good agricultural practices which can enhance the marketability of Sarawak's heirloom rice. To date, 92 paddy farmers have been certified under MyGAP certification programme.

In relation to the recent rice price hike, the Federal Government has taken several key intervention measures to cushion the burden faced by the consumers. Among others, the Federal Government has approved rice subsidy worth RM950 per metric tonne for the price of Beras Putih Import (BPI). This measure has taken effect on 5th October 2023 in Sarawak.

Through this measure, the latest retail price of *Beras Putih Import* (BPI) in Sarawak is set at RM31 for 10 kilograms through this measure. In meantime, my Ministry will ensure the new guarantee price, GMP which was announce in the Federal 2024 budget will be enforced according in Sarawak.

Increasing the Production of Beef

Tuan Speaker, beef is another important component of the food security. The current Sarawak Self-Sufficiency Level (SSL) for beef is just 13% while the present total standing population of cattle and buffalo in Sarawak is around 20,000 heads. The Government is targeting to increase the beef SSL (Self-Sufficiency Level) to 25% by the year 2030. To achieve this target, the total number of standing population of cattle and buffalo is set to increase to 80,000 heads comprising 60,000 heads for cattle and 20,000 heads for buffalo. Towards that, my Ministry has initiated various development programmes and projects that include:

To Strengthen Livestock Pawah Scheme

Livestock Pawah Scheme is among the earliest initiative that has been introduced by the Government to boost livestock population in Sarawak. Pawah Scheme is a system where the Government loan livestock to individuals including oil palm plantation companies and agencies who are interested in becoming breeders. Under the scheme, when the livestock give birth, the farmers will repay on one-to-one basis to the young animals to be loaned to another farmers.

To date, there are 135 smallholders consisting 44 cattle farmers, 69 buffalo farmers and 22 goats and sheep farmers and nine oil palm plantation companies and agencies, are involved in this scheme. Since 2016, the total number of livestock that have been loaned under Pawah Scheme is 15,913 heads comprising 13,500 heads of cattle, 1,619 heads of buffalo, 694 heads of goats and 100 heads of sheep.

Out of the total loaned animal, 6,876 heads or 43.2% consisting of 6,074 heads of cattle, 239 heads of buffalo and 563 heads of goats and sheep have been repaid, inclusive of 500 heads for 2023.

As the performance of the returned loaned animal is just average due to multiple factors such as lack of breeding technical know-how among the scheme recipients, my Ministry will continue to strengthen the Pawah Scheme by enhancing the technical veterinary support and services offered to them. Future recipients among the farmers will be carefully evaluated to ensure only genuine smallholders who are willing to take livestock breeding as their core agricultural activities will be selected.

Strengthening Cattle-Oil Palm Integration Project

Tuan Speaker, among the initiative that has been implemented by my Ministry is the Cattle-Oil Palm Integration Programme. This programme was first introduced in Sarawak in year 2000, with the objective of taking advantage of the availability of huge areas of oil palm plantations to boost the population of cattle in Sarawak.

As of now, 147,000 hectares or 25% out of an estimated 600,000 hectares of the total estimated plantations that are suitable to rear cattle have been utilized. Nine oil palm plantation companies and agencies and 22 estates are participating in this programme with a total of 13,500 heads of cattle. Presently, 11,300 heads of cattle have been delivered to various companies and a total of 5,253 heads or 46.6% have been repaid.

Among the oil palm companies and agencies that have shown encouraging performance under this programme are Sarawak Plantation Agriculture Development (SPAD) and Sime Darby. SPAD has repaid 1,258 heads or 72% of the cattle from 1,734 heads of cattle loaned to them.

All 1,200 heads of cattle loaned to Sime Darby and 365 heads to Sarawak Oil Palm (SOP) have fully repaid as the companies have withdrawn from the scheme. Meanwhile, the rest of the oil palm plantation companies and agencies have repaid the loaned animal at the rate ranging from 10% to 50%.

In Sarawak, it is estimated that 40% out of 1.5 million hectares of matured oil palm plantation are suitable for cattle rearing. If fully utilized, these areas can accommodate up to 120,000 heads of cattle. My Ministry is targeting to utilize at least 300,000 hectare or 20% of the total matured oil palm plantation by the year 2030, to contribute towards the achievement of targeted 60,000 heads of cattle and 25 percent of beef SSL by the year 2030.

My Ministry will continue to promote cattle-oil palm integration programme to oil palm plantation companies and agencies to increase their participation in this programme. My Ministry will provide breeder cattle stock under Cattle Pawah Programme (CPP) and the private company will provide

plantation land for a cattle integration. At hand, the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak will provide veterinary technical assistance to the participating companies and agencies who are unfamiliar in raising ruminants.

Structured Cattle Breeding Programme

To further enhance the effectiveness of Pawah Scheme and Cattle-Oil Palm Integration Programme, my Ministry has recently initiated a Structured Cattle Breeding Programme to enlarge the livestock breeder population.

The Structured Breeding Programme requires an organization to enable systematic performance recording, planning or planned mating and genetic evaluation of livestock and to adopt an integrated cattle management to boost production. Large oil palm companies and agencies that have participated in Cattle-Oil Palm Integration Programme are encouraged to establish their own centres for cattle breeding and fattening.

To kick start this programme, Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA) has been tasked to establish three Cattle Breeding and Fattening Centres one in Bau, Serian and Rimbas in Debak. Currently, SALCRA has around 3,300 heads of cattle in nine estates in Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman and Betong Divisions covering an area of approximately 10,000 hectares.

A total sum of RM12 million has been approved under Alternative Funding for SALCRA to upgrade, expand, and build breeding infrastructure and facilities to establish these breeding and fattening centres. The upgrading work of one of the centres, that is in Mayang, Serian has been completed and operated. Mayang Cattle Breeding and Fattening Centre has a holding capacity of 300 heads, and it will be upgraded to achieve a holding capacity of 500 heads. As at end of October 2023, the Centre has sold 381 heads of cattle worth RM2.36 million.

The construction of two other centres will commence in quarter three of next year and are expected to start operation in quarter two of 2026. Once completed, these centres will have a total holding capacity of 1,500 heads of cattle and are targeted to produce more than 1,000 calves annually.

The establishment of breeding and fattening centre will also enable the rapid adoption of precision breeding in livestock industry such as the utilisation of animal sexed semen through Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer technology.

In our effort to boost breeder stock of ruminant, my Ministry is planning to establish more breeding and fattening centres that will contribute towards increasing the whole population of cattle in Sarawak. Agro entrepreneurs or agropreneur and industry players are welcomed to participate to accelerate the growth of our livestock industry. Besides, the veterinarian technical support and services that are provided by the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak, my Ministry is also offering financial facility Sarawak Agro Fund (SAF) to meet their financial requirement.

Increasing Quality Breeder Stock

One of the major issues that have contributed to the slow growth of the ruminant industry is the limited number of breeder population locally. In relation to this, my Ministry has since imported number of breeders to increase the number of livestock breeders as well as to inject new quality genetic for further breeding for the local farmers. Since 2016, a total of 10,297 heads of quality breeder stock comprising 6,930 heads of cattle, 1,371 heads of buffaloes and 1,996 heads of goats and sheep have been imported from Australia.

Under 12th Malaysia Plan, a sum of RM50.0 million was approved to acquire 5,000 heads of quality ruminant breeder stocks. This year, a total of 640 heads of cattle and 540 heads of buffaloes

have been acquired. All the acquired animals have been distributed to the smallholding farmers as well as to oil palm plantations companies and agencies through Pawah Scheme. Nonetheless, the number of breeder stocks that is available to date is still insufficient to meet the requirement to achieve the targeted number of standing populations of these ruminants.

Establishing Ruminant Biotechnology Centre

Under the Mid-Term Review of 12th Malaysia Plan, a sum of RM2.0 million has been approved for the proposed development of the first Ruminant Biotechnology Centre at Sungai Pinang in Simunjan. The establishment of this centre is deemed necessary to carry out research aimed at enhancing the productivity and welfare of ruminant including cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep and to develop models of animal development and disease control management.

The Biotechnology Centre will be designed to utilize and develop genomic resources and tools to improve the understanding of animal growth and development. It will also serve as the centre to produce sexed semen of ruminant to boost the ruminant breeding programme as well as serving as a modern training and extension centre for farmers and industry players.

Privatisation of Livestock Stations Initiative

To date, the three livestock stations namely Temudok Station, Karabungan Station and Marang Station, for sheep, cattle and buffalo breeding respectively that are operated by private breeders have shown an encouraging performance. Presently, Temudok Station has managed to produce 500 heads of sheep per year while Karabungan Station is producing 650 calves per year. Meanwhile, the operator at the Marang Station that is breeding dairy buffalo to produce mozzarella cheese is progressing as planned. The Marang Station operator has also conducted several training programmes for buffalo smallholding breeders in Lawas and also at Limbang District.

Strengthening Talent Development

In view of the shortage of veterinarian workforce to support the development of the livestock industry in Sarawak, my Ministry has sought to collaborate with a local and international institutions to develop local talent in the field of veterinary. Recently, the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) has agreed to establish its veterinary faculty in Sarawak to offer veterinary-related courses that are tailored to the needs of Sarawak.

In addition, my Ministry will also continue to strengthen our global partnership with other international academic and research institutions such as Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), in Indonesia to pursue training opportunities for our veterinarian workforce.

Currently, the overall number of veterinarian workforce in Sarawak is around 100 of which only 15 served in the public sector the rest serve in private sector. To support the rapid development of the livestock industry in Sarawak, around 200 veterinarian and at least 50 veterinarians to serve in the public sector, are required by 2030.

Tuan Speaker, all the above said initiatives that have and will be undertaken by my Ministry are crucial to intensify the development of the ruminant industry in Sarawak. These initiatives will certainly contribute towards improving our self-sufficiency level (SSL) for beef, vis-à-vis food security.

Development of Animal Feed Project

Animal feed plays a vital role in the supply chain of the livestock industry. Currently, Sarawak relies on imported corns, soybean and barley grains for poultry and ruminant feed. Sarawak imported 506,984 metric tonnes valued at RM1.2 billion of corns and animal feed in 2022.

The imported amount contributed quite significantly to Sarawak's food trade balance which is about 21 per cent out of RM5.66 billion deficits in 2022. In view of the ever-increasing costs of imported corns and other animal feeds, it is imperative for us to explore raw materials that are abundantly available locally which can be manufactured as alternative animal feed. Though grain corn might be the most important ingredients used in commercially prepared feed, producing it locally is not cost efficient.

My Ministry is utilising oil palm biomass that are abundantly available locally as a raw material for alternative animal feed. Currently, Sarawak has a total of 1.6 million hectares of land planted with oil palm that produce large amount of biomass from oil palm plantations and mills that can be manufactured into roughage resources for ruminant feed.

The Government has allocated a sum of RM30.0 million to SALCRA to establish Palm Kernel Crushing Plant at Lubok Antu Palm Oil Mill to produce palm kernel cake (PKC) or expeller as an alternative ingredient for livestock feed. At present, SALCRA is developing more than 56,000 hectares of oil palm land and has four oil palm mills which can sufficiently supply the raw materials for the proposed Palm Kernel Crushing Plant.

The proposed plant will be annually processing capacity of 30,000 metric tonnes is expected to commence operation in the second quarter of 2025 by producing 13,500 metric tonnes of palm kernel cake or expeller along with 12,000 metric tonnes of crude palm kernel oil annually. The palm kernel cake or expeller that will be produced by this plant will serves as the important ingredients for the animal feed production.

In addition, SALCRA is upgrading its existing palm pellet plant at Saratok Palm Oil Mill to increase the production of palm pellet for large ruminant feed from 2,400 metric tonnes to a maximum of 20,000 metric tonnes annually operated on full capacity.

Through these various initiatives, SALCRA is targeting to produce 100,000 metric tonnes annually of formulated oil palm-based animal feeds by the year 2030 contributing around 10% of RM214.0 million to Sarawak's total feed requirements. It is anticipated that these initiatives will not only increase production and reduce reliance on imported food items but also affordable to the consumer.

INDUSTRIALISING THE AGROFOOD SECTOR

Tuan Speaker, the second agriculture strategic development thrust of my Ministry is industrializing the agrofood sector. Currently, Sarawak food exports value of RM1.23 billion remain adverse compared to the food imports of RM6.89 billion. The food exports account for just 17.8% of the total value of imports. However, there is an increase trend in Sarawak's food export in the last four years, reaching RM1.23 billion in 2022, up from RM855.92 million in 2019. Nonetheless, due to higher food import, the Sarawak's food trade balance deficit has also increased from RM3.98 billion in 2019 to RM5.66 billion in 2022.

Considering the current food trade balance, the Sarawak's agriculture strategic development plan is emphasizing on proliferating both food self-sufficiency and food export earnings. Having describe the performance of the strategic initiatives to improve food security earlier on, I would like to next, to present on the performance of the Government's initiatives to boost the production of major agrofood items.

Scale-up Production of Selected Agrofood Sector

Food is one area that commands considerable global demand but has not yet been widely developed as a major export for Sarawak. Sarawak's food exports have increased over the past four years as Sarawak started from a relatively low base.

Harnessing on ample resources that is endowed to Sarawak, my Ministry is focusing on both increasing in productivity and production area for more lucrative agrofood sector targeted for foreign markets. While improving self-sufficiency in major food items is still a work in progress, farmers in Sarawak are now productive enough at growing base crops and breeding base fisheries and livestock to be turned into industries for more profitable export sector.

Among the major strategic initiatives that have been taken by my Ministry to upscale and industrialise the selected highly potential agrofood sector, are:

*Sustaining Permanent Food Production Zones/
Taman Kekal Pengeluaran Makanan (TKPM)*

The Permanent Food Production Zones or *Taman Kekal Pengeluaran Makanan* (TKPM) is a High Impact Project (HIP) which is a redevelopment strategy of the agricultural sector under the Third National Agricultural Policy in the 8th Malaysia Plan, aimed at increasing the production of fruits and vegetables to meet domestic markets for import substitution. Currently, 94 participants in the seven TKPMs have generated an accumulated total sale of RM19.4 million since the aftermath of COVID-19 in the year 2021.

The most common food crops that are produced in the open-system farming TKPM are bananas, pineapples and sweet corn. Meanwhile, TKPM Rampangi which is one and only TKPM that adopts a closed-farming system, provided with greenhouses and equipped with IoT technology a smart farming, produces mainly chillies, tomatoes, melons, ginger and leafy vegetables.

In view of the encouraging performance of the existing TKPMs, my Ministry will propose to the Federal Government to provide bigger funding in future for Sarawak to develop more TKPMs towards increasing the production of agrofood.

Agroparks

To date, Government has approved eight sites for the development of agropark throughout Sarawak. I am pleased to inform this august House that the development of farming facilities at Sungai Baji Agropark which is designed with a mixed farming system comprising greenhouse facilities and open farming lots to produce high-value food crops, has been completed. It is expected to commence operation in the first quarter of 2024. Meanwhile, for the other seven Agroparks that is Bebulung and Lubok Tamang in Betong; Asajaya and Gedong-Semelatong in Samarahan; Simanggang in Sri Aman; Dalat, Mukah; and Mulu, Miri are still in various stages of implementation...*(Inaudible)*...I would not forget you my Dalat friend.

Sarawak Agro-Technology Park (SARTECH)

In regards to Semenggok Agrotechnology Park, the physical development is expected to commence on third quarter next year. An allocation of RM82 million has been approved for the project. Meanwhile, the development of Tarat Agrotechnology Park has been approved with a total allocation of RM96 million under Alternative Funding. A sum of RM12.5 million will be allocated in 2024 for the projects' preliminary works. The Park will continue to pursue its current activities such as production of quality planting materials such as Matag Coconut, Empurau fish fry production and commercial crayfish rearing. Recently, my Ministry has approved a joint venture project between State Farmers' Organization (PPNS) and a local investor to produce shallot.

Precision Farming Parks

The newly introduced initiative to be implemented by my Ministry to enlarge the area of agrofood production is Precision Farming Park. The Park is a high-tech greenhouse cluster that will be offered to agropreneurs as well as the private sector acting as anchor company to grow high-value food crops such as lettuce, chili, ginger, tomato and golden melon. This commercial scale food

production area will be equipped with precise and modern agriculture facilities. To date, two such parks have been approved and will be built in Sg. Sebieu, Bintulu and Kabuloh, Miri. A total allocation amounting to RM60 million under Alternative Funding has been approved for this project. Both projects are in the final stages of planning and the construction will be 18 months. The parks are expected to attract greater youth and private sector involvement.

Development of High-Value and Indigenous Food Crops Programme

To date, Department of Agriculture Sarawak has started conducting a survey to establish the baseline data of dabai in the Dabai Belt area. A comprehensive rehabilitation programme aimed at revitalising the existing trees in these areas have also been planned to be implemented in 2024 while at the same time, a pilot project involving 22 farmers will also be implemented at Sg. Lajan in Song.

Tuan Speaker, My Ministry will continue to explore and study other regions in Sarawak that have favourable conditions for growing highly potential and export-oriented food crops to be established as new Food Crops Belt. This includes coconut in Samarahan Division; coffee in Bau, Padawan, Belaga, Telang Usan, Bario, and Ba'Kelalan; pineapple in Samarahan Division as well as in the Food Basket Area covering Betong, Sarikei and Mukah Divisions. The establishment of more food crops belt is to leverage on the local natural resources, indigenous knowledge and distinct quality that can be positioned as a niche produce from the region.

Development of Food Basket

Food Basket Development Concept was introduced under 11th Malaysia Plan that deals with the development of agriculture infrastructure in central region of Sarawak covering Betong, Sarikei and Mukah Division. A total sum of RM184 million has been allocated to the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Sarawak (DID) to implement 12 infrastructure projects in this Food Basket Area. As of October 2023, four projects have been completed while another three are being constructed. Five other projects are still in design stage. Other projects that have been approved under the Food Basket Area is the Proposed Development of Drainage and Irrigation Infrastructure at Sungai Ilas/Sebena (Block A3) in Sarikei Division. A sum of RM30 million has been allocated to DID Sarawak to implement this project and currently the department is in the midst of carrying preliminary works.

Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry

Apart from food crops, fisheries and aquaculture is another food sector that has high potential to be developed as a major source of export earnings for Sarawak, particularly shrimp farming. Between 2018 to 2022, there has been a slight increase in the production of fisheries products including shrimp, resulting in the increase of fisheries export value from RM238 million in 2018 to RM239 million in 2022. For the aquaculture sub-sector, Sarawak produced 14,102 metric tonnes with a value of RM194 million in 2022.

There are four areas that have been gazetted as Aquaculture Industrial Zones (AIZ) in Sarawak. To date, Batang Ai AIZ is fast developing into a major fresh-water fish production hub and currently supplies around 60% or 953.89 metric tonnes of total tilapia fish that are produced from cages in Sarawak. There are 146 smallholders and a leading private company that are operating in AIZ Batang Ai with a total combine cage of around 14,000 units. The private company has processing, storing and fish fry production facilities.

The development of Loba Stoh Aquaculture Park at Rambungan AIZ is also catching up and set to become the Shrimp Belt of Sarawak. To spur the development of Loba Stoh Aquaculture Park, the Government has allocated a sum of RM52 million to upgrade the existing infrastructure and utilities in this zone park that include the construction of new road network, surface water drainage, electricity substation and water supply. Up till now, the project is in its final stage and expected to commence in the third quarter of next year. The upgraded infrastructure and the availability of utilities in this park will boost greater investment from the industry players.

Meanwhile, Tuan Speaker, State Farmer's Organisation (PPNS) together with a leading local shrimp farm company is also currently developing an area of 298 hectares of land for shrimp production at Loba Stoh in Rambungan AIZ. The first phase of the project is expected to produce 100 metric tonnes of shrimps worth RM1.8 million by the end of 2024. Upon the completion of the whole project by the year 2027, the company is expected to produce 800 metric tonnes, projected to worth RM14 millions.

The other initiatives that are being carried out by my Ministry is to accelerate the development of inland fisheries sector are the establishment of Empurau Belt and Tapah Belt. For Empurau Belt, DOA Sarawak is in the process of setting up Kapit Indigenous Fish Hatchery Centre in Song together with developing Engkuah Agriculture Station in Katibas, Song into a satellite Inland Fisheries Station for Research & Development and Extension Centre for indigenous fish species.

For Tapah Belt, that encompasses Binyo area in Bintulu. DOA Sarawak is currently collecting Tapah master breeders from Binyo river. The master breeder will be domesticated and developed for Tapah fry production at Kemena Tapah Research & Development Centre at Sg. Sebieuw Agriculture Training Centre.

The aquaculture sector in Sarawak is poised for rapid development towards achieving our aspiration to make Sarawak as net exporter of food by the year 2030. My Ministry has set a target to develop around 7,000 hectares from the current 1,200 hectares of land to achieve export earnings of RM1 billion from fisheries and aquaculture industry by the year 2030.

Deep Sea fishing

Currently, Sarawak is the fourth largest contributor to the total landed fish in Malaysia, contributing 8.24% with a total volume of 74,000 metric tonnes. The latest status of the deep-sea fishing vessel quota that could be licensed in Sarawak waters stood at 560 vessels of which only 156 or 28% have been issued thus far. As Sarawak now has full authority to issue deep-sea fishing licences, following the empowerment of authority accorded to Sarawak by the Federal Government since August 2022, more industry players can be facilitated to be actively involved in the deep-sea fishing sector.

Sarawak Government will continue to work closely with the Federal Government to develop the fishery industry. There are various initiatives that are currently being carried out by the Department of Marine Fisheries (DOF) to develop deep sea fishing which augurs well for the increased contribution of this sub-sector towards Sarawak's agrofood sector. Among the key initiatives that Department of Fisheries (DOF) can play to assist Sarawak to develop the industry include facilitating Sarawak to increase the quota for new deep sea fishing vessels. Currently, there are 10,397 fishermen and 5,103 vessels of different classes, with a total fish landing value of RM544.2 million in the year 2022. All the above said initiatives will continue to be aggressively pursued to turn Sarawak as fisheries and aquaculture industry powerhouse not only in Malaysia but in this sub-region.

Development of Swine Industry

Tuan Speaker, the other agrofood sector that has huge potential to be developed into a major source of export revenue for Sarawak is the swine industry. At present, Sarawak has only one Pig Farming Area in Simunjan that it is in operation and has a capacity of 250,000 Standing Pig Population (SPP). As of now, there are 135,000 heads of SPP in PFA Simunjan.

Accredited by Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and the Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia as an approved and designated compartmentalization area for Sarawak Swine Fever (ASF) disease free, PFA Simunjan can continue exporting live pigs to Singapore. As of 31st October 2023, over 96,600 porkers worth RM143.8 million were exported to Singapore.

In view of the huge potential, the Government has provided a sum of RM12.5 million to develop new Pig Farming Areas under the 12th Malaysia Plan. My Ministry will continue to encourage and facilitate the participation of private sectors and contribute to the target of making Sarawak as net food exporter by 2030.

Meanwhile, the proposed PFA Selangau is ready to be developed as the land verification works and compensation has been duly completed. My Ministry has received a few applications from industry players that are interested to become the operator for PFA Selangau and all applications are now being evaluated.

Development of Poultry Industry

The poultry industry in Sarawak is private driven that has ensured Sarawak to achieve 100% self-sufficiency level for chicken eggs and 95% for chicken ever since. The total production of chicken is estimated at 51 million birds while chicken eggs is 1.37 billion pieces annually. *Kuat makan telur*. There are 325 licensed and commercial poultry farms in Sarawak consisting of 264 broiler farms, 32-layer farms and 10 poultry breeder farms. Moving forward, my Ministry will continue to facilitate the development of the private sectors that wish to expand their operation.

Development of Edible Bird Nest (EBN) Industry

Sarawak has exported top quality nests from its extensive cave systems. Sarawak has continued to export Edible Bird Nest (EBN) to China, Singapore and Hong Kong. As of 31st October 2023 this year, the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak recorded 11,980 kilogrammes of Raw Cleaned Edible Bird Nest exported to these countries valued at RM137.8 million. In recent years, there is an increasing trend among farmers involved in “*swiftlet-houses*”. In view of the high contribution of EBN to export earnings, my Ministry through DVS Sarawak has introduced a blockchain technology known as mywalet to register swiftlet premises for product traceability and quality assurance purposes. To date, a total of 2,145 premises including Bird House, processing plants, cave nest collection centres, service providers, traders and exporters had been installed with Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID). To tap the huge potential of EBN industry, my Ministry will continue to work closely with relevant authorities to facilitate the growth of the swiftlet industry.

Agrofood Sector Enablers

Tuan Speaker, the third Agriculture Strategic Development Thrust is to enhance the enablers to effectively supporting the growth of the agrofood sector. To facilitate the rapid of agriculture, increased global food demand, and increasing concerns related to food quality and safety in meeting the requirements for healthy and safe food, it is becoming critically important to develop highly sustainable food value chains. Among the major key enablers in implementing sustainable initiatives for the agrofood supply chains are:

Provision of Farm Roads

Farm Road is a vital component of agriculture infrastructure to facilitate the movement of farm inputs and products particularly in the rural areas. To address this connectivity limitations, DOA Sarawak has sought funding from both Federal and State Government to build, upgrade and maintain farm road in all Divisions. In 2023, with an approved allocation of RM100 million from the Sarawak Government, RM1 million from the Federal Government and another RM4.5 million under MARRIS, DOA Sarawak has implemented a total of 81 farm road projects with a total length of 59 kilometres that benefited around 1,400 farmers. As at October 2023, another 43 farm road projects with an accumulative length of 87 kilometres with a total cost of RM17.4 million has also been implemented by Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB) under Projek Rakyat Funding. The projects are expected to benefit about 1,100 farmers from 51 villages. In 2023, DID Sarawak had also received an allocation of RM42 million to implement 252 MARRIS projects in DID's drainage

and irrigation schemes throughout Sarawak. Currently, 132 projects have been completed, 81 projects are ongoing, and 39 projects are in the planning stage.

Development of Agriculture Processing and Marketing Facilities

In ensuring the farmers' produces are effectively and efficiently reach the markets as well as to minimize post-harvest losses, the Government has established several agriculture processing and marketing facilities throughout Sarawak. As of now, four of those facilities have been successfully either upgraded or constructed namely CPPC Tarat, Serian, Pasar Borong Samarahan, CPPC Limbang and CPPC Lawas. CPPC Tarat has been in operation while the other three CPPCs will be operated in 2024. Four other facilities that have been approved for construction, namely CPPC Lachau, CPPC Sebangau, CPPC Kapit and CPPC RGC Long Lama are in planning stage. Meanwhile, the construction of regional Food Agro Terminal at Bebulung, Spaoh and at Sg. Baji, Sarikei are ongoing and expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2024. These regional agro food terminals will enhance marketing efficiency by providing a centralized location for the collection, processing, and wholesaling of agricultural produce.

The Development of Online Marketing System

In addition to providing processing and marketing facilities, the Government has emphasizes on the need to utilise digital technology to market and distribute farmers' produces and products. Sarawak Farmers' Organisation (PPNS) has been entrusted to undertake such function and so far, has established 10 Peladang eShop in various locations to serve the agro community. Since 2022, Peladang eShop has recorded a total sale of RM1.38 million. PPNS has also launched Peladang eShop website to create a marketing platform to serves consumers online.

Agriculture Financing Facility

Tuan Speaker, financing facility is a vital component to advance the commercialisation of the agriculture sector in Sarawak. In this regard, my Ministry, has been entrusted by the Sarawak Government to offer Sarawak Agro Fund (SAF) to assist our local agro entrepreneurs to meet their financing requirements either to start their commercial agricultural venture or to expand their operations.

Since the inception in 2019, SAF facility which offers soft loan and grant, managed by Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB) has received an overwhelming response from Sarawak's industry players. To-date, 50 agropreneurs have benefited from SAF financing value amounted to RM105.85 million. These agropreneurs are involved in various promoted food crops sub sectors such as golden melon, pineapple and coconut; aquaculture; poultry; ruminant; food processing and swine industry.

To date, three of the fund recipients have successfully exported their products to West Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Europe, Taiwan, China and Hong Kong. The exported products include Batang Ai red tilapia fish, Sarawak's heirloom rice and nipah palm sugar or *gula apong*.

Organising Conferences and Trade Promotion

Tuan Speaker, in year 2023, my Ministry has organized and participated in various conferences and trade promotional activities aimed at reaching out to the agro community and to the public at large, locally and internationally. Among others, DOA Sarawak has organised and participated in a total of 33 marketing and promoting programmes involving a total of 90 Sarawak agrofood entrepreneurs.

My Ministry have also successfully organised Sarawak Agrofest 2023, the first Sarawak Agrotourism Conference and Expo (SAfCE), 1st International Conference on Biotechnology and Smart Farming and Entrepreneurship for Food Security (BioSFE 2023) and collaboration with other local and international organizations and institutions.

These conferences have received an overwhelming response from the participants that augurs well for continuing global partnerships and collaboration.

Advancing Research, Innovation and Development

My Ministry continues to adopt, adapt and create new technology packages that are suitable and applicable to Sarawak environment. Among others, DOA Sarawak has established a protocol to grow terung asam actually terung dayak, terung asam sarawak using fertigation technology under rain shelter, developed vacuum freeze-dried chips of selected fruits, vegetables and tubers, and optimised a post-harvest treatment using Generally-Regarded-As-Safe (GRAS) salts against the black-rot of pineapple to increase the shelf-life of the fruits.

During the 48th International Convention on Quality Control Circles 2023 in Beijing, China recently, DOA Sarawak received Gold Award for their innovative Dabai Shell Crusher Machine to extract nuts from the dabai seeds. DOA Sarawak's digital platform, "*Weed, Insect, Micro-organism Collection Sarawak (WIMICS)*" has won Gold Award in the Innovative Competition organized by UNIMAS this year. Another innovation that is Rapid Field Test Kit for Citrus Greening Disease called SwiftScan has also won Gold Award in the same competition.

By collaborating with UNIMAS, DOA Sarawak has developed a Multiplex PolymeraseChain Reaction (PCR) method for detection of tungro viruses in paddy and accorded a "*Copyright*" status by the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO). To ensure that our local crop produce is safe for consumption, DOA Sarawak has adopted and optimised two techniques:

- (a) to determine pesticide residues using the Liquid Chromatography Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer (LC-MSMS); and
- (b) to analyse nutrient content using the Near Infrared Reflectance Spectrometry (NIRS) in crop produce.

Both techniques were recently accredited with the MS ISO/IEC 17025:2017. My Ministry will also actively pursue collaborative and participatory research activities to enhance its capacity and capability in research and development.

Among its current collaborative researches are:

- (a) A robust deep learning model derived using real condition image database for local rice disease recognition with UNIMAS;
- (b) Dabai genome sequencing with DUKE University and National University Singapore and Sarawak Biodiversity Centre; and
- (c) Insights into the mechanical stability and controlled release kinetics of urea-formaldehyde encapsulated double network hydrogel biochar with UiTM Sarawak Branch and three other agencies.

I hope this jargon will not bore you. On the participatory research activities, my Ministry is currently conducting studies on strawberry, asparagus and cherry tomato with selected farmers in Bario and a diversity study on Durian Kuning with a community in Limbang.

Strengthening Agro-Commodity Development

Tuan Speaker, the fourth Agriculture Strategic Development Thrust of my Ministry is to strengthen the agro commodity sector. The commodity sector has been the backbone of Sarawak's agriculture sector and expected to continue to contribute significantly to Sarawak Gross Domestic Production (GDP).

Palm Oil Industry

Palm oil is the second largest commodity traded after the liquified natural gas and has been the single largest economic contributor for Sarawak's agriculture sector in the last 30 years. In 2022, the total export value for oil palm is RM19.2 billion or 12.5% of the total Sarawak's export. Sarawak also has the largest oil palm planted in Malaysia with the total area planted of 1.62 million hectares.

As of October 2023, the total production of Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) in Sarawak has increased by 4.1% from 16.97 million metric tonnes to 17.66 million metric tonnes compared to the same period last year. The crude palm oil (CPO) production has shown an increase by 6% to 3.47 million metric tonnes in the same period. Likewise, the production of Crude Palm Kernel Oil (CPKO) has shown an increase of 5.5% from 304,564 metric tonnes to 321,398 metric tonnes in the same year. In terms of yield, the average yield for fresh fruit bunches by estates from January to October 2023 in Sarawak experienced a rise of 4.5% increase to 12.13 metric tonnes per year hectare from 11.61 metric tonnes per hectare in the same period last year. The increase in the production of FFB and palm oil is due to the increased in the number of workforces in plantations after COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the rapid adoption of mechanisation and areas of mature palms.

Meanwhile, the Oil Extraction Rate (OER) from January to October 2023 was 19.8% as compared to 19.4% during the same year in 2022 which is on par with the national average. The OER for palm kernel oil also increased from 45.4% to 45.9% in the same period. Presently, there are 86 palm oil mills in Sarawak, five palm kernel crushing factory and seven CPO refinery plant and one biodiesel plant and there is no oil palm oleochemical plant operating in Sarawak currently.

Rubber Industry

Rubber remains as one of the important commodities which contributes to Sarawak's export earnings. In 2022, the export value of rubber was RM203.6 million with the volume of 29,458 metric tonnes. The total areas that have been developed into rubber estate is estimated at 125,263 hectares involving 71,307 smallholders. In recent years, rubber manufacturers in Sarawak have relied heavily on imported rubber cup lumps to sustain their processing plant operation. In 2022, Sarawak imported 90.2% of natural rubber mostly in the form of cup lump, mainly from Ivory Coast which is then processed into mixed rubber block.

In view of the shortage of supply of natural rubber that are faced by the rubber manufacturers in Sarawak, my Ministry through the newly established Sarawak Rubber Industry Board (SARIB) will continue to strengthen the development of rubber industry in Sarawak. The transformative initiatives will focus on increasing rubber and latex production in Sarikei-Betong-Sri Aman region as well as in Serian-Kota Samarahan-Bau-Lundu-Sematan region; extensive rehabilitation of existing rubber farm through regenerative agriculture method; adopt new rubber tapping system; provision of rubber production incentives (IPG); and enhance rubber trading regulations.

Sago and Nipah Industry

Sago is another high-value commodity that has shown great potential to increase Sarawak export earnings. As of 2022, the total area of sago has slightly decreased to 32,747 hectares from 33,407 hectares in 2021. Despite the reduction of hectareage and production, the export value for sago products has increased from RM80.34 million in 2021 to RM107.72 million in 2022. Perhaps because this increase is due to the sago price in the 2022, good news. In our effort to develop the sago and nipah industry in Sarawak, the newly established Sago and Nipah Development Board will focus on the following:

- (a) Registration of smallholders, sago mills and nipah palm sugar producers;
- (b) The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to determine the total area of sago and nipah palms;
- (c) Empowering the smallholder sector; and
- (d) Introducing a mechanism for determining the price of sago logs.

Pepper Industry

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak is the main pepper-producing region accounting to 98%. I keep saying this every sitting. 98% the country's annual production in 2022. Most of the pepper in Sarawak are being cultivated by smallholders. As of September 2023, the total area of Sarawak pepper plantations is about 8,008 hectares, an increase of 2.6% from 7,806 hectares as compared to same year last year. The total number of smallholders that are registered with the Malaysian Pepper Board (MPB) is 38,248, as of September 2023.

Sarawak Pepper export has decreased by 13.7% from 8,097 metric tonnes in 2021 to 6,989 metric tonnes in 2022. Nonetheless, the export earnings for pepper have increased by 11.6% from RM151 million to RM168 million in the same period. To sustain the pepper industry in Sarawak, Malaysian Pepper Board (MPB) is currently focusing on production of high quality and premium pepper to fetch premium price and actively explore new markets that are willing to buy high quality pepper such as Sweden and Finland. In addition, MPB strives to create "*smart*" pepper smallholders through Pepper Smart Farming Project utilizing Hyperspectral Technology and Internet of Things (IoT) aims at increasing the effectiveness of pepper farm management in dealing with pepper diseases and nutrient problems that threaten the health of pepper vines.

Cocoa Industry

The production of cocoa bean in Sarawak is insufficient to meet the requirement of the local industry. Sarawak imported RM106 million worth of cocoa bean, chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa and exported RM2.0 million in 2022. To overcome this shortage of local supply, the Malaysian Cocoa Board (LKM), Lembaga Koko Malaysia under 12th Malaysia Plan has implemented three major programmes in Sarawak namely *Program Rangsangan Pengeluaran Hasil Koko*; *Projek Pembangunan Bahan Tanaman Koko* (Fine Flavour) and *Koko Organik*; and *Program Pemodenan Pertanian*. For the year 2022 and 2023, a sum of RM4.2 million was allocated to implement these programmes involving 329 farmers with the total area of 311.38 hectares. Lembaga Koko Malaysia has also established Koperasi Kluster Koko Sarawak Berhad in 2019 to assist cocoa smallholders in marketing their produce at a better price.

To strengthen the cocoa industry in Sarawak, my Ministry will collaborate with Lembaga Koko Malaysia to propose the establishment of a Cocoa Belt in concentrated area stretching from Asajaya, Sebuyau and all the way to Simunjan due to its proximity to the cocoa processing factory at LKM (Lembaga Koko Kota Samarahan). This is necessary to ensure consistent and ample supply of dry cocoa beans for chocolate production at the factory, which has the capacity to process 50 metric tonnes of dry cocoa beans annually.

**UPLIFTING THE LIVELIHOOD OF FARMERS AND
SUSTAINING RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Tuan Speaker, the fifth agriculture strategic development thrust is to uplift the livelihood of farmers and sustaining rural community. The smallholder group is the mainstay of Sarawak agriculture sector. There are around 177,000 farmers registered with Area Farmer's Organisation (PPK) involved in various agricultural activities. The Sarawak Government is committed to continue to uplift the livelihood of the farming community in Sarawak. The sustenance of the farming community livelihoods will be emphasized by providing opportunities, training and output incentives. Among the various programmes and projects that have been implemented by the departments and agencies under the purview of my Ministry are:

Agriculture Smallholding and Scheme Participants Development Programmes

Tuan Speaker, there are more than 16,000 smallholder farmers that have been assisted by DOA Sarawak since 2021 for crops development programmes with a total allocation of RM60.06 million under the previous sources of fund from Sarawak and Federal Government. In 2021, a total

sum of RM4.35 million has been allocated for the development of durian, banana, pineapple involving a total area of around 400 hectares and benefiting 403 farmers. These food crops which have high demand in both local and international markets can create new wealth for smallholding farmers. The coconut smallholding farmers have also been supported through coconut rehabilitation and new planting programmes. In the year 2023, a total of 479 farmers involving 538 hectares of new planting, rehabilitating and maintaining existing coconut farms involving a total cost of RM3.35 million from Sarawak and Federal funding. The Government is also committed to strengthen Agricultural Programme at Resettlement Schemes. A sum of RM1.0 million under 12th Malaysia Plan has been allocated to implement *Program Pembangunan Pertanian* at Resettlement Schemes. As of October 2023, a total sum of half million has been spent on this programme, benefitting 196 local farmers who are residing in Bengoh, Batang Ai and also Murum.

The Penan community that resided within the Long Latei Rural Service Centre in Baram area is also being supported by the Federal Government under Program Khas Bumiputera Sarawak's Program Sumber Kekayaan Baharu with an allocation of RM2.5 million under 12th Malaysia Plan. Up to now 82 farmers from Long Latei, Long Kevok, Long Nen, Long Karangan, Long Belok, Long Tujang and Long Buang have been assisted to cultivate four main crops including durian musang king, pineapples, bananas and coffee with a total area of 71 hectares. Most of the participants of this programme have been able to market their produces to a nearby towns such as Long Bedian, Long Lama and also as far as Bekenu. DOA Sarawak is also providing various assistance to assist pepper farmers. In 2023, Sarawak Government has allocated RM300,000 while the Federal Government through KKDW has also allocated RM1.9 million to assist 607 smallholders under Pepper Development Programme. In 2023, 169 sago smallholders have been assisted by both Sarawak and Federal Government with a combine allocation of RM0.82 million for a new planting programme involving a total area of 73 hectares, maintenance of 187.6 hectares of existing sago farm as well as desilting and widening of approximately 1,800 meters of existing rivers to provide accessibility to the sago area.

Tuan Speaker, currently, there are around 6,000 livestock smallholders recorded in Sarawak and they are still characterised by low input and output. To uplift the livelihood of livestock smallholders in Sarawak, the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVSS) has implemented various livestock projects under the Livestock Commercial Development Programme (LCDP) to transform them into a larger commercial farm.

Under 12th Malaysia Plan, the Government is targeting to empower some 962 smallholder livestock farmers in Sarawak with an approved total allocation of RM9.62 million to implement the Livestock Commercial Development Programme (LCDP). This programme is aimed to assist individual smallholders that are mainly in the rural areas to upgrade their livestock farm infrastructures and facilities towards increasing their livestock production, thus increasing their income, and uplifting their livelihood.

Up to date, a total of RM4.94 million has been spent to upgrade various livestock farms to transform 461 individual livestock smallholders into commercial and sustainable enterprise towards achieving a targeted farmer's monthly income of RM6,000.00 as was aspired under the Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030).

Apart from the Livestock Commercial Development Programme (LCDP), DVSS has also implemented various livestock projects for smallholding livestock farmers under the Agriculture Facilitation Fund (AFF). A total of RM19.42 million has been allocated in 2019 and 2020 for the implementation of various livestock projects throughout Sarawak, benefiting 1,444 farmers who resided mainly in the rural areas and are involved in rearing cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, poultry, ducks, and swiftlet ranching.

Tuan Speaker, presently, there are 5,983 aquaculturists that are licensed by DOA Sarawak. The Sarawak Government is committed to enhance the development of the smallholding fishing community with the objective of raising their income and to reduce pocket of poverty incidence.

Under Aquaculture Development Programme, 170 smallholders were assisted with an allocation of RM1.5 million since 2021. The assistance provides fish farmers to improve their basic infrastructure, equipments, fish feeds and fish fries aimed at raising their income. DOA Sarawak has also assisted 37 farmers between 2021 and 2023 under Aquaculture Development Programme in Batang Ai and Awat-Awat Aquaculture Industrial Zone with a total allocation of RM8 million.

The agrofood micro-entrepreneurs have also been supported under Agrofood Products Development Programme. Since 2022, a sum of RM0.6 million has been allocated and have benefited 80 participants with a total sale of RM1.5 million.

Tuan Speaker, in addition, SALCRA has continued to focus on bringing socio-economic development among the landowners that have participated in its land development programme. To support the Government rural development agenda in eradicating poverty in the rural areas, SALCRA has developed more than 56,000 hectares of native land for oil palm cultivation within Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman and Betong Divisions. For the past 10 years, SALCRA has distributed almost half billion Ringgit (RM0.5 billion) as a net proceed to 21,402 scheme participants and created more than 2,800 employments.

In the effort to promote local entrepreneurship while reducing dependency on *Pekerja Migrant Indonesia (PMI)*, SALCRA has introduced Rural Agropreneurs Programme (RAP). To date, SALCRA has attracted 26 local entrepreneurs to take up contract works in the estates which has contributed to 19% of its crops production.

SALCRA development programmes also bring infrastructures to the rural community such as roads and bridges, place of worships, community halls, educational aid to family members of participants to pursue higher education, supplementary income activities, and assistance through corporate social responsibilities such as assistance to fire victims, natural disaster, and pandemic.

SALCRA is currently expanding its commercial activities throughout the supply chains such as fertilizer manufacturing, seed productions, nursery, land development services, oil palm estates, cattle integration and feedlot, logistics, works and supplies, palm oil milling and refinery either on its own or through its subsidiary companies and Koperasi Permodalan SALCRA Sarawak Berhad.

To translate the circular economy policies, SALCRA has embarked on oil palm-based animal feed production and converting the empty fruit bunch (EFB) to palm fibre-mat or known as Eco-Mat. This initiative helps to reduce the EFB waste while at the same time generate additional revenue to the mill.

SALCRA's Eco-Mat plant at Serian Palm Oil Mill was completed in October 2022 and has daily production capacity of 2,000 pieces. This biodegradable Eco-Mat are used for mulching where it acts as organic fertiliser, soil erosion control, soil moisture retention and weed control. The Eco-Mat produced by SALCRA is now available in the market and sold at a retail price of RM4 per piece.

Rural Socio-economic Development

Apart from the multifaceted agriculture development programmes empowering farmers in raising their livelihood, my Ministry is also involved with implementing other socio-economic programmes and projects for the rural populace.

The Sarawak Government remains strongly committed to uplift the rural community economy and well-being. To spur the social-economic development in the rural areas, my Ministry among others, have implemented the following programmes:

Socio-economic Programmes

My Ministry has been entrusted by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Malaysia (KKDW) to coordinate the implementation of KKDW's various programmes and projects in Sarawak. Under 12th Malaysia Plan the approved projects are:

- (a) Three *Program Pemajuan Kawasan (PPK)* with a total cost of RM78.2 million in Lundu, Long Lama and Sebauh;
- (b) *Program Perumahan Rakyat Termiskin (PPRT)* with a total sum of RM65.2 million involving 1,929 units in 2023; dan
- (c) *Projek Bersepadu Pembangunan Ekonomi Kampung (PROSPEK)* and *Desa Lestari* in Sarawak. Four projects have been approved with an allocation of RM36 million. The four programmes are in Matu, Lawas, Kampung Sg. Mata Samarahan and Spaoh. These projects are in various stages of implementation.

Rural Road & Infrastructure Projects

Under 12th Malaysia Plan, the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Malaysia (KKDW) has allocated a sum of RM1.08 billion to DID Sarawak to implement 15 projects under *Program Jalan Luar Bandar*. Currently, two projects have been completed, one project is under construction and expected to be completed next year, one project is pending award to successful contractor and the remaining 11 projects are at pre-tender stage. An allocation of RM13.24 million has also been approved to implement four projects under *Program Jambatan Luar Bandar* and all are at design stage.

This year, KKDW has allocated RM2.3 million to DID Sarawak to implement five projects under *Program Ameniti Sosial (PAMS)*. And two projects have been completed and three projects are under planning stage. KKDW also has allocated RM5.4 million to DID Sarawak to implement 33 projects under *Program Jalan Perhubungan Desa (JPD)*. Currently, five projects have been completed while another 28 projects are in various stages of implementation. Meanwhile, the *Program Jalan Ladang Pertanian (JLP)*, a ceiling of RM0.25 million was allocated to implement two projects of which one project was completed and another one project is under planning stage.

A sum of RM45 million under *Projek Rakyat* was allocated to implement *Projek Jalan Kampung Penasu Ke Nanga Semah, Daro, Mukah, Sarawak*. This project has been completed and currently under Defect Liability Period (DLP).

Tuan Speaker, there are various river engineering projects that are being implemented by DID Sarawak. These projects are:

- (a) River clearing and river rehabilitation works. A sum of RM4.0 million under Mid-Term Review 12th Malaysia Plan was approved. In 2023, a sum of RM1.0 million was allocated and all the projects are scheduled to be completed by end of this year. Under State Disaster Management Committee, a sum of RM29.52 million was further approved in which RM3.19 million was allocated to implement riverbank protection projects and river clearing works to reduce flood risk based in priority and critical areas throughout Sarawak in 2023. All the projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.
- (b) Riverbank protection projects. A sum of RM438.76 million under *Projek Rakyat* was approved to implement 17 projects. One under study and one upgrading of existing jetty project. Out of these 19 projects, five projects have been completed, three under construction, six under detailed design stage, and two projects just awarded to the Consultant and three projects are under Architect, Consultant and Surveyor appointment. To date, these projects are at detail design stage and are scheduled to be tendered out in the second quarter of next year.

- (c) Coastal Protection Projects. Under 12th Malaysia Plan, two projects with total allocation of RM168.17 million has been approved. One project will be tendered in first quarter of 2024 and the other one is in planning stage.

DID Sarawak is also implementing various infrastructure projects under the regional agencies.

- (a) Under Integrated Regional Samarahan Development Agency (IRSDA), a total of RM61.5 million was approved for the implementation of four riverbank protection projects. To date, three projects have been completed and one is under construction;
- (b) Under Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA), a total of RM96.0 million was approved for the implementation of three riverbank protection projects. Out of the three projects, one project is under detail design stage and two projects are under consultant appointment stage. The project under detail design stage is scheduled to be tendered out by second quarter of next year;
- (c) Under Betong Division Development Agency (BDDA), a total of RM134.28 million was approved to implement four riverbank protection projects. All the projects are under consultant appointment stage; and
- (d) Under Rajang Delta Development Agency (RADDA), a total of RM36 million was approved for the implementation of four riverbank protection projects. All the four projects are under consultant appointment stage. In addition, there are three coastal protection projects that have been approved with allocation of RM38 million. All these projects are still under planning stage.

In addition, DID Sarawak has also been allocated with Federal funding to carry out River Engineering projects include:

- (a) A sum of RM12.20 million for River Clearing and Rehabilitation Works in 2023 to reduce flood risk in priority and critical areas throughout Sarawak. All the projects are scheduled to be completed latest by the end of this year.
- (b) A total sum of RM76.05 million for coastal erosion protection and river mouth rehabilitation projects. Currently, four coastal erosion protection projects with one project have been completed. Two projects are currently under construction, in which one project is expected to be completed this year and one project in 2024. One projek is expected to be tendered in February 2024.
- (c) A sum of RM316.3 million for Program “*Projek Tebatan Banjir*” to mitigate coastal flooding and erosion in 17 areas in Sarawak. The project is under procurement stage.
- (d) A sum RM26 million for the river mouth dredging project. Three projects for river mouth improvement at Sungai Buntal, Sungai Limbang and Sungai Sebuyau to mitigate flooding and facilitate river navigation. One project is currently under construction and the other two projects are in the design stage.

Rural ICT and Human Capital Training Programme

My Ministry has continued to enhance the development and growth of the rural community by educating and equipping them with user-friendly ICT knowledge. The programme is to empower them to access market and product information to enhance their business and to enable them to participate effectively in the new economy.

Towards this, my Ministry has conducted 26 series of ICT-based training programmes involving 845 participants throughout Sarawak with an allocation of RM0.98 million. To continue these programme, a sum of RM1.03 million will be allocated for the year 2024.

Development of Rural Growth Centre (RGC)

The establishment of Rural Growth Centres (RGC) in Sarawak is aimed to develop the rural areas of Sarawak in a more systematic, coordinated and integrated manner. There are 11 RGCs that have been approved and 10 RGCs have been developed with four main development components namely infrastructure, economic development, service centre and human resource development, while the development of one RGC has not started due to the unavailability of fund.

With the establishment of nine Regional Agencies, there is a need to review the RGC development implementation approach. My Ministry has received applications from some Regional Agencies to take over the management of developing some RGCs, in particular from Greater Kuching Coordinated Development Agency (GKCDA) to develop Padawan RGC. Meanwhile, RGC Opar has been approved for the development of first Malaysia Metropolitan Food Cluster (MFC Opar). MFC Opar will adopts the concept of Wageningen Metropolitan Food Cluster from The Netherland.

OPTIMISING NCR LAND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Tuan Speaker, the sixth agriculture strategic development thrust is to optimise NCR Land economic potential for agriculture development. Sarawak has a total estimated hectarage of NCR land of 1.5 million hectares. As of 31st October 2023, about 901,600 hectares of NCR land has been approved for various agriculture development projects. Out of this total area, about 601,500 hectares has been developed with multiple crops including oil palm, rubber, pepper, coconut, sago and other agricultural activities, involving 194,943 landowners.

To date, the most common approaches that are being practiced are organised and independent smallholders. Among the implementing agencies involved are Department of Agriculture Sarawak (DOA), Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA), Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB), Federal Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority (FELCRA), Malaysian Pepper Board (MPB), Lembaga Koko Malaysia (LKM), Lembaga Getah Malaysia (LGM), Rubber Industry Smallholder Development Authority (RISDA) and Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB).

NCR Land Development Programme Performance

In 2023, my Ministry has received an allocation amounting to RM229,990 from the Federal Government to carry out *Program Pembangunan Tanah Hak Adat Bumiputera* (NCR Land Development) under *Program Khas Bumiputera* (PKB) Sarawak. This initiative is dedicated to promoting awareness on NCR Land Development programmes among the NCR landowners and inventors. The awareness programme includes engagement with NCR landowners, applicants and land development agencies.

NCR Land Development Programme Performance

Under the Project Management Model, a total of 65,397 hectares are being planted by various agencies including SALCRA (50,337 hectares/ 21,402 participants), SLDB (886 hectares/ 331 participants), RISDA (3,230 hectares/ 2,382 participants) and FELCRA (10,944 hectares/ 2,668 participants).

Under the Joint Venture (JV) Model, there are 57 projects with a gross area of 385,120 hectares have been approved under this development concept involving 17,861 landowners. Out of the total surrendered area, 93,202 hectares has been developed. As of 31st October 2023, a total sum of RM553 million had been paid to the participating landowners in the form of Upfront Payment, Incentives and Dividend which are under NCR Land Development JV Projects.

As one of the leading Government agencies to develop NCR land, SALCRA as of 31st October 2023 has developed 56,550 hectares of NCR land. Out of the total developed areas, 50,337 hectares have been planted with oil palm in 19 estates within Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman and Betong Divisions. In total, there are about 21,402 landowners participated in SALCRA land development projects from 394 villages and longhouses.

In the year 2023, a sum of RM25 million has been approved by the Federal Government in the form of loan for SALCRA to carry out its replanting programme within Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman and Betong Division involving 13,500 hectares. These replanting projects are expected to be completed by year 2026.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB) is currently implementing three Oil Palm Mini Estate (OPME) at Pedanum, Pakan, Sarikei, and Kampung Teh, Mukah (State Land) and Lubok Punggor, Samarahan since 2011 involving 939 hectares of land and 304 participants.

Sarawak Land Development Board (SLDB) has also implemented two Mini Rubber Estate (MRE) on a 170 hectares of NCR land at Entulang, Sri Aman and Beleti, Pakan, Sarikei involving 85 participants between 2020 to 2024. The total cost of this project is RM9.67 million, with a grant financing from KKDW. The project will be handed over to the participant by the year 2025.

Challenges in NCR Land Development

One of the latest developments that posed a challenge to develop the NCR Land is the EU Deforestation-Free Regulation (EUDR). This newly enforced regulation is detrimental to the Government's effort to eradicate poverty and uplifting the socio-economic wellbeing of the indigenous communities in Sarawak.

The EUDR will not only affect oil palm but also other major commodity crops and livestock such as rubber, cocoa, coffee, soya, cattle and wood, as well as products derived from these commodities.

As this regulation is not only restricting development on NCR Land but also contradicting to United Nation Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG) Agenda. Therefore, my Ministry will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities Malaysia (MPIC) and Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC) to appeal to EU to grant special exemption to NCR Land so as not to deprive the indigenous community the opportunities to uplift their livelihood and wellbeing.

Biosecurity Management Control

My Ministry views biosecurity control measures as of paramount importance. The Sarawak's agriculture strategic development plan explicitly links biosecurity to market access and international competitiveness, which is underpinned by our favourable pest and disease-free status.

Biosecurity is also central to on-farm productivity, profitability, and sustainability, minimising the damaged impacts of invasive species and the associated costs of management. Advanced agriculture countries have all strict biosecurity system to prevent disease causing agents entering or leaving any place where they can pose a risk to farm animals, other animals, humans, or the safety and quality of a food product.

The importation of grains and grain products into Sarawak is subjected to the Plant Quarantine Act 1976 and Plant Quarantine Regulations 1981. Besides, other accompanied regulations to be complied include International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures, Customs Order (Prohibition of Export and Import) and Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

For new planting materials from countries that have never been previously considered, a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) is carried out through a Verification of Compliance (VOC) process, which requires an on-site visit to the materials' place of origin. The standard operating procedures is aimed to regulate the entry of plant and plant product in preventing the entry and the spread of pests and diseases brought together by the materials imported.

In order to avoid misperception, adherence to these regulations serve to prevent any untoward incidents in relation to the spread of foreign pests and noxious plants into Sarawak, particularly pests of quarantine importance which can pose a threat to the Sarawak agricultural security. By Law, it is the duty of the Department of Agriculture Sarawak to ensure that the Plant Quarantine Act 1976 and Plant Quarantine Regulations 1981 must complied with, to safeguard Sarawak's agricultural sector is pests- and disease-free.

Several reports involving detained and, in some cases, destroyed imported consignments highlighted the stringent measures implemented by DOA Sarawak. DOA Sarawak has demonstrated their expertise in managing paddy hybrid seeds imported from India, infested with nematodes, specifically *Aphelenchoides Besseyi*. The, I hope I pronounce it right, can you write down?

The devastating impact of the rice white tip nematode, responsible for up to a 20% yield loss in Southern and Eastern States of India, necessitates vigilant biosecurity measures. Susceptible varieties reported reductions ranging from 17% to 54%, while even resistant varieties reported losses up to 24%.

In response to this significant threat, Plant Biosecurity and Quarantine Division (PBQ) under DOA Sarawak, promptly implemented and reinforced stringent import procedures to strengthen defences against the incursion of such pests. Central to these enhanced measures is the improvement of seed treatment protocols prior to their entry into Sarawak.

Further supporting the importance of vigorous biosecurity measures in Sarawak, a consignment of 45 Inthapalm ornamental plants valued at RM404,000 was intercepted at Bintulu Port. This interception was prompted by the discovery of pests within the shipment. These incidents emphasise the critical role of such procedures in safeguarding not only the agriculture industry but also the broader ecosystem.

To facilitate the importation of grains and grain products including hybrid paddy seeds to Sarawak, my Ministry through the Department of Agriculture Sarawak will be at service to provide the necessary assistance and advice that are required by interested parties on the importation regulations and procedures; we will be there, we will be ready to facilitate.

Fish biosecurity is also the vital key undermine aquaculture industry in Sarawak due to its geographical region. Without proper biosecurity measures, fish disease outbreak may occur and lead to adverse economic impact which are well co-related with food safety and health towards consumers.

In 2018, Sarawak experienced an outbreak of Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) which has led to the drastic decline in Sarawak aquaculture industry and adversely impacted major stakeholders and investors.

To strengthen the fisheries biosecurity measure in Sarawak, it is imperative to establish fish quarantine and laboratory centre. This centre and other biosecurity initiatives shall strengthen the supply chain, increase confidence towards Sarawak products, widen market potential and further strengthen State Fisheries Ordinance 2003.

Tuan Speaker, in Livestock Industry, the biosecurity issues that are related to the various livestock species requires stringent control to ensure the livestock industry is free from diseases.

The experiences learned from the outbreak of African Swine Fever affecting our swine industry recently are important to strictly protect the livestock from any invasive and outbreak of diseases.

Tuan Speaker, in relation to this, Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVS) is responsible to ensure that the Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999 is strictly enforced which provide the laws and regulations relating to prevention of entry and spread of diseases, livestock farming, quarantine services and other related matters. Such is the importance of our biosecurity control in Sarawak can continue exporting live pigs to Singapore even during African Swine Fever outbreak.

The significance of these biosecurity measures is not unique to Sarawak; similar stringent protocols are being enforced globally. Nations recognise the necessity of collective efforts in preserving agricultural integrity and ecological balance. An example is the International Plant Protection Convention, where participating countries, including Thailand, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia are all committed to uphold international standards that protect both exported and imported goods.

UPDATE ON RABIES AND AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Rabies

Tuan Speaker, globally, Rabies is estimated to have killed over 59,000 people each year, mostly in Asia and Africa. Based on State Health Department's statistics, Sarawak recorded 15 deaths from 17 rabies cases in 2023. Since 2017, 72 human rabies cases and 65 deaths and 90% mortality were reported. There are over 100 animal rabies cases detected yearly.

To fight Rabies, dogs must be vaccinated. To fight Rabies, I repeat, dogs must be vaccinated. To date, the total figure of dogs that has been vaccinated by DVS Sarawak and Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET) across Sarawak is 36,900 dogs and 92% against the targeted 40,000 heads by year end. Mainly this figure is from IBET because they have done a commendable works.

Since the Rabies outbreak first appeared in Sarawak in 2017, Sarawak has been actively taking measures to combat the disease. Several measures to control and prevent Rabies such as mass vaccination of dogs, public education and awareness campaigns, surveillance and monitoring of the disease are being carried out.

The Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET) continues to monitor and curb movements of rabid dogs, carry out surveillance and vaccination of dogs together with the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVSS).

Rabies although fatal, but it is 100% preventable. Therefore, the public are reminded to take care and to take extra precautions and immediately seek medical treatment if bitten by any animal. Dog owners must be responsible to ensure their pet is vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccine. Dog vaccination is made mandatory under Section 40, Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999.

Dog owners are also reminded to keep their dogs under effective control. Owners who let their dogs roam freely on the streets shall be liable to a fine not exceeding RM2,500 under Section 37, Veterinary Public Health Ordinance, 1999.

In addition to these measures, the Sarawak Government is also working with other countries in the region to control and prevent Rabies. DVSS has collaborated with other organisations to organise the second edition of Rabies in Borneo Conference (RIB) on 31st October to 1st November 2023 in Kuching. RIB was organised to exchange knowledge and solutions with professionals' inputs from other countries and other regions.

I call on all stakeholders including local Municipal Councils to work together to control and eliminate Rabies in Sarawak to achieve our vision of Rabies-free Sarawak by the year 2025.

African Swine Fever (ASF)

Tuan Speaker, the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak has successfully controlled the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) as there is no new case reported. I therefore, would like to congratulate the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak for their commendable efforts that they have made and all parties involved in eliminating ASF in Sarawak.

RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE HONOURABLE MEMBERS

Tuan Speaker, I would now like to respond to the various issues, requests, views, comments, and suggestions made by the Honourable Members on the subjects relating to my Ministry. And before that, I express my appreciation to all the Honourable Members for your concern, advice and recommendations that you have put forward. The Honourable Members have actively participated in the debate also that which to be recorded by my Ministry.

Empowerment of farmers' organisations

For the information of the Honourable Members for Daro and Katibas, my Ministry has empowered farmers' organisations to strengthen the agriculture supply chain as I mentioned earlier on.

Program Perumahan Rakyat Termiskin (PPRT)

For the information of the Honourable Member for Ba'Kelalan and Tellian, my Ministry duly noted on the issue regarding PPRT raised by both the Honourable Members. My Ministry will actively engage and discuss further with KKDW regarding this matter.

Agriculture Facilitation Fund (AFF)

For the information of the Honourable Members for Tupong, Daro, Serembu, Tebedu, Krian, Meluan, Murum, Lingga, Opar and Beting Maro, the Sarawak Government is continuing this AFF programme which has been renamed as AFF Jaya Tani Programme.

Agriculture Assistances

For the information of the Honourable Members for Engkilili, Krian, Kabong, Meluan, Pelagus, Katibas, Murum, Serembu, Baleh, Meradong, Pending, Bukit Begunan and Opar. My Ministry duly noted on all requests, comments and recommendations related to various agriculture assistances and development in your constituencies.

Shortage of Manpower at Agriculture Stations

For the information of the Honourable Members for Daro, Tamin and Murum, my Ministry is actively engaging with Human Resource Development and Management Unit to strengthen manpower capacity of the departments and agencies under my purview to provide better service to the farming community.

*Progress on Agriculture Stations and Offices in
Tubau, Sungai Asap, Tegulang and Metalun*

For the information of the Honourable Member for Murum, the development of Tubau, Sungai Asap and Tegulang Agriculture Stations are currently in early tender stage and the construction is expected to commence in 2024. For Metalun Agriculture Station, a new site has been approved at

Long Menapa and is currently in design and pre-tender stage. I was given to understand that site is not suitable cause of the stiff subject to erosion.

Proposed New Agriculture Station and Training Centre

For the information of the Honourable Members for Simunjan and Pelagus, the proposal of new Simunjan Agriculture Station and Nanga Mujong Integrated Agriculture Training Centre were not approved under MidTerm Review of 12th Malaysia Plan. My Ministry will resubmit the proposal under the 13th Malaysia Plan.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Ngemah, the farming communities with this three Resettlement Schemes at the former Rajang Security Command (RASCOM) will be served by the newly completed Nanga Ngemah Agriculture Station.

Agriculture Research Centre (ARC)

For the information of the Honourable Member for Bukit Begunan, currently my Ministry is planning to enhance the capacity of the existing research centres by recruiting more Research Officers with multidisciplinary expertise.

Issuance of Land Title

For the information of the Honourable Member for Tamin, my Ministry will engage and coordinate with all stakeholders including Department of Land and Survey Sarawak to expedite the issuance of land title. Please remind us again.

Marine Fishery Sector

For the information of the Honourable Member for Kabong, the issuance of *sampan* license has been frozen since last year by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Malaysia (KPKM). Therefore, the request to lower the minimum age from 40 to 20 years old for special sampan license also cannot be considered.

To prevent the unauthorized entry of trawlers in coastal area within five nautical miles, the Department of Marine Fisheries (JPLS) has imposed a strict enforcement in the form of compounds and suspension of trawling licenses for one year to the encroached trawlers. The enforcement agencies such as Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM), Marine Police and Sarawak Coast Guard are also regularly patrolling at Sarawak's coastal area regarding this matter.

Coastal and Riverbank Protection Project

For the information of the Honourable Member for Beting Maro, the Sarawak Government has approved RM20 million for Riverbank Protection Works Project in Kampung Beladin and RM30.8 million for Coastal Flooding Project in Semarang and Beting Maro areas and all projects will be tendered next year.

For Kampung Pusa, Kalok and Spinang areas, site investigations will be carried out in those areas and proposals for the implementation of the projects will be submitted under 13th Malaysia Plan.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Bukit Semuja, the proposed Projek Pemuliharaan Batang Sadong di Kampung Hulu dan Kampung Hilir, Serian will be resubmitted for implementation under 13th Malaysia Plan. *Sabar bah.*

For the information of the Honourable Member for Simunjan, the implementation of the Projek Penahan Hakisan Tebingan Sungai Simunjan and Projek Penahan Hakisan Tebingan Sungai di Kampung Sageng are currently in various stages of implementation.

For the information of the Honourable Member for Tellian, the proposed Mukah Waterfront Project has been submitted under *Projek Rakyat*.

Regarding the proposed *Pemuliharaan Tebingan Batang Mukah antara Sungai Penakub and Sungai Tellian* has been approved with an allocation of RM40.0 million under the Mid-Term Review 12th Malaysia Plan and currently at the stage of the consultant appointment. Meanwhile, the other proposed projects will be submitted under 13th Malaysia Plan.

Menalun-Sungai Poi, Kanowit Road Project

For the information of the Honourable Member for Machan, Menalun-Sungai Poi Road Project is divided into four phases. Phase One was completed in 2014 while Phase Two is expected to be completed early 2024 and Phase Three tender process will be called next year and Phase Four project, has been submitted to Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW) for consideration.

Suitability and Feasibility Study for Katibas and Meluan

For the information of the Honourable Member for Katibas and Meluan, my Ministry has appointed consultant to carry out Song-Ngemah Development Master Plan Study which also cover Katibas area while for Meluan, my Ministry will consider the proposal.

Before I conclude Tuan Speaker... Tuan Speaker, welcome I have to congratulated you just now, if you want me to repeat the same another time, okay. Tuan Speaker in my conclusion remark I wish to express my sincere gratitude to your good self and your team for tactfully handling the proceedings of this sitting, it is not the first time, every time to ensure that there was proper decorum and dignity in this august House.

I also wish to extend my appreciation and thanks to the Honourable Sarawak Secretary, Sarawak Financial Secretary, Sarawak Attorney General and all officers from various Sarawak and Federal Ministries and Agencies, for their commitment and dedication in providing the necessary input and support for the smooth proceedings of this august House. Ultimately, I wish to thank my staff, my two Deputy Minister, my staff and also the rest of my supporting staff for their work until 5.00 in the morning to ensure that this winding up the best that we can present to you.

Finally, I extend my greeting to my Christian friends, Merry Christmas and for everyone, a Happy New Year for 2024. May we continue to have good health, peace, harmony and prosperity to all Sarawakian. Salam Sarawak Maju Jaya, *Salam Segulai Sejalai*. See you in May. Thank you very much.

Tuan Speaker: Dengan hormatnya saya menjemput Ahli Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah, Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.56 Dalat untuk menyampaikan ucapan penggulungan.

Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-Kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.56 Dalat (YB Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah): Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam sejahtera.

Tuan Speaker,

*Lafaz Bismillah pembuka bicara,
Bicara untuk kebaikan bersama;*

*Tua muda dilupa tiada,
Perkasa semua, sejahtera selamanya.*

Tuan Speaker, izinkan saya memulakan ucapan penggulungan ini dengan ucapan tahniah di atas pelantikan semula Tuan Speaker untuk dua tahun lagi. The longest serving speaker not only in Malaysia but also in the entire British Commonwealth. Tuan Speaker once mentioned, *"nothing brilliant because no one else wants the job"*. This is far from the truth. Everyone in the august House knows that Tuan Speaker is very experienced, capable, knowledgeable, intellectually eloquent, handles each sitting very efficiently and professionally.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak for being awarded:

- (a) 2023 World Innovation in Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) Eminent Person Award during the World Congress on Innovation & Technology (WCIT)/ International Digital Economy Conference Sarawak or (IDECS) October 2023 in Kuching;
- (b) Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) Digital Government Award during ASOCIO Digital Summit November 2023 in Seoul; and
- (c) ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) Honorary Fellow during the 41st Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations November 2023 in Bali.

I would also like to congratulate the Right Honourable Premier of Sarawak for tabling another surplus budget that is pro-development, rural-focused, community-centred, and rakyat-centric. The 2024 surplus is, indeed, an impressive record.

Our Yang Amat Berhormat Premier's maverick, innovative and visionary approaches to reengineering revenue growth have created history when Sarawak is projected to collect a record-breaking and highest ever revenue at RM12.718 billion in 2023, an increase of 7% or RM808 million compared to 2022. The World Bank recently recognised Sarawak as a high-income State when we reached a Gross National Income per capita of USD18,360 in 2022.

His unwavering commitment, courage, and innovative ideas have placed Sarawak on the international stage with initiatives that include embracing carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) technology; net-zero emissions future; and numerous green projects.

Tuan Speaker,

*Yang korek itu kendi,
Yang merah itu saga,
Yang elok itu budi,
Yang indah itu bahasa.*

I would like to thank Yang Amat Berhormat Premier for an allocation of RM238.7 million for operations and development related to our Ministry in the 2024 Budget. This is a manifestation of the GPS Government's unwavering commitment to strengthening social welfare and safety net, combating poverty, and enhancing the *rakyat's* wellbeing.

*Pohon kenari di pohon cemara,
Hinggap sekawan di pohon jati,
Di Dewan ini saya berbicara,
Harap perhatian setulus hati.*

Tuan Speaker,

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

Sukacita dimaklumkan bahawa ucapan penggulungan ini akan dibahagikan kepada tiga bahagian utama, iaitu Pembentukan Modal Insan Berkualiti Bermula Seawal Usia, Pemerkasaan Wanita dan Keluarga; dan Pensejahteraan Komuniti.

Pembentukan Modal Insan Berkualiti Bermula Seawal Usia

Pendidikan dan modal insan yang berkualiti telah dikenal pasti sebagai antara penggerak dalam menyumbang kepada enam sektor ekonomi di bawah *Post COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030*. Proses pendidikan dan pembentukan modal insan yang berkualiti bermula dari peringkat awal kanak-kanak. Melentur buluh dari rebung. Justeru, Kerajaan Sarawak melalui KPWK sentiasa memastikan akses, ekuiti dan kualiti pendidikan bagi setiap anak Sarawak terus dipertingkatkan melalui kerjasama strategik dengan pelbagai agensi tempatan dan antarabangsa.

Akses Kepada Pendidikan Awal Kanak-Kanak

Pada tahun ini, terdapat 3,023 Institusi Pendidikan Awal Kanak-kanak (IPAKK) yang berdaftar di Sarawak. Melalui kerjasama strategik di bawah Majlis Pembangunan Awal Kanak-kanak Sarawak (MPAKS), Sarawak telah mencapai 98.71% kanak-kanak Tahun 1 bagi sesi 2023/ 2024 yang telah menyertai pendidikan prasekolah/ TADIKA berbanding 88.81% di peringkat kebangsaan, alhamdulillah.

Untuk memberi akses kepada pendidikan awal kanak-kanak di kawasan pedalaman, selain daripada lima buah TADIKA SeDidik Penan di kawasan Apoh/ Tutoh, Kerajaan Sarawak melalui SeDidik, membina dua buah TADIKA lagi pada tahun ini, iaitu TADIKA Rumah Seliau, Selangau dan TADIKA Long Tebanyi, Baram yang akan mula beroperasi pada tahun 2024.

Keterangkuman dalam Pendidikan Awal Kanak-Kanak

Sarawak merupakan negeri pertama di Malaysia yang mewajibkan pelaksanaan keterangkuman pendidikan awal kanak-kanak melalui dasar *Open Door Policy* di semua TASKA dan TADIKA SeDidik. Semasa membentangkan kertas kerjanya yang bertajuk “*Inclusive Early Childhood Education: Sarawak Leading the Way*” di Konvensyen Antarabangsa Prasekolah Sarawak pada 18 November 2023, Dr. Hasnah Toran, Pensyarah Kanan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia dan mantan Pengarah GENIUS Kurnia, Kuala Lumpur mengakui bahawa “*Sarawak is the first State in Malaysia mandating inclusive early childhood education*”.

Sehingga 31 Oktober 2023, terdapat 129 orang kanak-kanak berkeperluan khas belajar di SeDidik. Selain daripada itu, terdapat 305 kanak-kanak berkeperluan khas belajar di IPAKK yang dikendalikan oleh agensi-agensi lain. Daripada jumlah ini, seramai 17 orang di 16 buah TADIKA KEMAS, 142 orang di 36 IPAKK Swasta dan 146 orang di 23 Prasekolah Integrasi di bawah Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak (JPNS).

Untuk terus memupuk nilai keterangkuman *inclusivity* dan menghormati kepelbagaian keupayaan, SeDidik telah mengamalkan penggunaan bahasa isyarat dalam menyampaikan Lagu Negaraku dan Ibu Pertiwiku di semua TASKA dan TADIKA SeDidik. Sebagai peluasan penggunaan bahasa isyarat, *sign language*, SeDidik akan memperkenalkan bahasa isyarat asas untuk komunikasi harian yang bersesuaian dengan umur kanak-kanak. Sehingga kini, seramai 152 (93%) pendidik dan pengasuh SeDidik telah diberikan latihan oleh Persatuan Orang Pekak Malaysia.

Sehubungan itu, adalah menjadi harapan Kerajaan Sarawak supaya keterangkuman, *inclusivity*, dari aspek penggunaan dan amalan bahasa isyarat juga diperkenalkan di institusi pendidikan awal kanak-kanak yang dikendalikan oleh agensi-agensi lain.

One Stop Early Intervention Centre (OSEIC) Sarawak

Tuan Speaker, sejak mula beroperasi pada 30 Oktober 2020, *One-Stop Early Intervention Centre* (OSEIC) Sarawak, seramai 73 kanak-kanak telah berjaya menamatkan program intervensi dan melanjutkan pendidikan tahun satu di kelas arus perdana, integrasi dan pendidikan khas.

Setakat 31 Oktober 2023, sejumlah 476 kanak-kanak berdaftar di OSEIC Sarawak Matang, manakala 40 kanak-kanak di OSEIC Sarawak Dalat, iaitu OSEIC model luar bandar pertama yang ditubuhkan. OSEIC Sarawak dengan kerjasama Hospital Umum Sarawak, Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak, Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sarawak dan PERMATA Kurnia Cawangan Sentul, Kuala Lumpur juga berperanan menyediakan latihan dalam perkhidmatan bagi tujuan memberi ilmu pengetahuan dan kemahiran kepada pendidik di OSEIC Sarawak.

Pada tahun 2023, OSEIC Sarawak telah melaksanakan dua *outreach programmes* di Kuching manakala satu di Mukah, Dalat dan Oya bagi memperkenalkan perkhidmatan OSEIC dan meningkatkan kesedaran dan pengetahuan mengenai cara menjaga kanak-kanak berkeperluan khas yang disertai seramai 20 guru dan 380 ibu bapa yang mempunyai anak-anak berkeperluan khas.

Pada tahun ini, OSEIC Sarawak telah menerima lawatan penanda aras (*benchmarking*) daripada pelbagai pertubuhan dan agensi di dalam dan luar Negeri seperti *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)* Malaysia, Yayasan Warisan Anak Selangor (YAWAS), Jabatan Anak Istimewa Selangor (ANIS), Pertubuhan Pemulihan dalam Komuniti (PPDK) Sunflower Miri, *Advocacy Association of Early Childhood Educators (AECE)* Bintulu, dan TADIKa Pelita Harapan, Penampang, Sabah. Ini membuktikan program OSEIC telah memberi impak bukan sahaja kepada masyarakat setempat tetapi juga kepada pertubuhan dan agensi luar Sarawak.

Kementerian mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Premier kerana telah meluluskan peruntukan sebanyak RM3.0 juta bagi pengoperasian OSEIC Sarawak pada tahun 2024. Ini membuktikan Kerajaan Sarawak, Kerajaan GPS, komited dalam memastikan anak-anak berkeperluan khas mendapat intervensi yang sewajarnya.

Kursus dan Latihan Peningkatan Profesionalisme Pendidik dan Pengasuh

Bagi meningkatkan pengetahuan dan kemahiran pendidik, pengasuh dan pengusaha IPAKK mengenai amalan keterangkuman (*inclusivity*) dalam pendidikan awal kanak-kanak, Kementerian telah menganjurkan *Sarawak Preschool International Convention 2023* dengan tema "*Supporting Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood Setting*" pada 18 hingga 19 November 2023 yang telah dihadiri oleh 271 peserta secara fizikal dan 907 orang secara dalam talian, dari Malaysia, Singapura, Brunei, Kemboja, Australia, Kanada, Indonesia, Jepun, Brazil dan Amerika Syarikat. Lima kertas kerja telah dibentangkan oleh pakar-pakar tempatan dan luar Negara dalam bidang Pendidikan Awal Kanak-Kanak.

Selain konvensyen, Kementerian juga telah melaksanakan 24 kursus dan latihan peningkatan profesionalisme berterusan (*continuous professional development*) yang melibatkan 1,257 pendidik, pengasuh dan ibu bapa.

Menabung untuk Masa Depan

Tuan Speaker, program "*Save For Golden Future*" yang mula dilaksanakan oleh SeDidik pada 1 Mei 2023 telah meningkatkan kesedaran ibu bapa dan kanak-kanak tentang pentingnya menabung. Simpanan kanak-kanak telah menunjukkan peningkatan daripada RM62,644 pada 26 Jun 2023 yang melibatkan 2,487 kanak-kanak di 91 buah IPAKK kepada RM226,015 pada 31 Oktober 2023, melibatkan 2,587 kanak-kanak di 100 buah IPAKK.

Program ini juga selaras dengan inisiatif *Endowment Fund Sarawak (EFS)* yang dilaksanakan bagi memastikan setiap anak Sarawak mempunyai simpanan apabila mencapai umur 18 tahun. Sejak pelaksanaannya pada 1 Januari 2019 sehingga 31 Oktober 2023, seramai 104,804 anak Sarawak telah mempunyai akaun *Endowment Fund Sarawak (EFS)* yang melibatkan perbelanjaan sebanyak RM104.8 juta. Kementerian telah diperuntukkan sebanyak RM16.0 juta bagi pelaksanaan *Endowment Fund Sarawak (EFS)* untuk tahun 2024.

Sokongan dan Bantuan Kewangan kepada Ibu Bapa

Seterusnya, sokongan dan bantuan kewangan kepada ibu bapa. Kerajaan Sarawak telah memperkenalkan Subsidi Yuran Pengasuhan dan Pendidikan Awal Kanak-kanak mulai tahun 2023. Seramai 1,848 kanak-kanak telah mendapat manfaat daripada subsidi yuran ini, yang melibatkan perbelanjaan berjumlah RM1.75 juta. Inisiatif ini akan diteruskan pada tahun 2024 dengan peruntukan sebanyak RM2.5 juta yang dianggarkan memberi manfaat kepada 2,500 kanak-kanak. Selain daripada meringankan bebanan kewangan ibu bapa, inisiatif ini juga adalah untuk menggalakkan ibu bapa menghantar anak-anak ke IPAKK berdaftar demi kebajikan dan keselamatan anak-anak.

Geran Tahunan Khas (GTK) Institusi Pendidikan Awal Kanak-Kanak (IPAKK)

Geran Tahunan Khas (GTK) merupakan inisiatif bagi membantu pengusaha IPAKK berdaftar meningkatkan kualiti perkhidmatan asuhan, bimbingan dan didikan awal kanak-kanak. Pada tahun ini sebanyak 2,218 IPAKK telah mendapat manfaat dengan perbelanjaan berjumlah RM11.05 juta. Dam untuk pelaksanaan GTK IPAKK pada tahun 2024, Kerajaan Sarawak telah memperuntukkan RM14.0 juta.

Pemeriksaan Wanita dan Keluarga (Empowering Women and Family: Initiatives, Support System, and Resources)

Tuan Speaker, in advancing Sarawak's sustainable development aspirations, one of the ministry's commitments lies in the continuous empowerment of women and families, with a steadfast focus on fostering meaningful contributions across all facets of Sarawak's developmental agenda. To empower women and families, the ministry in collaboration with relevant strategic partners executes programs and initiatives through robust support systems, essential resources, and diverse opportunities to significantly enhance their socio-economic status. These endeavours align seamlessly with the overarching vision of the Sarawak Women and Family Department (JWKS) "*self-reliant women and sustainable families*".

Pemeriksaan Ekonomi Wanita

Kementerian melalui Jabatan Wanita dan Keluarga Sarawak meneruskan Program Pembangunan Usahawan merangkumi program latihan kemahiran, bimbingan keusahawanan dan bantuan perniagaan seperti *Women Skills Training*, Jelajah Kerjaya Wanita Sarawak dan Bantuan Ketua Isi Rumah Wanita Sarawak (KIRWaS) bagi memperkasakan wanita Sarawak. Pelaksanaan program-program ini akan mempersiapkan wanita Sarawak dengan ilmu dan kemahiran untuk terlibat dalam bidang keusahawanan sekaligus meningkatkan penyertaan wanita dalam sektor ekonomi.

Women Skills Training (WST)

Sepanjang tempoh Februari hingga September 2023, sebanyak 115 sesi kursus jangka pendek telah dilaksanakan bagi kursus jahitan, kulinari, kecantikan dan, spa danurut. Selain mengupayakan wanita Sarawak dengan pengetahuan dan kemahiran baharu, JWKS turut memantau kemajuan pendapatan peserta dan mendapati daripada 2,670 peserta yang dilatih, 1,214 peserta (45.47%) telah berjaya menggunakan kemahiran baru tersebut untuk menjana pendapatan.

Jelajah Kerjaya Wanita Sarawak

Susulan daripada siri pertama Jelajah Kerjaya Wanita Sarawak yang telah dilaksanakan di Kuching, dua siri jelajah telah dilaksanakan di Dalat dan Bintulu dengan penyertaan seramai 732 peserta dan pengunjung. Program ini turut melibatkan 13 agensi yang memberi khidmat konsultasi mengenai pendaftaran dan pelesenan serta bantuan perniagaan. Sebanyak 150 pelbagai permohonan telah diterima semasa program tersebut. Pada tahun ini, sebanyak sembilan siri Jelajah Pemerkasaan Wanita dan tiga Sesi Libat Urus bersama Wanita telah dilaksanakan oleh Jabatan Wanita dan Keluarga Sarawak (JWKS) melibatkan seramai 1,136 ahli NGO bagi menyampaikan maklumat mengenai perkhidmatan JWKS. Taklimat dan bimbingan pengisian borang permohonan bantuan secara *hands-on* juga turut diadakan.

Bantuan Ketua Isi Rumah Wanita Sarawak (KIRWaS)

Untuk makluman semua, pada tahun 2022, seramai 590 usahawan telah diberi bantuan KIRWaS RM500 seorang. Pemantauan selepas enam bulan menerima bantuan didapati 81% dari mereka telah berjaya menjana pendapatan melebihi paras Pendapatan Garis Kemiskinan (PGK). Untuk tahun 2023, seramai 628 usahawan telah diberi bantuan dan sedang melalui proses pemantauan keberhasilan bantuan. Dan untuk tahun 2024, dengan peruntukan sebanyak RM300,000 seramai 600 usahawan akan dapat bantuan KIRWaS.

Para usahawan yang menerima bantuan akan dibimbing melalui program pembangunan usahawan bagi mencapai hasil utama sektor khidmat sosial (PCDS 2030), iaitu mengeluarkan isi rumah berpendapatan rendah daripada kemiskinan dengan menjana purata pendapatan sebulan pada RM2,150 hingga RM3,750 menjelang 2030.

PENGLIBATAN WANITA DALAM KEPIMPINAN

Kementerian melalui JWKS terus melaksanakan program kepimpinan wanita di seluruh Sarawak dengan kolaborasi agensi awam dan NGO. Program kepimpinan ini bukan sahaja bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kemahiran insaniah pemimpin di peringkat akar umbi, tetapi juga mengembangkan potensi kepimpinan pelajar perempuan di sekolah menengah dan institusi pengajian tinggi bagi membolehkan mereka menjadi agen perubahan positif dalam masyarakat.

Sehubungan ini, dua siri *Women Leadership Program* telah dilaksanakan di Sarikei dan Sri Aman melibatkan seramai 60 peserta di kalangan pemimpin NGO manakala *Leadership Bootcamp for Youth* telah dilaksanakan sebanyak tiga siri di Bintulu, Miri dan Kuching yang melibatkan seramai 90 pelajar perempuan sekolah menengah dan institusi pengajian tinggi.

JWKS turut berkolaborasi dan menyokong inisiatif pihak NGO dalam melaksanakan program-program pengupayaan kapasiti wanita dan pemantapan institusi keluarga. Untuk itu, JWKS telah menyalurkan RM95,140 kepada 10 NGO di Sarawak untuk pelaksanaan program-program tersebut.

PEMANTAPAN INSTITUSI KELUARGA

Tuan Speaker, bagi menyumbang kepada peningkatan skor indeks 8.0 ke atas untuk *Sarawak Social Wellbeing Index (SSWI)* menjelang 2030, Kementerian melalui JWKS meneruskan pelbagai program pemantapan institusi keluarga.

Setakat Oktober 2023, JWKS telah melaksanakan tujuh siri kursus pemantapan keluarga seperti Kursus Ilmu Keluarga, Pasca Perkahwinan dan Pengurusan Keluarga yang disertai oleh seramai 431 peserta. Soal selidik keberkesanan kursus telah dijalankan satu bulan selepas setiap kursus diadakan. Hasil soal selidik bagi empat siri kursus mendapati bahawa 86.12% responden menyatakan kursus tersebut telah memberi impak positif terhadap perkahwinan dan pengurusan institusi keluarga masing-masing. Alhamdulillah.

Selain itu, dalam menyumbang kepada matlamat *Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3): Good Health and Wellbeing for All*, Kementerian melalui JWKS telah bekerjasama dengan Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sarawak (JKNS), Lembaga Penduduk dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara (LPPKN) dan NGO mengadakan kursus *Sustainable Wellness for Young Women*. Objektif program ini adalah untuk memberi pengetahuan dan pendedahan kepada remaja wanita berumur 13 hingga 21 tahun mengenai kepentingan menjaga kesihatan dan kebersihan diri serta memberi kesedaran mengenai aspek keselamatan dan pengurusan diri yang positif. Kursus ini telah diadakan sebanyak empat siri iaitu di Daerah Marudi, Song, Trusan dan Lundu dengan melibatkan seramai 136 peserta.

KESELAMATAN DAN HAK WANITA DAN KELUARGA

Dalam melahirkan masyarakat yang berpengetahuan dan peka tentang hak, perundangan dan keselamatan wanita dan keluarga, Kementerian melalui JWKS meneruskan kolaborasi bersama rakan strategik dalam pelaksanaan pelbagai program kesedaran keselamatan dan hak wanita dan keluarga. Tiga kursus yang telah diteruskan pada tahun ini adalah *Know Your Rights, Family and Women Safety (FAWS)* dan *Basic Psychological Helping Skills*.

Know Your Rights

Pada tahun 2023, kursus *Know Your Rights* telah diadakan di Miri dan Padawan yang melibatkan 246 peserta.

Family and Women Safety (FAWS)

Manakala dua siri kursus *Family & Women Safety (FAWS)* telah diadakan di Kota Samarahan dan Bau melibatkan seramai 200 peserta.

Basic Psychological Helping Skills

Seramai 60 peserta telah menyertai *Basic Psychological Helping Skills* yang diadakan di Miri. Kursus baharu yang telah diperkenalkan pada tahun ini ialah *Pocket Talks, Anti Scam Literacy (ASL)* dan *Digital Literacy for Elderly Women*.

Pocket Talks

Dalam menyebarkan kesedaran mengenai keselamatan dan hak wanita dan keluarga, sebanyak empat siri *Pocket Talks* telah diadakan secara dalam talian dengan 350 peserta.

Digital Literacy for Elderly Women

Kementerian melalui JWKS telah melaksanakan kursus *Digital Literacy for Elderly Women* di Tanjung Manis, Debak dan Lingga. Berdasarkan dapatan soal selidik, 87.7% telah menyatakan bahawa tahap kemahiran penggunaan IT dalam kehidupan seharian telah meningkat.

Anti Scam Literacy (ASL)

Jumlah jenayah siber melibatkan wanita semakin membimbangkan. Bagi tempoh 2022 sehingga Oktober 2023, Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Komersil, Ibu Pejabat Kontijen Sarawak merekodkan sebanyak 1,391 atau 52% kes daripada 2,682 kes jenayah siber adalah wanita. Justeru, *Anti Scam Literacy (ASL)* diperkenalkan untuk memberi kesedaran tentang jenayah siber. Kursus ini telah diadakan di Bintulu dan Kuching yang dihadiri oleh 402 peserta. Oleh yang demikian, Kementerian melalui JWKS akan terus berkolaborasi dengan rakan-rakan strategik bagi memperkasa kemandirian diri wanita Sarawak dan melestarikan keluarga melalui inisiatif-inisiatif keterangkuman inovasi sosial seiring dengan aspirasi PCDS 2030 bagi sektor perkhidmatan sosial.

**PENSEJAHTERAAN KOMUNITI (SOCIAL AND WELFARE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR
COMMUNITY WELLBEING — INITIATIVES, SUPPORT SYSTEM AND ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES)**

Tuan Speaker, 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.

SOCIAL WELLBEING

Through the Social Development Council, the Ministry collaborates with relevant strategic partners from all walks of life – public and private organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community service organisations (CSOs), and grassroot leaders – to address social issues through integrated, comprehensive, and evidence-based approaches, social support, and targeted intervention programs and facilities. Over the years, we recorded numerous positive outcomes, impacts, and recognition. Among the significant achievements are:

Record of teenage pregnancy

There is a drop of teenage pregnancy in Sarawak from the period 2016 with 2,481 cases to October 2023, 1,760 cases. The role of the One Stop Teenage Pregnancy Committee (OSTPC) is instrumental to this reduction as relevant members collaborated to implement 66 integrated social intervention programmes such as *Kesedaran dan Advokasi Pendidikan Seksual (KAPS)* in schools and in the community since 2016.

Increase in help seeking behaviour for substance use and substance use disorders

An increase in the ratio of help seeking behaviour is recorded for substance use and use disorders, from 1:10 in 2016 to 1:5 in 2022. This ratio is better than the international index of 1:6 reported by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The role of Sarawak One Stop Committee (OSC) for Addressing Drugs and Substance Abuse is vital as members collaborate to implement supply control and drug demand reduction (DDR) activities through integrated, comprehensive, balanced, coordinated and evidence-based approaches. To provide easy access to treatment and recovery support services for those affected by substance, 20 One Stop Centre for Addiction (OSCA) at selected health clinics, the highest in Malaysia and two Community Development and Intervention Centres (CDIC) in Bau and Dalat have been established.

Recognition by international community

These integrated efforts by the Sarawak Government through our Ministry have earned the DDR Stewardship Award from the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) Global at the International Recovery Symposium (IRS) 2023.

Recently, the Ministry was entrusted to lead the Asian Recovery Network, a platform for professionals, associations, and organisations to network and collaborate on addiction treatment, recovery, and rehabilitation support services.

Increase in help-seeking for mental health issues

An increase of 39% in help-seeking for mental health issues is recorded in Sarawak from 2019 with 41,920 cases to 2022 whereby 58,207 cases recorded. This is partly contributed by robust mental health screening and prevention activities during outreach programs such as the *Randau Pembangunan Sosial* in the rural; *Randau Solidariti Komuniti* in the sub-urban; Community Mental Health Literacy; and Mental Health Awareness Course in all administrative divisions in Sarawak. Since 2016, a total of 94 programmes have been conducted.

As of October 2023, there are 822 primary and secondary school counsellors; 62 organisational psychology officers in the state and federal agencies; 13 counsellors and psychology officers at the Social Welfare Department Sarawak (JKMS); and 45 psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and psychology officers at government hospitals and clinics to support mental health screening, intervention referrals and services.

Improvement in wellbeing index

Our achievements so far indicate that we are moving in the right direction towards high family wellbeing. Sarawak achieved a 10% increase on the *Indeks Kesejahteraan Keluarga Malaysia* between 2016 and 2019. 2016 with a score of 7.09 out of 10 and 2019 with a score of 7.78. In fact, we achieved a high index on the Family Relationship Domain, with a score of 8.44 in 2019 compared to 7.65 in 2016. Alhamdulillah.

A KPI set in PCDS 2030 is to attain a high level of social wellbeing index with a score of 8.0 and above out of a scale of 10 on the Sarawak Social Wellbeing Index (SSWI) by 2030. The parameters of the index are based on the State Social Transformation Framework that consists of 10 pillars shown in the slide, 25 social domains and 79 sub-domains.

Our Ministry is in the midst of conducting SSWI 2023 covering all the 45 districts in collaboration with a consortium of three local universities, led by Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus, and will be completed in March 2024.

Compassion and support for welfare recipients during festive seasons

Bagi menambah keceriaan penerima bantuan yang menyambut lima perayaan utama, *signature* program Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Sarawak, Majlis Sejambak Kasih diteruskan pada tahun ini. Pada tahun 2022, JKMS telah membelanjakan RM5.5 juta untuk tujuan tersebut, manakala dari Januari sehingga November tahun 2023, sejumlah RM5.11 juta telah dibelanjakan. Selain daripada kerajaan, sumbangan CSR daripada badan korporat seperti Hotel Dynasty Miri dan PETRONAS turut menambah nilai kepada program ini.

SOCIAL SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION IN THE COMMUNITY

Kesejahteraan Komuniti Gelandangan

Melalui kolaborasi dalam kalangan ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Gelandangan Sarawak (*The homeless in Sarawak*), Kementerian menyediakan fasiliti Tempat Transit Gelandangan (TTG). 97 gelandangan telah diselamat, dipulih dan dikembalikan kepada keluarga melalui TTG Sibu yang beroperasi sejak Februari 2023. Usaha ini telah menampakkan kesan positif dari segi jumlah gelandangan yang berkurangan, *there is a reduction of number of homeless* di bandar Sibu, kecuali gelandangan yang mengalami *acute mental health problems*. Ingin saya menarik perhatian Dewan yang mulia ini tentang kes seorang ibu dan tiga orang anak yang telah diselamatkan dari hutan di Sibu Jaya. Hasil intervensi dan rujukan oleh pihak TTG Sibu, anak perempuan beliau berusia 12 tahun yang tidak pernah ke sekolah telah memulakan persekolahan di pusat pembelajaran alternatif yang disediakan oleh Pertubuhan Destiny for Children di bandar Sibu.

Untuk makluman ahli Dewan ini, kerja-kerja pengubahsuaian premis untuk Tempat Transit Gelandangan (TTG) Kuching dan Miri akan siap pada Mei 2024, manakala pembinaan TTG *cum Community Social Support Centre* (CSSC) Bintulu pula dijangka siap sepenuhnya pada Mei 2025.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING OF SENIORS

As Sarawak is scheduled to age by 2028, the Sarawak Government has approved an allocation of RM1.4 million under the RMK-12 Mid-term Review to conduct a comprehensive study entitled

“Research on Preparation for an Ageing Sarawak: The Profile of and Ageing Issues of Older Persons in Sarawak” in 2024. Among issues related to the wellbeing of seniors covered by this research are:

- (a) Financial security or social protection;
- (b) Household expenditure;
- (c) Health and wellbeing, including health seeking behaviour;
- (d) Housing and transportation;
- (e) Lifelong learning, consumer education;
- (f) Family care and support;
- (g) Intergenerational relationship;
- (h) Role of the family as caregivers;
- (i) Older persons care; and
- (j) Work, employment and volunteerism.

Upon completion of this study in December 2024, the Government will be well informed regarding:

- (a) Impact of existing socio-economic and wellbeing issues and challenges as stated affecting the elderly;
- (b) Impact of ageing on manpower, income, financial issues that contribute to elderly poverty;
- (c) Recommendations for an older person’s policy for Sarawak; and
- (d) Recommendation on strategies and action plans for the period 2026 to 2030 and beyond, to address ageing issues in Sarawak.

Tuan Speaker, the Government will continue to implement existing social protection and intervention programs affecting the elderly that includes:

- (a) Welfare assistance for the elderly

Through the Bantuan Warga Emas (BWE) scheme, from January 2023 until October 2023 the Government spent RM99,563,500 to assist 20,512 recipients.

- (b) Kenyalang Gold Card (KGC) initiatives

All Sarawakians aged 60 years and above can apply for KGC, Kenyalang Gold Card. Since 2020, 269,777 of the elderly population in Sarawak are KGC holders. This figure includes the 13,984 who had registered during the Sarawak 60 Years of Independence Digital Exhibition Roadshow. As of today, 484 strategic partners and merchants are currently providing benefits in the form of discounts, memberships and other privileges. Meanwhile, 15,285 next-of-kin to the deceased KGC holders have received the *Bantuan Ihsan Kematian* (BIK) amounting to RM45.86 million.

- (c) Elderly Service Centres, Wellness Program and activity

The established 15 Pusat Perkhidmatan Warga Emas (PPWE) and 12 Pusat Aktiviti Warga Emas (PAWE) with 35,694 registered members have supported 528 activities towards healthy, active, productive and positive senior citizens this year. We have established one new PAWE in Debak effective 6th November 2023.

Besides activities conducted by PPWE and PAWE, there are 39 activities organised by JKMS for residents in Rumah Sri Kenangan Kuching and Sibu. Apart from RSK operated by Government, there are also 11 private care centres registered with JKMS such as Eden on The Park Care Residence in Samarahan, Pusat Jagaan Trinity Eldercare Berhad, Pusat Jagaan Kenneth Care Home, Pusat Jagaan Home of Peace, Sarawak Hun Nam Siang Tng Centre, Tabuan Health Care Centre, Pusat Jagaan Damai, Laila Stroke Centre, iCare Elderly

Care Centre in Kuching and in Sibul, Benevolent Society Sibul, in Miri Home for the aged in Miri.

To provide wider access to elderly wellbeing awareness and advocacy as of October 2023, three runs of pilot programs on elderly community wellness were also conducted at our Community Social Support Centre (CSSC) Kuching with the collaboration of Kota Samarahan Clinic Primary Healthcare Community Geriatric Services (GeKo), Jalan Masjid Health Clinic, Swinburne University Sarawak, Mental Health Association Sarawak (MHAS), Sarawak Gerontology and Geriatric Society (SGGS) this is for this year until October 2023.

In addition, on 8th to 9th September 2023, JWKS in collaboration with GeKo has conducted Kursus Penjagaan Asas Warga Emas in Miri to provide theoretical and practical knowledge on basic care of the elderly.

(d) Pensejahteraan Komuniti Orang Kurang Upaya (OKU)

Strategi Pembangunan Pasca COVID-19 (PCDS) 2030 ialah strategi menyeluruh untuk kesejahteraan semua warga Sarawak dan memastikan keterangkuman sosial, tiada pihak yang dipinggirkan dalam menikmati kemakmuran ekonomi dan persekitaran mampan menjelang 2030.

*Sudah puas bertanam padi,
Kerja beres hati pun senang,
Sudah puas menabur budi,
Kerajaan GPS kerajaan terbilang.*

(i) Bantuan dan Insentif OKU

Kerajaan komited meneruskan bantuan sedia ada kepada OKU melalui tiga skim iaitu:

- (1) Elaun Pekerja OKU (EPOKU) dengan kadar RM450 sebulan, dan ini memberi manfaat kepada 3,554 penerima dengan perbelanjaan RM15.6 juta;
- (2) Bantuan Penjagaan OKU yang Terlantar (*Bedridden*)/ Pesakit Kronik Terlantar (BPT) dengan kadar RM500 sebulan, ini memberi manfaat kepada 2,532 penerima dan perbelanjaan RM12.2 juta; dan
- (3) Bantuan OKU Tidak Berupaya Bekerja (BTB) dengan kadar RM300 dan tambahan RM50 daripada Kerajaan Sarawak sebulan, ini memberi manfaat kepada 9,815 penerima dengan perbelanjaan RM33.01 juta.

Di samping itu, mulai 1 Januari 2024, Elaun Pelatih di Pertubuhan Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti (PPDK) dan Program Pendidikan Khas Integrasi (PPKI) serta yang disantuni di rumah akan ditingkatkan dari kadar RM150 ke RM300 sebulan.

Empowering OKU through sports

Through our Talent Identification Programs, athletes are developed and given opportunities to compete at local, national and international competitions. Sarawak will be hosting the 21st Para SUKMA from 20th to 28th September 2024. We are determined to reclaim the championship title and be the champion for the 14 time.

Kejohanan pada kali ini akan menawarkan sebanyak 10 jenis sukan para dengan 358 acara untuk dipertandingkan. Dianggarkan seramai 1,400 atlet para serta diiringi oleh 600 pegawai dari seluruh Malaysia akan hadir.

Tuan Speaker, dalam Bengkel Penetapan Sukan dan Acara-acara yang telah diadakan pada 8 hingga 10 November 2023, Sarawak telah berjaya meyakinkan jawatankuasa tertinggi para SUKMA untuk mengekalkan had umur penyertaan pertandingan iaitu 14 hingga 45 tahun; dan acara akan terus dipertandingkan walaupun penyertaan hanya daripada dua negeri dengan empat peserta. Pengekalan syarat penyertaan ini penting untuk memberi peluang seluas-luasnya kepada atlet OKU bagi memperkasakan diri mereka melalui sukan. *For the OKU, sports is not just about winning but it is about providing opportunities for OKU or people with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.*

COMMUNITY WELLBEING OF THE NEEDY

Bantuan Kesihatan Bersasar Kepada Rakyat

Kerajaan Sarawak telah menyediakan Bantuan Perubatan, Bantuan Pesakit Buah Pinggang (BPBP) dan Bantuan Alat Tiruan ataupun Sokongan untuk membantu membiayai kos rawatan bagi meringankan bebanan kewangan pesakit serta keluarga. Sejak diperkenalkan sehingga Oktober 2023, sebanyak RM8.9 juta telah dibelanjakan untuk membantu 1,117 pesakit.

Bagi tahun 2021 hingga 2023, Kerajaan Sarawak telah memperuntukkan sebanyak RM1.26 juta bagi pembelian 30 buah mesin hemodialisis untuk ditempatkan di 19 buah hospital dan klinik kesihatan kerajaan. Penambahan mesin hemodialisis ini dijangka dapat memberi manfaat kepada 180 pesakit buah pinggang.

Untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat bagi Tellian, sebanyak tiga buah mesin hemodialisis akan ditempatkan di Hospital Mukah dan sebuah lagi di Hospital Dalat.

Bantuan Kewangan Kebajikan

Sejajar dengan *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG), di bawah *SDG1 No poverty* dan *SDG2 Zero hunger*, Kerajaan menyediakan bantuan kewangan kebajikan kepada kumpulan sasar untuk kelangsungan hidup. Mulai Januari hingga Oktober 2023, jumlah penerima bantuan kewangan di Sarawak adalah seramai 55,188 penerima dengan perbelanjaan berjumlah RM212.05 juta.

Program Pembangunan Latihan Kemahiran dan Kerjaya (PLKK)

Dalam usaha untuk meningkatkan sosio-ekonomi dan mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada bantuan Kerajaan, Kementerian melalui JKMS melaksanakan Program Pembangunan Latihan Kemahiran dan Kerjaya (PLKK) bagi memberi peluang kepada ahli isi rumah penerima bantuan kebajikan bulanan untuk menjalani latihan kemahiran (*skills training*) serta ditawarkan pekerjaan.

Pada tahun 2023, Kursus *Basic Scaffolding Level 1* telah dilaksanakan di Institut Latihan Perindustrian (ILP) Samarahan dan Institut Kemahiran MARA (IKM) Bintulu. Seramai 56 pelatih telah menyertai dan mendapat Sijil Kompetensi daripada *Department of Occupational Safety and Health* (DOSH), *Oil & Gas Safety Passport* dan CIDB *Green Card*. Syarikat PWD Engineering Sdn Bhd Kuching juga telah menawarkan pekerjaan kepada semua pelatih dengan gaji pokok sebanyak RM1,800.00 sebulan.

PENGUKUHAN PERPADUAN

Hari Kesejahteraan Bersama

Bagi memantapkan kesepaduan intergenerasi dalam kalangan komuniti di Sarawak, buat julung kalinya Sambutan Hari Kesejahteraan Bersama 2023 peringkat Sarawak yang merangkumi Hari Warga Emas, Hari Kanak-kanak, Hari Orang Kurang Upaya dan Hari Keluarga telah diadakan pada 15 hingga 16 November 2023 di Waterfront Hotel, Kuching. Kementerian menggabungkan

sambutan hari-hari istimewa tersebut dengan menghimpunkan kanak-kanak, keluarga, warga emas dan OKU dalam satu karnival kebersamaan dengan tema, *“Inclusivity and Intergenerational Solidarity for Community Wellbeing”* (Keterangkuman dan Kespadaan Intergenerasi bagi Kesejahteraan Komuniti).

Among the common objectives of this inclusive cohesion and solidarity celebration are to:

- (a) Elderly Service Centres, Wellness Program and activity;
- (b) Promote the rights and wellbeing of children, people with disabilities, older persons and families;
- (c) Foster greater sense of connection by allowing different generations and groups to come together, learn from one another, form new friendships, and improves communities by combating negative stereotypes and ageism;
- (d) Increase feeling of purpose through awareness and advocacy on different social roles that different groups could play in society to enhance confidence, self-worth and overall well-being;
- (e) Provide more learning and participative opportunities through meaningful and challenging activities for better understanding between groups and across generations; and
- (f) Acknowledge and reward talents, contributions and achievements of individuals and groups within our inclusive, intergenerational solidarity, and community wellbeing agenda towards Society 5.

I would like again to thank Tuan Speaker for gracing our opening ceremony the other day. Thank you very much.

Program Perpaduan dan Solidariti Dalam Komuniti

Bagi memantapkan solidariti dan perpaduan dalam kepelbagaian dalam kalangan komuniti pelbagai etnik di Sarawak, Kementerian terus melaksanakan program Randau Solidariti Komuniti di semua bahagian setiap tahun. Sejak tahun 2020, sebanyak 66 randau telah dianjurkan. Unity and solidarity are vital ingredients for balanced and socially harmonious development in Sarawak. *“Bersatu kita teguh, bercerai kita roboh”*.

PENGURUSAN BENCANA

Kementerian melalui JKMS telah bersiap sedia untuk menghadapi musim monsun timur laut. Sebanyak 653 Pusat Pemindahan Sementara (PPS) telah diluluskan oleh Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (SDMC) yang boleh menempatkan seramai 162,091 mangsa bencana pada satu-satu masa. 29 pangkalan hadapan juga telah dilengkapi dengan stok bekalan makanan kering dan keperluan asas bagi persediaan bantuan segera sekiranya dilanda bencana. Dalam Belanjawan 2024, sebanyak RM53 ribu juta telah diperuntukkan untuk pelbagai bantuan kebajikan termasuk bantuan bencana.

Tuan Speaker, with a record budget approved for the Ministry in 2024, let us intensify our effort and further enhance the quality of services entrusted to the Ministry to implement quality early childhood development; provide inclusive social and welfare support systems; alleviates poverty; empower women, persons with disabilities and strong families; and sustain social harmony and wellbeing for a dignified existence for all.

Guided by a sense of collective social responsibility and accountability, together we can bring Sarawak towards a future where prosperity, inclusivity and sustainability is not just a dream for the few, but a reality for all, in tandem with the aspirations of PCDS 2030 – Sarawak Maju Makmur.

*Tenang-tenang air di laut,
Sampan kolek mudik ke tanjung,
Hati terkenang mulut menyebut,*

Budi yang baik harus dijunjung.

Sehubungan ini, secara peribadi, saya menzahirkan ucapan penghargaan kepada semua warga Kementerian, dan rakan-rakan strategik yang telah membantu Kementerian dalam melaksanakan dasar, program dan aktiviti pensejahteraan masyarakat.

*Kerja beres, hati senang,
Rakan strategik dan warga kementerian,
Kerajaan GPS, Kerajaan terbilang,
Kesejahteraan rakyat tetap diutamakan.*

Akhir kata, kepada semua yang berada dalam dewan ini dan semua rakyat Sarawak amnya, saya mengucapkan selamat menyambut Hari Krismas dan Selamat Tahun Baharu 2024. With that, I wish to express my full support for the Supply Bill, 2024. Thank you.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, dengan segala hormatnya saya menjemput Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, Timbalan Premier Menteri, Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah untuk menyampaikan Ucapan Penggulangan.

Timbalan Premier Sarawak; Menteri Kesihatan Awam, Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan; dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri N.14 Batu Kawah (Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian): Thank you very much. Tuan Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to congratulate you on your reappointment as Speaker for this august House for yet another term of two years. The longest serving Speaker in Malaysia and the second longest in commonwealth. Tan Sri, we are looking forward for you to break the record of the longest commonwealth. I also wish to congratulate Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak for tabling the State Budget with the theme of “*Development for All: Together Building a Prosperous, Sustainable and United Sarawak*”. This 2024 State Budget is crafted to ensure the planned developments touch every corner of our state and bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas, in our pursuit to achieve a developed and prosperous state with a high income economy by 2030 underpinned by accelerating economic growth, stimulating regional and rural development, promoting investments, entrepreneurship and SMEs, competitive and resilient economy, strengthening human capital and talent development, intensifying digital transformation, promoting environmental sustainability, strengthening social welfare and safety net, promoting sport and youth empowerments, developing an innovation-based and knowledge-oriented economy, combating poverty and enhance people’s wellbeing, and enhancing government capacity and service delivery.

I would like to thank Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak for also allocating funds to all agencies under my Ministry for various infrastructure and community services projects and to the Housing Development Corporation for the construction of affordable housing.

I would also like to congratulate Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak for leading the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) and the newly elected Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri for N.67 Jepak, Yang Berhormat Encik Iskandar bin Turkee for an astounding victory in the recent Pilihan Raya Kecil on the 4th of November 2023.

I would also like to record my greatest appreciation and congratulation to all Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat that were conferred and bestowed with Darjah Kebesaran Bintang and Pingat Negeri Sarawak in conjunction with the 87th Birthday of Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak on 14th October 2023.

I would like to express my appreciation and congratulate all Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for supporting and approving on the Sarawak Ombudsman Bill, 2023, Environment (Reduction of Green House Gases Emission) Bill, 2023, Distribution of Gas (Amendment) Bill, 2023, Electricity

(Amendment) Bill, 2023 and 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 attempt to 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 (Sarawak) Sdn. Bhd. and 25 local authorities including the new Gedong District Council. 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, from 2021 until 2023, my Ministry under RMK-12 was allocated with a ceiling of RM490.95 million for the implementation of various projects by 24 local authorities including of 36 new projects amounting to RM35.9 million that were approved under Mid-Term Review. As of 31st October 2023, RM169.73 million of the approved allocation has been disbursed for 301 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 the various local authorities.

The Sarawak Government's Rural Transformation Project (RTP) is crucial in revitalizing rural areas through the construction and upgrading of infrastructures and public facilities for the people. Under these initiatives, the local authorities under my Ministry were allocated with RM121 million in 2023 comprising of 816 projects. All of these projects are at various stages of implementation by the local authorities.

From 2018 to 2023, the Sarawak Government has approved 358 projects under *Projek Rakyat* with a total allocation of RM2.16 billion for my Ministry. These projects are implemented by DID, JKR, HDC, LCDA and local authorities. To date, 216 projects have been completed, while the remaining 142 are at various stages of implementation.

For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House, to date, a total of RM1.386 billion were allocated to 13 local authorities by regional development agencies such as Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA), Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA), Integrated Regional Samarahan Development Agency (IRSDA), Rajang Delta Development Agency (RADDA), Betong Division Development Agency (BDDA) and Greater Kuching Coordinated Development Agency (GKCDA) for the implementation of 145 various infrastructure, facilities and amenities projects.

Road infrastructure is a very important public asset. A regular program of road maintenance is required to keep existing roads in optimal condition. This year, a total of RM288.2 million has been approved under Malaysia Road Registration Information System (MARRIS) for my Ministry to maintain the council's roads, including road furnitures, road shoulders, roadside drains and etc in the 24 local authorities' areas. As at 31st October 2023, RM228.4 million has been disbursed to the local authorities.

The Federal Ministry of Local Government Development (KPKT) has also allocated RM53.41 million in 2023 for the 26 local authorities in Sarawak to implement 305 minor public amenities, public facilities and infrastructure projects under BP1 projects.

Tuan Speaker, For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, Urban Poor Eradication Programme (PPKB) is a program undertaken by KPKT to reduce the occurrence of urban poor by improving the living condition of eligible applicants through house repair and *bina baru* in urban areas. Prior to October this year, the implementation of these repair works were carried out by our local authorities with the monitoring by my Ministry. However, for Phase 4 of 2023, KPKT has made a decision that all PPKB projects will be implemented and monitored by PRIMA which only has one office in Sarawak.

For 2023, RM7.701 million was allocated to Sarawak for the repair of 453 houses inclusive of 59 numbers of houses under Phase 4 to be implemented by PRIMA. To date, all the 394 house repair projects under Phase 1 to Phase 3 undertaken by our local authorities have been completed. The remaining 59 numbers implemented by PRIMA are still under various stages of implementation.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

I would like to update Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House on the status of RM2 million allocations for the community development implemented by 23 local authorities. To date, my Ministry has approved 148 programmes and RM1.427 million or 71.3% has been disbursed to the local authorities. All the approved programmes are at various stages of implementation.

Strata Management Ordinance 2019

Tuan Speaker, I would like to update this august House on the status of Strata Management Ordinance, 2019 (SMO, 2019). As of 31st October 2023, there are 556 strata development in Sarawak consisting of 60,401 parcels. Of these, 236 developments consisting of 14,652 parcels under various categories of land use have been completed and issued with strata title. All of these 236 strata development has formed the Management Corporation or by virtue of Section 21(1) Strata (Subsidiary Title) Ordinance (SSTO), 2019, come into existence a Management Corporation. The remaining 320 developments consisting of 45,749 parcels are in various stages of strata development implementation. A total of 119 developments consisting of 19,183 parcels under various categories out of 320 have successfully conducted their 1st 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 201 strata development consisting of 26,566 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 1st AGM for the JMB.

I would like to reiterate and remind the developers and property owners of the completed strata development scheme to urgently convene their 1st AGM for the formation of the JMB or Management Corporation before 31st December this year. Strict enforcement action will be affected by the Commissioner of Buildings (COB) and her deputies thereafter.

ISSUES RAISED BY AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT

Roles and Responsibilities of Joint Management Committee (JMC)

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Tupong, since the enforcement date of Strata Management Ordinance (SMO), 2019, on 1st March 2022, to date, my Ministry through the office of the Commissioner of Buildings (COB) have carried out 14 major awareness and briefing sessions in collaborations with Sarawak Housing Real Estate Developers' Association (SHEDA), Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia Sarawak Branch (RISM), Malaysian Institute of Property and Facilities Managers (MIPFM), Pertubuhan Akitik Malaysia Sarawak Chapter (PAMSC), Land and

Survey Department, Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara, Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan, Majlis Bandaraya Miri and Bintulu Development Authority aside from series and numerous engagement with residents, groups, owners, developers, solicitors and management committees of stratified development schemes in Sarawak.

The Commissioner of Building (COB) will continue to disseminate and provide educational briefings for the developers, management committees and residents of stratified development schemes in years to come.

Funding for Sibul Municipal Council (SMC) and Sibul Rural District Council (SRDC)

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong, the total amount of additional fund received by SMC and SRDC for Dudong area are RM2.77 million and RM5.46 million respectively from MARRIS and BP1. The additional funds are utilized for the upgrading and repairs of roads and footpaths and provision of street lighting.

The council and my Ministry have routinely put up request for additional fund to State Financial Secretary and KPKT Malaysia as per normal governance procedures. However, additional funding for council infrastructure improvement can be top up from Yang Berhormat ADUN's own RTP fund for the kawasan, Yang Amat Berhormat Premier, *Projek Rakyat*, *Projek Khas* at the request of local Yang Berhormat ADUN for his *kawasan* or even the Federal Ministry such as Kementerian Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah. For 2017-2020, RM3.65 million and RM5.04 million were allocated to SMC SRDC respectively the the previous Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong under his RTP. However, since 2021 from Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong has not allocated any RTP funding for SMC and SRDC to carry out the necessary upgrading infrastructures projects within his own Dudong constituency. I would suggest Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong to allocate some on his RM5 million RTP funding to SMC and SRDC as well as to ask for *Projek Rakyat* from Yang Amat Berhormat Premier for his Dudong Constituency.

Strata Management Tribunal

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending, in relation to Strata Management Tribunal, 11 Tribunal members have been appointed on 1st October 2022 that is last year. In addition, Strata Management Tribunal Regulations is a comprehensive set of regulation, where the strata management disputes can be solved quickly, cheaply and efficiently. The final draft of the Strata Management Tribunal Regulations was recently received by my Ministry from the SAG Chamber. With this final draft approved by SAG Chamber, the 11 Tribunal members appointed since October last year will be able to enforce Strata Management Tribunal Regulations by 1st January, 2024. So, according to Yang Berhormat from Pending on Strata Residences are *"in Kuching alone we have 3364 units where is in Samarahan 3,943 units"* from the information that she gathers she doesn't simply talk.

Tuan Speaker, from the Land and Survey Sarawak there, only 2,840 strata residences units in Kuching but 4,544 units in Samarahan. I urged Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending not just *tembak saja* without verifying facts as false information is not justifiable, neither fair comments nor qualified privilege as Ahli Yang Berhormat in this august House.

Property Management Company from West Malaysia Operating without Proper License

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending, the abuse of social pass is under the domain of the Immigration Department of Malaysia Sarawak. Any illegal practice by West Malaysian professionals should not have happened. However, unlike the legal profession, there is no restriction for West Malaysian registered property manager, architect, engineer, etc., to practice in Sarawak. As for the property manager, they are regulated by the Valuers, Appraisers and Estate Agents Act 1981, which sets out the legal framework for the profession and set out the duties and responsibilities of registered property managers. If a registered property manager company registered with Board

of Valuers, Appraisers, Estate Agents and Property Managers (BOVEAP) wishes to open a branch in Sarawak, the branch must have a resident manager, which must be a registered property manager and based on Sarawak Immigration requirements shall collaborate with the local people. Therefore, it is utterly irresponsible, thoughtless and reckless for Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending to state and claim that I did not look after the rights and protect the interest of property managers from Sarawak.

While we appreciate the recognition of a civil servant by Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending, we must understand that the Government organisation works and operates based on teamwork, ownership, kindness and care, result oriented, professionalism and sense of urgency. It is a tall order and simply impossible for an individual in my Ministry to carry out their responsibilities and duties without the assistance and help from his colleagues and peers. It is therefore sheer madness and malice for Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending for not giving the same accolades to the whole of Sarawak Civil Servants.

Local Authorities (Advertisements) By-Law 2012

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending, our advertisement by laws was crafted based on the principle of reducing the visual pollution of billboards. The charges of our advertisement by laws for standard business names and banners or small signs are comparable with West Malaysia. The advertisement fees are chargeable under the Local Authorities (Advertisements) By-Law, 2012.

Our advertisement fees are based on several categories such as advertisement, small advertisement, business name signboard, poster, temporary advertisement, and advertisement by means of electronic or any non-print device. All of these categories carry different charges. Similarly, the categories of advertisement in DBKL are illuminated advertisement, unilluminated advertisement, advertisement on billboard, wall sign or advertisement on unipole tower, overhead bridge, or flyover, electronic board and sky sign which also carries different charges and fees. Our business name signboard in Sarawak charges RM175 per application as compared to DBKL business name signboard charges RM340 per year. It is unfair and unreasonable for Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending to make comparison without specifying the categories of advertisement just to mislead this august House that I am not doing and performing my job.

Tuan Speaker, The Local Authorities (Advertisements) By-Law, 2012 was gazetted by the then Minister for Local Government and Community Development, Ahli Yang Berhormat for Bawang Assan. Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending has been elected to this august House since 2006. Only after 10 years of the gazetment of this by law, with RM20,000 allowance per month as a member of this august House and RM2.4 million after 10 years, Ahli Yang Berhormat for Pending finally raise the fees payable under this by law. Is this just another blatant malicious attempt at me as Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government? I took it as *"jealousy is yardstick of success"*.

Upgrading of Roads

Tuan Speaker, for the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Krian, Jalan Ulu Sebetan, Saratok was repaired this year. Saratok District Council will continue to upgrade and maintain all registered roads within Krian constituency with MARRIS funds subject to the amount approved and made available.

For the information of Ahli yang Berhormat for Engkilili, Jalan Kampung Rh. Pindi at Empelam area has been resurfaced to a length of 1,000 meters and was completed on 25th July 2023. Rh. Entau Nanga Bunu Beging roads was resurfaced to a distance of 500 meters this year and completed on 13th October 2023. The upgrading works will be carried out in phases for Bunu Beging, Gelong and Berenggang areas. The council will continue to carry out the repair and upgrading works in 2024 through MARRIS programme.

Machan Waterfront

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Machan, the current status of Machan Waterfront project is still under pre-contract stage. The siting has just recently been approved on 24th November 2023. The project is expected to be tendered out in the third quarter of 2024.

Allowance for Councillors

For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for Tebedu, Serembu, Lingga and Opar, allowance for councillors has been reviewed a few times since 2013. The last review for councillors' allowance was in July 2019 where for the first time since Sarawak's Independence, all Councillors are given a Special Fixed Monthly Allowance in the sum of RM300 per month. Currently, my Ministry is in the midst of reviewing the councillors' allowance and this new allowance will be implemented next year once the rate has been finalized and approved by the Cabinet.

Technical Posts

For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for Tebedu and Opar, in order to support local councils to execute rakyat-centric programmes and projects, a total of 41 technical staff comprising of Engineers and Assistant Engineers under the *Jawatan Berasaskan Caruman (JBC)* scheme has been deployed to the local authorities under the purview of my Ministry.

Taking cognizance of the increasing number of programmes and projects, my Ministry has also completed the review on restructuring proposal for the Ministry, local councils including Department of Irrigation and Drainage Sarawak. This proposal for the creation of new JBC posts of various schemes and grades, including additional technical posts, will be submitted to the State Organisation Development Committee (SODC) through the Human Resource Development and Management Unit (HRDMU) of the Department of the Premier of Sarawak by end of this year.

Traffic Jam Problem

The traffic management within the respective towns and cities in Sarawak are under the purview of local councils, JKR Sarawak and DID Sarawak which covers State roads, Federal roads, and farm roads. JKR Sarawak and relevant City and Municipal Councils will study all the traffic study proposals to address the traffic jam, taking into consideration of their benefits to the *rakyat*.

For the information of the Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan, the Kuching-Samarahan Road, Penrissen Road, Mile 7, Mile 8, Mile 10, even lower Mile 3 to Mile 10, Jalan Tun Razak, Jalan Tun Jugah, Batu Kawah Road are either State roads or Federal roads, all of which are under JKR Sarawak. Therefore, the statement from Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan that the said roads are under my Ministry is inaccurate and may be malicious in nature just to target me. I urged Ahli Yang Berhormat for Padungan, don't just *tembak saja* without verifying your facts as false information is not justifiable, nor fair comments neither qualified privilege in this august House. Don't just *cakap saja*. As an MP for Stampin and being part of Unity Government, he should own up to his responsibility, allocating Federal funding to upgrade these Federal roads in his Kawasan to help solve the traffic jam.

HOUSING

Tuan Speaker, I will now deliberate on housing. For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the provision of housing is under the Concurrent List of the Federal Constitution, the funding of which is both from the Federal Government and Sarawak Government.

Sarawak Government Funded Project

Under RMK-12 Mid-Term Review for Sarawak Government funded project, my Ministry through Housing Development Corporation (HDC) has been allocated a ceiling of RM262.8 million for the implementation of 38 projects consisting of 35 physical projects and three non-physical projects. The 35 physical projects cover the implementation of Rumah Mampu Milik (RMM) and Rumah SPEKTRA Permata (RSP) which are in Kuching, Serian, Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibul, Kapit, Mukah, Miri and Limbang including the implementation of roads in Bandar Baru Sibul Jaya, upgrading of infrastructure and amenities at three traditional kampong in Kuching and project feasibility studies for RSP Teku, Sibul and *Program Perumahan Rakyat* (PPR) Kidurong Bintulu. The three non-physical projects are financial grants to Mutiara Mortgage and Credit Sdn. Bhd. (MUTIARA), including grant for issuance of strata title for HDC flats and housing needs and demand study.

A total of RM242.04 million has been allocated for the implementation of eight Project Rakyat consisting of two upgrading infrastructure works at *Skim Pembesaran Kampung* (SPK) Igan and *Skim Pembesaran Kampung* (SPK) Tian and six projects under program RSP with four SPK in Kuching, Samarahan, Serian, Betong, and two SPS in Limbang and Lawas.

Sarawak Rental Assistance Scheme (SRAS)

Tuan Speaker, Sarawak Rental Assistance Scheme (SRAS) was introduced in 2021 to assist low-income group and reduce the cost of living in major towns such as Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu and Miri. Under this scheme, eligible married applicant with monthly household income of RM3,500 or below or single working applicants with monthly income of RM2,500 and below will receive a monthly rental assistance of RM200 per month for a maximum of 36 months. An allocation of RM48 million has been approved under this initiative. As of 31st October 2023, the SRAS Selection Committee has approved 2,104 new applications covering 1,484 applicants from Kuching, 235 applicants from Sibul, 311 applicants from Bintulu and 74 applicants from Miri. There are a total of 663 tenancy renewal applications covering 383 tenants from Kuching, 104 tenants from Sibul, 157 tenants from Bintulu and 19 tenants from Miri. The total lock amount for new and renewal application is RM15.57 million from 2022 to 2024.

Tuan Speaker, considering the parity between median incomes and expenses in Samarahan compared to the city of Kuching, as reported by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), it is evident that the challenge of living in Samarahan mirrors that of urban centers. Coupled with rapid development and burgeoning job opportunities, this magnetic pull understandably encourages Sarawakians to relocate and settle in Samarahan permanently or through rental arrangements.

To address the escalating cost of living and the urbanisation influx due to enhanced prospects for a better life, I am happy to announce the extension of the Sarawak Rental Assistance Scheme (SRAS) to the Samarahan area. This expansion aligns with the existing provision in the four major towns and cities, ensuring broader support for residents seeking relief.

In consonance with the Sarawak Government's PCDS 2030 initiative, our focus remains steadfast on fostering social inclusion across all strata of society, particularly for the low and middle-income segments in Sarawak. Recognising the challenges faced by citizens in meeting their living expenses, especially in urban settings, I am also delighted to declare an increase in the monthly household income qualification to RM4,556 for married individuals, widows/ widowers, or working singles. These reforms aim to widen the scope of eligible recipients beyond B40 to include Group M1 of M40 in selected districts, mitigating their financial burdens amidst urban challenges.

In line with the imperative of inclusivity that makes Sarawak a vibrant community and aligns with the strategic vision to elevate social wellbeing, the SRAS is now extended to Sarawakian students who are out stationed enrolled in both public or private tertiary institutions in Sarawak, provided their guardian's household income does not exceed RM4,556 per month and excluding

those where they are provided with hostel if the hostels already subsidized by the Government. Our commitment remains unwavering in supporting those in need and lightening their burdens.

Housing Deposit and Repayment Assistance Scheme (HDRAS)

To assist first time house buyer and spur the housing and real estate activities, Sarawak Government in 2021 has introduced Housing Deposit Assistance Scheme (HDAS) initiative. This initiative provides cash assistance to eligible applicants by giving a grant amounting to RM10,000 as a house deposit payment. This house upfront deposit payment is for home ownership under approved housing schemes sanctioned by the Sarawak Government. From October 2022, this scheme has been enhanced and renamed as Housing Deposit and Repayment Assistance Scheme (HDRAS). With this enhancement, any house buyers that was approved with a 100% loan financing from financial institution is also eligible for repayment assistance of housing loan at RM200 per month for 48 months.

An allocation of RM40 million has been allocated to Mutiara Mortgage & Credit Sdn. Bhd. (MUTIARA) a fully owned subsidiary of HDC for this initiative. This will benefit 4,000 house buyers. As of 31st October 2023, a total of 902 applications have been approved amounting to RM8 million.

Longhouse Loan Scheme

Tuan Speaker, I would like to inform the august House, since 1978 until 15th November 2023, the Federal Government has contributed RM250.96 million for the Longhouse Loan Scheme in Sarawak. As the funding by the Federal Government is very limited, the additional funding from Sarawak Government has been introduced starting from 2020 with RM50 million ceiling annually to expedite the transformation of the living environment in rural areas and to reduce the long waiting list of longhouse loan applications throughout Sarawak due to overwhelming applications received by HDC. This program has benefited a total of 1,084 longhouses comprising 23,653 doors with a total combined allocation of RM453.3 million comprising of RM250.96 million from Federal Government over the last 45 years and RM202.34 million from Sarawak Government over the last four years. For 2023, a total of 78 long houses comprising of 1,698 doors have been approved. Currently, there are 287 longhouses consisting of 5,702 doors in the waiting list.

For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, the long house loan scheme offered an interest free loan in year 2016 to build a new long house or for upgrading and repairing. The tenure of this loan is up to 25 years. Under the new initiative undertaken by the Sarawak Government this year, I am pleased to announce the maximum amount for the long house loan to build a new long house has been increased from RM30,000 to RM50,000 per door and RM30,000 per door maximum for upgrading and repairing of the long houses.

Mutiara Mortgage & Credit Sdn. Bhd. (MUTIARA)

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 1,499 applications as of 31st October 2023 involving financial allocation of RM93.129 million. To date, a total of RM75.562 million has been disbursed to 1,170 house buyers at an annual interest of 1% for B40 and 3% for M40. For 2024, RM122 million has been allocated for this purpose.

Tribunal for Housing Purchaser Claims

Tuan Speaker, the number of cases presided over for the past three years since 2020 up to 31st October 2023 are 320 cases. There are 110 cases solved in the year 2020, 97 cases solved for the year 2021, 82 cases solved in the year 2022 and as to date, for the year 2023 there are 31 cases. All cases solved are in various districts such as Kuching, Sibul, Miri and Bintulu.

The Tribunal takes seriously the complaints of house purchasers who had reported on the default of developers in non-complying with the Award issued to them. The non-compliance with the Award is criminal offence under Section 53(1) of the Housing Development (Control and Licensing) Ordinance, 2013 (Chapter 69). After the recent successful prosecution case tried in Limbang against a developer in 2022, the Tribunal continues to conduct vigorous enforcement efforts to investigate housing developers whom have defaulted on the Award issued by the Tribunal. For 2023, the Tribunal has filed 16 criminal cases of non-compliance of Award under Section 53 of the Ordinance in several District's Courts. Majority of these cases are still on-going. The objective of this legal action is to focus on raising the awareness amongst housing developers on the importance of taking the Tribunal Award seriously.

ISSUES RAISED BY AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for Daro, Tupon, Kalaka, Meradong, Krian, Meluan, Tamin, Beting Maro, Tellian, Bukit Semuja, Kabong and Murum, during their course of debate, have highlighted various issues related to housing such as the provision of affordable housing and housing loan facilities. 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 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, DID is a Sarawak State 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 12th Malaysia Plan. Sarawak Government has allocated RM85.15 million for the implementation of 22 projects inclusive of 13 projects approved under the Mid-Term Review. All of these projects are under various stages of implementation.

Rural Transformation Projects (RTP)

For 2023, the Department has been entrusted to implement 469 RTP projects in various divisions with a total allocation of RM77 million. All of these projects are under various stages of implementation.

Projek Rakyat

From 2018 to 2022, Sarawak Government has also approved 138 projects under Projek Rakyat with a total allocation of RM833.624 million for DID. To date, 98 projects (71%) have been completed whereas 10 projects (7%) under construction and 30 projects (22%) 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 RM203.9 million for 60 flood mitigation and drainage projects throughout Sarawak were allocated to DID by various development agencies such as Sri Aman Development Agency (SADA), Integrated Regional Samarahan Development Agency (IRSDA), Betong Division Development Agency (BD DA), Bintulu Development Authority (BDA), Rajang Delta Development Agency (RADDA) and Northern Region Development Authority (NRDA) for the implementation of various flood mitigation, drainage improvement works and other related infrastructure works. Of these, 38 projects have been

completed, six flood mitigation projects in Sri Aman and Bintulu are expected to complete in 2024 while 16 are still under the various stages of implementation.

FEDERAL FUNDED PROJECTS

Federal Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change (NRECC)

Tuan Speaker, for the information of the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, I would like to update this august House on the various on-going progress of Federal funded projects under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change (NRECC).

In 2023, DID Sarawak received a total of RM83.02 million for the implementation of various projects as follows:

- (a) Five flood mitigation projects in various divisions of which *Rancangan Tebatan Banjir* (RTB) Sibul (Fasa 3) and RTB Sungai Stakan are under implementation and scheduled to complete by first quarter of 2024. RTB Sungai Miri was handed over to the contractor on 19th October 2023. The remaining two other RTB project which are RTB Beradek Semilang and RTB Limbang are still in pre-implementation stage;
- (b) Two flood mitigation masterplan studies for Lembangan Batang Lupa, Sri Aman and Lembangan Batang Saribas, Betong both of which are under pre-implementation stage;
- (c) All the projects under Pembangunan Lembangan Sungai Bersepadu (PLSB) Sungai Sarawak are now under tendering stage and will be closed on the 7th December 2023. The physical works are expected to commence by next year;
- (d) RM20.82 million 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 Program, the Department will set up 10 new hydrological stations and upgrade 75 existing hydrological stations throughout Sarawak at the cost of RM9.1 million. The project is expected to complete by the first quarter of 2024;
- (f) On the approved installation of a flood forecasting and warning system at Sungai Sarawak and Batang Rejang with a total project cost of RM34.2 million, I would like to update this august House that the tender for this project will be called next year; and
- (g) Pelan Induk Saliran Mesra Alam (PISMA) Stormwater Management Drainage Master Plan studies are conducted for our urban centers to ensure adequate stormwater provision for future planning and development. The study for Lawas and Sri Aman was completed last month.

ISSUES RAISED BY AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT

Flash Floods

For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Bert hormat for Batu Kitang, Meluan and Balingian, DID Sarawak will bid for funding to conduct detailed studies to overcome the flooding problems at Greenwood Park, Taman Emas, Taman Paradise, Kampung Quop, Julau and Balingian in RMK-13. These studies are necessary to provide information for the identification of the long-term solutions to the flooding issues in the areas, consequently, to bid for the necessary development fund for drainage improvement works.

As Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong is fully aware, a major part of Sibu town including Dudong area is located at a low-lying area and subject to flooding. To mitigate this prevailing flooding problem, the Government through DID Sarawak had carried out a drainage masterplan study, namely Sibu Town Drainage Masterplan, 1998. From the study, a comprehensive flood mitigation project to protect Sibu town from the overflowing of Batang Rajang and Batang Igan, which would be implemented in phases was recommended. Thus, the *Rancangan Tebatan Banjir* (RTB) Sibu was approved by the Government and implemented in phases. Phase 1 which covers part of Dudong area and Phase 2 has been completed in 2012 and 2015 respectively. Phase 3 will be completed by the end of this year and Phase 4 which covers Nangka area is currently in the pre-implementation stage. The fifth and final Phase of this project has been put up to the Federal Government under Rolling Plan 4 of RMK-12. Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong being a Member of the Federal Cabinet can please help us to secure the funding.

The study visit on 20th to 21st February 2023 to Netherlands was facilitated by Dutch Government organized through Netherlands Water Partnership. A status update by Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) on the Netherlands and Denmark Study Visit in relation to the Redevelopment of Bukit Assek Project to YAB Premier was held in Sibu on the 7th August 2023 during State Development Coordination Committee Meeting (SDCCM). YAB Premier in his subsequent press conference had shared the status of the progress which is extensively reported in both the newspapers and online news media. As I understand the invitation to both of these events was also extended to Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong for his attendance. For the information of this august House, Sarawak Government through LCDA had engaged Ramboll, a Danish consultant, to undertake the Sibu Cloudburst Masterplan for the proposed urban renewal of Bukit Assek and its surrounding area.

Ramboll had divided study into four stages to be completed by May 2024.

- (a) Topographical and LiDAR survey work which covers approximately 250 km square area around Sibu Town costing around RM20 million starting from May this year has been completed;
- (b) Stage 2, Flood Risk Assessment started October this year;
- (c) Stage 3, Study area cloudburst masterplan to start in January 2024; and
- (d) Stage 4, Detail masterplan for Bukit Assek also starting January 2024.

In parallel, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Redevelopment of Bukit Assek Project between Sunway Integrated Properties Sdn. Bhd and LCDA was executed on 19th October 2023 witnessed by Yang Amat Berhormat Premier.

As for the status of Cadangan Kerja-kerja Hidrografi Batang Rejang dan Batang Igan dari Muara Sungai sehingga ke Bandar Kapit dan Pelagus (370 kilometers) Phase 1 has been completed in February this year. Phase 2 of this project was recently approved under the RMK-12 Mid-Term Review with a total cost of RM4 million and currently under pre-implementation stage.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Dudong, the recently concluded Phase 1 of hydrography survey works to 24 kilometres of Batang Rajang and 30 kilometres of Batang Igan shows minimal changes on the river profile as compared to a similar survey carried out in 2005. The minimal changes in river profile shows that the river is most probably in an equilibrium state. Therefore, dredging is not required at the moment.

Pelan Induk Saliran Mesra Alam (PISMA) Sibu, Pekan Kanowit dan Pekan Selangau, Sarawak with a ceiling of RM3.5 million has been approved under RMK-12 Mid-Term Review. The findings from the study will help to identify the long-term solutions to the flooding issues at the areas and to bid for the necessary development fund for drainage improvement works.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Tanjong Batu, *Rancangan Tebatan Banjir* Bintulu Fasa 2 is currently at the pre-implementation stage. The detailed design stage is expected

to complete in the first quarter of next year. The main components of this project are dredging works to Sungai Sebieu and drainage improvement works at Taman Jason, SJK (C) Sebieu, Bintulu Traffic Police Station, Gem Park and Taman Desa Damai.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Lingga, the funding for Rancangan Tebatan Banjir (RTB) Pekan Lingga, Bahagian Sri Aman with a total cost of RM90 million will be resubmitted under RMK-13.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Machan, tender for Projek Drainage Improvement Works at Kampung Muhibbah, Kanowit has been called on 21st October 2023 and has been closed on 22nd November 2023.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Simunjan, the current status of Rancangan Tebatan Banjir (RTB) Sungai Simunjan Fasa 1 is currently under the detailed design stage and expected to be completed by the first quarter of next year. The physical implementation is expected to commence by the second quarter of the same year. RTB Sungai Simunjan Fasa 2 is in the procurement stage for the appointment of a consultant for the detail engineering design.

For the information of Ahli Yang Berhormat for Opar, DID Sarawak is aware of prevalent occurrence of the flash floods at Ranto Panjang, Kampung Pasir Hulu, Kampung Paon, Kampung Sebako, Kampung Judin, Kampung Bitokan, Kampung Tembaga Dayak, Kampung Opar, Kampung Jugan and Kampung Semapu areas.

DID Sarawak through *Program Pemuliharaan Sungai di bawah Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Sarawak* will implement 2 river clearing projects at Sungai Chaeh, Kampung Paon and Sungai Pateh Ulu, Kampung Sebako in 2024.

Apart from that, Lundu District Council has approved with two projects to raise the roads level and drainage improvement works at Kampung Sebako and Kampung Pasir Hulu under Greater Kuching Coordinated Development Agency (GKCDA) with a total cost of RM3.2 million.

SEWERAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (SSD)

Urban Sewerage

Tuan Speaker, Sewerage Services Department 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 has commenced on 30th March 2017. The works are divided into two packages. Package A involves the installation of public sewerage network and property connections. Package B involves the construction of a centralised sewerage treatment plant with a 50,000 population equivalents sewerage treatment process module. Package B has been fully completed in November 2020. However, the completion of Package A is delayed due to severe unfavourable underground soil conditions encountered at a depth of about 15 meters for a stretch of about 50 meters of the trunk sewerage near to Sg. Miri crossing at Tudan area. The Department attempted to implement temporary solution to commission the system but has to abandon it due to worsening condition on site. The Department decided to realign the sewerage away from the failed section. The length of the proposed realignment is 193 meters. The land acquisition for the new alignment has been completed in July this year. The physical work is in progress and is expected to

complete within the next two years. The commissioning of the whole system is scheduled by March 2024.

Kuching Centralised Sewerage System Package 2, costing RM750 million, has commenced on 15th September 2017. It covers Kampung Gita, part of Jalan Matang, Jalan Tun Abdul Rahman Yaakub and Padungan areas. The scheduled completion date is 20th July 2024. To date, the project has achieved 81.82% completion, which is a delay of 9%. The contractor has implemented a catch-up plan and managed to reduce the delay caused by the general shortage of manpower and exceptionally hard underground rock layer.

Septic Sludge Treatment Plants

Tuan Speaker, the tender for the re-activated Sarikei and Betong Septic Sludge Treatment Plants projects at the cost of RM15 million each has been delayed to the first quarter of 2024 due to the price increase of the construction materials and specialized equipment. The Department has to review the scope to meet the scheme value.

SARAWAK STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Services

Tuan Speaker, I will now proceed to update on the health services provided by Sarawak State Health Department, one of the Federal departments under my watching brief.

As of 31st October 2023, Sarawak State Health Department has received RM2.62 billion of operating funds and RM397.68 million of development funds from the Federal Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) to be used for operational expenses, human capital development, minor upgrading as well as repair on health facilities, hospital, clinic support services as well as medical equipment procurement. As of 31st October 2023, there are 26,611 Government healthcare personnel including 2,843 on contract basis serving in Sarawak against 27,651 approved posts.

Development Projects

As at 25th October 2023, the overall physical progress of Petra Jaya Hospital is 64.67% and is scheduled to complete in November 2024. As at 25th October 2023, the physical progress of the construction of an additional block in Miri Hospital is 82.19% and is scheduled to complete in April 2024. For the new Lawas Hospital, the physical progress is 46.53% and is now scheduled to complete in December 2024.

I am pleased to update this august House that the Nanga Kemalih Health Clinic, Sarikei (Type 6) is expected to be operationalised in the first quarter of 2024. Bandaraya Miri Health Clinic (Type 2) was handed over to the Sarawak State Health Department on 27th October this year and is expected to be operationalised by the first quarter of 2024.

Siburan Health Clinic (Type 3) is expected to be completed in first quarter of next year. As of 25th October 2023, the physical progress is 97.5%. The remaining work involved the installation of medical equipment and architectural finishing works.

To date, 77.1% or 209 out of 271 health clinics throughout Sarawak are identified in poor physical condition. These include 177 Klinik Kesihatan, 17 Klinik Komuniti, 11 Klinik Kesihatan Ibu dan Anak and four Klinik Desa.

This year, the Federal Ministry of Health has allocated RM21 million for repair and upgrade works for health clinics in Sarawak. This allocation is categorized as follows:

- a) BP 600 budget for upgrading, renovation and repair works with the amount of RM9 million;

- b) Klinik Daif budget with the amount of RM8.4 million; and
- c) BP201 budget for rural clinic service with an amount of RM3.6 million.

Field Hospitals

Sarawak Government is contributing RM6.1 million towards the building of an 88-bed Field Hospital at Sarawak General Hospital and a 100-bed Field Hospital at Miri Hospital. As at 25th October 2023 the overall physical progress of the Miri Field Hospital is 78% and is now scheduled to be completed in first quarter next year. Tender for the Field Hospital at Sarawak General Hospital was not successful due to the tendered sum exceeded the budget cost. JKR Sarawak has submitted the application for additional funds to the Sarawak Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) and now waiting for the approval.

COVID-19 Programme

Tuan Speaker, I wish to update this august House on the current situation of COVID-19 in Sarawak. As of 18th November 2023, a total of 328,256 COVID-19 cases and 1,793 deaths due to COVID-19 were reported in Sarawak, since the first reported case on 13th March 2020. A total of 325,330 cases or approximately 99.11% have recovered from the disease.

Until 18th November 2023, there were a total of eight deaths caused by COVID-19 this year, resulting in a mortality rate of 0.32 per 100,000 population, compared to 167 death cases with mortality rate of 5.41 per 100,000 population reported in 2022.

The utilisation rate of Intensive Care Units (ICUs) for COVID-19 has been minimal with occasional admission since Epid Week 25 (mid-June 2023). Thus, the hospital has enough capacity to support the current needs.

Rabies

Tuan Speaker, I would also like to provide an update on the situation of rabies in Sarawak. From 1st July 2017 until 18th November 2023, Sarawak Health Department has received a total of 94,307 animal bite reports. This year alone, a total of 14,394 animal bites were reported with an average of 350 cases per week or 50 cases per day. The number of human rabies cases is alarming. There have been 72 cases of human rabies, with 17 cases reported in 2023 until 18th November alone, compared with 14 cases in 2022 and 10 cases in 2021. To date, there are only seven survivors since the outbreak started. As part of the effort to reduce the human rabies cases, Sarawak Health Department has increased the number of post bite clinics from 31 facilities before June 2023 to 107 facilities, all of which are equipped with anti-rabies vaccines. These include 78 Federal Ministry of Health facilities and 29 private facilities. In the meantime, the Sarawak Health Department has just approved another 41 health clinics as post bite clinics and expect to run the service by the end of this year once training has been given to the staff and the vaccine stock is supplied.

Dengue

Tuan Speaker, Malaysia is experiencing a nationwide increase in the number of dengue cases. As of 18th November 2023, 854 dengue cases were reported in Sarawak compared with 594 cases over the same period in 2022, an increase of 43.8%. Sarawak Health Department will continue to work closely with other agencies in Sarawak to further reduce and prevent dengue cases.

ISSUES RAISED BY AHLI-AHLI YANG BERTHORMAT

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat for Daro, Tupon, Repok, Meradong, Murum, Krian, Serembu, Meluan, Kalaka, Pelagus, Bukit Semuja, Bukit Begunan, Tellian and Opar have raised issues on the health services in their respective constituencies such as upgrading of health facilities, parking spaces, Haemodialysis centres, congestion at health facilities centers, mobile services and health

personnel. Sarawak Health Department will take note of all of these issues and convey it to Putrajaya as well as fighting for a bigger share from the Federal Ministry of Health budget.

Sarawak Health Autonomy

For the information of Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, Sarawak Government already presented our Sarawak Health Autonomy proposal to the Jawatankuasa Teknikal di Bawah Majlis Tindakan Pelaksanaan Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MTPMA63) chaired by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof on 18th July 2023 at Putrajaya. I have follow up and written to Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof as well as Yang Berhormat Dr. Zaliha Mustafa, the Minister of Health Malaysia for further detail discussion at *Jawatankuasa Tindakan* level between the Ministry of Health and my Ministry.

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA SARAWAK

Fire Safety Awareness Programme

Fire Rescue Department Malaysia Sarawak has been committed in implementing Public Educational and Awareness programmes in fire safety for the communities of Sarawak. Up to 31st October 2023, the Department has carried out 1,543 Public Awareness Programmes involving 179,250 participants as compared to 1,243 involving 159,551 participants for the same period in 2022.

Statistic of Emergency Calls

A total of 8,912 emergency calls comprising of 1,888 calls on fire outbreaks, 6,802 rescue calls, 217 calls for special services and five prank calls were received from January until 31st October 2023. The Department managed to save RM1.15 billion worth of properties.

Fire Station in Sarawak

My Ministry through the Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia Sarawak has submitted the request for the setting up of a new category of fire station for rural areas in Sarawak. The technical and financial requirements of this new fire station are under the review and the Department is currently still carrying out situational analysis before finalising the proposal and submission to Federal Ministry of Local Government Development (KPKT). In the meantime, the Department has successfully secured RM3.5 million for the physical implementation of proposed Kota Sentosa Fire Station and RM7 million for proposed Sungai Asap Fire Station in 2024.

Aside from this, the Department has identified suitable lands for new fire station at Sebuyau which was submitted to Putrajaya for their endorsement and approval. The proposed fire station at Dalat also has been submitted to the Implementation and Coordination Unit (ICU), Prime Minister's Department for budget allocation under RMK-12 Rolling Plan 4.

The proposed new fire station at Batu Kawa through the purchase of identified industrial building is in the approval process by the Department of Director General Lands and Mines Putrajaya and also has been submitted to ICU, Prime Minister's Department for budget allocation under RMK-12 Rolling Plan 4.

POLITICAL ISSUES

Tuan Speaker, 24th November 2023 marks one year of Unity Government. The recent states election the Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu, Penang, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan showed that the division, polarisation and politicking in Malaysia is worse than ever before.

Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat from Padungan and Pending can perhaps enlighten this august House about the promises in their manifesto such as the recognition of UEC, the campaign slogan such as a vote for GPS is a vote for Zahid *GPS menang, Zahid senang*.

For all the Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat of Parliament from Sarawak, please do not forget that you are first and foremost a Sarawakian, elected by the people of Sarawak and must be for Sarawak first when you are in Kuala Lumpur. Sarawak first may be regionalism but is not a discrimination as what is stated by Ahli Yang Berhormat from Padungan. The voters in Sarawak would like to see you being as loud in Malaysia Parliament as when you are in your campaign, loudly fighting for Sarawak nation building. Fulfil your election promises to the *rakyat* of Sarawak.

Sarawak under GPS Premiership of Yang Amat Berhormat Premier not only not bankrupt in three years, but instead has grown its revenue from \$5.8 billion in 2018 to \$12.7 billion for next year. In fact, this is just the beginning of the exponential growth in Sarawak revenue. Yang Berhormat Anthony Loke had the wisdom of personally apologise to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier and myself on 23rd November last year and even Yang Berhormat Lim Guan Eng had apologised to the people of Sarawak on the same day. However, one year later, Ahli Yang Berhormat from Padungan and Pending have yet to admit their mistakes of misleading the people of Sarawak. To date they have yet to apologise to the people of Sarawak.

Today, people of Sarawak felt proud to be a Sarawakian in Malaysia, with the rest of Malaysia looks up to Sarawak as shining example of what Malaysia is supposed to be, being the baton of hope and the model for the rest of Malaysia to aspire and replicate.

Yang Amat Berhormat DAP Penang Chief Minister, YAB PAS Terengganu Menteri Besar had both come to learn from Sarawak. YAB Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim had also invited YAB Premier to share Sarawak's successes with the Malaysia Federal Cabinet in a cabinet meeting as well as the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers conference. Recently, YAB Premier of Sarawak and Sarawak are increasingly and rapidly gaining international recognition.

Unfortunately, I have yet to hear whether DAP Sarawak is proud of Sarawak or not? DAP Sarawak is still employing the same old tactics of playing to the public gallery and tembak saja with baseless and false accusations. All of which are without making any attempts to verify and not justifiable to be fair comments or qualities privilege. Perhaps is time for the Privilege Committee of this august House to look at the abuse and malicious nature of Ahli Yang Berhormat from Padungan and Pending.

Whilst Sarawakians can forgive but must not forget all these local culprits who practice the toxic West Malaysia political culture in Sarawak. Ahli Yang Berhormat from Padungan and Pending are bankrupt of ideas. Perhaps they should learn from their younger colleagues Yang Berhormat MP for Bandar Kuching to redeem their credibility.

Let us all as the fellow Sarawakian, Yang Berhormat ADUN from this august House and Yang Berhormat MP from Sarawak come together to support Yang Amat Berhormat Premier's calling for greater development funding allocation from the Federal Government, accelerate meaningful implementation of Health Autonomy, Education Autonomy, greater share of financial taxation from Sarawak under 112D, 1/3 Member of Parliament from Sabah & Sarawak and all those outstanding issues listed under MA 63 and IGC report which finally in the amendment Malaysia Constitution in December 2021.

Let's respond to the call of YAB Premier in his Budget Speech last week, to continue to transform Sarawak that our people can be proud of, not only today, but in the future as well.

Let everyone come together, to contribute no matter how small and to support the GPS Government in building a stronger and united Sarawak. This way, we not only make a difference but also make a better Sarawak for Sarawakian in Sarawak. A better Sarawak for those Sarawakian in

West Malaysia and oversea, so that they can come home to contribute to work, to retire, to enjoy Sarawak values even if they are frustrated and disillusioned in West Malaysia or overseas. Let's look after our home first. Sarawak First.

Conclusion

Before I conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Tan Sri Speaker for your wisdom in ensuring that the proceedings in this august House were conducted with dignity and proper decorum.

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 a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024. Wish everyone the best of health. Sekian, terima kasih and Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur.

Tuan Speaker: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, sitting is now adjourned and shall resume its sitting at 9.00 a.m. tomorrow.

(Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 5.55 petang)