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Headlines

Nine tomb raiders busted for desecrating graves, theft in Miri

>2

World

'Boost defence cooperation to tackle security threat'

>11

Sport

Ling Ching wobbles in battle to join world elite

>16

Seats based on 2021 polls results

Abg Jo: GPS to use previous election outcome as basis for distribution of seats

Samuel Aubrey & Jude Toyat

KUCHING: Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) will use the results of the 2021 state election as the basis for allocating seats among its component parties for the upcoming 13th Sarawak Election.

GPS chairman Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said the coalition will discuss the details of the distribution based on the number of seats won by each component party in the previous polls.

"We will discuss the details based on the seats won by the respective candidates previously," he told reporters after chairing the GPS supreme council meeting today.

In the 2021 state election, Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) contested 47 seats; Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), 18; Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS), 11; and Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), six.

PBB won all 47 seats, while SUPP secured 13. PRS also won the 11 seats it contested, while PDP secured five of its six seats.

Opposition parties, namely Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB) and the Democratic Action Party, won four and two seats, respectively.

However, GPS' composition changed after PSB was dissolved in 2024, with three of its assemblymen joining PDP in April that year.

Another PSB assemblyman, Batu Lintang's See Chee How, had earlier quit the party in 2022 to become an independent. On Tuesday, he submitted his application to join SUPP.

Having absorbed the three former PSB assemblymen, PDP now holds eight seats. Two of those 'absorbed' seats—Bawang Assan and Engkilili—were contested by SUPP in the 2021 election.

Meanwhile, Abang Johari said GPS would contest all 82 seats in the coming election.

He said although the Election Commission (EC) has yet to announce the election date, the coalition is ready for the polls with preparations already underway.

Asked when GPS would announce its candidates, he said the list would be made public before nomination day.

Abang Johari also confirmed that some incumbent representatives, including ministers, would make way for new candidates but declined to identify them.

He affirmed that some of those intending to step aside were from PBB.

"I cannot tell you yet, but they definitely are (stepping down). Let's wait until after the EC announces the election dates," he added.

Speculation has been rife over possible changes to GPS' candidate line-up, particularly involving long-serving elected representatives.

On Oct 23, Abang Johari said some GPS incumbents had indicated their willingness to step aside for new candidates.

He stressed that the changes should not necessarily be seen as them being dropped by the coalition.

"It is not that they have been dropped, but some have decided to withdraw," he said.

Abang Johari (right) and top GPS leaders pose prior to the start of the meeting. — Information Department photo

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>
> Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg

'Sarawak not seeking full education autonomy'

KUCHING: Sarawak is not planning to seek full education autonomy due to the massive expenditure involved, said caretaker Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn.

He pointed out that the annual cost of paying teachers' salaries alone was about RM50 billion.

"We cannot afford to spend that amount of money. Imagine how many teachers there are and how many schools. For us to spend that money, we might as well do it for other developments.

"At the same time, don't forget that all of our taxes are taken by the federal government, and also because it's under their authority to look after education," he said.

He said this when met after officiating at the 4th International Conference on Educational Research and Innovation (iCERI) 2026, here yesterday.

Sagah explained that administrative issues between the state and the Ministry of Education (MoE) had been resolved.

"Don't get the wrong sense of the meaning of autonomy. As long as there is ease of doing business, it is enough for us," he said.

He also cited the agreement to allow the use of English in the teaching of Mathematics and Science as an example of progress in Sarawak's education autonomy.

"And we have the Sarawak Dual Language Programme Assessment Test (UP-DLP), that's good enough," he said.

Meanwhile, he said Sarawak is introducing artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalisation in all teachers training institutes (IPG) syllabuses to help educators use the technology in their work.

School axe attack: Police awaiting forensic psychiatric report on student

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KUCHING: Police are awaiting a forensic psychiatric report on the 16-year-old student involved in an axe attack on a teacher at a private school here before drawing any conclusions about his mental state during the Oct 21 incident.

Acting Sarawak Police Commissioner DCP Shaifullizan Ishak said the assessment is necessary to establish whether the student was aware of his actions or was acting in a state beyond his control at the time.

"We are still waiting for the forensic psychiatric report. I cannot draw any conclusions until we receive the report," he told a press conference here yesterday.

He said the student remained hospitalised and was receiving treatment, while the forensic psychiatric assessment is still in progress.

Saifullizan said police had completed their investigations and submitted the investigation papers to the deputy public prosecutor on Oct 26 for further consideration.

He stressed that the decision on whether to charge the student rested with the prosecution, which would take the forensic psychiatric findings into account.

"The psychiatric specialists will prepare a report on whether the act was committed while he was conscious of his actions or in a state beyond his control.

"The prosecution will determine whether charges should be brought. Our responsibility as the police is to investigate," he said.

On when the forensic psychiatric report would be ready, Saifullizan said no definite timeframe could be given as the assessment was still in progress.

"We can only wait. It may take a month, or it may depend on the circumstances. But I hope the relevant parties will give this case their attention because it has attracted considerable public interest," he said.

On whether bullying could have been a factor in the incident, he said police had so far found no evidence linking the attack to bullying.

He also declined to speculate on claims that the student had been influenced by online games, stressing that police could only comment on findings supported by evidence.

He revealed that the police had recorded statements from 38 witnesses, including students, teachers, security guards, medical specialists, and the student's parents.

Among the items seized were an axe, a knife, firecrackers, a computer, and other electronic devices, which had been sent for forensic examination.

Police are still awaiting the forensic analysis of the electronic devices, while investigations had established that the student purchased the axe online.

Regarding the firecrackers seized, Saifullizan said examinations indicated that they remained classified as firecrackers rather than more powerful explosives.

He also said the 42-year-old victim of the attack suffered a minor wound on her left hand, which did not involve muscle or bone, and has since been discharged from hospital.

The case is being investigated under Section 324 of the Penal Code and Section 6(1) of the Corrosive and Explosive Substances and Offensive Weapons Act 1958.

Saifullizan also urged the public against speculating on the case or sharing unverified information, particularly as it involved a minor whose rights must be protected under the law.

Saifullizan stresses a point during the press conference. – Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

Julaihi: RM49 mln losses from vandalism of utility, telco facilities since 2023

KUCHING: A total of 6,328 vandalism cases involving utility and telecommunications infrastructure across Sarawak were recorded from 2023 to the second quarter of 2026, causing estimated losses of nearly RM49 million.

Caretaker Minister for Utility and Telecommunication Dato Sri Julaihi Narawi said Samarahan Division recorded 308 cases during that period, involving estimated losses of RM1.54 million.

"Repairing and replacing equipment damaged by vandalism not only involves substantial costs but also takes a long time, affecting services to consumers.

"At the same time, the reputation of utility and telecommunications agencies is also affected by repeated service disruptions, even though they are actually victims of vandalism.

"Whenever utility facilities are damaged involving electricity cables, telecommunications lines or piping systems, we and the agencies are blamed and accused of not doing our jobs or 'makan gaji buta' (taking salary blindly) when the actual cause is theft or vandalism in the area," he said.

He said this in his speech at the Samarahan-level Prevention of Vandalism on Utility and Telecommunications Facilities Programme yesterday.

He said the facilities, which were developed with substantial funding to improve people's quality of life, were also targets of vandalism.

"Among the assets frequently targeted were equipment at water treatment plants, water meters and taps, transformers, electricity cables, streetlights, earthing equipment, batteries and telecommunications towers cables, as well as items made of iron, copper and aluminium.

"The Sarawak and federal governments continue to allocate substantial funds to develop utility and telecommunications infrastructure to achieve full coverage of water supply, electricity and telecommunications services throughout Sarawak by 2030.

"To date, water supply coverage in Sarawak stands at 86.1 per cent, electricity coverage at 99.3 per cent, while internet coverage has reached 94.5 per cent," he added.

To address the problem, Julaihi said the ministry established the state-level Anti-Vandalism Committee comprising government agencies, enforcement authorities and relevant utility and telecommunications bodies.

> Turn to Page 2, Col 1

Home

Nine tomb raiders busted for desecrating graves, theft in Miri

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A police photo displayed during the press conference shows six of the suspects pointing to one of the graves they had targeted in Miri following their arrest. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

KUCHING: Nine local men aged between 16 and 73 have been arrested in connection with a series of grave-breaking and theft cases in Miri, said acting Sarawak Police Commissioner DCP Saifullizan Ishak.

Saifullizan said the suspects were detained during a special operation conducted by the Miri district police headquarters' Criminal Investigation Division between Oct 11 and 17.

"Investigations revealed that two of the suspects had previously served prison sentences for similar offences, but allegedly resumed their activities upon release and recruited others to join them.

"The activities took place beginning in August. Following our investigations, we managed to solve all 15 cases and obtained admissions from the suspects regarding their involvement," he told a press conference here yesterday.

Saifullizan said three suspects had previous criminal records, while urine screening tests conducted on all nine returned negative.

Police also seized several items to assist investigations, including a hammer, screwdriver, necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, old coins and purchase receipts.

He said grave-breaking cases were particularly sensitive due to the religious issues involved and could cause anxiety among the community if left unaddressed.

The cases are being investigated under Section 297 of the Penal Code.

He also urged members of the public with information on criminal activities to come forward and assist police investigations.

On the coming Sarawak election, Saifullizan said Sarawak police have submitted an official request to Bukit Aman for an additional 889 officers and personnel to meet manpower requirements, with reinforcements potentially coming from Sabah.

He said the state police contingent had begun preparations for the election, with 7,469 personnel, or 74.85 per cent of its total strength of 9,979, earmarked for election duties.

The remaining 2,510 personnel, or 25.15 per cent, would continue carrying out regular policing duties.

"We are facing a shortage of 889 personnel, and we have already submitted an official request to Bukit Aman for assistance. Bukit Aman will arrange for the additional personnel, possibly from Sabah," he said.

Saifullizan said the Sarawak police had previously provided manpower assistance during Sabah state election, and hoped the Sabah contingent could extend similar support this time.

"During the previous Sabah state election, we were the ones who provided assistance. So this time, I hope Sabah will be able to provide manpower assistance to Sarawak," he said.

He added that Sarawak police had also made early logistical preparations for the election, taking into account the Northeast Monsoon season.

Home

Will SUPP Batu Lintang accept former rival See Chee How? Analyst asks

KUCHING: A political analyst has questioned whether the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) Batu Lintang branch will back former Batu Lintang independent assemblyman See Chee How as a member of the party given the seat's history.

University of Tasmania's Professor of Asian Studies Prof James Chin said See's application to join SUPP on Tuesday came as no surprise, even describing him as the "de facto SUPP candidate in Batu Lintang for the past three years."

"The real question now is whether the SUPP Batu Lintang branch will rally behind him now that he is officially in the party," he wrote in a Facebook post.

The Borneo Post asked SUPP Batu Lintang branch chairman Sih Hua Tong if his branch would welcome See and support him if he were fielded by the party in the upcoming state election.

"Will have to consult our committee," he replied via WhatsApp.

Sih and See have faced each other in three consecutive state elections since 2011, with See winning the Batu Lintang seat on all three occasions.

In 2011, See contested under the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) ticket and defeated Sih, then representing Barisan Nasional (BN), by a majority of 8,381 votes.

See again defeated Sih in 2016, with his majority narrowing to 4,385 votes.

The contest became considerably closer in 2021, when See, as a Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB) candidate, secured 4,420 votes against Sih's 4,327 votes on the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) ticket, winning by just 93 votes.

Meanwhile, Chin in the Facebook post described Batu Lintang as a challenging constituency, citing its largely urban and politically critical electorate.

"The last time a Yellow (SUPP) candidate won here was in 2001, when then-Mayor Chan Seng Khai contested," he said.

Referring to the 2021 state election, Chin noted that See retained the seat by fewer than 100 votes despite a three-way split among opposition parties.

"In the 2021 state election, the opposition vote was split three ways among PSB (See), PBK (the party president) and PKR (Dominic Ng's daughter).

"Under normal circumstances, a three-way split among the opposition should hand the seat to BN/GPS. Yet See still won with a majority of less than a hundred votes!

"That result alone shows just how strong the anti-establishment sentiment remains in Batu Lintang," he wrote.

Chin also claimed that at least two opposition parties were planning to field candidates in Batu Lintang in the coming election, potentially further dividing the vote against GPS.

"With more than 80 per cent Chinese voters, Batu Lintang remains one of the clearest barometers of the Chinese mood in Kuching," he said.

Court

Baru Bian fails to strike out PKR's RM10 mln suit over alleged breach of bond

KUALA LUMPUR: Ba Kelalan incumbent Baru Bian failed yesterday in his bid to strike out a lawsuit filed by Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) seeking RM10 million in damages for allegedly breaching the terms of a bond after leaving the party following his victory in the 14th General Election (GE14) in 2018.

High Court judge Roslan Mat Nor dismissed the application by Baru, 68, to strike out the suit and challenge the jurisdiction of the High Court of Malaya to hear and decide PKR's claim against him.

The court ordered the former Selangau MP to pay RM4,000 in costs to PKR.

In his application, Baru said he signed the bond in Kuching on April 25, 2018 and that his involvement with PKR was confined to Sarawak.

"The plaintiff's (PKR) action against me, even if proven, did not arise in Peninsular Malaysia. The claim arose in Sarawak," he said in the application.

Baru is among 16 former MPs and state assemblymen sued by PKR secretary-general Datuk Dr Fuziah Salleh on behalf of the party for allegedly breaching the terms of a RM10 million bond they signed with the party.

Also named as defendants are Datuk Kamarudin Jaffar, Datuk Mansor Othman, Datuk Mohd Rashid Hasnon, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah and Datuk Seri R. Santhara Kumar.

Abdul Yunus Jamhari, Datuk Azman Nasrudin, Dr Afif Bahardin, Chong Fat Full, Daroyah Alwi, Haniza Mohamed Talha, Muhammad Hilman Idham, Muhammad Jailani Khamis, Robert Ling Kui Ee and Zulkifli Ibrahim were also named as defendants.

In separate suits filed on Feb 19 and 27, PKR claimed that under the operative clause of the bond, each defendant agreed to pay the party RM10 million within seven days after the occurrence of events such as resigning from the party, joining another political party, or becoming an independent elected representative.

The plaintiff claimed that it had appointed each defendant as a candidate to contest in GE14 and that they subsequently won several parliamentary and state seats, leading to the formation of the federal government and several state governments.

"However, on Feb 24, 2020, each defendant ceased to be a party member after being elected under the party's banner. They also expressed support for political coalitions other than PKR," the party said in its statement of claim.

PKR said on March 11, 2020, the party decided to terminate the membership of each defendant with immediate effect, and a certificate dated March 16, 2020 was issued to confirm that their memberships had been terminated and to demand that each defendant pay the RM10 million bond, but they failed to do so. — Bernama

Home

Loke: Ferry operators can apply for diesel subsidy

LIMBANG: Express ferry operators in Sabah and Sarawak facing rising fuel costs can apply to the federal Transport Ministry for diesel subsidies, minister Anthony Loke said.

He said the ministry was prepared to facilitate applications to the Finance Ministry to help ease rising operating costs and sustain ferry services in both states.

"Any ferry operator can submit an application to the federal Transport Ministry, and we will try to get approval from the Finance Ministry. Although approval of diesel subsidies for ferry operators comes under the Finance Ministry, we usually act as a facilitator. We collect the applications and submit them to the Finance Ministry," he told a press conference after the groundbreaking ceremony for the Road Transport Department (JPJ) Limbang branch office along Jalan Masjid Jannatul Firdaus yesterday.

Also present were Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Hasbi Habibollah, JPJ director-general Datuk Aedy Fadly Ramli, and Limbang Resident Unus Tambi.

The Labuan-Kota Kinabalu express ferry service was temporarily suspended in April due to rising fuel costs and high landing charges at Jesselton jetty terminal in Kota Kinabalu.

InJuly, the Labuan-Lawas passenger boat service, which had operated for more than three decades, was also suspended for three months.

On another matter, Loke said local companies, including those in Limbang, could apply for licences to operate vehicle inspection centres, an opportunity now open to businesses beyond Computerised Vehicle Inspection Centre (Puspakom).

Loke (front, fourth left) presents the financial aid to a recipient, as Hasbi (third right) and other guests look on.

"Approved licences would be valid for 10 years, allowing companies to invest in and operate vehicle inspection services."

He said transport-related services, including JPJ matters and vehicle inspections by Puspakom, could eventually be housed in one area alongside the new JPJ branch office to provide residents with more convenient access to services.

The initiative would also create opportunities for local companies to participate in the industry, he added.

Loke also presented RM1,000 in special financial aid to taxi drivers in Limbang.

The one-off nationwide aid, announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Oct 9 under Budget 2027, covers eligible taxi, hire car and school bus drivers.

About 53,000 drivers are expected to benefit, with eligibility determined through databases maintained by the Land Public Transport Agency, JPJ and the commercial vehicle licensing boards of Sabah and Sarawak. Eligible drivers do not need to apply.

The aid is funded from part of the RM91 million raised through the bidding of the special 'H' vehicle registration number series.

Security measures to protect utility and telecommunications assets to be strengthened

> From Page 1

He said various awareness programmes had also been carried out to educate the public on the consequences of vandalism and the importance of reporting such crimes.

These included the state-level Anti-Vandalism Prevention Campaign on July 3, 2024, as well as a divisional-level programme in Bintulu on Oct 29, 2024.

"Additionally, five vandalism prevention programmes have been held at secondary schools since 2023 to raise public awareness, particularly among young people, about the consequences of such crimes and the importance of reporting them to the authorities," he said.

Julaihi said enforcement efforts had also been strengthened through Ops Lusuh conducted by the police to monitor second-hand goods premises that could serve as channels for selling stolen items.

He said scrap dealers must ensure that items purchased or accepted for resale did not come from suspicious sources or originate from criminal activities.

"If anyone attempts to sell suspicious items, the dealers have to report the matter immediately to the authorities or relevant agencies to help curb theft and vandalism," he said.

He also said security measures to protect utility and telecommunications assets would be strengthened to prevent vandalism and theft.

"This will include installing smart surveillance systems, such as thermal cameras and motion detectors, constructing concrete fences with barbed wire, using non-metallic water metres and conducting patrols by agencies and local communities, particularly in high-risk areas."

Joining SUPP, GPS a natural progression in political journey — See

KUCHING: Batu Lintang incumbent See Chee How views his intention to join Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) as a "natural progression" in his 16-year political journey, driven by his longstanding commitment to championing Sarawak's constitutional rights and interests.

He said the move would provide him with a stronger platform to pursue the state's aspirations, in line with principles he had advocated since entering electoral politics.

"What particularly caught my attention was the emphasis on Sarawak's constitutional rights, interests and aspirations, and the determination to pursue them through Sarawak's own political institutions," he said in a statement.

"These were matters I had been advocating long before I considered joining GPS. Indeed, they were among the principal reasons I entered electoral politics."

See said he had gradually come to believe that working within SUPP and GPS would enable him to contribute more directly and effectively towards advancing Sarawak's interests.

He also cited Sarawak's increasingly distinct state-based political direction under the late former chief minister Pehin Sri Adenan Satem and subsequently Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg as an important factor in his decision.

See, who won Batu Lintang in the 2011 and 2016 state elections under Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR), and in 2021 on a Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB) ticket, had remained an Independent assemblyman after resigning from PSB in 2022.

He stressed that joining the ruling coalition did not mean abandoning his commitment to safeguarding Sarawak's constitutional rights and interests.

"The constitutional rights, privileges and interests of Sarawak under the Federal Constitution and the Malaysia Agreement 1963 must continue to receive serious and sustained attention," he said.

See also expressed appreciation to Abang Johari and caretaker Deputy Premier and SUPP president Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian for their advice, encouragement and support during his four years as an Independent assemblyman.

He said constructive cooperation with the state government during the period had enabled him to facilitate grants and assistance for communities, organisations and individuals in Batu Lintang.

Looking ahead, he said he hoped to work closely with SUPP and GPS leaders to strengthen Sarawak's institutions, advance its rights, and improve the lives of its people.

See submitted his application to join SUPP on Tuesday, a day after the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly.

'SUPP central committee to discuss See's application to join party'

Dr Sim (front right) is seen with (from left) PDP president Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing and PDP deputy president Dato Henry Harry Jinep at PBB headquarters. — Photo by Roystein Emmor

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KUCHING: The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) Central Committee will have to discuss Batu Lintang incumbent See Chee How's application to join the party before deciding whether to accept him into the fold or not.

SUPP president Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian said all applications to join the party must be considered by its higher authority before any decision is made, including his candidacy in the coming state election.

"Anyone can apply to join the party, but every application must be considered by the higher body," he told reporters.

He was met after attending the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) Supreme Council meeting chaired by GPS chairman Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg at the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) headquarters here yesterday.

Dr Sim was asked about the status of See's application and his chances of contesting in the coming 13th Sarawak election.

See submitted his application to join SUPP on Tuesday—a day after the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly (DUN).

His application form was handed to SUPP central organising secretary Datuk Matthew Chen in the presence of Dr Sim and SUPP secretary-general Datuk Sebastian Ting.

See was first elected as Batu Lintang assemblyman in the 2011 state election under the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) ticket and retained the seat in 2016.

He was sacked from PKR in April 2020 following internal differences before joining Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB) the following month.

In the 2021 state election, See defended the Batu Lintang seat on a PSB ticket, defeating GPS candidate Sih Hua Tong by a narrow majority of 93 votes in a five-cornered fight.

He resigned from PSB in August 2022 and continued serving as an independent assemblyman up until the DUN's dissolution.

See's application to join SUPP comes amid preparations for the state polls, with his political future and possible candidacy now subject to the party's decision on his membership.

The Election Commission will meet on Nov 6 to set the key dates for the election.

Amanah Sarawak says still negotiating seats with PH components

KUCHING: Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah) Sarawak is still negotiating with its Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition partners on the number of seats it will contest in the 13th Sarawak state election.

Amanah Sarawak Youth chief Zairy Abdullah said the party is strengthening its organisational preparations and grassroots efforts while remaining committed to championing the interests and well-being of the people.

He said any decision on seat allocation within the state PH coalition must be reached through joint discussions based on mutual understanding, consensus, and respect among component parties.

"Amanah Sarawak respects the ongoing negotiation process and is confident that all matters can be discussed maturely, taking into account each party's strengths, acceptance among local communities, and the collective interests of the coalition," he said in a statement.

According to him, Amanah Sarawak will focus on engaging with the people, understanding their needs and addressing issues including the cost of living, employment opportunities, rural development, basic infrastructure, and overall public welfare.

He said a party's strength is not measured solely by its participation in elections, but also by its commitment to serving the people, giving communities a voice, and offering solutions to the problems they faced.

"The position of Amanah Sarawak is clear: we are ready to face PRN Sarawak while remaining committed to strengthening political cooperation for the benefit of the people and a better future for Sarawak," he added.

During the 2021 Sarawak election, Amanah fielded a total of eight candidates. Only one of the candidates—Abang Abdul Halil Abang Naili in Samariang—did not lose his deposit after managing to secure 1,071 votes. However, this was still well behind Samariang incumbent Datuk Sharifah Hasidah Sayeed Aman Ghazali's 11,534 votes, giving Gabungan Parti Sarawak a thumping 10,283-vote majority.

The other seven Amanah candidates in 2021 were Mohamad Zen Peli, Demak Laut (212 votes); Daud Eali, Muara Tuang (239 votes); Kamal Bujang, Gedong (94 votes); Wel @ Maxwel Rojis, Sebuyau (803 votes); Andri Zulkarnaen Hamden, Kabong (91 votes); Mohamad Fadillah Sabali, Semop (270 votes); and Zainab Suhaili, Jemoreng (244 votes).

Youth told to take active role in community affairs, public discussions

BINTULU: Democratic Action Party (DAP) Bintulu chairman Chiew Chan Yew has called on the youth to take a more active role in community affairs and public discussions.

He said young people could contribute to social progress by addressing issues affecting daily life, including community safety, water supply, drainage, flood prevention, education, the economy and employment.

Drawing on his years of community service and interactions with families from different backgrounds, he said youths had the passion, ideas and ability to bring fresh energy to the community.

"Every generation faces different challenges, and there is work that needs to be carried forward," he said, encouraging young people to voice their views, participate in discussions and lend a helping hand to those in need.

Chiew stressed that social progress required a combination of young people's innovative thinking, the experience of older generations and support from the wider community.

He said constructive engagement between generations would allow youths to learn through participation and drive change by taking responsibility.

On political participation, he said politics is closely connected to people's daily lives and deserves greater attention from young people.

By participating in public discussions and raising concerns, he said youths could help ensure that the relevant authorities responded to community needs and considered necessary policy changes.

Chiew's call comes as Sarawak prepares for its 13th state election following the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly on Oct 26.

In the 2021 state election, he contested the Tanjong Batu seat for DAP but lost by a mere 23 votes to Gabungan Parti Sarawak's Johnny Pang in a six-cornered fight.

Chiew polled 4,069 votes to Pang's 4,092.

The closely fought contest highlights the constituency's competitive nature, where local issues and community engagement remain key concerns.

Sarawak election: DAP to contest all three Miri seats, says Ling

MIRI: The Democratic Action Party (DAP) will contest all three state constituencies under the Miri parliamentary constituency—Piasau, Pujut and Senadin—in the coming state election.

DAP Sarawak secretary Alan Ling, a former Piasau assemblyman, said the three constituencies remained the party's traditional seats under the existing consensus within the Pakatan Harapan coalition.

"Win or lose, DAP is always around in Miri to serve the constituents of these three seats. Therefore, the party will field candidates in the three seats when the fight comes.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going," he told The Borneo Post yesterday, emphasising the party's determination to remain active in the political struggle.

On potential candidates, Ling said several names could be considered, although the final decision rested with the DAP Sarawak leadership, taking into account the party's overall electoral strategy.

He named former DAP Sarawak youth chief Peter Hee, DAP Piasau secretary Lawrence Low, DAP Miri chairman Voon Kai Foo, and party members Jasmine Yii and Jimy Seli as potential candidates.

(From left) Ling, Voon and Low are among the potential candidates for the three Miri seats.

He said the group had an average age of around 40, and described them as "young and energetic individuals" capable of serving the people.

Asked about his own political future, Ling said his track record of service demonstrated his readiness to be fielded again, despite defeats in the 2016 and 2021 state polls.

Ling, who served as a senator from 2018 to 2021, said he had continued serving the community and providing assistance using his own resources even after failing to secure re-election.

"Politics is a marathon, a lonely yet long journey. Only those who are persistent and determined can walk far," he said, while disclosing that voters have been encouraging him to contest in this election.

However, he declined to disclose which constituency he might contest, saying the eventual seat allocation would depend on the party's overall strategy and campaign considerations.

He also expressed hope for continued support from urban voters, saying DAP wanted to represent ordinary people's voices in the State Legislative Assembly (DUN).

"DAP hopes to strengthen checks and balances in the DUN through our representation, allowing public concerns to be raised and addressed," he said.

Sagah performs the conference's officiating gimmick, as Yahya (left) and others look on.

AI should support teaching, not replace education — Sagah

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KUCHING: Artificial intelligence (AI) should not be viewed as a replacement for education, but rather as a tool that educators can integrate into teaching through continuous professional development, said Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn.

The caretaker Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development said educators must adapt to emerging technologies while safeguarding equity and well-being.

"As we adopt new tools, we must also safeguard equity and well-being, ensuring academic integrity, privacy and responsible use are maintained across all levels of education," he said when officiating at the 4th International Conference on Educational Research and Innovation (iCERI) 2026, here yesterday.

He said the effective integration of AI and digital technologies was particularly important to Sarawak's aspirations of becoming a high-income state.

"This is very important to Sarawak, as our success in moving towards becoming a high-income developed state by 2030 relies heavily on building a highly skilled, adaptable and innovative workforce."

Sagah said to ensure young Sarawakians are prepared for future industries, the government is placing strong emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, innovation, and digital skills.

He said the goal is for students not to be passive users of technology but active creators, innovators and problem solvers.

"This is why we actively support hands-on learning initiatives across Sarawak, as they provide early exposure to applied technology and encourage curiosity," he added.

Sagah also urged teachers and educators to embrace the opportunities offered by digitalisation and AI for continuous learning and professional development.

"If we want our students to become innovative, we must also provide our teachers with opportunities and support to innovate. If we want our students to become lifelong learners, we must continue learning ourselves.

"And if we want our students to be prepared for the future, we must be prepared to transform education today," he said.

Meanwhile, Teachers Education Institutes (IPG) Batu Lintang Campus director Yahya Sedik said teachers continued to play an essential role in guiding students, despite the growing use of technology in education.

"Technology and AI are changing the way we teach and learn. They give us new ways to help our students learn better and make our teaching more effective. However, we must remember that technology is only a tool. Teachers still play a very important role in guiding students, building good values and helping them think clearly and creatively," he said.

"We must also make sure that AI is used safely, fairly and responsibly."

Running until today, the two-day conference aims to examine current trends in educational research, technological integration, deep learning, pedagogical approaches, as well as their implications for the future education.

Prioritise fire safety preparedness, longhouse folks told

BINTULU: Fire safety awareness and regular training must become a way of life in rural communities, particularly in longhouses and villages, to prevent tragedies and minimise losses, said Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom.

The caretaker Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development said fire safety should not be limited to distributing fire extinguishers or responding to emergencies, but must involve continuous education and preparedness among residents.

He said communities needed to understand potential fire hazards, know how to use firefighting equipment and remain prepared to respond when emergencies occurred.

Speaking at the launch of the MLNG HSE community programme on Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards (Cimah) ITP 2026 here yesterday, he stressed that fire safety was a shared responsibility involving homeowners, community leaders, residents and relevant agencies.

The Kemena incumbent noted that fire extinguishers could be ineffective if residents did not know how to operate them or if the equipment had been left unused for years without proper inspection.

"I have seen many fire extinguishers in longhouses that have been hanging there for 20 to 30 years," he said, underscoring the importance of ensuring that equipment was maintained and users were properly trained.

Dr Rundi also called for community firefighting teams and volunteer groups to receive regular refresher training, with the Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba) playing a vital role in strengthening their capabilities.

He said the consequences of a longhouse fire could be devastating, with residents potentially losing their homes and possessions within a short time.

"Although assistance might be available to rebuild damaged homes, replacing the materials and belongings lost in a fire could be difficult and costly," he added.

He emphasised that the safety practices adopted by industrial players, including companies operating in Bintulu, should also be applied in villages, longhouses and homes throughout Sarawak.

"Make it your culture. We have to take care of each other," he said, urging residents to remain alert to hazards that could endanger their families and neighbours.

Dr Rundi added that community leaders should ensure residents understood emergency procedures, including evacuation routes and how to contact the relevant authorities during a fire.

He said safety awareness should be reinforced continuously, rather than treated as a one-off programme, to protect lives and safeguard the well-being of future generations.

MLNG distributes 300 fire extinguishers to 100 villages

BINTULU: Malaysia LNG (MLNG) has distributed 300 fire extinguishers to 100 villages across Bintulu, Sebauh and Tatau to strengthen community preparedness for fire emergencies.

MLNG managing director and chief executive officer Abang Jimmy Abang Mordian said the initiative reflected the company's commitment to extending safety awareness and preparedness beyond its operational facilities to surrounding communities.

"We are hopeful that this contribution will enhance community preparedness, particularly when dealing with fire-related emergencies," he said at the MLNG HSE community programme on Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards (Cimah) ITP 2026, here yesterday.

The programme attracted more than 600 participants, including community leaders, government agencies and other stakeholders.

Abang Jimmy said safety should be practised daily, with communities equipped with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively to emergencies.

"Accurate information can reduce confusion. Continuous training can build confidence. Coordinated action can save lives," he said.

He stressed that cooperation among industry, government agencies, educational institutions and communities was essential to building a well-informed, prepared and resilient society.

"When it comes to safety, we cannot work in isolation. Everyone needs to understand their respective responsibilities so that actions can be coordinated effectively," he said.

Abang Jimmy (fifth left), Dr Rundi (sixth left) and other guests join local community leaders for a photo call with the fire extinguishers.

Abang Jimmy said MLNG, which has operated in Sarawak for nearly five decades, prioritised safety across its operations and extended this commitment to communities living, studying and working in surrounding areas.

"For Petronas (Petroliam Nasional Berhad) and MLNG, industrial progress must go hand in hand with community well-being.

"True success is also measured by the level of public safety, community confidence and our ability to protect lives and the environment," he said.

He urged participants to apply what they had learnt in their daily lives and share the knowledge with their families, neighbours and other community members.

He also advised households to use to use electrical appliances safely, store flammable materials properly and keep exit routes clear, while emphasising the importance of teaching children about safety from an early age.

Separately, Abang Jimmy highlighted a sustainability initiative involving Petrosains and Petronas operating units in Sarawak, which repurposes used workwear into useful products to reduce waste and create value for the community and environment.

He also thanked government agencies for their support and cooperation, particularly in facilitating the company's plant turnaround maintenance activities this year.

Caretaker Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom officiated at the programme's launch.

Fuel subsidy savings for this year to be finalised by year-end, Dewan Rakyat told

KUALA LUMPUR: The total fuel subsidy savings for this year will be finalised by year-end, taking into account actual transaction adjustments, weekly market prices, currency exchange rates, and verified consumption volumes.

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan said from a fiscal perspective, the implementation of Budi95 is expected to generate total savings of between RM2.5 billion and RM4 billion annually.

"The savings are the result of the comprehensive implementation of targeted subsidies, which includes reducing leakage, such as benefits reaching non-citizens and ineligible consumer categories, as well as curbing expenditures that do not align with the government's social protection objectives.

"The government will continue to ensure that these savings are repurposed to strengthen targeted assistance, such as the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah and Sumbangan Asas Rahmah, as well as other initiatives that provide direct benefits to the people," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Amir Hamzah replies to Muhammad Fawwaz's question. — Bernama photo

He was replying to a question from Muhammad Fawwaz Mohamad Jan (PN-Permatang Pauh), who had asked the Finance Minister to state the actual amount of fuel subsidy savings for the year.

Amir Hamzah said the government consistently adopts a responsive, data-driven approach, including continuous monitoring of developments in global energy supply and market prices, the nation's fiscal position, and public feedback.

"Following more stable fuel supply conditions and current subsidy expenditure of approximately RM4 billion per month, the government is reinstating the Budi95 eligibility limit to 300 litres per month, effective Sept 1, 2026.

"The previous adjustment from 300 litres to 200 litres was an initial, targeted measure to ensure the nation's fuel supply remains secure amidst global supply uncertainties resulting from the conflict in West Asia," he said. — Bernama

Apex court allows Najib to attend leave-to-appeal hearing

PUTRAJAYA: The Federal Court here yesterday allowed Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's application to attend the hearing of his application for leave to appeal in a bid to revive his RM1.9 million lawsuit against former Attorney-General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas.

A three-judge panel chaired by Chief Judge of Malaya Datuk Seri Hashim Hamzah allowed the application after Najib's counsel S. Bala Ravi requested an order to produce (OTP) to enable the former prime minister to attend the proceedings from prison.

The order would allow Najib to attend the leave-to-appeal hearing and, should leave be granted, the substantive appeal hearing.

Also on the panel were Federal Court judges Datuk Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali and Datuk Azmi Ariffin.

The leave-to-appeal application is scheduled to be heard on Nov 26.

Najib, 73, filed a notice of motion on Feb 10 this year seeking leave to appeal against the entire Court of Appeal decision, which upheld the High Court's order striking out his lawsuit. He has submitted three questions of law for the Federal Court's consideration.

On Jan 13 this year, a three-judge Court of Appeal panel upheld the High Court's decision to strike out the suit, ruling that the action was premature because the relevant criminal proceedings had not commenced when the lawsuit was filed.

On Nov 25, 2022, the High Court allowed Thomas' application to strike out the suit without a full trial.

Najib, the former Pekan MP, filed the lawsuit on Oct 22, 2021, alleging that Thomas had abused his power in bringing charges against him in connection with the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) case.

In the suit, Najib alleged that Thomas had acted with malicious intent in prosecuting him in cases involving 1MDB and International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC). — Bernama

Ramp up crime prevention efforts for safer neighbourhoods, community leaders advised

BINTULU: Community leaders must take a more active role in safeguarding their neighbourhoods against crime, drug-related problems and other social ills, said caretaker Minister for Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom.

He said public safety required collective vigilance, with residents encouraged to look out for one another and report suspicious activities to the relevant authorities.

"Safety extended beyond physical protection to include the overall well-being of families and communities, making prevention and awareness essential to maintaining a safe living environment," he said.

He said this when officiating at the launch of MLNG HSE Community Programme on Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards (Cimah) ITP 2026 here yesterday.

The Kemena incumbent called on community leaders to establish clear procedures for responding to emergencies, theft, and other incidents.

He said residents should know whom to contact and how to seek assistance from the police and other relevant agencies when problems arise.

Dr Rundi also cautioned parents and community leaders to pay attention to the activities of young people, stressing the importance of preventing them from being drawn into harmful behaviour.

He expressed concern over the ways vulnerable youths could be influenced or recruited into drug-related activities, including being used as runners.

"Such problems could have far-reaching consequences for families and the wider community if left unaddressed," he said.

He stressed that prevention should begin at an early age through education, good values, and a strong sense of civic responsibility.

"Young people needed to be taught to respect others, care for their communities, and understand their responsibilities as members of society."

Dr Rundi also reminded residents to remain alert to changing criminal methods and avoid becoming complacent about their personal safety and possessions.

He said community leaders should work together with the authorities to improve preparedness and ensure that residents knew how to respond when faced with potential threats.

He said the well-being of a community could not be taken for granted and required sustained effort to protect families and provide younger generations with a safer environment in which to grow and build their future.

Supply, provide services to key investors, local SMEs told

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Awang Tengah (back row, centre), flanked by Naroden on his right and Rastam, in a photo call during the presentation of mock cheques. — Photo by Chimon Upon

KUCHING: Local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) should take advantage of Sarawak's multi-billion ringgit investments by positioning themselves as suppliers and service providers to major investors, particularly in strategic and high-technology industries.

Caretaker Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan said local businesses must strengthen their technical capabilities, financial management and product quality to meet industry requirements and participate in the state's expanding economic activities.

He said Sarawak recorded more than RM11.6 billion in approved investments in the first half of 2026, while approved investments from 2021 to 2024 exceeded RM116 billion.

"These investments create opportunities for our local enterprises, including in catering, logistics and the supply of components and other services," he said when officiating at the Sarawak Entrepreneur Networking Programme 2026, here yesterday.

Awang Tengah, also caretaker Minister for International Trade, Industry and Investment, said almost 70 per cent of the investments approved between 2021 and 2024 had been realised, with some companies continuing to reinvest in Sarawak.

He said the state's economic direction under the Post Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030 included growing the economy to RM282 billion by 2030, with SMEs playing an important role in achieving the target.

Sarawak, he noted, has about 71,000 SMEs, nearly 80 per cent of which are micro enterprises, contributing approximately 18 per cent to the state's gross domestic product.

He said the state government was strengthening support for local businesses through financing, skills development, digitalisation, and market expansion.

Awang Tengah also urged investors to adopt more integrated upstream, midstream and downstream operations instead of exporting raw materials, saying local businesses should benefit from value-added activities and the use of advanced technology.

"We do not want to just extract our materials and export them in raw form. We want upstream, midstream and downstream activities to be more integrated so that we can derive higher value from our resources," he said.

He said opportunities were also available in renewable energy, food production, commercial agriculture, tourism and timber processing, including furniture and engineered wood products.

On financing, Awang Tengah welcomed the increase in the allocation for Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (PUNB) from RM350 million to RM500 million under the 2027 national budget.

He said PUNB had allocated RM121.2 million to Sarawak up to September this year, benefiting about 354 companies.

He also called for stronger collaboration between PUNB and Sarawak Energy Berhad, Petroleum Sarawak Berhad (Petros) and other industry players to help local vendors secure financing and participate in supply chains.

Since 2019, the Sarawak Energy Vendor Development Programme has supported 212 vendors, with 197 completing the programme by September 2026, including 154 Bumiputera vendors.

Awang Tengah said the state government was also coordinating entrepreneurship development agencies through the Sarawak Entrepreneur Development Coordination Committee to reduce overlapping programmes and optimise available resources.

He urged Bumiputera entrepreneurs to improve their governance, adopt digital technology and meet international standards to expand beyond the domestic market.

At the event, PUNB presented education-related corporate social responsibility contributions to 10 schools in Kuching, as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting education in Sarawak.

Also present was PUNB chairman Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa and Ministry for International Trade, Industry and Investment advisor Dato Sri Mohd Naroden Majais.

PUNB to offer Sarawak Bumi SMEs up to RM10 mln in financing

KUCHING: Bumiputera small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Sarawak will be eligible for financing of up to RM10 million under a new scheme by Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (PUNB) to help them enter higher-value supply chains.

The PROSPER GROW PLUS scheme, scheduled for launch in January 2027, aims to position local entrepreneurs as key suppliers to major projects in renewable energy, high-tech manufacturing and infrastructure.

PUNB chairman Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa said the initiative would complement the corporation's RM500 million financing allocation under Budget 2027 and support Sarawak's economic transformation agenda under the Post Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030).

"Sarawak is now at the forefront of industrial transformation through massive investments in renewable energy, high-tech manufacturing at Sama Jaya, the petrochemical hub in Bintulu, and modern transit infrastructure like the Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit (ART).

"PUNB does not want local Bumiputera entrepreneurs to be left behind or remain as mere bystanders in this rapid development," he said at the Sarawak State Entrepreneurs Networking Programme 2026, here yesterday.

The programme was officiated by caretaker Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, who is also caretaker Minister for International Trade, Industry and Investment.

Rastam said PROSPER GROW PLUS would offer financing of between RM1 million and RM10 million at a flat profit rate of 3.5 per cent per annum, with a tenure of up to seven years.

The financing would help SMEs strengthen technical capabilities, adopt automation and secure working capital, enabling them to progress from conventional subcontractors to higher-tier suppliers.

PUNB is also strengthening industry partnerships to help Bumiputera vendors meet procurement standards, technical requirements and safety regulations.

Its collaboration with Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB), formalised through a memorandum of understanding in 2025, aims to build vendor capacity and improve their readiness to participate in sustainable energy and utility supply chains.

Beyond financing, PUNB provides business advisory services, environmental, social and governance (ESG) training, and business development and information technology grants to support growth and digitalisation.

Since beginning operations in Sarawak in 1994, PUNB has developed 354 Bumiputera entrepreneurs and businesses across more than 20 towns and cities statewide as at Sept 30 this year. Of these, 157, or about 44 per cent, are women entrepreneurs.

PUNB chief executive officer Izwan Zainuddin said the scheme was designed to give local entrepreneurs greater financial flexibility to enter high-impact industries. Further details and eligibility criteria would be announced at its official launch in January.

The event also brought together representatives from the Sarawak Ministry of International Trade, Industry and Investment, the Sarawak Economic Planning Unit, SEB and Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd.

PUNB also presented corporate social responsibility education aid to 10 schools in Kuching.

Separately, its Ray of Happiness programme in Lawas and Saratok provided free eye screenings to 1,080 students and spectacles to 605 students over the past two years.

Entrepreneurs can obtain further information on PUNB financing schemes at its regional office at Wisma Wan Abu Bakar, Jalan Kulas, Kuching, its Miri branch at Marina Parkcity, Miri Times Square, or via www.punb.com.my.

SMAIS to offer opportunities to students from Borneo, Pacific island nations

Abang Johari speaks at the event.

KUCHING: The upcoming Sekolah Menengah Agama Antarabangsa Sarawak (SMAIS) will offer opportunities for Muslim students from across Borneo and minority Muslim communities in Pacific island nations to pursue quality education in Sarawak.

Caretaker Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said the school would combine international academic standards with Islamic education to nurture a generation equipped with both religious and academic knowledge.

He was cited by the Sarawak Public Communications Unit as saying that his experience visiting Fiji as chairman of the Regional Islamic Da'wah Council of Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Riseap) had highlighted the need to support minority Muslim communities, particularly in expanding access to education.

"Due to their relatively underdeveloped economic conditions, they are at a stage where we should extend our assistance," he said when officiating at the Tilawah Al-Quran Bandaraya Se-Borneo here on Tuesday.

"Therefore, Sarawak will provide places for Muslim children from these regions to further their studies at the international school in the state."

Abang Johari said bringing together students from different backgrounds would encourage the exchange of knowledge and experiences while strengthening ties among young Muslims.

He added that SMAIS would adopt the Cambridge syllabus alongside an Islamic-based curriculum, equipping students with proficiency in international languages and the knowledge needed to continue Islamic da'wah efforts in their respective communities.

He said Islamic education should be complemented by specialised knowledge to help young people understand and apply the teachings of the al-Quran in community development and in addressing contemporary challenges.

"When our children graduate from the school, they will be able to communicate in international languages and, in doing so, fulfil their responsibility to continue Islamic da'wah efforts within their own communities," he said.

Abang Johari also stressed the importance of translating the teachings of the al-Quran into meaningful action for humanity.

On another matter, he said Sarawak's natural resources, particularly its energy resources, should be harnessed responsibly to drive economic development and improve living standards across Borneo.

He described the island's rich biodiversity and natural wealth as blessings that must be preserved and utilised wisely for the benefit of its communities.

He said Borneo's vast forests and biodiversity offered opportunities to improve livelihoods and help lift communities out of poverty.

In Sarawak, he said energy generated from rivers was among the state's key resources that could support communities, businesses and economic growth.

He added that developing these resources collaboratively could create greater economic value and contribute to regional development.

"After generating electricity, the Sarawak government also harnesses these resources to drive Asia's economy as part of its contribution to the Asean Power Grid, including supplying electricity to Kalimantan, Singapore, Peninsular Malaysia and other neighbouring countries," he said.

Abang Johari said such efforts could provide an energy source to support development in the respective regions.

Indonesia Consulate proposes Miri office to assist its citizens

KUCHING: The Consulate-General of Indonesia in Kuching has proposed establishing a representative office in Miri to facilitate matters involving Indonesian nationals, particularly those living and working in northern Sarawak.

The proposal was raised during a courtesy visit by Indonesian Consul-General Dr Abdullah Zulkifli and his delegation to the Malaysian Immigration Department here yesterday.

They were received by Sarawak Immigration director Datuk Abdul Halim Abang Naili and senior officers.

According to the department, the visit also provided an opportunity to introduce newly appointed officers of the Indonesian Consulate-General and discuss matters of mutual interest, particularly the management and welfare of Indonesian nationals in Sarawak.

In a Facebook post, it said both parties acknowledged the large number of Indonesian workers in Miri, Bintulu, Limbang and Lawas.

"In this regard, the Indonesian Consulate-General expressed its intention to open a representative office in Miri to facilitate matters concerning Indonesian nationals, especially in northern Sarawak," it said.

Abdullah (left) presents a memento to Abdul Halim. — Immigration Department photo

The discussions also covered a system used in Johor Bahru to facilitate the repatriation of Indonesian nationals to their home country.

The Immigration Department said the Indonesian Consulate-General in Kuching was interested in learning more about the system to assess its suitability for implementation in Sarawak, subject to relevant requirements and procedures.

The department said the visit reflected both parties' continued commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and improving coordination on immigration matters involving Indonesian nationals in Sarawak.

It added that continued cooperation was expected to ensure immigration-related matters were handled in a more orderly, efficient and effective manner, in line with both parties' respective roles and responsibilities.

'No firm evidence linking M'sian companies to Indonesia fires'

KUALA LUMPUR: There is no conclusive evidence that Malaysian-linked plantation companies were responsible for fires in Indonesia, said Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup.

He said the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry (NRES) and the Plantation and Commodities Ministry had examined allegations that Malaysian companies were involved in burning activities in Indonesia.

"Based on our assessment to date, there is no conclusive evidence confirming that Malaysian-linked plantation companies were responsible for the fires.

"The government's position is clear that any party proven to be responsible for haze pollution must face appropriate action in accordance with the law," he said when winding up the debate on the Supply Bill 2027 for his ministry in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to Mohamad Shafizan Kepli (GPS-Batang Lupar), who asked about proposals for specific legislation to address transboundary haze pollution and action against companies found responsible.

Arthur said the proposal to restrict financing for companies proven to be responsible for haze pollution required further scrutiny, particularly regarding the legal basis, evidentiary standards, jurisdiction and implications for the financial sector.

"The ministry has also examined on several occasions the merits of enacting a Transboundary Haze Pollution Act, similar to legislation introduced by a neighbouring country," he said.

Soldier gets 34 years, 14 strokes for raping wife's pre-teen niece

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A policeman escorts the soldier after sentencing. — Photo by Desiree David

KUCHING: The Sessions Court here has sentenced a soldier with the rank of lance corporal to a total of 34 years' jail and 14 strokes of the rotan for two counts of raping his wife's niece, who was then 12 years old, in 2023.

Judge Iris Awen Jon convicted the 29-year-old following a full trial with both charges framed under Section 376(1) of the Penal Code.

For the first charge, he was sentenced to 16 years behind bars and six strokes of the rotan, while for the second charge, he received 18 years' imprisonment and eight strokes.

Iris ordered both sentences to run concurrently from the date of his remand on Sept 20, 2024, effectively amounting to 18 years' imprisonment.

She also ordered the accused to undergo rehabilitative counselling throughout his detention, in accordance with Section 26 of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act (Soaca) 2017.

Iris further ordered the accused to be placed under police supervision for two years upon completing his custodial sentence, pursuant to Section 27(1) of Soaca 2017.

According to the charges, the man raped the victim in two separate incidents on Dec 20, 2023 and January 2024, at an Armed Forces Family Quarters here.

The first incident occurred while the victim was sleeping at the man's house, when he pushed her onto a mattress and raped her while covering her mouth as she attempted to resist.

In the second incident, the man pulled the victim's shirt, causing her to fall, before removing her trousers and raping her.

Following the incidents, the victim lodged a police report which led to his arrest.

In her judgment, Judge Iris found that the prosecution had successfully proven its case against the accused beyond reasonable doubt after assessing all the evidence presented throughout the trial.

She also found that the defence witnesses' testimony carried less evidential weight, adding that no independent evidence was presented to show that the man was not in Sarawak at the time of the incidents, despite the defence having produced flight tickets.

Throughout the full trial, the prosecution, represented by deputy public prosecutors Mohamad Aiman Mutallib Mohamad Shariff and Chuah Kai Sheng, called six witnesses, while the defence presented three witnesses.

Counsel Joshua Lee Sik Ern represented the accused.

Handout screengrab from a closed-circuit television shows the pickup truck fleeing the scene.

Sarikei cops seek info on pickup truck involved in fatal hit-and-run

SARIKEI: Police are seeking information on a silver pickup truck involved in a fatal hit-and-run accident along Jalan Repok here early Tuesday.

Sarikei police chief Supt Aswandy Anis said the incident, which happened around 4.50am, killed a 74-year-old woman who was cycling on the left side of the road towards the town.

"Preliminary investigations found that the victim was hit on her right side by a silver four-wheel-drive vehicle whose registration number has yet to be identified.

"The driver did not stop after the collision and fled towards Jalan Masjid Lama," he said in a statement.

He said the victim sustained serious injuries to her head and body and pronounced dead at Sarikei Hospital around 5.30pm the same day.

Aswandy said preliminary investigations pointed to the pickup truck driver's negligence as the cause of the accident.

He said the case is being investigated under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987, and called for anyone who may have witnessed the incident, or have information regarding the identity of the driver or vehicle involved, to contact the police.

He said information may be channelled to investigating officer Insp Ahmad Mustaqim by calling 010-4427241, or by visiting the Sarikei District Police Headquarters.

Teen Sebuyau croc attack victim's body found

KUCHING: The body of a teenage boy who was attacked by a crocodile at Ulu Sungai Plaie in Sebuyau was found on Tuesday night.

In an update at 10.13pm, the Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba) said the 14-year-old's body was found by villagers.

Police were sent to the location to retrieve the body and transport it to Simunjan Hospital.

The boy, identified as Mohamad Nordin Mohamad Othman, was attacked by a crocodile on Monday afternoon.

The attack occurred when the victim was loading oil palm fruits into a boat and was witnessed by his uncle.

E-hailing driver jailed 2 years for outraging woman's modesty

KUCHING: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday sentenced a man to two years' imprisonment for molesting a female acquaintance in his car last week.

Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan convicted e-hailing driver Lim Soon Kien, 35, on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 354 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to 10 years' jail or a fine or whipping, or any two of such punishments.

Lim committed the offence against the 19-year-old victim behind a hostel of a private college here at around 6.40pm on Oct 23, 2026.

Based on the facts of the case, the victim met the accused, whom she had come to know through an e-hailing service platform, on the day of the incident.

While inside his car, Lim kissed the victim on her cheeks and forehead, as well as groped her breasts and private parts.

The victim repeatedly told him to stop but he ignored her pleas.

She managed to escape and filed a police report that led to Lim's arrest the next day.

Deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Fauzulutfi Suriani prosecuted, while the accused did not have legal representation.

CID personnel found the crying baby boy near a rented house.

Kapit cops rescue newborn boy found buried alive, suspect identified

KAPIT: Police discovered a newborn baby buried alive near a rented house on Jalan Airport here on Tuesday.

Kapit police chief DSP Rohana Nanu confirmed that a Criminal Investigation Division (CID) team found the crying baby boy faced down and partially buried in soil around 11.30pm.

According to preliminary information, police had conducted a search in the area after receiving a tip-off.

It is understood that the baby was discovered in critical condition and rushed to Kapit Hospital.

The baby was later transferred to Sibu Hospital for further treatment.

According to sources, the female suspect has been identified but police have yet to record her statement as she is still receiving medical treatment in hospital.

Police are investigating the case under Section 317 of the Penal Code for exposure and abandonment of a child under 12 years by a parent or person having care of it.

Sisters fined for role in promoting non-existent online gambling games to foreigners

The sisters exit the courtroom after sentencing. — Photo by Desiree David

KUCHING: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday fined two sisters RM4,000 each in default three months in prison for conspiring to cheat victims into handing over money for a non-existent online gambling operation.

Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan imposed the fine after Liew Yun Hong, 26, and Liew Yun Tong, 22, pleaded guilty to a charge framed under Section 120B(2) of the Penal Code read together with Section 420 of the same Code.

The Section provides for imprisonment of up to five years or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

The siblings committed the offence at a house in a residential area here at about 12.30am on Oct 23, 2026.

Based on the facts of the case, police arrested the sisters on the day of the incident on suspicion of operating a call centre to promote non-existent online gambling games.

The games offered lucrative rewards through websites targeting citizens of the Philippines and China.

During the arrest, police seized a laptop and three mobile phones as evidence.

An analysis of the seized devices found links to activities involving the hosting of fraudulent online gambling websites targeting citizens of the Philippines and China.

Deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Fauzulutfi Suriani handled the case, while the sisters were unrepresented by legal counsel.

Seven traffic summonses issued to five lorries in Kapit

KAPIT: Police issued seven traffic summonses to five lorries during a road enforcement operation along Jalan Selirik-Mujong-Balleh on Tuesday.

Kapit police chief DSP Rohana Nanu said the operation, led by the district Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Division, focused on vehicle inspections, detecting suspicious activities and enforcing traffic laws to improve road safety.

She said 20 vehicles were inspected between 10.30am and 5pm, comprising three motorcycles, four cars, seven four-wheel-drive vehicles and six lorries.

"The seven summonses involved various offences, including carrying dangerous loads, misuse of permits and bald tyres," she said in a statement.

Rohana said police would continue to intensify road checks and enforcement to ensure motorists complied with traffic regulations and prioritised safety.

She also urged the public to provide information on traffic offences or suspicious activities to assist police in maintaining public safety.

Bomba's K9 unit joins the search on the third day of the operation.

K9 unit joins search for missing man in Song

SONG: A search-and-rescue (SAR) operation for a 52-year-old man who went missing while searching for forest produce in Nanga Bangkit here entered its third day yesterday, with the Fire and Rescue Department's (Bomba) K9 unit joining the search.

The man, identified as James Nanta, was reported missing after leaving his longhouse at about 11am on Oct 22 to search for forest produce in the Sungai Pera area.

"He had not returned home or been contactable since then, prompting his family and longhouse residents to begin searching for him on Oct 23," Bomba said.

The Song fire station team resumed the search at 8am, working alongside police, Civil Defence Force (APM) and local residents.

The K9 unit arrived at the search area at 11.36am with two handlers and search dog Daisy to assist the five firefighters already on the ground.

The operation has been hampered by difficult access, with rescuers having to travel along logging roads before continuing by longboat to reach the remote longhouse and surrounding area.

The absence of Government Integrated Radio Network (GIRN) coverage at the location has also posed challenges for coordination.

James is described as slim, about 158cm tall and weighing approximately 50kg, with dark brown skin. He has tattoos, including an eagle on one arm and another on his neck.

Bomba said the search was ongoing as of yesterday afternoon, with further updates to be provided as information became available.

The full council meeting in progress.

Business as usual for SMC despite DUN dissolution — Ting

Conny Banji
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> There is a public misconception that when the state government dissolves, our council is also not working.
>
> Clarence Ting

SIBU: The Sibu Municipal Council (SMC) is continuing to operate as normal despite the dissolution of the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly (DUN) on Oct 26, said chairman Clarence Ting.

Dispelling public misconceptions that the council's work would be scaled back during the election period, he stressed SMC remained fully operational.

"There is a public misconception that when the state government dissolves, our council is also not working.

"I just want to say that the local government is working and active all the time," he said during the full council meeting yesterday.

Ting said while councillors might be occupied with election-related activities, the council's administration, headed by the municipal secretary, would continue with daily operations.

He said routine work, including the processing of applications, road and drain certification, public health services, and accounting, would continue as usual.

"Recently, two developers and a consultant came to see me and said that during the election, we (SMC) would be very busy.

"Our administration under the council secretary should be quite independent in carrying on with daily work. Our accountants will work as usual and cannot use the election as an excuse not to work," Ting said.

On the upcoming 13th state election, Ting said the political situation had been relatively quiet so far.

"This is the first time I have seen, before an election, that there is no infighting. So far, it has been very quiet.

"I don't know whether this is a good or bad sign. I hope that on Nomination Day, we will all come out to support Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) to ensure it remains in power," he added.

Meanwhile, Ting said SMC has collected 82.54 per cent of its assessment rates second instalment for 2026, with taxpayers urged to settle outstanding payments before the Oct 31 deadline to avoid late charges.

He said the council is targeting a collection rate of over 90 per cent by the deadline, compared with up to 94 per cent in previous years.

"As of today (Oct 28), the collection rate stands at 82.54 per cent. I hope payments in these final days will push the rate up by at least 12 percentage points to surpass the 90 per cent mark," he said.

On digital services, Ting said registrations for the council e-billing system had reached 51.69 per cent after five years of promoting its use.

"After five years of encouraging the use of this e-billing system, our achievement has at least reached nearly 52 per cent, showing continuous improvement."

At the same time, he said the SMC Assessment Rate Collection Committee had recovered 36.84 per cent of outstanding assessment rates, surpassing the annual key performance indicator of 35 per cent set by the Ministry for Public Health, Housing and Local Government.

"To prevent overcrowding during the final days of payment, we have instructed our administration to prepare the Sibu Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) customer service area.

"I have asked them to ensure that counter operations and the layout are closely monitored. We do not want a repeat of what happened several years ago when the UTC area became so overcrowded that people had nowhere to stand while waiting for their turn," he said.

He added the Sibu UTC payment counters operated from 8am to 7pm daily to accommodate taxpayers settling their assessment rates before the deadline.

Budget 2027: Higher allowances for PwDs, special needs students

KUALA LUMPUR: Financial assistance for persons with disabilities (PwDs), chronically ill patients and special needs students will increase under Budget 2027 as the government strengthens support for vulnerable groups.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri said the monthly allowance for the Care Assistance for Bedridden Persons with Disabilities and Chronically Ill Patients scheme would rise from RM500 to RM600.

The income eligibility threshold for the Disabled Workers Allowance will also rise from RM1,700 to RM2,000 a month, allowing more PwDs to qualify from assistance.

Meanwhile, the Special Education Needs Student Allowance will increase from RM150 to RM200 a month, while the Special Education Needs Teaching Incentive will rise from RM250 to RM300.

Winding up the debate on the 2027 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday, Nancy stressed that welfare assistance must be distributed based on need and eligibility, regardless of political affiliation or personal connections.

She said applications could be submitted through the Social Welfare Department's (JKM) eBantuan system or at district welfare offices, with rejected applicants allowed to appeal within six months.

She said the ministry would continue monitoring recipients' eligibility to ensure assistance reached those genuinely in need.

On support for women and families, Nancy said the ministry would continue strengthening the country's care ecosystem to help women remain in the workforce while fulfilling family responsibilities.

She said more than 67,000 children were receiving childcare services at over 3,300 JKM-registered childcare centres as of June 2026, compared with 58,000 children in 2023.

The government also provides a monthly childcare fee subsidy of RM180 for eligible recipients and individual income tax relief of up to RM3,000 a year for fees paid to registered childcare centres and kindergartens.

Budget 2027 also includes a RM100 million matching grant from government linked investment companies and government linked companies to strengthen the childcare ecosystem, alongside an expansion of individual tax relief to cover all expenses related to caring for parents and grandparents, rather than healthcare expenses alone.

Nancy said these measures were intended to ease families' financial burdens and improve women's participation in the labour market.

She noted that the female labour force participation rate increased from 56.2 per cent in 2023 to 56.6 per cent in 2025, with the government targeting 60 per cent by 2030 under the Madani Economy framework.

The ministry is also working to improve support for victims of domestic violence through advocacy, protection, psychosocial assistance, legal support and rehabilitation services.

Among the initiatives are the Aku Wanita@Keganasan Rumah Tangga programme, the End Violence Against Women campaign, the SARI@KRT survivor support initiative and the K-Chat psychological intervention service.

Nancy said coordination between JKM, Royal Malaysia Police, Health Ministry, legal service providers, and non-governmental organisations would remain important in improving assistance and protection for victims.

On fertility support, she said RM7 million was planned for the National Population and Family Development Board's (LPPKN) Fertility Treatment Assistance and Infertility Advocacy initiative, known as BuAI, in 2027.

Nancy also addressed concerns over elderly care facilities, saying operators must comply with the Care Centres Act 1993 and meet requirements set by relevant technical agencies, including local authorities, the Fire and Rescue Department and the Health Department.

"JKM's monitoring includes inspections of caregiver to resident ratios, staff health, fire safety training, record keeping and compliance with technical requirements," she said.

"The ministry will continue family and parenting education programmes through LPPKN, including initiatives focusing on parenting skills, family communication, child safety and responsible digital technology use," she said.

RM80 mln RIBI funding to ease burden on religious groups, says Sibu MP

SIBU: The increase in federal funding for the maintenance of non-Islamic houses of worship from RM50 million to RM80 million next year will help more religious institutions address ageing buildings, damaged facilities and rising maintenance costs.

SIbu MP Oscar Ling welcomed the increased allocation under the Non-Islamic Houses of Worship Maintenance Programme (RIBI), describing it as a positive development that would ease the financial burden on religious organisations nationwide.

He said the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had also distributed RM773,380 under the programme this year to six religious institutions.

The funding would enable the recipients to carry out repairs, upgrades and facility improvements, providing worshippers with safer and more comfortable environment for religious activities.

"With the increased allocation, the government will have more resources to assist eligible religious institutions in carrying out repairs, upgrades and facility improvements, thereby reducing the financial burden on religious organisations," he said in a statement.

Ling noted that government assistance for the maintenance of non-Islamic houses of worship was not a new initiative.

He said Perak had introduced a similar funding scheme as early as 2008, with other states subsequently adopted measures to support religious institutions.

The federal government, he added, introduced the nationwide RIBI programme in 2023, with an annual allocation of RM50 million and a maximum grant of RM250,000 for each approved project.

"The progression from initiatives first introduced by state governments, to the establishment of a nationwide funding mechanism by the federal government, and now to the further increase in funding in 2027, reflects the growing attention given to the maintenance needs of non-Islamic houses of worship," he said.

"Malaysia is a multiracial and multi-religious country and in formulating policies and allocating resources, the government should uphold the principles of fairness and inclusiveness, while taking into account the actual needs of the people, so that no religious community feels neglected."

Ling said supporting the upkeep of non-Islamic houses of worship went beyond addressing maintenance issues, as it also helped promote mutual understanding, respect and harmony among communities of different faiths

He also encouraged eligible religious organisations to prepare their applications early, noting that the RIBI programme generally opens for applications in March each year.

Applicants can visit the official eRIBI website at https://eribi.kpkt.gov.my/eribi/syarat for eligibility requirements and application procedures.

Ling reminded applicants that funding was limited and early submissions would help them avoid missing the application period.

Sealink steps up efforts to promote workplace integrity, employee well-being

MIRI: Sealink International Berhad has stepped up efforts to foster a safe, ethical and supportive workplace through its Sealink Sustainability Programme 2026, focusing on integrity, employee protection and mental well-being.

Held at the company's head office in Piasau Industrial Area here yesterday, the one-day programme brought employees together for a series of awareness talks covering anti-corruption, whistleblower protection, workplace bullying and harassment, human rights and mental health.

The initiative formed part of Sealink's broader Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy to promote ethical conduct, inclusivity and employee welfare.

The programme began with a talk on anti-bribery, corruption and whistleblower protection by Jemat Ngadit from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

This was followed by a session on workplace bullying and sexual harassment conducted by Inspector Mohd Rayhan Albert from the Miri District Police Headquarters.

Emillia Sayat from the Social Security Organisation (Socso) addressed human rights awareness and inclusivity, while psychologist Felicia Cosmas from Klinik Kesihatan Bandaraya Miri spoke on mental health awareness.

Felicia's session emphasised the importance of prioritising psychological well-being alongside professional responsibilities.

As part of the programme, Sealink also contributed RM3,000 to the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Team at the Miri Divisional Health Office.

The contribution, presented to Felicia on behalf of the team, will be used to purchase kits to strengthen its preparedness and capacity to provide psychosocial support to communities affected by disasters, traumatic incidents and crises in Miri Division.

Sealink International Berhad staff and MACC officers pose for a group photo.

Sealink reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a workplace culture built on integrity, respect and equality while raising awareness of employee protection and mental well-being.

MoE expands K11 school programme to 10 more schools next year

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Education (MOE) plans to expand the K11 Comprehensive School Programme to 10 more schools next year to improve access to education from primary to secondary level, particularly in rural areas.

Deputy Education Minister Wong Kah Woh said nine schools had implemented the programme since its introduction in 2023, enabling students to complete their education from Year 1 to Form 5 under one roof.

He said the pilot programme was first introduced at SMK Long Bedian in Sarawak and SMK Benta in Pahang.

"We are aware that some schools are not yet ready to transition to K9 or K11 schools. However, provided the conditions are suitable, the ministry will ensure that access to education remains available," he said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He added that the ministry provided 18 types of assistance to schoolchildren in both urban and rural areas.

Wong was responding to a question from Datuk Mohd Kurniawan Naim Moktar (BN-Kinabatangan) on the ministry's strategic action plan to address the risk of long-term school dropout among students from multidimensionally hardcore poor households.

He said the ministry continued to narrow the educational gap through targeted interventions and periodic curriculum improvements as part of its long-term strategy. Under the District Transformation Programme, targeted interventions were implemented in 744 schools in 2025, benefiting 41,817 students across six core subjects.

The initiatives aimed to address disparities in academic achievement based on geographical location, socioeconomic background and gender.

Wong said the proportion of rural Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) candidates eligible to receive their certificates rose from 92.31 per cent in 2024 to 92.9 per cent in 2025.

Meanwhile, the gender gap in certificate eligibility rates narrowed from 5.95 percentage points to 5.32 percentage points over the same period.

He said the targeted interventions, academic support and curriculum improvements reflected the ministry's commitment to promoting educational equity and ensuring that every student had access to quality education, regardless of socioeconomic background. — Bernama

Sabah's carbon economy: Policy & governance

The final instalment of this two-part report outlines experts' recommendations to help Sabah realise its carbon economy potential.

Fadzli Ramli

The absence of effective local governance arrangements risks turning green aspirations and the carbon economy into little more than an accounting illusion. — Bernama photo

Datuk Zainudin Aman

Datuk Seri Hashim Paijan

KOTA KINABALU: The biggest challenge facing Sabah's carbon economy is shifting from the realm of discussion to the corridors of bureaucracy.

Promises of billions of ringgit in potential returns will mean little without robust enforcement and an efficient administrative machinery.

Through a new policy framework, particularly the enforcement of the Sabah Climate Change and Carbon Governance Enactment 2025, the Sabah government is beginning to draw a line under an era of green rhetoric that looks impressive on paper but delivers little in practice.

However, the real test of this commitment lies in the ability of public agencies to break down institutional silos, curb the risk of emissions data manipulation, and ensure transparency in carbon registration, while positioning the state to capitalise on the vast opportunities in the sector.

Despite the flurry of international agreements and memoranda of understanding, the absence of effective local governance arrangements risks turning green aspirations and the carbon economy into little more than an accounting illusion.

ESG is not CSR

Former Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy deputy dean (Research and Innovation) Assoc Prof Dr Suddin Lada said Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting was no longer merely a form of corporate social responsibility (CSR).

"It has become the new business norm in the post-2015 Paris Agreement era. Malaysia has pledged to reduce its carbon emissions intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

"The question is, are our agencies truly ready?" he told Bernama.

He said early preparations by government agencies, companies and other stakeholders were essential to align with international ESG frameworks, such as those of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), and the country's National Sustainability Reporting Framework (NSRF).

"Although the Companies Commission of Malaysia has yet to fully mandate public reporting, preparations must begin now because emissions data collection, the development of skilled personnel and operational alignment require considerable time and cannot be rushed," he said.

To facilitate the process, Suddin said UMS, with a grant from the Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (Sedia) and expertise from overseas university consultants, had developed an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered smart carbon accounting application.

The application can automatically convert an organisation's basic input data into 11 types of reports based on international standards, helping bridge the gap between scientific analysis and business strategy.

However, Suddin voiced concern over entrenched bureaucratic practices, particularly overlapping jurisdictions and silo-based operations among various land, forestry and mineral agencies, in the absence of dedicated coordination mechanisms.

"Even in terms of taxation, the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) has yet to finalise the carbon tax rate, although the relevant calculation indicators are already available for testing in the application," he said.

On carbon emissions, Suddin cited figures from the Energy Commission's (ST) Electricity Grid Emission Factor (GEF) Report 2022-2024, which recorded factors of 0.199 for Sarawak, 0.539 for Sabah and 0.740 for Peninsular Malaysia.

The figures are measured in kilogrammes of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilowatt-hour (kg CO_2e/kWh).

He said GEF measures the average carbon emissions associated with generating and supplying one unit of electricity through a region's power grid.

"The figures indicate how much carbon is released in generating and supplying electricity. Sarawak records the lowest factor at 0.199 because it relies heavily on hydropower, a low-carbon energy source.

"Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia recorded higher factors of 0.539 and 0.740 respectively, reflecting their greater reliance on fossil fuels and natural gas for electricity generation.

"Sabah has begun developing several green energy projects, including solar farms, which can help reduce its emission factor. However, there is still a considerable gap between Sabah and Sarawak," he said.

According to the report, the GEF figures for Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah were calculated by ST, while Sarawak's figure was derived from Sarawak Energy Bhd's (SEB) annual and sustainability reports.

Suddin acknowledged that organisations could find the initial phase of ESG investment challenging, describing it as "costly, complicated and risky".

Nevertheless, he stressed that Malaysia could not afford to miss the opportunity if it wanted to honour its international climate commitments for 2030 and 2050.

Fit-for-purpose ESG framework

Turning to the practical implementation of carbon economy initiatives within public sector departments, UMS Financial Management and Banking senior lecturer Dr Rudy Ansar said a one-size-fits-all approach would not work, as strategies must be tailored to the specific needs of each organisation.

"Every department and agency has different functions, scopes of work and responsibilities. Therefore, low-carbon initiatives must be tailored to the respective priorities and capabilities of each organisation," he said.

He said public agencies and departments were not necessarily required to adopt identical ESG strategies or rush into replicating more radical approaches to implementation.

Instead, he said they could begin with simple, practical measures in their daily operations, such as UMS' shift from printing documents on paper to using digital copies.

"Making drastic changes, such as converting an entire office's electricity supply to solar energy, would involve prohibitively high costs and would be difficult to achieve within a short period.

"That is why initial priorities should focus on basic energy-saving practices, such as reducing electricity consumption and minimising waste in daily workplace operations, where changes can be implemented directly," he said.

Strategic collaboration

As an investment catalyst, Sedia, through its chief executive Datuk Seri Hashim Paijan, has adopted a proactive approach to attracting international green capital.

Hashim said commitments to the carbon economy must be backed by sustainable scientific capabilities, making Sedia's strategic partnerships with institutions such as UMS, University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney and Hainan University (HNU) crucial.

"For Sedia, governance commitments are not merely discussions on paper. They are reinforced through these global collaborations, which are intended to provide a strong foundation for strengthening Sabah's sustainable investment ecosystem through research and reliable data tracking that can inspire confidence among foreign investors," he said.

Collaboration between Sedia, UMS and UNSW has resulted in the development of Sabah's carbon accounting application, calculator and training modules to help manage the state's carbon emissions effectively.

The new digital system enables public agencies and industry players to map their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions profiles.

"With more effective carbon measurement, Sabah's carbon accounting records can be presented clearly and transparently, helping to convince international investors to invest in the state," he said.

Hashim said Sedia was also expanding its collaboration with HNU in areas including the blue economy, carbon economy, ESG, aquaculture and marine technology through research and development, technology transfer, talent development, commercialisation and community empowerment.

"In addition, HNU has offered scholarships for Sabah students, including opportunities to pursue Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies, as part of efforts to develop the state's talent pool and human capital," he said.

To ensure the continuity of local administrative capacity, Sedia, together with UMS and the Sabah Public Service Department's training institute Insan, has launched a series of training courses to develop a pipeline of auditors and government officers.

"A comprehensive understanding of carbon accounting is no longer optional. It is a key prerequisite for maintaining access to international markets and attracting quality ESG investments to Sabah," he stressed.

Government's focus

Bringing the discussion to the highest level of administration, Sabah State Secretary Datuk Zainudin Aman said the state's status as a carbon sink could no longer be passively regarded as a conservation statistic on paper.

"The administration's main focus now is to translate this negative carbon position into carbon value that delivers tangible financial benefits and improves the well-being of the people," he said.

This commitment is underpinned by the enforcement of the Sabah Climate Change and Carbon Governance Enactment 2025, which serves as the legislative backbone of climate governance in the state.

The enactment provides the state government with the legal authority to regulate GHG emissions, establish carbon pricing policies and set standards for sustainable governance.

To ensure transparency and prevent overlapping jurisdictions, Zainudin said the Sabah government had established the Sabah Climate Action Council (SCAC) as the highest strategic governing body.

"This structure is further strengthened by the establishment of the Sabah Climate Registry and Inventory Centre (SaCRIC), a single platform to manage emissions data and the registration of carbon credits in the state," he said. — Bernama

Viknesh poses with his award.

Swinburne Sarawak researcher bags two national awards

KUCHING: Prof Dr Viknesh Andiappan of Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus has received two national awards this year in recognition of his contributions to scientific research, industrial decarbonisation and sustainable energy systems.

The awards are the Ten Outstanding Young Malaysians (TOYM) Award 2026, presented by Junior Chamber International (JCI) Malaysia under the Scientific and Technological Development category, and the MOSTA Young Scientist Award 2026, presented at the Oils and Fats International Congress (OFIC) 2026.

According to a university statement, the TOYM Award honours outstanding young Malaysians who have made meaningful contributions to society in their respective fields, while the MOSTA Young Scientist Award recognises scientific work that advances innovation and industry sustainability in the oils and fats sector.

Viknesh, who is also associate director of research at Swinburne Sarawak, specialises in industrial decarbonisation and energy systems optimisation.

His research focuses on mathematical modelling and optimisation approaches to help industries and policymakers identify cost-effective, sustainable and resilient pathways towards a low-carbon economy.

He and his collaborators have also researched carbon market opportunities for Malaysia's palm oil industry, examining potential carbon credit pathways and the policy and market conditions required to facilitate their adoption.

Expressing his gratitude for the recognition, Viknesh said the achievements reflected the collective efforts of his family, mentors, students, colleagues and collaborators.

"What makes these awards particularly meaningful is the opportunity to see our research contribute beyond academia, whether through supporting industries in their decarbonisation efforts or informing policy discussions on Malaysia's energy transition," he said.

He hoped the recognition would encourage more young researchers to pursue work that advances scientific knowledge while creating meaningful impacts on industry, society and the environment. His current research includes decarbonising port operations, regional energy transition planning and addressing the growing energy requirements of critical technologies such as data centres and electric mobility.

Sarawak partners IACA for regional governance leadership training

KUCHING: A total of 70 Certified Enforcement and Integrity Officers (CEIOs) from Sarawak will participate in the Sarawak Regional Governance Leadership Programme 2026, marking the first collaboration between the Sarawak government and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA).

Caretaker Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department (Integrity and Ombudsman) Datuk Dr Juanda Jaya said the programme would provide 70 selected CEIOs with specialised training in integrity, corruption prevention and good governance.

"Sending 70 of our officers to Vienna would certainly involve substantial costs. Therefore, we are grateful to IACA and its board of directors for agreeing to bring this programme to Sarawak for the first time.

"This initiative marks an important milestone as the first collaboration of its kind in Borneo between the state government, represented by the Sarawak Integrity and Ombudsman Unit (UNIONS) and the Sarawak Centre of Performance Excellence (SCOPE), and the IACA based in Vienna, Austria.

"This is to ensure that the participants receive focused professional competency training in integrity, corruption prevention and good governance," he said at the Sarawak Regional Governance Leadership Programme press conference here Tuesday.

Juanda said the four-day programme would focus on four main themes, beginning with international cooperation.

Juanda (centre) and other officials pose after the press conference. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

"We will have experts from IACA, which has trained anti-corruption officers from around the world. IACA serves as an international training centre for anti-corruption officers.

"For example, officers from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) receive training through their respective programmes," he said.

He said the second theme is innovation in corruption prevention in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalisation.

"Corruption practices are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Therefore, we need to learn from international experiences on how to address these emerging challenges."

He said the third theme is good governance and ethical leadership, where the emphasis is not solely on good governance as a system of operations and standard operating procedures, but also on ethical leadership.

The fourth theme—corruption reporting and accountability—seeks to foster a culture in which any suspected corrupt activity is reported as an early preventive measure.

"Reports may be submitted anonymously or under the reporter's own name. However, every report must be made responsibly. It must not be based on slander or unfounded allegations, but must be supported by facts, data and the relevant regulations," he said.

Juanda said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) would also be signed between the state government, represented by UNIONS and IACA.

"This MoU will serve as a foundation for future cooperation in capacity-building programmes, knowledge exchange and professional development for our officers.

"It will also provide an important opportunity for our CEIOs to explore further training opportunities under IACA's internationally recognised programmes such as the Regional Summer Academy in IACA or other countries in the future," he said.

The programme will feature talks by IACA dean Drago Kos on 'International Cooperation in Combating Corruption with Case Studies', and Perdana International Anti-Corruption Champion Foundation founder Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed on 'How to Say No to Corruption'.

IKEA Kuching to open at Batu Kawa's Pines Mall on Nov 27

KUCHING: IKEA Kuching will open its doors at Pines Mall, Batu Kawa on Nov 27, bringing around 5,000 home furnishing articles and popular IKEA food items, including its signature meatballs, to Sarawak for the first time.

IKEA Malaysia in a statement said the new store would be the retailer's first small-format outlet in the country, offering a more compact shopping experience while maintaining the same prices as its stores in Peninsular Malaysia.

Customers can explore home furnishing solutions, purchase selected furniture and accessories on the spot, or order items for collection or home delivery.

The range will cover living rooms, bedrooms, dining areas, kitchens, storage and children's spaces, featuring popular products such as the KALLAX shelving unit, POÄNG armchair and BILLY bookcase.

> For the first time, Sarawakians will be able to experience IKEA physically, right here in Kuching.
>
> **Takeshi Murai**

IKEA Kuching will also introduce a grab-and-go food concept featuring familiar favourites, including meatballs, curry puffs, hot dogs and soft serve, as well as Swedish food products for customers to take home.

IKEA Malaysia country retail director Takeshi Murai said the opening would bring the retailer closer to its goal of creating a better everyday life at home for more people.

"For the first time, Sarawakians will be able to experience IKEA physically, right here in Kuching," he said.

He said the store would provide customers with a place to explore ideas, find inspiration and discover affordable home furnishing solutions, whether for small improvements or more extensive home projects.

Murai also highlighted affordability as a key commitment, saying Sarawakians would enjoy the same IKEA prices as customers in Peninsular Malaysia, without an additional East Malaysia price premium. The store will also provide home furnishing expertise and planning support for customers seeking more comprehensive solutions for their homes.

Customers can join IKEA Family to access membership benefits, selected offers and experiences throughout the year.

Opening weekend activities are scheduled from Nov 27 to 29, with further details on activities and IKEA Family offers to be announced closer to the launch. For more information, visit ikea.my/kuching.

Pupils from the four participating schools gather for a group photo taken at the end of the camp.

Four rural schools hold joint camp in Baram

MIRI: A total of 38 pupils, 29 staff members and parent-teacher association (PTA) representatives from four rural schools took part in a three-day joint camp at SK Sungai Sebatu in Baram from Oct 23 to 25.

The participating schools were SK Sungai Sebatu, SK Morek, SK Sungai Peking and SK Ubong Imang.

In a statement, SK Sungai Sebatu said the camp featured activities such as jungle trekking, jungle cooking, first-aid bandaging and marching drills to develop teamwork, discipline, leadership and resilience among participants.

"Being in a rural setting does not mean learning must be limited. This camp demonstrated how schools can rise to the occasion, overcome challenges and create meaningful learning opportunities despite limited resources," the school said.

The school also expressed gratitude to the PTA representatives for their support and involvement, as well as the sponsors who contributed to the success of the programme.

They included Sara Carbon, KJW Miri, JEH Enterprise, PJ Hill, Bumimas Sdn and Lajaya Resources, along with individual contributors.

"More than just a camp, this initiative celebrated the power of unity and the belief that every child deserves opportunities to learn, grow and thrive, regardless of where they come from," the school said.

'White with Bling Bling' to add sparkle to PWOUM pre-Christmas celebration

MIRI: The theme 'White with Bling Bling' will add a touch of elegance and sparkle to the Persatuan Wanita Orang Ulu Miri (PWOUM) pre-Christmas dinner this Nov 1.

The annual celebration, to be held from 6.30pm at the Eastwood Valley Golf and Country Club ballroom, promises an evening of festive cheer, cultural performances and fellowship.

PWOUM chairlady Kijan Toynbee said preparations were well underway, with 50 tables already booked for the event.

Caretaker Deputy Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts and Piasau incumbent Datuk Sebastian Ting will be the guest of honour.

Kijan said the dinner is being held ahead of Christmas to allow members, their families and friends to celebrate together before leaving Miri for their respective hometowns during the festive season.

She said the gathering was also an opportunity to strengthen friendship and foster closer ties among members of the Orang Ulu community.

"Beyond the festive celebrations, the event will bring together people from different ethnic backgrounds, promoting unity and greater understanding among Miri's diverse communities," she added.

Guests can look forward to an entertaining programme featuring Christmas carols, cultural performances, a Christmas fashion show, karaoke sessions and lucky draws.

Kijan said a rehearsal had already been held to ensure the programme would run smoothly.

Ting (centre) presents the Unifor allocation cheque to Francis. Looking on is Simon.

SK St Columba receives RM139,665 Unifor grant for electrical upgrades

MIRI: SK St Columba Miri has received RM139,665 from the Sarawak government through the Unit for Other Religions (Unifor) to upgrade its electrical facilities and improve the school's power supply.

Caretaker Deputy Minister of Tourist Datuk Sebastian Ting said the allocation would cover rewiring works at the school's administrative office block and teachers' room, as well as the installation of an additional electricity meter.

"The improvements are necessary to ensure the school's electrical facilities meet its actual needs and support the smooth running of daily administrative operations and teaching activities," he said.

The Piasau incumbent said this to reporters after presenting the allocation to school headmaster Francis Awos here on Tuesday.

Also present was the school's Board of Management chairman Simon Ilus.

Ting said Unifor assistance played an important role in helping schools improve their infrastructure and provide a safer, more comfortable and conducive learning environment.

He reiterated the government's commitment to addressing the needs of schools across different education streams and religious communities while promoting social harmony and inclusive development.

Unifor was established by the state government to manage and coordinate matters involving non-Islamic religions, including channelling financial assistance to eligible religious institutions and related organisations for infrastructure improvements.

Final appeal for relatives of unclaimed deceased man ahead of cremation

MIRI: The remains of a man who died at Miri Hospital a month ago are set to be cremated on Nov 4, unless his relatives come forward by Oct 31.

In an appeal yesterday, Miri City Caring Society (MCCS) said it is seeking the family or next-of-kin of the late Sii Tuong Hung, 69, whose remains have been unclaimed at the hospital mortuary.

MCCS said official clearance and permissions had been obtained by the relevant authorities, and that the cremation was tentatively scheduled for Nov 4 after all avenues to locate his family had been exhausted.

To date, not a single family member or relative has come forward or made contact with either the MCCS or the hospital.

According to hospital records, Sii was taken by ambulance to Miri Hospital after he was found struggling to breathe near a food court in the city.

He died of an illness on Sept 25.

His last known addresses were registered in Tanjung Kunyit, Sibu, and Lot 894, Lorong 10, Krokop here.

Sii Tuong Hung

MCCS had made an earlier public appeal on Oct 12, and the case received coverage in mainstream and social media.

The hospital and police had also tried to trace his relatives, but no one has claimed the body or offered to assist with funeral arrangements.

Anyone with information on Sii's family, or relatives who wish to make arrangements, is urged to call MCCS chairman Karambir Singh on 016-8785500 or Philip Kiew on 019-8847726, or Miri Hospital directly, before the Oct 31 deadline.

MCCS is also inviting members of the public to contribute towards providing Sii with a dignified send-off.

Location data protection crucial to national security, data sovereignty

KUALA LUMPUR: Location data is more than just travel information, as it can reveal individuals' movement patterns, particularly those of civil servants and national leaders, making its protection crucial to cybersecurity and national data sovereignty.

Universiti Utara Malaysia College of Arts and Sciences assistant vice-chancellor and School of Computing dean Prof Dr Osman Ghazali said the ban on civil servants using the Waze navigation application for official duties was a preventive measure to minimise the risk of sensitive information being exposed.

"In the context of cybersecurity, we must view location data as sensitive information because it can reveal an individual's movement patterns, especially those of people holding key positions," he said when appearing on Bernama TV's 'Fokus 15' programme.

He said preventive measures should be prioritised in cybersecurity risk management to protect sensitive information from potential threats, rather than taking action only after a breach or data leak had occurred.

Osman clarified that the prohibition applied to civil servants carrying out official duties, while members of the public remained free to choose their preferred navigation applications for personal use.

He advised users to review their smartphone privacy settings, particularly the location access permissions granted to individual applications, to minimise the exposure of personal data.

"Users should change their location permission settings from 'Always Allow' to 'Only While Using the App', ensuring that an application can access their location only when it is actively being used," he said.

He also cautioned that the 'Invisible Mode' feature in navigation applications did not necessarily prevent service providers from collecting users' movement data, as it merely concealed their vehicle icons from other users on the public map.

He advised users to periodically delete their search and trip histories, disconnect unnecessary social media account links, and keep their device operating systems updated to strengthen personal data protection. — Bernama

Encouraging turnout at Miri blood donation drive

Jacqueline Raphael

MIRI: The second Miri City Blood Donor Day 2026 has reaffirmed the community's longstanding commitment to saving lives through voluntary blood donation, building on the city's 37-year legacy of blood donation activities.

Held at MYY Mall Lutong on Oct 24, the campaign recorded 58 registrations, with 49 successful donors including five people who donated blood for the first time.

The campaign brought together voluntary donors from various backgrounds under the theme 'One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives'.

It aimed to help maintain adequate blood supplies while encouraging more people, particularly younger generations, to become regular blood donors.

The event was jointly organised and sponsored by the Miri City Caring Society, Miri Indian Association, Inner Wheel Club of Miri, Rotary Club of Miri Oil Town, Miri Piasau Community Welfare Association and Miri Punjabi Association, with support from the Blood Bank and other sponsors.

(Standing second row, from second left) Lau, Karambir and others with a blood donor during the campaign.

Councillor Leslie Lau graced the event on behalf of Piasau incumbent Datuk Sebastian Ting and joined a meet-and-greet session with donors, expressing appreciation for their contributions and encouraging continued public participation in blood donation initiatives.

Meanwhile, organising chairman Karambir Singh thanked all donors for coming forward to support the campaign, describing their contributions as acts of compassion that could give patients a second chance at life.

"Every unit of blood donated today represents hope, compassion and a second chance at life for patients in need.

"We are deeply grateful to every donor who took the time to participate," he said.

He also expressed appreciation to the organising committee, volunteers, medical personnel, partner organisations, sponsors and supporters for ensuring the smooth running of the campaign.

Among the sponsors and supporters were MYY Mall Lutong, Indocafé, MYY Roasted Chicken Rice and Sarawak Oil Palm, whose contributions helped make the event a success.

The organisers hoped the campaign would inspire more members of the public to donate blood regularly, helping hospitals maintain sufficient supplies for patients requiring transfusions and those facing medical emergencies.

T'ganu to improve management of loss-making subsidiaries

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Terengganu government is conducting regular monitoring and improving management to restore the financial performance of its subsidiaries, after 20 of the 26 companies recorded combined losses of RM24.01 million in 2024.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar said the state government conducts internal audits and works with the National Audit Department to monitor the financial position, operational performance and challenges facing government-linked companies (GLCs).

He said the state government held meetings almost every month to assess the companies' progress, including reviewing financial reports and identifying necessary improvements.

"We welcome the audit findings and are continually working to improve the situation. Compared with 10 years ago, there has been a marked difference in efforts to minimise the losses suffered by the companies," he said after attending the Terengganu Biodiversity Seminar yesterday.

He was responding to questions about the financial performance of Terengganu-owned subsidiaries after findings from the Auditor-General's Report Series 2/2026 on the state went viral.

Ahmad Samsuri speaks to the press. — Bernama photo

Meanwhile, Ahmad Samsuri said the state government was also focusing on efforts to improve the companies' performance, including restructuring operations of those not generating revenue.

He said the state government would regularly review the financial performance of the companies involved to ensure continuous improvement. — Bernama

Melaka polls: Bersatu must explain how it will use PN logo, says Ahmad Samsuri

KUALA TERENGGANU: Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) needs to explain how it intends to use the Perikatan Nasional (PN) logo in the upcoming Melaka state election, PN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar said.

The Terengganu Menteri Besar said as PN chairman, he was the person the Election Commission (EC) notified as the authorised signatory for using the coalition's logo.

"So how does Bersatu intend to contest using the PN logo? You have to ask Bersatu how it plans to use the logo," he told reporters after the Terengganu Biodiversity Seminar here yesterday, while stressing that PN would continue to use its own logo in future elections.

Bersatu is embroiled in a dispute with the coalition following disagreements over its position within PN and a complaint lodged with the Registrar of Societies (RoS) over alleged exclusion from a coalition meeting.

On seat allocation negotiations, Ahmad Samsuri said the parties should uphold the basic principles they agreed on as they prepare for the Melaka state election and the next general election.

He said developments in Melaka were part of efforts to implement the basic principles discussed during earlier negotiations among the coalition's component parties.

"We hope these basic principles can be carried forward into subsequent negotiations," he said.

He also said the names of candidates from component parties intending to contest has been submitted, while the official announcement of candidates is scheduled for tonight (Oct 29) in Melaka.

On election preparations, Ahmad Samsuri said meetings and discussions had been held between PN representatives and the component parties to coordinate their joint campaign efforts.

He said the cooperation model being implemented in Melaka was expected to be improved based on lessons learnt during the Negeri Sembilan state election in August. – Bernama

Aspalila shows one of the servers containing advanced AI chips. — Bernama photo

KLIA Customs foils attempt to transit AI chips with potential military use

SEPANG: The Customs Department at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) foiled an attempt to transit 30 servers containing advanced artificial intelligence (AI) chips worth nearly RM49.5 million without the required authorisation.

The chips could potentially be used in the development of military technology, said KLIA Customs director Aspalila Ag Tuah.

She said the seizure was made by a team from the KLIA Customs Enforcement Division following a thorough inspection of a warehouse in the KLIA Free Trade Zone on Oct 15 at about 11.30am.

She said preliminary investigations found that the servers had been brought in from an Asian country under a single air waybill declaring them as electronic components, allegedly to evade detection by the authorities, before being re-exported to another Asian country.

"The syndicate also used Malaysia as a transit point to ensure there were no restrictions on the export of the servers to their next destination," she told a press conference here yesterday.

Meanwhile, Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti) Strategic Trade Secretariat senior assistant director Masyita Ismail said the high-performance AI chips were subject to strict controls as they were classified as dual-use items.

"The Strategic Trade Act 2010 regulates dual-use items, which can be used in the development of weapons of mass destruction," she said, adding that the brands, countries of origin and destinations of the chips could not be disclosed as investigations were ongoing.

The ministry enforces Strategic Trade Controller's Directive No. 1/2025 to regulate the export, transit and transhipment of advanced AI chips in Malaysia, with the aim of preventing the country from being used as a transit hub for high-performance chips destined for sanctioned countries.

The directive stipulates that chips with a Total Processing Performance (TPP) value of 4,800 or higher, or 1,600 or higher when combined with a Performance Density of 3.2 or higher, require a permit, which must be applied for 30 days before the chips are brought into Malaysia. — Bernama

Kesuma spreads Deepavali spirit to needy groups with food giveaway

KUALA LUMPUR: The Human Resources Ministry (Kesuma) is distributing 22,000 food baskets to families in need nationwide to help ease their financial burden and bring festive cheer ahead of Deepavali.

Minister Datuk Seri R. Ramanan said the initiative reflected the spirit of compassion and solidarity, ensuring that families facing financial difficulties could also experience the joy of the Festival of Lights.

"Deepavali is not just a celebration marked by lights, new clothes and delicious food. For me, the meaning of Deepavali is also reflected when we are willing to lend a helping hand to others," he said.

Ramanan was speaking at the send-off ceremony for the Madani Food Basket Contribution Programme in conjunction with Deepavali 2026 at Dewan Rakyat Batu Caves on Tuesday.

The initiative involves five agencies under Kesuma, including Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp), Social Security Organisation (Socso), Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), Skills Development Fund Corporation (PTPK), and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Ramanan said the contributions were intended to help families meet their basic needs and reduce household expenses during the festive period.

"We may not be able to resolve all their difficulties, but at the very least we can help ease their burden and give them the opportunity to celebrate Deepavali with greater happiness," he said.

He added that the initiative embodied the spirit of Ihsan Madani, where compassion must go beyond words and be translated into action.

Ramanan presents a food basket to a recipient during the event. — Bernama photo

He also highlighted the significance of unity and mutual respect among Malaysians, regardless of their backgrounds.

Referring to the Tamil saying 'Yaadhum Oore, Yaavarum Kelir', which means every place is our home and all people are our relatives, he said the principle served as a reminder that Malaysians could live together as a community that respected and cared for one another.

"In Malaysia, we can see this spirit when neighbours share food and colleagues celebrate festivals together," he said.

Ramanan cautioned against allowing differences to undermine the unity built over the years, emphasising that national harmony was essential for the future of the country and its younger generations.

He said Kesuma's commitment to supporting the public extended beyond providing immediate assistance, with the ministry and its agencies also working to create opportunities for better employment, skills development and improved living standards.

Through TalentCorp's MyBakat initiative, skills development is linked to industry needs to help more Malaysians, including those from the B40 income group, prepare for better employment opportunities.

Socso also provides free job-matching services and career guidance through MYFutureJobs, while HRD Corp offers training opportunities, including through the Madani Training Programme, which also targets the B40 community.

Meanwhile, PTPK provides financing or training loans for eligible individuals pursuing skills training, including gig workers, subject to the applicable requirements.

Ramanan also highlighted initiatives by the Malaysian Indian Transformation Unit (Mitra) to support the Indian community, including Uyarvu Madani business grants for B40 and M40 entrepreneurs, Kalvi Madani tuition classes for eligible B40 SPM and STPM students, and Peranti Madani digital devices for eligible university students.

"These are Kesuma's efforts to address the needs of the people, from basic necessities to employment opportunities and skills development," he said.

He also urged volunteers involved in the food basket distribution to treat recipient families with care and ensure their safety throughout the delivery process.

Ramanan expressed appreciation to all parties involved in the programme and hoped the contributions would benefit recipient families.

He also wished the Hindu community a Happy Deepavali, expressing hope that the festival would bring happiness and strengthen relationships among Malaysians.

DPP programme to help government identify, manage refugees — Home Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR: The registration and determination of refugee status under the Refugee Registration Document (DPP) Programme will serve as a basis for the government to determine appropriate measures for managing refugees, including repatriation when conditions permit or resettlement in a third country.

The Home Ministry (KDN) said the mechanism would also enable the government to manage the temporary presence of refugees and consider granting them access to permitted facilities based on their status and information obtained through the registration process.

In a written reply published on the Parliament website, the ministry said the DPP programme was being implemented in stages from Jan 1, 2026, beginning with individuals held at immigration detention depots before expanding to those in the community, including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cardholders and individuals claiming to be refugees or asylum seekers.

"The process involves the registration of personal information, collection of biometric data, background checks, security screening, and determination of refugee status by the government.

"Possession of a UNHCR card does not automatically mean that an individual is recognised as a refugee by the government. Only those who successfully pass the status determination process and security screening under the DPP programme will be recognised," it said.

The reply was in response to a question from P. Prabakaran (PH-Batu) on the measures taken by the government to ensure that UNHCR cardholders in Malaysia could be effectively identified, monitored and managed in accordance with national laws.

KDN said information collected under the programme would form an official government database to establish the identities, status and whereabouts of the individuals concerned. It would also facilitate monitoring and coordination among relevant agencies based on accurate and verifiable information.

The ministry stressed that the implementation of the DPP programme would not confer citizenship, permanent resident status or the right to reside permanently in Malaysia.

Instead, it said the programme was intended to ensure that the identification, monitoring and management of refugees and asylum seekers remained under government control.

Meanwhile, in a separate written reply, KDN said holders of the DPP Card would be given conditional access to formal employment to prevent them from being pushed into the informal economy or exploited by syndicates.

The ministry said the work authorisation would also serve as an alternative to recruiting new foreign workers from abroad, in line with the 13th Malaysia Plan's objective of reducing the country's reliance on foreign labour.

"The skills and work experience possessed by DPP cardholders will create better opportunities for them to be resettled in third countries through complementary pathways," it said. — Bernama

PRAYER TIMES
18 Jamadilawwal, 1448H

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IMSAK	—	5:03
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ISYAK	—	7:20

PREPARED BY:
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PEJABAT MUFTI NEGERI SARAWAK

Cyclone Arnab lashes India coast, no deaths reported ● 12

THE BORNEO POST
WORLD
THURSDAY, October 29, 2026

Judges set to rule on Australian mushroom killer's appeal ● 12 >11

'Boost defence cooperation to tackle security threat'

KUALA LUMPUR: Asean must strengthen unity, deepen practical defence cooperation and promote frank dialogue to tackle regional security threats and growing risks to food and energy security, Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the opening of the 20th Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in Cebu, the Philippines, Teodoro outlined three priorities to guide discussions: Asean unity, practical cooperation and frank dialogue.

He said internal stability and unity were essential for the bloc to sustain cooperation in an increasingly fragmented world.

He urged member states to uphold Asean centrality and the principles that bind the bloc, including mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the renunciation of the threat or use of force.

"And where such differences exist, including in the South China Sea, we shall settle them through peaceful and legal means," he said, as quoted in a statement issued by the Asean Committee on Media Affairs and Strategic Communications.

Teodoro said practical cooperation through the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) was crucial to building trust among Asean defence establishments and delivering tangible benefits for the people.

Teodoro (centre) delivering his opening remarks during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Defence Ministers' Meeting in Cebu, central Philippines. — AFP photo

He cited progress in maritime security, the protection of critical underwater infrastructure and people-to-people exchanges.

He also called for broader cooperation to safeguard food and energy supplies against disruptions caused by conflicts beyond the region.

"This initiative gains in importance as Southeast Asia braces for a super El Nino, which will likewise affect food, water, electricity, and connectivity in our respective countries," he said.

The Philippine defence chief also urged frank exchanges on threats to public safety and regional stability, acknowledging that each country's public pronouncements were guided by its national policies and diplomatic considerations.

"However, we hope we can speak amongst us in an atmosphere of trust, confidence, and candour, especially in our bilateral meetings and other engagements on the sideline," he said.

Such discussions, he added, would help member states build mutual understanding, find common ground and address shared challenges.

The Philippines is hosting the 20th ADMM and the 13th ADMM-Plus on Oct 28–29 as part of its 2026 Asean chairmanship. — Bernama

NZ police seize 137kg of cocaine

WELLINGTON: New Zealand police have seized 137kg of cocaine, with an estimated street value of NZ$40 million (about US$22.7 million), from a shipping container in Auckland, reported Xinhua.

Police were called to a facility in south Auckland on Tuesday morning after staff became suspicious of several bags inside the container, Detective Inspector Karen Bright of the Counties Manukau Criminal Investigation Branch said in a statement on Wednesday.

Police found 137 individual bricks of cocaine concealed in several bags, along with two Glock pistols, ammunition magazines and about 200 rounds of ammunition, Bright said.

She added that the cocaine seizure represented an estimated 1.37 million doses.

The shipment arrived from the Netherlands via Balboa, police said, adding that further inquiries were underway. — Bernama-Xinhua

Two hundred 'Cruise for life' passengers stranded in Cambodia

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia: Around 200 passengers who paid to live on a cruise ship while travelling the world were abruptly left in a Cambodian port after the company ran out of money, an official said on Wednesday.

US-based operator Villa Vie Residences announced on Tuesday it had "suspended operations in Cambodia" as it worked to address "extraordinary increases" in fuel costs following the Iran war.

The 200-metre Odyssey left Northern Ireland in October 2024 for a continuous voyage for which residents could buy or rent rooms for a holiday or for life – some passengers selling everything they had to pay for it.

However, passengers were given just seven hours to pack their bags and leave during a scheduled stop in the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville, according to Long Dimanche, deputy governor of Preah Sihanouk province.

He said in a statement 203 guests and 156 crew had arrived aboard the Bahamas-flagged ship from Thailand on Oct 23, and had been due to go on to Vietnam.

"The sudden order to disembark has left many retirees and remote workers homeless thousands of miles from their home countries," he said.

Some passengers took flights out while others remained in the city, he said, adding that the ship itself was due to refuel and leave on Oct 31.

Randy Cassingham, a passenger on board who runs a cruise blog, wrote that the disembarkation order followed a "cascade of problems".

Under a post entitled 'Abandon Ship!', he said its Belfast launch was delayed by four months, while the ship never reached its capacity of 650 residents, peaking at around 350.

He said it was not a "luxury" ship but affordable – until the company started "begging for money".

Villa Vie said in its statement per-cabin monthly fuel expenses had gone from an average of US$1,800 to an estimated US$6,000 to US$8,000 in parts of Asia.

"The company cannot simply pass increases of that scale on to residents, and the resulting shortfall has placed its current operating model under unsustainable financial pressure," it said.

Cassingham accused the company of doing "absolutely nothing to help" stranded passengers.

Villa Vie said it was "working with residents to coordinate disembarkation and identify temporary living arrangements".

"Villa Vie Residences recognises that this is a difficult and disruptive period for residents, crew members, and employees, and is working to support those affected as plans develop," it said. — AFP

Passengers walking down from Villa Vie Residences' cruise ship Odyssey as it is docked at Sihanoukville port in Preah Sihanouk province. — AFP photo

Indonesia, Singapore agree to set up joint task force on forest fire accountability

JAKARTA: Indonesia and Singapore have agreed to establish a joint task force to hold companies responsible for forest and land fires accountable, including through financial intelligence sharing and cross-border evidence gathering.

The agreement was reached during talks between Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrmanatha Nasir and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan here on Tuesday, their first official meeting since Arrmanatha's appointment.

Arrmanatha said during the meeting, Singapore had offered to share data on companies linked to the fires, which Indonesia welcomed as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation in holding those responsible accountable.

"Indonesia is committed to working with Singapore and others to bring those responsible to justice. Smoke can cross borders, so can money.

"That is why we must follow the money trail these companies have left behind," he said at a joint press conference following the bilateral meeting in Jakarta on Tuesday, according to video recordings published by local media.

Arrmanatha cited Singapore's recent issuance of preventive-measures notices to 10 companies potentially linked to the forest fires, while noting that Indonesia was conducting its own coordinated national investigations.

On Indonesia's part, he said hundreds of individuals and more than 50 corporations had been or were being investigated and prosecuted over forest and land fires, with some found guilty under Indonesian law.

Meanwhile, Balakrishnan during the press conference confirmed Singapore's agreement to the proposal, saying the joint task force would ensure closer coordination and information sharing between the two countries to deter future violations.

"We therefore expect the deterrent impact of this joint task force to make a difference," he said. — Bernama

Hegseth proposes 'ambitious' US-Asean defence framework at Philippine summit

CEBU, Philippines: US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth proposed the creation of an "ambitious" new US-Asean defence framework on Wednesday, telling the bloc's leaders it could help them navigate "critically important" years ahead.

The United States has been seeking to boost its regional defence partnerships in recent years, citing the need to uphold what it terms a "free and open Indo-Pacific" as China has increasingly flexed its muscles in the region.

Hegseth, speaking before a meeting with defence chiefs from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Cebu, praised what he called the region's "pragmatism" and "proud nationalism".

"We're not going to agree on everything, nor do we need to," he said, calling for cooperation where shared interests overlap.

"As we look to the future in this region, I'd like us to be even more ambitious... we propose that we work together to develop a US-Asean Framework for Defence Cooperation," Hegseth said, without offering details.

"A practical framework that guides our cooperation over the next several years. I will note a critically important next several years."

He added that the United States was ready to begin the project as Singapore assumes the chairmanship of the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus in the coming year.

The grouping includes not only the bloc's 11 member states but representatives from the United States, Japan, China, Australia and others.

Hegseth also called for the strengthening of "maritime domain awareness" and advanced cooperation among naval forces.

"These are not symbolic things; they are concrete demonstrations of what serious partners do, serious partners train together, learn together, plan together, and build the confidence and competence necessary to prevent conflict," he said.

US ally the Philippines has been engaged in years of confrontations with China over disputed areas of the South China Sea.

China's military and coast guard presence in contested areas of the critical waterway nearly doubled in September, Manila said this month. — AFP

Asean special envoy leads humanitarian mission to Myanmar

MANILA: Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma Theresa Lazaro is leading the Asean humanitarian mission to Myanmar to help expand access to areas needing assistance, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported, citing the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Wednesday.

DFA spokesperson for Asean Affairs Dax Imperial said Lazaro will visit Shan State and hold meetings in Nay Pyi Taw from Oct 28 to 29 as the bloc seeks to advance humanitarian efforts in the conflict-hit country.

Imperial said there were no details on a possible meeting between Lazaro and detained Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"No details on such a meeting. For now, what we have is the humanitarian mission in Shan State and engagements in Nay Pyi Taw," Imperial said.

The mission comes as Asean presses for progress on its 2021 Five-Point Consensus, which calls for an end to violence, inclusive national dialogue and the delivery of humanitarian assistance without discrimination.

Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow expressed hope that Lazaro would make progress that she could report to Asean foreign ministers ahead of the bloc's upcoming leaders' summit in Manila.

"She is going there as the Asean special envoy, and we hope that there'll be good progress and some progress for her to report on when the Asean foreign ministers meet in Manila prior to the Asean Summit," Sihasak was quoted by Channel News Asia.

The mission is in partnership with the Asean Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) based in Jakarta and is joined by representatives from Asean Missions and Japan based in Yangon.

The delegation will visit designated sites in Taunggyi, Southern Shan State on Oct. 28, kicking off the monthlong distribution of humanitarian support to communities in Kayin State, Southern Shan State, and Northern Shan State.

The AHA Centre and its implementing partner, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, will continue the delivery of food and essential non-food items to affected communities through November 2026.

Lazaro (centre) shaking hands with a man during an Asean humanitarian monitoring mission to support affected and displaced communities in Taunggyi, southern Shan State. — AFP photo

Overall, the operation is expected to reach more than 11,000 households through the distribution of 50-kilogram bags of rice, family kits, and personal hygiene kits.

This mission marks AHA Centre's first delivery of humanitarian assistance in Northern Shan State, focusing on areas it has not previously reached.

On top of the humanitarian visit, Lazaro will lead the symbolic handover of a religious building, as well as the distribution of school kits to prefabricated school buildings built through contributions from the Philippines following an earthquake that severely affected central Myanmar in 2025.

"As Asean Chair, the Philippines has placed humanitarian assistance among its priorities on Myanmar.

"This humanitarian mission forms part of Secretary Lazaro's regional engagements that bring together several Myanmar stakeholders, including Myanmar authorities, representatives of Asean Member States and Dialogue Partners, and humanitarian actors in Myanmar," said the Department of Foreign Affairs. — Bernama-PNA

Cyclone Arnab lashes India coast, no deaths reported

KAKINADA, India: Ferocious winds and torrential rain lashed India's southeastern coast after a cyclone made landfall on Wednesday, but officials said there were no initial reports of deaths and the storm later began to ease.

Cyclone Arnab hit southeastern Andhra Pradesh state as a "very severe cyclonic storm", with winds of 125-135 kilometres per hour and gusts reaching 150 kph in the early hours of Wednesday morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Torrential rain was recorded – as much as 30 centimetres in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha states, IMD said, with the storm due to weaken into a "deep depression" throughout Wednesday afternoon.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said there had been no reported deaths from the storm, congratulating government officers who had "worked tirelessly throughout the night".

Naidu "expressed satisfaction that no loss of life occurred due to the proactive measures taken", his office said in a statement.

"We are making every possible effort to minimise the impact of the cyclone ... and restore normalcy at the earliest," Naidu added.

Around 50,000 people were told to move to safer areas in Andhra Pradesh and another 48,000 in neighbouring Odisha.

"Our homes get flooded, and we have to stay in the water," said Rajeshwari, 65, who gave only one name and had been taken to a government-run shelter near Kakinada.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel gathering near houses damaged by uprooted trees after Cyclone Arnab's landfall in Yanam, in India's Puducherry. — AFP photo

> Thank God, there was not as much damage this time. The sea is very rough, several trees have fallen, and sheds and hoardings have been damaged.
>
> **Hussain**

Overnight, gales battered trees and heavy rain lashed the port city of Kakinada, close to the heart of the storm, as powerful waves crashed ashore.

Residents on Wednesday emerged onto flooded streets to what appeared to be limited damage in the city.

Emergency officials were also busy clearing uprooted trees and other debris from affected roads in the coastal region.

"Thank God, there was not as much damage this time," said businessman Hussain, 43, who uses one name.

"The sea is very rough, several trees have fallen, and sheds and hoardings have been damaged."

Sadiq, 40, a Kakinanda city resident, told AFP that the situation had become "very dangerous" on Tuesday night, but early warnings from authorities had helped people prepare.

"Many people locked their houses and moved to safer places", he said.

Cyclones, called hurricanes in the North Atlantic and typhoons in the Pacific, are a regular menace in the Bay of Bengal and northern Indian Ocean.

The storm season, however, has been turbocharged by the El Nino weather phenomenon that has contributed to unprecedented warming.

Neighbouring Sri Lanka and Nepal had also issued warnings.

Nepal's disaster authority warned that the storm would move inland towards the Himalayas, bringing heavy rainfall and "a high risk of heavy snowfall, snowstorms and avalanches".

Nepal is still recovering from a catastrophic August 26 flood triggered by a glacial mountain collapse, which killed more than 1,400 people and left over 5,000 missing. — AFP

Australian mushroom murderer Erin Patterson will learn Friday if she has succeeded in overturning her conviction for killing three people with a poisoned beef Wellington lunch. — AFP file photo

Judges set to rule on Australian mushroom killer's appeal

SYDNEY: Australian mushroom murderer Erin Patterson will learn Friday if she has succeeded in overturning her conviction for killing three people with a poisoned beef Wellington lunch.

Patterson, 52, was found guilty last year of murdering her husband's parents and an elderly aunt in 2023 by serving them a beef-and-pastry meal laced with lethal death cap mushrooms.

A judge sentenced her to life imprisonment, eligible for parole after 33 years.

In August this year, her lawyers argued before the Court of Appeal in Melbourne that she had suffered a miscarriage of justice.

They alleged a litany of irregularities in the trial, including an "oppressive" cross-examination and unfair decisions on the admission of evidence.

Prosecutors also appealed, however, saying her 33-year non-parole period was "manifestly inadequate" – and she should never be allowed to walk free.

On Friday morning, the Court of Appeal will hand down its decision on both appeals, officials said.

On the conviction, the judges must decide whether there are even grounds to give her leave to appeal.

If they agree to do so, the judges may dismiss the appeal or uphold it, in which case they may order a new trial or acquit her.

On her sentence, the court will either dismiss the prosecution's appeal or uphold it and re-sentence her. Patterson was not expected to attend in person.

Her trial last year drew podcasters, film crews and true crime fans to a courthouse in the rural town of Morwell, a sedate hamlet in Victoria better known for its prize-winning roses.

Audiences from New York to New Delhi followed every twist of what many now simply call the "mushroom murders".

The motive of the killings remains a mystery.

A 12-person jury found Patterson guilty in July last year of murdering her husband Simon's parents, Don and Gail Patterson, as well as his aunt, Heather Wilkinson, at her home in the Victorian farming village of Leongatha.

She was also found guilty of attempting to murder Heather's husband Ian, a pastor who fell gravely ill but eventually recovered. — AFP

Philippine drug war enforcer says bounty puts life in danger

MANILA: Ex-Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's top drug war enforcer said on Wednesday that a government bounty placed on his head put his life in "serious danger", and asked the Supreme Court to stop his arrest.

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors have named sitting Senator Ronald 'Bato' Dela Rosa as one of eight "co-perpetrators" in the drug crackdown that killed thousands of drug suspects and drug users during the Duterte presidency.

The former national police chief has been in hiding since May, when officers attempted to serve an ICC warrant charging him with the crime against humanity of murder.

The Philippines designated him last week as an "armed and dangerous" fugitive, offered a 50 million-peso (US$786,000) reward for his capture, and formed a police task force to find and detain him.

"In law enforcement practice, the designation signals to operating units that armed resistance should be anticipated, which is precisely the setting in which lethal force is most likely to be used," Dela Rosa said in a Supreme Court filing that he posted on his Facebook page on Wednesday.

"Coupled with a bounty and a declaration abandoning restraint, the designation places Petitioner Dela Rosa's right to life .... in present and serious danger," the 64-year-old said.

He asked the court to prevent law enforcement officers from arresting him and to block his surrender to the ICC.

File photo shows Dela Rosa talking to the media during an interview at the Senate of the Philippines in Pasay, Metro Manila. Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's top drug war enforcer said on Wednesday that a government bounty placed on his head put his life in "serious danger", and asked the Supreme Court to stop his arrest. — AFP photo

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla welcomed the court filing, calling it "his right as a Filipino citizen", before accusing the former top policeman of employing a double standard.

"Sadly, he did not afford the same rights to the thousands killed in the drug war. They never had their day to prove their innocence nor be proven guilty. He was judge, jury and executioner," Remulla said.

Dela Rosa had ceased attending Senate sessions months before the ICC unsealed a November 2025 arrest warrant against him in May.

He emerged from months of hiding on May 11 to take refuge inside the Senate building, but slipped out days later following a standoff between security guards and investigators attempting to arrest him during which shots were fired.

That same month, the Philippine Supreme Court rejected Dela Rosa's bid for a temporary restraining order to prevent his arrest.

It still has to rule on his petition to have the ICC arrest warrant against him declared illegal.

Duterte was arrested in Manila on March 11 last year and handed over to the ICC the following day.

The 81-year-old will stand trial on November 30 on charges of committing crimes against humanity during a crackdown on the drug trade.

Philippine police have said they killed more than 6,000 drug suspects in self-defence during Duterte's presidency from 2016 to 2022. — AFP

Afghan-Pakistan border clash kills one, injures five

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: A clash on the restive border between Afghanistan and Pakistan killed one person and injured five, Pakistan officials said Wednesday.

The countries went to war earlier this year and, with no permanent resolution reached on security issues, there have been sporadic attacks since a March truce.

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harbouring militants responsible for deadly attacks on its territory, an allegation the Taliban government in Afghanistan denies.

Homes and shops were targeted in the market town of Angoor Adda during the cross-border fire from Afghanistan, according to the office of the deputy commissioner in Pakistan's South Waziristan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

It blamed the "unprovoked" attack on Afghanistan's Taliban authorities.

A senior administrative official in South Waziristan, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP the casualties were caused by mortar fire from Afghanistan.

Pakistani forces responded with a "brief operation targeting the Afghan side with artillery fire", targeting an Afghan checkpoint, the official said.

They said they could not confirm any casualties on the Afghan side of the border.

A security official in Angoor Adda also confirmed the attack.

The governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Faisal Karim Kundi, condemned the "unprovoked and blatant aggression by the Afghan Taliban regime against civilian homes".

Hundreds of civilians have been killed in fighting between the two countries since October last year, according to figures from the United Nations' mission in Afghanistan. — AFP

Man charged with fraud over Bondi Beach shooting claim

SYDNEY: Australian police have charged a man with falsely claiming he was injured in a mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach in an attempt to gain financial compensation.

A father-and-son duo allegedly carried out the gun attack on a Jewish festival at the beach in December last year, killing 15 people and wounding dozens.

"Detectives identified a 46-year-old man who allegedly made a false statement that he was injured in the Bondi shooting and made subsequent fraudulent claims for compensation in the aftermath," New South Wales police said in a statement Wednesday.

Police said they arrested the man on Tuesday and charged him with publishing false and misleading material to obtain advantage.

He was given conditional bail, and is scheduled to appear in western Sydney's Parramatta Local Court on Nov 18.

One of the Bondi Beach gunmen, Sajid Akram, 50, was shot and killed by police during the Dec 14 attack. An Indian national, he entered Australia on a visa in 1998.

His son Naveed, an Australian-born citizen, remains in custody facing a total of 78 charges including terrorism and 15 murders.

A Sydney court on Wednesday set Naveed Akram's committal hearing for Feb 24 next year, when he is set to appear by audio-video link from prison.

He has yet to enter a plea. — AFP

India vows swift action after India-born cheetah shot dead

NEW DELHI, India: India has vowed "swift action" after a cheetah was shot dead, the first such killing since the country began reintroducing the animals in 2022, the government said Wednesday.

The environment ministry said it had ordered a "high-level team for an on-ground investigation" into the shooting of the 19-month-old male, treating the incident with "utmost gravity".

The India-born cheetah – whose mother was among those introduced to India from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa as part of efforts to restore the planet's fastest land animal – was shot as it prowled in forests outside a protected national park.

Asiatic cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952. The critically endangered subspecies, once found across the Middle East, Central Asia and India, now survives in very small numbers in Iran.

Their African cousins were first reintroduced in September 2022 to India, to the Kuno National Park, 300 kilometres south of New Delhi.

The wounded cheetah was picked up on Sunday in forests in Madhya Pradesh state, outside Kuno's boundaries, and taken for veterinary care.

"During the surgery, five firearm pellets were recovered from its body," the environment ministry said.

Despite efforts, the cheetah died on Tuesday.

"Medical examinations corroborated multiple internal injuries associated with the recovered firearm pellets," it added.

The high-profile project, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been dogged by criticism over the deaths of several of the cats.

But experts in animal reintroductions say they often result in more than 50 percent mortality, especially in the initial phases.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority, which oversees the cheetah project, said that survival rates and hunting successes are "comparable to other international cheetah reintroduction efforts, with recorded wild prey kills confirming successful adaptation to the Indian landscape".

The total cheetah population in the wild in India is around 60, including some 40 Indian-born cheetahs. — AFP

Netanyahu leads as Israeli votes counted

JERUSALEM: The camp of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was ahead of his rival's opposition bloc but still short of a majority on Wednesday after two-thirds of the votes were counted in Israel's pivotal general election.

Voters turned out in the highest numbers in decades to give their verdict on Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, who has pushed the country sharply to the right and unleashed a wave of wars in response to Hamas's Oct 7, 2023 attack.

Following the vote, both Netanyahu and his main rival Gadi Eisenkot vowed to form a government despite neither being projected to win a majority.

With 66 percent of ballots counted, Netanyahu's bloc was shown to have 54 of the 120 seats in the parliament.

Eisenkot's opposition bloc had 48 seats and the country's non-aligned Arab parties 18. The partial results are likely to change as more votes are counted.

Exit polls had shown that Eisenkot, a former military chief and political novice, and his opposition bloc were neck-and-neck with Netanyahu's hard-right camp, with both winning about 51 seats, well away from the threshold for a majority.

The strongest gains went to Arab Israeli parties whose voters turned out in soaring numbers against Netanyahu, who has relentlessly warned that the minority would dilute the Jewish nationalist direction in which he has taken Israel.

The partial results suggest that Eisenkot's bloc would have enough seats for a majority if it entered into a coalition agreement with the Arab parties, something most of its members expressed reluctance to do on the campaign trail.

But Yair Golan, the head of Israel's main left-wing party, which is part of Eisenkot's camp, called for precisely that on Wednesday.

"We must no longer accept

Combo photo of Eisenkot (left) and Netanyahu. — AFP photo

Netanyahu's racist division between Jewish votes and Arab votes," he said on X.

"We have a responsibility. And we have an opportunity to form a government of change in partnership with Israel's Arab citizens."

Eisenkot had said during the campaign he would not govern with Israeli Arab lawmakers, echoing the position of Netanyahu, who has suggested a government relying on Arab votes would lack legitimacy.

Arab lawmakers could also give Eisenkot support in parliamentary votes on an ad hoc basis, enabling him to maintain a minority government without joining a coalition.

A lack of clear majority for either camp could mean weeks spent trying to cobble together coalitions, with possible new elections on the horizon if negotiations fail.

A stalemate could in the immediate term benefit Netanyahu, who would remain caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed.

Full results are expected by Thursday evening or Friday morning.

Netanyahu, greeting cheering supporters at a Jerusalem convention centre after 3am (0100 GMT) on Wednesday morning, called for a "strong government of the right" and said the "Jewish and Zionist majority must unite".

The 77-year-old prime minister, who has governed Israel on and off for nearly two decades, was unusually brief and did not directly claim victory.

US President Donald Trump claimed on Wednesday that his endorsement of Netanyahu had helped "a lot".

Speaking to supporters in Tel Aviv, 66-year-old Eisenkot issued a warning to Netanyahu, who observers say could use renewed war to push for a unity government.

"Netanyahu, don't you dare use Israel's security for your political needs," Eisenkot said.

He called Netanyahu "a caretaker prime minister, without a mandate or the people's trust".

The vote came as Israel faces increasing isolation on the world stage, driven by the wars in Iran and Gaza, as well as soaring settlement construction and violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Eisenkot shares many of Netanyahu's views on security and has backed the Gaza offensive that has reduced the territory to rubble.

But he has vowed to create a more inclusive atmosphere inside Israel, repair its international standing and rein in violent West Bank settlers.

After a turnout of nearly 78 percent, the highest since 1999, Eisenkot said it would be a mistake to hold a second election and vowed to work "swiftly" to form a government.

"The public has voted for change," he said.

"A worthy leader would accept the people's vote of no confidence and announce his retirement from political life today."

Exit polls had shown Israeli Arab lists projected to win 18 or 19 seats, a sharp gain. — AFP

File photo shows a city hall employee removing a graffiti from the Bartholdi Fountain in Place des Terreaux, in Lyon after riots and looting occurred on the sidelines of nationwide cost-of-living demonstrations. The French parliament's upper house passed a bill Wednesday that would make protesters financially liable for damage caused during street demonstration. — AFP photo

French Senate passes bill to make protesters pay for unrest damage

PARIS, France: The French parliament's upper house passed a bill Wednesday that would make protesters financially liable for damage caused during street demonstrations, despite warnings from critics that it could curb the right to protest.

The bill was drafted in response to riots that followed Paris Saint-Germain's victory over Arsenal in the UEFA Champions League final in May.

But it has taken on added significance after weeks of protests over inequality and soaring prices culminated in some of the worst violence France has seen in years on Oct 17, when thousands of businesses across the country were damaged and looted.

The Senate passed an expanded version of the bill by 229 votes to 105, backed by a right-wing and centrist alliance which holds a majority.

The legislation has been sent to the National Assembly, which is split between France's political factions, for debate and voting.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, whom opinion polls place as the frontrunner to succeed Emmanuel Macron in next spring's presidential election, supports the legislation.

Speaking in parliament, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez stressed the "urgency" of responding to the damage and scenes of chaos seen on Oct 17.

"We can no longer allow the vast majority of our fellow citizens to pay for a minority of vandals," he said.

Under the legislation, protesters could be ordered to pay up to 10,000 euros for damage caused during street demonstrations.

But critics argue that people who took no part in vandalism could nonetheless be held liable if they were deemed to have been associated with those responsible.

The bill introduces joint financial liability for anyone found to have "knowingly participated" in a group formed with the intent of carrying out acts of vandalism.

It would also apply to individuals who "voluntarily" continued to take part in a gathering likely to disrupt public order after two police dispersal warnings.

Welfare benefits and housing assistance could also be seized to help cover the cost of damages under the scheme, a provision that has drawn sharp criticism from left-wing parties and advocacy groups.

In the second reading, senators toughened the measure to include other social benefits such as the family supplement, back-to-school allowance and the employment bonus.

Left-wing lawmakers accused the government of an "authoritarian drift" at the expense of the freedom to demonstrate.

Communist senator Fabien Gay denounced what he called a "legal travesty that deliberately conflates protesters and rioters".

Green senator Melanie Vogel accused the government of responding to social demands with "collective punishment."

Supporters of the bill sought to reassure critics.

"We must not give the impression that this bill would criminalise a passer-by or a peaceful protester," said Olivier Bitz of the centre-right Horizons party.

The government has proposed introducing protest bans targeting the most violent individuals.

Late Tuesday, the Senate approved a bill allowing authorities to demand the rapid removal of social media content calling for "insurrection or taking up arms against the state".

"As we speak, there are calls circulating for next Saturday that are calls for insurrection. Those are the kinds of content we want to remove," the interior minister told senators.

Platforms would be required to remove such content within 24 hours, or they could face "blocking" or "delisting." — AFP

Defeated Bolsonaro on way to Ecuador after fleeing Brazil

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina: Defeated right-wing presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro was on his way to Ecuador after fleeing Brazil, Argentina's government said on Wednesday.

Bolsonaro, who lost Brazil's runoff election to incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Sunday, entered Argentina on Tuesday night before boarding a flight to Ecuador, the country's National Directorate of Migration said on X.

The 45-year-old entered Argentina "with valid travel documents and no legal impediment," it added, despite a court order banning his exit.

Bolsonaro, his wife and two daughters boarded "a private flight operated by the company Baires Fly S.A. bound for the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador," the government agency said.

According to data from the Flightradar24 website, the flight took off just after midnight (0300 GMT) on Wednesday from the Argentine town of Puerto Iguazu in the country's northeast.

Baires Fly did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

US media citing anonymous sources had earlier reported that Bolsonaro had arrived in the United States on Tuesday.

The US State Department said it would issue visas to Bolsonaro and his family but did not confirm their travel plans.

Brazil's Supreme Court banned

Flavio Bolsonaro

Bolsonaro from leaving the country and ordered him to hand over his passports.

He is under investigation for alleged corruption and money laundering, and with his election loss is also set to lose parliamentary immunity.

A police source told AFP that Bolsonaro's Brazilian and diplomatic passports had been canceled, but the senator has held Italian nationality since 2023, according to an Italian parliamentary document seen by AFP.

Reports of Bolsonaro's exit from Brazil came as a shock to his political camp.

"We still don't have any news about his whereabouts," Bolsonaro's campaign manager Rogerio Marinho told reporters in Brasilia on Tuesday.

"I received a text message from him this morning, where he said he would let some time pass today and then would talk with us, and that was it," he said.

"That was the only communication we had."

Bolsonaro said in a video posted on Instagram a day earlier that he "never had any intention of leaving the country" and the ban on his exit was a scare tactic.

Lula, who won the election with 51.8 percent of the vote, called fleeing the country a "shameful" act.

"A person who sneaks out of their country must have something to hide," he said in Brasilia during his 81st birthday celebration.

Following his loss, Bolsonaro said he would seek to annul the result, citing the decision to extend polling hours over transportation difficulties that prevented some citizens from voting.

Lula had requested the extension, as had Bolsonaro over bad weather in parts of the country.

US President Donald Trump, a close ally of Flavio's father and Brazil's former leader Jair Bolsonaro, said that the elections were "rigged."

All bets were on a Bolsonaro win after he came out on top in the first round of elections earlier this month.

He campaigned on a pledge to liberate his father, who is under house arrest for coup-plotting after his own electoral loss to Lula in 2022.

Jair Bolsonaro never conceded defeat and left the country on the eve of his rival's inauguration, only returning to Brazil three months later. — AFP

Iran president tells Putin region can solve problems without US

MOSCOW: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Tuesday that the Middle East can solve its problems without the involvement of the United States.

"I believe we are capable of resolving our problems in the region without relying on the United States," Pezeshkian said at a meeting with Putin on the sidelines of a summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow.

"Our trade is expanding and growing day by day. US actions in the region make it easier for us to move towards greater multilateralism and strengthen our cooperation with you and other countries subject to unilateral US sanctions," he told Putin.

Putin said he discussed the war with Pezeshkian, expressing hope that the situation would improve.

"We spoke earlier, one-on-one, about the situation in the region – a situation that, undoubtedly, cannot help but cause concern," he said, adding that he hoped it would "evolve in a positive direction".

Pezeshkian said he was confident the will existed on both sides to expand cooperation in science, industry, culture, security and military affairs. — AFP

Africa Ebola outbreak passes 10,000 cases

KINSHASA: Africa's latest outbreak of Ebola has passed 10,000 confirmed cases, the vast majority of them in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congolese health authorities said on Tuesday, with almost 5,000 fatalities.

According to the DRC's figures, 10,060 people have been infected and 4,887 have died since the virus was first detected in May in the vast central African country's deadliest outbreak in its history.

Cases have likewise been detected in Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, with the World Health Organization warning that Africa faces a "complex" task to contain an outbreak spanning the east, west and centre of the continent.

While some 2,684 have recovered from the virus in the DRC, the epidemic's fatality rate appears to be close to 50 percent, according to the Congolese National Institute of Public Health.

Among the many challenges facing the response is the lack of any approved vaccines or treatments for the rare Bundibugyo species of Ebola behind the epidemic.

After spreading under the radar for weeks, the virus was first detected in the northeastern Congolese province of Ituri, kicking off the DRC's 17th outbreak of the disease. — AFP

Handout photo released by Serbia's Interior Ministry shows the scene of an attack on a police officer guarding the Israeli embassy in Belgrade. — Photo by Handout / Serbian Ministry Of Interior Affairs / AFP

Serbian police kill attacker outside Israeli embassy

BELGRADE: Serbian police killed an attacker outside the Israeli embassy in Belgrade on Wednesday after an officer was targeted in a "terrorist attack", outgoing Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said.

"A minor whose identity has yet to be established ... attacked a member of the police with two knives while shouting 'Allahu Akbar'," Dacic said, also raising the terrorism threat to its highest level.

The interior ministry said in a statement the officer killed the attacker in self-defence but suffered a minor knife wound to the face in the incident just after midnight early Wednesday morning.

Outside the embassy, AFP journalists saw heavily armed special police guarding its entrance and patrolling the street.

Dacic said security services had been monitoring the attacker, who was "known to be a supporter of the Islamic State" and was believed to be from the western city of Sabac.

"His Instagram profile featured a black flag and the Islamic State emblem," he added.

Dacic said the terrorism threat level had been raised to its highest, or "red alert".

"This means tighter security checks and an increased police presence at sensitive sites, including infrastructure facilities and places where large crowds gather," he said.

Israel's foreign ministry confirmed in a post on X that no embassy personnel were injured and that it was investigating the incident. — AFP

How Spain's Gipuzkoa became hotbed of coaches

BARCELONA: Premier League heavyweights Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea clash this week with an unlikely thread linking them – the men in charge all hail from the small Basque province of Gipuzkoa.

Andoni Iraola's Liverpool host Xabi Alonso's Chelsea in the League Cup on Wednesday, and then Mikel Arteta's English champions Arsenal on Sunday in the Premier League

Unai Emery, a fourth Premier League coach from Gipuzkoa, takes Aston Villa to face giants Barcelona on Nov 3 in the Champions League.

So how did Spain's smallest province, of just 1,980 square kilometres (765 square miles), with a population of around 730,000, produce 20 per cent of the Premier League's coaches?

A good starting point is one man, who mentored them all but, unlike Alonso or Arteta, is little known outside of the region – 80-year-old Mikel Etxarri.

"A wise man and a master of football, the teacher of teachers," Josu Zubia Ramos, the Gipuzkoa football federation's director of coaching, told AFP.

Etxarri, whom the federation's coaching school is named after, has worked tirelessly for over half a century to spread his ideas.

"We Basque coaches have been fortunate to have a very strong bond between us," Etxarri told AFP, days after he was honoured for his career at a friendly between Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao in October.

"I think we've been lucky enough to live professional football without being professionals in that sense, without showing that passion for money, but rather a passion for knowledge."

Once, when asked about why coaches from the region were so successful, Arteta highlighted the "passion" of his people and "the education we all got".

An education which began as kids.

Arteta, Iraola and Alonso all played in the same midfield aged eight – for youth football club Antiguoko Kirol Elkartea, in San Sebastian.

Mikel Arteta

Andoni Iraola

Xabi Alonso

Unai Emery

Their shirts hang in the club offices, with the coaches never forgetting their roots.

Current Arsenal midfielder Martin Zubimendi is another Antiguoko graduate.

Historically, Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao have provided Basque football's core.

Athletic, based in neighbouring Bizkaia, still operates its famous local player policy, while Real Sociedad abandoned its own restrictions on signing players from outside the region in 1989, but their academy remains an important source.

The pathway from academy to first team seems clearer than at other clubs, with players focused on how to compete for their local team, and give back afterwards.

Their fans expect success despite their limited resources compared to giants Real Madrid and Barcelona. Some of that gap is made up for in work rate and competitive spirit.

Both teams have in recent years won the Copa del Rey and competed in the Champions League.

Good coaching produces better players, players who understand the game deeply can become coaches themselves, and those coaches pass on their ideas – a 'virtuous cycle'.

"There's no envy – I don't see envy in the way people move – what I see is that people want to perform, they want knowledge, they want information. And that's the space we all operate in," continued Etxarri.

Another recurring theme is a culture of high standards and self-improvement.

"I think we have a very strong, very high idea of performance, of demands, and of hard work, right? That's because in any field, not just football, the Basque coach is demanding of himself," added Etxarri.

"Take my own case as an example – I've gone more than 60 years in a row without missing a single year."

Etxarri signed Alonso from Antiguoko in 1999 as Real Sociedad sporting director, and he also coached Eibar and the Basque national team.

The region has its own language, Euskara, and it's not just football where Gipuzkoans excel – San Sebastian boasts the world's highest concentration of Michelin-starred restaurants per capita.

> We Basque coaches have been fortunate to have a very strong bond between us.
>
> **Mikel Etxarri**

In the wet and cloudy Basque country, there is a strong outdoor sporting tradition.

In Gipuzkoa, youngsters under 10 undertake multiple disciplines, rather than specialising in one.

Local sports such as stone-lifting and wood-cutting remain part of the culture.

"(Success is) tied a bit to the local culture, to Basque culture, Gipuzkoan culture, to how our society is, to teamwork, to how club culture has been lived over the years, to how we identify with a project when we get involved and wear a badge on our chest," explained Zubia Ramos.

"We throw ourselves into it as if we had started our careers there or had been born there.

"England has quite a lot in common with us – a bit in terms of climate – but above all in terms of the philosophy of how football is lived there, which is similar to Gipuzkoa."

Many coaches gain licences in Gipuzkoa. Will the province continue to provide?

"Look, right now our coaching school is going through a really good spell," Zubia Ramos said.

"We have more enrolments than ever. For such a small population... this season we have more than 500 coaches enrolled in our school.

"What does that mean? It means there's a real interest in education, in self-improvement... I see how excited our coaches are about working."

The numbers suggest the pipeline is unlikely to dry up, with the next Arteta, Alonso or Iraola likely sitting in one of those classrooms right now. — AFP

Fleetwood Town's Jake Batty (right) vies with Arsenal's Max Dowman during the match. — AFP photo

Arteta despair as 4th tier Fleetwood stun Arsenal

FLEETWOOD, United Kingdom: Mikel Arteta said Arsenal's stunning League Cup defeat by fourth-tier Fleetwood was "a very sad day" as the Premier League champions suffered one of the most embarrassing results in their history.

Arteta's side crashed out 5-3 on penalties in an incredible fourth round upset after the tie finished 1-1 in normal time.

Arsenal's Bruno Guimaraes had his penalty saved by Jay Lynch in the shoot-out and Conor Haughey scored Fleetwood's winner.

Aaron Loupalo-Bi's first-half goal had put Fleetwood ahead before Viktor Gyokeres equalised after the interval.

Arsenal's 16-year-old rising star Max Dowman was sent off for violent conduct in the closing stages.

Arteta paid the price for prioritising Sunday's Premier League trip to Liverpool as his decision to make nine changes backfired spectacularly.

The Gunners boss conceded Arsenal could have no complaints, admitting it was a painful moment in his reign.

"First of all, congratulations to Fleetwood for going through the next round. The manner that they have done it, and for us a very sad day," Arteta said.

"There is nothing to criticise the players for their attitude, their application.

"The determination, you could see that was there from the start, even with 10 men. But we conceded a really poor goal to start with that gave them some momentum.

"Obviously we have so much of the ball, so many chances, so many shots, and if you want the margins to be bigger than going to the penalties, you need to capitalise on that. And we didn't.

"It's football, that's the beauty of this competition. It's a very sad day."

Arsenal had moved level on points with Premier League leaders Manchester City after a 2-0 victory over Everton on Saturday.

But instead of extending their run of 11 wins from their 13 previous games, Arteta's team returned to north London red-faced after a loss that ranks among the darkest days in the club's glittering history.

"You don't capitalise, then you cannot go through to the next round. Unfortunately, we are out," Arteta said.

Although it looked a harsh decision to send off Dowman for aiming a kick towards Harrison Neal, Arteta was unimpressed with the 16-year-old, giving him a stern word as the midfielder trudged off.

""It's difficult to see on the cameras like that, so I prefer to watch it back properly and then I can assess the situation," Arteta said when asked what he told Dowman.

Fleetwood made a mockery of the 84 places between the clubs in the English football system with a defiant display that stopped Arsenal establishing any momentum.

Their refusal to be overawed by Arsenal's star-power was a tribute to Fleetwood boss Matt Lawlor, who won the tactical battle with Arteta by sitting deep and attacking on the counter.

"I just can't believe it. The biggest night in the club's history in terms of opposition coming to town and we've managed to beat the champions," Lawlor said.

"We're not stupid enough and not egotistical enough that you think we're going to out-play the best team in the country and the most organised team in the country.

"So we had to ride our luck, we had to deny space, we had to deny options for them. And I think we did that really, really well in terms of the majority of the game."

While Lawlor was composed during the match, his emotions poured out in his tearful celebration as jubilant Fleetwood fans invaded the pitch after the winning penalty.

"I'm just so glad that the lads have the feeling the way they are and took that performance into make that town, the club, everyone proud," he said. — AFP

Isak 'feels the trust' after scoring streak — Liverpool boss

LONDON: Liverpool boss Andoni Iraola said Tuesday that striker Alexander Isak "feels the trust of everyone" after rediscovering his goalscoring form for the club this season.

The Sweden international has scored six times in seven Premier League games, including three goals in his past three matches.

After a turbulent, injury-hit debut campaign following his acrimonious move from Newcastle, the 27-year-old is finally beginning to repay his £125 million (US$166 million) fee.

"I think Alex has one thing, that he feels the trust of everyone," said Iraola. "Everyone trusts that if we put him in good positions, he is going to score the goals.

"But it's not just, I always tell Alex, you do the things and I will score – you have to help us so we can give you the chances.

"You have to give us something so we can give you back and I think he understands that necessity, that relationship, and hope we can continue at the same level."

Iraola was speaking to reporters on the eve of his team's League Cup fourth-round tie against Chelsea at Anfield.

The former Bournemouth boss, seeking a fifth straight win in all competitions, was asked if he felt any pressure to deliver a trophy in his first season at Anfield.

"Every competition is an opportunity, especially when you are the coach of Liverpool. You have to take it like this," he said.

"I would love to win tomorrow and have the chance to go further in the competition, but I know that we will have to play well and beat a very good team."

The Spaniard said he had to "earn the right to be loved" at Liverpool after replacing Arne Slot, who was sacked after two seasons in charge. — AFP

Runners swap streets for shop malls in hazy Singapore

SINGAPORE: The pounding of running shoes echoes through a Singapore shopping mall as fitness enthusiasts desperate to exercise take refuge from choking haze.

Smoke from wildfires in neighbouring Indonesia has sent air quality in the city-state plummeting to its worst levels in more than a decade in recent weeks, cancelling outdoor activities.

Those seeking exercise, including runners training for international events, have found an unconventional alternative: air-conditioned shopping malls.

On Saturday more than 80 runners turned the corridors of Marina Square shopping centre into makeshift running tracks, clocking laps past storefronts on two floors before shops opened for business.

There are strict rules.

"No sprinting, no overtaking, no shouting or yelling," Eugene Beh, 52, founder of Singapore Runners Club, told about 60 members before their run.

Spitting and wiping sweat on the floor are also banned.

Beh said they had to cancel several runs outdoors because of the haze, blown in by the wind from forest and peatland fires in Borneo and Sumatra.

Angeline Zeng, 57, who works in banking, completed 10 loops at the mall, or about 10 kilometres (six miles).

With a half-marathon in Taipei in less than a week and a full marathon in December, Zeng needs to clock as much mileage as she can.

Since treadmills at her neighbourhood gym are often full, she and her fellow runners were excited when they heard about the mall runs.

"We were like, wow, we didn't expect that at all," she told AFP.

"I love it because the aircon makes you feel like you're running overseas where there's cold temperatures, so it's really great," Zeng added.

But she said that circling inside the mall becomes "boring" after a while.

"Maybe for shorter runs this is okay but if you need to do long runs, maybe not so suitable," she said.

Singapore Runners Club member Doris Tan, 42, said she thought running indoors would be a bit suffocating.

"I didn't expect it to be so cool... but if you have to ask me, I still prefer outdoors," she told AFP.

Fitness enthusiasts run inside a mall due to haze situation outside in Singapore. — AFP photo

Paul Wong, a 54-year-old retiree from a club called X-Run, completed 21 loops inside the mall, or about 21 km.

With just over a month until the Singapore International Marathon – which many other fellow runners are also training for – Wong would have to run up to 80 km per week, but the haze has forced him indoors.

"For the last two weeks I've been running close to 100 kilometres on the treadmill. The longest I've run is 28 km for two and a half hours, it's very mental," Wong said.

"The mall run is definitely better because the treadmill feels like a hamster run. You just keep repeating the routine."

Eddie Chang, lead coach for X-Run, said they had to present a carefully laid-out plan to get approval from the mall for the runs.

They had to consider factors like walkway width, tight corners and holding the run early in the morning before the shops open.

"The biggest challenge for outdoor training is the weather. Humidity is very high, plus the haze now, the impact is doubled and tripled, so it's very hard to manage," Chang told AFP.

"By converting to indoors, you definitely reduce all the impact from the outdoor experience and continue running."

The air quality improved this week but on Wednesday Singapore remained one of the 20 most polluted major cities in the world, according to Swiss-based air quality monitor IQAir.

The two running clubs are likely to extend the mall runs if poor air quality persists, and plan to ask more malls to open their doors to them.

"I believe there will be opportunities. This is something new in the sports scene," Beh said.

"Hopefully, with the permission of building management, this can spread out to other sports groups." — AFP

Rybakina eyeing year-end No.1 spot in Tokyo

TOKYO: Elena Rybakina said Tuesday that she had "definitely got more attention" since becoming world number one as she looks to clinch the year-end top ranking this week in Japan.

The Moscow-born Kazakh player became world number one for the first time last month after winning the US Open, replacing Aryna Sabalenka at the summit.

The achievement punctuated Rybakina's rise in a year in which she also won the Australian Open in January and now has three Grand Slam career titles.

The 27-year-old said she was exhausted mentally and physically after her US Open win but she bounced back to claim her fourth title of the season last week at the Ningbo Open in China.

She has already secured her place at next month's season-ending WTA Finals at Indian Wells.

Rybakina can also clinch the year-end number one ranking if she beats fellow Kazakh Yulia Putintseva in her first match at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

"The earlier I can confirm it the better," she said.

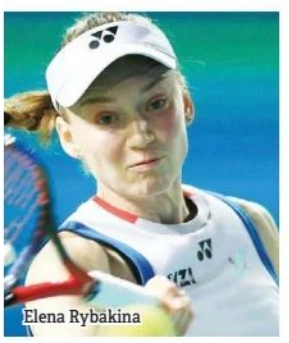
"For me it's important just to get some matches and be prepared for the final eight.

"If I can make sure here after a win that I am going to stay number one then great, if not I will have another chance at the final eight."

Rybakina took some time off after the US Open and returned at the China Open, losing to 118th-ranked Alina Charaeva in the first round.

She missed the Wuhan Open with a foot injury before beating Leylah Fernandez in the Ningbo final.

> For me it's important just to get some matches and be prepared for the final eight.
>
> Elena Rybakina



Elena Rybakina

Rybakina said being world number one was not enough to satisfy her.

"It was another goal which I achieved which is great, and now there is another one," she said.

"Definitely I got more attention, no matter where I go, which is nice."

Rybakina said she was still dealing with her foot issue but was "getting better every day".

"After the US Open I didn't do much and in Beijing I wasn't at my best at all," she said.

"Physically, mentally I was really tired so I feel like these tournaments now are really good practice for me." — AFP

Knicks rally over Pistons for first win of season

NEW YORK: The NBA reigning champion New York Knicks finally got their first win of the season, beating the Detroit Pistons 111-97 Tuesday with 27 points from Karl-Anthony Towns and 23 from Jalen Brunson.

The Knicks, who broke a five-decade title drought in June but had lost their three opening games this season, overcame another slow start at Madison Square Garden to pull clear in the second half.

They avoided the ignominy of being the first reigning champions since 1969 to start the following season 0-4.

"We got to remember that Rome wasn't built in a day. This is a new year, new team," said last season's NBA Finals MVP Brunson, who added seven assists.

"Adversity started early, so we just got to fight back."

The Pistons – who had won their first three games of the season – started fast, going 13 points clear at the beginning of the second quarter thanks to free-scoring Paul Reed and Cade Cunningham.

Brunson struggled early, shooting just 1-for 9 in the first half. But the Knicks pulled together for a remarkable rally, edging a single-point lead at halftime and roaring 25 points clear by the end of the third quarter.

Cade Cunningham of the Detroit Pistons brings the ball down the court against Mikal Bridges of the New York Knicks. — AFP photo

They restricted the Pistons to a combined 25 points across the entire second and third quarters.

"I think we were just able to get stops, run a little bit, create a good enough lead, knowing that they were going to have a run in them to fight back," said Brunson.

With a home game against Charlotte looming Wednesday, and his team 21 points down, Detroit coach J.B. Bickerstaff emptied the bench with seven-and-a-half minutes remaining.

The Knicks' starters remained on court, and top-scorer Towns finished the night with 20 rebounds.

The Pistons, who finished with the best regular-season record in the NBA Eastern Conference last year, are now 3-1. Reed top-scored with 22, while Cunningham had 19 points, eight assists and nine rebounds.

Elsewhere, Victor Wembanyama helped the San Antonio Spurs to a 130-103 win over the Sacramento Kings with 29 points, 10 rebounds, five blocks and two steals.

The Spurs, who lost to the Knicks in last season's finals, had endured their own slow start to this campaign with two opening losses, but moved to 2-2.

San Antonio were rampant in a first half they led 80-54, with Wembanyama pouring in 23 points before the interval, and their lead barely dipped in a comfortable second half.

Julian Champagnie scored 26 points. The Kings sank to 0-4.

With Boston trailing by a single point at the very end of overtime, Jayson Tatum sank a game-winning buzzer-beater to ensure the Celtics won a thriller 125-124 against the winless Brooklyn Nets.

A tense game in which neither team ever opened a double-digit lead had ended 117-117 after regular time. Tatum scored 40 points plus eight assists. — AFP

Carrick reacts during the match at Old Trafford. — AFP file photo

Carrick to remain Man Utd boss for Chelsea clash

LONDON: Michael Carrick is set to remain in charge of Manchester United for this weekend's Premier League match away to Chelsea, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Carrick's future at Old Trafford has been the subject of intense speculation after a miserable run of eight games without a win.

Sunday's 3-0 humbling at home to Bournemouth left the English giants just one point above the Premier League relegation zone.

But the BBC, Sky Sports and Britain's Press Association all reported that former United and England midfielder Carrick would take the team to Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Carrick arrived at United's Carrington training ground on Tuesday to oversee a routine training session.

The BBC cited "sources" as saying the 45-year-old would be given a chance by the United hierarchy to turn things around.

Carrick was handed a two-year deal in May after overseeing an impressive revival as caretaker boss following United's struggles under Ruben Amorim.

The club recovered to finish third in the Premier League, earning a return to the Champions League.

But United have won just two of 12 matches in all competitions so far this season, with a return of seven points from eight league games representing their worst start to a league season in 40 years.

Carrick avoided directly answering questions about his future following the Bournemouth loss.

The United boss acknowledged the crowd at full-time as fans chanted his name in a show of support for the beleaguered manager, but they vented their anger at the players and club hierarchy.

United great Wayne Rooney, who played alongside Carrick at Old Trafford, took aim at the players following a string of poor performances.

"The players haven't got a leg to stand on. What's not fair is the performances they are giving," he told the Stick to United podcast.

"I looked at the fans, you could see the pain and anger in their faces when those players are walking around the football pitch." — AFP

Ex Grand Slam winner Wawrinka ends career

PARIS, France: Stan Wawrinka bid farewell to tennis as he brought the curtain down on a decorated 24-year career following a first-round exit at the Basel Open on Tuesday.

The 41-year-old Swiss announced earlier in the season that his last tournament as a professional would be the ATP 500-level event in his home country and a 7-5, 7-6 (7/2) defeat by Czech Jiri Lehecka brought an end to the career of the three-time major champion.

Former world number three Wawrinka, along with Andy Murray, was the only player to win multiple Grand Slams in a period dominated by Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

"I was lucky enough to be able to play alongside them and sometimes beat them," Wawrinka told AFP in 2024.

He bested Nadal to win his first Grand Slam at the Australian Open in 2014, before beating Djokovic in the French Open final the following season and then again in the US Open title-match in 2016.

Alongside his compatriot Federer, the Lausanne native won the Davis Cup for Switzerland and claimed gold in the doubles at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Stan Wawrinka

On court in Basel, Wawrinka's every point won, as well as several trademark booming one-handed backhands, was greeted by wild cheers from the partisan home crowd.

But Lehecka got his nose in front with a break of serve in the 11th game and sealed the opening set with an ace.

A tight second set went to a tie-break, but it was just a step too far for Wawrinka as his 21st-ranked opponent took firm control to seal the breaker and the match.

Wawrinka, who enjoyed a farewell ceremony in Basel on Monday, did a lap of the court to thank the crowd, before disappearing down the tunnel for the last time.

"He won the biggest tournaments, so for me to be here in his moment is a little bit weird," Lehecka told Sky Sports.

"But at the same time, it's a pleasure and I will never forget this match."

However, fans will have one more chance to see the Swiss in action this year.

Wawrinka announced in June that he will throw a farewell party on December 19 in Geneva with Federer and Murray also on the card of the "One last backhand" event.

Elsewhere, second seed Arthur Fils beat his fellow Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 to reach the round of 16.

Spanish third seed Rafael Jodar cruised past Chilean Alejandro Tabilo in straight sets, while top seed Ben Shelton battled past his American compatriot Aleksandar Kovacevic 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/4).

Djokovic, who trained with his old friend and foe Wawrinka ahead of the tournament on Sunday, will open his campaign on Wednesday against Ugo Humbert of France. — AFP

Missing duo back in Swiss squad after Covid affair

GENEVA, Switzerland: Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka and striker Breel Embolo are available for selection again for next month's Nations League matches after being sanctioned for using forged Covid-19 certificates during the pandemic, the Swiss FA said Tuesday.

The pair were dropped and missed the first four Nations League games, in September and October.

Sunderland midfielder Xhaka, 34, who holds a Swiss record 152 caps, admitted to using a forged vaccine certificate to avoid mandatory jabs during the Covid crisis.

Atlanta United forward Embolo, 29, similarly acknowledged that a penal order against him concerned fake Covid certificates.

"The Swiss Football Association (SFV) will once again consider Granit Xhaka and Breel Embolo for the national team, beginning with the Nations League matches in November," it said in a statement.

"The SFV has thoroughly examined both cases and has concluded that the players' return is justifiable given the completion of legal proceedings and the sporting consequences incurred (having missed four international matches)."

National team director Pierluigi Tami said: "We are convinced that a return to the national team in November is both responsible and the right course of action."

Switzerland coach Murat Yakin, his staff and the players' council unanimously decided that Xhaka will remain the captain. — AFP

RESULTS

Draw no : 5364/26 — Draw date: 28-10-2026 (Wed)

	1 + 3D	3D BIG
1st prize	0127	127
2nd prize	6948	948
3rd prize	0192	192

Starter		Consolation	
4595	2102	4390	2598
4441	6513	6001	0823
6246	3066	8631	4136
7109	2393	0241	9455
2313	0541	0471	0214

1 + 3D Jackpot

JACKPOT 1 : RM 1,935,800.78

0127 + 6948 — 0127 + 0192

6948 + 0192 — 6948 + 0127

0192 + 0127 — 0192 + 6948

JACKPOT 2 : RM 113,084.65

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Draw No: 442/26 Date: 28/10/2026

4D Classic

1st Prize 8243

2nd Prize 9987

3rd Prize 2051

SPECIAL		CONSOLATION	
7092	1890	8799	8324
1947	2014	1740	2912
8380	6959	8595	7630
2148	7338	7278	9153
3797	0416	5184	6598

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 RM2,904,116.54

8243 + 9987	8243 + 2051
9987 + 8243	9987 + 2051
2051 + 8243	2051 + 9987

Jackpot 2 RM164,384.83 WON

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Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 RM134,507.48 PARTIALLY WON

Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	4 3 8 7 5 1		
GROUP 2	43875	OR	38751
GROUP 3	4387	OR	8751
GROUP 4	438	OR	751
GROUP 5	43	OR	51
		OR	87
GOLDEN NUMBER	1 2		

All jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. Subject to T&Cs of the Scheme. Please visit to www.magnum4d.my for more info. THE BIGGER PLAY IS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLY

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 6205/2026 DATE: 28/10/2026 (WED)

STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD. 196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
7 9 8 6	3 6 9 2	4 5 6 4

Special		Consolation	
6545	6533	8841	4519
1829	7194	0261	4489
3897	7866	7817	4877
0604	1136	2494	8658
5024	8418	8186	2277

4D JACKPOT

Jackpot 1 RM 14,517,303.22

7986 3692	3692 7986
7986 4564	4564 7986
3692 4564	4564 3692

Jackpot 2 RM 749,898.14

Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Fireball 4

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	7 9 8 6	+
2nd Prize	3 6 9 2	+
3rd Prize	4 5 6 4	+ HORSE
4th Prize	Special Prize	+
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D — 1ST 9 7 4 0 5; 2ND 5 7 7 5 8; 3RD 9 3 4 5 1; 4TH 7 4 0 5; 5TH 4 0 5; 6TH 0 5

6D — 1ST 4 5 5 6 2 4

2ND	4 5 5 6 2	or	5 5 6 2 4	
3RD	4 5 5 6	or	5 6 2 4	
4TH	4 5 5	or	6 2 4	
5TH	4 5	or	2 4	

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SPORT
THURSDAY, October 29, 2026

How Spain's Gipuzhoa became hotbed of coaches
>14

Rybakina eyeing year-end No.1 spot in Tokyo
>15

Ling Ching wobbles in battle to join world elite

Eikman Teo

KUCHING: Sarawak-born shuttler Wong Ling Ching has been struggling in the BWF World Tour lately.

Expectations were high when she climbed from world No.96 in Jan to No.41 by 30 Dec last year.

Her steady ascent continued in the first months of 2026 but she's now virtually back to square one (No.40) in the lastest weekly BWF rankings.

National singles coach Kenneth Jonasen set the target for Ling Ching to join the elite 32 in the world by the first half of 2026.

BWF grants automatic qualification to the top 32 in the world (singles and doubles) for all tour events including the top tier Super 1000 and S750 tournaments.

Wong Ling Ching

The 23-year-old Sarawakian did reach a career high No.33 in May this year.

However, she's been stuck in the mid 30s to No.40 in the five months since.

Meanwhile, seven new players have made it into the BWF top 32 rankings so far this year.

Three of them were closing in at the end of last year.

China's Han Qian Xi, Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniputh and Japan's Hina Akechi had already reached No.38, 37 and 34 respectively on 30 Dec 2025.

Another three who are now enjoying automatic entry to top tier events had started the 2026 season on par with Ling Ching: compatriot K. Letshanaa, India's Tanvi Sharma and Taiwan's Huang Yu-Hsun were ranked No.43, 42 and 40 respectively on 30 Dec 2025.

India's Ashmita Chaliha, the oldest of the seven, has been this season's sensation.

The 27 year-old is making a strong comeback after surgery two years ago for knee injuries.

She has jumped from No.87 in Jan to 30 in the latest rankings!

The other six are starlets on the rise. Han is a year older than Ling Ching. Letshanaa and Huang are both 23 while the other three are even younger: Hina (21), Pitchamon (19) and Sharma (17). Their young age is an indication of the abundant fresh talent all striving to join the world's elite 32.

They are easing out seasoned campaigners like Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour and Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan who are in their 30s as well as Indonesia's Gregoria Tunjung and Singapore's Yeo Jia Min who are still in their 20s but facing chronic health and injury issues.

Kuching City's Ramadan Saifullah (right) battles for possession against Kitchee SC's Jason Kam during their AFC Champions League Two Group H match at the Taha Ariffin Stadium on Oct 15. — Photo from Facebook/Kuching City FC

Malaysia only Southeast Asia team in Tier B of U15 World Cup

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia emerged as the only team from Southeast Asia to advance to Tier B at the 2026 FIFA Under-15 (U-15) World Cup and Festival in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The national youth squad, coached by P. Maniam, achieved this proud feat after finishing Group H as runners-up with three wins, one draw, and one defeat, thereby qualifying for the Round of 32 of Tier B.

Tier B is the second-highest tier of the tournament, bringing together teams ranked from 33rd to 64th best.

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) president Datuk Ab Ghani Hassan described the achievement as proof of the national youth players' ability to compete on the international stage, while also reflecting the positive development of the country's grassroots football.

"What we are even more proud is that Malaysia emerged as the only team from Southeast Asia to succeed in advancing to the Tier B stage, thereby proving the capability of the national youth lineup to compete on the international stage," he said in a statement on Tuesday.

Ab Ghani said this achievement deserves recognition as it reflects the effort, commitment, discipline, and high fighting spirit shown by the players.

Malaysia is scheduled to face South Africa in the Tier B Round of 32 on Thursday. The inaugural tournament saw the participation of 191 countries previously divided into 24 groups, and the final group standings will determine the placement for the Tier A to F competitions scheduled to take place from Oct 28 to 30. — Bernama

Lau (third left) hands over the prizes to Ai Geok and other squad members.

Veteran swimmers break 12 SEA Masters records in Jakarta

Philip Wong

SIBU: Nine swimmers from the Sibu Masters Swimming Club (SMSC) shone brightly at the recent 3rd SEA Aquatics Masters Swimming Championships (25m Short Course) 2026, held at the Gelora Bung Karno (GBK) Aquatic Stadium in Jakarta.

The team, spearheaded by veteran swimmer Ling Ai Geok, amassed 24 gold, 12 silver medals and 14 bronze medals.

They also rewrote 12 meet records.

Ling also claimed the Best Female Athlete award after setting six new records and clinched 10 gold medals and two silver medals.

Another veteran swimmer Loh Teck Sing returned with five gold and a bronze medals setting three new records.

Those bagging at least two gold medals are Elizabeth Wong, Jenny Ling and Ngie Si He.

Ung Chung Sung, Yik Kwang Diew and Ngu Hew Sii got a gold medal each.

A total of 587 athletes from 76 swimming clubs in Indonesia, Vietnam, India, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei took part in the regional meet.

SMSC was the only club from Sarawak joining the event.

Established in 2017, SMSC comprised of former national and state swimmers from the 1970s.

The retired swimmers remain passionate about competing and participate in two to three domestic and international masters competitions annually at their own expense.

They train at the Delta Swimming Pool.

Meanwhile, club president Ngu Hew Sii thanked Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh, Lanang MP Alice Lau Kiong Yieng and Ta Ann Holdings Bhd for providing sponsorship to cover part of the travel expenses to Jakarta.

Two team leaders, Emico Yik, Stephanie Ngu, were also commended for making the arrangements regarding accommodation, transportation and competition details.

The veteran swimmers are now looking forward to the 11th Madwave Malaysia International Masters Swimming Championships to be held in Ipoh in November.

"The swimmers are truly committed to open up new challenges in their pursuit for further glory," said club advisor Dato Sri Lau Kueng Chai.

Cats eyeing first ACL2 win in Gangwon clash

Matthew Umpang

KUCHING: Kuching City FC will aim to get their AFC Champions League Two (ACL2) campaign back on track when they face South Korean side Gangwon FC in a Group H match at Gangneung Stadium in South Korea on Thursday.

The match, scheduled for 6pm Malaysian time, presents the Cats with an opportunity to claim their first victory in the continental competition after collecting just one point from their opening two matches.

Aidil Sharin Sahak's squad opened their campaign with a 2-1 defeat away to Cambodia's Phnom Penh Crown FC on Sept 17 before earning a 1-1 draw against Hong Kong's Kitchee SC at the Taha Ariffin Stadium on Oct 15.

The draw against Kitchee saw the Sarawak side move to third in the four-team group, level on one point with Gangwon, while Kitchee occupy second place with two points and Phnom Penh Crown lead the standings with six points.

Thursday's encounter is therefore important for both sides as they look to improve their positions and remain in contention for a place in the Round of 16, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the knockout stage.

Kuching City will have another opportunity to collect points against Gangwon when the two sides meet again at the Taha Ariffin Stadium on Nov 5.

The Cats will then host Phnom Penh Crown on Nov 26 before travelling to Hong Kong to face Kitchee in their final group match on Dec 3.

ACLE: Munoz hails JDT's 'control' of Thai Port FC

ISKANDAR PUTERI: Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) head coach Xisco Munoz hailed his side's tactical maturity and relentless intensity after the Southern Tigers outclassed Thailand's Port FC 3-0 in their AFC Champions League Elite (ACLE) clash at Sultan Ibrahim Stadium on Tuesday night.

Reflecting on the team's overall display, Munoz expressed pride in the consistent performance shown throughout the match, particularly in controlling the tempo and tactical aspects of the game.

"Congratulations to the players because it was an amazing night. It was a very good performance, and I think they had control in all aspects of the game," Munoz said during the post-match press conference.

Despite the positive result, attention turned toward the condition of key striker Bergson Da Silva, who had to be substituted late in the game and Munoz stated that the coaching staff were awaiting official medical feedback and hopes the injury is not serious, especially with a demanding schedule of crucial matches ahead.

The win has given the Southern Tigers a boost ahead of their upcoming away fixture against Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC at the Jeonju World Cup Stadium in South Korea on Nov 3. — Bernama

Real star Mbappe says sorry but furore rages on in China

BEIJING: Kylian Mbappe struggled to dissipate anger on Chinese social media on Wednesday despite apologising for his comments on Mao Zedong that cost him several commercial deals in the huge market.

Mocking Mao remains strictly taboo 50 years after the former leader's death, and Mbappe has been dropped by several Chinese brands and state television has scrapped broadcasts of the Spanish league.

The Real Madrid player apologised on Tuesday for saying that the funniest internet meme involving him was of his face photoshopped onto "some guy – I think he's a Chinese dictator", an apparent reference to Mao.

Mbappe's original joke was not reposted – or had been scrubbed – from China's tightly-controlled social media, with state media omitting any references to Mao, saying instead that the footballer had made "inappropriate remarks concerning China".

> His remarks were hurtful toward China and the Chinese people, so they cannot be translated.
>
> **Weibo user**

But the footballer continued to face a torrent of criticism from Chinese users on Wednesday.

"His remarks were hurtful toward China and the Chinese people, so they cannot be translated," wrote one user on social media platform Weibo.

Chinese social media app Xiaohongshu had meanwhile frozen Mbappe's account, where he has over a million followers, preventing him from gaining any new ones. The same was done on the Weibo app, with a notice stating that "the user has been banned from following due to violating laws or the Weibo Community Convention".

Some Chinese media reports said global brands like Dior and Hublot had removed their Mbappe-related content on Weibo.

An AFP search on Dior and Hublot's Weibo page with Mbappe's Chinese name produced no results. Offline too, the Mbappe brand appeared to be scrubbed from stores. When AFP visited the Adidas flagship store in Beijing's Sanlitun shopping district, Real Madrid jerseys were available for sale, but none bearing Mbappe's name.

Mbappe merchandise including unofficial jerseys, beanies and caps remains available on retail app Taobao.

People walk past a bus featuring Mbappe on a street in Shanghai. — AFP photo

Mbappe has been shut out of Chinese social media Weibo. — AFP photo

Chinese state media have previously praised Mbappe as a "footballing sensation" and "talent", with the striker well-loved by fans in the country.

His face is plastered on billboards, on electrolyte drinks and across social media.

Mbappe is also sometimes affectionately referred to as "Guigui", meaning "turtle" in Chinese, for his resemblance to a character from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie. — AFP

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Nuclear could add to Malaysia's low-carbon, reliable energy mix
>A2

Bursa's 3Q net profit rises 10 pct to RM70.20 mln
>A2

Affin Bank's loan growth to exceed FY26 target

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TA Securities also noted that the bank's existing loan pipeline appeared sufficient to sustain its current lending momentum through the remainder of the year.

KUCHING: Affin Bank Bhd (Affin Bank) is expected to surpass its financial year 2026 (FY26) loan growth target, with expansion projected to reach around 12 per cent, but rising credit costs and persistent margin pressure could weigh on profitability.

In its company update, the research house at TA Securities Holdings Bhd (TA Research) said Affin Bank's management remained optimistic about its loan growth momentum, with the latest projection exceeding its original target of 10 per cent.

"Management indicated that loan growth remained robust through the third quarter (3Q), with FY26 growth expected to reach around 12 per cent, ahead of its original 10 per cent target," it said.

TA Securities also noted that the bank's existing loan pipeline appeared sufficient to sustain its current lending momentum through the remainder of the year.

While this is a positive development, TA Securities cautioned that the bank's profitability could remain under pressure from intensifying deposit competition, narrower net interest margins (NIM) and higher credit costs.

The research house highlighted growing repayment stress among retail borrowers, particularly lower-income households affected by rising living costs and energy prices.

Mortgages, hire purchase loans and credit cards were identified as areas of concern, while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were also facing weaker operating conditions and increasing competition from Chinese e-commerce platforms.

"Importantly, management reaffirmed that the original FY26 credit cost guidance of 13 basis points (bps) may be understated, with expectations now shifting towards approximately 30bps, representing a 17bps upward revision," it said.

In response to the deteriorating credit environment, Affin Bank has tightened underwriting standards, strengthened collection efforts and adopted more granular credit analytics to identify vulnerable borrowers.

TA Securities said asset quality would remain a key area of focus in the bank's upcoming 3QFY26 results, particularly as management anticipated higher demand for loan restructuring and rescheduling assistance in the second half of the year (2HFY26).

> Management indicated that loan growth remained robust through the third quarter (3Q), with FY26 growth expected to reach around 12 per cent, ahead of its original 10 per cent target.
>
> **TA Securities Holdings Bhd**

Nevertheless, the research house highlighted some encouraging developments in mortgage recoveries as the backlog of defaulted mortgage accounts awaiting auction resolution had declined to RM240 million from RM290 million in 2Q26, while recoveries increased to RM110 million from RM60 million.

These improvements could support a sequential recovery in the community banking segment's gross impaired loan (GIL) ratio in 3Q26, following its deterioration from 1.08 per cent to 1.19 per cent in 2QFY26.

Fadillah is seen during his winding up of the Supply Bill 2027 debate at policy stage for his ministry in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday. — Bernama photo

Govt prepared to re-engage with industry players on CRESS charge

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is prepared to re-engage with industry players to look at the possibility of improving the fee structure of the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme (CRESS).

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said a system access charge (SAC) of 14 sen per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is borne by renewable energy developers, while a separate charge of four sen per kWh is paid by end-consumers of green energy.

Fadillah, who is also the Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, said the charge imposed on developers was initially set at 20 sen before being reduced to 14 sen following engagement sessions, while the four-sen charge imposed on end-users had already been in place before the announcement.

Confusion arose following media reports that combined the two charges into a single rate of 18 sen, he said when winding up the Supply Bill 2027 debate at policy stage for his ministry in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday.

Fadillah pointed out that the CRESS charge comprises three components: operation and regulatory cost, market development cost, and system augmentation cost.

However, Yeo Bee Yin (DAP-Puchong), who interjected while Fadillah was explaining the matter, said the effective rate for electricity transmission under CRESS was, in fact, 18 sen per kWh.

Yeo said industry players had previously understood that the SAC was 14 sen until the Energy Commission gave a clarification on the combined SAC rate about two weeks ago, which disappointed them.

In response, Fadillah said the government has taken note of the concerns raised by industry players.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister said the Energy Commission is developing a comprehensive framework and guidelines on self-generation facilities, as well as the stipulated requirement for data centres to use at least 30 per cent renewable energy, as approved by the government.

He added that data centres are also encouraged to participate in CRESS to obtain green energy supplies directly. — Bernama

Malaysia calls for stronger global cooperation to ensure gas supply security

As renewable energy deployment accelerates, natural gas will continue to provide the reliability and flexibility needed to support electricity systems and industrial activities, particularly amid rising energy demand across Asia and Asean.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has called for stronger international cooperation to ensure stable global gas markets and reliable energy supplies, emphasising that energy security is fundamental to industrial competitiveness, investment confidence and sustainable economic growth.

The Ministry of Economy said in a statement on Wednesday that natural gas is not merely a transition fuel, but a strategic pillar of energy security, industrial competitiveness and sustainable development for Malaysia.

As renewable energy deployment accelerates, natural gas will continue to provide the reliability and flexibility needed to support electricity systems and industrial activities, particularly amid rising energy demand across Asia and Asean, said the ministry.

"Against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, supply disruptions and price volatility, Malaysia emphasised the importance of market transparency, predictable policy frameworks and sustained investment across the natural gas value chain.

"Greater cooperation between producers and consumers is essential to strengthening supply resilience and maintaining confidence in long-term energy investment," it said.

The ministry also said Malaysia reaffirmed the importance of deepening cooperation with members of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) and observer countries in market intelligence, liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, infrastructure development and technology exchange.

This includes strengthening long-term energy cooperation with Russia based on reliable supply, commercial viability and mutual benefit.

"Malaysia remains committed to a pragmatic and balanced energy transition that safeguards energy security, affordability and environmental sustainability, to attract high-value investment, strengthening industrial productivity and sustaining long-term economic growth," it said. — Bernama

Industry urged to accelerate adoption of MYOR-i

KUCHING: Industry players have been urged to accelerate the adoption of the Malaysia Overnight Rate-i (MYOR-i) and strengthen participation in the Islamic money and derivatives markets ahead of the transition from the Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR).

The call was made during a roundtable discussion convened by the Islamic Financial Market Subcommittee (IFMC) to discuss the transition to MYOR-i and initiatives to strengthen Malaysia's Islamic financial market ecosystem.

With the cessation of KLIBOR usage in new products and transactions scheduled for July 1, 2027, industry players were encouraged to reduce existing KLIBOR-linked inventories, engage clients and promote wider adoption of MYOR-i-linked products and transactions to ensure an orderly transition.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Assistant Governor Mohamad Ali Iqbal Abdul Khalid said the introduction of MYOR-i as the world's first transaction-based Islamic benchmark rate marked a significant milestone in the development of Malaysia's Islamic financial market.

"While recent developments have been encouraging, broader adoption across financial market instruments must be achieved which requires coordinated action across the industry," he said in his welcoming speech.

He said the success of MYOR-i should be measured by the confidence with which market participants use the benchmark in their daily business activities, rather than when its use becomes mandatory.

The roundtable also highlighted the need to expand market participation and strengthen liquidity management tools through the establishment of appropriate legal and operational frameworks.

Industry players were encouraged to adopt the Sell and Buy Back Agreement (SBBA), Collateralised Commodity Murabahah (CCM) and Tahawwut Master Agreement (TMA) more widely to enhance market depth, diversity and liquidity. — Bernama

Penang, Johor, Selangor account for 80.5 pct of total September trade

KUALA LUMPUR: Penang, Johor and Selangor accounted for 80.5 per cent of Malaysia's total trade in September 2026, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

In its Export-Import Statistics by State, September 2026 report released Wednesday, DOSM said Malaysia's total trade amounted to RM396.5 billion, comprising exports of RM215.1 billion and imports of RM181.4 billion.

"Penang remained the leading exporting state, accounting for 52.6 per cent of Malaysia's total exports, followed by Johor (17.5 per cent), Selangor (11.7 per cent), Sarawak (5.3 per cent) and Kuala Lumpur (3.3 per cent). Penang also accounted for the largest share of Malaysia's imports, at 35.3 per cent, followed by Johor (24.2 per cent), Selangor (19.5 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (6.8 per cent) and Kedah (4.3 per cent)," it said.

DOSM said exports rose by RM75.9 billion, or 54.5 per cent, to RM215.1 billion in September 2026 from the same month a year earlier.

The increase was driven by higher exports from Penang, which rose by RM55.5 billion, followed by Johor (RM10.2 billion), Selangor (RM4.1 billion), Sarawak (RM3.5 billion), Kuala Lumpur (RM2.1 billion) and Negeri Sembilan (RM707.7 million). — Bernama

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Berjaya Construction to undertake RM1.2 bln Sanglang Port development project

KUALA LUMPUR: Berjaya Construction Bhd is set to undertake the design-and-build works for the Sanglang Port development project in Perlis, which has an estimated total development cost of RM1.2 billion, including initial construction costs of RM675 million.

In a Bursa Malaysia filing yesterday, it said the scope of works will encompass procurement, design development, engineering and construction delivery.

It said Sanglang Port is a strategic maritime infrastructure initiative aimed at enhancing the state's maritime connectivity.

The project will complement the recently completed logistics infrastructure comprising the Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Free Commercial Zone-Perlis Inland Port (PIP) and the Chuping Valley Industrial Area, said the group.

"Working in collaboration with Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd (Mutiara Perlis), the owner cum developer of PIP and Sanglang Port, Berjaya Construction will leverage its technical expertise and project delivery capabilities to support the development of the Sanglang Port's infrastructure," it said.

Berjaya Construction said the proposed development comprises two multi-user terminals, a roll-on/roll-off (RORO) terminal and a general cargo terminal along the four-kilometre trestle with water depths of up to 11.9 metres.

The group said the master plan also provides for five key maritime activities, including RORO operations, fisheries facilities, general cargo handling, an energy hub and multi-user facilities.

"The proposed facilities are expected to cater to fisheries and international tuna landings, commodities, petroleum-related cargo and liquefied petroleum gas activities.

"The RORO terminal is also intended to enhance maritime connectivity between Perlis and Langkawi by facilitating the movement of vehicles and goods, with round-the-clock operations envisaged, thus spurring tourism-related activities in the surrounding areas," it said.

Meanwhile, Berjaya Property Bhd group chief executive officer Syed Ali Shahul Hameed said the Sanglang Port development project represents a significant opportunity to strengthen Perlis' maritime infrastructure, enhance regional connectivity and support the growth of trade and industry.

"Berjaya Construction is committed to leveraging its engineering expertise and project delivery capabilities to support the development of quality infrastructure that delivers long-term value.

"Through close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, we look forward to contributing to a project that could strengthen Perlis' position in maritime trade, logistics and energy-related activities while creating new opportunities for businesses and communities," he said. — Bernama

Nuclear could add to Malaysia's low-carbon, reliable energy mix

SINGAPORE: Nuclear power could be a viable long-term addition to Malaysia's energy mix, complementing renewable energy to deliver a system that is low-carbon, environmentally sustainable, secure and reliable.

World Nuclear Association Senior Programme Lead, Climate, Dr Jonathan Cobb said developing the right energy mix required combining different energy sources rather than viewing renewables, fossil fuels and nuclear power as competing options.

"The fact that nuclear energy generates electricity around the clock, 24/7, securely and reliably, it's a great complement working together with renewables, particularly intermittent renewables," he told Bernama on the sidelines of the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2026.

He said the objective was to develop an optimal combination of energy sources to deliver an effective and affordable electricity system.

Cobb says advances in nuclear technology had expanded the options available to countries with different electricity grid capacities, including Malaysia. — AFP photo

Nuclear Technologies Offer Flexibility, But Costs Must Be Assessed Holistically

Cobb said advances in nuclear technology had expanded the options available to countries with different electricity grid capacities, including Malaysia.

While conventional nuclear reactors typically generate 1,000 to 1,500 megawatts, small modular reactors could produce up to around 300 megawatts, while micro-modular reactors could generate as little as five megawatts.

"So, there is a nuclear technology that is suitable for every electricity grid," he said.

On competitiveness, Cobb said countries should assess the overall costs of electricity generation, including backup power and storage for intermittent renewable sources, as well as the environmental costs of fossil fuels, including carbon dioxide emissions and other air pollutants.

He said the aim was to determine the optimal combination of energy sources to deliver the most effective system at the lowest overall cost.

Financing, Local Supply Chains Key To Economic Benefits

Meanwhile, Cobb said Malaysia could explore several financing arrangements for a nuclear programme, including government-to-government vendor agreements, build-own-operate agreements, direct state financing, regulated asset base (RAB) schemes and contracts for difference (CfD).

"The important thing really is to ensure that there's the appropriate allocation of financial risk in any project," he said, adding that proper risk allocation could help lower overall financing costs.

Beyond electricity generation, nuclear projects could create employment during construction and operation, including highly skilled jobs over the reactors' potentially long operating lifetimes.

Cobb said domestic companies could also benefit by supplying components for nuclear plants, provided they met the required codes and standards. Engaging local suppliers before construction would help them develop the necessary capabilities.

"When you build a nuclear plant, often this is a large infrastructure project, a lot of people involved, and that means you get a lot of capital input into local communities," he said, adding that spending by workers could support local businesses.

Policy, Institutional Readiness Crucial Before Commitment

Meanwhile, Cobb identified policy development, institutional and infrastructure readiness, and project and programme preparedness as critical requirements for countries considering nuclear power.

He said Malaysia had a head start through its decades-old research reactor, which had helped establish regulatory capabilities and scientific expertise in reactor operations. However, a successful programme would require a firm, long-term government commitment, an appropriate nuclear policy and legal framework, and a regulator capable of assessing reactor designs and overseeing commercial nuclear facilities.

He also stressed the importance of developing domestic manufacturing and supply-chain capabilities.

For countries planning multiple reactors, Cobb said nuclear development should be treated as a continuous programme rather than a one-off project, allowing skills and experience to be transferred between projects while helping reduce costs.

Nuclear Expansion Driven By Energy Security, Safety

Cobb said the global nuclear industry was experiencing an acceleration rather than simply making a comeback, driven by environmental concerns and growing energy security risks arising from disruptions to fossil fuel supplies.

He said 39 countries had signed a pledge to triple nuclear capacity between 2020 and 2050.

Among the countries are China, the Netherlands, Brazil, the United Kingdom and Italy.

On nuclear power safety, Cobb said the industry had strengthened its focus following the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear accidents, with lessons learned helping improve plant resilience.

"Nuclear is a very safe form of generation. Safety is at the heart of nuclear culture.

"There is a great focus and safety. We should have safety in everything we do, not just nuclear energy," he said.

He said the public should also consider the benefits nuclear energy could offer, including affordable and reliable electricity supplies and reduced air pollution compared with fossil fuel generation.

"What nuclear can offer, I think, is the thing that people are actually interested in: securing clean supplies," he said, referring to its potential to provide affordable, reliable electricity while avoiding the air pollution associated with fossil fuel generation. — Bernama

Photo shows SSF Glenmarie flagship store.

SSF to acquire 13 acres of industrial land for RM42.47 million

KUCHING: Home products retailer SSF Home Group Bhd (SSF) is proposing to acquire three parcels of leasehold industrial land in Pulau Indah, Mukim Klang, Selangor, for RM42.47 million.

Its wholly-owned subsidiary, SSF Sdn Bhd, has entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with IFFCO Foods Sdn Bhd for the proposed acquisition, which covers approximately 52,611.13 square metres, or 13 acres, of land.

The proposed acquisition is intended to strengthen the group's warehousing and logistics capabilities, improve operational efficiency and support future business expansion.

The vacant land is designated for industrial use, with SSF planning to develop its own warehouse and distribution facilities to reduce reliance on rented premises.

The group expects the facilities to provide greater flexibility in managing its warehousing and distribution operations, while the land's location in Pulau Indah could support more efficient logistics and potential long-term cost savings.

SSF executive director Lok Kok Khong said the acquisition marked an important step in the group's next phase of growth.

"By developing our own warehouse and distribution facilities, we aim to increase our warehouse capacity and achieve long-term cost savings compared with renting.

"This investment is expected to enhance our operational efficiency and scalability, while strengthening our asset base and reducing our exposure to rising rental costs over time, providing a stronger foundation to support our future business expansion," he said.

The proposed acquisition will be funded through a combination of internally generated funds and bank borrowings, with the group having secured bank borrowings of up to 90 per cent of the purchase consideration.

Subject to the fulfilment of the sale and purchase agreement's terms, the acquisition is expected to be completed within four months.

The proposed acquisition is not expected to materially affect the group's earnings for the financial year ending June 30, 2027.

SSF said the acquisition would support its long-term growth strategy by strengthening its operational capabilities and providing greater flexibility and efficiency as it expands its business presence in Malaysia.

Bursa's 3Q net profit rises 10 pct to RM70.20 mln

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia Bhd's net profit rose 10 per cent to RM70.20 million in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2026 (3Q26), from RM63.84 million a year earlier.

The increase was driven mainly by contributions from its securities, derivatives and Islamic markets, as well as data-related businesses, excluding the exchange holding company.

Revenue grew 20.3 per cent to RM216.41 million from RM179.90 million in the same quarter last year, the stock exchange operator said in an announcement yesterday.

It said the securities market recorded a segment profit of RM104.6 million, up 11.5 per cent from RM93.8 million in 3Q25, on higher operating revenue.

Trading revenue grew 15.3 per cent to RM90.9 million from RM78.9 million, supported by a 13.5 per cent increase in average daily trading value (ADV) for on-market trades and direct business transactions to RM3.2 billion from RM2.8 billion.

The derivatives market posted a segment profit of RM16.5 million, up 34.9 per cent from RM12.2 million a year earlier, also driven by higher operating revenue.

For the nine months ended Sept 30, 2026, Bursa Malaysia's net profit rose to RM214.81 million from RM189.32 million a year earlier, while revenue increased to RM641.46 million from RM536.86 million.

Trading revenue rose 32.6 per cent to RM35.8 million from RM27.0 million, mainly due to an increase in the number of crude palm oil futures (FCPO) and FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI Futures (FKLI) contracts traded.

The Islamic market returned to profitability, recording a segment profit of RM2.8 million compared with a loss of RM0.5 million a year earlier, mainly due to lower operating expenses.

The data business recorded a segment profit of RM15.1 million, up 1.2 per cent from RM15.0 million in 3Q25.

In contrast, the exchange holding company's segment loss widened to RM3.3 million from RM1.7 million, mainly due to higher staff costs and professional fees.

The other segment, which comprises a multi-environment product exchange, a debt fundraising platform for small and medium-sized companies, a bond-trading reporting platform and an offshore market exchange, recorded a narrower loss of RM1.8 million in 3Q26, compared with RM2.0 million a year earlier.

For the nine months ended Sept 30, 2026, Bursa Malaysia's net profit rose to RM214.81 million from RM189.32 million a year earlier, while revenue increased to RM641.46 million from RM536.86 million.

In a separate statement, chief executive officer Datuk Fadl Mohamed said the exchange had maintained momentum across its markets in the first nine months of the year, supported by stronger trading activity, continued fundraising and encouraging investor participation.

He said the 47 initial public offerings (IPOs) during the period, alongside a 27.6 per cent increase in securities market ADV and 19.3 per cent growth in average daily derivatives contracts, reflected healthy market participation.

Looking ahead, he said the board would focus on enhancing market vibrancy and participation while investing in the resilience and reliability of the exchange's market infrastructure.

"Enhancements to the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI and FTSE Bursa Malaysia Mid 70 indices, MY Value Up and efforts to deepen regional and international market linkages, including between Malaysia and Hong Kong, are among the strategic initiatives we are pursuing towards this end," he added. — Bernama

Highlights BURSA MALAYSIA

Late buying lifts Bursa Malaysia to close slightly higher

LATE buying in selected heavyweight stocks, particularly utility counters, lifted Bursa Malaysia to close marginally higher yesterday, in line with regional markets.

At 5pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) rose 2.02 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 1,613.87 from Tuesday's close of 1,611.85. The benchmark index opened 2.64 points higher at 1,614.49 and moved between 1,609.44 and 1,615.87 during the trading session.

The broader market was positive, with gainers outpacing losers 658 to 418, while 524 counters were unchanged, 1,267 untraded, and 104 suspended.

Turnover decreased to 3.16 billion units worth RM2.28 billion from Tuesday's 3.37 billion units worth RM3.10 billion.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said regional markets were mostly firmer, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street, with strong semiconductor earnings reinforcing optimism over artificial intelligence demand. He said investors remained focused on the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision and upcoming earnings from major technology companies.

"On the domestic front, we maintain our cautiously optimistic view, supported by resilient economic fundamentals and relatively attractive valuations."

PPI up 12 per cent in September

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Producer Price Index (PPI) increased by 12.0 per cent in September 2026, from 10.7 per cent in August 2026, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

On an annual basis, DOSM said among the main sectors in PPI, mining recorded a substantial increase of 54.1 per cent in September 2026, compared with 41.2 per cent in the previous month.

"This was primarily driven by the extraction of crude petroleum, which increased by 74.2 per cent," it said in its PPI Local Production report for September 2026.

The PPI measures changes in the prices domestic producers receive for their goods and services, before they reach consumers.

DOSM said the manufacturing sector increased by 9.4 per cent, from 8.8 per cent in August 2026, mainly contributed by the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (35.0 per cent) and the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products (12.9 per cent).

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector rose moderately by 2.9 per cent, from 4.6 per cent in the preceding month, with animal production up 11.9 per cent.

"The utility sectors also recorded increases, with electricity and gas supply and water supply rising by 5.5 per cent and 3.2 per cent, respectively," it said.

On a month-on-month basis, the PPI Local Production rose 1.6 per cent in September 2026, up from 1.0 per cent in August 2026.

The mining sector recorded a 10.3 per cent increase (August 2026: 6.7 per cent), driven by the extraction of crude petroleum index (13.6 per cent).

The PPI local production increased by 10.8 per cent in the third quarter of 2026, from a 7.4 per cent increase in the previous quarter; the increase was contributed by all sectors, particularly mining (41.9 per cent) and manufacturing (8.8 per cent) sectors.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the PPI increased by 2.8 per cent, slower than a 6.8 per cent increase in the second quarter of 2026, mainly supported by the manufacturing sector (3.6 per cent). — Bernama

SKA Capital valued at RM0.92, offering 114 pct upside from IPO price

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KUCHING: ACE Market-bound SKA Capital Bhd (SKA Capital) has been assigned a fair value (FV) of RM0.92 per share by researchers at MBSB Investment Bank Bhd (MBSB Research), representing a potential upside of 114 per cent from its initial public offering (IPO) price of RM0.43.

In its IPO note, the research house said SKA Capital's IPO price translates to a price-to-earnings ratio (PER) of eight times its forecast financial year 2027 (FY27F) core earnings, a 52.7 per cent discount to the average forward PER of its listed peers.

MBSB Research believes the valuation discount is relatively steep, given the group's exposure to Malaysia's growing power infrastructure sector and its expanding engineering capabilities.

"We believe SKA deserves to trade at parity with its peers, underpinned by its established track record in high-voltage substation engineering, expanding EPCC and underground utilities capabilities, and exposure to Malaysia's ongoing power infrastructure investment upcycle," it said.

MBSB Research derived its FV of RM0.92 by pegging FY27F earnings per share (EPS) of 5.4 sen to a PER of 17 times, broadly in line with the 16.9 times average of its peers.

The research house expects SKA Capital's core earnings to grow 61 per cent year on year (y-o-y) to RM48.3 million in FY27, supported by existing contracts and new project wins.

Revenue is projected to increase 72.3 per cent to RM397.4 million, from an estimated RM230.6 million in FY26.

Its outstanding order book stands at RM402.7 million after subsidiary SKA Rekabina Sdn Bhd secured six Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) related distribution infrastructure contracts worth RM89.3 million from Ibrahim & Sons Engineering Sdn Bhd.

The works cover underground cable installation and the construction of distribution substations across Peninsular Malaysia.

About 78 per cent of the order book comprises underground utilities engineering projects, with substation engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) and civil and structural (C&S) works accounting for 11 per cent each.

MBSB Research estimates SKA Capital's tender book at RM1.5 billion to RM2 billion, with potential new contract wins of RM350 million in FY27 and RM400 million in FY28.

"We remain optimistic on SKA's order-book replenishment prospects, underpinned by TNB's RM42.8b approved capital expenditure under regulatory period 4 (RP4), alongside growing demand for power infrastructure to support the rapid expansion of data centres (DCs) and industrial developments," it said.

Of TNB's RM42.82 billion approved capital expenditure under RP4, RM15 billion is expected to be invested in 2027.

MBSB Research also highlighted DC as a growth driver, with TNB's pipeline reaching 61 projects requiring up to 8.35 gigawatts of electricity as at June 2026. Of these, 42 projects totalling 5.65 gigawatts had already been connected to the grid.

Moreover, SKA Capital's acquisition of a 70 per cent stake in Reltency Engineering Services Sdn Bhd in February 2025 expanded its capabilities into larger, integrated engineering contracts.

Its underground utilities segment has also gained traction, generating RM25.7 million in revenue in the first five months of FY26, compared with RM9.5 million for the whole of FY25. The segment accounted for 21.5 per cent of group revenue in the five-month period.

However, MBSB Research cautioned that earnings depend on continued contract wins and timely execution, with customer concentration, project delays and margin pressure posing risks.

SKA Capital is scheduled to list on Bursa Malaysia's ACE Market on Nov 11, offering 168.1 million new shares and 72.4 million existing shares at RM0.43 each.

The public issue is expected to raise RM72.3 million, of which RM32.7 million is earmarked for working capital, RM21 million for performance bonds, RM12.1 million for machinery and equipment, and RM6.5 million for listing expenses.

The group targets a dividend payout of at least 30 per cent of annual profit after tax, implying a forecast FY27 dividend yield of 3.7 per cent at the IPO price.

Safran's N. Sembilan facility produces 27 pct of global carbon brake discs

KUALA LUMPUR: Safran Group's carbon brake disc manufacturing facility in Sendayan, Negeri Sembilan, accounts for 27 per cent of its global production, underscoring the importance of the Malaysian operation within Safran's global manufacturing network.

Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) chief executive officer Datuk Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim Sikh Abdul Majid said the facility produces carbon brake discs for aircraft built by Airbus, Boeing and ATR.

"A brake disc produced in Sendayan will definitely end up on an aircraft flying anywhere in the world," he said in his speech at the expansion of Safran Landing Systems Malaysia Sdn Bhd's carbon brake disc manufacturing facility in Sendayan and the opening of its new wheels and brakes maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility yesterday.

He said the new MRO facility complements Safran's manufacturing operations in Negeri Sembilan, allowing the company to provide manufacturing and aftermarket services within the same ecosystem, close to Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

He said aerospace components require MRO several times throughout an aircraft's working life, allowing Malaysia to retain economic value for decades after the initial sale.

Sikh Shamsul said Malaysia is already the third-largest MRO player in the Asia-Pacific region and was targeting RM55 billion in aerospace revenue by 2030, while increasing its share of the global MRO market from four per cent to five per cent under the Malaysia Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030. — Bernama

TOP 20 GAINERS

STOCK	L/DONE	LACP	BUY	SELL	CHANGE
NESTLE	168,400	9,888.0	9,428.0	9,798.0	+ 370.0
MPI	262,400	4,278.0	4,130.0	4,214.0	+ 84.0
HEIM	341,900	1,304.0	1,284.0	1,304.0	+ 30.0
VITROX	2,679,600	1,112.0	1,084.0	1,106.0	+ 24.0
SOP	535,800	551.0	525.0	550.0	+ 22.0
F&N	204,600	2,020.0	1,970.0	1,990.0	+ 22.0
CARLSBG	103,800	1,286.0	1,270.0	1,278.0	+ 18.0
YTLPOWR	12,277,200	527.0	512.0	527.0	+ 17.0
BUSCAP	19,092,300	102.0	87.0	101.0	+ 16.5
MI	7,200,100	708.0	683.0	690.0	+ 15.0
FAREAST	500	420.0	410.0	410.0	+ 15.0
UWC	3,770,300	765.0	750.0	759.0	+ 14.0
PMETAL	3,303,700	689.0	668.0	686.0	+ 14.0
SKYECHIP	2,896,600	280.0	269.0	280.0	+ 13.0
PEKAT	2,275,800	300.0	288.0	300.0	+ 12.0
PPB	59,100	898.0	878.0	892.0	+ 12.0
KERJAYA	1,109,500	353.0	338.0	351.0	+ 11.0
KOBAY	1,466,700	228.0	216.0	227.0	+ 11.0
SPRITZER	379,300	370.0	362.0	369.0	+ 11.0
FRONTKN	4,755,100	523.0	508.0	517.0	+ 11.0

TOP 20 LOSERS

STOCK	L/DONE	LACP	BUY	SELL	CHANGE
UTDPLT	305,800	2,956.0	2,906.0	2,932.0	- 38.0
HLIND	50,900	1,638.0	1,616.0	1,622.0	- 28.0
VITROX-C34	800,000	15.0	15.0	15.0	- 27.0
AYER	900	775.0	775.0	775.0	- 25.0
HSI-CWYC	205,000	40.5	40.0	40.0	- 21.0
WPRTS	4,842,600	710.0	685.0	688.0	- 20.0
UWC-C32	400,000	23.5	23.0	23.5	- 18.5
KLCC	279,500	830.0	814.0	814.0	- 16.0
DUFU	8,665,300	326.0	296.0	301.0	- 16.0
ECOSHOP	8,917,600	143.0	127.0	128.0	- 15.0
GENTINGC4U	1,260,100	6.0	6.0	6.0	- 14.0
ITMAX	223,800	456.0	443.0	443.0	- 14.0
MAXIS	4,830,700	366.0	346.0	351.0	- 14.0
HENGYUAN-WA2	2,075,200	305.0	294.0	294.0	- 13.0
HENGYUAN	7,147,100	409.0	395.0	399.0	- 12.0
ALLIANZ	18,500	1,942.0	1,920.0	1,924.0	- 12.0
LPI	122,900	1,320.0	1,306.0	1,308.0	- 12.0
ECOSHOP-C1	5100,000	3.0	3.0	3.0	- 12.0
MBSB-C1C	20,000	3.5	3.5	3.5	- 11.5
HIBISCS	5,113,300	239.0	230.0	231.0	- 11.0

Closing Indices

KLSE	FBMEMAS	12,067.00	(+ 27.71)
	FBMKLCI	1,613.87	(+ 2.02)
	CONSUMER PRODUCTS	443.18	(+ 1.35)
	INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	179.03	(+ 2.12)
	CONSTRUCTION	317.61	(+ 2.72)
	FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,579.24	(- 21.79)
	ENERGY	846.37	(+ 0.63)
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	380.97	(+ 0.51)
	HEALTH CARE	1,587.69	(+ 1.93)
	TRANSPORTATION	1,020.96	(- 1.30)
	PROPERTY	976.26	(- 4.70)
	PLANTATION	8,646.83	(- 7.43)
	FBMSHA	12,080.71	(+ 30.98)
	FBMACE	5,481.92	(+ 63.29)
	TECHNOLOGY	76.82	(+ 1.38)
• S'PORE	STI	5,399.29	+ 2.26
• TOKYO	NIKKEI	63,954.19	+ 685.82
	TOPIX	3,991.71	- 5.66
• HK	HANG SENG	23,094.83	+ 53.51
• AUST	ALL ORDS	8,971.40	+ 2.60

Commodities

PEPPER
Date: 28.10.2026

* Average Pepper price (RM/tonne)

SOUTHERN REGION

	KUCHING	SERIAN	SRI AMAN	BETONG
BLACK G1	24,210	24,710	24,000	24,980
WHITE G1	35,570	35,480	34,500	38,300

NORTHERN REGION

	SARIKEI	BINTANGOR	SIBU	KAPIT	BINTULU	MIRI
BLACK G1	24,040	25,250	23,960	23,960	21,750	21,380
WHITE G1	35,440	36,250	34,400	34,400	31,500	31,250

Source: Malaysian Pepper Board
http://www.mpb.gov.my

COCOA

Dealer's buying prices of dry cocoa beans (RM/MT)
Centres in Sabah & Sarawak

	SMC 1			SMC 2		
	High	Low	Avg	High	Low	Avg
KUCHING	14,000	14,000	14,000	13,800	13,800	13,800
SARIKEI	14,000	14,000	14,000	13,800	13,800	13,800
SIBU	14,000	14,000	14,000	13,800	13,800	13,800
TAWAU	14,500	14,500	14,500	14,300	14,300	14,300
TENOM	14,500	14,500	14,500	14,300	14,300	14,300

* Not Graded

Source : Malaysian Cocoa Board

Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA)

Average Retail Prices Of Selected Commodities In Kuching (28 October 2026)

COMMODITIES	Prices (RM/Kg)
VEGETABLES	
Round Cabbage	6.00
Spinach	6.00
Chinese Mustard	10.00
Chinese Kale	10.00
Bean Sprout	3.00
Cucumber	6.45
Brinjal	7.25
Local Tomato	6.00
Highland Tomato	9.50
Long Bean	9.75
French Bean	13.73
Lady's Finger	10.00
Loofah	6.00
Pumpkin	6.00
Bitter Gourd	10.00
Lembiding (Midin)	10.00
Old Ginger	8.23
Young Ginger	8.90
Red Chilli (Kulai)	16.00
Red Chilli (Local/Oil)	20.50
Shallot	8.50
Onion (Bombay)	4.00
Onion (Holland)	4.82
Garlic	7.50
Imported Potato	3.40
Imported Carrot	4.33
Grind Coconut	10.00
Seed Coconut	3.00
Santan	9.00
POULTRY	
Crossbreed Male/Female	TU
Kampung Male/Female	TU
Standard Chicken	10.70
Super Chicken	12.50
Fresh Meat Local	65.00
Imported Meat	40.00
EGGS(* RM/BIJI)	
Chicken Egg - Grade A*	0.56
- Grade B*	0.56
- Grade C*	0.54
- Salted Egg*	1.20
FRUITS(* RM/KG)/(* RM/BIJI)	
Papaya	5.50
Exotica Papaya	5.25
Watermelon	5.47
Guava	6.63
Starfruits 10	4.68
Orange (Local)	4.68
Mas Bananas	6.17
Embun Bananas	2.50
Rastali Bananas	4.38
Honey Dew	6.85
Sarawak Pineapple	3.50

*** Prices collected at Medan Niaga Satok**

Exchange Rates

EXCHANGE RATES ISSUED BY MALAYAN BANKING BHD: Oct 28

	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.1600	4.0140	4.0040
1 Australian Dollar	2.9430	2.8250	2.8090
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2400	3.1390	3.1310
1 Canadian Dollar	2.9540	2.8710	2.8590
1 Euro	4.6240	4.4740	4.4540
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.3680	2.2800	2.2640
1 Papua N Guinea Kina	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2400	3.1390	3.1310
1 Sterling Pound	5.5300	5.3540	5.3340
1 Swiss Franc	5.0400	4.8250	4.8100
100 UAE Dirham	114.2900	108.3700	108.1700
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.4120	3.1800	2.9800
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.6600	60.0000	N/A
100 Danish Krone	63.4200	58.3500	58.1500
100 Hongkong Dollar	53.4600	50.7800	50.5800
100 Indian Rupee	4.4600	4.1400	3.9400
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0239	0.0211	0.0161
100 Japanese Yen	2.6520	2.5290	2.5190
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	45.6700	42.0100	41.8100
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5600	1.3900	1.1900
100 Philippine Peso	6.5900	6.2000	6.0000
100 Qatar Riyal	115.0800	109.2500	109.0500
100 Saudi Riyal	111.7700	106.1100	105.9100
100 South Africa Rand	25.8500	23.3500	23.1500
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.3100	1.1500	0.9500
100 Swedish Krona	43.0300	39.1900	38.9900
100 Thai Baht	12.8200	11.3700	10.9700

Scoreboard

	UP	DOWN	+/-	TRADED
CONSUMER PRODS &SERVICES	55	42	64	161
INDUSTRIAL PRODS & SERVICES	80	48	59	187
CONSTRUCTION	16	16	17	49
TECHNOLOGY	32	9	20	61
FINANCIAL SERVICES	9	13	8	30
PROPERTY	25	20	35	80
PLANTATION	11	16	8	35
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS	4	8	8	20
CLOSED END FUND	1	0	0	1
ENERGY	14	12	10	36
HEALTH CARE	7	8	6	21
TELECOMMUNICATIONS& MEDIA	5	6	5	16
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	7	7	8	22
UTILITIES	4	5	4	13
BUSINESS TRUST	0	0	1	1
STRCWARR	291	149	165	605
ACE-MKT	92	58	103	253
BOND&LOAN	1	0	0	1
ETF	4	0	3	7
LEAP-MKT	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	658	418	524	1,600

MRB Prices

SMR AT 3PM PRICES (SEN/KG): OCT 28
NOV
SEN PER KG/CENTS PER KG

SMR CV	1,350.00 / 337.10
SMR L	1,340.00 / 334.60
SMR 5	1,050.00 / 262.20
SMR GP	1,045.00 / 260.95
SMR 10	1,035.00 / 258.45
SMR 20	1,030.00 / 257.20

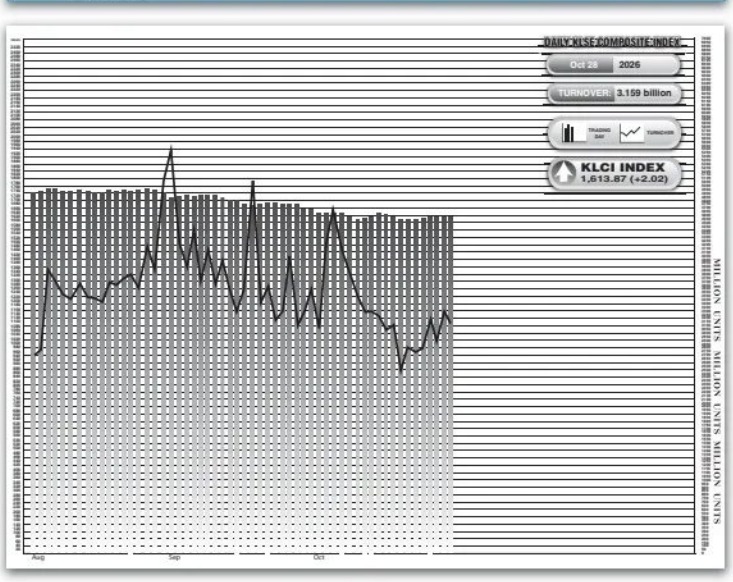
LATEKS PUKAL: HARGA TEMPATAN (ISO 2004) DI DALAM SEN/KG (60% KGK)
LATEX IN BULK 798.00
TONE OF MARKET : STEADY

MPOB Reference Prices (Mill Gate)

MPOB MONTHLY FFB REFERENCE PRICE (MILL GATE BASIS): OCT 28

REGION	RM/ 1% OER		RM/ 1% OER
NORTH	47.39	EAST COAST	47.44
SOUTH	47.53	SABAH*	42.51
CENTRAL	47.46	SARAWAK**	42.92

Note: *Sandakan, Lahad Datu and Tawau **Miri and Bintulu OER: Oil Extraction Rate



Ten Most Active

COUNTER (Mil)	VOL (SEN)	HI (SEN)	LO (SEN)	L/DONE (SEN)	+/-
ZETRIX	391,689,500	9.5	8.0	8.5	unch
HSI-CWU4	152,639,400	7.5	6.0	6.0	- 0.5
HSI-PWV4	115,728,100	13.0	11.5	12.0	- 1.0
VS	54,421,400	36.0	34.5	35.5	+ 1.0
MAG	47,550,000	16.0	15.5	15.5	unch
HSI-CWWQ	42,776,600	15.5	14.5	15.0	+ 0.5
TOPGLOV	41,552,600	98.0	95.0	97.0	+ 0.5
GIIB	29,793,100	73.0	64.0	71.0	- 2.5
LANDMRK	25,660,500	7.5	4.0	5.5	+ 1.5
CGB	25,207,300	86.5	85.5	86.0	- 0.5

Interbank Rates

KUALA LUMPUR INTERBANK OFFER RATES: Oct 28

1M	3.02		HIBOR (HK$)
2M	3.35	1M	2.71351
3M	3.55	2M	2.90518
6M	3.59	3M	3.21613
12M	3.79	6M	3.47155
		12M	3.95589

Gold

THE PHYSICAL PRICE OF GOLD AS AT 5PM STOOD AT RM513.86 PER GRAMME, UP RM6.11 FROM RM507.75 AT 5PM PREVIOUSLY.

A drone photo shows smart transport robots at a container terminal of Tianjin Port in north China's Tianjin. — Xinhua photo by Zhao Zishuo

China harnesses smart technologies to power transport upgrade

ZHENGZHOU: To drivers crossing the Guandu Yellow River Bridge in central China's Henan Province, it is just routine on a busy highway, but a sophisticated and invisible network of smart digital technologies is hard at work above and below the asphalt.

This system was built to meet a very practical challenge. Opened in October 2019, the eight-lane bridge had long faced heavy pressure in terms of maintenance and safety management. To address blind spots, slow response and low efficiency in traditional upkeep, a full-process smart operations model was introduced to manage the bridge.

In March 2025, the bridge operator set up a dedicated drone inspection unit equipped with two types of drones. Multi-rotor drones handle detailed checks of bridge surfaces, hazard verification and 3D modeling, while fixed-wing drones cover a 35-kilometre radius in a single flight for long-distance highway patrols.

Working alongside road administration teams and manual maintenance crews, the drones form an "air patrol plus ground watch" system intended to provide all-weather, area-wide coverage.

The bridge's intelligence capabilities extend beyond aerial patrols. A full-factor digital twin replicates the deck, guardrails, piers and ancillary facilities in a virtual environment. Radar-vision devices help the system detect illegal parking, intrusions and facility abnormalities even at night or in fog. When a risk is identified, alerts are linked to the 3D model and pinpointed to specific locations, replacing the older practice of estimating positions by mile markers.

The upgrade is part of a wider push in central China's Henan, which has developed rapid road-condition detection equipment and a smart maintenance platform.

Shan Fei, general manager of Henan Transportation Development Research Institute Co., Ltd., said the province has completed digital data collection and 3D modeling for 31,000 kilometers of trunk highways, using positioning from China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) and laser point cloud mapping. The resulting database covers 127 types of assets, including roadbeds, pavements, bridges, tunnels and traffic safety facilities, which he described as China's largest provincial-level digital foundation for highway assets.

"From a single milestone or bollard to a kilometer-long bridge or tunnel, every element is now under digital management," Shan said.

The Guandu bridge is a microcosm of China's broader push to fuse AI with transportation. According to Liu Wei, China's minister of transport, more than 7,800 kilometres of expressways have undergone digital and intelligent upgrades, 60 automated terminals have been built, and about 27 million pieces of equipment across the sector are now using the BDS.

According to the Ministry of Transport, in 2025, 696 long-span bridges crossing rivers, seas and gorges were included in a three-level monitoring network linking national, provincial and individual bridge systems, with basic bridge data and monitoring and alert information shared instantly.

Policy support is also expanding. In September 2025, seven government departments, including the Ministry of Transport, issued guidelines on applying AI to transportation, setting out a timetable and roadmap for the sector.

In 2026, authorities launched an action plan to create typical application scenarios in areas such as intelligent driving, smart highways, intelligent supervision and smart shipping, aiming to roll out over 100 pilot projects and bring together more than 1,000 innovators.

"AI plus transportation has become the new central thread in boosting China's strength in transport," said Wang Yunpeng, chairman of the China Intelligent Transportation Systems Association, noting that a modern, comprehensive, multi-modal transport network is taking shape and accelerating toward digitalisation, intelligence, integration and green development. — Xinhua

China strengthens protection for growing snow leopard population

BEIJING: China's snow leopard population has doubled to about 5,000 from around 2,500 in 2013, reflecting progress in protecting the species and its habitat.

The latest figures were released by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration on Friday on the occasion of the International Day of the Snow Leopard which falls on Oct 23.

Snow leopards typically inhabit rugged terrain at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters and serve as an important indicator of the health of high-altitude mountain ecosystems. The species is classified as "vulnerable" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species and receives the highest level of wildlife protection in China.

China has the world's largest snow leopard population and protects more than 60 per cent of the species' global habitat, according to the administration. Its habitat covers about 2.08 million square kilometres across eight provincial-level regions.

China has taken a systematic approach to snow leopard conservation since 2013. Its protection network includes two national parks and 78 other important protected areas in key snow leopard habitats. More than 800,000 square kilometers of habitat are under strict protection, while nearly 40 percent of the species' potential habitat is under standardized management.

The country is also using technologies such as infrared cameras and DNA analysis of fecal samples to monitor snow leopard populations, track their movements and study their breeding activity.

Sustained conservation efforts have improved snow leopard habitat quality and ecosystem integrity, alongside growth in the population and its reproductive vitality, the administration said.

In April, infrared cameras in the Helan Mountains in northwest China captured a reintroduced female snow leopard with her cub, marking the first time a snow leopard reintroduction project worldwide has resulted in cubs being born and successfully raised in the wild.

Native to the Helan Mountains, snow leopards disappeared from the area in the 1950s due to habitat destruction and human disturbance. To restore the population, eight snow leopards have been introduced to the mountains so far. Several snow leopards, including those arriving naturally, have since established territories and hunt independently.

Signs of the species' presence are also emerging elsewhere. In Muli County of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province, footage recorded this year confirmed the first sighting of a snow leopard in the prefecture, extending the known southeastern edge of the species' range, the administration said.

Looking ahead, China will focus on improving connectivity between habitats, protecting genetic diversity and refining measures to prevent and address human-wildlife conflict to sustain snow leopard population recovery, the administration said. — Xinhua

Snow leopards are pictured in Shiqu County of Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province. — Xinhua photo by Wen Zhenxiao

Displaced residents moving into prefab homes three days after Xizang quake

BAQEN, Xizang: Three days after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake damaged his home, Tsewang Khangshi was busy moving folding beds and quilts into his temporary new home.

On Sunday, the 36-year-old villager from Baqen County moved from a tent to a prefabricated house, which rescue workers had rushed against the clock to build in the wake of the quake that struck on Oct 22, killing 16 people and injuring 76 others.

More than 12,000 residents were evacuated, and 339 homes and 20 livestock sheds were damaged or destroyed, according to local authorities.

Baqen County in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, the epicenter of the earthquake, perches at an altitude of nearly 4,800 meters. Tiding over the cold winter has been a top concern for displaced residents like Tsewang Khangshi.

Large quantities of disaster relief supplies had arrived in the disaster zone in batches. As of 11am on Oct 24, 52,450 items or sets of disaster relief supplies had been sent to the quake zone, including 4,651 tents, 2,000 prefabricated houses, 11,772 folding beds, 5,715 quilts and other cold-weather necessities.

Within five hours of the earthquake, the first tents had been erected. All affected residents, including Tsewang Khangshi's family, had moved into temporary tent shelters by Oct 23.

His family moved into a prefabricated house on Oct 25. "We are so happy we can move into a prefabricated house," he said, packing quilts, clothes and folding beds into his vehicle — all relief supplies delivered in the immediate aftermath of the quake.

Children play at a resettlement site of a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua photo by Tenzin Nyida

The high altitude, low temperatures and strong winds have posed challenges for both residents and rescue workers. Gusts reached up to 13 meters per second, making it difficult to keep warm, particularly at night.

To provide better protection against the harsh weather, construction teams and power workers have worked around the clock to build sturdier, warmer temporary homes.

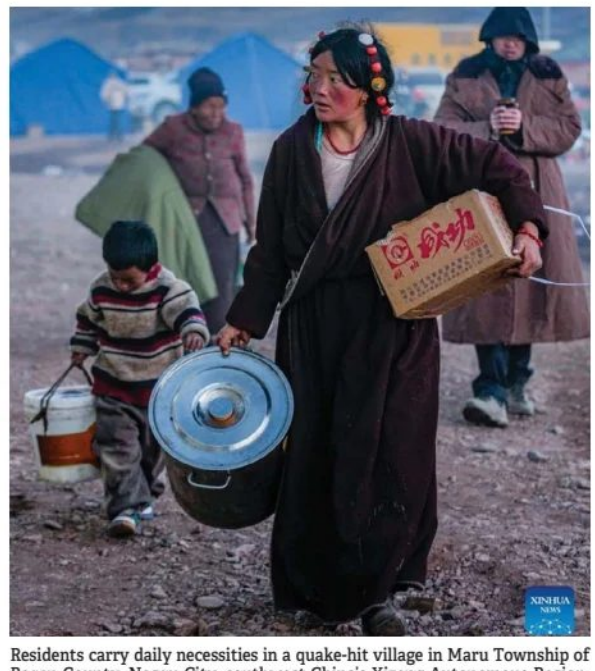
The first 60 prefabricated housing units in the earthquake zone were completed at 2.10am on Oct 25, and electricity was connected to the units by 8pm on the same day.

"We will ensure that affected residents have safe shelter, warm clothing and bedding, hot meals and clean drinking water," said Pan Zhiqing, Party chief of the Nagqu Municipal Emergency Management Bureau. "As more prefabricated units are completed, we will gradually move residents out of tents and into better-heated housing."

As the new housing units became available, families began moving in, cleaning their rooms and arranging furniture. The sound of people carrying belongings and chatting filled the settlement in the afternoon sunshine.

Outside, workers went from door to door, checking electrical wiring and the sealing of windows and doors against drafts. "All the prefabricated houses are fitted with chimneys for stove use, and we must ensure residents can stay warm through the winter," said Zhang Xuhui, a construction team leader with China Railway. — Xinhua

A drone photo shows prefabricated houses at a resettlement site of a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua photo by Gaesang Namgyae



Residents carry daily necessities in a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua photo by Tenzin Nyida

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MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING NO. KCH-29NCC-34-2/2026 (HC 2)

RE: **DAVID ANAK JAHAT (WN.KP. 860405-52-5615)** No. 213 10 Mile, Jalan Landeh, 93520 Sarawak ... Judgment Debtor
And/or
Kampung Semawang Jalan Dato Mohd Musa, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak
And/or
Pej Gaji 1 Rejimen Semboyan, Diraja Kem Muara Tuang, 94300 Kota Samarahan.
And/or
Rejemen 4 ARMO Diraja Kem Penrisesn Jalan Kuching Serian, 93677 Kuching, Sarawak.

EX-PARTE: **BANK MUAMALAT MALAYSIA BERHAD (196501000376) [6175-W]** a company incorporated in Malaysia with its registered Head office at Tingkat 11, Menara Bumiputra, No. 21 Jalan Melaka, 50100 Kuala Lumpur. ... Judgment Creditor

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF CREDITOR'S PETITION

In the matter of a **Creditor's Petition** dated **7th day of July, 2026** and the **Court's Order** dated the **16th day of October, 2026.**

To: **DAVID ANAK JAHAT (WN.KP. 860405-52-5615)** No. 213 10 Mile, Jalan Landeh, 93520 Sarawak
And/or
Kampung Semawang Jalan Dato Mohd Musa, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak
And/or
Pej Gaji 1 Rejimen Semboyan, Diraja Kem Muara Tuang, 94300 Kota Samarahan.
And/or
Rejemen 4 ARMO Diraja Kem Penrisesn Jalan Kuching Serian, 93677 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a **Creditor's Petition** in the action herein dated the **7th day of July, 2026** and the **Affidavit of Truth of Statements In Petition** affirmed by **AZMI BIN SULAIMAN (NRIC. NO. 780218-01-5679)** on **7th day of July, 2026** (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Creditor's Petition") has been presented against you in this Court by **BANK MUAMALAT MALAYSIA BERHAD (196501000376) (6175-W)**, a company incorporated in Malaysia with its registered Head office at Tingkat 11, Menara Bumiputra, No. 21 Jalan Melaka, 50100 Kuala Lumpur, and the Court has ordered that the said Creditor's Petition be served upon you by publication of an advertisement in one (1) issue of the "**The Borneo Post**" newspaper of a Notice of Substituted Service of the Creditor's Petition, affixing the Notice on the court's notice board and serving the Notice to the Judgment Debtor's address by prepaid registered post and such publication and/ or posting shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Creditor's Petition upon you and that service shall be deemed to have been served on the day of the publication and/or posting.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the said Creditor's Petition will be heard at this Court on **Thursday** the **12th day of November, 2026** at **9:00 a.m.** o'clock in the morning on which day you are required to appear, and if you do not appear the Court may make a Bankruptcy Order against you.

The Creditor's Petition can be inspected by you on application to this Court.

Dated 26th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, HIGH COURT KUCHING

THIS NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF CREDITOR PETITION is taken out by **MESSRS KADIR, WONG, LIN & CO. ADVOCATES**, Advocates for the Judgment Creditor whose address is Room 508, 5th Floor, Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak. (File Ref : TL/PT/RC/BMMBI-L359/2026) 537167H03JFP

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS NO. KCH-29NCC-35-2/2026 (HC 3)

RE: **RAFIDAH BINTI BUJANG (WN. KP. 800505-13-6022)** No. 377, Eastern Park, Pisang Road West, 93150 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Judgment Debtor

EX-PARTE: **CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION MALAYSIA BERHAD (Reg. No. 197201000831) (Company No.12441-M)** Level 14, Bangunan CGC, Kelana Business Centre, 97, Jalan SS 7/2, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. ... Judgment Creditor

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF CREDITOR'S PETITION
(In the matter of Creditor's Petition filed on the 9th day of September, 2026)

To: **RAFIDAH BINTI BUJANG (WN. KP. 800505-13-6022)** No. 377, Eastern Park, Pisang Road West, 93150 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a **Creditor's Petition** has been presented against you in the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching in **Bankruptcy Proceedings No. KCH-29NCC-35-2/2026 (HC 3)** by **CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION MALAYSIA BERHAD (12441-M), Level 14, Bangunan CGC, Kelana Business Centre, 97, Jalan SS 7/2, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan** and the Court has ordered that the service of the Creditor's Petition against you be by way of substituted service by a single publication of an advertisement in "**The Borneo Post**" newspaper and that such service shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Creditor's Petition on you and that such service be deemed to have been effected on the date of the publication of the said advertisement and the costs and expenses of an incidental to this application and advertisement be costs in the cause.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the said Petition will be heard at this Court on the **Tuesday, 17th day of November, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** on which day you are required to appear and if you do not appear, the Court may make a Bankruptcy Order or such orders as it thinks fit against you in your absence.

The Creditor's Petition can be inspected by you on application to this Court.

Dated this 26th day of October, 2026

Senior Assistant Registrar High Court, Kuching.

This **Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice** is taken out by Messrs Mutang, Boieng & Chai, Advocates for the Judgment Creditor whose address for service is 1st – 3rd Floor, Lot 10522, Block 16 KCLD, Jalan Tun Jugah, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. (File No. PL1374) 536926H05JFP

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI DIVORCE PETITION NO.: MYY-33-52-7/2026 (HC)

In the matter of dissolution of marriage on ground of breakdown of marriage and
In the matter of rule 7 and 8 of the Divorce and Matrimonial Proceedings Rules 1980 and
In the matter of Sections 53; 54(1)(c) & (d); 88(1); 89(2) and 106(1) of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 [*Act 164*]

BETWEEN

TAUYA ANAK RENGGA (F) (NRIC. NO.: 910907-13-5724) ... PETITIONER

AND

SENCHEZ RENTAP ANAK FAVIAN (M) (NRIC. NO.: 900715-13-7283) ... RESPONDENT

NOTICE

(IN THE MATTER of Divorce Petition issued on the **13th day of July 2026)**

To: **SENCHEZ RENTAP ANAK FAVIAN (M) (NRIC. NO.: 900715-13-7283)** Last known address: Rumah Budol Seruai 95600 Spaoh, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that a divorce petition has been presented against you in this Court by the Petitioner **TAUYA ANAK RENGGA (F) (NRIC. NO.: 910907-13-5724)** of **Lot 1128 Jalan Promin Jaya 1D, Desa** Senadin, 98000 Miri, Sarawak **and the Court has ordered that the said** petition be served on you by publishing via advertisement a Notice once in a local newspaper namely **BORNEO POST** and that such publication shall be good and sufficient service of the petition on you **14 days** after the last act of such publication.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if you desire to defend that cause, you must within **8 days** after the effective service of the petition on you, inclusive of the day of service in Form 6 in the Registry of the High Court at Miri, Sarawak. In default of such notice, decree nisi may be granted against you.

DATED this **26th day of October, 2026.**

Senior Assistant Registrar High Court, Miri

This ***NOTICE*** is filed by **Assistant Director of Legal Aid Department, Miri** for and on behalf of the Petitioner, whose address for Service is at 13th Floor, Yu Lan Plaza, Lot 97, Brooke Road, 98000 Miri, Sarawak. Tel No: 085 423606/ Fax No: 085 425204 [Ref. No.: JBG.MI.600-7/12/101/0726] 318513N30MH

MALAYSIA
IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AT KUCHING, SARAWAK
SUIT NO. KCH-A72NCvC-224-5/2026 (MC 2)

Between

Majlis Perbandaran Padawan ... Plaintiff

And

Tristan Ashley Chai Chern Ming (NRIC No. 970430-13-5309) ... Defendant

NOTICE OF WRIT

To: **Tristan Ashley Chai Chern Ming (NRIC No. 970430-13-5309)** C/O AG-04-16, GoodYear Court 10, USJ 15, Jalan Mulia, 47630 Subang Jaya, Selangor.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrates' Court in Suit No. KCH-A72NCvC-224-5/2026 (MC 2) by the above-named Plaintiff of Kota Padawan, Batu 10, Jalan Penrissen, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak in which the Plaintiff's claim against you is for:

(a) the sum of **RM4,450.00;**
(b) surcharge on the sum of **RM3,238.40** at the rate of 1% per month from 06.05.2026 until the date of full and final settlement;
(c) caveat fee of RM100.00;
(d) costs pursuant to section 79 of the Local Authorities Ordinance 1996; and
(e) other reliefs as deemed fit and just by this Honourable Court.

AND that it has been ordered inter alia that the service of the Order for Substituted Service and the Writ together with the Statement of Claim in this action be effected on you by posting the said Writ and Statement of Claim with a copy of the Order for Substituted Service to your last known address at C/O AG-04-16, GoodYear Court 10, USJ15, Jalan Mulia, 47630 Subang Jaya, Selangor by prepaid registered post, and advertisement of this Notice once in a local newspaper; and that such service shall be good and sufficient service on you upon the lapse of 7 days from the date of such posting or publication; whichever is the later; and that you shall pay the Plaintiff costs of this application and incidental thereto.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you desire to defend the said action you must within **27 days** from the publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, enter an appearance at the Registry of the Magistrate's Court, Kuching. In default of such appearance, judgment may be entered against you.

Dated the 27th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

Registrar
Subordinate Courts, Kuching

This Notice of Writ is filed for the Plaintiff by Spring Advocates of Unit 28, First Floor, Emporium, No. 9, Jalan Tun Jugah, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.
(T) 265535 (F) 265537 (E) springadvocates@gmail.com (Ref.) L2224(24)/JH

537139H30JSF

NOTIFICATION TO CREDITORS
THE ESTATE OF WONG KEE UNG
(NRIC NO.: 541109-13-5091/K584455)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the abovenamed Deceased, who passed away on 27th September 2021 are required on or before 28th December 2026 (2 months after the date of advertisement) to submit the particulars of their debts or claims against the Deceased to the Executor of the Estate. The Executor shall not be liable to any person submitting the particulars of the debts or claims after 28th December 2026 (2 months after the date of advertisement) or in default of proving the said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice by the Executor.

Dated this 29th October 2026

Executor of the Estate
ROCKWILLS TRUSTEE BERHAD
Wisma Rockwills, No.62, Jalan 2/131A,
Off Jalan Klang Lama, 58200 Kuala Lumpur
(Tel: 03-7781 1993) (Ref. No. RWT/EST/WKU/FI/0122/894/AT/SYAZ/MNS)

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT BINTULU DIVORCE PETITION NO.: BTU-33-21-7/2026 (HC)

In the matter of dissolution of marriage on ground of breakdown of marriage and
In the matter of rule 7 and 8 of the Divorce and Matrimonial Proceedings Rules 1980 and
In the matter of Sections 53, 54(1)(d); 88(1); 89(2) and 93**(1) of the Law Reform** (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 [*Act 164*]

BETWEEN

DIANA MARIANA JANE ANAK RENDAH (F) (NRIC. NO.:981210-13-5992) ... PETITIONER

AND

HERYLISMAN GAWAN ANAK EDWARD RICKY (M) (NRIC. NO.: 920322-13-5963) ... RESPONDENT

NOTICE

(IN THE MATTER of Divorce Petition issued on the **30th day of July 2026)**

To: **HERYLISMAN GAWAN ANAK EDWARD RICKY (M) (NRIC. NO.: 920322-13-5963)** Last known address: Rumah Sating, Labang Atas KM 67, Jalan Bintulu-Miri, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that a divorce petition has been presented against you in this Court by the Petitioner, **DIANA MARIANA JANE ANAK RENDAH (F) (NRIC. NO.:981210-13-5992)** of **SD Guthrie, Ladang** Takau, PO Box 824, Jalan Bintulu-Miri, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak **and the** Court has ordered that the said petition be served on you by publishing via advertisement a Notice once in a local newspaper namely **BORNEO POST** and that such publication shall be good and sufficient service of the petition on you **14 days** after the last act of such publication.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if you desire to defend that cause, you must within **8 days** after the effective service of the petition on you, inclusive of the day of service in Form 6 in the Registry of the High Court at Bintulu, Sarawak. In default of such notice, decree nisi may be granted against you.

DATED this **23rd day of October, 2026.**

Senior Assistant Registrar High Court, Bintulu

This ***NOTICE*** is filed by **Assistant Director of Legal Aid Department, Miri** for and on behalf of the Petitioner, whose address for Service is at 13th Floor, Yu Lan Plaza, Lot 97, Brooke Road, 98000 Miri, Sarawak. Tel. No.: 085-423606/ Fax No.: 085-425204 [Ref. No.: JBG.MI.600-7/12/113/0726] 318513N30MH

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NCC-69-10/2026 (HC 2)

IN THE MATTER of Section 465 (1) (e) & Section 466 (1) (a) of the Companies Act, 2016;
AND
IN THE MATTER of Rule 22 of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972;
AND
IN THE MATTER of SPL FOOD INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD. [Company No. 201601029054 (1199994-A)]

PERBADANAN USAHAWAN NASIONAL BERHAD [Company No.199101010745 (221057-V)] a company incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act, 1965 and having its registered address at 13th Floor, Block 1B, Plaza Sentral Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral 50470 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at Tingkat Bawah & Tingkat 1, Lot 563 (SL 15) Wisma Wan Abu Bakar, Jalan Kulas 93400 Kuching, Sarawak. ... PETITIONER

AND

SPL FOOD INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD. [Company No.201601029054 (1199994-A)] a company incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act, 1965 and having its registered address at S52, Regal Corporate Park Bandar Baru Semariang 93050 Kuching, Sarawak. ... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION
[Rule 24 of Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for the winding-up of the above-named Respondent Company by the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching, was on the 19th day of October, 2026 presented by **PERBADANAN USAHAWAN NASIONAL BERHAD [Company No. 199101010745 (221057-V)].**

AND THAT the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court sitting at Kuching **at 9.00 o'clock** in the **forenoon**, on **the 4th day of January, 2027**. And any creditor or contributory of the said Respondent Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose.

And a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Respondent Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner is **PERBADANAN USAHAWAN NASIONAL BERHAD** and the Petitioner's address is 13th Floor, Block 1B, Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at Tingkat Bawah & Tingkat 1, Lot 563 (SL 15), Wisma Wan Abu Bakar, Jalan Kulas, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.

The Petitioner's advocates is Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Company Advocates, 2nd Floor, Lot 328, Section 10, KTLD, Jalan Satok, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2026.

Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Co.
Advocates for the Petitioner

NOTE:-
Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition, either to oppose or support, must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Company Advocates, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm or his or their solicitors (if any). The notice must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Company Advocates not later than twelve o'clock noon on the **28th day of December, 2026.**

536789H60JC

Ruj. Kami : MDSA/100-16/1/1 Jld.2 (18) Tarikh : 26.10.2026

MAJLIS DAERAH SRI AMAN
KENYATAAN TENDER

Tender adalah dipelawa daripada kalangan kontraktor–kontraktor yang mempunyai jenis pendaftaran yang ditetapkan serta mempunyai tempoh pendaftaran yang sah bagi kerja seperti dibawah adalah dipelawa untuk menyertai tender berikut :

Bil	No. Tender / Tajuk Tender	Syarat Pendaftaran	Bayaran dan Cagaran Dokumen	Jenis Tawaran	Tarikh Tutup dan Penyerahan Dokumen Tender
1.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/12 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - TAMU MDSA CUM TERMINAL BUS INCLUDING TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
2.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/13 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - TAMU SIMANGGANG INCLUDING TOILET & OPEN AIR MARKET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
3.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/14 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - DOUBLE STOREY INTEGRATED MARKET INCLUDING TOILET, BALAI RUAI SRI JAYA INCLUDING TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
4.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/15 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - TAMU SUNGAI TENGGANG INCLUDING TOILET, TAMU PANTU INCLUDING TOILET, TAMU LACHAU, MARKET LINGGA INCLUDING TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
5.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/16 GENERAL CLEANING SERVICES AT WATERFRONT SRI AMAN AND WATERFRONT LINGGA INCLUDING CULTURE CENTRE, LOCKUP SHOP AND TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
6.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/PT/17 TENDER FOR CLEANING SERVICES AT MAJLIS DAERAH SRI AMAN PUBLIC TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
7.	MDSA/PH/T/2027/T/DS/18 TENDER FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ENTULANG DUMPSITE, SRI AMAN	Kategori : B Kepala : VII Subkepala : 5(i) DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
8.	MDSA/PH/T/2027/T/DS/19 TENDER FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PANTU DUMPSITE, SRI AMAN	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 5(i) DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
9.	MDSA/PH/T/2027/T/DS/20 TENDER FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LINGGA DUMPSITE, SRI AMAN	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 5(i) DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM

1. Dokumen Tender boleh diperolehi di Bahagian Kesihatan dan Perkhidmatan Bandar pada waktu pejabat **(ISNIN - KHAMIS : 08:00 pagi – 1:00 tengah hari & 02:00 petang – 3.00 petang)** dan **(JUMAAT: 08:00 pagi – 11:30 pagi & 02:15 petang – 03:00 petang).** Pembayaran dilakukan untuk Yuran Dokumen (Tidak Dikembalikan) dalam bentuk wang tunai dan hanya dijual kepada kontraktor yang sah dan mengikut syarat yang ditetapkan.
2. Dokumen Tender hanya akan dijual kepada pemilik atau wakilnya yang diberi kuasa secara bertulis oleh Pemilik / Rakan Kongsi / Pengarah Syarikat. Pemilik atau wakilnya hendaklah mengemukakan **SIJIL ASAL UNIT PENDAFTARAN KONTRAKTOR DAN JURUPERUNDING (UPKJ), SIJIL ASAL PENGIKTIRAFAN STATUS BUMIPUTERA** (Jika Berkenaan) dan **SIJIL ASAL PENDAFTARAN NAMA PERNIAGAAN – ORDINAN NAMA - NAMA SURAT PERWAKILAN KUASA** (Jika Berkenaan) berserta **SALINAN KAD PENGENALAN WAKIL DAN SALINAN KAD PENGENALAN PELESEN** sebelum dokumen tender dijual kepada kontraktor yang layak.
3. Dokumen tender yang dikemukakan harus disertakan dengan dokumen – dokumen seperti berikut :
   a. **Sijil Pendaftaran Perniagaan;**
   b. **Sijil Taraf Bumiputera;**
   c. **Sijil Pendaftaran Kontraktor dengan UPKJ, dan**
   d. **Sijil Pendaftaran Kontraktor dengan CIDB.**

   Kegagalan berbuat demikian, Jawatankuasa Tender boleh menolak tawaran tender.
4. Dokumen tender yang sempurna diisi hendaklah dimeteraikan dengan menggunakan sampul surat yang diatasnya **SULIT** dan ditulis dengan jelas tarikh tutup, nombor dan tajuk tender dan perlu dimasukkan ke dalam peti tender beralamat seperti berikut :

   SETIAUSAHA,
   MAJLIS DAERAH SRI AMAN,
   PETI SURAT 78,
   95007 SRI AMAN
5. Tarikh tutup bagi tender diatas adalah pada **12 November 2026, jam 12 tengahari** dan sebarang dokumen **tender yang diterima selepas masa yang ditetepkan akan ditolak.**
6. Tempoh sah laku tender hendaklah **90 hari** dari selepas tarikh tutup.
7. Kerajaan tidak terikat untuk menerima tawaran **tender yang terendah atau mana – mana tawaran.**

536790H60LKF

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Noah Wyle named People's Sexiest Man Alive 2026

KUALA LUMPUR: American actor Noah Wyle, best known for his roles in medical dramas ER and The Pitt, has been named People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2026 at the age of 55.

The announcement marks another milestone for the Emmy-winning actor, whose career has enjoyed a resurgence following the success of HBO's The Pitt.

In an interview with People magazine, Wyle admitted that he initially struggled to believe he had been selected for the annual title.

"I thought that sounded like a prank — just not in a million years did I think that this would be an honor bestowed on me," he said.

His wife, Sara, 46, eventually persuaded him to embrace the recognition, telling him that his character as a husband and father made him deserving of the honour.

"She thinks I'm a good guy and that the kind of person that I am and the kind of father I am, the kind of husband I am, is worth promoting," he told the magazine.

Wyle joked that his wife was particularly pleased with the announcement because it reflected positively on her choice of partner.

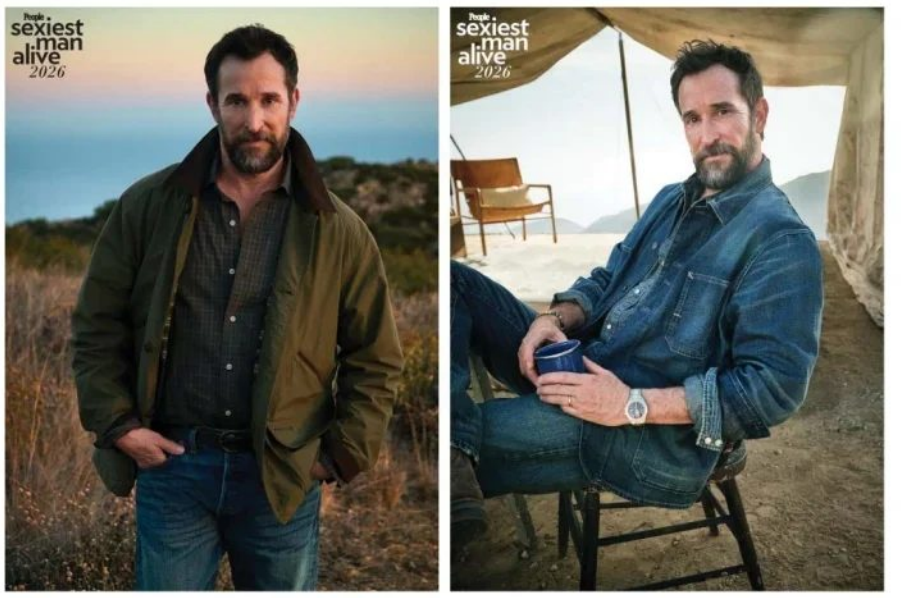
The actor, who has three children, Owen, 24, Auden, 21, and Frances, 11, also revealed that his family had reacted with a mixture of amusement and disbelief.

His son warned him that the publicity could attract criticism, while his older daughter was expected to tease him about the title for years to come.

Wyle first rose to prominence in the 1990s as Dr John Carter in the long-running medical drama ER, appearing alongside George Clooney, who subsequently received People's Sexiest Man Alive title twice.

More than three decades later, Wyle has found renewed success portraying Dr Michael "Robby" Robinavitch in The Pitt, a role that has earned him two consecutive Emmy Awards for outstanding lead actor in a drama series.

The series, which follows healthcare workers at a Pittsburgh emergency department, is scheduled to return for its third season in January 2027.



'The Pitt' actor Noah Wyle, 55, has been named People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2026. — Photo via Instagram/people

Reflecting on his career, Wyle said the success of The Pitt had allowed him to approach fame with greater maturity than when he first became a household name through ER.

He also recalled how becoming a father changed his priorities, prompting him to leave ER because he wanted to spend more time with his children.

Despite his Hollywood success, Wyle described himself as a homebody who enjoys preparing breakfast for his family, exercising, reading and walking his dogs.

He also revealed that washing dishes was among his favourite household responsibilities, describing the activity as therapeutic.

"I am the dish maven. The sink is my domain," he told People.

Speaking about his marriage, Wyle said humour played an important role in maintaining a strong relationship, particularly when dealing with life's challenges.

He also credited Sara with understanding his emotions and knowing how to comfort him during difficult moments.

Looking back on his personal and professional journey, Wyle said he was especially grateful for his wife, children, parents, friends, colleagues and mentors. — Malay Mail

Penelope Cruz arrives for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 14th Annual Governors Awards in Los Angeles. — AFP file photo

'The Invite' lands four nominations at Gotham Film Awards 2026

LOS ANGELES: Penelope Cruz, Rashida Jones and Sophie Okonedo are among the nominees at this year's Gotham Film Awards.

'The Invite', directed by Olivia Wilde with an all-star cast including Penelope, Seth Rogen and Edward Norton, is up for four awards at the prestigious ceremony, including a best supporting performance nod for the Spanish actress and best adapted screenplay for Rashida Jones and Will McCormack.

It will also compete in the best feature category, but faces tough competition from 'Clarissa', 'Club Kid, The Debut', 'Dreams in Nightmares', 'Josephine', 'Mouse', 'Paper Tiger', 'Primetime', 'Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma' and 'Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother'.

In addition, 'The Invite' is also up for the Audience Award, which returns to the ceremony after a six-year absence, and the winner is voted for by Gotham members - and is presented to a movie director and producer.

The other Audience Award nominees are 'Backrooms', 'La Bola Negra', 'The Drama', 'Michael', 'Obsession', P'roject Hail Mary' and 'You Can See Everything'.

Meanwhile, 'Tender Loving Care' is up for best director and original screenplay for Mike Leigh and best supporting performance for Kate O'Flynn.

Sophie is among the nominees for the lead performance award, thanks to her role in 'Clarissa', while the film is also up for an adapted screenplay gong for Chuko Esiri and breakthrough performer for India Amarteifio.

Other notable nominees include 'All of a Sudden', which is up for best international feature, best adapted screenplay for Ryusuke Hamaguchi and best supporting performance for Tao Okamoto.

'As La Gradiva' is also up for best international feature, breakthrough performer for Colas Quignrd and breakthrough director for Marine Atlan, who is also nominated for best original screenplay alongside Anne Brouillet. — Bang Showbiz

Chinese-sponsored fashion show promotes Ethiopian culture, tourism

ADDIS ABABA: Face of Ethiopia, a Chinese company-sponsored fashion show, was successfully held on Sunday in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, with contestants showcasing and promoting rich cultures, heritages, traditions and tourist destinations of the East African country.

Twenty contestants competed at the final on Sunday, which was presented by the Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism in collaboration with G-Power Manufacturing PLC, a Chinese-invested Ethiopian company specialized in clean and sustainable energy solutions.

"I feel great pride. I promise to promote my country's cultures and tourism. I will make Ethiopia proud," said Ruth Tewodros, 26, after being named as "Ethiopia Tourism Ambassador" and winning a prize of 5 million birr (about US$30,500), outperforming over 5,000 contestants.

Ma Ning, chief executive officer of G-Power Manufacturing PLC, said his company has a vision of promoting the tourism sector in Ethiopia and creating more opportunities for Ethiopia-China cultural and tourism exchanges.

"We see a great opportunity to build a bridge between the two countries not only through business, technology, and energy, but also through culture and tourism," Ma said.

"We want more Chinese visitors to discover Ethiopia beyond what they see online. We want African people to experience our history, our natural beauty, our food, our traditions, our music, and the warmth of our people," Ma added.

Appreciating G-Power Manufacturing PLC for promoting Ethiopia's culture and tourism through digital means and entertainment, Endegena Abebe, Ethiopia's state minister of culture and tourism, underscored the need for Ethiopia to follow suit and engage in image building and promote its rich culture through modern technologies.

The Face of Ethiopia fashion show aims to build the country's image, promote its tourism, and showcase its cultural assets and rich history, Abebe said, urging the contestants to focus on community impact and humanitarian advocacy.

The East African nation, widely considered the cradle of humankind, is home to a dozen United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization World Heritage sites, recognized globally for their unique cultural and natural significance. — Xinhua

A contestant presents herself at Face of Ethiopia, a Chinese company-sponsored fashion show, held in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, on Oct 25. — Xinhua photo by Michael Tewelde

James Gunn

James Gunn hits back at critics of 'individual stories' in MCU

JAMES Gunn has defended the "individual stories" in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), hitting back at critics saying they aren't as "meaningful" as ensemble movies.

The director responded to a social media follower listing James' movies – including the newly-released Clayface – alongside a caption which read: "What is this building towards???"

James then wrote in response: "DCU is just an alternate universe; we can enter at any location or time and tell THAT story. I dislike the idea that individual stories aren't meaningful unless they lead to something else.

People not understanding this is strange to me, because Star Wars has essentially been doing this for 50 years across movies, shows, games and books, admittedly without the tonal variety."

James also said that there is "connectivity" between his films – such as the story from Superman extending from the first movie into the sequel Man of Tomorrow.

Speaking about the Superman follow-up, he said: "(It) contains many characters we've introduced in other stories." "But that doesn't mean those other stories only exist to set up what's happening there.

"I would love people to be seeing Clayface because it's a great, fun horror movie unto itself, not because of where else Clayface will show up three movies from now." — Bang Showbiz

Dutch broadcaster pulls out of Eurovision over Israel 'sensitivities'

THE HAGUE: The Netherlands will not participate in next year's Eurovision Song Contest, its public broadcaster NPO said Tuesday, citing "sensitivities" over Israel's participation.

The Dutch withdrawal is the latest in a series of boycotts from countries unhappy at Israel's inclusion in the annual music festival, given its military campaign in Gaza sparked by the October 7 Hamas attacks.

"We have known for some time that Israel's participation elicits various reactions in society and causes discussion and division," said Jurre Bosman, NPO's media director, in a statement.

"Therefore, after consultation with the Board of Broadcasters, the NPO has decided to forgo participation in 2027," added Bosman.

The Dutch decision brings to an end a series of flip-flops over its participation, highlighting the divisive nature of the debate in the country and more broadly.

In August, the AVROTROS broadcaster, which selects the Dutch entry and broadcasts the show, had pulled out, saying the event can "no longer be considered neutral" given divisions over the Gaza war.

But a month later, NPO stepped in to replace AVROTROS, saying it would take on the responsibility, only to reverse course with its decision on Tuesday.

Jet de Ranitz, NPO's executive chairman, acknowledged their decision would disappoint many Dutch Eurovision fans and stressed that the contest would still be aired on the public channels.

However, De Ranitz said: "We must conclude that it is currently too early to participate in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2027."

"Due to the sensitivities surrounding the themes currently at play, we have decided to take a step back for the time being," added De Ranitz.

'Bangaranga'

In August, organisers announced they were excluding any country involved in an armed conflict from hosting the competition.

But that has not prevented withdrawals, with Ireland already announcing they will not take part and the head of the Spanish public broadcaster also coming out in favour of a boycott.

Earlier this month, the Czech public broadcaster pulled out, but cited spending cuts as the reason.

Next year's contest, the world's biggest live televised music event, will take place on May 15 in Bulgaria's Black Sea city of Burgas.

It will be the first time the Balkan nation has hosted the contest, coming after Bulgarian singer Darina Yotova, known as Dara, won this year's contest in the Austrian capital Vienna with the catchy floor-filler "Bangaranga".

Since its launch in 1955, Eurovision has become the ultimate pop platform, catapulting Swedish icons ABBA to worldwide fame, as well as boosting the likes of Celine Dion, Cliff Richard and Olivia Newton-John.

The 2026 competition was watched by 131 million viewers, down 35 million from the year before after five countries boycotted it over Israel's participation.

The Netherlands, Iceland, Spain, Ireland and Slovenia all pulled out of the 2026 contest -- with the latter three refusing to broadcast the show at all.

The Dutch took part in the very first Eurovision Song Contest back in 1956, and have won on five occasions.

Their most recent winner was Duncan Laurence, whose song Arcade won the contest in 2019, going on to top charts globally.

It became the first Eurovision entry to reach one billion streams on Spotify, according to the Eurovision website.

The head of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which organises the show, said he was "deeply sorry" that the Netherlands would not be taking part.

"We understand their decision, and we respect the strength of feeling behind it in the Netherlands," said Martin Green in a statement.

"At the same time, we believe the Eurovision Song Contest matters in a divided world."

NPO's Bosman said the broadcaster was still talking with the EBU about the future of the contest.

"We are convinced that the event can once again become a place of music and connection, where there is room to make societal themes open for discussion," said Bosman. — AFP

'The Invite' lands four nominations at Gotham Film Awards 2026 >A7

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LEISURE
THURSDAY, October 29, 2026

Chinese-sponsored fashion show promotes Ethiopian culture, tourism >A7

Nad Zainal: Talent matters more than fame

PUTRAJAYA: Popularity may catapult an actor to fame overnight, but talent and work discipline ultimately determine whether they can remain relevant in the entertainment industry over the long term.

Actress Nad Zainal said recognition and fan attention alone were insufficient if performers failed to maintain professional work ethics, particularly on the filming set.

Nad, whose real name is Farah Nadia Zainal Abidin, said popularity could fade at any time, while talent backed by strong discipline could provide the foundation for a sustainable acting career.

"What matters is that we, as actors, understand the importance of discipline on set. We must not let popularity bring us down because it can disappear just like that.

"It is talent that allows us to remain relevant and sustain our careers," she told reporters on the sidelines of the Seri Angkasa Awards 2026 (ASA2026) recently.

Commenting on claims that newcomers were more interested in pursuing popularity than honing their acting skills, Nad said it would be unfair to generalise, as many young performers possessed natural talent.

She said the experiences of both herself and her husband, actor Ungku Ismail, when they first entered the industry showed that every actor had a different path to developing their abilities.

"Ungku did not attend acting classes like I did, but I believe he is talented. There are also other actors who have never attended acting classes but are equally talented," she said.

The Best Actress in a Drama winner at the 2018 Screen Awards acknowledged that popularity and fan support continued to play an important role in an entertainer's career.

However, she said receiving recognition from professional juries in the best acting categories brought a different kind of satisfaction, as performers were assessed based on the quality of their work.

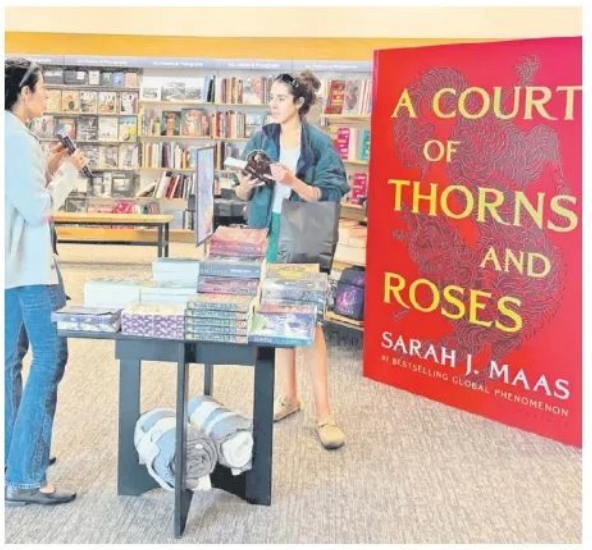
"I have won in a popularity category before, so I would not dismiss its importance. But how wonderful it would be to have our talent assessed by professional judges. Fans are important, but professional recognition is what every actor aspires to," said Nad, who also won the Popular Female TV Actress award at the 2014 Berita Harian Popular Star Awards.

Nad was previously nominated for Best Supporting Actress in a TV Drama at ASA2026 for the telemovie Dosa Tak Terampun. The award went to Elizad Sharifuddin for Detik Waktu, broadcast on TV Okey.

She also achieved another milestone when she received her first-ever nomination for Best Actress at the 35th Malaysian Film Festival (FFM 35) for the film Denu, after nearly two decades in the acting industry.

In the category, Nad is competing against four other nominees: Mimi Lana for Polong, Sasha Abedul for Malam Terlarang, Aida Amron for Badak and Fish Liew for Pavane For An Infant. — Bernama

Nad Zainal and her husband Ungku Ismail speak to reporters on the sidelines of the Seri Angkasa Awards 2026 recently. — Bernama photo



Customers chat next to a large promotional display of Sarah J. Maas's book 'A Court of Thorns and Roses' at a bookstore in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photo

'Faerie' nights: 'ACOTAR' fans finally get their book

LOS ANGELES: Thousands of costumed fans lined up for Tuesday's release of the sixth novel in Sarah J. Maas's hit "A Court of Thorns and Roses" series, a leading force in the booming romantasy genre that is bolstering publishers' bottom lines.

Waiting to get their hands on "A Court of Splintered Harmony," readers thronged midnight parties at bookshops across the nation, including The Ripped Bodice in Los Angeles, where fans sporting "faerie" ears and wings took in performances by fire breathers and acrobats.

"To see the new one come out and have everyone around, this is really what we've been waiting for," Taylor Capizola, the bookstore's general manager, told AFP.

The series — known to fans by its acronym 'ACOTAR' — is one of the most successful in the romantasy genre — a heady combination of the swords-and-sorcery of 'Game of Thrones' and the breathless passions of Danielle Steel.

Maas, who has sold 75 million books in 40 languages, was the best-selling author in the United States in 2024.

"'A Court of Thorns and Roses' really is the backbone, is the foundation of this genre," said Capizola.

Romantasy — a genre that also includes 'The Fourth Wing' series by Rebecca Yarros and 'Quicksilver' by Callie Hart — has been propelled by BookTok, the corner of TikTok where readers review and recommend titles in short videos.

But reviews are no longer enough for some fans.

With no film or series in sight since Hulu dropped its adaptation in 2025, some are now using AI to make their own trailers and short episodes of ACOTAR, propelling the series' heroine Feyre to an even bigger audience.

The Maas Effect

Tuesday's release of 'A Court of Splintered Harmony' is expected to be good news for Bloomsbury — home also to the 'Harry Potter' series.

The publishing house will be looking for a bump to turn around a year that saw first half revenue slip five percent and adjusted pre-tax profit down 30 percent.

"Sarah J. Maas is a publishing phenomenon," Bloomsbury founder and Executive Chairman Nigel Newton said in 2024, when her novels carried the company to record profits

She's also a durable one: the original ACOTAR — which first came out in 2015 — has now spent 92 consecutive weeks on the New York Times paperback bestsellers list.

Such is the demand for Maas's latest installment that several translations are being released almost simultaneously.

The German edition also came out Tuesday, and several other translations follow Wednesday, including Spanish and French.

At the midnight party in Los Angeles, fans said they were ready to jump straight in — despite the novel's hefty 350-page count.

"I imagine most people will read it at least once or twice by the weekend," said Natalie Jean, 44, who co-hosts the Sarah J. Maas podcast "LNP Deep Dives."

"I'll buy all the merch and I'll buy all the books, I'll buy every edition," laughed her co-host Jackie Zebrowski, 39.

"And I'll love it." — AFP

Pierce Brosnan, Helen Mirren on the joys of filming 'MobLand'

LOS ANGELES: Pierce Brosnan and Helen Mirren have found they quite enjoy mob life, as they embody the dangerous and volatile criminal boss couple Conrad and Maeve Harrigan in 'MobLand.'

The second season of the series finds the Harrigans locked in a power struggle, as internal divisions and external adversaries threaten the family.

Brosnan's Conrad is impulsive yet vulnerable, confronting his own mortality after receiving a brain condition diagnosis.

Maeve, meanwhile, is maneuvering to expand her own power.

The second season of the series, which co-stars Tom Hardy and is co-directed by Guy Ritchie, premiered in September.

"I'm having the time of my life," Brosnan told AFP in an interview.

The former James Bond actor credits screenwriter Jez Butterworth for the 'orchestration' of his 'clever' plot development.

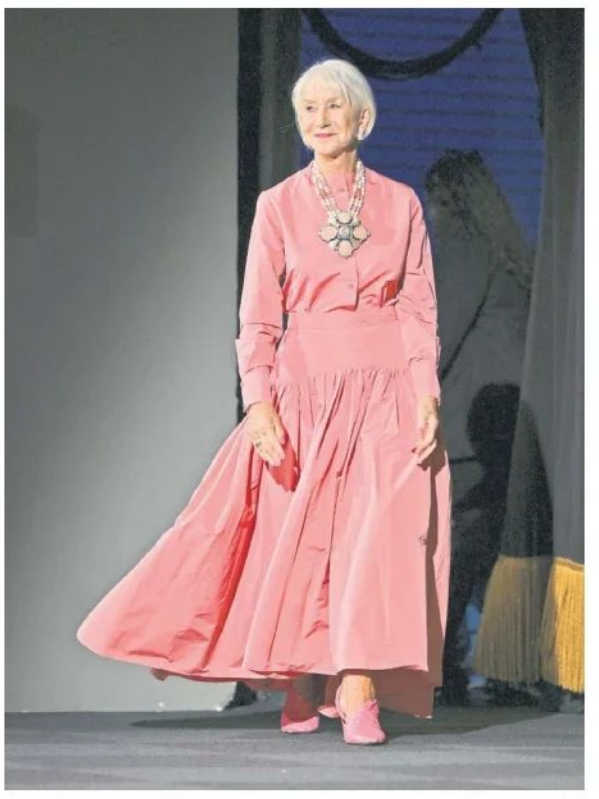
"He kind of picks elements of you, or your performance from the past, and uses it within the context of the drama," Brosnan said.

To embody Conrad, 73-year-old Brosnan had a process: "You sit quietly with a cup of tea, and you read the script, and you read the script many times over."

"And you just let your imagination run free."

Mirren, meanwhile, said she embraced the freedom her character offered, infusing the role with her own personal touch.

The 81-year-old has played Queen Elizabeth, Alfred Hitchcock's wife and collaborator Alma Reville, and more recently the author Patricia Highsmith in 'A Talent for Murder.'



Mirren onstage during the Opening Night Gala Screening of 'A Talent For Murder' and Award Presentation during the 29th SCAD Savannah Film Festival in Savannah, Georgia. — AFP photo

When playing real-life figures, she said: "You have to behave like a sort of detective."

The challenge is "to penetrate the psychology of a real person and reflect it as truthfully as possible," she said.

But fictional roles offer greater creative freedom, she added.

"It's fabulous for the person to be in your own imagination," Mirren said.

Haunted

The second season of 'MobLand' sees Conrad take on new dimensions.

The family patriarch's "mental acuity is definitely in doubt now," Brosnan said, "and he's haunted by the blood on his hands."

"He's haunted by the past," added Mirren, an evolution of character which adds "great color" to the story.

The couple are 'very violent and they're very ambitious' — until suddenly, "it's going a little bit off-piste," she added.

Brosnan said as filming continues, he's become "more reflective" on what's next for Conrad.

"You wonder... am I going to end up with some nurse in a bed somewhere on dialysis or something like this? I have no idea."

Rumors have swirled about alleged tensions between Tom Hardy and the show's producers, but Paramount+ confirmed last month that a third season is in the works, with Hardy, Brosnan and Mirren set to return to the cast. — AFP

'Kudrat 1968' hits RM3m in advance sales as fan screenings sell out in minutes

KUALA LUMPUR: Kudrat 1968: High Council has raked in RM3 million in advance ticket sales ahead of its nationwide cinema release today.

Astro Shaw announced the milestone on its official social media platforms last night, following strong demand for the film's special screenings.

Tickets for the Malam Manifesto Kudrat 1968 gala premiere on October 26 reportedly sold out in less than an hour, while those for special fan screenings on October 31 were snapped up within five minutes of going on sale.

Fans also took to Instagram to celebrate the RM3 million milestone, with some joking about their contributions to the film's advance sales.

One fan commented, "I'm one of the people who contributed to that RM3 million!" while another said, "The tickets sold out so quickly, and I was lucky enough to be one of those who got them."

Another wrote, "Okay, I contributed by buying two tickets! Hahaha.

"If I have the money, I'll go watch it again."

Zarif Ghazzi as Abbas (right) and Akmal Asyraf as Piji in 'Kudrat 1968: High Council', which has recorded RM3 million in advance ticket sales ahead of its cinema release today. — Photo courtesy of Astro Shaw

Kudrat 1968 serves as a prequel to the acclaimed Project: High Council series, which debuted in 2023, and expands the franchise following Kahar: Kapla High Council.

The project adopts a two-format storytelling approach, with a four-episode series available on Astro and Netflix and a film serving as the story's conclusion.

The film follows Abbas as he returns to Kudrat, only to discover that the school has been placed under lockdown by authorities following the discovery of a student's death that had been concealed.

Its cast includes Zarif Ghazzi as Abbas, Mierul Aiman as Kuda, Akmal Asyraf as Piji, Dai Fuad as Pa, Evertts Gomes as Ghafar and Chech Harith as Mazli.

Produced by Astro Shaw, Kudrat 1968: High Council opens in Malaysian cinemas on October 29. — Malay Mail

Ruj. Kami : MDSA/100-16/1/1 Jld.2 (18) Tarikh : 26.10.2026

MAJLIS DAERAH SRI AMAN

KENYATAAN TENDER

Tender adalah dipelawa daripada kalangan kontraktor–kontraktor yang mempunyai jenis pendaftaran yang ditetapkan serta mempunyai tempoh pendaftaran yang sah bagi kerja seperti dibawah adalah dipelawa untuk menyertai tender berikut :

Bil	No. Tender / Tajuk Tender	Syarat Pendaftaran	Bayaran dan Cagaran Dokumen	Jenis Tawaran	Tarikh Tutup dan Penyerahan Dokumen Tender
1.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/12 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - TAMU MDSA CUM TERMINAL BUS INCLUDING TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
2.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/13 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - TAMU SIMANGGANG INCLUDING TOILET & OPEN AIR MARKET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
3.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/14 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - DOUBLE STOREY INTEGRATED MARKET INCLUDING TOILET, BALAI RUAI SRI JAYA INCLUDING TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
4.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/15 MARKET CLEANING SERVICES FOR YEAR 2027 - TAMU SUNGAI TENGGANG INCLUDING TOILET, TAMU PANTU INCLUDING TOILET, TAMU LACHAU, MARKET LINGGA INCLUDING TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
5.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/SC/PT/16 GENERAL CLEANING SERVICES AT WATERFRONT SRI AMAN AND WATERFRONT LINGGA INCLUDING CULTURE CENTRE, LOCKUP SHOP AND TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
6.	MDSA/PH/2027/T/PT/17 TENDER FOR CLEANING SERVICES AT MAJLIS DAERAH SRI AMAN PUBLIC TOILET	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 3a DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
7.	MDSA/PH/T/2027/T/DS/18 TENDER FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ENTULANG DUMPSITE, SRI AMAN	Kategori : B Kepala : VII Subkepala : 5(i) DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
8.	MDSA/PH/T/2027/T/DS/19 TENDER FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PANTU DUMPSITE, SRI AMAN	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 5(i) DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM
9.	MDSA/PH/T/2027/T/DS/20 TENDER FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LINGGA DUMPSITE, SRI AMAN	Kategori : C Kepala : VII Subkepala : 5(i) DAN berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)	Bayaran dokumen RM50.00 **(TIDAK DIKEMBALIKAN)**	**BUMIPUTERA**	KHAMIS 12.11.2026 12:00 PM

1. Dokumen Tender boleh diperolehi di Bahagian Kesihatan dan Perkhidmatan Bandar pada waktu pejabat **(ISNIN - KHAMIS : 08:00 pagi – 1:00 tengah hari & 02:00 petang – 3.00 petang)** dan **(JUMAAT: 08:00 pagi – 11:30 pagi & 02:15 petang – 03:00 petang).** Pembayaran dilakukan untuk Yuran Dokumen (Tidak Dikembalikan) dalam bentuk wang tunai dan hanya dijual kepada kontraktor yang sah dan mengikut syarat yang ditetapkan.
2. Dokumen Tender hanya akan dijual kepada pemilik atau wakilnya yang diberi kuasa secara bertulis oleh Pemilik / Rakan Kongsi / Pengarah Syarikat. Pemilik atau wakilnya hendaklah mengemukakan **SIJIL ASAL UNIT PENDAFTARAN KONTRAKTOR DAN JURUPERUNDING (UPKJ), SIJIL ASAL PENGIKTIRAFAN STATUS BUMIPUTERA** (Jika Berkenaan) dan **SIJIL ASAL PENDAFTARAN NAMA PERNIAGAAN – ORDINAN NAMA - NAMA SURAT PERWAKILAN KUASA** (Jika Berkenaan) berserta **SALINAN KAD PENGENALAN WAKIL DAN SALINAN KAD PENGENALAN PELESEN** sebelum dokumen tender dijual kepada kontraktor yang layak.
3. Dokumen tender yang dikemukakan harus disertakan dengan dokumen – dokumen seperti berikut :
   a. **Sijil Pendaftaran Perniagaan;**
   b. **Sijil Taraf Bumiputera;**
   c. **Sijil Pendaftaran Kontraktor dengan UPKJ, dan**
   d. **Sijil Pendaftaran Kontraktor dengan CIDB.**

   Kegagalan berbuat demikian, Jawatankuasa Tender boleh menolak tawaran tender.
4. Dokumen tender yang sempurna diisi hendaklah dimeteraikan dengan menggunakan sampul surat yang diatasnya **SULIT** dan ditulis dengan jelas tarikh tutup, nombor dan tajuk tender dan perlu dimasukkan ke dalam peti tender beralamat seperti berikut :

   SETIAUSAHA,
   MAJLIS DAERAH SRI AMAN,
   PETI SURAT 78,
   95007 SRI AMAN
5. Tarikh tutup bagi tender diatas adalah pada **12 November 2026, jam 12 tengahari** dan sebarang dokumen **tender yang diterima selepas masa yang ditetepkan akan ditolak.**
6. Tempoh sah laku tender hendaklah **90 hari** dari selepas tarikh tutup.
7. Kerajaan tidak terikat untuk menerima tawaran **tender yang terendah atau mana – mana tawaran.**

536790H60LKF

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING
NO. KCH-29NCC-34-2/2026 (HC 2)

RE : **DAVID ANAK JAHAT (WN.KP. 860405-52-5615)** No. 213 10 Mile, Jalan Landeh, 93520 Sarawak ...Judgment Debtor
And/or
Kampung Senaswang Jalan Dato Mohd Musa, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak
And/or
Pej Gaji 1 Rejimen Semboyan, Diraja Kem Muara Tuang, 94300 Kota Samarahan.
And/or
Rejemen 4 ARMO Diraja Kem Penrissen Jalan Kuching Serian, 93677 Kuching, Sarawak.

EX-PARTE : **BANK MUAMALAT MALAYSIA BERHAD (196501000376) (6175-W)** a company incorporated in Malaysia with its registered Head office at Tingkat 11, Menara Bumiputra, No. 21 Jalan Melaka, 50100 Kuala Lumpur. ...Judgment Creditor

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF CREDITOR'S PETITION

In the matter of a **Creditor's Petition** dated **7th day of July, 2026** and the **Court's Order** dated the **16th day of October, 2026.**

To : **DAVID ANAK JAHAT (WN.KP. 860405-52-5615)** No. 213 10 Mile, Jalan Landeh, 93520 Sarawak
And/or
Kampung Senaswang Jalan Dato Mohd Musa, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak
And/or
Pej Gaji 1 Rejimen Semboyan, Diraja Kem Muara Tuang, 94300 Kota Samarahan.
And/or
Rejemen 4 ARMO Diraja Kem Penrissen Jalan Kuching Serian, 93677 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a **Creditor's Petition** in the action herein dated the **7th day of July, 2026** and the **Affidavit of Truth of Statements In Petition** affirmed by **AZMI BIN SULAIMAN (NRIC. NO. 780218-01-5679)** on **7th day of July, 2026** (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Creditor's Petition") has been presented against you in this Court by **BANK MUAMALAT MALAYSIA BERHAD (196501000376) (6175-W),** a company incorporated in Malaysia with its registered Head office at Tingkat 11, Menara Bumiputra, No. 21 Jalan Melaka, 50100 Kuala Lumpur, and the Court has ordered that the said Creditor's Petition be served upon you by publication of an advertisement in one (1) issue of the "**The Borneo Post**" newspaper of a Notice of Substituted Service of the Creditor's Petition, affixing the Notice on the court's notice board and serving the Notice to the Judgment Debtor's address by prepaid registered post and such publication and/ or posting shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Creditor's Petition upon you and that service shall be deemed to have been served on the day of the publication and/or posting.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the said Creditor's Petition will be heard at this Court on **Thursday** the **12th day of November, 2026** at **9:00 a.m.** o'clock in the morning on which day you are required to appear, and if you do not appear the Court may make a Bankruptcy Order against you.

The Creditor's Petition can be inspected by you on application to this Court.

Dated 26th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, HIGH COURT KUCHING

THIS NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF CREDITOR PETITION is taken out by **MESSRS KADIR, WONG, LIN & CO. ADVOCATES**, Advocates for the Judgment Creditor whose address is Room 508, 5th Floor, Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak. (File Ref : TL/PT/RC/BMMB-L359/2026)

537167H03JFP

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Bintulu	Tel: 086-311881, 013-8337370, 019-8550505
KK/Sandakan/Tawau	Tel: 088-497699, 016-8336470
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Pasir Gudang	Tel: 07-3526677, 3525125

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RATING, VALUATION AND STRATA MANAGEMENT DEPARMENT
MIRI CITY COUNCIL

REMINDER TO RATEPAYERS!!!

The Miri City Council wish to inform all ratepayers under its jurisdiction that the **LAST DATE** to settle your **2nd half 2026** assessment rates is

SATURDAY
31ST OCTOBER 2026

- **Payment of Assessment Rates** may be made at:
  Service Sarawak Counter
  Bangunan UTC Miri,
  Jalan Kwangtung, Miri
  Tel: 085-420223 or 442726
- **A DEFAULT FEE** of **1% PER MONTH** or part thereof will be levied on assessment rates paid after the last date of payment.
- **OWNERS OF NEW PROPERTIES** are also advised to check with the City Council if their properties have been assessed or otherwise.
- **RATEPAYERS** are also advised to settle their **OUTSTANDING RATES** (if any). Failure to settle the outstanding rates, the City Council under **Section 83 of the Local Authorities Ordinance 1996** will not hesitate to institute **LEGAL ACTION** against rate defaulters.

Secretary
Miri City Council.

318158N74WMP

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Email: bpmiri@yahoo.com

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Survana Bong	016-8887849

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Fanny Lau	011-10596039

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Alex Houng	019-4822855

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NOTICE OF SALE
MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT BINTULU
ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO. BTU – 24MFC-3-5/2026 (HC)

IN THE MATTER of two **(2) Memoranda of Charge under Instrument No. L.6479/2013 (1st Charge) for RM1,000,000.00 and Instrument no. L.6480/2013 (2nd Charge) for RM360,000.00** both registered at Bintulu Land Registry Office on the **5th day of December, 2013** affecting all that parcel of land together with building thereon and appurtenances thereof situate at **Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi/Jalan Tanjung Batu, Bintulu**, containing an area of **182.9 square metres**, more or less and described as **Lot 3937 Bintulu Town District.**

IN THE MATTER of a **Memorandum of Charge** under **Instrument No. L.6467/2013** for **RM900,000.00** registered at **Bintulu Land Registry Office** on the **5th day of December, 2013** affecting all that parcel of land together with building thereon and appurtenances thereof situate at **Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi/Jalan Tanjung Batu, Bintulu**, containing an area of **122.5 square metres**, more or less and described as **Lot 3935 Bintulu Town District.**

AND IN THE MATTER of an Application for an Order for Sale under Section 148 (2)(c) of the Land Code (Cap.81) of Sarawak.

BETWEEN

MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD
(Company NO. 200701029411 (787435-M))
a Licensed Financial Institution incorporated in Malaysia pursuant to the Companies Act 2016 and having a registered office at
Level 70, Menara Merdeka 118,
Presint Merdeka 118,
50118 Kuala Lumpur
and with the regional office at
Regional Corporate Remedial Management Sarawak
3rd Floor, Sublots 6, 7 & 8, Lot 1970, Block 10 KCLD,
Jalan Laksamana Cheng Ho,
93350 Kuching, Sarawak. ....Plaintiff

AND

1. **CHIU KUOK CHENG (WN.KP.581010-13-5573)** ....1st Defendant
2. **CHIONG MEI (F) (WN.KP.591001-13-5482)** .... 2nd Defendant
Both of No. 290-292, Parkcity Commerce Square,
Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi/Jalan Tanjung Batu,
97000 Bintulu, Sarawak.

In the pursuance of the sealed copy of the Order obtained on 28th September 2026 and a Licensed Real Estate Agent from C H Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn. Bhd. will sell by

PUBLIC TENDER

On **Thursday, 26th day of November, 2026 at 10.00 a.m** at the Kompleks Mahkamah, Bintulu and in the presence of the Court Bailiff, the property specified in the schedule hereunder:-

SCHEDULE

All that **parcel** of land together with building thereon and appurtenances thereof situate at **Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi/Jalan Tanjung Batu, Bintulu,** containing an area of **182.9 square metres**, more or less and described as **Lot 3937 Bintulu Town District.**

Property	:	A Three Storey Corner Terraced Shophouse
Address	:	Lot 3937, Parkcity Commerce Square, Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak.
Date of Expiry	:	To expire on 29th March 2055
Category	:	Mixed Zone Land, Town Land
Special Conditions	:	i This land is to be used only as a 3-storey terraced building for commercial and office purpose; and ii Any alteration to the existing building on this land or any new building to be erected thereon shall be in accordance with plans sections and elevations approved by the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys, Bintulu Division and shall also be in accordance with detailed drawings and specifications approved by the Bintulu Development Authority and shall be completed within one year from the date of such approval by the Authority.
Reserve Price	:	**RM1,600,000.00**

All that parcel of land together with building thereon and appurtenances thereof situate at **Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi/Jalan Tanjung Batu, Bintulu,** containing an area of **122.5 square metres**, more or less and described as Lot 3935 Bintulu Town District.

Property	:	A Three Storey Intermediate Terraced Shophouse
Address	:	Lot 3935, Parkcity Commerce Square, Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak.
Date of Expiry	:	To expire on 29th March 2055
Category	:	Mixed Zone Land, Town Land
Special Conditions	:	i This land is to be used only as a 3-storey terraced building for commercial and office purpose; and ii Any alteration to the existing building on this land or any new building to be erected thereon shall be in accordance with plans sections and elevations approved by the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys, Bintulu Division and shall also be in accordance with detailed drawings and specifications approved by the Bintulu Development Authority and shall be completed within one year from the date of such approval by the Authority.
Reserve Price	:	**RM1,100,000.00**

The above two (2) properties will be sold subject to the above reserve price fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions set forth in the Proclamation of Sale.

The tender documents/forms will received from **12th day of November, 2026 at 8.30 a.m** until **26th day of November, 2026 at 9.59 a.m.** The Tender documents including Conditions of Sale are available from C H Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd, Bintulu and /or Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. Advocates & Solicitors, Miri.

For further particulars, please apply to C H Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd, Sublot 54 (Lot 4229) 1st Floor, Parkcity Commerce Square Phase 6, Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi, P. O. Box 363, 97008 Bintulu, (Tel Nos.: 086-335531/315531) and /or Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. Advocates & Solicitors, Nos. 98, 100 & 104, Jalan Bendahara, 98000 Miri. (Tel Nos.: 085-418996/418997).

The date of this **26th day of October 2026.**

Licensed Real Estate Agent
CH Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd (197501002547)

724546B69RA

NOTICE OF SALE
MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI
ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO. MYY-24FC-10-2/2026 (HC)

IN THE MATTER of the property so described in Memorandum of Charge vide Instrument No. L.880/2016 pertaining to Lot 7737 Block 11 Kuala Baram Land District dated 6.11.2015 and registered at the Miri Land Registry Office on 20.1.2016.

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application for an Order for Sale under Section 148(2)(c) of the Sarawak Land Code (Cap.81).

BETWEEN

OCBC BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD
[Company Registration No. 199401009721 (295400-W)]
Level 16, Menara Great Eastern 2
50, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur City Centre
50450 Kuala Lumpur. ... Plaintiff

AND

REKY ANAK MORRIS
(NRIC NO. 871226-13-5957)
Lot 2992, Jalan Tudan Phase 5
Kampung Tudan
98000 Miri, Sarawak.
and/or
Lot 7737, Jalan Desa Pujut 2
Bandar Baru Permyjaya
Clemantis Miri,
98100 Miri, Sarawak.
and/or
Sublot 795, Survey Lot 7737
Lot 5512, Blk 11, KBLD Desa Pujut 2
Tuda
98000 Miri, Sarawak.
and/or
L/S 24G, Kampung Sealine
Lutong
98100 Miri, Sarawak. ... 1st Defendant

MORRIS ANAK TUKOK
(NRIC NO. 570903-13-5569)
Lot 2992, Jalan Tudan Phase 5
Kampung Tudan
98000 Miri, Sarawak.
and/or
L/S 24G, Kampung Sealine
Lutong
98100 Miri, Sarawak.
and/or
Rumah Tukok Antek
95000 Sri Aman, Sarawak. ... 2nd Defendant

In pursuance of the Order of Court dated the 1st day of September, 2026 a Licensed Auctioneer/Valuer/Real Estate Agent from M/s. C. H. Williams, Talhar, Wong & Yeo Sdn. Bhd. will sell by

PUBLIC TENDER

On **Friday**, the **13th day of November, 2026** at **10:00 a.m.** at the Auction Room, 1st Floor, Kompleks Mahkamah Miri and in the presence of the Court Bailiff, the property specified in the schedule thereunder:-

SCHEDULE

All that parcel of land together with the building thereon and appurtenances thereof situate at **Tudan, Miri**, containing an area of **197.0 square metres**, more or less, and described as **Lot 7737 Block 11 Kuala Baram Land District.**

The Property	:	A double-storey intermediate terraced dwelling house
Property Address	:	Lot 7737, Lorong Desa Pujut 1F/6, Desa Pujut 2, Bandar Baru Permyjaya, 98100 Miri, Sarawak
Date of Expiry	:	To expire on 20th August 2096
Annual Rent	:	Nil
Date of Registration	:	8th November 2010
Classification/Category	:	Mixed Zone Land; Town Land
Special Conditions	:	i. This land is to be used only for the purpose of a dwelling house and necessary appurtenances thereto; and ii. Any alteration to the existing building on this land or any new building to be erected thereon shall be in accordance with plans, sections and elevations approved by the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys, Miri Division and shall also be in accordance with detailed drawings and specifications approved by the Miri City Council and shall be completed within one (1) year from the date of such approval by the Council.
Registered Caveat	:	A caveat was lodged by Majlis Bandaraya Miri forbidding all dealings vide Instrument No. L.266/2023 dated 10th January 2023
Reserve Price	:	**RM500,000.00**

Tender documents will be received from the **30th day of October, 2026** at **8:30 a.m.** until the **13th day of November, 2026** at **9:59 a.m.** The Tender documents including Conditions of Sale are available from High Court Registry, Miri, Messrs. David Allan ST Advocates (Kuching), Kuching or Messrs. C. H. Williams, Talhar, Wong & Yeo Sdn. Bhd., Miri during the tender period.

The above property will be sold subject to the above Reserve Price fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions of Sale set forth in the Proclamation of Sale.

For further particulars, please apply to Messrs. David Allan ST Advocates (Kuching), A1-4 (G/F), Wisma Nation Horizon Block A, Jalan Petanak, 93100 Kuching, Telephone No.: 082-236348 or Messrs. C. H. Williams, Talhar, Wong & Yeo Sdn. Bhd., Lot 1139, Waterfront Commercial Centre, P. O. Box 1121, 98008 Miri, Telephone Nos.: 085-432821/432480.

Dated this 14th September 2026.

Licensed Real Estate Agent from
C H WILLIAMS TALHAR WONG & YEO SDN BHD (197501002547)

317784N49MOHD

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NCC-69-10/2026 (HC 2)

IN THE MATTER of Section 465 (1) (e) & Section 466 (1) (a) of the Companies Act, 2016;
AND
IN THE MATTER of Rule 22 of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972;
AND
IN THE MATTER of SPL FOOD INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD. [Company No. 201601029054 (1199994-A)]

PERBADANAN USAHAWAN NASIONAL BERHAD
[Company No.199101010745 (221057-V)]
a company incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act, 1965 and having its registered address at 13th Floor, Block 1B, Plaza Sentral
Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral
50470 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at
Tingkat Bawah & Tingkat 1, Lot 563 (SL 15)
Wisma Wan Abu Bakar, Jalan Kulas
93400 Kuching, Sarawak. ... **PETITIONER**

AND

SPL FOOD INDUSTRIES SDN. BHD.
[Company No.201601029054 (1199994-A)]
a company incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act, 1965 and having its registered address at
S52, Regal Corporate Park
Bandar Baru Semariang
93050 Kuching, Sarawak. ... **RESPONDENT**

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION
[Rule 24 of Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for the winding-up of the above-named Respondent Company by the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching, was on the 19th day of October, 2026 presented by **PERBADANAN USAHAWAN NASIONAL BERHAD [Company No. 199101010745 (221057-V)].**

AND THAT the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court sitting at Kuching at **9:00 o'clock in the forenoon**, on the **4th day of January, 2027**. And any creditor or contributory of the said Respondent Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose.

And a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Respondent Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner is **PERBADANAN USAHAWAN NASIONAL BERHAD** and the Petitioner's address is 13th Floor, Block 1B, Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at Tingkat Bawah & Tingkat 1, Lot 563 (SL 15), Wisma Wan Abu Bakar, Jalan Kulas, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
The Petitioner's advocates is Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Company Advocates, 2nd Floor, Lot 328, Section 10, KTLD, Jalan Satok, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
Dated this 22nd day of October, 2026.

Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Co.
Advocates for the Petitioner

NOTE:-
Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition, either to oppose or support, must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Company Advocates, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm or his or their solicitors (if any). The notice must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Company Advocates not later than twelve o'clock noon on the **28th day of December, 2026.**

536789H60JC

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS NO. KCH-29NCC-35-2/2026 (HC 3)

Re: **RAFIDAH BINTI BUJANG**
(WN. KP. 800505-13-6022)
No. 377, Eastern Park,
Pisang Road West,
93150 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Judgment Debtor

Ex-parte: **CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION MALAYSIA BERHAD**
(Reg. No. 197201000831)
(Company No.12441-M)
Level 14, Bangunan CGC, Kelana Business Centre,
97, Jalan SS 7/2, 47301 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan. ... Judgment Creditor

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF CREDITOR'S PETITION
(In the matter of Creditor's Petition filed on the 9th day of September, 2026)

To: **RAFIDAH BINTI BUJANG**
(WN. KP. 800505-13-6022)
No. 377, Eastern Park,
Pisang Road West,
93150 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a **Creditor's Petition** has been presented against you in the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching in **Bankruptcy Proceedings No. KCH-29NCC-35-2/2026 (HC 3)** by **CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION MALAYSIA BERHAD (12441-M)**, **Level 14, Bangunan CGC, Kelana Business Centre, 97, Jalan SS 7/2, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan** and the Court has ordered that the service of the Creditor's Petition against you be by way of substituted service by a single publication of an advertisement in "**The Borneo Post**" newspaper and that such service shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Creditor's Petition on you and that such service be deemed to have been effected on the date of the publication of the said advertisement and the costs and expenses of an incidental to this application and advertisement be costs in the cause.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the said Petition will be heard at this Court on the **Tuesday, 17th day of November, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** on which day you are required to appear and if you do not appear, the Court may make a Bankruptcy Order or such orders as it thinks fit against you in your absence.

The Creditor's Petition can be inspected by you on application to this Court.

Dated this 26th day of October, 2026

Senior Assistant Registrar
High Court, Kuching.

This **Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice** is taken out by Messrs Mutang, Boring & Chai, Advocates for the Judgment Creditor whose address for service is 1st – 3rd Floor, Lot 10522, Block 16 KCLD, Jalan Tun Jugah, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. (File No. PL1374)

536926H05JFP

NOTIFICATION TO CREDITORS
THE ESTATE OF WONG KEE UNG
(NRIC NO.: 541109-13-5091/K584455)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the abovenamed Deceased, who passed away on 27th September 2021 are required on or before 28th December 2026 (2 months after the date of advertisement) to submit the particulars of their debts or claims against the Deceased to the Executor of the Estate. The Executor shall not be liable to any person submitting the particulars of the debts or claims after 28th December 2026 (2 months after the date of advertisement) or in default of proving the said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice by the Executor.
Dated this 29th October 2026

Executor of the Estate
ROCKWILLS TRUSTEE BERHAD
Wisma Rockwills, No.62, Jalan 2/131A,
Off Jalan Klang Lama, 58200 Kuala Lumpur
(Tel: 03-7781 1993) (Ref. No. RWT/EST/WKU/FI/0122/894/AT/SYAZ/MNS)

NBG TRADING SDN BHD IS HIRING:

SPARE PARTS STAFF
- Responsible for sales and inventory management of automotive spare parts
- Relevant work experience is preferred

LORRY DRIVER
- Must possess a valid GDL lorry driving license

MECHANIC
- Experience in commercial vehicle / lorry repair is preferred
- Experience as a senior foreman is preferred

WELDER
- Relevant work experience preferred

Work Location:
Lot 1595, Block 11, 6½ Mile, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak.

How to Apply:
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cc **wteck8729@gmail.com**
WhatsApp: **+601163099845**
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725178U54RA

HOUSE FOR SALE BY URGENT
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- **Jalan Sejingkat, Kuching**
- **Jalan Taman Mutiara, Bau, Kuching**

LAND FOR SALE
- **Tulai Land For Sale 1.79acres**
- **Native Land at Selalang @RM4500/acres**
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Mr Ling H/P: 016 - 890 1611

725794U26RA

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* **Rental of RORO Bins**
* **Rental of portable toilets**
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* **Sewer Cleaning**

KIARA BUMIMAS SDN BHD (675354-K)
Tel: 085-434 653 Email: kiarabumimas@gmail.com
Lot 2758, Block 8 MCLD, Jalan Padang Kerbau,
98000 Miri, Sarawak.

316509U09SH

MALAYSIA
IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AT KUCHING, SARAWAK
SUIT NO. KCH-A72NCvC-224-5/2026 (MC 2)

Between

Majlis Perbandaran Padawan ... **Plaintiff**

And

Tristan Ashley Chai Chern Ming
(NRIC No. 970430-13-5309) ... **Defendant**

NOTICE OF WRIT

To: **Tristan Ashley Chai Chern Ming (NRIC No. 970430-13-5309)**
C/O AG-04-16, GoodYear Court 10,
USJ 15, Jalan Mulia,
47630 Subang Jaya, Selangor.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrates' Court in Suit No. KCH-A72NCvC-224-5/2026 (MC 2) by the above-named Plaintiff of Kota Padawan, Batu 10, Jalan Penrissen, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak in which the Plaintiff's claim against you is for:

(a) the sum of **RM4,450.00;**
(b) surcharge on the sum of **RM3,238.40** at the rate of 1% per month from 06.05.2026 until the date of full and final settlement;
(c) caveat fee of RM100.00;
(d) costs pursuant to section 79 of the Local Authorities Ordinance 1996; and
(e) other reliefs as deemed fit and just by this Honourable Court.

AND that it has been ordered inter alia that the service of the Order for Substituted Service and the Writ together with the Statement of Claim in this action be effected on you by posting the said Writ and Statement of Claim with a copy of the Order for Substituted Service to your last known address at C/O AG-04-16, GoodYear Court 10, USJ15, Jalan Mulia, 47630 Subang Jaya, Selangor by prepaid registered post, and advertisement of this Notice once in a local newspaper; and that such service shall be good and sufficient service on you upon the lapse of 7 days from the date of such posting or publication; whichever is the later; and that you shall pay the Plaintiff costs of this application and incidental thereto.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you desire to defend the said action you must within **27 days** from the publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, enter an appearance at the Registry of the Magistrate's Court, Kuching. In default of such appearance, judgment may be entered against you.

Dated the 27th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

Registrar
Subordinate Courts, Kuching

This Notice of Writ is filed for the Plaintiff by
Spring Advocates of Unit 28, First Floor, Emporium, No. 9, Jalan Tun Jugah, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.
(T) 265535 (F) 265537 (E) springadvocates@gmail.com (Ref.) L2224(24)/JH

537 03HQ8JKF

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI
DIVORCE PETITION NO.: MYY-33-52-7/2026 (HC)

In the matter of dissolution of marriage on ground of breakdown of marriage and
In the matter of rule 7 and 8 of the Divorce and Matrimonial Proceedings Rules 1980 and
In the matter of Sections 53; 54(1)(c) & (d); 88(1); 89(2) and 106(1) of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 [*Act 164*]

BETWEEN

TAUYA ANAK RENGGA (F) ... **PETITIONER**
(NRIC. NO.: 910907-13-5724)

AND

SENCHEZ RENTAP ANAK FAVIAN (M) ... **RESPONDENT**
(NRIC. NO.: 900715-13-7283)

NOTICE

(IN THE MATTER of Divorce Petition issued on the **13th day of July 2026)**

To: **SENCHEZ RENTAP ANAK FAVIAN (M)**
(NRIC. NO.: 900715-13-7283)
Last known address:
Rumah Budoi Seruai
95600 Spaoh, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that a divorce petition has been presented against you in this Court by the Petitioner **TAUYA ANAK RENGGA (F) (NRIC. NO.: 910907-13-5724)** of **Lot 1128 Jalan Promin Jaya 1D, Desa** Senadin, 98000 Miri, Sarawak **and the Court has ordered that the said** petition be served on you by publishing via advertisement a Notice once in a local newspaper namely **BORNEO POST** and that such publication shall be good and sufficient service of the petition on you **14 days** after the last act of such publication.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if you desire to defend that cause, you must within **8 days** after the effective service of the petition on you, inclusive of the day of service in Form 6 in the Registry of the High Court at Miri, Sarawak. In default of such notice, decree nisi may be granted against you.

DATED this **26th day of October, 2026.**

Senior Assistant Registrar
High Court, Miri

This ***NOTICE*** is filed by **Assistant Director of Legal Aid Department, Miri** for and on behalf of the Petitioner, whose address for Service is at 13th Floor, Yu Lan Plaza, Lot 97, Brooke Road, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.
Tel No: 085 423606/ Fax No: 085 425204 [Ref. No.: JBG.MI.600-7/12/101/0726]

318513N20MH

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT BINTULU
DIVORCE PETITION NO.: BTU-33-21-7/2026 (HC)

In the matter of dissolution of marriage on ground of breakdown of marriage and
In the matter of rule 7 and 8 of the Divorce and Matrimonial Proceedings Rules 1980 and
In the matter of Sections 53, 54(1)(d); 88(1); 89(2) and 93**(1) of the Law Reform** (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 [*Act 164*]

BETWEEN

DIANA MARIANA JANE ANAK RENDAH (F) ... **PETITIONER**
(NRIC. NO.:981210-13-5992)

AND

HERYLISMAN GAWAN ANAK EDWARD RICKY (M)
(NRIC. NO.: 920322-13-5963) ... **RESPONDENT**

NOTICE

(IN THE MATTER of Divorce Petition issued on the **30th day of July 2026)**

To: **HERYLISMAN GAWAN ANAK EDWARD RICKY (M)**
(NRIC. NO.: 920322-13-5963)
Last known address:
Rumah Sating, Labang Atas KM 67,
Jalan Bintulu-Miri, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that a divorce petition has been presented against you in this Court by the Petitioner. **DIANA MARIANA JANE ANAK RENDAH (F) (NRIC. NO.:981210-13-5992)** of **SD Guthrie, Ladang** Takau, PO Box 824, Jalan Bintulu-Miri, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak **and the** Court has ordered that the said petition be served on you by publishing via advertisement a Notice once in a local newspaper namely **BORNEO POST** and that such publication shall be good and sufficient service of the petition on you **14 days** after the last act of such publication.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if you desire to defend that cause, you must within **8 days** after the effective service of the petition on you, inclusive of the day of service in Form 6 in the Registry of the High Court at Bintulu, Sarawak. In default of such notice, decree nisi may be granted against you.

DATED this **23rd day of October, 2026.**

Senior Assistant Registrar
High Court, Bintulu

This ***NOTICE*** is filed by **Assistant Director of Legal Aid Department, Miri** for and on behalf of the Petitioner, whose address for Service is at 13th Floor, Yu Lan Plaza, Lot 97, Brooke Road, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.
Tel. No.: 085-423606/ Fax No.: 085-425204 [Ref. No.: JBG.MI.600-7/12/113/0726]

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Interested candidates please bring along a passport size photo and walk-in to our office at Jalan Tuanku Osman to fill in interview form. Any enquiry please call the following number:

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722638U65LH

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RM2,999/Per Set
RRP RM5,398
Lifetime Convertible Bench
- RM2,699 x 2 Units
(Wood Grain/Harbor Gray)

Converts from bench to table in seconds

GWP
- Dayes Elliotts Broom 45cm Bassine, Igloo Playmate Pal Red & Libbey Sereno Picher Set With Glass Purple
Total Worth **RM568.80**

PWP
- Barbecook Spring 3112 at **RM1,999** Usual RM5,799

RM1,699
RRP RM5,398
Lifetime Glider Bench
Harbor Gray

GWP
- Dayes Elliotts Traditional Corn Broom & Igloo 1/2 Gallon Sport Bottle with Hook Volt Yellow
Total Worth **RM202.80**

Glide Back & Forth

TABLE & CHAIR

Table Fold-in-half
x 1 Unit
x 6 Units

RM1,599
RRP RM3,233
Lifetime 60" Round Fold-In-Half Table
Lifetime Chair(80683)

PWP
- Dayes Elliotts Broom Large 60cm Bassine at **RM99.90** Usual RM279
- Brabantia Newicon Pedal Bin 12l White at **RM399** Usual RM729
- Libbey Yute Dinneware Set 12pcs at **RM119**

x 1 Unit
x 6 Units
Lifetime
- 6' Folding Table
- Chair(80683)

RM999/Each Set
RRP RM1,945

Table Fold-in-half
x 1 Unit
x 6 Units
Lifetime
- 48" Round Fold-In-Half Table
- Chair(80683)

GWP
- Papstar Tablecloth Fleece 10m x 1.2m Bordeaux & Kitchen Craft Table Cloth Clip Stainelss Steel Total Worth **RM154.90**

GWP
- Papstar Paper Table Cloth Damast Embrossing 8m x 1.2m Yellow & Kitchen Craft Table Cloths Clips Stainless Steel Total Worth **RM74.80**

GARDEN SHED & STORAGE

RM15,399
RRP RM27,999
Lifetime Shed
8'x 10' (60056)

PWP
- Weber Spirit E-215 Black at Rm **RM3,789** Usual RM4,739

GWP
- Brabantia Essential Rotary 30 Worth **RM1,269**

RM9,899
RRP RM17,999
Lifetime Garden Shed
7' x 12' (60311)

PWP
- Brabantia Wallfix 24m with Protective Box at **RM999** Usual RM1,799

GWP
- Metaltex Step Ladder Kappa 3 & Dayes Elliotts Broom Large 60cm Bassine Total Worth **RM628**

RM8,299
RRP RM14,999
Lifetime Shed
7' x 7' (60190)

WATER SPORT

RM3,399
RRP RM6,999
Lifetime Manta 120"
Kayak With Paddles (91071)

RM4,399
RRP RM8,999
Lifetime Wasatch 156"
Canoe Forest Green (90561)

GWP
- Kayak Paddle Lite Black Adult 2pcs Worth **RM399**

RM699
RRP RM1,399
Lifetime Kayak, Youth Yellow, Paddle Br (90100)

PLAY SET

PWP
- Lifetime Convertible Bench (Wood Grain / Harbor Gray) 2 Units at **RM2,699** Usual RM5,398

RM22,999
RRP RM42,999
Lifetime Adventure Castle

GWP
- Outback Folding Camping Chair Grey & U Grill Plus
Total Worth **RM568**

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