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Haze: Emergency declared in Serian

Agong consents to declaration after API reading exceeds 500, restrictions to be announced

Desiree David & Kentigern Minggu

KUCHING: The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Ibrahim has consented to the declaration of a state of emergency in the Serian Division following worsening haze that has pushed air pollution to hazardous levels.

The Prime Minister's Office said the decision was made after taking into consideration the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Sarawak Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg and relevant agencies monitoring air quality in the affected area.

"More effective measures will be taken to protect the health and welfare of affected residents," it said in a statement.

According to the Department of Environment (DoE), the API reading for Serian had exceeded 500 from 8am yesterday.

Sarawak Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) chairman, Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, said that under the National Haze Action Plan (NHAP), once a state of emergency was declared, government and private offices and other workplaces in the affected area – including industries, plantations, construction sites and quarries – would be required to close, except those providing essential services.

"Essential services include supermarkets, petrol stations, banks and a few other facilities.

"For government departments, these include the police, military and several other agencies that need to continue providing services to the public," he told a

The main strategy is to ensure that public health is protected. The health of the people is our priority. I also urge the people to cooperate and wear masks when going outside, particularly N95 masks or three-ply face masks.

Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas

press conference after chairing the committee's meeting at Wisma Bapa Malaysia earlier yesterday.

Uggah said details on the areas in Serian to be affected by the emergency, as well as the essential services to be allowed to continue operating, would be announced after the declaration had been made.

"So we hope that when this emergency is enforced, the public will comply. The main strategy is to ensure that public health is protected. The health of the people is our priority. I also urge the people to cooperate and wear masks when going outside, particularly N95 masks or three-ply face masks," he said.

On the standard operating procedures (SOPs) during the emergency, Uggah said the public should expect regulations that could differ from those imposed during the 1997 haze emergency



Photo shows the severe haze situation over this Serian-Sri Aman stretch of the Pan Borneo Highway, taken after the API in Serian breached 500 yesterday. — Bernama photo

in Sarawak, when Kuching was placed under a state of emergency after the API reached hazardous levels.

Responding to questions on why cloud-seeding had not been carried out earlier to tackle the situation, Uggah reiterated that cloud-seeding could only be conducted when atmospheric

conditions had become conducive.

"In other words, there must be clouds in the area so that they can be treated with the chemicals being used," he said, adding that the SDMC would continue taking proactive measures and closely monitoring the situation.

These include monitoring API

readings and air-quality trends in Serian and other affected areas, as well as weather conditions and haze movement based on forecasts from the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia).

The committee would also coordinate public health and safety measures with relevant

agencies and monitor hotspots and potential sources of haze.

It would also continue coordinating with the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma), MetMalaysia, Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM) and Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) on cloud-seeding operations.



Abdullah (seated, fourth left) in a group photo with other guests and participants, taken after the closing ceremony at Affin Bank Hikmah Exchange. — Photo by Jude Toyat

Use AI to generate bankable ideas, Sarawak's young entrepreneurs encouraged

KUCHING: Sarawak's young entrepreneurs with promising business ideas are encouraged to use artificial intelligence (AI) to develop them into viable and presentable business proposals.

In making this call, Deputy Minister in Premier's Department (Corporate Affairs and Sarawak Public Communications Unit) Datuk Abdullah Saidol said AI could help refine and communicate ideas more effectively, even without advanced programming or data-related knowledge.

He added that tools such as KIMI AI could assist

entrepreneurs in turning raw ideas into structured business proposals that could be better understood by investors and financial institutions.

"This is the kind of programme where AI assists you. You do not have to have a degree in programming or data," he told a press conference, called after the official closing of the SG-Sarawak Friendship AI Business Design Hackathon 2026 organised by Angkatan Zaman Mansang (Azam) Sarawak at Affin Bank Hikmah Exchange here yesterday.

Abdullah said many people had

good business ideas, but struggled to translate them into structured proposals that could meet the expectations of investors or financial institutions.

"You can ask 10 people and 10 people will come up with different formats. Sometimes when they bring it to investors or the bank, they are told that it is not what they want to see in a business proposal. AI can help bridge this gap by assisting entrepreneurs in organising, developing and presenting their business ideas more effectively."

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PM backs proposal to place Tabung Haji investments under SC, BNM oversight

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has backed a proposal by Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) to place its investment operations under the regulatory oversight of the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) or Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM).

Anwar, also the Finance Minister, regarded the move as appropriate towards ensuring that TH's operations would be subject to tighter regulation, and to also prevent abuse of power and other governance-related issues in the future.

He hailed the initiative by TH's new management, led by its chairman Tan Sri Abdul

Rashid Hussain, as a positive step towards strengthening governance and accountability at the pilgrimage fund management institution.

"This is, in my view, appropriate, and I have been briefed by them and support the measures, including several proposed amendments to the Tabung Haji Act 1995," he told reporters when met after performing Friday prayers at Masjid Bukit Indah, Ampang Jaya, here yesterday.

Anwar added that the move would ensure tighter oversight of TH's management by either the SC or BNM, and prevent governance weaknesses from going unchecked, as had

happened previously.

On Thursday, Abdul Rashid said TH was refining a new regulatory framework to place its investment operations under the statutory oversight of the SC.

He said the decision followed nearly six months of detailed deliberations by a joint task force, which was established to examine the proposed regulatory framework.

The task force also comprises the SC chairman and BNM Governor, with the aim of ensuring TH's investment management complies with Malaysia's capital market regulatory standards. — Bernama

New devts in Sarawak required to set aside 10 pct of project areas for green spaces

Aileen Yap

KUCHING: New developments in Sarawak will be required to set aside at least 10 per cent of their project areas for green spaces as the state moves to embed sustainability more firmly into its built environment.

According to Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, the requirement is part of a broader push to create more liveable and environmentally resilient communities, alongside the adoption of greener standards for government projects.

These include the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) for government projects valued at RM10 million and above; a target of 70 per

cent Industrialised Building System (IBS) utilisation in future government buildings and schools; and at least 50 per cent use of local products in government building construction. Green features will also be incorporated into all new government buildings.

"The Sarawak government is not merely telling private property developers that 'you' need to do something.

"We are choosing to lead the way by setting these transparent standards for ourselves and for the projects we undertake," he said in his speech for the opening of Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Developers' Association (Sheda) Property Expo 2026 at voco Kuching by IHG here yesterday, where he was

represented by Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian.

Adding on, Abang Johari said the measures, outlined under the Sarawak Sustainability Blueprint, reflected the state's commitment to developing a modern, sustainable and locally driven built environment that will serve Sarawakians well into the future," he said.

The Premier said the building and construction industry remained one of the most energy-intensive sectors, with much of its value chain and supply chain still being reliant on fossil fuels.

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Headlines

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Haze: Temporary closure for 647 schools in Sarawak



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KUCHING: A total of 647 primary and secondary schools in Sarawak will be closed from Sept 7 to 11 amid worsening air quality in several parts of the state.

Education Department Sarawak director Omar Mahli said the decision was made in light of the hot weather affecting the country, which had driven Air Pollutant Index (API) readings in several areas of Sarawak to unhealthy levels.

The temporary closures involve 563 primary schools with 108,477 pupils and 84 secondary schools with 90,082 students under 12 District Education Offices (PPDs): Kuching, Padawan, Bau, Lundu, Samarahan, Simunjan, Serian, Sri Aman, Lubok Antu, Kanowit, Julau and Meradong.

Teaching and Learning from Home (PdPR) sessions will be implemented throughout the closure period in accordance with Ministry of Education (MoE) Circular No. 8/2016: Guidelines on Disaster Management for Teaching and Learning.



Omar speaks to reporters at the press conference. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

"Any changes or updates will be communicated from time to time," he told a press conference called after the State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) meeting at Wisma Bapa Malaysia here yesterday.

Omar also reminded schools

to comply with established standard operating procedures (SOPs), refer to MoE Circular No. 1/2019 on measures to ensure the health and safety of students in schools located in critical haze areas, and prioritise the health of students and teachers at all

times.

He also advised all educational institutions under the purview of the Sarawak Education Department (JPN Sarawak) to strictly adhere to MoE Circular No. 3/2023 on guidelines for outdoor activities during hot weather.

Educational institutions must also remain vigilant by monitoring local API readings through the Department of Environment (DoE)'s official API Management System (APIMS) portal and following Ministry of Health recommendations to safeguard the well-being of students and staff.

"JPN Sarawak deeply cares about the health, safety, and well-being of all its members," he said.

Previously, 591 schools in Sarawak were temporarily closed, from Aug 20 to 21, due to prolonged hot and dry weather conditions.

The closures involved 509 primary schools with 107,590 pupils and 82 secondary schools with 89,733 students under 10 PPDs: Kuching, Padawan, Bau, Lundu, Samarahan, Simunjan, Serian, Sri Aman, Lubok Antu and Betong.

Home

Performance rating system proposed for property developers

KUCHING: The Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Developers' Association (Sheda) has proposed a comprehensive performance rating system for property developers, saying that a single delayed project should not unfairly define a developer's overall track record.

Sheda president Augustine Wong said the association supported the Sarawak government's efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability and consumer protection in the housing sector, but believed developers should be assessed using clear and balanced criteria.

"One late delivery should not stigmatise a property developer. If we judge a developer by one mistake, we overlook and undermine their true performance," he said at the opening of the Sheda Property Expo 2026 at voco Kuching by IHG here yesterday.

Wong said Sheda was prepared to work with the state government to develop a performance framework that would give homebuyers with a clearer picture of a developer's overall performance based on measurable data.

The association also called for the term 'sick project' to be reviewed or removed, saying that the label could create the impression that a development was facing serious difficulties or might not be completed.

He said project delays could arise from circumstances beyond a developer's control, including floods, prolonged bad weather and severe storms, which could disrupt construction schedules, damage building materials and create unsafe conditions at project sites.

Despite such disruptions, he said developers were required to complete landed housing projects within 24 months and strata developments within 36

months.

Against this backdrop, Wong outlined three proposals to further support the housing and property sector.

The first was proposed amendments to the Housing Development (Control and Licensing) Ordinance 2013 and Housing Development (Control and Licensing) Regulations 2014 to be tabled before the current Sarawak Legislative Assembly is dissolved.

Sheda also proposed expanding the Housing Deposit and Repayment Assistance Scheme (HDRAS) to give eligible purchasers greater flexibility to use the assistance to buy suitable homes on the open market.

"We are only asking for the government to give eligible purchasers the freedom to choose where they wish to live and to help them achieve that aspiration," Wong said.

During the opening ceremony, 20 recipients received assistance under HDRAS, administered by Mutiara Mortgage and Credit Sdn Bhd.

Under the scheme, eligible B40 (low-income) and M40 (medium-income) first-time homebuyers may receive assistance of up to RM10,000 towards their housing deposit, or RM200 a month in repayment assistance for up to 48 months.

For its third proposal, Sheda called for a one-stop climate portal that would provide developers with standardised reports on local adverse weather conditions.

Wong said the reports could serve as official supporting documents when developers apply for extensions of time due to weather-related project delays.

The three-day Sheda Property Expo, which concludes tomorrow, features more than 30 booths showcasing residential developments across Sarawak.

Premier: Sarawak sets out to boost delivery of development programmes under 13MP, including commitment to build 20,000 affordable houses

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As industries supplying building materials, machinery and other components undergo decarbonisation, he said the shift towards cleaner energy would also contribute to a more energy-efficient built environment.

"With renewable energy firmly at the centre of Sarawak's sustainability agenda, we look forward to a time when even the construction industry's core trait

of high energy consumption is transformed into one of energy efficiency," he said.

He added that plans were also underway to incorporate industrial symbiosis and circular economy principles into the property development planning ecosystem.

Beyond sustainability, Abang Johari said the state was also strengthening the delivery of development programmes under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP),

including its commitment to build 20,000 affordable houses.

He said the government would soon launch the SAMUDAH Management System to improve communication and facilitate the resolution of issues between the business community and government departments and authorities.

Looking ahead, he said technological advances, including artificial intelligence (AI),

construction robotics and green management systems, would continue to reshape the property development industry.

"The evolution of the property development industry is coming, whether we like it or not," he said.

Also present were Sheda president Dato Augustine Wong, and Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government permanent secretary Datu Elizabeth Loh.

Home

Faulty streetlights, pothole prompt road safety concerns in Sibu

SIBU: Faulty streetlights near the Jalan Wawasan junction here are raising road safety concerns, prompting calls for urgent repairs to improve visibility for motorists travelling through the area at night.

Sibu MP Oscar Ling's special aide Irene Wong said she inspected the area following public complaints and found that several streetlights near the junction were not functioning properly, leaving the road poorly illuminated.

"The streetlights are located near a major junction, and the lack of lighting has made the road and junction less visible at night," she said in a statement on Friday.

Wong said one complainant, a Grab driver who used the route to pick up and drop off passengers, had difficulty identifying the junction at night and had occasionally missed the turn due to poor visibility.

She said the complainant also raised concerns that motorists could have difficulty identifying

the road boundaries in the dark, increasing the risk of vehicles accidentally veering onto the grassy roadside.

During her inspection, Wong also found a pothole along Jalan Ling Kai Cheng, just before the traffic lights, which required motorists to slow down and exercise caution.

Following the site visit, she lodged complaints with the relevant authorities and called for the streetlights and pothole to be repaired as soon as possible to minimise risks to road users.

Wong said roads and streetlights were basic public facilities directly linked to public safety and should be regularly maintained, with problems addressed before they deteriorated or contributed to accidents. "The government and relevant authorities should give due attention to such matters and ensure that maintenance and follow-up action are carried out promptly and effectively," she said.

'Apart from AI, networking, knowledge-sharing also important in today's business'

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However, Abdullah stressed that an AI-assisted business plan alone would not guarantee business success.

In this respect, he said entrepreneurs would still need to understand financial risks, governance, sustainability, cash flow and other fundamentals of running a business.

"Sustaining a business is another challenge. Some entrepreneurs struggle after the first one or two years. This is where financial and risk management become important."

Abdullah also highlighted the importance of networking and knowledge-sharing, saying collaboration between Sarawak and Singapore through the Singapore-Sarawak AI Youth Ambassador Network (Saiyan)

could give young people opportunities to learn from one another and strengthen the state's AI ecosystem.

He said Sarawak had talented youths with strong ideas and unique cultural heritage that could be further developed and shared internationally.

Abdullah also called upon banks and experienced entrepreneurs to help young people better understand the requirements of business proposals.

The AI Business Design Hackathon 2026 involved 30 participants.

Also present were Azam Sarawak chairman Datuk Ismawi Ismuni and chief executive officer Ali Suhaili, Press Secretary to the Premier of Sarawak Dato Ambrose Cheng, and representatives of Sarawak Artificial Intelligence Centre.

Home

Sheda-Curtin collaboration to advance BIM adoption, industry talents

KUCHING: The Sarawak Housing and Real Estate Developers Association (Sheda) Institute and Curtin University Malaysia have joined forces to strengthen talent development, research and technology adoption in Sarawak's real estate and construction sectors.

The collaboration was formalised through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) exchanged between Sheda Institute chairman Zaidi Ahmad and Curtin University Malaysia pro vice-chancellor, president and chief executive Prof Vincent Lee during the opening ceremony of the Sheda Property Expo 2026 at voco Kuching by IHG here yesterday.

The exchange was witnessed by Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, who represented Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg at the event.

Sheda president Augustine Wong said the collaboration



Zaidi (second right) and Lee (centre) exchange the MoU documents, witnessed by Dr Sim (third right), Wong (third left) and others. — Photo by Aileen Yap

would support industry training and research, with particular emphasis on the adoption of Building Information Modelling (BIM) technology.

"We look forward to exploring a future in BIM technology adoption through the CIDB-Curtin Satellite BIM Laboratory," he said in his speech.

Wong said the partnership was made possible with funding support from the Premier to expand Sheda Institute's research capacity and provide value-added training and certification programmes.

It is stated that the MoU will cover joint short courses, diploma and degree programmes, as well as research on housing

affordability, policy formulation and industry challenges.

The collaboration will also provide internship and graduate placement opportunities within Sheda's developer network while supporting professional development in BIM technology through the CIDB-Curtin Satellite BIM Laboratory.

Sabah

Budget 2027: Sabah residents want cost of living eased, MSMEs empowered

KOTA KINABALU: Easing the cost-of-living pressures and expanding support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are among the expectations of the people in Sabah for Budget 2027, scheduled to be tabled in Parliament this Oct 9.

Sabah Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Awil Kamsari said Budget 2027 should consider establishing a one-stop centre to help MSMEs address issues related to halal certification, packaging, branding and production capacity.

He regarded these challenges, coupled with high premises rental costs, as among the factors making it difficult for small businesses in Sabah to expand and penetrate wider markets.

"I hope Budget 2027 could

provide specific initiatives for MSMEs, including the establishment of a one-stop centre to help entrepreneurs address issues concerning halal certification, packaging and production capacity," he told Bernama.

Awil said the Sabah Agriculture Industrial Park (SAIP) in Kimanis could also be leveraged as a platform to help MSMEs increase their production and product packaging capacity.

He added that the facility could be further strengthened through an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) production model and collaboration with government-linked companies (GLCs), which could play a role as manufacturers and distributors.

He also expressed hope that

Budget 2027 would offer better tax incentives to MSMEs, including reductions or exemptions on import duties for certain materials required for production.

Meanwhile, small trader Dayang Hedzriyane Mohamad Adnan, 39, wished for efforts to address the cost of living to be among the government's key priorities in this budget.

She said the cost-of-living pressures were more pronounced in Sabah due to geographical factors, distance and long distribution chains, particularly for goods that need to be transported to inland and rural areas.

"I hope the government could focus more on reducing the cost of living to ease the burden, as

the prices of goods and essential items are very high at present," she added.

Tuition centre owner Muhd Nasri Maarof, 35, hoped that the government would focus on financing facilities, business training and licensing processes for SMEs.

He said support in the form of courses and streamlined licence application processes could help traders manage and expand their businesses in a more organised manner.

"My hope is that the government would provide easier access to loans for small and medium-sized traders, offer appropriate courses to traders and simplify the process of applying for licences, particularly with local and federal authorities." — Bernama

‘Going digital key to tackling specialist teacher shortage’

Maxwell Atan

SIBU: Digital education could help address Sarawak’s shortage of specialist teachers, particularly in the rural schools where trained Mathematics, Science and English teachers are not always available.

In stating this, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Innovation and Talent Development Datuk Dr Annuar Rapae said Sarawak had reached about 98 per cent of its required teacher numbers, but the challenge was ensuring schools had teachers with the appropriate subject specialisations.

“We are almost there in terms of the numbers that we need. I think we have already about 98 per cent of schools that have enough teachers.

“But if we go deeper into that, the other issue is not only the numbers of teachers that we want to look into. It is the number of option teachers,” he said during the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between University of Technology Sarawak (UTS) and Amdox Prospera Sdn Bhd, here yesterday.

He said some schools lacked sufficient Mathematics, Science or English teachers, resulting in teachers without training in those subjects having to teach them.

“This is what we call a deficit in the option teachers that we have,” he added.

Dr Annuar said digital education could help overcome the problem by allowing specialist teachers to conduct lessons remotely for students in schools where the relevant subject teachers were unavailable.

“Teachers physically present at the schools could act as supervisors while specialist teachers conducted lessons remotely using internet connectivity and digital education tools,” he said.



(From left) Zhang and Mohammad Shahril exchange the tokens of appreciation, as Dr Annuar looks on.

He said the approach was particularly relevant to Sarawak given its vast geographical area and the distribution of schools across difficult terrain.

Sarawak has about 1,200 primary schools and 200 secondary schools, with some schools taking up to eight hours to reach by road, while others can only be accessed by river.

Dr Annuar also highlighted the issue of low enrolment, saying that about half of Sarawak’s schools had fewer than 10 students.

He said efforts had been made to merge smaller schools into larger ‘anchor schools’, but closing schools remained difficult due to communities’ attachment.

Dr Annuar said the priority was therefore not merely to ensure access to education,

but to provide Sarawakians with quality, world-standard education.

He called upon UTS and Amdox Prospera Sdn Bhd to work together in developing digital education solutions suited to Sarawak’s unique circumstances.

Dr Annuar, also UTS chairman, also urged the university and Amdox to develop state-of-the-art digital education facilities that would enable the institution to expand beyond on-campus learning into hybrid and online education.

He cited his experience visiting a university in Australia where lectures were delivered remotely by academics from other institutions including Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge.

“This is what we want to

happen in UTS,” he said.

Dr Annuar also expressed hope that Amdox would establish a factory or industrial presence in Sibu, saying that he was more interested in the company bringing both industry and research and development (R&D) here.

He said establishing such an ecosystem locally could further enhance talent development through closer collaboration between industry, R&D and UTS.

Also present were UTS vice-chancellor Prof Mohammad Shahril Osman, School of Postgraduate Studies dean Prof Mohd Zainal Munshid Harun, Amdox Group chief executive officer Zhang Liang, and Amdox Prospera Sdn Bhd director Adam Ang Tong Han.

Home

Unimas, Fisheries Department set out to strengthen research ties via MoU

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and the Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DoF) are strengthening their strategic collaboration through a memorandum of understanding (MoU), focusing on research, innovation and sustainable development of the country’s fisheries industry.

The MoU, signed on Sept 2 in conjunction with the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Exhibition (MAHA) 2026 in Serdang, involves the Unimas Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (FRST) and the Bintawa Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI).

The collaboration includes a 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) research project, ‘Holistic Research on the Use of Preservatives and Heavy Metal Contaminants in the Fisheries Industry in Sarawak’, valued at RM90,000.

The project focuses on developing natural preservative formulations for fishery products to maintain their freshness, quality and safety.

Through the collaboration, researchers from both institutions will combine their expertise in the development and evaluation of natural-resource-based preservative formulations,



(From left) Azahari, Adnan, Khalid, Norazman, Dr Ahmad Hata and Mohd Hasnain pose for a commemorative photo after the MoU signing.

including studies on chemical changes, lipid and protein oxidation, microbiological analysis and sensory acceptance,” said Unimas in a statement yesterday.

The project is led by Dr Ahmad Syafiq Ahmad Nasir from FSTS Unimas, while Nur Amalina Mohd Razikin heads the research team from BFRI.

The collaboration between Unimas and DoF dates back to 2016 through a research project on crab-fattening systems led

by Prof Saiful Bahari Mohd Yusoff from the Unimas Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts (FACA).

It subsequently expanded to the development of the Unimas Crab House (RKU) innovation in 2018 for mud crab species.

With technical support from DoF, the innovation was named champion of the Malaysian Commercialisation Year (MCY) 2018 in the ‘Social Innovation’ category.

The collaboration also led to

the development of the Coral Propagation (PROKA) innovation and Culvert-PROKA artificial reef design, supporting marine ecosystem conservation and fisheries resource development.

The initiative subsequently opened opportunities for postgraduate research sponsored by DoF in artificial reef design and coral propagation in Sarawak waters.

Last year, the collaboration was expanded further through the development of mobile lobster reefs in Sematan, as well as for a project involving yellowfin tuna (Thunnus albacares) in Sabah under funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

Present during the MoU exchange were Fisheries Department director-general Datuk Adnan Hussain, deputy director-general (development) Datuk Azahari Othman, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security secretary-general Khalid Ibrahim and his deputy secretary-general (policy) Datuk Seri Norazman Ayob, Unimas vice-chancellor Prof Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit and University Industry Centre director Prof Dr Mohd Hasnain Md Hussain.

National



Yok Raman
Yok Ankeh



Colin Peh

GoRental Global’s initiative lights up learning journey of Orang Asli children

SUNGKAI: The absence of electricity previously forced some Orang Asli children in Kampung Sat, Sungkai, to put aside their books after sunset, leaving little time to revise lessons and complete school assignments.

The situation was particularly challenging for Orang Asli families residing in traditional houses made of wood and bamboo, making routine daily activities difficult once night fell.

But those days are gradually changing with GoRental Global’s #PowerToEmpower initiative, which provides solar power systems and portable batteries that store energy generated during the day for use after sunset.

According to Kampung Sat ‘Tok Batin’ (village headman) Yok Raman Yok Ankeh, 49, the village is home to about 350 members of the Semai Orang Asli community, with electricity currently available in around 22 concrete houses.

He said some families were still living in traditional houses, including those with school-going children, making reliable lighting particularly important for studying and carrying out daily activities after sunset.

“I would greatly appreciate it if any agency could help the Orang Asli community, as getting electricity connected to these traditional houses is not easy.

“With this kind of help, at least families without electricity can use it for their daily needs, especially the children who need to do their schoolwork at night,” he said when met by Bernama here yesterday.

Yok Raman said some residents had bought small solar systems themselves to have lighting at night, but the equipment did not last long and was easily damaged.

He said the solar system from GoRental Global was especially helpful to families still living in traditional houses, where getting conventional electricity was difficult because some of the homes were built using wood and bamboo.

Another recipient, Bah Kosong Ahmad, 36, said the assistance had made a big difference to his family, particularly his children, who could now study and finish their schoolwork at night.

“At night, my child can use the light to do schoolwork, and we can use it when cooking. We can also charge our phones and other devices through USB.

“It’s really helpful because before this, we didn’t have electricity in the house,” he said.

Through GoRental Global’s #PowerToEmpower initiative, 10 portable battery energy storage systems (BESS) were installed to support families in Kampung Sat, providing the community with a much-needed source of power where access to electricity remains limited.

According to GoRental Global founder and managing director Colin Peh, the system harnesses solar energy generated during the day and stores it in batteries

I would greatly appreciate it if any agency could help the Orang Asli community, as getting electricity connected to these traditional houses is not easy.

Yok Raman Yok Ankeh

for use after sunset, mainly for lighting, charging mobile devices and meeting other basic needs.

“Sometimes we take electricity for granted. But when you don’t have it, even simple things like switching on the lights, charging your phone or letting the children study at night can be a challenge.

“That’s what we’re trying to help with through this initiative.

“For us, what matters most is making sure these families have something safer and more reliable, especially after sunset.

“It’s not just about giving them the equipment. We want them to have power they can use every day, and hopefully it will make things a little easier for families who don’t have easy access to electricity,” he said.

Colin said the company would want to bring the model to about 200 families within two years, particularly those living in rural communities and areas where access to the electricity grid remained limited, including in Sarawak.

He said the system could last for up to about 6,000 charging cycles, potentially giving it a lifespan of almost 12 years, while also reducing fuel dependency among communities that rely on generators for power.

Colin said the initiative in Kampung Sat was GoRental Global’s first project in Malaysia and part of an effort to develop a community energy model that could be used in locations with limited access to conventional electricity grids.

The system is projected to generate about 43,800 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy over a 10-year period, potentially avoiding around 120 tonnes of carbon emissions and reducing reliance on diesel and kerosene.

Colin said the project was developed with community partner Kenneth Toon of New Life Restoration Centre and his wife, Ann Toon, who helped connect the company with residents and identify the community’s needs before the project was implemented.

The Kampung Sat initiative is the latest under GoRental Global’s #PowerToEmpower programme, following an earlier project in Huay Nam Rin Village, Chiang Mai, Thailand, involving 31 battery systems and 60 solar panels.

GoRental Global plans to expand the #PowerToEmpower initiative to other communities in Malaysia, including Sarawak, before extending it to other parts of Southeast Asia. — Bernama

National

NUTP allocates RM1.5 mln annually for teachers’ legal aid

KOTA BHARU: The National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) has allocated RM1.5 million annually to assist members facing legal action in the course of their duties as teachers.

Its president Aminuddin Awang said the assistance

covered civil suits and criminal prosecutions, with legal costs in some cases reaching RM80,000.

He said civil suits were increasingly being filed directly against teachers rather than the government or the Education Department.

“Sometimes, parents or members of the community file civil suits against teachers over matters that could actually be resolved without having to go to court,” he told reporters after attending the 24th NUTP triennial delegates’ conference here on Thursday night.

Aminuddin said NUTP also provided legal assistance to members facing criminal prosecution if the case involved an element of mistreatment against the teacher.

According to him, the union has provided legal assistance in 16 cases as of August, including

three currently undergoing trial in Kelantan.

“Among the cases teachers often face are those under Section 323 of the Penal Code for intentionally causing injury to another person.

“Although it is a criminal case, we will still provide legal

assistance to our members,” he said.

Aminuddin said NUTP had a panel of law firms to handle cases involving its members and encouraged non-member teachers to join the union so they could get legal assistance when needed. — Bernama

Briefing on Sarawak electoral boundary review to be held in Kuching on Sept 8

KUCHING: Rise of Social Efforts (ROSE) will hold a briefing on the Sarawak electoral boundary review this Tuesday (Sept 8), giving members of the public an opportunity to hear directly from the Election Commission (EC) regarding the process.

ROSE president Geoffrey Tang said the session would feature EC commissioner Dr Mohd Faisal Syam Abdul Haziz, who would be accompanied by EC Sarawak director Abang Noraffian Abang

Ibrahim.

The briefing would be held at Pua Kumbu on Level 3 of Lot 10 Boutique Hotel, Jalan Central Timur here, set to commence promptly at 7.30pm to allow sufficient time for the question-and-answer (Q&A) session.

"Electoral boundary review is an important process that has a direct impact on how people are represented in the electoral system," he said in a statement.

Tang said Sarawakians needed to understand not only where their electoral boundaries were located, but also how the boundaries were determined, why they were being reviewed and what rights they had to agree or object to proposed changes.

He said the session also aimed to raise public awareness that a boundary review was not merely about changing lines on a map.

"It can have implications

for the number of voters in a constituency, the shape of electoral constituencies, representation of the people as well as the dynamics of future elections," he added.

Tang said ROSE believed Sarawakians should have access to accurate and balanced information, particularly while the boundary review process was under way.

"What could be better than Sarawakians themselves hearing

the briefing directly from the EC?" he said.

Tang said the session would also explain how members of the public could participate in the process, including what they needed to know if they agreed or disagreed with proposed boundary changes.

"We hope that the briefing would provide an avenue for open dialogue between the EC and Sarawakians, with particular attention given to the

Q&A session.

"Participants are encouraged to raise questions concerning electoral boundaries, the objection process and their implications for elections," he said.

The programme is open to all Sarawakians interested in understanding the implications of the electoral boundary review on the electoral system and democracy in the state.

Admission is free.

RM1 mln set aside for social research in S'wak next year

Aliah Abdullah

KUCHING: Sarawak will allocate RM1 million next year to expand research into social issues and support better policy formulation and intervention programmes, said Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah.

The Minister for Women, Childhood and Community Wellbeing said the larger allocation for 2027 reflected the Sarawak government's emphasis on evidence-based decision-making, with research findings to guide the formulation of policies, programmes and interventions for the wellbeing of the people.

"This means that whatever we do based on the outcomes of the studies will be relevant.

"We do not want to implement something that does not address the problem or provide an appropriate solution," she said in her speech for the Sarawak Social Development Council Research Grant (SDCRG) handover ceremony here yesterday.

The state minister said four short-term studies had been approved this year, involving a total allocation of RM334,986.

The studies are 'Assessing Resilience Among Parents of Children With Special Needs in Sarawak', conducted by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas); 'Women in Decision-Making in Civil Service - A Decade' by Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus; 'Bantuan Am Negeri: Analisis



Fatimah (third right) hands over an official document to a representative of one of the grant recipients.

Impak Terhadap Kesejahteraan Penerima Bantuan Di Sarawak' by Unimas; and 'Sarawak Social Trends Report 2020 to 2025' by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Bintulu.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Fatimah said the studies should be completed

towards the end of the year.

"They are short-term studies, taking about five to six months," she said, adding that the studies were mainly quantitative in nature and focused on statistical data.

She stressed that policies and state initiatives must be data-

driven and directly address real issues faced by the community as Sarawak moves forward.

"With this emphasis, God-willing, Sarawak will be on the right path in terms of its policies, programmes, initiatives and the support systems that we provide to the people," she added.

SFC intensifies monitoring amid forest fire risk

SIBU: The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) has stepped up monitoring in high-risk areas as the current hot and dry conditions increase the threat of forest fires and haze, particularly in peatland areas and locations close to human activities.

SFC general manager Abang Arabi Abang Aimran said the corporation was taking the risk seriously, as prolonged heat, dry weather, drought and haze could not only trigger forest fires, but also place additional pressure on ecosystems and wildlife.

"SFC always takes seriously the risks posed by hot and dry weather, drought and haze, as these conditions can increase the risk of forest fires and put pressure on ecosystems and wildlife," he told The Borneo Post yesterday.

He said monitoring had been intensified through field patrols, hotspot information and remote-sensing technology to detect early signs of fire, with particular attention given to Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) previously affected by forest fires.

In northern Sarawak, monitoring is focused on Sibuti Wildlife Sanctuary, Piasau Nature Reserve, Lambir Hills National Park, Niah National Park and Mulu National Park in the Miri division.

In Kuching, the focus includes Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary, Bako National Park and Kuching Wetlands National Park, while Bukit Lima Nature Reserve in Sibiu is also receiving closer attention.

Abang Arabi said SFC was also monitoring the availability of water sources and the condition of wildlife habitats, stressing that early detection and response were crucial in preventing fires from spreading.

"The priority is to detect and respond at an early stage so that a fire does not spread and affect a wider habitat area," he said.



Abang Arabi Abang Aimran

He added that SFC was working closely with relevant agencies, including the Fire and Rescue Department, disaster management agencies and local authorities, to monitor fire risks and coordinate emergency response efforts.

On the possibility of wildlife being injured by forest fires or affected by severe smoke and haze, Abang Arabi said SFC was prepared to deal with various eventualities.

He said emergency equipment and trained personnel, including veterinary officers, were on standby to respond to wildlife emergencies.

"Collaboration with private veterinary centres, the Veterinary Department and accredited private wildlife centres, including licensed wildlife farms, is also part of our strategy to address such issues should an unexpected emergency occur," he said.

Looking ahead, Abang Arabi said the climate change issues needed to be addressed through more systematic preparedness.

He said SFC was continuously assessing prevailing conditions and updating its existing guidelines and standard operating procedures, including strengthening inter-agency collaboration.

"Our aim is not only to act when a fire occurs, but more importantly to prevent fires, detect them early and protect forests and wildlife before the situation becomes more serious," he said.

Sibu MP to file objection against latest proposed redelineation of DUN areas

SIBU: An objection against the latest proposed redelineation of Sarawak's state constituencies will be filed by Sibu MP Oscar Ling, citing concerns over unequal voters' distribution and electoral boundaries that do not adequately take existing administrative boundaries into consideration.

In a statement yesterday, Ling also highlighted the unreasonable transfers of areas between constituencies, as well as changes to constituency names that did not correspond with local history, geography and community identity.

"We are not opposed to the redelineation of Sarawak's state constituencies.

"However, we insist that the process must be carried out according to reasonable, transparent and consistent principles, and that electoral boundaries must not be redrawn merely for political convenience," he said.

According to Ling, the areas of Pelawan, Nangka and Bukit Kemuyang are too large in terms of geographical area and have an excessively high number of voters, which no longer reflects the fundamental spirit of the principle of 'one person, one vote' and fair representation.

He said the continued growth of the population, the number of voters in each state constituency should be maintained at a reasonable level - for example, at around 20,000 voters - rather than placing an excessive burden on a single assemblyman and creating significant disparities in representation between different areas.

"If one constituency has a substantially larger number of voters than another, both representatives may enter the DUN (State Legislative Assembly) with one seat each, but the



Ling says the objection is not aimed at protecting the interests of any political party, but at safeguarding the democratic rights of voters and the principle of fair representation.

number of people they represent may differ significantly.

"This raises the question of whether representation is truly fair," he said.

Therefore, Ling believed that the Pelawan, Nangka and Bukit Kemuyang areas should be re-planned and divided into at least four new state constituencies to better reflect local population growth and future development needs.

The Sibu MP also questioned the delineation of the proposed Rassau constituency.

"The current proposed boundaries of Rassau extend into areas under Mukah's administrative jurisdiction, which is unreasonable and inconsistent with the Election Commission (EC)'s previous principle of taking administrative boundaries into consideration when determining electoral boundaries.

"Administrative boundaries are the basic units through which the government carries out administrative functions and delivers public services.

"If a state constituency

crosses different administrative jurisdictions, it will not only complicate administrative coordination, but may also create confusion among voters and local authorities in matters relating to development planning and the delivery of public services," he said.

Ling believed that electoral boundaries should, as far as possible, be aligned with existing administrative boundaries rather than forcing different localities into the same constituency merely to achieve a certain number of voters.

Additionally, he opined that the name Rassau should be reviewed, adding that the name Bawang Assan should be reinstated as it would be more appropriate.

"Bawang Assan is a place name that has been used by the local community for a long time, carries historical significance and enjoys local recognition.

"Compared with the sudden adoption of Rassau, Bawang Assan better reflects the area's history, geography and community ties.

"A constituency name should

not merely be a political label. The name of a constituency should have a connection with the lives of the people, local history and local identity," he said.

Additionally, Ling also questioned the proposed transfer of Sentosa and Usaha Jaya from the Lanang constituency to the Bukit Kemuyang constituency in Sibu.

"Such an adjustment does not solve the problem of an excessive population in Sibu.

"Instead, it further increases the number of people in the Sibu parliamentary constituency from 110,857 to 115,270, while the number in the Lanang constituency is reduced from 91,484 to 87,071.

"What principle is being applied in making such adjustments?

"We need a clear explanation from the Election Commission."

Ling also stressed that the objection to be filed by him was not aimed at protecting the interests of any political party, but at safeguarding the democratic rights of voters and the principle of fair representation.

Under the objection procedure, each affected proposed constituency must obtain the support and signatures of at least 100 voters before an objection can be formally submitted.

"Therefore, I hope that voters in Sibu and the affected areas will come forward and give us their support through 100 voter signatures so that we can formally submit our objection to the Election Commission," he said.

"I will continue gathering public feedback and relevant information before submitting the objection through the proper procedures to the Election Commission," added Ling.



Dr Abdul Rahman (front, right) hands over the assistance to one of the recipients.

Pantai Damai being eyed for expanded paddy cultivation



KUCHING: Pantai Damai could see new opportunities in paddy cultivation, with suitable land in the Santubong and Telaga Air zones potentially being developed for the crop as Sarawak steps up efforts to increase rice production.

Deputy Minister in Premier's Department (Project Coordinator for Regional Development Agencies, Kuching North City Commission and Islamic Affairs) Datuk Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi said agriculture remained an important activity among villagers despite Pantai Damai's growing focus on tourism.

The Pantai Damai assemblyman said farmers were exploring various crops, with paddy now among Sarawak's agricultural priorities.

"I believe this can also be implemented in the Pantai Damai area, as the land is suitable for various types of crops.

"If any of our farmers are interested in paddy cultivation, whether in the Santubong Zone or the Telaga Air Zone, God-willing, I will bring them to discuss with the Agriculture Department how this new agricultural activity can be undertaken to contribute to the state's productivity in the future," he told reporters after officiating at the 'N.4 Pantai Damai Agricultural Facilitation Fund (AFF)' handover ceremony at Dewan Sinaran, Kampung Sungai Lumut, here on Friday.

Dr Abdul Rahman also said local farmers had responded positively to the adoption of new technologies following a drone demonstration held during an AFF handover ceremony in Telaga Air last May.

"They said that when they begin planting, they would seek assistance from the Agriculture Department to use drones to help them.

"There may also be some who are capable of owning their own drones to assist with fertiliser spraying, watering and other activities," he said.

Looking ahead, Dr Abdul Rahman said drone technology had advanced to the point where aerial imagery could be used to assess crop conditions, including identifying healthy plants and those that were not growing well.

"I was also informed by the Agriculture Department and other departments that we now have drone technology capable of identifying the health and fertility of crops through aerial photography," he said.

On the AFF programme, Dr Abdul Rahman said the latest assistance involved 28 recipients from Kampung Sungai Lumut, Kampung Sungai Batu and Kampung Salak.

"Of the 28 recipients, 25 received agricultural assistance comprising fertiliser, powered grass cutters and other agricultural equipment, while three received assistance for inland fisheries activities, including feed for fish and prawn farming," he said.

He said a total of RM81,000 was allocated for the latest assistance, comprising RM75,000 for farmers and RM6,000 for inland fisheries.

Curtin Malaysia, Schneider Electric extend strategic ties

MIRI: Curtin University Malaysia (Curtin Malaysia) and Schneider Electric have renewed their partnership for another three years, strengthening a collaboration in curriculum development, knowledge exchange, graduate internships, employment opportunities and alumni engagement.

Curtin Malaysia's pro vice-chancellor, president and chief executive Prof Vincent Lee said the renewed memorandum of understanding (MoU) would provide a broader framework for collaboration, including greater engagement with alumni and industry.

"As digitalisation and sustainability continue to reshape the engineering and technology landscape, our graduates need to be adaptable, future-ready and equipped to respond to rapid transformation," he said in a statement.

Lee said the partnership also reflected Schneider Electric's confidence in Curtin Malaysia's academic quality and graduates.

Schneider Electric's Malaysia and East Asia One Solution Centre human resources director Yau Jin Hui said the company had supported technical talks and career events at Curtin Malaysia since Feb 2022, providing students with greater exposure to industry expectations, emerging trends and career opportunities.

"Sarawak's evolving energy and economic landscape is creating new opportunities for graduates.

"Through our partnership with Curtin Malaysia, we look forward to strengthening the region's talent pipeline by connecting academic learning with industry experience and creating clearer pathways into meaningful careers," Yau said.

Under the renewed agreement, Schneider Electric will provide industry input into Curtin Malaysia's engineering and technology curricula, while both organisations will explore opportunities to exchange industry expertise, technologies and best practices.

The partnership forms part of Schneider Electric's wider collaboration with tertiary institutions across Malaysia, including University Malaya, INTI International University and Colleges, and Sunway University.

The renewal followed a series of industry engagements at Curtin Malaysia from Aug 12 to 14, including a 'Powering Sarawak's Future - Energy Transition, Technology and Career Opportunities' forum.

Featured speakers included Schneider Electric's Indiran Nadarajan; Prof Raymond Chiong of Curtin Malaysia and Sarawak Energy Berhad chief digital officer (information and communication technology) Sim Ko Sin.

Schneider Electric also participated in Curtin Malaysia x MYFutureJobs Careers Fair 2026 held in August, where Yau joined a panel discussion titled 'Future Careers 2030 - Preparing Graduates for an AI-Powered Workplace'.

LCDA's Darul Hana redevelopment earns regional recognition

KUCHING: The Land Custody and Development Authority (LCDA) has received regional recognition for its Darul Hana redevelopment project at the Asia-Pacific Sustainability Action Awards (APSAA) 2026.

The project receives an award under the 'Social Inclusion' category, which recognises initiatives that promote social inclusion and sustainable development.

LCDA Corporate Affairs Division senior manager Saiful Bahari Amra Ramly, representing LCDA general manager Datu Zaidi Mahdi, accepted the award at the ceremony held in Taipei, Taiwan recently.

In a statement, LCDA said the recognition reflected its development approach, which extends beyond physical infrastructure to include stakeholder participation, socioeconomic transformation, community well-being and sustainable urban redevelopment.

"Through the Darul Hana redevelopment project, LCDA strives to ensure that development is carried out in a balanced manner by taking into



Saiful Bahari (right) and Sapheri at the 2026 Asia-Pacific Sustainability Action Awards presentation ceremony in Taiwan.

account the needs and interests of the local community," it said.

LCDA said its community-based approach was aimed at delivering long-term benefits while strengthening the implementation of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles in its development initiatives.

APSAA is a regional sustainability awards programme organised by the

Taiwan Institute for Sustainable Energy (TAISE), involving organisations from across the Asia-Pacific region.

LCDA reaffirmed its commitment to implementing development that benefits local communities and contributes to Sarawak's socioeconomic development.

Also present at the ceremony was LCDA Corporate Affairs Division manager Sapheri Rosli.



Fitrina (centre) and Councillor Hiung Chien Yih, on her right, in a group photo with other committee members at the Senadin service centre.

Organisers eye inclusion of Miri Special Needs Festival in Malaysia Book of Records

MIRI: The organisers of Miri Special Needs Festival aim to set the event in the Malaysia Book of Records (MBOR) record for the 'Largest Gathering of Persons with Special Needs at a Festival'.

Organised by Persatuan Kebajikan Prihatin Miri (WOW Prihatin) and the Senadin State Constituency Service Centre, the programme will be taking place at the Permy Mall here this Sept 20 from 10am to 6pm.

The theme is 'Together We Inspire Inclusion'.

Organising chairperson Fitrina Raji said about 300 children with special needs had registered for the festival.

"We want everyone to know that everybody is included.

Whether you are healthy or a person with disabilities, we celebrate everyone," she said during a press conference held at the Senadin service centre on Friday.

The programme will feature singing and fashion showcases, painting, craft workshops, art displays and other performances.

In addition, a special choir comprising 250 children will perform a song 'Biar Sampai ke Bintang' by popular singer Asmidar.

"This follows about a month of rehearsals.

"It is not easy to teach the children within such a short period, but I believe we have done our best.

"For this choir, the youngest member is 14, while the oldest is 21," said Fitrina.

Moreover, WOW SmartCut will provide free haircuts for children with special needs at the festival.

Fitrina said the service would also be available to members of the public at special rates of RM10 per child, and RM15 per adult.

She added the programme also sought to recognise parents for their role in caring for and supporting their children.

"We are not only celebrating the special needs children; we are also celebrating their parents who have worked hard together to care for their children," she said.

Council steps up flood mitigation efforts in Kuching city centre

KUCHING: Kuching South City Council (MBKS) is stepping up efforts to address recurring flash floods in the city centre, particularly along Jalan Padungan, Jalan Chan Chin Ann and Jalan Abell here.

Mayor Dato Wee Hong Seng said the council understood the concerns and frustrations of residents, business operators and road users affected by flash floods during heavy rainfall.

"We hear the concerns of the public, and we see the problems on the ground. MBKS is not ignoring the situation.

"We are doing our best, within our responsibilities and available resources, to find practical and long-term solutions to reduce the impact of flash floods," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said the proposed flood mitigation works on Jalan Padungan and Jalan Chan Chin Ann were aimed at improving the capacity and efficiency of

the existing drainage, which currently faces limitations in handling high volumes of stormwater during intense rainfall.

Wee said carrying out flood mitigation works in an established and busy city centre was complex, as existing roads, buildings, footpaths and underground utility services had to be taken into consideration.

"This is an old and developed part of the city. Whatever improvement we carry out must be properly planned because there are existing utilities, roads, businesses and properties surrounding the area.

"We want to make sure that what we do is effective and provides a lasting improvement, rather than simply shifting the flooding problem from one location to another," he said.

The proposed works include the construction of about 200 metres of additional reinforced



Wee (left) and MBKS councillors inspect one of the drains in Kuching city centre.

concrete box drain measuring 1.2 metres wide and 1.2 metres deep.

The project will also involve survey works, relocation of

existing utility services where necessary, reinstatement of affected roads and footpaths, as well as traffic and safety management measures.

Wee said the additional drainage infrastructure should increase the capacity of the drainage network to accommodate higher stormwater discharge and provide a more reliable system for the surrounding areas.

He stressed that the proposed project was not the end of MBKS' flood mitigation efforts.

"We cannot control how much rain falls or when a severe thunderstorm occurs, but we can continue to strengthen our drainage infrastructure and improve the city's ability to respond.

"Wherever there are weaknesses, we will continue to study them and, where necessary, plan for improvements," he said.

"Once the consultant has finalised the necessary plans and technical documentation, MBKS will proceed with the tender process for implementation of the project."

Wee also sought the understanding of the public and business community once construction begins, saying temporary traffic arrangements and some inconvenience may be unavoidable.

He said MBKS would coordinate the necessary measures to minimise disruption to road users and surrounding businesses.

"Flood mitigation cannot be solved overnight, especially in an established urban area.

"But that does not mean we stop trying.

"MBKS will continue to do what we can, step by step, area by area, to improve our drainage and reduce the impact of flooding," he said.

Wee added that the council's responsibility was to continuously improve the city's drainage infrastructure towards creating a safer, more resilient and liveable Kuching South.

Extended remand for suspect of boy's murder case in Sibü

Philip Wong

SIBU: The remand order for the 49-year-old suspect of the murder of a five-year-old boy at Jalan Rantau Panjang Jaya, has been extended to six days to assist police investigations.

Magistrate Romario Jonoi yesterday ordered the suspect to be brought back to court on Sept

10.

The suspect was initially placed in detention for six days on Aug 29 to assist police investigations.

In the 1.45pm incident on Aug 28, a boy died after he was slashed on the neck by the suspect, who is also his uncle.

Sibu District police chief ACP Abang Zainal Abidin Abang

Ahmad said the boy was rushed to Sibu Hospital for treatment, but was pronounced dead at the Emergency Department later.

"Acting on information received, police detained a 49-year-old man, believed to be involved in the incident.

"Several items, believed to be connected to the case, were also seized from the scene," he said in

a statement.

The case is being investigated under Section 302 of the Penal Code, which provides for the death penalty or imprisonment for a term of not less than 30 years and not more than 40 years, and if the death penalty is not imposed, the offender shall also be subjected to whipping of not less than 12 strokes.



Ro-is being escorted from the courtroom after proceedings.

Habitual Kuching drug offender gets five-year jail, two lashes

KUCHING: The Sessions Court here sentenced a 33-year-old man to five years in prison and two strokes of the cane for repeatedly abusing amphetamine and methamphetamine two years ago.

Judge Musli Ab Hamid convicted Ro-is Raol on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 15(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA) 1952, which is punishable under Section 39C(1)(b) of the same Act.

The offence carries a jail term of between five and seven years, along with a

maximum three strokes of the cane.

The court also ordered Ro-is to undergo supervision for two years upon completion of his prison sentence.

He tested positive for both drugs at the Kuching District Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department office on Feb 19, 2024.

Ro-is had two previous convictions for the same offence under Section 15(1)(a) of the DDA, both in January 2023.

He was represented by counsel Wilson Tan.

Sibu's 2024 shooting: Man pleads not guilty of attempted murder, case management fixed on Oct 6

SIBU: A man pleaded not guilty in the Sibu Sessions Court yesterday to a charge of attempted murder in connection with a shooting incident at Jalan Wong King Hua here on Jan 1, 2024.

Judge Musyiri Peet allowed the 34-year-old man to be released on RM10,000 bail, with RM8,000 to be deposited, and with two sureties.

The court also ordered the accused to report to a police

station once a month, and fixed this Oct 6 as the date for case management.

According to the charge, the accused allegedly gave a reward to a 26-year-old man to carry out the act of shooting a 31-year-old man with the intention to kill.

As a result, the victim sustained gunshot wounds to both lower limbs.

It is reported that the incident occurred at 5.41pm on Jan 1, 2024,

near a premises along Jalan Wong King Huo.

The prosecution was conducted by DPP Cynthia Emmelda Jerry, while the accused was represented by lawyer Boston Ho.

Based on previous media reports, three men were injured after being shot while having drinks with several friends at a coffee shop at Jalan Wong King Huo on Jan 1, 2024.

The incident, which occurred at about 5pm, is believed to have been carried out by two unidentified men.

The two suspects were reportedly riding a motorcycle before firing shots at the group of men and fleeing the scene.

The three victims sustained injuries to their hands and legs, and were subsequently taken to a private medical centre for further treatment.



Photo shows police manning a roadblock during the operation. — Photo from Facebook / Polis Daerah Kota Samarahan

Three arrested in Samarahan drug prevention operation

KUCHING: Police arrested three local men on suspicion of drug abuse during an integrated crime prevention operation at Jalan Stakan towards Kota Samarahan on Thursday.

The operation was conducted from 8pm to midnight.

Kota Samarahan District police headquarters, in a social media

post, said police also seized 5.02 grammes of substance believed to be 'syabu' (methamphetamine).

"The suspects are being investigated under Section 15(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952," it said.

During the operation, police also issued nine summonses for various offences.

Sibu man fined RM10,000 over charges of possessing pornographic materials

SIBU: The Sibu Magistrates' Court yesterday imposed fines totalling RM10,000 on a man over charges of possessing pornographic materials.

Magistrate Oon Kork Chern sentenced the 22-year-old man to a fine of RM3,000 for each of the two charges involving possession of child sexual abuse materials.

For the two charges involving possession of pornographic

material, he was fined RM2,000 for each charge.

According to the facts sheet, the man is alleged to have possessed the child sexual abuse material and pornographic material on a mobile phone and a laptop computer, inside a house at Lorong Lada 8A2A at 11.40am on Sept 2 this year.

For the charges involving possession of child sexual abuse

materials, the man was charged under Section 10 of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, which carries a maximum prison term of five years, or a fine of up to RM10,000, or both.

For the charges involving possession of pornographic material, he was charged under Section 292 of the Penal Code, which carries a maximum prison term of three years, or a fine, or

both upon conviction.

Acting on information received, the complainant – a senior police officer – conducted an inspection on the house at Lorong Lada 8A2A.

There, police discovered child pornography materials on the man's mobile devices: specifically, there were 545 pornographic images and videos on the mobile phone, and 38 child pornography videos on the laptop.

Kuching contractor loses RM161,400 to online tender scam

KUCHING: A 62-year-old contractor lost RM161,400 after falling victim to an online tender scam.

Kuching district police chief ACP Alexson Naga Chabu said the case began on Aug 11 when the contractor received an email from an unknown individual offering a tender for the supply of portable power

station units to the Sri Aman branch of the National Solid Waste Management Department (JPSPN).

"The contractor was provided with the telephone number of the supposed supplier of the goods to facilitate the ordering process.

"He then made four money transfers into two different bank

accounts between Aug 11 and Aug 19.

"He realised that he had been cheated when he contacted the JPSPN Sri Aman branch and was informed that another party had used the department's name and the Sri Aman District Council stamp to commit fraud," said Alexson in a statement.

The case is being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating and dishonestly inducing the delivery of property.

The Section carries a penalty of imprisonment for a term of not less than one year and not more than 10 years, whipping, and a fine upon conviction.

Pawnshop worker claims trial to cheating employer of over RM131,000

KUCHING: A 27-year-old pawnshop employee has claimed trial in the Magistrates' Court here to a charge of using counterfeit gold and the identities of other individuals to cheat his employer out of RM131,420.

The man pleaded not guilty before Magistrate Nursyaheeqa Nazwa Radzali when a charge under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating and dishonestly inducing the delivery of property was read to him.

The Section provides for a jail term of between one and 10 years, along with caning and a fine upon conviction.

He allegedly committed the offence at a Jalan Market gold pawnshop sometime between Nov 8 last year and July 20 this year.

It is understood that several pawn transactions involving counterfeit gold were allegedly carried out with the total pawned value amounting to RM131,420.

The court granted the man bail of RM4,000 with two local sureties.

The court further fixed Oct 5 for pre-trial case management.

Deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Aidil Akmal Sharidan appeared for the prosecution.

Use federal diplomacy to push for transboundary haze action, PBB Youth man tells DAP

KUCHING: The Democratic Action Party (DAP) should use its representation in the federal government to push for stronger diplomatic action over transboundary haze instead of urging the Sarawak government to intervene in foreign affairs.

According to Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) Youth deputy treasurer Afik Fikri Ibrahim, who is also a political secretary to the Premier, transboundary haze falls under the government-to-government (G2G) framework between Malaysia and Indonesia,



Afik Fikri Ibrahim

and should therefore be addressed through the federal government.

He said Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg had already raised the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Anwar Ibrahim.

"The ball is now firmly in the federal government's court to execute the necessary diplomatic channels," said Afik in a statement, responding to a statement by DAP Socialist Youth Stampin chief Lim Kai Bin, who had urged the Sarawak government to take action with Indonesia over the haze situation.

Afik questioned why Dapsy was calling on the Sarawak government to act when DAP itself had members of parliament and Cabinet ministers in the federal administration.

"More glaringly, it highlights a failure on DAP's part to effectively bring Sarawak's voice to the federal cabinet – a cabinet in which DAP itself is a prominent partner."

Afik also questioned whether Dapsy had little confidence in the federal government and the Prime Minister's leadership within Asean.

"If DAP cannot raise and resolve critical regional issues through the federal government, what is the point of DAP being in the federal government at all?" he asked.

Afik said addressing

transboundary haze required 'delicate, strategic diplomacy', noting that pressure was already being exerted on the Indonesian government by other countries as well as its own citizens.

"Playing political games will not clear the air," he said.

"Urging the Sarawak government to step in willy-nilly is not the answer."

"The federal government of Malaysia must take the lead and ensure that Indonesia fulfills its previous commitments to prevent and mitigate haze," he added.

Acts of mischief against loan borrower land two debt collectors in jail

KUCHING: Two debt collectors were sentenced to a total of 34 months in prison for splashing paint on a borrower's house, and also harassing and threatening another borrower.

The accused, aged 36 and 32, each pleaded guilty to two charges under Section 427 of the Penal Code and one charge under Section 29B(1) of the Moneylenders Act 1951.

Magistrates Ling Hui Chuan and Leona Dominic Mojiliu each sentenced the two to 16-month imprisonment under the Penal Code.

Leona subsequently sentenced both accused to another 18

months in prison under the Moneylenders Act 1951.

All the sentences are to run consecutively, bringing the total jail term to 34 months each.

The two committed mischief by splashing pink paint on the house of a 22-year-old borrower at Taman Seng Goon here on Aug 29, at around 10.15pm.

It is said that the victim heard the sound of a car outside his house and, after checking the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage, discovered that the two accused had splashed pink paint on his residence.

He subsequently lodged a police report for further investigation.

In the case under the Moneylenders Act 1951, the two committed the offence at the residence of a 25-year-old borrower at 12.20am on the same day.

The facts of the case revealed that both accused had gone to the complainant's house and kicked the gate until it opened before entering the compound and smashing all the window panes of the residence with a baseball bat.

Prior to the incident, the complainant had communicated

with the accused through Instagram and WhatsApp and had provided them with his personal details for a loan application, including photographs of his identity card, house, face while holding his identity card, as well as the telephone numbers of his parents and wife.

The complainant lodged the police report for the safety and security of himself and his family, and for further action by the police.

Police investigations subsequently led to the arrest of both accused two days later.

Five plead not guilty to gang robbery charge

MIRI: Five men pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here yesterday to a charge of gang robbery involving a man.

The accused, aged between 26 and 41, were charged under Section 394 read together with Section 34 of the Penal Code.

If convicted, they could face up to 20 years in prison, a fine and whipping.

According to the charge, the five allegedly acted together to rob a 24-year-old man of a car, a watch, a mobile phone, a gold bracelet, a vehicle repossession agent pass and RM19,135 on cash.

It is alleged that during the robbery, they injured the victim with a wooden stick.

The offence is said to have been committed at 2.04pm on Aug 28 in front of a lot along Jalan Lautan 5, Ocean Park here.

Over 40 foreigners detained in Kuching, Bau, Lundu immigration raids

KUCHING: The Sarawak Immigration Department detained 44 foreign nationals during a series of enforcement operations in Kuching, Bau and Lundu.

In a statement, the department

said the operations, dubbed 'Ops Selera', 'Ops Gagar' and 'Ops Sapiu', were conducted from 10am on Sept 2 to 4.30am on Sept 3.

"The operations involved inspections at eight locations, including eateries and food courts,

massage centres, workers quarters at workshops and oil palm plantations, as well as commercial premises and shopping centres.

"Of the total 100 individuals checked, 44 of them were detained under Section Section

15(1)(c) and Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63 (Act 155), as well as Regulation 39(b) of the Immigration Regulations 1963," the department said.

Section 15(1)(c) of the Act concerns overstaying beyond the

authorised period, while Section 6(1)(c) deals with entering or remaining in Malaysia without a valid permit or pass.

Regulation 39(b) relates to failing to produce valid travel documents or passes.



Dr Melvin Ebin Bondi

WHEN the sky turns grey, most of us know the routine.

Check the Air Pollutant Index (API), limit outdoor exposure, and perhaps reach for a mask.

Yet the haze episode affecting Malaysia raises a harder public health question.

When the air is officially unhealthy, who decides when an outdoor activity should stop?

What Malaysia is experiencing is not an isolated local episode.

The Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre has placed the southern Asean region at Alert Level 2, indicating an increasing risk of transboundary haze.

Satellite monitoring has shown smoke from hotspots in West Kalimantan drifting northwards into western and central Sarawak, while smoke has also been detected over other parts of Kalimantan and southern Sumatra.

It would be inaccurate, however, to assume that every unhealthy reading in Peninsular Malaysia comes from the same source.

Regional smoke, weather conditions and local pollution can overlap.

Sabah has not experienced the same severity as Sarawak, but it remains vulnerable.

On Aug 11, the Sabah Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba) reported that smoke from forest fires in Kalimantan had begun affecting Kota Kinabalu and Kumanis.

The API remained moderate then, with the highest readings in Sabah recorded at Kota Kinabalu at 83, Po liteknik Kota Kinabalu at 81, and Kumanis at 76.

Dry conditions have added to the concern. Keningau and Pitas later recorded 14 consecutive days without rain, increasing the risk of fires and worsening haze conditions.

For the public, the API should not be treated as merely a coloured number on a phone screen.

Malaysia classifies readings from 0 to 50 as good, 51 to 100 as moderate, 101 to 200 as unhealthy,



The columnist opines that with regard to the haze situation, Malaysia should consider clearer national thresholds for modifying, postponing or cancelling marathons, tournaments, concerts and other large gatherings, with defined roles for organisers, health offices and local authorities. — Bernama photo

Haze and health: When is it too dangerous to carry on?

201 to 300 as very unhealthy, and readings above 300 as hazardous.

Once the reading crosses 100, the advice changes.

The Health Ministry (MoH) recommends that people at higher risk, particularly children, older adults and those with existing heart or respiratory conditions, limit outdoor exposure while the general public should reduce strenuous outdoor activities.

MoH surveillance also recorded sharp increases in reported cases between epidemiological weeks 32 and 33.

Asthma cases rose from 61 to 219, or 259 per cent, while upper respiratory tract infections increased from 1,637 to 3,674, or 124 per cent.

These figures were recorded during the current haze episode.

They do not prove that haze caused every additional case, but the increase alongside

deteriorating air quality deserves attention.

Fine particulate matter is one of the main health risks during haze.

PM2.5 can travel deep into the respiratory system, irritate the airways, worsen respiratory illness and affect cardiovascular health.

Ordinary surgical masks also do not provide the same protection against fine particles as a properly fitted N95 respirator.

Malaysia already has clear haze response measures for schools.

When API readings exceed 100, outdoor activities involving students must stop and outdoor sporting events should be postponed.

Once readings exceed 200, schools in affected areas are closed.

Sarawak has already applied these measures.

Its school athletics championship was postponed when air quality became unhealthy, while 591 schools across 10 districts were subsequently closed.

Outside the school setting, decisions become less straightforward, particularly for large outdoor events involving prolonged physical activity.

On Aug 9, the Sarawak Energy Marathon proceeded in Kuching after the organiser announced that it was monitoring haze conditions.

The full marathon began at 1am, while other categories started later.

At 8am, Kuching recorded an API of 153, which was within the unhealthy range.

The issue is not whether the organisers breach a regulation, but whether the organisers have sufficiently clear and consistent

thresholds to guide decisions when air quality deteriorates.

Less than two weeks later, the Sarikei Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang Bridge Half Marathon scheduled for Aug 23 was cancelled following advice from the Sarikei Health Office because of deteriorating air quality.

The Sarawak Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) also advised the public to postpone outdoor events involving large crowds.

This raises a broader question: if an API above 100 is unhealthy enough to stop school sports, how should organisers respond to other prolonged outdoor activities, including marathons, tournaments and community events?

Vigorous exercise increases breathing rate, meaning a runner inhales considerably more air than someone sitting quietly.

The same polluted air does not suddenly become harmless because the person breathing it is an adult.

Workplaces face a similar responsibility.

MoH advises employers, at API readings between 101 and 200, to minimise strenuous outdoor tasks, provide appropriate respiratory protection and reassign vulnerable workers indoors where possible.

When API reaches 201 to 300, strenuous outdoor work should be avoided.

These recommendations matter for construction workers, delivery riders, farmers, roadside workers and others who cannot simply choose to stay indoors.

The lesson from this haze episode is not that Malaysia lacks guidance.

MoH has health advisories and disease surveillance.

Education authorities have thresholds for school activities.

The Department of Environment (DOE) implements the National Haze Action Plan.

Disaster management committees and local agencies also have roles in coordinating responses and controlling open-burning.

What remains less consistent is the response to mass outdoor events.

Malaysia should consider clearer national thresholds for modifying, postponing or cancelling marathons, tournaments, concerts and other large gatherings, with defined roles for organisers, health offices and local authorities.

The haze will eventually clear, the API will fall, and blue skies will return, but the next haze episode will bring the same questions back.

In view of National Day, perhaps progress should also be measured by how well we protect people when the air they breathe becomes unsafe.

Knowing that the air is unhealthy is only the first step.

Public health is measured by what we are prepared to do once that warning appears.

> **Dr Melvin writes a weekly public health column for the Sabah's edition of The Borneo Post, focusing on public health issues and translating complex health topics into practical information for the public.**

‘An environmental disaster we cannot ignore’

THE large-scale, systematic use of fire to clear Indonesian jungles for oil palm plantations generated devastating hazy atmospheric conditions across neighbouring Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore in 1997-1998.

It came back again in full force on Malaysia's National Day on Aug 31 this year, followed by the highest Air Pollutant Index (API) reading of 459, recorded in Lubok Antu, Sarawak, on Sept 3.

Indonesia's government had pushed for major agricultural and transmigration programmes starting in the early 1980s. Oil palm acreage grew from roughly 10,000 hectares in 1980 to nearly 300,000 hectares by 1990.

Today, Indonesia's total oil palm acreage is estimated at 16 million hectares, or roughly 39.5 million acres.

The current price of crude palm oil (CPO) was RM4,660 per tonne on Sept 3 this year.

In 1990, the price of CPO was RM700.50 per tonne.

You do not need to be either an economist or good at maths to see why oil palm plantations are so lucrative and can become overnight 'gold mines'.

What has caused all this? The combination of a severe El Niño drought and intentional burning caused massive, out-of-control forest fires across Sumatra and Kalimantan.

This marked a turning point in 1997, when land-clearing via fire for palm oil and pulp became a transboundary environmental crisis.

From the 2000s to the present, plantations have shifted aggressively into newer regions such as Papua and remote parts of Borneo, with Kalimantan still being the major area for land-clearing via fire, despite official government bans.

There is no single official political or geographical term for a nation that allows annual open burning of jungles, but this columnist believes a combination of the following four terms would seem appropriate:



Photo of a busy road junction with the Kuching Civic Centre in background, taken on Sept 3 this year at 6pm, when API was at a 'Very Unhealthy' level of 283.



- An 'Ecocidal' Regime – a severe term used when state policies directly result in the mass destruction of ecosystems (ecocide);
- Negligent State – a term used by international law and environmental groups when a government fails to enforce anti-burning laws;
- Pyrogenic State – a nation where fire is a primary tool for landscape management and agricultural clearing, and;
- Carbon-Emitting Economy

– a term focusing on the massive greenhouse gas contributions from seasonal fires.

How does the haze affect us and what harm does it do to our health?

Haze can harm your health by irritating your respiratory and cardiovascular systems, particularly through fine particulate matter (PM2.5) that penetrates deep into the lungs.

Recent studies demonstrate that PM2.5 acts as a powerful tumour promoter, particularly

in epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-mutated lung tissue.

In our region, a significant proportion of lung cancer cases occur in non-smokers, with local data showing that roughly 60 per cent harbour EGFR mutations.

This makes persistent environmental exposure a critical public health risk, not just a seasonal inconvenience.

A very experienced medical specialist friend in the field of pulmonology and intensive care had this to add: "Contrary to popular belief, the haze that you can see and smell are due to large particles which do not penetrate deep into your lungs.

"The particles that are dangerous are below 2.5 microns: these are odourless and cannot be seen.

"They penetrate into your homes even with all doors and windows closed. They get deep into your lungs and are absorbed with long-term consequences.

"I have seen too many crippling and fatal haze-related illnesses: cancer, chronic lung diseases, heart attacks and strokes during and after the 1997 haze to last a lifetime! My father-in-law died because of that haze!"

The immediate short-term health effects of the haze usually affect the eyes, nose, throat and lungs as follows:

- eyes: irritation, watering and conjunctivitis;
- nose and throat: runny nose, sneezing, dry or sore throat, coughing and phlegm;
- lungs: chest tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing and reduced lung function, and;
- general: headaches, dizziness and fatigue.

Its long-term health risks are much more serious, as chronic conditions can include progressive airway inflammation, chronic bronchitis and worsening asthma.

There are also increased risks of vascular diseases, reduced heart function, and heightened risks of heart attacks or strokes from blood-vessel inflammation.

The most vulnerable groups include children and the elderly, who can develop weaker respiratory systems.

Individuals with pre-existing illnesses, including chronic lung disease, asthma, heart conditions or diabetes, face a greater risk of severe flare-ups.

What have our governments, both federal and state, done about this environmental disaster so far?

It would seem that we cannot depend on the enforcement of the Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, which all 10 Asean countries had ratified in September 2014.

The Asean members should combine active diplomatic pressure to push Indonesia, alongside strong domestic health

and legal measures, to stop and manage the haze, enforce the treaty and penalise illegal burning severely.

They should also offer direct help by sending Malaysian firefighters, equipment and aircraft to help put out large forest fires at an early stage.

They must create a new local law to fine or prosecute Malaysian-owned plantation companies that cause illegal fires on foreign land, and investigate companies linked to land clearing and burning overseas.

There is a tragic but not unexpected outcome of the vicious cycle of what is supposedly the 'justice system' of the culprit nation, which was reported in Mongabay by Hans Nicholas Jong in its Aug 19, 2025, issue:

• While Indonesia's courts have fined plantation companies more than \$21 trillion rupiah (US\$1.3 billion) for forest and peatland fires, almost none of that money has been collected.

• This fuels a cycle of impunity where fires continue to flare up in concessions already found guilty by the courts.

• In a common pattern, companies found guilty of burning forests either shield their assets, declare bankruptcy or exploit loopholes to avoid paying.

• Indonesia's enforcement gaps also allow repeat offenders to continue operating unchecked, profiting from the very land they were banned from using.

It is therefore not surprising to this columnist that this 'vicious cycle' of burning jungles in Kalimantan will be an unending cycle of slash and destruction that will continue and persist.

I can only conclude with the wise words of Mahatma Gandhi: "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed. It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

May God bless us all and keep us in good health always. Amen.

‘Police-community teamwork’ key to ensuring public safety

Aileen Yap

KUCHING: Maintaining public safety cannot be left to the police alone and requires the active involvement and cooperation of the community, said Bukit Aman Crime Prevention and Community Safety Department (JPJKK) director Dato Noor Hisam Nordin.

He said closer police-community cooperation was particularly important in preventing crime, tackling drug-related problems and addressing issues that could affect the wellbeing of society.

“Safety is not solely the responsibility of the police. Creating a peaceful and safe environment requires the involvement and cooperation of the entire community,” he said during the Sarawak Police Contingent-level ‘Jelajah Wira Madani’ programme at Wisma Sabati here on Thursday night.

Noor Hisam, who was representing the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohd Khalid Ismail at the event, regarded the long-standing harmony among Sarawak’s diverse ethnic, cultural and religious communities as an important strength that should continue to be safeguarded.

He described the harmony in Sarawak as reflecting the spirit of tolerance, unity and national integration, which formed an important foundation for stability, peace and security.

He also said the spirit of ‘Polis dan Masyarakat Berpisah Tiada’ (the police and the community



Noor Hisam (centre) presents a contribution to Mancha, a recipient under the Pewira category, as Mohamad Zainal looks on. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

are inseparable) should continue to be translated into stronger community policing efforts, particularly in preventing crime, addressing drug problems and curbing other issues that could undermine community wellbeing.

“A harmonious social environment is a catalyst for conducive security and the country’s continued development,” he said.

Noor Hisam also encouraged local communities to take advantage of programmes

that provide opportunities for greater interaction with the police, saying such engagement could strengthen public confidence and trust in the force.

On Jelajah Wira Madani, he said it was also aimed at strengthening the welfare and morale of police personnel to ensure the force could continue delivering services to the public at an optimum level.

He said welfare remained among the priorities of the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM),

with assistance under the programme channelled directly to those in need within the police fraternity.

Recipients included police widows, orphans, children with special needs, members of the ‘asnaf’ (those eligible to receive welfare aid) community and retired police personnel who were unwell.

Also present were Sarawak Police Commissioner Datuk Mohamad Zainal Abdullah and his predecessor, Datuk Mancha Ata.

National Library’s exhibition showcases M’sia’s heritage

PUTRAJAYA: The National Unity Ministry, through Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (National Library of Malaysia), is holding the ‘Rona Jiwa Malaysia: Bersama Membina Negara Bangsa’ exhibition in conjunction with this year’s National Day and Malaysia Day celebrations.

Now running until Sept 19 at the Exhibition Space on Level 1 of Anjung Bestari Building in the national library here, the programme highlights the unique history, culture and heritage of Malaysia’s 13 states.

Among the main attractions are displays featuring the history of the states, traditional musical instruments and performing arts, traditional attire, food and heritage games that reflect the diversity of Malaysian identities.

Visitors can also take part in

the ‘CoretanPerpaduan’ activity by sharing their hopes and aspirations for the future of national unity.

According to National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, the exhibition is in line with efforts to build a nation through appreciation of diversity, strengthening national identity and fostering mutual respect and togetherness among the people.

“Although we differ in culture, customs and heritage, all Malaysians share one homeland and one aspiration to build a harmonious, sovereign and prosperous nation,” he said in a statement.

The exhibition is expected to provide visitors with an opportunity to appreciate Malaysia’s diverse cultural heritage while fostering a greater sense of unity and shared identity.



Senia works on a woven crafts piece.

S’wakian out to showcase traditional Iban basketry at Venice crafts expo

KUCHING: Sarawak’s Senia Jugi will become the first Malaysian craftsman to conduct a live demonstration at the Homo Faber Craft Biennial in Venice, Italy, this month.

According to the Sarawak Craft Council (SCC), Senia will demonstrate the traditional Iban art of basketry at the 2026 edition, titled ‘An Island of Light’, at Fondazione Giorgio Cini on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore.

Organised by the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship, Homo Faber is a biennial celebration of master craftsmanship, with its 2024 edition attracting more than 50,000 visitors.

The SCC, which is chaired by Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, said Senia’s participation was facilitated by the council together with Leon Chong and the Tun Jugah Foundation.

“A recipient of the Unesco Award of Excellence, Senia was also recognised as a ‘Living Legend’ by the Sarawak Atelier Society in 2019.

“She had previously demonstrated Iban basketry at London Craft Week 2023, where she was featured at the Malaysia Pavilion,” it said.

The council also said Malaysia’s participation in Homo Faber 2024 further established the connection with the Michelangelo Foundation.

It is informed that when

preparations for the 2026 edition began, Homo Faber head of sourcing Andrea Tomasi approached Chong to invite Senia to participate.

Chong remarked: “Sarawak’s traditional crafts have long possessed the substance needed to stand alongside craftsmanship from around the world.

“Sarawakian craft has never been wanting for content.

“I am working with the SCC under the Cultural Preservation and Heritage Committee to steward our craft traditions through strategic positioning, partnerships and platforms so that they may be understood in the contexts that they have always deserved.”

Additionally, SCC and Chong have also been invited to attend the Homo Faber Summit 2026, which will bring together around 150 leaders from the creative industries and related sectors to discuss models of creation, production and exchange centred on human skills.

The council stated: “Senia’s participation is also in line with Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas’ Ruai to the World’ aspiration of bringing creativity rooted in Sarawak’s longhouses to the international stage.

“Her participation would provide an opportunity to showcase Sarawak’s living craft traditions, while encouraging greater cultural exchange between Sarawak and craft communities in Europe.”

Legacy of Tun Abdul Razak to be honoured

PUTRAJAYA: The Ministry of National Unity (KPN), through Arkib Negara (National Archives of Malaysia), will honour the legacy and contributions of the nation’s second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein through a programme set for this Sept 8.

The ‘Mengenang Negarawan Tun Abdul Razak: Arkitek Pembangunan Negara Bangsa’ will take place at the Tun Abdul Razak Memorial in Jalan Perdana in Kuala Lumpur, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will officiate at the event.

Held as part of this year’s National Day and Malaysia Day celebrations, the programme reflects KPN’s continued commitment to preserving and promoting the contributions of distinguished national figures whose leadership helped shape the country.

“The annual commemoration serves as a platform to remember and appreciate the legacy of statesmen who made significant contributions to Malaysia, while encouraging the public to reflect on the values and principles that continue to influence the nation today.

“For Tun Abdul Razak, his contributions are remembered for laying strong foundations for national development, strengthening unity among the people and shaping the building of the Malaysian nation,” said the ministry in a statement.

In his remarks, National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang said history should not merely be remembered, but understood and used as a guide for the future.

“The legacy of past statesmen is not simply a remnant of the past, but a living legacy that continues through the values, ideas and struggles passed down to us,” he said.

Aaron also said that it was important for younger generations to know the nation’s history and understand the legacy left by its earlier leaders.



Tun Abdul Razak Hussein

“This will enable them not only to understand where we began, but also to have a clearer sense of where we should move forward as a nation,” he said.

The programme will feature a range of activities designed to provide the public with opportunities to learn more about Tun Abdul Razak’s life, contributions and legacy.

Among the highlights is a sharing session by his son, Datuk Sri Mohamed Nizam Tun Abdul Razak, offering a personal perspective on the statesman and his enduring contribution to the country.

The programme will also feature a ‘Sesi Bicara Negarawan’ involving prominent national figure including former deputy prime minister Tun Musa Hitam, former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, as well as Tan Sri Mohamed Nazir Tun Abdul Razak.

Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the Tun Abdul Razak Memorial.

“Through this programme, we hope to create a meaningful space for Malaysians to learn about history, appreciate the struggles of past leaders and trace the legacy of a statesman whose contributions played an important role in the development of the Malaysian nation.

“As Malaysia continues to look towards the future, remembering figures such as Tun Abdul Razak offers an opportunity to reflect on the foundations upon which the nation was built and the shared values that continue to bind its people together,” said KPN in the statement.

Emulate spirit of national legend Datuk Lee Chong Wei, junior shuttlers encouraged

SIBU: Young badminton players should emulate the determination and never-give-up spirit of national legend Datuk Lee Chong Wei as they strive to develop their skills and reach higher levels of competition.

In this respect, Bukit Assek assemblyman Joseph Chieng regarded the Sarawak Energy Central Zone Junior Badminton Championship 2026 as an important platform in building a strong foundation for the future of badminton in Sarawak, particularly among players aged Under-9, Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15.

“I urge all our junior players to learn from Lee Chong Wei’s spirit. He never gave up and always trained hard because he wanted to become better.

“Even when his trainer asked him to train for one hour, he would stay on for another hour.

“That is the kind of dedication we should learn from,” he said after officiating at the event in the Catholic High School here yesterday.

Chieng said young players should set their sights on representing Sarawak and eventually, the national team at international championships.

He also stressed the importance of collective support from the Sibü Badminton Association, parents, schools, players, local representatives and corporate sponsors in



Chieng performs the opening serve to officially kick off the tournament at Sibü's Catholic High School hall, as Ting (second right) and others look on.

developing the sport.

“We need to work together to promote badminton. Corporate support through CSR (corporate social responsibility) programmes is also important so that we can provide more healthy activities for our children.

“We do not want our children to stay at home watching the iPad all the time. We want them

to go out, have fun and take part in sports,” he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Sibü Badminton Association president Ting Wei Ping said the tournament registered 263 young players, reflecting growing interest in junior badminton in the Central Zone.

He said the three-day competition featured 16 events

for the Under-9, Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15 categories, including doubles, with total prize money of RM6,800.

Ting added that the top performers would stand a chance of being selected to represent the Central Zone at the Sarawak Energy Junior Final Tag competition in Kuching this December.



Mohamed Adib currently owns a total of 134 sheep, which are reared using modern farming methods. — Photos from Facebook / Adib Razak



The 'Berek Birri' farm in Johor is sited on a 0.4-hectare plot in Batu Pahat.

‘From naval officer to agropreneur’

Balkish Awang

KUALA LUMPUR: For 15 years, Mohamed Adib Abdul Razak had helped safeguard the nation by patrolling Malaysia's waters.

Today, the former Royal Malaysian Navy (TLDM) officer is protecting the well-being of the people in a different way – through food security.

After leaving the Navy in 2024 with the rank of lieutenant, the 35-year-old ventured into sheep farming despite having no prior experience in the industry.

Sharing his dramatic career shift with Bernama, the agropreneur admitted that livestock farming was never part of his plans.

However, his experience in the military had opened his eyes to the importance of food security for the people and the country.

"During my time in the military, I realised something important.

"A country might have a strong defence system, but without a stable and secure food supply, it remained vulnerable.

"That made me see food security not merely as an agricultural issue, but as a national strategic issue," he said.

New chapter

Affectionately known as 'Komandan Birri', Mohamed Adib established the Argrow Farm and 'Berek Birri' brands in 2024 under his company, Afdal Rezeki Sdn Bhd.

"I had to leave the military due to health reasons, even though my passion for the service remained strong.

"Nevertheless, I accepted the situation and began a new chapter of my life as a sheep farmer," said the father of two.

He started his sheep farm in Johor, Negeri Sembilan, with just five Dorper sheep, particularly the Black Head Dorper breed, renowned for its rapid growth rate, high-quality meat and strong commercial value.

Explaining how his naval career had equipped him with the skills and qualities needed to run

a successful business, Mohamed Adib said his first five years in the TLDM were spent aboard naval vessels, where he was directly involved in operations that honed his mental resilience, sharpened his leadership abilities and instilled a strong sense of teamwork.

"I was later posted to the TLDM Air Wing, where I flew aircraft, before moving into management roles that involved a wide range of strategic responsibilities.

"All of these experiences have helped me become a livestock entrepreneur, despite having no background in farming."

Mohamed Adib, the chief executive officer of Afdal Rezeki, has since applied the skills he acquired in the military to the livestock industry, while continuously expanding his knowledge through self-learning and field observations.

Within just two years, his operation has expanded, with 134 sheep now reared on his 2.4-hectare farm using modern livestock farming practices.

He has also opened a branch of his farm, which he calls 'Berek Birri', on a 0.4-hectare plot in Batu Pahat, Johor.

Diversify

At the same time, Mohamed Adib diversified his business by venturing into mutton-related downstream products.

"As my farm operations grew, I realised that the livestock industry could not rely solely on the sale of livestock.

"Argrow Farm has since expanded into the downstream segment through Argrow Food Industries, which focuses on developing halal food products and ready-to-eat (RTE) meals.

"To me, the true value of this industry lies in our ability to build the entire supply chain, from farm to finished food products, creating greater added value and reaching a broader market," he said, adding that he had always been guided by the motto, 'Our Food, Our Responsibility'.



The former TLDM officer says his experience in the military has opened his eyes to the importance of food security for the people and the country.

During my time in the military, I realised something important. A country might have a strong defence system, but without a stable and secure food supply, it remained vulnerable. That made me see food security not merely as an agricultural issue, but as a national strategic issue.

Mohamed Adib Abdul Razak, agropreneur

Through Argrow Food Industries, this young entrepreneur produces a range of meat-based RTE products, including Birri™yani Birri, Nasi Goreng Birri™ and Birri™yani Lambshank.

The company also manufactures Birri™Kool beverages and Baja Birri™, an organic fertiliser.

According to Mohamed Adib, demand for the company's downstream products has been highly encouraging, consistently outstripping production capacity.

The products have also become a key contributor to the company's sales revenue, which now reaches up to RM750,000 annually.

Challenges

Reflecting on the challenges he faced, Mohamed Adib acknowledged that adapting in the early stages was difficult as entrepreneurship was far more uncertain than the structured and disciplined nature of military life.

"When I entered the livestock and business sector, I had to start from scratch and teach myself.

"I had to understand farm operations, financial management and marketing, and face the real challenges on the ground," he said.

According to him, livestock farming also requires significant capital due to high operating costs, while being exposed to risks such as disease and market



Through Argrow Food Industries, the young agropreneur produces a range of meat-based RTE products.

fluctuations.

"In the early days, I not only had to build customer confidence, but to also prove that the agro-based sector could be managed professionally and in a modern way.

"For me, challenges in this industry are inevitable, but they can be managed with knowledge, systems and the ability to continuously adapt.

"My experience in the military taught me that every operation carries risks.

"What matters most is preparedness, planning and the ability to keep moving forward even in difficult circumstances," he stressed.

Prospects

Looking ahead, Mohamed Adib plans to establish 'Berek Birri' and 'Berek Lembu' hubs in various states within the next five years.

He also hopes to develop his farm into an agro-education and agro-tourism destination.

For him, the initiative aims to raise public awareness of the importance of food security and the potential risks that the country may face if it is taken lightly.

"If a country becomes too dependent on food imports, it becomes highly vulnerable when a crisis occurs.

"Malaysia still has significant room to strengthen its food self-sufficiency, particularly in the protein and ruminant sectors.

"I believe the development of the livestock, agriculture and food industries must become a strategic national agenda involving collaboration among the government, industry and society.

"We can no longer view the agro sector as a second-class industry; instead, it is a crucial sector for the nation's future economy and security."

He also highlights the importance of strengthening technology in agriculture so that the sector is no longer perceived as 'dirty' or unattractive to youths.

"Strengthening food security is not solely the government's responsibility, as it also requires cooperation from all parties, including industry players, educational institutions and the community.

"We must begin to build a culture that values local food producers and recognises the agro sector as an important form of national defence for economic sustainability and public well-being."

Urging young people not to view livestock farming and agriculture as difficult or unglamorous, Mohamed Adib points out food industry as being one of the most critical sectors for a nation's survival, and no matter how advanced technology becomes, humans will always need food every day.

"Today, the agro industry has also evolved significantly. Modern farming involves technology, data, automation, digital marketing, downstream products and a broad business ecosystem.

"Young people need to see this field as a sector with great potential for professional careers and sustainable business growth." — Bernama



Mohamed Adib highlights the importance of strengthening technology in agriculture so that the sector is no longer perceived as 'dirty' or unattractive to youths.



Mohamed Adib (fourth right) hosts visitors at his 'Berek Birri' plot in Negeri Sembilan.



Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah (second left) presents the mock cheque for the financing to the representative of Ning Planters.

Sarawak’s pineapple development gets boost from Agrobank

Nurin Abdullah

SERDANG: Agrobank is strengthening its role as an agricultural development financial institution by providing its industry development financing to Ning Planters Sdn Bhd to support the development of the premium Sarawak Gold 1 (SG1) pineapple industry.

This was announced at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) recently, where Agrobank group president and group chief executive officer Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin performed the presentation of the mock cheque for the financing.

Based in Miri, Ning Planters was officially established in 2020 to commercialise the SG1 variety, which was developed through research and cultivation efforts dating back to around 2016.

The company currently operates large-scale cultivation activities in Tukau, Miri, and

Agrobank’s commitment is to serve as a catalyst for the growth of a modern, high-value and sustainable agricultural sector.

Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin

serves as a leading company in the development of the SG1 pineapple value chain, including supplying planting materials to smallholders.

With support from Agrobank’s financing, Ning Planters is also expanding its SG1 pineapple processing capacity to meet domestic and export market demand.

The collaboration also creates opportunities for small entrepreneurs and farmers to participate in the industry’s value chain through access to financing, training, guidance and relevant development programmes.

Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah remarked: “Agrobank’s commitment is to serve as

a catalyst for the growth of a modern, high-value and sustainable agricultural sector.

“This financing reflects Agrobank’s mandate to increase the value-added of local agricultural products, expand market access and strengthen the participation of entrepreneurs and farmers in the industry’s value chain.

“With a focus on capacity development and strengthening the industry ecosystem, we are confident that this initiative can create new economic opportunities, increase the income of agricultural communities and strengthen the competitiveness of SG1 pineapples in local and international markets.”



Liwan (front, fourth left) joins the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Uma Long Amo folks all set to hold more community activities, thanks to new hall

KAPIT: Deputy Minister for Utility and Telecommunication Datuk Liwan Lagang officiated at the opening for a new community hall at Uma Long Amo in Belaga recently.

It is informed that the community hall was constructed under Rural Transformation Programme (RTP), meant to provide the local community

with a new facility for them to hold various social, cultural and community activities.

“This community hall is part of the Sarawak government’s ongoing efforts towards improving infrastructure and providing quality public amenities for the rural communities.

“The hall is to benefit the

Uma Long Amo folks by being a proper venue for community activities, be they gatherings, social programme or cultural activities – all aimed at strengthening community ties,” said Liwan, who is Belaga assemblyman.

Belaga District officer Bidah Lujah was among those present at the ceremony.



Azrin Shah Ismail

fishing, while Malaysia had the potential to further develop the downstream processing industry for fisheries products.

He said landing and processing catches in Malaysia could

JBS Kapit officially welcomes new officer

KAPIT: The Kapit Office of Youth and Sports Department (JBS) welcomes its new officer Nurul Aini Rahmat.

Outgoing officer Olivia Kaminis officially handed over the duties to her successor in a simple ceremony held at JBS Kapit Office yesterday.

Olivia will be transferred to JBS Sibu Youth, with her duties taking effect this Sept 7.

In her parting remark, Olivia expressed appreciation to all staff members of JBS Kapit for their cooperation, support and teamwork throughout her four-year post here.

“I hope that youth development and sports programmes in Kapit Division would continue to progress smoothly under the new leadership.

“I would also like to welcome Nurul Aini to JBS Kapit, and I wish her every success in



Olivia (left) hands over duties to Nurul Aini.

carrying out this public service and further strengthening youth and sports development initiatives in Kapit,” said Olivia.

Kapit traders reminded to inspect weighing instruments

KAPIT: Local businessmen are reminded to have their weighing instruments inspected and if necessary, calibrated, during inspections by Domestic Trade and Costs of Living Ministry (KPDN) this Sept 8 and 9.

Running from 8.30am until

noon on each day, the session will be taking place at Kapit Town Square.

“Owners of weighing instruments used for business purposes are to bring them for inspection to ensure that they comply with the legal

requirements.

“In addition, another KPDN inspection will be held at Song District Council on Sept 10, running from 9am till noon,” said Kapit Chinese Chamber of Commerce chairman Sii Bang Ee in a statement.



Zainal Abidin (fourth right) presents the challenge trophy to Phang in a photo-call with representatives of the tournament’s sponsors. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

Prizes of RM181,000 up for grabs in Pusaka Golf Tournament 2026

KUCHING: Prizes worth a total of RM181,000 are up for grabs during the Pusaka Golf Tournament 2026 at Kelab Golf Sarawak (KGS) on Sept 13.

The prizes include a Perodua Axia worth RM51,000, sponsored by Lonpac Insurance Bhd for a hole-in-one at Demak Hole 14, and a Perodua Bezza worth RM40,000, sponsored by Saratim Insurance Agency Services Sdn Bhd for a hole-in-one at Matang Hole 8.

Saratim is also sponsoring home theatre systems or cash equivalents worth RM15,000 each at Santubong Hole 17 and Demak Hole 17.

Leong Adjustment Sdn Bhd is offering Rolex watches or cash equivalents worth RM15,000 each at Santubong Hole 14 and Siol Hole 4, while MSM International Adjuster (M) Sdn Bhd is offering an overseas trip or cash equivalent worth RM15,000 each at Matang Hole 3 and Siol Hole 6.

The prizes were presented to Sarawak Timber Industry

Development Corporation (STIDC) general manager Datu Zainal Abidin Abdullah during the Pusaka Golf 2026 Hole-in-One Prize and Challenge Trophy Contribution Handover Ceremony at the Pusaka Seminar Hall here on Friday.

Zainal Abidin also handed over the Pusaka Golf Challenge Trophy to KGS captain Roland Phang for presentation to the tournament winner.

In his speech, Zainal Abidin said organisers were encouraged by the response to the 32nd edition of the Pusaka Golf Tournament, organised in collaboration with KGS, which has attracted 128 participants.

He said the participants comprised representatives from government agencies, Pusaka subsidiary companies, timber industry players and the wider community.

However, Zainal Abidin said organisers would not hesitate to reschedule the tournament if conditions became unsuitable amid the worsening haze

situation.

“We are monitoring the haze situation closely.

“Earlier this morning, I received a text from KGS president and State Secretary (Datuk Amar Mohamad Abu Bakar Marzuki) emphasising that we must remain guided by SDMC (State Disaster Management Committee) announcements.

“Should conditions worsen, we may have to reschedule. However, if changes occur, our committee and KGS will promptly notify all participants through direct contact channels,” he said.

Among those present at the ceremony were Saratim Insurance general manager Dato Patrick Liew, KGS general manager Mohd Azhar Abdullah, Leong Adjustment Sdn Bhd general manager Tommy Li, Lonpac Insurance Sdn Bhd branch manager Joseph Pang, and MSM International Adjuster Sdn Bhd representative Felix Rozario.

Association: Malaysia-Vietnam cooperation can produce more local fishing skippers

SERDANG: Malaysia and Vietnam could tap cooperation in the fisheries industry to produce more skilled local fishing skippers and encourage young people to pursue careers in the sector as professionals, the National Fishermen’s Association (Nekmat) said.

Nekmat general manager Azrin Shah Ismail said the proposed cooperation was being explored with the Department of Fisheries and the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority (LKIM), with Nekmat participating as an industry player.

He said discussions were

still at an early stage, with any potential cooperation needing to take into account laws, resource sustainability, environmental considerations and the interests of local fishermen.

“Among the areas that can be explored is tuna fishing on the high seas, outside the Exclusive Economic Zone, as well as the landing and processing of the catch in Malaysia.

“The cooperation could also allow skills and technology to be transferred to the local workforce,” he told Bernama.

Azrin Shah said Vietnam had more advanced experience and technology in deep-sea



Azrin Shah Ismail

fishing, while Malaysia had the potential to further develop the downstream processing industry for fisheries products.

He said landing and processing catches in Malaysia could

create land-based employment opportunities while helping to produce highly skilled local fishing skippers through training and skills transfer.

“We are indeed facing a serious shortage of local fishing skippers. We need to step up efforts to make fishing a professional career,” he said.

According to him, the government could also consider technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes or internationally-recognised certification to enable Malaysians to work and gain experience aboard tuna vessels in countries such as

Japan and South Korea.

In efforts to expand youth participation, he said the fisheries industry also offered opportunities in the marketing and logistics of frozen products, beyond fishing activities alone.

Nekmat currently sells its products through Shopee and provides free delivery for purchases from its branches around Taman Wahyu in Kuala Lumpur and Cheras.

The association is also seeking agents and logistics partners, and may consider providing freezers to retailers who meet a minimum sales target. — Bernama

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Handout photo released by the Nepal Army shows army personnel carrying a worker who was trapped inside a tunnel, during a rescue operation at Trishuli-3A Hydropower Project in Nepal's Rasuwa district. — Photos by Handout/Nepal Army/AFP



Photo shows army personnel carrying a worker who was trapped inside a tunnel during a rescue operation.

Two workers rescued from buried tunnel

KATHMANDU, Nepal: Two hydropower workers were pulled alive on Friday from a tunnel buried by debris in Nepal, a rare ray of hope on the tenth day of rescue efforts after catastrophic Himalayan flooding.

Rescuers cheered as one man was pulled through a muddy opening, a video released by the energy ministry showed. He was helped to his feet by rescuers, and later carried on the backs of the emergency workers, raising his hand as they took him towards a helicopter.

A photograph showed the second man caked in mud, his hands pressed together in prayer, as rescuers carried him on a stretcher.

"As long as there is breath, there is hope. Rescue operations are continuing in all the affected tunnels. Let everyone's efforts and prayers continue. We have not lost hope," Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha said in a statement.

Rescuers called it a 'miracle' after the Aug 26 glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,308 people and left more than 5,600 missing.

"I am so happy, my heart is lighter," Amir Maharjan, the brother of rescued worker Kabir Maharjan, told AFP.

The rescued men, both Nepali, were named as Sanjay Sah, 30, a mechanical foreman, as well as Maharjan, 45, a mechanical supervisor, by Home Minister Sudan Gurung. Sah, speaking on video broadcast on Nepali media shortly after his rescue, said he had survived by chanting Hindu prayers during the days in the dark.

"What day is today? I was chanting maha mantra inside," Sah said, adding that he believed more workers may be inside the tunnel.

"There were as many as 40 or 45 people ... I told them and everyone to run out," he said of the moment the disaster struck.

Both men were reported to be in stable condition, and were receiving treatment in a Kathmandu hospital, the energy ministry said.

Lakshmi Naini, who said Maharjan is her brother-in-law, waited outside a hospital in Kathmandu, where he was taken by helicopter.

"It's a miracle. I am very happy.

As long as there is breath, there is hope!. Rescue operations are continuing in all the affected tunnels. Let everyone's efforts and prayers continue. We have not lost hope.

Biraj Bhakta Shrestha

I heard he is alive through social media, and I could not believe it," she told AFP.

"I have no words to express how I feel," said another relative, Shyam Maharjan, 45.

The rescued pair were among hundreds of hydropower workers who had been missing since a wall of mud and debris swept through the region on Aug 26 following a vast glacial and rock collapse on a mountain on the China-Nepal border.

Searches were continuing at the Trishuli 3A tunnel where the two men were rescued, as well as multiple other sites, with at least 12 hydropower projects smashed by the floods. Extra soldiers had been sent on Friday to boost the search operation where the men were saved. The government had initially said it believed more than 100 workers could be alive

inside multiple tunnels.

Nepali rescuers, aided by experts from India, China and South Korea, had repeatedly hit walls of hard-packed debris in their search for survivors. Until Friday, none of the tunnel workers had been confirmed alive.

Australian rescue expert Arnold Dix, who has been supporting the operation remotely, told AFP that the rescue efforts were "back in miracle country" after a 'week of 24/7 heartache'.

Earlier Friday, Dix said teams at the Trishuli 3A hydropower project believed they had heard a faint response from inside the tunnel.

"They believe they received a faint response from inside saying, 'hunchha', yes or OK," Dix, president of the International

Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, told AFP, adding that he was en route to Nepal to join the rescue effort. He said rescuers had called into the tunnel: "Don't worry, we are rescuing you."

Dix was a key adviser during the Himalayan rescue effort that successfully freed all 41 Indian workers trapped inside a collapsed under-construction road tunnel in 2023.

Dix said teams had dug through debris blocking the tunnel for 50 to 60 metres and had been hoping for a breakthrough at any moment. Less than an hour later, rescuers pulled the two men to safety. Some Nepali families who were searching for their missing loved ones had begun holding symbolic funerals in the last few days, in a sign of dimming hope for survivors.

Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal has called the gigantic wave triggered by a rock and ice avalanche a 'Himalayan tsunami'.

Floods tore through mountain districts, destroying roads, bridges and multiple hydropower dams that day.

AFP reporters flying by

helicopter over the valley of destruction on Thursday saw entire sections of settlements swept away, leaving the landscape resembling a puzzle with pieces missing.

Picturesque villages of green paddy fields and houses sat beside vast chunks of land washed away. Communities near the epicentre remain cut off.

The United Nations has warned that the 'magnitude of the destruction' makes delivering aid an immense challenge, with cargo drones and porters being considered to reach isolated communities.

"Access has been very, very, very difficult," UN chief in Nepal Lila Pieters Yahia said.

Nepal's disaster authority said the number of bodies recovered is 1,287, with 5,083 people missing.

In China, state media said 21 people had been killed and 541 were missing. That takes the overall death toll to 1,308 people, with 5,624 missing. More than 800 foreigners from at least 34 countries are among the missing, including tourists and pilgrims, in both Nepal and Tibet in China.

— AFP

Philippine court issues arrest warrant for VP Duterte

MANILA: A Philippine court on Friday issued an arrest warrant for Vice-President Sara Duterte over an alleged death threat against the country's president, with her defence team saying she would 'exercise all her legal remedies.'

Duterte was charged last month with 'grave threats' stemming from a late-night news briefing in which she claimed to have hired a hitman to kill President Ferdinand Marcos, his wife and a former congressman cousin should she be cut down first.

The alleged assassination threat also forms a crucial element of her ongoing Senate impeachment trial, where a guilty verdict would see her removed from office and permanently banned from politics. Under the



Sara Duterte

Philippine legal code, a criminal conviction on the charge would carry a jail term of up to six months.

Justice department spokesman Polo Martinez confirmed the warrant had been issued, noting that a court in Metro Manila's Quezon City had quashed a motion to defer it. But the warrant seemed unlikely to

result in Duterte being taken into custody.

Paolo Tamase, associate dean at the University of the Philippines College of Law, told AFP that Duterte's lawyers could now be expected to file for bail, perhaps before day's end.

"The easiest thing for VP Sara to do is to file for bail with the regional trial court," Tamase said in a phone interview, noting Duterte would likely not need to be present. He added that the warrant could yet be challenged at a higher court.

"She can potentially question the issuance of the warrant of arrest, which means she would go up to the Court of Appeals or potentially the Supreme Court," he said.

The vice-president's legal team issued a statement saying she

had 'no intention of evading the law and will continue to exercise all her legal remedies.'

Calls to her defence lawyers seeking comment were not returned.

Justice department officials have rejected arguments by the vice president's legal team that she cannot be prosecuted for offences that are also tied to her impeachment.

Duterte was impeached in May by the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of parliament, on charges that also included graft and corruption. A guilty verdict in the Senate – where her trial recently concluded its ninth week – would spell an end to a planned run for president in 2028.

Duterte first announced her candidacy in February. — AFP



People looking at the central district shrouded with haze from Indonesian forest fires in Singapore. — AFP photo

Singapore haze task force activates action plans as air quality deteriorates

SINGAPORE: Singapore's air quality slipped into the unhealthy range on Friday for the first time in nearly three years, with the Haze Task Force (HTF) activating its action plans amid deteriorating conditions.

The 24-hour Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) entered the unhealthy range at 7am Friday, its first unhealthy reading since Oct 8, 2023.

At 3pm, the PSI in the central region climbed to 108, while readings elsewhere remained in the moderate range: East (92), West (90), North (80) and South (77), according to National Environment Agency (NEA) data.

In response to the deteriorating air quality, the NEA said it would begin issuing daily haze advisories from Friday evening, including a 24-hour PSI forecast.

"This can be used by the public in planning their activities and events for the next 24 hours," it said in a statement on Friday.

Comprising representatives from 28 government agencies, the HTF coordinates the government's efforts to closely monitor the situation and minimise the impact of the haze on the public.

"HTF agencies will provide further advisories should the haze situation deteriorate," it said. — Bernama

Philippines expands access to free tertiary education

MANILA: Philippine President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr on Friday signed a law amending the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTE) as part of government efforts to expand access to affordable, quality higher education for Filipino students.

Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported that Marcos signed Republic Act (RA) 12325, or an

Act Enhancing the UAQTE, in a ceremony at Malacañan Palace in Manila.

The President said the new law underscores his administration's commitment to making tertiary education more accessible to students who face financial barriers to pursuing their studies, including beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme (4Ps).

"The original law made tuition and other school fees free in public higher education and state-run technical-vocational institutions while providing assistance to learners with limited financial means through the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES). Today, we take that another step further. The amendments ensure that government assistance reaches those who need it

most, particularly students from poor and disadvantaged families, including qualified 4Ps beneficiaries," he said.

The amendments seek to improve further the implementation of the country's free tertiary education programme and provide greater support to qualified students pursuing higher education. — Bernama-PNA

Hundreds ill in Indonesia after free school lunch in Rembang Java island

SEMARANG, Indonesia: Hundreds of students and teachers in Indonesia have fallen ill after eating free school meals, their principal said Thursday, the second major food poisoning this week linked to the government's hallmark programme.

The multi-billion-dollar meal scheme, launched in January last

year, is one of President Prabowo Subianto's signature policies. It has been widely criticised for its high costs, with hundreds demonstrating in Jakarta last week calling for it to be scrapped.

At least 725 pupils and 25 teachers in Rembang, on Java Island, complained they felt sick on Thursday morning after

consuming the free lunch on Wednesday.

"They had diarrhoea, they were vomiting, and felt nauseous. There was a queue at the bathrooms because two of our toilets are under renovation," said the school's principal Juhartutik.

She told reporters that kitchen staff said the food was prepared

at 3am and served at noon.

A doctor at a local health clinic, Joko Paryanto, said 18 students and teachers had to be brought in for treatment, and three of them were still hospitalised.

The incident came just days after more than 500 students in Sidoarjo, East Java, were taken to hospital after consuming the free

lunch meal on Tuesday.

The national nutrition agency, the government body tasked with distributing the free meals, said on Wednesday that at least 80 students were still hospitalised.

The scheme has been blighted by mass food poisonings and corruption claims since it started.

"This has already become a national alarm. Tens of thousands of people have fallen victim since the free meal scheme was implemented, and every month new victims keep emerging," Ubaid Matraji, a researcher at the Indonesian Education Monitoring Network, said in a statement Thursday. — AFP

Air India investigation flags hydraulic loss, pilot drug test

NEW DELHI: An Air India flight that plunged last month, injuring passengers, suffered a temporary loss of hydraulic systems, but its pilot tested "non-negative" for psychoactive substances, Indian investigators said Friday.

The Airbus A320, carrying 137 passengers and eight crew, suddenly lost altitude on Aug 4 while flying from Phuket, Thailand, to New Delhi, injuring 24 people before stabilising and landing safely.

India's civil aviation ministry classified it as a "Serious Incident".

Both Airbus and France's civil aviation safety agency, the BEA, said they are assisting the Indian investigation into the flight.

A preliminary report released Friday by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) said the flight-control system detected the loss of three hydraulic systems for several seconds.

"The aircraft encountered altitude upset," it read.

"Initially, it gained 113 metres and fell by 89 metres," it added.

The hydraulic failure caused the autopilot to disengage and triggered a two-second stall warning, before the systems recovered and the aircraft returned to normal operation.

"Subsequently, the aircraft operation returned to its normal operating condition," the report read.

But the report also addressed whether the pilot in command had tested positive for drugs.

"The PIC (pilot in command) was found non-negative for psycho-active substance in the confirmatory test," the report added.

"The confirmation of use of psycho-active substance is a serious concern."

Following the incident, India's aviation ministry said the regulator was considering tighter

screening rules for psychoactive substances.

Air India ordered a mandatory one-time drug screening of all of its pilots.

The investigation is the latest challenge for Air India, owned by India's Tata Group, which has struggled to turn around the carrier following a series of setbacks.

The airline has also been hit by flight disruptions linked to the war in the Middle East.

The biggest blow to the airline's

image came in June 2025, when Air India Flight 171 - a London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner - crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad, killing all but one of the 242 people on board and 19 people on the ground.

The Indian carrier appointed Tewolde Gebremariam as its new chief executive last month, betting that the former Ethiopian Airlines chief will be able to steer Air India out of the current storm toward profitability. — AFP

China detains 52 S'poreans in pyramid scheme clampdown

SINGAPORE: China has arrested 52 Singaporeans suspected of involvement in pyramid schemes, Singapore said Friday, in what local media in the city-state said could be the largest detention of its citizens overseas to date.

The arrests took place in China's southern province of Guangxi during a law enforcement operation targeting suspected pyramid schemes and related offences, Singapore's foreign ministry and police said in a joint statement.

It did not say when the arrests took place.

"Investigations by the Chinese authorities are ongoing."

Investigations by the Chinese authorities are ongoing. The Singapore Police Force has contacted its Chinese counterparts to seek more information.

Singapore foreign ministry, police joint statement

The Singapore Police Force has contacted its Chinese counterparts to seek more information," the statement added.

Singaporean diplomats have visited the detained suspects to check on their well-being and provide consular assistance, it

added.

The statement urged Singaporeans "to exercise caution when invited to take part in schemes involving the recruitment of participants or the upfront payment of substantial sums of money, whether overseas or locally."

China has not confirmed the arrests. Contacted by AFP, Beijing's foreign ministry said authorities handle criminal cases involving foreign nationals "in accordance with the law".

Singapore has seen major cases involving Chinese nationals accused of running or facilitating cross-border criminal operations.

In 2023, police arrested 10 Chinese nationals and Chinese-born foreigners in a sweeping anti-money laundering operation that ultimately involved some US\$2.4 billion in seized or frozen assets, including luxury properties, vehicles, cash and cryptocurrency. — AFP



A mother-and-baby orangutan pair named Raya and Rayu are evacuated by officials from the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), Indonesian military and the Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) due to forest and land fires in East Kotawaringin, Central Kalimantan. — AFP photo

Myanmar leader visits Vietnam on diplomatic comeback tour

HANOI, Vietnam: Myanmar's coup leader turned civilian president Min Aung Hlaing touched down in Vietnam on Friday for the latest stop on a regional diplomatic tour shaking off his post-putsch pariah status.

He and his wife Kyu Kyu Hla landed to a red carpet welcome in Hanoi, Myanmar government images showed, at the start of a three-day visit aimed at boosting political and business ties with the one-party state.

Min Aung Hlaing is due to meet Vietnam's President To Lam, attend a business forum and visit "digital and electronic technology industries", the Myanmar presidency said.

Myanmar's junta leaders were shunned in many quarters after the 2021 coup, but Vietnam sustained its investments.

Major Myanmar telecoms operator Mytel is jointly owned by a firm backed by Vietnam's defence ministry and a Myanmar military conglomerate.

Activist organisation Justice for Myanmar accused Vietnam of "corporate complicity with the junta".

"The Myanmar military's ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity are supported by revenue, technology and surveillance support from Vietnam through Mytel," said spokesman Yadanar Maung in a statement.



Handout photo released by Myanmar's Presidential Press and Information Bureau shows Min Aung Hlaing (centre) shaking hands with officials after arriving in Hanoi. — Photo by Handout/Myanmar's Presidential Press and Information Bureau/AFP

Min Aung Hlaing is considered by rights groups an architect of a military crackdown on the Rohingya minority starting in 2017, which is being weighed by the International Court of Justice as potential genocide.

His pariah status deepened after he led the coup five years ago that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government and plunged the

country into civil war.

But highly restricted elections completed in early 2026 shifted the dynamic, with Min Aung Hlaing installed as civilian president.

Many monitors dismissed the vote as a charade — excluding Suu Kyi's party as well as voters in huge areas of rebel-held territory, and punishing dissent with prison time.

But regional neighbours including China, Thailand, India and Laos have already openly welcomed Min Aung Hlaing on visits since he took over as civilian leader.

Defending the decision to host the Myanmar leader in Bangkok last month, Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow told reporters: "It's not about legitimacy, it's about reality." — AFP

Indonesia rescues orangutan mother and baby from wildfire haze

INDONESIA: Indonesian authorities rescued a mother orangutan and her baby from wildfire smoke on the island of Borneo, officials said Thursday.

The vast archipelago has been battling for weeks to contain wildfires that have left thick smog blanketing parts of Borneo and Sumatra, with haze also drifting across the border to Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Acting on a tip-off, conservation officials located the orangutan on Wednesday in Central Kalimantan province after it was spotted clinging to the top of a tree, local conservation agency official Muriansyah told AFP on Thursday.

The animal was surrounded by haze rising from nearby burned peatland, prompting officials to evacuate it immediately.

"If we don't carry out the rescue, I was concerned for (the safety) of the orangutan," Muriansyah, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, said, citing the potential health risks posed by the smog.

During the operation, rescuers discovered the orangutan was carrying a baby.

Officials named the mother, estimated to be 20 years old,

Raya after a nearby street where she was found, and her one-year-old daughter, Rayu, Muriansyah added.

He said recently burned terrain and darkness added to the complexity of the nighttime rescue operation.

A preliminary veterinary check-up found the orangutans were not injured, and that they had not been seriously affected by the smoke, Muriansyah said.

The orangutans were then transported to a clinic for observation, said Heriyanto, a Central Kalimantan province natural resources and conservation agency official.

"If they are healthy and can be released into the wild immediately, they will be released," Heriyanto told AFP.

Authorities in West Kalimantan rescued at least seven orangutans from wildfire-affected areas last month.

Among them was an orangutan named Sampurna, which was rescued on August 30 amid thick smoke from the fires, according to a statement from the local conservation agency.

A 2016 government survey estimated the orangutan population on Borneo to be around 57,000. — AFP



NO TO RELOCATION

Thousands of members of the Korean Financial Industry Union hold a strike rally on Friday to oppose the government's plans to relocate financial institutions to the administrative city of Sejong, and demand improvements in working conditions, in Seoul. South Korea announced plans on Thursday to put a second presidential office and legislative complex in the administrative city of Sejong, as it accelerates efforts to move hundreds of institutions out of Seoul in a bid to lessen the capital's dominance. — AFP photo

First case of H5N1 bird flu reported in Sydney

SYDNEY: Authorities on Friday reported the first confirmed case of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in Sydney, Australia, reported Xinhua.

Tara Moriarty, the agriculture minister in New South Wales (NSW), told reporters that testing detected the H5N1 strain in a greater crested tern found in Sydney's Northern Beaches in late August.

It represents the first confirmed case in Sydney after the highly

pathogenic strain reached the Australian mainland in June.

Moriarty said Sydney residents with pet birds or chickens should take precautions to avoid interacting with wild birds, while people with dogs should ensure they do not eat carcasses or chase wild birds.

The local mayor for the Northern Beaches, Sue Heins, said that the case will likely be the first of many and that the region should brace for the "potentially devastating

impacts" of the highly pathogenic strain, which has caused the deaths of millions of birds worldwide.

According to the latest data from the federal government, as of Wednesday, there have been 468 confirmed H5N1 bird flu events across Australia, 20 of which were in NSW.

The NSW government said there had been no detections in commercial poultry flocks, captive birds or livestock in the state. — Bernama-Xinhua

India successfully places earth-imaging satellite in geosynchronous orbit

NEW DELHI: India's national space agency launched a rocket Friday carrying an Earth-imaging satellite, successfully placing it into orbit, Anadolu Ajansi reported.

"Mission Success! GSLV-F17 has successfully accomplished its mission, placing EOS-05 into the intended orbit," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

announced in a post on the US social media platform X.

The launch took place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in southern India at 2.55am local time (2125GMT Thursday).

GSLV-F17 marks the 19th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle and EOS-05 is a state-of-the-art Earth observation spacecraft, the space

agency said.

It is India's first ever imaging satellite designed to operate from a geosynchronous orbit, it said.

Following Friday's successful launch, the space agency is targeting six more launches this year, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan told reporters. — Bernama-Anadolu

Sri Lanka arrests ex-president’s son over Airbus deal

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka’s main anti-graft body arrested lawmaker Namal Rajapaksa, the son of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, on Friday in connection with a corruption probe into a 2013 Airbus aircraft purchase.

The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) said the 40-year-old scion of the once-powerful Rajapaksa family “was summoned for questioning over the Airbus transaction”.

“The MP was arrested afterwards and will be taken before a magistrate,” a commission official said.

It was not immediately clear what charges Rajapaksa faces.

His lawyer, Nishantha Dayananda, confirmed the arrest over the controversial US\$2.3-billion deal, which was eventually cancelled by a new government in 2016.

CIABOC had questioned the former president himself in May over allegations that he had received kickbacks from the aircraft purchase.

The anti-graft probe centres on claims that the European manufacturer channelled part of the money from the purchase to senior Sri Lankan officials and politicians.

The Rajapaksa family has denied allegations that they received bribes and dismissed corruption claims against them as politically motivated.

Former SriLankan Airlines chief executive Kapila Chandrasena told investigators in March that he had handed nearly half a million dollars in kickbacks to Rajapaksa.

Chandrasena was found dead at a relative’s home in May, shortly before he was due to be rearrested.

The cause of death has not been established.

A joint investigation by US, British and French authorities previously found Airbus had agreed to pay about US\$16 million in bribes in Sri Lanka, with US\$1.7 million routed to Chandrasena before the scandal was uncovered.

The payments were linked to the purchase of 10 Airbus aircraft, which required cabinet approval during Rajapaksa’s presidency from 2005 to 2015.

According to submissions made in court, Chandrasena initially told investigators he had paid Rajapaksa 60 million rupees (US\$461,000 at the time) in three instalments in 2013.

He later retracted the statement, claiming it had been made under pressure.

SriLankan Airlines has accumulated losses estimated at nearly US\$2 billion, and repeated attempts to privatise the debt-laden flag carrier have failed. — AFP



A convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) driving along a road near al-Mansouri in southern Lebanon, en route to a meeting point to receive four people who had been detained in Israel. — AFP photo

Red Cross says transferred four people released by Israel to Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon: The Red Cross on Friday said it had facilitated the transfer to Lebanon of four more people detained by Israel, a day after a first person was freed.

Israel is believed to have seized dozens of people from Lebanon amidst its recent wars with Iran-backed Hezbollah.

“The International Committee of the Red Cross, at the request of the relevant parties, facilitated the transfer to Lebanon of five individuals released from Israeli detention,” the ICRC said in a statement.

“One individual was transferred on Thursday, and four others on Friday,” it added.

Israel on Thursday said it had decided to release five civilian captives, freeing the first of them that day.

The four freed on Friday are two Lebanese and two Syrian nationals, according to a Lebanese official who requested anonymity.

An AFP correspondent on Friday saw three ICRC vehicles arrive from Israeli-occupied parts of southern Lebanon at

the Lebanese army checkpoint in Al-Amiriya, which marks the start of the territory controlled by Beirut.

The convoy was escorted by two Lebanese army vehicles to the southern city of Tyre, where the released individuals were to undergo medical examinations and be questioned by the military.

Ahmad Atwi, a resident of the south, waited at the checkpoint to see if his friend, seized by Israel last year, would be released. — AFP

Two US sailors removed from Thai resort town after drunken brawl

BANGKOK: Two sailors from the US aircraft carrier making a port call to Thailand were sent back to the ship after a drunken altercation, Thai police said Friday.

Police were alerted to a “small scuffle” involving the sailors in the early hours of Thursday near Pattaya’s nightlife hotspot Walking Street, city police chief Colonel Anek Srathongyoo told AFP.

“The sailors were drunk and they were fighting, making loud noise,” he said.

He described the incident as “trivial” and said local residents had only called police to prevent it from escalating.

The unidentified sailors were not charged as “they did not violate any Thai law”, Anek said.

The US Navy sent the pair back to the ship, he added.

The USS Abraham Lincoln’s arrival has drawn global media interest after reports of deteriorating living conditions on board after more than 280



Pedestrians walking past a LED display welcoming the arrival of US service personnel of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) in Pattaya. — AFP photo

days at sea.

It has also put the spotlight on Pattaya, a resort popular with foreign tourists with a reputation for its nightlife, including sex tourism. Authorities launched a crackdown on sex workers ahead

of the ship’s visit, although they denied it was linked to the sailors’ arrival.

The police chief told AFP there had been no other notable incidents since the Lincoln docked, and one Pattaya

masseuse said it had been calmer than previous military port calls.

Nattakamol Chartmontri, who has worked in Pattaya for several years, told AFP many of the sailors appeared “young, well-behaved and rule-abiding”.

Pattaya businesses had been hoping for a windfall from the visit, which comes during low season, but Nattakamol, 48, said it had so far stayed quiet.

“People on social media are so hyped about (the sailors), but actually, they have not made a significant difference to Pattaya businesses,” she said.

US Democratic lawmakers called last month for an investigation into conditions on the Lincoln following reports of food shortages, broken plumbing and mental health crises.

President Donald Trump dismissed the concerns, which have fuelled criticism of his dragging war on Iran, although the Lincoln was replaced in the Middle East by the USS George Washington. — AFP

81 dead as Houthis push towards key strait

DUBAI: Clashes between Yemen’s Houthis and Saudi-backed government forces have killed 81, military and medical sources said on Friday, as the Iran-backed rebels push towards territory bordering a chokepoint in the strategic Red Sea.

Fighting erupted on Thursday, after the Houthis launched a ground assault along with rocket and drone attacks near coastal areas, vying for control of the narrow Bab al-Mandab strait at the Red Sea’s southern entrance.

The Houthis have repeatedly attacked Saudi ships in recent weeks in the Red Sea, which has emerged as an alternative route for oil exports after Iran all but halted shipments from the Gulf by blockading the Strait of Hormuz.

The rebels are now trying to cement their hold over one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, which they have disrupted with attacks on passing vessels since the Gaza war broke out in 2023.

The Houthi offensive aims to cut off the government-held port city of Mokha, under fire for weeks, and advance towards areas bordering the Bab al-Mandab, military sources told AFP.

The rebels have seized elevated sites overlooking government positions near the Red Sea, the coastal town of Khokha and Taiz city further inland, a military source and a Taiz official told AFP, requesting anonymity.

The Houthis could target ships from these elevated positions, they said.

A military official on the coast said 24 of his men had been killed, while another in the Taiz area said 15 had died there.

At least 42 Houthi militants were also killed, according to medical sources in areas under their control.

The Houthis want to control the hills overlooking Bab al-Mandab and Mokha before attacking the coast, a Yemeni official in Aden, the government’s base since it was ousted from the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, in 2014.

The government has sent reinforcements to Taiz from Aden on Saudi orders, the official said.

With Iran’s closure of Hormuz, the Bab al-Mandab chokepoint has gained increased importance as a transit route for oil from Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest exporter of crude.

The narrow waterway connects the Red Sea – and, via the Suez Canal, the Mediterranean – to the Indian Ocean.

Although the Houthis do not control areas bordering Bab al-Mandab, they hold the key port city of Hodeida north of Mokha.

In July, a fragile truce between the Houthis and the government fell apart after the rebels welcomed an Iranian plane to Sanaa, setting off a spate of attacks.

They later announced a maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia and began hitting its ships and territory as Yemen, following more than a decade of civil conflict, became the latest country drawn into the Middle East war. — AFP

Cyprus ferry toll rises to 12 as two more bodies found

ISTANBUL: The death toll from a ferry accident off northern Cyprus rose to 12 on Friday after rescuers found the bodies of two women, with another 16 people still missing, officials said.

The FiloJet ferry was carrying 267 people when it capsized shortly after departing from Kyrenia port on the northern shore of the divided island around midday on Sunday.

Rescuers managed to pull 239 people to safety, giving an initial count of eight dead and 20 missing with officials saying they believed they had gone down with the ship.

Round-the-clock rescue efforts have since recovered the bodies of four more victims, the latest two on Friday morning, raising the toll to 12, according to authorities in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

(TRNC), which is only recognised by Ankara.

“The bodies of two more people have been recovered,” TRNC prime minister Unal Ustel wrote on X, indicating both were women.

“Search operations are continuing 24/7 in order to reach our 16 missing people,” he said as a team of specialist divers and naval drones probed the wreckage which is lying at a

depth of 514 metres.

Since Wednesday morning, two specialist Turkish naval vessels equipped with underwater drones have been working to find the remaining victims.

Before the latest bodies were found, officials said the eight dead were all Turkish nationals, indicating that 18 of the 20 missing were also Turkish while the last two were from northern Cyprus. — AFP

Falklands are British, UK insists, after Milei claim

LONDON: Britain insisted Friday that the Falkland Islands “are British” after Argentine President Javier Milei said the “winds of change” favoured his country’s claim to the archipelago, citing Washington’s readiness to review its neutrality in the dispute.

Britain and Argentina fought a 10-week war in 1982 over the South Atlantic islands, a British overseas territory which Argentines call Las Malvinas.

The fate of the islands hit headlines again in recent days after US President Donald Trump threatened to wade into the dispute, and an British-Israeli oil project near the islands caused anger in Argentina.

In an address on national TV, Milei assured Thursday that Argentina would not “stand idly by” in the face of the oil project and announced sanctions on firms linked to oil extraction “in Argentine territory under British occupation.”

“There are winds of change in the world that are favorable to our claim,” he said, alluding to Trump’s threat to withdraw support for Britain’s sovereignty.

Control of the Falklands



File photo shows an aerial view of Stanley, Falkland Islands (Malvinas). — AFP photo

is a highly emotive issue in Argentina, even though the islanders themselves voted overwhelmingly in 2013 to remain British.

“The Falklands are British because Falkland Islanders

choose to be British,” British Defence Secretary Wes Streeting responded in a social media post on Friday, calling Milei’s statement a result of “domestic politics.”

“Our commitment to the

Falklands is absolute and unshakable,” Streeting added.

The Falklands War began in April 1982 when Argentine forces invaded the islands ruled by Britain since the 19th century, prompting then-British prime

minister Margaret Thatcher to send a naval task force to reclaim them. The conflict left 649 Argentines, 255 Britons and three islanders dead.

On Tuesday, Argentine Falklands War veterans and environmental lawyers filed a lawsuit to halt the oil project, which is promoted by the British company Rockhopper and the Israeli company Navitas.

Milei said the project violated a United Nations resolution calling on both sides to desist from unilateral actions in the islands.

“If we allow it, we will be creating an incentive for the British government to deepen the occupation of the islands and the exploitation of our resources,” he said.

He added that companies involved in Falklands’ projects “behind the back of the Argentine government” would be barred from operating in Argentine territory.

His address came as his approval ratings plummet, just over a year before he seeks re-election.

Trump’s announcement Monday that the United States

was reviewing its position on the Falkland Islands came amid reports Washington is threatening to oppose Britain’s sovereignty in the region if it does not increase defense spending.

In an interview Thursday with the British network GB News, Trump criticised London’s lack of military support for his war with Iran and refused to confirm whether he would back Britain in a potential new dispute with Argentina.

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham’s spokesperson had said this week that Britain’s position on the Falkland Islands is “long-standing and unwavering”.

“Sovereignty rests with the UK, and the islanders’ right of self-determination is paramount,” the spokesperson added.

“The Falklands issue serves Trump’s purpose of pressuring the United Kingdom to comply with his demands regarding Nato funding and cooperation in the war in Iran,” Tomas Mugica, director of the Center for International Studies at the Catholic University of Argentina, said. — AFP

Taiwan boxer Lin considered ‘graceful exit’ after Paris gold

TAIPEI: Taiwanese boxer Lin Yu-ting told AFP she considered retiring after winning gold at the Paris Olympics but wanted to carry on fighting in part to defy those who questioned her eligibility.

Lin and Imane Khelif of Algeria found themselves in the middle of a major gender row at the 2024 Games, with Donald Trump, Elon Musk and author J.K. Rowling among those wading in.

The two boxers had been disqualified from the 2023 world championships by the International Boxing Association (IBA) after the organisation said they failed unspecified gender eligibility tests.

However, the IOC allowed them to compete in Paris, saying they were victims of “a sudden and arbitrary decision” by the widely discredited IBA. Both went on to win gold.

Hailed as a hero in Taiwan, Lin wondered at the time whether it was the right moment to bow out of the sport she loves.

“I achieved everything I had worked for. It seemed like a good moment to make a graceful exit,” the 30-year-old told AFP in a rare interview.

Initially the choice was taken out of her hands and her career forced on hold.

Then in March this year World Boxing – which has taken over the running of the sport – cleared her to return after 19 months in limbo following a one-off sex test.

Lin, a two-time world champion who will compete at the Asian Games in Japan starting on Sept 19, said quitting would have let down the people close to her.

“I couldn’t leave the people on my team behind,” Lin said.

“And I also wanted to see how far my own abilities could go.”



Two years after her Paris win, Lin’s gold medal remains carefully wrapped and stored in her bedroom, rarely making public appearances. — AFP photo

Lin is keen to put the darker moments of Paris and its aftermath behind her.

Dwelling on negatives will get her trapped in a “pessimistic mindset”, she said.

“I’m able to continue competing now,” Lin added.

“In a way that’s a rebuttal to many of the things people were saying before.”

Lin has stepped up a weight class as she pursues a second Asian Games gold in a row.

She won last time at 57kg, the same weight as her Paris triumph, but will box in the 60kg category in Nagoya-Aichi this month.

“Right now I feel like things are gradually falling into place for me,” she said.

“This year I started competing again and I’ve gradually regained my reactions and form. It really does feel like I’m getting back into my rhythm.”

On her return to international competition Lin won bronze at 60kg at the Asian Elite Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, then silver at the World Boxing Cup in China.

“Moving up a weight class means everything is new for me,” Lin said.

“It’s a new goal, a new challenge and a new milestone.”

Lin was 13 when she first pulled on a pair of boxing gloves at her junior high school gym in Yingde district near Taipei.

She was “a small-stature student without an obvious physical edge”, said her coach Tseng Tzu-chiang, who has been her trainer ever since.

Lin worked hard and captured a string of titles including world crowns in 2018 and 2022.

“Once she set her eyes on something, she would commit to it wholeheartedly,” Tseng told AFP.

I couldn’t leave the people on my team behind. And I also wanted to see how far my own abilities could go.

Lin Yu-ting

She meets setbacks head-on, resetting her goals and achieving them with “absolute clarity and determination”, he said.

Lin admits to “very high standards” and a “rigorous attitude” towards training.

But there is a fun side too, unwinding from the physically taxing sessions with Tseng by playing Pokemon Go.

She dabbles in the stock market.

“I manage risk very strictly,” Lin said, likening trading stocks to throwing punches.

“The best risk management in the ring is making sure I’ve done my own part well. That’s something I can control.”

Winning Paris gold was the culmination of years of devotion. She failed to secure a spot at the 2016 Rio Games and was eliminated in the early stages in Tokyo in 2021.

Two years after her Paris win, Lin’s gold medal remains carefully wrapped and stored in her bedroom, rarely making public appearances.

“I haven’t displayed it yet because I haven’t found a good way,” Lin said, adding she might one day show it alongside her other medals.

“I’m worried about damaging it, getting it dirty, or accidentally scratching it.” — AFP



Antonelli attends a press conference ahead of the Italian GP. — AFP photo

Antonelli says will obey Mercedes orders to help ‘tow’ teammate Russell

MONZA, Italy: World championship leader Kimi Antonelli will give his Mercedes team-mate and title rival George Russell “a tow” in qualifying, if requested, at this weekend’s keenly-anticipated Italian Grand Prix.

The 20-year-old Italian, who leads Russell and Ferrari’s Lewis Hamilton by 59 points, faces starting Sunday’s race from the back of the grid due to penalties after taking a new power unit.

But, he told reporters on Thursday, he will not allow that to interfere with his enjoyment of his home race in front of a big crowd of tifosi divided by their support for Ferrari and for him.

“I’m looking forward to this weekend despite starting from the back,” he said.

“I will be able to enjoy it more than I did previously and hopefully we will still be able to have a good race.”

“In some ways, it helps to release the pressure, but I would very much rather fight for pole and start at the front.”

Asked about slipstreaming at the high-speed Monza track, the fastest on the calendar, to help team-mate Russell, he said it had been considered and he would obey the team.

“It has been discussed with the team, and yes, we have agreed on a few things,” he said.

“So, let’s see how the session develops. If the team asks me to do so, I will do it. Obviously, I will still be happy to get pole, but of course, I’m starting at the back so, if I can do anything to help the team, I will. I will do it.”

He added that he felt more

relaxed ahead of this event knowing he had a grid penalty and was under less scrutiny.

“It makes me a bit more relaxed,” he said.

“I think this track can be very good for us, but we have to take into account that McLaren, Ferrari, even Red Bull can be good this weekend.”

“There are other tracks where it is possible to overtake, but this one has a lot of places where you can race differently and gives us the best chance to climb through the field.”

He described the track as more “energy-starved” than most because the hybrid power units introduced this year will not have their battery power for a much higher percentage of a lap in Monza than at any other circuit.

This, in turn, will mean that there are few places for the cars to recover energy on the long straights and will make it efficient to use slipstreaming to reduce drag and conserve energy.

Antonelli ended his news conference appearance fearful of facing a fine from the ruling International Motoring Federation (FIA) after swearing accidentally when asked about the risks of racing at high speeds.

“Sorry. Sorry. I swore. But, oh my God. What did I just do? Now I’m going to worry about the fine that is coming.”

“But what was I saying? We know that the risk will always be there so we’re well aware.”

“But it’s what we love to do and we’re going to live with that.” — AFP

Springboks and All Blacks seek series lead after war of words

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa and New Zealand will seek a 2-1 series lead with one Test to play when they clash in Johannesburg on Saturday, after days of verbal sparring over scrums.

All Blacks head coach Dave Rennie lit the fuse last weekend after a 33-26 second Test loss in Cape Town, alleging the Springboks were using questionable scrumming tactics.

“I think (referee) Angus (Gardner) was pretty strong around setting a mark and then trying to keep the hookers in the same sort of spacing,” he said.

Rival head coach Rassie Erasmus responded: “The first six scrums New Zealand had – every one collapsed. It was reset, reset, reset, reset.”

The war of words continued this week with South Africa scrum coach and former Springboks prop Daan Human entering the fray.

“We always try to do it (scrumming) 100 per cent by the book. I am a farmer. I am a normal, straight guy. I never coach that (cheating),” he said.

Come the All Blacks team



New Zealand’s head coach Dave Rennie looks on during a warm-up. — AFP photo

announcement and Rennie appeared to declare a truce in the scrums saga.

Quizzed about the legality of South African scrumming, Rennie replied: “Do I bother giving this any more air?”

Rennie told reporters the All Blacks and Springboks had raised undisclosed concerns through official channels.

“We shared stuff with the officials. The Springboks have done the same. It is now up to the referee and his support staff to react to what he sees.”

Georgian Nika Amashukeli, replaced by Gardner for the Cape Town Test due to illness, will be in charge at the 92,000-seat Soccer City stadium on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

The venue has been a happy hunting ground for New Zealand.

They have played two Tests there, defeating South Africa 29-22 in 2010 and 32-16 two seasons later.

As tensions rise before the third Test in 15 days between the top-ranked Springboks and second-ranked All Blacks, legends from both countries have joined the war of words.

John Kirwan, whose try helped New Zealand beat France in the inaugural Rugby World Cup final 39 years ago, says he does not like the Springboks’ reliance on set pieces and box kicking.

Referring to the Cape Town Test, he said: “Sometimes the way (South Africa) play frustrates me.

During a 15-minute stretch, they did almost nothing but launch box kicks.”

Springboks 2007 World Cup-winning lock Victor Matfield countered: “In South Africa, we love a big scrum, going over guys. I mean, box kicks, winning it back, just hear the cheers.”

Cheslin Kolbe, who has switched from the right wing to replace injured Damian Willemse at full-back, was not considered a likely first choice goal-kicker before the series.

But the double World Cup winner has excelled, succeeding with all 11 attempts to reap 29 points.

In six four matches – two Tests and four matches against franchises – New Zealand have scored 242 points from 38 tries and 26 conversions.

There have been no points from penalties.

The series, marketed as the “Greatest Rivalry”, concludes in American city Baltimore on Sept 12.

South African officials say financial reasons justify taking the match abroad. — AFP

Night-owl Zverev goes distance to advance as upsets rock US Open

NEW YORK: Top-seeded Alexander Zverev kept his bid for a first US Open title on track with a gritty five-set victory over Quentin Halys, staying the course as a spate of upsets rocked the men’s draw on Thursday.

A trio of former women’s champions – Coco Gauff, Iga Swiatek and Naomi Osaka – booked third-round berths, along with reigning Grand Slam champions Elena Rybakina and Mirra Andreeva.

But men’s third seed Felix Auger-Aliassime tumbled out, along with sixth-seeded Alex de Minaur and 13th-seeded Lorenzo Musetti.

Zverev laboured until 2.15am Friday on Arthur Ashe Stadium to shake off 52nd-ranked Frenchman Halys 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (3/7), 6-3.

The four-hour 33-minute marathon followed his wild first-round five-setter against 89th-ranked Lorenzo Sonego that kept Zverev at it until shortly before 2am on Wednesday.

“The performance was quite

s**t to be honest, but I won, that’s the most important thing,” Zverev said afterwards.

“Physically, I feel fine. I am proud, I think, to be physically quite strong. I just hope at some point I’ll start playing better tennis.”

“I’m winning ugly right now. It’s also a skill to win ugly and when you’re not playing great tennis. I think I’ve mastered that right now.”

While Zverev survived, Auger-Aliassime fell 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, to 50th-ranked Russian Karen Khachanov, pulled away relentlessly from the physically ailing Canadian, who said he was “dizzy and seeing spots.”

“I thought maybe it would pass, but it didn’t,” a dejected Auger-Aliassime said.

Khachanov took full advantage of 47 unforced errors, with eight double faults, from Auger-Aliassime, who struggled particularly on serve.

“I thought maybe he had some physical issues, it’s part of our sport,” Khachanov said. “From



Zverev reacts during the match against Quentin Halys of France. — AFP photo

my side I tried to give my best performance, fighting, fighting.”

De Minaur fell to Botić van de Zandschulp 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 while 123rd-ranked Australian Dane Sweeney shocked 13th seed Musetti 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to reach the third round of a major for the first time.

It’s not the first time Van de Zandschulp has sprung an upset at Flushing Meadows, where he shocked Carlos Alcaraz in the second round in 2024.

Meanwhile top women contenders marched on.

Fourth-seeded Gauff, the 2023 champion, thrilled the Ashe night

crowd with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) victory over former world number two Paula Badosa of Spain.

Swiatek sailed through with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Nadia Podoroska while Osaka survived a second-set swoon to beat Katerina Siniakova 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

Australian Open winner Rybakina, the world number two who is closing in on Aryna Sabalenka’s number one ranking, saw off Spain’s Jessica Bouzas Maneiro 6-2, 6-4, and Andreeva rolled over Germany’s Eva Lys 6-0, 6-2.

Gauff, 22, had lost five of her eight prior meetings with Badosa, so she was ready when the Spaniard piled on the pressure in the second set, regaining a break to force the tiebreaker.

“I knew she would raise her level. She’s capable of blasting winners and blasting return winners,” said Gauff, who was pleased she kept her composure.

“I think I need matches like this to build my confidence,” the 2023 US Open winner said.

Swiatek, whose six Grand Slam

titles include the 2022 US Open, had things mostly her own way against Podroska, a former top-40 player now 449th in the world.

She fought off four break points at 5-3 in the first set then pulled away to polish off the win in little more than an hour.

Japan’s Osaka, who counts two US Open titles among her four majors, looked in total control against Siniakova as she raced through the first set and to a 4-2 lead in the second without facing a break point.

But the Japanese star’s unforced errors began to pile up and doubles world number one Siniakova pounced to climb from 5-3 down and take the set.

Osaka regrouped in the decider, riding a quick break to a 3-0 lead and fending off a pair of break points on the way to victory.

“I just felt like I had to fight,” she said.

So did former Australian Open champion Madison Keys, who saved five match points to beat Anna Bondar 4-7, 6-4, 7-6 (10/5). — AFP

Arsenal brace for Chelsea test as Spurs seek spark

LONDON: Something has to give when Arsenal host Chelsea in the Premier League this weekend, with both teams putting their 100 per cent records on the line, while Tottenham are desperate to stop the rot.

Defending champions Arsenal and Xabi Alonso's Chelsea are among four sides to have won their first two league games this season, along with Manchester City and newly-promoted Hull.

Spurs are bottom of the table as they prepare to face Nottingham Forest while new Liverpool boss Andoni Iraola is still seeking his first win.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of the action:

Arsenal steel v Chelsea flair

Arsenal have started their Premier League title defence as they finished last season – looking impenetrable.

Last week's 1-0 win at Aston Villa, following their opening 3-0 victory over Coventry, was a sixth clean sheet in seven league matches.

Another bonus for manager Mikel Arteta is the form of England winger Bukayo Saka, who has scored twice already following an injury-disrupted 2025/26 campaign.

Chelsea have launched the Xabi Alonso era with three wins in all competitions, looking dangerous in attack but vulnerable at the back.

The club's new attacking trio of Joao Pedro, Cole Palmer and Morgan Rogers have scored five of the team's seven league goals in victories against Fulham and Brighton.

But former Bayer Leverkusen and Real Madrid boss Alonso will be keen to tighten up his team's defence, which has conceded five goals in those games.

Recent history is against Chelsea, who are winless in nine Premier League games against Arsenal ahead of Sunday's clash at the Emirates.



Newcastle United's Anthony Elanga (right) vies with Tottenham Hotspur's Sandro Tonali during the match at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. — AFP file photo

Spurs' struggles

Roberto De Zerbi is certain Tottenham will avoid another embarrassing relegation battle despite a calamitous start to the season.

The north London club, who have finished a lowly 17th in successive campaigns, lost their opener against Brentford 3-0 before a 2-0 defeat by Newcastle.

The club spent more than £350 million (US\$473 million) in the summer transfer window in an attempted reset, with a clutch of high-profile arrivals including Sandro Tonali, Mateus Fernandes and Savio.

But there is scant evidence that things are improving as they prepare to face Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Saturday – a team that beat them twice last season.

De Zerbi, who arrived in late March, remains upbeat despite

his team's woes.

"After two defeats, maybe somebody can think it's the same story, the same as the last two seasons," he said.

"I have no doubt it's not like this. I think I can't change my opinion after two defeats. I have a big, big confidence in the qualities of my players."

Liverpool's Iraola eyes fresh start

New Liverpool boss Andoni Iraola is still seeking lift-off after frustrating draws against Newcastle and Nottingham Forest.

France forward Bradley Barcola is in line to make his debut at newly-promoted Ipswich on Friday after his arrival from Paris Saint-Germain this week for a fee of up to £124 million.

The winger is the latest

addition to an expensively assembled Liverpool attack that also includes Alexander Isak, Florian Wirtz and the currently injured Hugo Ekitike.

But four goals conceded in two matches suggest problems in other areas.

"It does not look like a balanced squad," former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher told Sky Sports. "Liverpool are short in the full-back areas and probably a midfield player as well."

Iraola welcomed the end of the summer transfer window earlier this week.

"Once the market is closed, we know who we are," he said on Thursday.

"I think we have a lot of talent in this group of players.

"Now we have to perform, we have to do our job and we have to start from tomorrow." — AFP

South Korean referee faces hearing over 'period' insult

SEOUL: A woman referee in South Korea will face a disciplinary hearing over accusations she insulted former Chelsea midfielder Ji So-yun by saying she was menstruating, the football association told AFP on Friday.

The inquiry will focus on an incident that saw the international booked after confronting the official during a domestic women's league game between Ji's Suwon FC Women and Seoul City Hall.



It was sparked when Ji demanded a penalty for her side during the WK League match last month.

After approaching the referee, Ji alleged the official said: "She's been touchy since the start, she must be on her period."

A Korea Football Association (KFA) official told AFP they have referred the case to the association's disciplinary committee. The KFA did not say when the hearing will take place.

The KFA's refereeing department previously said the word "period" was not used and that the remarks did not specifically refer to Ji, according to broadcaster SBS.

The Korea Women's Football Federation (KWFF) has said the term used was "girl's day", a euphemism referring to menstruation.

Ji told local media that she heard the referee make the remark over the communication system used by officials. — AFP

Martinelli joins Al-Hilal from Arsenal for reported US\$81 mln

LONDON: Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli has joined Saudi side Al-Hilal, the Premier League champions announced Thursday.

No fee was disclosed but British media reports said the deal was worth a guaranteed £60 million (US\$81 million).

That would make 25-year-old Brazil international Martinelli the most expensive player to leave the London club, following Alex Oxlade Chamberlain's £35 million exit to Liverpool in 2017.

Martinelli has signed a four-year deal with Al-Hilal, who are currently joint-top of the Saudi Pro League with Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr.

"Gabriel Martinelli has joined Saudi Pro League side Al-Hilal on a permanent transfer," said a statement on Arsenal's website.

"Proud to be blue, proud to be

Al-Hilal," said Martinelli during an unveiling video on his new club's social media channels.

He will join Ollie Watkins at Al-Hilal after the England striker left Aston Villa in a deal worth an estimated £51 million.

Martinelli's departure comes after Arsenal sold fellow left-sided forward Leandro Trossard to Besiktas.

Christos Tzolis has joined from Club Brugge but there are concerns the exits of Martinelli and Trossard could leave Arsenal short of personnel in that part of the pitch.

Martinelli made 53 appearances in all competitions last season, scoring 11 goals, as the Gunners won the top-flight title for the first time since 2004.

His nearly 300 games for Arsenal, including 62 goals, also saw him involved in their 2020

FA Cup and 2023 Community Shield successes.

But he was left out of Arsenal's first two matchday squads of the season, with manager Mikel Arteta making it clear Martinelli would struggle for game time were he to remain at the Emirates Stadium.

Former Arsenal striker Ian Wright criticised the club's decision to omit Martinelli from the squad for the opening game against Coventry.

"The way Martinelli is being treated at the moment, it really makes me feel uncomfortable," Wright told Sky Sports.

"I know they might want him out, and a lot of people might say, 'yeah, it's time for him to move him on'. But there's ways of doing that and it should suit him as well, how he wants to leave." — AFP

EPL transfer windfall a lifeline for ailing French clubs

PARIS, France: Record spending by English Premier League clubs in the summer transfer window has served as a lifeline across the Channel in France, where cash-strapped teams are more reliant on selling their best players for big money than ever before.

The transfers of Morocco midfielder Ayyoub Bouaddi from Lille to Manchester City for 100 million euros (£85.6m, \$117m) and France winger Bradley Barcola from Paris Saint-Germain to Liverpool for a total of 145 million euros (£124m, \$167m) captured many headlines.

But there was a steady flow of players heading to England from France, where an oft-derided league continues to develop and sell outstanding talents to leading sides abroad.

Qatar-owned PSG, the fourth-richest club in the world in this year's Deloitte Football Money League, are the exception.

Coach Luis Enrique insisted that Barcola left because "he wanted to have more importance in the team, and that is something you have to earn in

training. I can't guarantee that to any player".

Otherwise, these transfers are essential for French clubs, helping them stay afloat.

Statistics compiled by the website Transfermarkt show that over 20 players left France for the Premier League, including five for fees over 50 million euros.

English clubs signed Ligue 1 players for a reported total of 800 million euros in the summer window – meaning that of an overall Premier League spend of 4.1 billion euros, about one fifth went to France.

Just below the 50 million-euro mark, there was also Mali midfielder Mamadou Sangare joining Brentford from Lens for 48 million euros.

Defender Jeremy Jacquet's transfer from Rennes to Liverpool was agreed in January before becoming official in July, while Belgium forward Matias Fernandez-Pardo signed for Newcastle United from Lille.

Senegal winger Ibrahima Mbaye quit PSG for Aston Villa, and



what stands out about so many of these players is their age.

Mbaye is 18, like Bouaddi. Jacquet and Fernandez-Pardo are 21. Barcola is a comparative veteran at 24.

Ligue 1 teams will give players their chance early – Bouaddi was man of the match for Lille in a Champions League win against Real Madrid on his 17th birthday.

For decades now, players have left French clubs for more glamorous neighbouring leagues.

However, where once Lyon could keep Karim Benzema until he made almost 150 appearances before he was sold to Real



Barcola celebrates after scoring during a match. — AFP file photo

'Everyone a winner' with Barcola transfer, says PSG coach

POISSY, France: Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique insisted Thursday that the sale of France winger Bradley Barcola to Liverpool was a good deal for all parties, as the reigning European champions get ready to defend their Champions League title without one of their key players from the last two campaigns.

"Everyone is a winner," the Spaniard told reporters on the eve of his team's Ligue 1 clash at home to Monaco on Friday.

"He wanted to leave because he wanted to have more importance in the team. And that is something that you have to earn in training. I can't guarantee that to any player."

"He has been a very important player for us, and he is an incredible person. He was liked by his teammates. He still had two years left on his contract but he decided to leave and I wish him all the best. We have to accept it."



He wanted to have more importance in the team. And that is something that you have to earn in training. I can't guarantee that to any player.

Luis Enrique

Barcola, who appeared in all of France's matches at the World Cup, had not featured at all for PSG at the start of this season before joining Liverpool in a blockbuster deal for a fee of 125 million euros (£107m, \$145m) plus 20 million euros in bonuses.

The 24-year-old scored 13 goals in 49 appearances in all competitions last season for PSG as they retained the Champions League and Ligue 1 titles.

However, he was not automatically assured of his place in Luis Enrique's starting line-up, especially with Khvicha Kvaratskhelia competing to play in the same position on the wing.

PSG have brought in three new attacking players for a combined fee of around 150 million euros, with Spain World Cup final hero Ferran Torres arriving from Barcelona while Maghnes Akliouche was signed from Monaco and Mika Godts from Ajax.

"I am happy with the three players we have brought in up front. We must not make comparisons. We will see what

happens but I am happy with the transfer window," said Luis Enrique, who also saw PSG sell Portugal striker Goncalo Ramos to AC Milan and Senegal winger Ibrahima Mbaye to Aston Villa.

The former Barcelona and Spain coach insisted his new players would need "time to adapt" as PSG come into the match against Monaco having drawn their first two Ligue 1 games of the campaign with Rennes and Lille.

They also lost to Lens in the French Champions Trophy having previously beaten Aston Villa to win the UEFA Super Cup.

The Parisians start their bid to win a third straight Champions League title at home to Slovan Bratislava next Wednesday.

"Our objectives are clear. I have said it many times. I want to win the most important trophies and there is none bigger than the Champions League," added the coach, who is beginning his fourth season at the helm. — AFP

Madrid, now they must often sell sooner. Jacquet only played 33 times for Rennes before his departure.

The reason is not just the pull of the Premier League. It is also the dire financial situation French football finds itself in.

Ligue 1 is the home of back-to-back Champions League winners PSG, who by selling Barcola recouped the money already invested in three new forwards including Spain World Cup-winner Ferran Torres.

But French clubs have seen their revenues plummet due to the collapse in recent years of Ligue 1's domestic television deal.

The lack of broadcasters willing to pay for rights forced the French league to launch its own streaming service last year, but reports put the total amount of TV money to be distributed among all 18 Ligue 1 teams last season at around 200 million euros.

That is about as much as last season's Premier League champions Arsenal got on their own according to The Athletic.

"We are waiting for there to be more money flowing down to the clubs," said Lille president Olivier Letang. "At the moment there is very little and I, like my colleagues, am very worried about that."

Some of France's traditional big names were left scrambling, with Lyon selling Malick Fofana to Sunderland after missing out on a Champions League place.

Marseille made no new signings due to their finances, while Monaco were frustrated because a hoped-for big transfer to England did not happen.

They pulled the plug on selling Senegal midfielder Lamine Camara to Chelsea when it appeared Folarin Balogun was set to join Everton for £40 million, only for the USA striker to change his mind.

"We needed to reduce our wage bill by around 20 per cent, so we still need to find solutions," lamented Monaco's managing director Thiago Scurro.

Balancing the books is more important than ever in French football. — AFP

S'gor aim to end Borneo dominance in Para Sukma

KUALA LUMPUR: Selangor, who clinched the overall title at last month's Malaysia Games (Sukma) 2026, will now turn their attention to an even bigger mission: targeting 60 gold medals at the Selangor Para Sukma, which officially begins on Saturday.

Para Sukma, which will run until Sept 10, will feature 369 events across 10 sports, with the majority of them being held around the districts of Petaling Jaya and Klang, at venues adapted to meet the needs and accessibility requirements of para athletes.

The 10 para sports are athletics, swimming, badminton, table tennis, bowling, lawn bowls, archery, chess, boccia and powerlifting.

The opening ceremony is scheduled to be held at Dewan Agung Tuanku Canselor (DATC), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam on Saturday, with most competitions beginning on Sunday before the Games conclude at the same venue on Thursday.

All eyes, however, are expected to be on these venues: the Sultan Suleiman Field (athletics); Selangor Aquatics Centre (swimming); Sunway Mega Lanes (bowling); Selangor International Trade Centre (powerlifting); and Bayuemas Indoor Stadium (lawn bowls).

Selangor, who could only finish fourth with 30 golds, 42 silvers and 40 bronzes at the



Sakti and Seri are ready to welcome athletes to Selangor for the Para Sukma. — Bernama file photo



2024 edition in Sarawak, have set themselves a lofty target of doubling the gold haul on home ground this time.

Momentum is also on the side of the hosts after the Selangor Sukma contingent emerged overall champions last month with 101 gold medals - an achievement they hope will inspire the state's para athletes.

However, Selangor's path to realising the target won't be smooth sailing, as Sarawak will be arriving as defending champions after dominating the 2024 edition with a 82-53-74 medal haul.

Sabah are also expected to be among the main challengers after emerging overall runners-up two years ago with a 62-42-32 medal haul, and they are also targeting 66 gold medals this time in a bid to reclaim the title they won at the 2022 Kuala Lumpur edition.

Apart from the fight for the overall title, this year's Para Sukma will also serve as an important platform for

identifying emerging talent for the national para sports scene, with athletics, swimming and powerlifting among the disciplines offering the most number of gold medals, while providing a valuable assessment of the potential of the next generation of athletes.

With Selangor having the home ground advantage, Sarawak wanting to defend the overall title and Sabah bent on reclaiming it, the 2026 Para Sukma promises to be an open and fiercely contested battle that could unearth a new generation of Malaysian para athletes. — Bernama



Hii (left) hands over the certificate of participation to one of the participants, Coco Teo.

SDAA chief says athletics key to Sarawak's Sukma revival in Kelantan



Philip Wong

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SIBU: It is the joint responsibility of all sporting organisations and stakeholders to ensure that Sarawak can regroup and perform well at the next Malaysia Games (Sukma) in Kelantan in 2028, said Dr Gregory Hii Sui Cheng.

The Sibu Division Amateur Athletic Association (SDAAA) president said, "We have two years to raise our standard to make Sarawak the champion again."

"Athletic events, which offer a lot of gold medals, will spearhead the revival. Hopefully, the sport will help Sarawak become the next Sukma champion," he added.

Hii was speaking at the closing of the three-day World Athletics Coaches Education Certification System (CECS) Level 1 Course on Friday.

A total of 27 teacher-coaches from the central region attended the course, which was organised by the State Sports Council in collaboration with SDAAA.

Looking back at the recent 2026 Sukma, Hii said Sarawak did not do well, dropping from being champions in the 2024 edition to finishing in 4th place in Selangor.

As such, he reminded the coaches that they are the

most important link in helping Sarawak become champions again at the next Sukma.

"When you go back to your hometowns, showcase the important responsibilities that you learned in the course and try to help raise the standard of the game to make Sarawak great again."

Citing athletics, he said the sport - covering track and field events - offers many individual gold medals and should get the push to spearhead the gold medal count, since team sports like volleyball and football do not offer as many medals.

On the Sibu Open happening from Oct 3-4, Hii said the coaches should go back and encourage their athletes to train hard and aim for titles at the championships.

He said SDAAA has organised the Sibu Open for the past few years under the patronage of past president Temenggong Datuk Vincent Lau without fail, and it has produced highly encouraging results.

"We are also offering good prizes, with seven events sponsored by the corporate sector to encourage and provide additional incentives for the athletes to do well."

Meanwhile, Korea Bal won the Best Practical certificate during the coaching course, Glorycia Walter took the Best Theory certificate, while Indracalgary Piol secured the Best Overall certificate.

AFFIN teams up with Selangor FC as official banking partner

KUALA LUMPUR: AFFIN Group has entered into a partnership with Selangor FC as the club's Official Banking Partner as part of efforts to deepen its engagement with customers and communities through sport.

The agreement was signed by AFFIN Group president and chief executive officer Datuk Wan Razly Abdullah and Selangor FC chief executive officer Dr Johan Kamal Hamidon.

The signing was witnessed by Raja Muda of Selangor and Selangor FC chairman Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin

Idris Shah.

Under the partnership, both parties will explore initiatives covering banking, customer experiences, fan engagement and community programmes.

The collaboration is also expected to provide AFFIN customers and Selangor FC supporters access to exclusive privileges and football-related experiences.

Wan Razly said the partnership would enable AFFIN to bring customers and supporters closer to football through unique experiences. — Bernama

MAMC26 to showcase regional muaythai talent

Jacqueline Raphael

MIRI: The Miri Amateur Muaythai Challenge 2026 (MAMC26): The Return will provide young athletes with a safe and professionally managed platform to develop discipline, confidence and sportsmanship, said Miri Mayor Adam Yii Siew Sang.

He said the two-day event would also strengthen sporting ties by bringing together clubs, coaches and competitors from Sarawak, Sabah, Peninsular Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

"MAMC26 shows what becomes possible when sport, community and regional partnership move together: young talent receives a platform, families share an experience, and Miri strengthens its position on Borneo's sporting map," he said.

Speaking at the MAMC26 press conference here on Friday, Yii said sporting events such as the Muaythai challenge contributed to Miri's aspiration of becoming a liveable, resilient and progressive city.

He said the event could also create opportunities for local businesses, hospitality providers and tourism operators while showcasing Miri's capability to host quality regional combat-sports events.

"I am especially encouraged that the organisers place



Yii (third right) and Gavin (left) pose with other guests during the press conference on Friday.

amateur and grassroots development at the heart of the programme.

"This balance gives emerging athletes a pathway to grow and allows the opportunity for development of the youth entering the combat sporting arena," he said.

Yii also stressed that safety and integrity must remain the highest priorities, welcoming the organisers' commitment to proper sanctioning, qualified officials, medical support and responsible event management.

He called on the people of

Miri and visitors to support MAMC26, which will take place at Permymall on Sept 11 and 12.

The event, organised by Persatuan Muaythai Bahagian Miri, builds on the inaugural MAMC25, which attracted more than 100 athletes from Sarawak, Sabah, Peninsular Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

This year's event will feature amateur competitions alongside selected semi-professional and professional showcase bouts, with organisers expecting between 2,000 and 3,000 spectators.

Event chairman Gavin Ghia Mattu said MAMC26 aimed to give young and developing athletes a safe and credible platform to compete and grow while bringing the community together.

The official opening ceremony is scheduled for 7.30pm on Sept 11, and is expected to be graced by the Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

Also present at the press conference was Councillor Franklin Kesong.

Sabah FC coach looks to fans to power through Kuching City FC

Elton Gomes

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah FC head coach Juan Torres Garrido is counting on a packed Likas Stadium to give his side the extra lift they need when they face Kuching City FC in the Super League on Saturday.

The Rhinos head into the highly anticipated Borneo Derby with only two days to recover from their previous match against Selangor FC in the FA Cup, making the home crowd an important factor in what promises to be another demanding test.



Juan Torres Garrido

"We need a full stadium to give us the extra energy we need, to help us through the difficult moments and to enjoy the good moments together," said Garrido. Sabah are playing three

matches within seven days, with the congested schedule coming at a challenging stage of the season.

Garrido admitted the demands on his players had been significant, particularly with limited recovery time between matches.

"We have to play three games in seven days against two very good teams, and this comes very early in the season."

"The last game and the week of training demanded a lot of energy in less-than-ideal circumstances. We hope it will not affect the players going into the next game," he said.

The Spanish coach said the players' condition was being assessed daily, with team selection determined by the tactical requirements of each match and the energy needed to maintain Sabah's playing tempo.

"We don't see it as rotation. Our approach is more about the strategy of the game and the energy required to execute the tempo we want," he said.

Garrido expects Kuching City to provide another stern challenge, having impressed last season and strengthened their squad depth.

He also believes the competition for places within the

Kuching side will ensure those given an opportunity will be determined to make an impact.

"They were a great team last season and now they have a very deep squad to face several competitions."

"The players who get the opportunity to play will certainly try to prove that they deserve those minutes," he said.

With the derby atmosphere already building, Garrido said the significance of the fixture was being felt by Sabah's local players as well as the supporters.

"We are motivated for this Borneo Derby. We can feel it from the local players and we

can feel it from our supporters as well," he said.

Sabah have already played three home matches this season, and Garrido is hoping for another strong turnout at Likas.

"At this moment, we need our supporters to give us the extra power we need after only having two days of rest from the last game," he said.

For Garrido, the message to his players is simple - energy, positivity and ambition.

"Energy, a positive attitude, ambition and enjoying a good game."

"We promise they will have a great time," he said.



Economy Ministry examines Malaysia's preparedness for an ageing nation in Budget 2027

KUALA LUMPUR: The Economy Ministry is examining the structure of the country's preparedness as Malaysia moves towards becoming an ageing nation, through Budget 2027.

Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said this is important to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the country's economic growth, as well as to empower the next generation.

"The younger generation needs to shoulder greater responsibility for

the sustainability of the economy and the continuity of the country's growth (as we transition to an ageing nation).

"Therefore, to delve into this issue, the Economy Ministry is examining the structure of the country's preparedness for an ageing population, not only focusing on managing an elderly population, but also on preparing the younger generation for their future well-being," he said after officiating the Junior Innovathon: Di Sini Inovasi

Bermula here yesterday.

In youth development context, Akmal Nasrullah said his ministry aims to broaden their exposure to specialised programmes and to identify, in particular, economic structures and opportunities that remain unclear to them.

"We want to create opportunities for young people to explore one or two segments previously not open to them, particularly in terms of the stock market and ownership.

"This will enable them to learn

about and venture into another segment or new sector," he said.

Akmal Nasrullah also said education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) need to be strengthened through talent development from the grassroots level.

"We are giving priority to enabling these talents by equipping them with the necessary skills to become more directly involved in high-growth, high-value (HGHV) industries. — Bernama

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MPMA Sarawak calls for plastic industry efficiency

**Nur Atiqah Quratulaini**
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A group photo during Sarawak Industry Roadshow 2026: "Shaping the Futures of Plastic Innovation" on Friay.

KUCHING: The Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA) Sarawak Branch is calling on plastics manufacturers to embrace innovation and sustainability as the industry faces rising costs, supply-chain uncertainties, changing regulations and stronger global competition.

Its chairman Eddie Oon Hoon Wah said manufacturers needed to move beyond increasing production and focus on using resources more efficiently, reducing waste and creating greater value.

"The question today is no longer simply how we can produce more plastics.

"We have to ask how we can produce better plastics, use resources more efficiently, reduce waste and create greater value for our customers and our society," he said.

Oon was speaking at the MPMA Sarawak Industry Roadshow 2026, themed "Shaping the Future of Plastics Innovation", held here on Friday.

He said the industry's operating environment had changed from its earlier stages, when the focus was largely on building manufacturing capacity, improving productivity and meeting growing demand.

"Today, manufacturers must respond to rising operating costs, supply-chain uncertainties, evolving regulations, changing customer expectations and increasing international competition," he said.

At the same time, sustainability had become increasingly integrated into business

decisions, with customers paying greater attention to material sources, carbon emissions, recyclability, recycled content, traceability and resource efficiency.

Oon said these developments should also be viewed as opportunities for the industry to innovate and move towards higher-value manufacturing.

He said manufacturers could pursue this by developing products that use fewer resources, improving production efficiency, reducing energy consumption and waste, developing packaging that provides the same or better performance with less material, designing products with end-of-life considerations and investing in recycling and circularity technologies.

Oon also stressed that green manufacturing and competitiveness could go hand in hand.

"Using less material can reduce costs. Improving energy efficiency can reduce both emissions and operating expenses.

"Reducing production waste means better resource utilisation, while modern technology can improve productivity and help manufacturers meet increasingly demanding environmental requirements," he said.

He said the industry's objective



Oon delivers his opening remarks.

should not simply be to become greener, but to become a "greener, smarter and more competitive industry".

"This is particularly relevant as Sarawak seeks to strengthen its position as a regional manufacturing hub and move towards higher-value, circular and technology-driven manufacturing," he said.

Oon said MPMA's sustainability efforts dated back to 1992, when the association established a Plastics Waste Management Task Force to promote the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle, as well as responsible plastics use and better waste management.

He added that the future of the plastics industry would depend on continued investment in technology, research and development, skills development and stronger collaboration across

The question today is no longer simply how we can produce more plastics.

Eddie Oon Hoon Wah

the value chain.

This included closer cooperation among resin producers, manufacturers, machinery suppliers, recyclers, customers and policymakers.

The roadshow featured discussions on flexible and rigid packaging, packaging performance, material reduction, recyclability and polymer innovations for industrial and consumer applications.

"These are not just technical improvements.

"They are part of a much bigger transition towards a more efficient, competitive and sustainable plastics industry," he said.

Oon also encouraged participants to establish new connections and identify practical solutions that could benefit their businesses.

"Innovation does not always begin in a laboratory. Sometimes, innovation begins with a conversation," he said.

Bullish on Ta Ann amidst firmer CPO prices, consistent cash returns

**Rachel Lau**
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KUCHING: The research arm of MBSB Investment Bank Bhd (MBSB Research) has turned bullish on Ta Ann Holdings Bhd (TaAnn), upgrading the plantation group to 'buy' from 'neutral' and raising its target price (TP) to RM6.72 from RM6.08 following a meeting with management.

In corporate update report from September 4, the research arm said the upgrade reflects renewed upside from firmer crude palm oil (CPO) prices, supported by Ta Ann's historically strong share-price correlation with CPO movements and its consistent cash returns.

"We see renewed upside from firmer CPO prices, given Ta Ann's historically strong share-price correlation with CPO movements, while its consistent cash returns provide further support," MBSB Research said.

During its financial year 2025 (FY25) ending Dec 31, 2025, Ta Ann paid dividends of 40 sen per share, translating to yields of more than 7 per cent and a payout ratio of near 80 per cent.

For FY26 and FY27, MBSB Research is expecting Ta Ann to continue offering attractive dividend yields of 6.4 per cent and 5.6 per cent, respectively.

Their new TP for Ta Ann is based on a FY27 earnings per share (EPS) of 56 sen and price-earnings ratio (PER) of 12-times.

Operationally, MBSB Research said Ta Ann's fresh fruit bunch (FFB) production remained on track, with management maintaining its FY26 output guidance of between 730,000 and 740,000 tonnes.

This would represent growth of

about six to eight per cent year-on-year from 686,000 tonnes in FY25, although it remains slightly below the group's initial budget of 770,000 tonnes.

"Management remains reasonably confident of achieving this, supported by visible bunch formation heading into the higher production cycle, subject to weather conditions," it said.

MBSB expects the production momentum to remain healthy into the second half of FY26, while oil extraction rates are also expected to improve as crop production picks up.

Ta Ann's oil extraction rate (OER) eased to 19.88 per cent in 2QFY26 from 20.62 per cent a year earlier, mainly due to weather conditions. However, management indicated that mill OER has since recovered to around 20 per cent, with further improvement expected in 2HFY26.

While dry weather remains a key watchpoint, MBSB Research said Ta Ann appeared relatively sheltered from its impact as about 70 per cent of the group's planted area is located on peat land, which provides better moisture retention during dry spells if water tables are properly managed.

Nevertheless, the research house cautioned that prolonged El Nino conditions could still affect future yields.

Besides this, cost pressures are also expected to ease heading in 2HFY26 as MBSB Research notes that AT Ann's CPO cost of production had fallen to around RM2,000 per tonne in 2QFY26 after palm kernel (PK) credit.

Ta Ann aims to continue keeping FY26 production costs at around RM2,100 per tonne, with higher production expected to improved fixed-cost absorption.

Petronas signs deal to enhance upstream data platform with agentic AI

KUCHING: Petroliaam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) has signed an agreement with Iraya Energies Sdn Bhd (Iraya Energies) to enhance its upstream data platform, Petronas myPROdata, with agentic artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.

The national oil company, through Malaysia Petroleum Management (MPM), said in a statement on Thursday that the enhancement would provide investors and industry players with insight to Malaysia's exploration and production (E&P) data to support informed investment decisions and reinforce the country's attractiveness as an upstream investment destination.

Petronas myPROdata is a web-

based platform providing access to subsurface and surface data on exploration blocks, discovered resource opportunities and producing fields in Malaysia.

The enhanced platform will integrate geological, geophysical, engineering and other relevant data with agentic AI capabilities that can autonomously analyse and connect multiple data sources.

This will enable users to navigate, analyse and derive insights from complex upstream data more efficiently.

It will also support comprehensive end-to-end evaluations, from identifying prospective areas and assessing resources to evaluating development opportunities and

commercial viability, it said.

MPM senior vice president Datuk Bacho Piong said the enhanced platform would help investors assess Malaysia's upstream opportunities with greater speed and confidence.

"By bringing together trusted data and AI-powered intelligence, we aim to enable faster and more informed investment decisions, contributing to Petronas' ambition to attract approximately RM50 billion to RM60 billion in annual upstream investments while shortening the journey from discovery to first hydrocarbon from 100 months to 50 months.

"This will reinforce Malaysia's position as a competitive and future-ready upstream

investment destination," he said.

Under the agreement, Iraya Energies will serve as consortium lead integrator.

It will be responsible for establishing the technical, commercial and security foundations required to deliver the AI-powered insights and to facilitate the broader programme rollout.

Petronas said the initiative demonstrated its role, through MPM, as the shaper, accelerator and regulator of Malaysia's upstream industry.

This is by way of strengthening the investment ecosystem and supporting the continued growth and responsible development of the nation's hydrocarbon resources, it added.



During FY25, Ta Ann paid dividends of 40 sen per share, translating to yields of more than 7 per cent and a pay-out ratio of near 80 per cent.

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MAG had completed drug screening of more than 1,500 pilots across its airlines on Aug 15, while screening was also conducted on all pilots and cabin crew at Firefly. — Bernama photo

MAG will not negotiate on safety, to conduct annual drug screening

KUALALUMPUR: Safety remains a non-negotiable priority for Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) as it continues to strengthen its safety measures, processes and standards, its president and group chief executive officer, Captain Nasaruddin A Bakar, said.

This is to ensure that the national carrier earns the trust of its customers daily.

In this regard, Captain Nasaruddin said MAG had completed drug screening of more than 1,500 pilots across its airlines on Aug 15. Screening was also conducted on all pilots and cabin crew at Firefly.

"As of yesterday, we have covered 98.8 per cent of our cabin crew in Malaysia Airlines, and we hope to reach 100 per cent today," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

"With that, we would have covered all our flight crew, both Malaysia Airlines and Firefly. So far, all the tests were negative,"

As of yesterday, we have covered 98.8 per cent of our cabin crew in Malaysia Airlines, and we hope to reach 100 per cent today.

Captain Nasaruddin A Bakar

he said.

Captain Nasaruddin said the initial screening was conducted as a one-off exercise. It would now become a mandatory annual requirement for all cabin crew.

"We are also doing random testing almost every week.

"Safety demands discipline in the decisions we make, the standards we uphold and the way we respond when things don't go as planned," he said.

He noted that getting the fundamentals right was increasingly important as the aviation industry faces various external pressures, including fuel price volatility, supply chain constraints and geopolitical uncertainty.

"Demand remains encouraging, but we continue to navigate fuel prices, volatility, supply chain constraints and geopolitical uncertainty.

"Fuel alone for MAG accounts for close to 40 per cent of our total operating costs. Every US\$1 increase in fuel prices has an impact of approximately RM50 million on our costs," he said.

While MAG cannot control such external pressures, it can determine how it prepares and responds to them.

This includes strengthening business areas and safety measures to improve competitiveness, and delivering products and experiences valued by customers. — Bernama

MAG sees significant pressure for FY26 amid higher fuel costs

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) sees significant pressure for its financial year 2026 (FY26) amid sustained increases in fuel prices.

MAG president and group chief executive officer Captain Nasaruddin A Bakar said fuel prices had risen significantly following the escalation of the conflict in West Asia, placing additional pressure on the group's financial position.

"Yesterday (Sept 3), it was at US\$160 per barrel (for jet fuel). It has (put) significant pressure on our financial funds, and that will have an impact on the group," he told a press conference yesterday.

He said the group had performed well operationally during the first two months of the year and recorded profits during the period before the impact of the West Asia crisis was felt.

The group is also closely monitoring market conditions and making targeted adjustments to its network to manage costs and safeguard its financial performance.

"We are very cautious. We are doing a surgical cut on our



Captain Nasaruddin A Bakar

destinations. Today, we have been cutting about five per cent of our available seat kilometres (ASKs), approximately about 8,000 of our total flights," he added.

Captain Nasaruddin said MAG would continue to monitor demand and market conditions daily to determine the appropriate markets and routes to maintain the group's financial performance.

On the government's support for the aviation industry, especially expectations for the upcoming tabling of Budget 2027, he noted that the government had been supportive of MAG and other airlines in the country amid a challenging operating environment.

He said MAG has also been

engaging regularly with the government to discuss measures that could help ease cost pressures, including certain airport-related fees.

"We know there are a lot of obstacles out there with regard to the fuel price in particular, especially at this point in time. It reached a peak of US\$230 per barrel recently, and that's a huge impact, not only to us, but to the global industry as well," he pointed out.

As a national carrier, he noted that it is important for MAG to continue flying and to ensure that the airline flies to the right markets that are profitable to support the growth of the country.

He also revealed that the group has hedged fuel at approximately about 36 to 50 per cent.

"We hedge our fuel every quarter. And moving forward to 2027, it really depends on the fuel out there in the market. We will continue hedging, and our current strategy is every 12 months running.

"Moreover, with the hedging that we have got as a group, it has helped us a lot in terms of our past performance," he added. — Bernama

Insurers post strong growth despite margin pressure



Nur Atiqah Quratulaini

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KUCHING: Malaysia's insurance sector is expected to record strong top-line growth in 2026, although earnings could remain under pressure from higher claims and reinsurance costs, according to MBSB Research.

The research house maintained its positive view on the sector, saying strong macroeconomic conditions should continue to support growth in both the life and general insurance segments.

It expects top-line revenue to grow by 7-9 per cent year-on-year, while the bottom line is

expected to remain broadly flat as claims and reinsurance costs rise and investment income remains volatile.

"As a proxy to economic growth, a strong macroeconomic backdrop bodes well for the insurance sector's growth prospects," the research house said.

A rebound in total industry volume (TIV), particularly in June, was seen as encouraging for the general insurance segment given its reliance on motor premium growth.

The life insurance segment has also staged a recovery, driven mainly by employee benefits and bancassurance, while protection products remain a key growth area. The family segment is becoming less dependent on

credit-linked products, with Group medical, term and retail products contributing to growth in regular premiums.

However, claims inflation remains the main downside risk.

"Claims inflation remains the most pressing downside to watch for investment income volatility too," the research house said.

Motor and medical insurance are expected to face the greatest pressure, with overseas-manufactured motor parts, drug raw materials and medical equipment affected by logistical disruptions.

It said medical claims could become more challenging in the second half of 2026, partly due to a rise in acute disease cases and higher costs of medical-related inputs.

Malaysia Airlines to resume Busan, Firefly to launch Kunming; MAG catering facility due by 4Q 2028

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Airlines will mark its return to Busan from Dec 2, 2026, reconnecting Kuala Lumpur with South Korea's second-largest city after last serving the route between 1996 and 1998.

MAG president and group chief executive officer Captain Nasaruddin A Bakar said, upon resumption, the service with four weekly flights operated by the airline's Boeing 737-8 aircraft, would complement the national carrier' existing connectivity to Seoul.

Meanwhile, sister airline Firefly

will soon mark its entry into China with the launch of direct services to Kunming (KMG), operated using the airline's Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

"We are continuing to grow with purpose, strengthening our network where there is demand, reconnecting established markets and expanding into new ones, while investing in the capabilities that support our airlines and customers," he said in a press conference here, yesterday.

Beyond the network expansions, he also said that Malaysia Airlines is enhancing its connectivity with

additional capacity to Fukuoka in Japan, Brisbane (Australia) and Surabaya (Indonesia) in response to growing demand.

"Services to Fukuoka will increase from five weekly flights to daily operations from Dec 1, 2026, following the route's resumption on Sept 2," he said.

Malaysia Airlines remains the only carrier offering non-stop flights from Kuala Lumpur to Fukuoka. Meanwhile, he said Brisbane flights will also increase from six weekly services to daily from Oct 25, with the airline deploying its new-generation

A330neo aircraft on the route.

"From Nov 1, the airline will add two weekly flights to Surabaya, increasing services from 14 to 16 per week and providing greater access to East Java's commercial, cultural and natural attractions," he said.

On its new in-flight catering facility under MAG Culinary Solutions (MAGCS), Captain Nasaruddin said the facility near Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) is targeted for completion in the fourth quarter (4Q) of 2028, with operations expected to commence in 2Q

2029. He said groundworks for the facility commenced in July 2026 and, once operational, it is expected to produce about 50,000 meals daily, almost double MAGCS' current handling capacity.

"The facility is expected to support MAG's airlines as well as third-party carriers, while creating employment opportunities and new revenue streams for the group.

MAGCS was established in September 2025 following the insourcing of Malaysia Airlines' catering operations in 2023.

He also said fleet modernisation is another key part of the equation as the group has received 26 modern aircraft that supports key markets across its network.

Captain Nasaruddin added that these initiatives, including routes expansion, in-flight catering facility and fleet modernisation, would give the group greater capability, better reliability and the capacity to serve the markets more effectively, in line with the Long-Term Business Plan 3.0 as it progresses towards the Destination 2030 ambitions. — Bernama

Analysis: OPR to stay at 2.75 pct through 2026



James Wong

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KUCHING: Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) is expected to keep the overnight policy rate (OPR) at 2.75 per cent for the rest of the year as its latest policy statement is seen as reinforcing a comfortable hold.

Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd (Kenanga Research) in a note on Friday said the September statement gave little reason to expect any near-term move.

The latest statement reinforces our view that BNM remains comfortably on hold.

"With growth now assessed at around 5.0 per cent in 2026 and inflation (July: 1.8 per cent) well below levels that would warrant tightening, there is limited urgency for further policy adjustment.

"We therefore expect the OPR to remain at 2.75 per cent, as the current stance balances firmer growth momentum and emerging external cost pressures," it said.

To recap, the Monetary Policy

Committee (MPC) held the OPR at 2.75 per cent at its September 3 meeting, its fifth of the year, in line with house views and market consensus. The Statutory Reserve Requirement was also kept at 1 per cent.

The MPC said the current policy stance was "consistent with the outlook of continued price stability and sustainable economic growth", which was largely unchanged from its previous statement.

Furthermore, Public Investment Bank Bhd (PublicInvest Research) is similarly maintaining its OPR call at 2.75 per cent through end-2026, implying another hold at the final MPC meeting in November.

"Further easing is difficult to justify after the robust 1H26 growth outturn and BNM's expectation for growth to settle around 5.0 per cent this year.

"At the same time, a hike still requires clearer evidence that upstream cost pressures are reaching consumers more broadly," it said in a separate note.

PublicInvest Research said the September statement retained a broadly neutral policy tone but

the balance of language turned firmer compared with July, leaving it a neutral hold with stronger growth conviction and a sharper inflation-watch bias.

It said the policy risk sits mainly in external cost pass-through, with Brent trading back in the US\$90 per barrel handle as renewed US-Iran tensions and Hormuz-related supply risks keep the energy premium alive.

Domestic cost markers are also less benign, with the sales and service tax (SST) broadening, higher Automatic Fuel Adjustment charges and strengthening El Nino conditions adding pressure to utilities, food and selected services.

"For BNM, the relevant threshold rests on whether these pressures gain breadth and persistence across core services and wage-setting, rather than the oil level alone," it said.

The research house said the evidence still favours a measured policy response, with BUDI95 keeping subsidised RON95 at RM1.99 per litre and the monthly eligibility limit restored to 300 litres, limiting the first-round household fuel impact.



The September statement retained a broadly neutral policy tone but the balance of language turned firmer compared with July, leaving it a neutral hold with stronger growth conviction and a sharper inflation-watch bias. — Bernama photo

Highlights

BURSA MALAYSIA

Bursa Malaysia ends lower on profit-taking in plantation stocks

BURSA Malaysia ended lower on the final trading day of the week, weighed down by the plantation sector as investors locked in gains following its recent strong performance.

At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) eased 7.03 points 1,708.10, compared with yesterday's close of 1,715.13.

The benchmark index opened 139 points lower at 1,713.74 and fluctuated between 1,704.86 and 1,715.20 throughout the day.

The broader market was negative with losers outnumbering gainers 568 to 523, while 596 counters were unchanged, 1,085 untraded and 19 suspended.

Turnover expanded to 4.33 billion units valued at RM2.98 billion from 3.90 billion units valued at RM3.21 billion on Thursday.

IPFA Sdn Bhd director of investment strategy and country economist Mohd Sedek Jantan said the FBM KLCI closed lower, dragged down by weakness in the plantation sector as investors took profit following the sector's strong recent performance.

"The pullback was largely anticipated and appears to reflect a combination of profit-taking and valuation consolidation rather than a deterioration in the crude palm oil (CPO) outlook.

"November CPO futures remain firm at around RM4,897 per tonne, up about 22 per cent year-to-date, maintaining a supportive earnings backdrop for plantation companies," he said.

Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA)

Average Retail Prices Of Selected Commodities In Kuching (4 September 2026)

COMMODITIES

VEGETABLES

Prices (RM/Kg)

Round Cabbage 6.00
Spinach 6.47
Water Spinach 6.30
Chinese Mustard 9.00
Chinese Kale 9.00
Bean Sprout 3.00
Cucumber 5.45
Brinjal 8.45
Local Tomato 6.00
Highland Tomato 9.00
Long Bean 7.75
French Bean 13.93
Lady's Finger 7.95
Lentils 6.00
Pumpkin 6.00
Bitter Melon 10.00
Lemongrass (Midin) 10.00
Old Ginger 8.23
Young Ginger 8.90
Red Chili (Kulai) 18.00
Red Chili (Local/Oil) 17.75
Shallot 5.25
Onion (Bombay) 4.50
Onion (Holland) 3.80
Garlic 7.50
Imported Potato 2.93
Imported Carrot 4.33
Grind Coconut 10.00
Seed Coconut 3.00
Santam 9.00

POULTRY

Crossbreed Male/Female TU
Kampung Male/Female TU
Standard Chicken 10.80
Super Chicken 10.80
Fresh Meat Local 65.00
Imported Meat 40.00

EGGS (* RM/BIJI)

Chicken Egg - Grade A* 0.57
- Grade B* 0.53
- Grade C* 0.50
- Salted Egg* 1.20

FRUITS (* RM/KG) (* RM/BIJI)

Papaya 5.17
Exotica Papaya 5.25
Watermelon 5.90
Guava 6.63
Starfruits 10 4.88
Orange (Local) 4.68
Mas Bananas 5.90
Emban Bananas 2.90
Rastali Bananas 4.38
Honey Dew 6.85
Sarawak Pineapple 3.50

* Prices collected at Medan Niaga Satok

Banks' asset quality resilient on healthy buffers, credit risk mgt

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian banks' asset quality remains resilient, supported by healthy loss-absorption buffers and proactive credit risk management, RAM Ratings said.

In its Banking Quarterly Update for the second quarter (2Q) of 2026, the credit rating agency said this was despite heightened uncertainties stemming from the West Asia conflict and ongoing United States (US) trade tensions.

The banking system's gross impaired loan (GIL) ratio edged up to 1.43 per cent at end-June 2026, from 1.37 per cent at end-December 2025.

"Nevertheless, overall credit fundamentals remain sound, supported by healthy loss-absorption buffers and banks' proactive credit risk management," it said in a statement yesterday.

RAM expects the GIL ratio to remain broadly stable at around 1.4 per cent by end-2026,

although it anticipates higher delinquencies in certain loan segments.

Encouragingly, most banks have not reported any material increase in requests for repayment assistance.

"Favourable labour market conditions, as reflected in the low unemployment rate of three per cent, will help mitigate further deterioration in asset quality," said RAM Financial Institution Ratings senior vice-president Wong Yin Ching.

The agency said the annualised average credit cost ratio of eight selected local banks remained largely stable at 18 basis points (bps) in 2Q 2026, compared with 19 bps in 1Q 2026.

Most banks continued to maintain management overlays, with several increasing provisions during the quarter amid macroeconomic uncertainties.

Meanwhile, the average GIL coverage ratio, including

regulatory reserves, remained healthy at 139 per cent, well above the pre-pandemic level of 107 per cent at end-2019.

Banking sector loan growth strengthened to 5.5 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) in the first half (1H) of 2026, from 4.8 per cent in 2025, driven primarily by business loans, which grew 6.1 per cent, while household lending growth moderated to 5.0 per cent.

Growth in business financing was largely attributable to corporate borrowers rather than small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Meanwhile, growth in residential mortgages, the largest subsegment of household loans, continued to decelerate over the past two to three years, easing to 5.4 per cent in 1H 2026 from 5.9 per cent in 2025 and 6.9 per cent in 2024.

"Net interest margins contracted by three bps quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) to 2.01 per cent, reflecting intense

competition for deposits and loans, and are expected to remain under pressure for the rest of the year.

"Nevertheless, stronger non-interest income and improved cost efficiency more than offset margin compression, lifting the average pre-tax return on assets of eight selected local banks to 1.39 per cent in 2Q 2026, from 1.33 per cent in 1Q 2026," it said.

The banking system's common equity tier-1 ratio declined to 13.9 per cent at end-June 2026, from 14.7 per cent a year earlier, primarily due to stronger loan growth, lower securities valuations and higher dividend distributions.

The eight selected banks in RAM's roundup are AFFIN Bank Bhd, Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd, AMMB Holdings Bhd, CIMB Group Holdings Bhd, Hong Leong Bank Bhd, Malayan Banking Bhd, Public Bank Bhd and RHB Bank Bhd. — Bernama

MClean proposes private placement to raise RM17.2 mln for expansion



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catering to anticipated demand from existing and prospective customers.

The indicative purchase consideration for the property is approximately RM18 million and is expected to be funded through a combination of bank borrowings, proceeds from the private placement and/or internally generated funds.

The group also intends to establish a new production line comprising a deionised water treatment plant, ISO Class 5, 6 and 7 cleanroom facilities, and two cleaning lines at the proposed Johor facility.

It said the new production line is expected to account for approximately 20 per cent of the group's enlarged production capacity upon completion.

The expansion will complement MClean's three existing production lines in Thailand, with two currently operating at full capacity.

The third line was fully installed in March 2026 and has commenced customer qualification programmes, with three qualifications secured to date and two more targeted for completion by end-September 2026.

"The Proposed Private Placement gives MClean additional financial flexibility to invest in the capacity we need to meet upcoming demand, particularly from our new semiconductor business.

"We are preparing to expand our precision cleaning capabilities in Malaysia while continuing to strengthen our operations across the region," said MClean executive chairman Datuk Dr Terence Tea Yeok Kian.

He said the exercise would

also provide an opportunity to broaden participation in MClean among institutional investors.

"Our focus remains on deploying capital carefully towards areas that can strengthen the business and create sustainable value for our shareholders over the longer term," he said.

The proposed private placement will be undertaken pursuant to the general mandate approved by shareholders at MClean's 16th Annual General Meeting on June 23, 2026.

The issue price will be determined and announced at a later date and will be fixed at a discount of not more than 10 per cent to the volume weighted average market price of MClean shares for the five market days immediately preceding the relevant price-fixing date.

The placement may be implemented in one or more tranches within six months from the date of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd's approval for the listing and quotation of the placement shares, or such extended period as may be approved.

The exercise is subject to Bursa Securities' approval for the listing and quotation of the new shares on the ACE Market.

Subject to the relevant approval and barring unforeseen circumstances, MClean expects the proposed private placement to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2026.

TA Securities Holdings Bhd has been appointed principal adviser and placement agent for the exercise.

Money Market

SHORT-TERM interbank rates remained stable yesterday after Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) conducted operations in the financial system.

Liquidity in the conventional system expanded to RM36.1 billion from RM33.46 billion earlier, while liquidity in the Islamic system increased to RM23.0 billion from RM20.86 billion this morning.

BNM had revised the murabahah overnight tender to RM23.0 billion from RM21.1 billion.

Earlier, BNM conducted two reverse repo tenders as well as an Islamic reverse repo (sell-and-buyback agreements) tender.

Rubber

THE rubber market ended higher yesterday, supported by firmer crude oil prices and a weaker ringgit against the US dollar, amid mixed signals from regional rubber markets, a dealer said.

She said market sentiment was also buoyed by concerns over potential supply disruptions following expectations of a strengthening El Niño.

"El Niño-related supply risks provided support, as the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) expects the weather phenomenon to intensify further and persist into early 2027, potentially affecting rubber production.

"Sentiment was also supported by higher crude oil prices, which were on track for significant weekly gains amid renewed military hostilities between the United States (US) and Iran," she told Bernama.

TOP 20 GAINERS					
STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
F&N	89,400	2,488.0	2,452.0	2,476.0	+ 38.0
NESTLE	46,300	9,534.0	9,400.0	9,484.0	+ 36.0
NOTION	47,703,300	73.0	51.5	68.5	+ 17.0
CHB	4,026,400	208.0	189.0	204.0	+ 17.0
VITROX	8,355,700	933.0	887.0	916.0	+ 16.0
HSI-CWS4	20,000	73.5	68.5	73.5	+ 16.0
PARAGON	100,100	146.0	135.0	146.0	+ 13.0
HSI-CWUS	13,890,900	74.5	66.0	71.0	+ 12.5
HSI-CWSQ	1,593,000	46.0	39.5	46.0	+ 12.5
SUNCON	1,949,000	798.0	786.0	795.0	+ 12.0
HSI-CWS5	8,000	54.5	49.5	53.5	+ 12.0
HSI-CWS9	600,000	60.5	56.5	60.5	+ 12.0
MNHLG	4,209,000	367.0	350.0	365.0	+ 11.0
MFCB	3,125,000	294.0	284.0	293.0	+ 11.0
NOTION-WD4	449,700	43.5	30.5	40.0	+ 9.5
HSI-CWU2	301,000	55.0	51.0	53.5	+ 9.5
KERJAYA	2,232,200	318.0	307.0	317.0	+ 9.0
UMSINT	63,000	810.0	802.0	810.0	+ 9.0
HSI-CWSU	13,482,900	39.0	31.0	36.5	+ 9.0
HSI-CWUH	935,000	41.5	36.0	39.5	+ 9.0

TOP 20 LOSERS					
STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
UTDPLT	711,700	3,316.0	3,202.0	3,206.0	- 96.0
CARLSBG	2,166,900	1,400.0	1,284.0	1,302.0	- 84.0
HEIM	1,147,000	1,570.0	1,474.0	1,484.0	- 80.0
PETGAS	358,500	1,760.0	1,722.0	1,726.0	- 36.0
HLBANK	182,200	2,378.0	2,360.0	2,366.0	- 22.0
PETDAG	316,400	2,040.0	2,010.0	2,016.0	- 22.0
LPI	96,600	1,348.0	1,320.0	1,322.0	- 22.0
MPI	123,900	3,998.0	3,850.0	3,940.0	- 20.0
SDG	25,895,000	640.0	602.0	620.0	- 20.0
UWC	4,211,700	657.0	627.0	632.0	- 18.0
HSI-PWT1	13,368,300	52.0	46.5	48.0	- 13.0
KLK	753,100	2,238.0	2,204.0	2,226.0	- 12.0
PPB	118,600	995.0	981.0	984.0	- 12.0
MI	6,063,000	910.0	865.0	870.0	- 12.0
LTKM	3,100	122.0	110.0	110.0	- 12.0
TAANN	402,300	629.0	611.0	619.0	- 10.0
HSI-PWVN	300,000	54.5	51.0	51.0	- 10.0
AEONCR	178,800	560.0	553.0	553.0	- 9.0
HSI-PWT5	1,243,700	26.0	22.0	23.5	- 8.5
HSI-PWVF	3,807,400	35.5	31.0	33.0	- 8.5

Commodity Indices

KLSE

FBMEMAS 12,625.45 (-57.89)

FBMKLCI 1,708.10 (-7.03)

CONSUMER PRODUCTS 483.31 (-2.03)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS 186.96 (-0.20)

CONSTRUCTION 310.86 (-0.98)

FINANCIAL SERVICES 20,161.49 (-45.34)

ENERGY 805.62 (-4.41)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS 403.42 (+5.22)

HEALTH CARE 1,487.38 (-14.86)

TRANSPORTATION 1,029.85 (-6.45)

PROPERTY 1,080.96 (-6.17)

PLANTATION 9,337.92 (-156.10)

FBMSHA 12,360.70 (-81.87)

FBMACE 5,217.47 (+29.81)

TECHNOLOGY 72.45 (+0.08)

S*PORE SII 5,809.72 +62.01

TOKYO NIKKEI 65,020.94 +806.46

TOPIX 4,103.23 +1.19

HK HANG SENG 25,650.87 +437.56

AUST ALL ORDS 9,196.00 -2.30

Commodities

PEPPER

Date: 4.9.2026

* Average Pepper price (RM/tonne)

SOUTHERN REGION

KUCHING SERIAN SRI AMAN BETONG

25,230 25,730 25,130 26,250

36,290 36,380 35,500 37,810

NORTHERN REGION

SARIKEI BINTANGOR SIBU KAPIT BINTULU MRR

24,960 25,830 24,130 24,130 21,750 21,380

36,180 37,000 34,450 34,450 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 14,500 14,500 14,500 14,300 14,300 14,300

SARIKEI 14,500 14,500 14,500 14,300 14,300 14,300

SIBU 14,500 14,500 14,500 14,300 14,300 14,300

TAWAU 15,000 15,000 15,000 14,800 14,800 14,800

TENOM 15,000 15,000 15,000 14,800 14,800 14,800

* Not Graded

Source : Malaysian Cocoa Board

Exchange Rates			
EXCHANGE RATES ISSUED BY MALAYAN BANKING BHD: SEPT 4			
	SELLING	BUYING	BUYING
	TT/OD	TT	OD
1 US Dollar	4.1075	3.9615	3.9515
1 Australian Dollar	2.9660	2.8470	2.8310
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2340	3.1340	3.1260
1 Canadian Dollar	2.9700	2.8860	2.8740
1 Euro	4.7690	4.6140	4.5940
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.4200	2.3310	2.3150
1 Papua N Guinea Kina	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2340	3.1340	3.1260
1 Sterling Pound	5.5480	5.3710	5.3510
1 Swiss Franc	5.1050	4.8880	4.8730
100 UAE Dirham	112.820	106.970	106.770
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.3970	3.1710	2.9710
100 Chinese Renminbi	61.3800	58.7700	N/A
100 Danish Krone	65.4000	60.1700	59.9700
100 Hongkong Dollar	52.8000	50.1600	49.9600
100 Indian Rupee	4.4300	4.1100	3.9100
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0243	0.0214	0.0164
100 Japanese Yen	2.6500	2.5270	2.5170
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	45.2300	41.6100	41.4100
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5400	1.3700	1.1700
100 Philippine Peso	6.6500	6.2600	6.0600
100 Qatar Riyal	113.600	107.840	107.640
100 Saudi Riyal	110.280	104.690	104.490
100 South Africa Rand	26.5400	23.9700	23.7700
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.3100	1.1500	0.9500
100 Swedish Krona	44.2900	40.3400	40.1400
100 Thai Baht	13.0000	11.5300	11.1300

Scoreboard				
	UP	DOWN	+/-	TRADED
CONSUMER PRIC & SERV	52	53	74	179
IND-PROD & SERVICES	69	53	88	210
CONSTRUCTION	16	13	23	52
TECHNOLOGY	27	21	11	59
FINANCIAL SERVICES	8	15	8	31
PROPERTY	25	32	31	88
PLANTATION	7	21	10	38
REIT	7	8	4	19
CLOSED END FUND	0	0	1	1
ENERGY	11	17	12	40
HEALTH CARE	4	11	8	23
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA	9	4	4	17
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	6	8	12	26
UTILITIES	5	6	1	12
BUSINESS TRUST	1	0	0	1
STRCWARR	184	242	199	625
ACE-MKT	88	61	109	258
BONDS/LOAN	0	2	0	2
ETF	4	1	1	6
LEAP-MKT	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	523	568	596	1,687

MRB Prices		
SMR CLOSING PRICES (SEN/KG): SEPT 4		
SEPTEMBER		
SEN PER KG/CENTS PER KG		
SMR LV	1,171.00	/ 295.50
SMR L	1,161.00	/ 292.95
SMR 5	978.50	/ 246.90
SMR GP	973.50	/ 245.65
SMR 10	963.50	/ 243.10
SMR 20	968.50	/ 241.85
CENTRIFUGED LATEX: LOCAL PRICE(ISO 2004) IN SEN/KG (60% DRC)		
LATEX IN BULK	690.50	
TONE OF MARKET : VERY STEADY		



Ten Most Active					
COUNTER (MID)	VOL (SEN)	HI (SEN)	LO (SEN)	L/DONE	+/-
ZETRIX	1,379,609,400	30.0	24.5	25.5	+ 1.5
CUSCAPI	114,293,000	6.0	4.0	4.5	- 0.5
HSI-PWVE	68,473,700	23.0	20.5	21.0	- 6.0
INGENIEU	59,075,500	4.5	3.5	4.5	unch
HSI-PWTX	51,423,100	13.0	10.0	11.0	- 5.5
NOTION	47,703,300	73.0	51.5	68.5	+ 17.0
DNEX	38,398,900	47.0	45.0	47.0	+ 1.0
JCY	35,038,500	55.0	50.0	55.0	+ 4.5
TANCO	33,444,100	21.0	18.0	20.0	+ 2.0
HHRG	30,330,500	15.5	14.0	14.5	- 0.5

Interbank Rates			
KUALA LUMPUR INTERBANK OFFER RATES: SEPT 4			
1M	3.01	HIBOR(HK\$)	
2M	3.45	1M	2.84268
3M	3.47	2M	2.94339
6M	3.35	3M	3.03024
12M	3.79	6M	3.22988
		12M	3.55452

Gold	
THE PHYSICAL PRICE OF GOLD AS AT 5 PM STOOD AT RM563.40 PER GRAMME, UP RM5.01 FROM RM558.39 AT 5 PM PREVIOUSLY.	



People visit a pocket park transformed from a previously underused space beneath a flyover in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province.



An aerial drone photo taken on July 29, 2025 shows a view of the Yangtze River in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province. — Xinhua photos

WUHAN: As the summer sun blazes over Wuhan, a city in central China known for its intense heat, gym operator Wu Jing has found an unlikely source of cooling: the Yangtze River.

Wu used to spend about 15,000 yuan (about US\$2,212) a month on electricity to cool his 1,200-square-meter fitness club.

The bill fell to about 10,000 yuan last month after the gym switched from conventional air conditioning to a centralised river-water cooling system.

Wu said the new system also keeps temperatures more consistent throughout the gym, so club members don't have to deal with sudden changes when moving to the stretching area after working up a sweat.

The gym is among several buildings cooled by a river-water energy station that began trial operations this summer.

As a government-backed low-carbon demonstration project, the station currently supplies cooling to about 260,000 square meters of building space, including a primary school and a commercial complex, and is eventually expected to cover more than 2.1 million square meters.

Water is drawn from about five meters above the bed of the Yangtze, China's longest river.

At that depth, the water temperature ranges from 23 to 29 degrees Celsius, well below summer air temperatures, which can exceed 35 degrees Celsius, said Xiao Haixi, executive deputy general manager of the project company.

After filtration, heat pumps use the temperature difference to cool buildings in summer and heat them in winter before returning the water to the

Chinese cities promote greener 'central cooling' to beat heat

Yangtze.

According to Xiao, the system uses the river water only for heat exchange and does not consume it, and river water, water circulating inside the energy station and water used in buildings are kept in three separate systems.

The water volume drawn from and returned to the Yangtze amounts to less than 0.01 per cent of the river's flow, thus the water's temperature fluctuates only slightly after heat exchange, said Xiao.

"The ecological impact is therefore limited and meets relevant standards."

Once fully operational, the project is expected to save 7,374 tonnes of standard coal and cut carbon dioxide emissions by 18,000 tonnes annually — equivalent to planting 1.05 million trees, Xiao added.

The main structure of a 30,000-cubic-meter energy storage pool has also been completed.

It will use cheaper off-peak electricity at night to store cooling or heating energy for use during the day, further lowering operating costs.

Greener Alternatives To Air Conditioners



A girl looks at a painting with her guardian at a civil-defence facility, which has been developed into a public cooling space in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province.

Unlike central heating using hot water, which is widely used across northern China, centralised cooling using chilled water remains a niche solution in the country — largely limited to office buildings and commercial complexes.

Fu Lin, a professor at Tsinghua University's School of Architecture, wrote in China Science Daily that central cooling has been explored in

China for over two decades, yet its adoption has been hampered by challenges including difficult access to cooling sources and high distribution costs.

Nevertheless, Fu sees potential in combining central cooling with seasonal cold storage, including using surplus electricity in winter and spring to make ice and storing the resulting cooling energy for summer use.

The existing networks of

heating pipelines can also be utilized to distribute cooling.

Such new cooling systems have been launched in several Chinese cities.

In Xuzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, the country's first residential central cooling project using water from an abandoned coal mine began operations in July.

It cuts energy consumption by about half compared with conventional air conditioning, according to the project operator.

In Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, an energy station 21 meters underground provides centralised cooling to about 1 million square meters of building space.

Chilled water is delivered through an underground pipe network that is also used for heating in winter.

The station's centrifugal water chillers used for producing chilled water boast significantly higher efficiency than conventional split air conditioners, while also substantially reducing the use of refrigerants that contribute to global warming.

These low-carbon cooling projects align well with China's commitment to achieving its dual carbon goals — peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030, and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.

According to a national climate change plan for the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), China aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 17 per cent by 2030 from 2025 levels.

But not all green solutions to summer heat require complex cooling systems.

In Wuhan and Chongqing, civil-defense facilities such as air-raid

shelters have been opened as public cooling spaces in summer.

In Wuhan alone, five such shelters can provide cooling to more than 9,000 people a day.

Above ground, many Chinese cities have built a constellation of pocket parks, many of which are small and previously underused urban spaces.

Statistics suggest that more than 18,000 such parks were built across China between 2021 and 2025 to help cities cushion against the heat island effect.

Extreme heat poses a growing challenge worldwide.

The World Meteorological Organization said this July was the world's second warmest July on record, with extreme heat, persistent drought and wildfires affecting large parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called extreme heat a "society-wide threat" and urged countries to expand access to sustainable cooling.

Chen Yanhua, a senior engineer with CITIC General Institute of Architectural Design and Research Co., Ltd., said the growing use of river water, mine water, green spaces and other locally available resources reflects a broader shift in how Chinese cities respond to extreme heat.

It marks a shift away from heavy reliance on energy-intensive air conditioning toward greater use of natural cooling sources and green infrastructure, which is more environmentally friendly and sustainable, said Chen.

"These measures bring tangible benefits to residents," he added. — Xinhua

How China's grid powers through peak summer demand

BEIJING: Each year, surging temperatures put China's power grid to the test at the height of summer.

In recent weeks, sweltering heat and high humidity have gripped many megacities, driving electricity demand to record highs.

While rolling blackouts in response to a summer crunch are not yet a distant memory, power grid operators across China have nonetheless faced the 2026 summer peak with greater confidence, thanks to advances in securing power supplies and strengthening grid flexibility.

Long-distance power transmission enabled by ultra-high-voltage (UHV) technology, energy storage and virtual power plants are among the measures helping keep electricity supplies stable as demand soars.

Long-distance Power Transmission

The summer heat test is particularly tough for Chongqing, a megacity in southwest China with a population of more than 30 million, known as one of the country's "furnaces" due to its ruthlessly sultry summers.

Keeping the city's air conditioners running and its automotive and electronics assembly lines humming through the summer peak puts enormous pressure on the local power grid.

But a game-changer arrived in June last year, when the Hami-Chongqing transmission line, a 2,260-kilometer energy artery using UHV technology, went into



An aerial drone photo taken on July 30 shows outgoing lines of the Yubei converter station of the Hami-Chongqing ±800 kV ultra-high voltage direct current transmission project, in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

operation.

This UHV line carries electricity generated in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, to Chongqing, with more than 70 per cent of the power coming from clean energy sources.

"This is our strongest source of confidence in coping with summer peak demand," said Shuai Hong, deputy chief engineer of the power dispatch and control center of State Grid Chongqing Electric Power Company.

Shuai said electricity purchased from outside the municipality accounts for about one-third of its total grid load this year.

Specifically, the Hami-Chongqing line can transmit up

to 6 million kilowatts at peak, equivalent to covering roughly one-fifth of the city's maximum power load.

UHV refers to power transmission technology with exceptionally high voltage levels that is well-suited to long-distance transmission due to its minimal energy loss.

The Hami-Chongqing line is one of more than 40 UHV lines in China built to bridge a great divide in the country's energy landscape: China's energy resources are concentrated largely in the west, while the heaviest demand for electricity is in its central and eastern regions.

In past summers, scorching temperatures often forced industrial producers to scale

back operations and businesses to curb electricity consumption.

Chongqing Wang Cheng Technology Co., Ltd., an automotive and machinery components manufacturer, knows the strain all too well.

Before gaining access to electricity generated in Xinjiang, the company's production was hampered by power shortages in July and August.

To cope, it would frontload production to avoid peak-demand periods and split orders into smaller batches.

This summer, however, more than 100 of the company's smart production lines ran at full capacity, while there was no need to sidestep peak demand periods or rush orders ahead of schedule.

Instead, the pace of production could be planned and adjusted with greater flexibility, no longer dictated by seasonal availability of electricity.

UHV technology is particularly efficient at transmitting green electricity from wind- and solar-rich regions to megacities.

This summer, the national capital city of Beijing was supplied with green electricity through a "solar-wind relay."

Pulsing through two UHV transmission lines, solar power generated in northwestern Qinghai Province helped meet Beijing's daytime demand, while wind power from turbines in northeastern Heilongjiang Province took over after nightfall.

Renewable energy, notably, is playing an increasingly vital role

in powering the national grid.

By the end of 2025, renewable energy had accounted for more than 60 percent of China's total installed power generation capacity.

A national plan for renewable energy development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), released last month, aims to further strengthen renewable energy's role in supporting the power system.

Balancing Ebb, Flow

Meeting the summer peak is not just about bringing in more power.

The ability to balance supply and demand in real time matters just as much.

In Shandong Province, energy storage facilities have been running at full tilt, offering much-needed backup power to the grid.

On Aug 3, State Grid Shandong Electric Power Company organized a province-wide coordinated dispatch of energy storage facilities, as midday and evening peak-hour demand hit record highs.

In the evening that day, 172 energy storage power stations across the province, including 73 stand-alone stations and 99 others built as supporting facilities to new energy projects, began discharging simultaneously. Their combined discharge capacity peaked at 11.98 million kilowatts.

The maximum discharge capacity was equivalent to the grid power load of Jinan, the capital city of Shandong,

helping power the entire province through evening peak hours, said Zhou Lei with the dispatch control center of State Grid Shandong Electric Power Company.

Thanks to their rapid response and flexibility, new-type energy storage facilities have emerged as key resources for shaving peak loads and smoothing fluctuations in renewable power generation.

For instance, they help the grid absorb surplus renewable electricity during the day and discharge it during evening peak periods.

As of the end of July, Shandong had 14.41 million kilowatts of installed new-type energy storage capacity.

Energy storage is only one side of the equation.

Increasingly, the country's grid is turning to consumers themselves as a source of flexibility.

Through vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology, for example, electric vehicles can soak up surplus power during off-peak hours and return it to the grid when electricity demand rises.

Since July 1, Wuhan, capital city of central China's Hubei Province, has been piloting a V2G pricing mechanism that allows eligible new energy vehicles and private charging piles to feed electricity back into the grid. By charging during off-peak hours and discharging during peak periods, vehicle owners can earn additional income while helping the grid shave peak loads. — Xinhua

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In conjunction with His Excellency's 79th Birthday

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SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
TENDER NOTICE

Tender are invited for the following :-

Item	Class/Category/Head/ Subhead	Tender Reference	Description of Contractual Works	Tender Document Fee (Non-Refundable)	Tender Deposit
1.	UPKJ Registered Contractors (Works) And CIDB (PPK) Registered	ENG/T/12027	FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF RC DRAIN / MANHOLE COVERS TO SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SIBU	RM100	RM1000
2.	UPKJ Registered Contractors (Supplies & Services) Category A (B Head / Subhead 30)	ENG/T/20207	ANNUAL SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CRUSHED AGGREGATES (RONEOUS ROCKS) TO SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.	RM200	RM3000
3.	UPKJ Registered Contractors (Supplies & Services) Category A (B Head / Subhead 30)	ENG/T/30207	ANNUAL SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CRUSHED AGGREGATES (LIME STONE AND SAND STONE) TO SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.	RM200	RM3000
4.	UPKJ Registered Contractors (Works) Class B Head III Subhead 2(a) and CIDB (PPK) Registered	ENG/T/40207	ROAD WORKS FOR SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (ZONE A)	RM200	RM3000
5.	UPKJ Registered Contractors (Works) Class B Head III Subhead 2(a) and CIDB (PPK) Registered	ENG/T/50207	ROAD WORKS FOR SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (ZONE B)	RM200	RM3000
6.	UPKJ Registered Contractors (Supplies & Services) Category A (B Head / Subhead 3(a) or 3(b))	ENG/T/60207	TERM SUPPLY OF CONCRETE ASPHALT WEARING COURSE FOR SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.	RM200	RM3000
7.	UPKJ Registered Contractors (Works) Class C / D Head II Subhead 2(a) OR 2(b) and CIDB (PPK) Registered	ENG/T/70207	TERM CONTRACT FOR REPAIR OF ROADS APPROACHES TO RC CROSSOVERS AND CULVERT WITH EXCESSIVE SETTLEMENT UNDER SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MAINTENANCE WORKS	RM200	RM3000

1. Tender documents are obtainable at SMC Level 19 Council's Treasury Section or Municipal Secretary's office Level 23, Wisma Sanyan, SibU on the following days and time:
Monday – Thursday : 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Friday : 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Monday - Friday : 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

2. Upon payment of non refundable tender document fee, as specified above, whether in the form of QPAY/COMPANY CHEQUE/DUTY NOW/SPAY GLOBAL payable to "SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL".

3. All tenders are required to submit the refundable tender deposit as specified above in the form of Cashier's Order or 'Bank Draft' only in favour of SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL at the time of submission of the tender. Failing which shall result in disqualification of the tender.

4. The following proof of registration of the Company must be produced before the Council may issue tender documents:
(i) Original Licence/Digital Certificate issued by UPKJ and Valid Certificate Company Registration with Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) for UPKJ Registered Contractor Works only.
(ii) Copy of Certificate of UPKJ Licence and Certificate of Company Registration with Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) shall be submitted.
(iii) All tender document must be collected by a Company's Director or Senior Officer with Letter of Authorization from the Company and to bring along the Company's Chop.

5. Any tender delivered after the stipulated time on the ground of whatever cause shall not be considered.

6. All tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope, clearly marked the subject of the tender and addressed to :-
Municipal Secretary,
Sibu Municipal Council, Level 23, Wisma Sanyan, No. 1, Jalan Sanyan, 96000 SibU to reach him not later than 12:00 noon on 22 September 2026
The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest tender or any tender received nor shall it be responsible for any cost incurred by the tenderer.

Municipal Secretary
Sibu Municipal Council

Date: 5 September 2026

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Pasir Gudang

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516205H5ULC

316152H5ULC

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT LIMBANG
IN BANKRUPTCY NO. LMN-29NCC-14-7/2026 (HC)

Re : NIZAM BIN BAKAR
(WNKP 810708-13-5811)
Kampung Gadong
98700 Limbang
Sarawak ... Judgment Debtor

Ex-Parte: TC CAPITAL RESOURCES SDN. BHD.
(Company No. 676721-D)
56, 58 & 60, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah
51200 Kuala Lumpur ... Judgment Creditor

Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice
(Rule 109 Insolvency Rules 1969)

In the matter of Bankruptcy Notice issued on the 16th day of July, 2026.

To: NIZAM BIN BAKAR
(WNKP 810708-13-5811)
Kampung Gadong
98700 Limbang
Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice has been issued against you in this court by TC CAPITAL RESOURCES SDN. BHD. (Company No. 676721-D) of 56, 58 & 60, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, 51200 Kuala Lumpur and the Court has ordered that the said Bankruptcy Notice be served on you by publication of this Notice in one (1) issue of "The Borneo Post" newspaper and by affixed a copy of each of the Bankruptcy Notice and the Court Order for Substituted Service on the Notice Board of the High Court Kuching AND that such publication shall be deemed to be service of the Bankruptcy Notice upon you.

The Bankruptcy Notice can be inspected by you on application at this court.

Dated this 28th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026

Registrar
High Court, Limbang

This Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice is issued by Si & Associates, Advocates for the Judgment Creditor, whose address for service is at Suites 8.21 & 8.22, 2nd Floor, Hock Kui Commercial Centre, Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, 93150, Kuching, Sarawak.
[Tel : 082 418018 Fax : 082-422502]

<Ref: SS/TCR/23(R)/2294(40)>

536308H03JXF

NOTICE OF SALE
MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT
KUCHING
ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO. KCH-24MFC-63-12/2025
(HC 1)

IN THE MATTER of Memorandum of Charge Instrument No. L20715/2021

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application for an Order for Sale under Section 148(2)(c) of the Sarawak Land Code (Cap.81)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Order 7 Rule 2 and Order 83 Rule 3 of the Rules of the Court, 2012

BETWEEN

MBSB BANK BERHAD
(REGISTRATION NO. 200502033981)
[COMPANY NO. 716122-P]

A company incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act, 2016 and having its registered office at Level 5, Wisma MBSB Bank, 48, Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur.

... Plaintiff

AND

1. MOHAMMED YAAKOB BIN MORSHIDI
(WN.KP. 800930-13-5055)

... 1st Defendant

2. DAYANG NORLIATI BINTI ABANG SHAMAT
(WN.KP. 811031-13-5610)
Both at No. 25 Lorong Cenderawasih 7J2,
Taman Hazliq, Off Jalan Depo,
93050 Kuching, Sarawak.

... 2nd Defendant

And/Or

Both at No 17 Kampung Tengah,
95000 Sri Aman, Sarawak.

In pursuance of the Order of Court dated the 22nd day of June, 2026 the Valuer/Real Estate Agent will sell by

PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders to be submitted to High Court Registry, Kuching on or before **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, and the tenders opening date is on **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Auction Room, High Court, Kuching, in the presence of the Court Bailiff, the property specified in the Schedule hereunder:-

SCHEDULE

All that parcel of land together with a Double Storey Intermediate Terraced House thereon and appurtenances thereof situated at **Lorong Cenderawasih 7, Jalan Depo, Kuching** containing an area of **201.6 square metres**, more or less and described as **Lot 4741 Block 17 Salak Land District.**

Annual Rent : RM0.00
Category : Town Land, Native Area Land
Date of Expiry : 17/02/2080
Special Conditions : (i) This land is to be used only for the purposes 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, Kuching Division and shall also be in accordance with detailed drawings and specifications approved by The Commission of the City of Kuching North and shall be completed within one (1) year from the date of such approval by the Commission.

The above property will be sold subject to the reserve price of **RM500,000.00** sold subject to all the conditions and restrictions attached to the title of the land and on an "as is where is" basis) fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions of Sale set forth in the Proclamation.

For further particulars, please apply to M/s Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. Advocates, Room 508, 5th Floor, Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-414261 or M/s C H Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd, No. 26 (First Floor), Lot 352, Section 54, Wisma Nasion Horizon, Jalan Petanak, 93100, P.O.Box 2236, 93744, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-231331.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026.

Registered Estate Agent
C H WILLIAMS, TALHAR, WONG & YEO SDN BHD
(197501002547) (VE1)0082)

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‘No plans to retire’, says ‘acting god’ John Malkovich

VENICE: American actor John Malkovich said Thursday he had no plans to retire, speaking ahead of the premiere of his latest film, dark comedy “Wild Horse Nine” set in 1970s Chile.

Malkovich, 72, plays a cynical CIA officer troubled by his conscience ahead of the American-backed coup to overthrow the South American country’s left-wing president Salvador Allende in 1973.

“I’m pretty much doing and have been doing what I loved my whole life, and I plan to carry on doing that,” he told reporters at the Venice Film Festival.

“I don’t plan to retire because I think they will retire me when it’s time. That seems to be the natural course of things.”

The star of “Being John Malkovich” and “Dangerous Liaisons” was described as an “acting god” by British-Irish director Martin McDonagh whose previous films include “The Banshees of Inisherin” and “In Bruges”.

Malkovich forms an on-screen duo with fellow American Sam Rockwell as a pair of American intelligence officers visiting Easter Island off the coast of

Chile ahead of the military coup in the country which was backed by the CIA.

“He’s an acting god, really,” McDonagh told AFP in an interview in Venice when asked about Malkovich.

“He’s the best of the best, and I can’t imagine any other actor with his sort of gravitas and his dexterity with theatrical language, and dexterity with comedy.”

Independently produced “Wild Horse Nine” is one of the heavy-hitters in the main Venice festival competition this year which has been largely overlooked by Hollywood studios and American streamers who turned up in numbers at last year’s event.

McDonagh, who first visited Easter island about 15 years ago, said he’d always been interested in Chile and the coup and the CIA and the American government’s

involvement in that from when I was in my early teens.”

The film is set in 1973, but its depiction of American interventionism in Latin America has contemporary echoes at a time when US President Donald Trump has set out an aggressive agenda to dominate the Americas region.

In January, US forces ousted and arrested Nicolas Maduro, the leftist authoritarian leader of Venezuela, with the Trump administration since striking deals to control large amounts of the country’s oil reserves.

“One of the frightening things is that they don’t seem to be making it covert anymore, which is very strange,” McDonagh told reporters.

“In the 70s, these horrible people had the intelligence to keep their acts secret.”

Eccentric and whimsical drama “Bucking Fastard”, the latest film from veteran German director Werner Herzog, also premieres on Thursday in Venice with sisters Kate Mara and Rooney Mara playing on-screen sisters who talk in unison.

The festival opened on Wednesday with a ceremony that saw Hollywood icon George Clooney honoured with a lifetime achievement award. — AFP

Malkovich attends the photocall of ‘Wild Horse Nine’ at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival. — AFP photo

Clooney turns AFP photographer in jokey red carpet switch

VENICE: George Clooney handed his lifetime achievement award to AFP photographer Tiziana Fabi and took a turn with her camera in a humorous exchange at the Venice film festival.

After receiving the Golden Lion on Wednesday, the US star posed in front of a crowd of photographers with his actress friend Laura Dern on the red carpet.

He then walked over to Fabi, an AFP photographer who covers major entertainment, sporting and political events for the international news agency’s Rome bureau.

“I give you the Lion,” he told her, then said: “I take the picture”.

Images of the moment — and of Clooney’s picture of a smiling Fabi holding up the award — spread widely on social media.

“I don’t know why he chose me,” Fabi said of her close encounter with the Oscar-winning actor and filmmaker.

“I was pretty surprised and, at first, a bit annoyed. He just put the award on my lap and took my camera!” she said.

Fabi said Clooney thanked her profusely as he gave back the camera and Dern told her:



Clooney takes a picture of AFP photographer Tiziana Fabi (front second right) after Clooney swapped his Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement with Fabi’s camera on the red carpet, after the opening ceremony of the 83rd International Venice Film Festival. — AFP photo

“Congratulations!”

Clooney had arrived for the start of the Venice festival — the world’s oldest — on Wednesday and posed with photographers covering the glamorous Italian showcase.

He had also received an honour from the Venice photographers’ association, posing with the paparazzi and taking some snaps with the camera of another photographer from Italy’s ANSA news agency.

Fabi said she was amazed at Clooney’s handiness with a professional camera.

“He took four photos and they were all in focus! They were perfect photos. Maybe we should hire him?” — AFP

B.B. King docu in development

B.B. King is to be celebrated in a new feature documentary exploring the blues legend’s journey from the Mississippi Delta to becoming one of the most influential guitarists in music history.

The B.B. King Music Company and the Estate of B.B. King announced on Thursday the film is in development with the cooperation of his estate, giving its makers access to archival material, historical knowledge and other resources.

B.B., who died aged 89 in 2015, became known worldwide as the “King of the Blues” during a career spanning more than six decades.

The project will explore B.B.’s beginnings in Mississippi, his rise to international stardom and his

influence across blues, rock, soul, jazz and popular music.

Leslie Small, whose credits include Kevin Hart: Acting My Age and Black Comedy in America, will direct, while Grammy-winning music and film producer Vassal Benford will executive produce.

Leslie said: “When I learned I had been chosen to direct this documentary, I sat with the news for a long time before I could put words to what I felt. It wasn’t just excitement. It was something closer to responsibility — the kind that settles into your chest and doesn’t leave.”

Vassal, who is also CEO of the B.B. King Music Company and TBC Group, is working with producers Hamid Torabpour and Camille Torabpour through their

production company Winter State Entertainment.

Other producers attached to the project are Lani Evans, Dr Mark Smith, Nick Hagen and Sylvester Stewart Jr. Further details about its production, distribution and release are still to be announced.

Vassal said: “B.B. King was more than one of the greatest musicians who ever lived. He was an extraordinary human being whose music crossed every boundary and brought people together.”

He added: “His story deserves to be told with the authenticity, depth and respect that his life and legacy command. I am very excited to be working with Hamid Torabpour and Winter State Entertainment to bring

this important documentary to audiences around the world.”

The documentary is one of several projects currently extending B.B.’s musical legacy following celebrations surrounding his centenary in 2025.

An authorised dramatic feature film, Lucille, is also in development through Canton Entertainment, Vassal and the B.B. King Music Company and Estate.

The biopic will chronicle B.B.’s rise from poverty in Mississippi to worldwide fame and place his relationship with his famous Gibson guitar Lucille at the centre of the story. It is also expected to explore his collaborations with artists including Eric Clapton, U2, The Rolling Stones, Richie Sambora and Carlos Santana. — Bang Showbiz



Kidman (second left) with (from left) actresses Maisie Williams, Sandra Bullock and Joey King at the US premiere of ‘Practical Magic 2’ at Directors Village theatre in Los Angeles. — AFP file photo

Kidman disappointed not asked to be in Dune movies

NICOLE Kidman would have “loved” to have been in the Dune movies.

The Practical Magic 2 actress is “obsessed” with Denis Villeneuve’s film series - which star the likes of Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, Florence Pugh, and Rebecca Ferguson - and was disappointed not to have been approached for the project.

Discussing which sequels they’d like to get involved in with Practical Magic co-star Sandra Bullock, she said during Vogue’s Off-the-Cuff YouTube series: “I’d love to be in the Dune sequel, I’m a Dunie. I’m obsessed.”

Asked why she wasn’t in the series, she said: “Because Dune never asked me to be in anything.”

But Nicole then reconsidered and admitted she was happy just to be a fan of the films, which will see the release of the third and final installment in December.

She said: “I actually don’t want to be in it, because I just want to watch them.”

When it comes to her dream

roles, the Big Little Lies star appreciates being part of a female ensemble.

She said: “I love working with other women. I love the camaraderie. I love being able to share things. I just love when you’ve got all of us together and we’re in it together.”

Of all her roles, the 59-year-old actress most appreciates the wardrobe of Satine from Moulin Rouge! and admitted she’d held on to one of her most iconic accessories from the 2001 musical.

She said: “I think because my personality changes all the time but probably Satine from Moulin Rouge.

“The top hat, I’ve got it stored. I was actually going to give it to the museum, you know, the Academy.”

This isn’t the first time Nicole has shared her love of Dune.

During her conversation with Zendaya for Variety’s Actors on Actors series, she told the 30-year-old star she had paid to see both movies in the cinema.

She added: “One I saw at

midnight — I was really jet-lagged — and I was riveted. I’m a Duniel!”

Meanwhile, Nicole recently admitted she was instantly on board for the Practical Magic sequel but had to wait for Sandra to agree to return as her on-screen sister.

Nicole told Britain’s Vogue magazine of the desire for the sequel: “It was the fans. It was an actual demand from people. They were like, ‘Do we get this? Can we please?’ Then it was whether Sandy wanted to do it...”

“Let’s put it this way. I’m like: ‘Why not?’ and she’s like: ‘Why?’”

Sandra agreed she and Nicole are “very different” and she is always amazed by how strong their on-screen chemistry is.

She said: “Nic and I are very different. But our differences create the most fabulous dynamic. Whether we are fighting or loving on each other, we need each other. To watch how that shows itself on screen even surprises me. You can’t explain ‘chemistry’, it just is. And we have it.” — Bang Showbiz

Mara sisters channel childhood energy for twins performance at Venice

VENICE: Real-life actress sisters Rooney and Kate Mara said Thursday they drew on their instinctive closeness for new film “Bucking Fastard” that sees them talk and move in unison for almost their entire time on screen.

Their movie was called “unique in cinema history” by its director and writer, veteran German filmmaker Werner Herzog, ahead of its premiere at the Venice Film Festival on Thursday.

“Bucking Fastard” is loosely inspired by the real-life story of Freda and Greta Chaplin, twins from northern England who earned notoriety in Britain in the early 1980s for their synchronised movement and speech.

“It reignited a lot of childhood energy in us, which was really special,” Rooney Mara (“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”, “Carol”) told AFP and other journalists in Venice about her experience filming with Herzog.

“It felt really... I don’t want to say effortless, but it really made sense. We kind

rhythm with it,” older sister Kate (“The House of Cards”) added.

“Bucking Fastard”, which is in the running for Venice’s top prize, is a whimsical drama that sees the sisters fall in love with the same man, played by Orlando Bloom, setting off a spiral of unsettling encounters with other people.

“It’s unique in film history in a way... It’s unique that two sisters are playing as one,” Herzog told reporters, adding that he had written the screenplay in five days with the Mara sisters in mind.

Critics called the eccentric production a “strange tale of sisterly devotion” (Screen Daily), “cluttered, ripely bonkers fantasia” (Variety), a “silly, pointless drama” (The Guardian) and “destined to polarise... either you’re on the train, or you want to get off it fast” (IndieWire).

Herzog was awarded a lifetime achievement prize last year at Venice, where he premiered his documentary “Ghost Elephants” about the search for an elusive



Rooney and Kate Mara attend the photocall of ‘Bucking Fastard’ at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido. — AFP photo

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Saturday, September 5, 2026

THE BORNEO POST

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We, the family members of
the late **MADAM MARY CHIENG CHUI ING**
who was called to be with the Lord
on **Tuesday, 1st September, 2026** would like to express our heartfelt
appreciation and gratitude to:-

- Bishop, priests, religious brothers & sisters, brothers & sisters in Christ of the Catholic Church, Catholic Funeral Service Team
- YB, Community leaders, Business associates, President and Members of various association and organisation and their members
- Doctors, Nurses and Staff of Sibü General Hospital and Medical Centres.
- and all relatives, colleagues, neighbours and friends from near and far for their kind visit and attendance, words of comfort, prayers, donation, wreaths, message of condolences, and all those who have rendered their assistance in one way or another during our recent bereavement.

Husband: John Ling Ching Ngiong (deceased)

Sons:
Peter Ling Keh Sui
Rev Fr Dr Paul Ling Keh Yiong

Daughters:
Rose Ling Ngik
Lucy Ling Eng (deceased)
Elizabeth Ling Hie
Teresa Ling Kiong Kiong
Anna Ling Ding Ding
Magdalene Ling Ming

Daughter-In-Law:
Tan Soo Chieh

Sons-In-Law:
Peter Wong Toh Mee
Peter Su Som Ding
Sim Hui Chuang
Voon Yong Hui
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Hu Hiong Ho

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NOTICE OF SALE

MALAYSIA

IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO. KCH-24FC-59-7/2025 (HC 1)

IN THE MATTER of Memorandum of Charge Instrument No. L5277/2005.

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application for an Order For Sale under
Section 148(2)(c) of the Sarawak Land Code (Cap.81) and Order
83 of the Rules of Court 2012.

BETWEEN

CIMB BANK BERHAD [197201001799 (13491-P)] ... Plaintiff
(formerly known as Bumiputra-Commerce Bank Berhad) a licensed bank and a Company incorporated and registered in Malaysia, under the Companies Act, 2016 and having its registered office at Level 13, Menara CIMB, Jalan Stesen Sentral 2, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur and having a place of business at Ground & Mezzanine Floor (Extended Block), Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Lot 262, Section 48, KTLD, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak under Secured Collection & Recovery, Mezzanine Floor, Wisma CIMB, No. 11, Jalan 4/83A, Off Jalan Pantar Baru, 99200, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.

AND

CH'NG LI PHING (WN.KP. 640226-13-5182) ... Defendant
C/O S/L 40, Lot 1815-1816, 2nd Floor, Jalan Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, 93150 Kuching, Sarawak.

and/or

No. 168E, Lorong Stampin 6, Jalan Stampin, 93200 Kuching, Sarawak.

and/or

168-E, Stampin Road West, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.

In pursuance of the Order of Court dated the 22nd day of June, 2026 the Valuer/Real Estate Agent will sell by

PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders to be submitted to High Court Registry, Kuching on or before **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, and the tenders opening date is on **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Auction Room High Court, Kuching in the presence of the Court Bailiff, the property specified in the Schedule hereunder:-

SCHEDULE

All that parcel of land together with the building thereon and appurtenances thereof situated at 2 1/2 Mile, Rock Road, Kuching, containing an area of **286.0 square metres**, more or less and described as **Lot 3973 Block 16 Kuching Central Land District**.

Annual Quit Rent : RM0.00
Category : Town Land, Mixed Zone Land
Date of Expiry : 07/07/2046
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, First Division and shall also be in accordance with detailed drawings and specifications approved by the Kuching Rural District Council and shall be completed within one (1) year from the date of such approval by the Council.

The above property will be sold subject to the reserve price of **RM680,000.00** (sold subject to all the conditions and restrictions attached to the title of the land and on an "as is where is" basis) fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions of Sale set forth in the Proclamation.

For further particulars, please apply to M/s Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. Advocates, Room 508, 5th Floor, Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-414261 or M/s C H Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd, No. 26 (First Floor), Lot 352, Section 54, Wisma Nasion Horizon, Jalan Petanak, 93100, P.O.Box 2236, 93744, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-231331.

Dated this 6th day of July, 2026.

Licensed Valuer/Real Estate Agent
C H WILLIAMS, TALHAR, WONG & YEO SDN BHD
(197501002547) (VE1)J0082

53627H03JXF

NOTICE OF SALE

MALAYSIA

IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO. KCH-24FC-83-9/2025 (HC1)

IN THE MATTER of Memorandum of Charge Instrument No. L23249/2008 registered at Kuching Land Registry Office on 19.09.2008 affecting all that parcel of land together with the building thereon and appurtenances thereof situated at Siol Kanan, Petra Jaya, Kuching containing an area of 278.6 square metres, more or less and described as Lot 1581 Block 14 Salak Land District.

AND IN THE MATTER of Section 148 (2) (c) of the Land Code (Cap. 81)

BETWEEN

CIMB BANK BERHAD (Company No. 197201001799 (13491-P)) ... Plaintiff
Secured Collection & Recovery
Consumer Credit Operation
Mezzanine Floor, Wisma CIMB
No. 11, Jalan 4/83A
Off Jalan Pantar Baru
59200 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

AND

(1) **RHYMIEO BIN MOHAMMED TAWAN (WN.KP.691001-13-5237)** ... 1st Defendant
(2) **SHARIFAH ANITA BINTI WAN ALLA (WN.KP.700815-13-6222)** ... 2nd Defendant
Lot 1581, Lorong Juara 31,
Taman Sukma, Siol Kanan,
93050 Kuching,
Sarawak

In pursuance of the Order of Court dated the 22nd day of June, 2026 the Valuer/Real Estate Agent will sell by

PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders to be submitted to High Court Registry, Kuching on or before **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, and the tenders opening date is on **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Auction Room, High Court, Kuching, in the presence of the Court Bailiff, the property specified in the Schedule hereunder:-

SCHEDULE

all that parcel of land together with the building thereon and appurtenances thereof situated at Siol Kanan, Petra Jaya, Kuching containing an area of 278.60 square metres, more or less and described as **Lot 1581 Block 14 Salak Land District**.

Annual Rent : RM0.00
Category : Town Land, Native Area Land
Date of Expiry : 24/02/2051
Special Conditions : (i) This land is to be used only for the Purpose of a dwelling house and necessary appurtenances thereto; (ii) The development or re-development of land shall be in accordance with plans sections and elevations approved by the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys, Kuching Division; (iii) The erection of a building shall also be in accordance with detailed drawings and specifications approved by The Commissioner of the City of Kuching North and shall be completed within eighteen (18) months from the date of registration of this lease; (iv) **No transfer affecting this land may be effected without the consent in writing of the Director of Lands and Surveys; and** (v) No sublease affecting this land may be effected without the consent in writing of the Director of Lands and Surveys during the initial period of five (5) years from the date of registration of this lease.

Note: The subject property is designated as low-cost/affordable housing and is subject to written consent of transfer of ownership from the relevant government authority. Intended tenderers are strongly advised to verify their eligibility directly with the said authority prior to bidding, as the successful tenderer will be solely responsible for obtaining this consent.

The above property will be sold subject to the reserve price of **RM280,000.00** (sold free from the Plaintiff's registered Charge vide Instrument No. L23249/2008 (includes Plaintiff's Caveat) but subject to whatsoever title conditions as stipulated in the document of title thereto) fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions of Sale set forth in the Proclamation.

For further particulars, please apply to M/s Sia, Atvin Wong & Partners Advocates, L2-09 & L2-10 (First Floor), DUBS Commercial/Office Complex, Lot 376, Section 54 KTLD, Jalan Petanak, 93100, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-255228 or M/s C H Williams, Talhar, Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd, No. 26 (First Floor), Lot 352, Section 54, Wisma Nasion Horizon, Jalan Petanak, 93100, P.O.Box 2236, 93744, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-231331.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2026.

Licensed Valuer/Real Estate Agent
C H WILLIAMS, TALHAR, WONG & YEO SDN BHD
(197501002547) (VE1)J0082

53627H03JXF

NOTICE OF SALE

MALAYSIA

IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO. KCH-24MFC-63-12/2025 (HC 1)

IN THE MATTER of Memorandum of Charge Instrument No. L20715/2021

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application for an Order for Sale under
Section 148(2)(c) of the Sarawak Land Code (Cap.81)

AND

IN THE MATTER of Order 7 Rule 2 and Order 83 Rule 3 of the
Rules of the Court, 2012

BETWEEN

MBSB BANK BERHAD ... Plaintiff
(REGISTRATION NO. 200502033981)
(COMPANY NO. 716122-P)
A company incorporated in Malaysia under the Companies Act, 2016 and having its registered office at Level 5, Wisma MBSB Bank, 48, Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur.

AND

1. **MOHAMMED YAAKOB BIN MORSHIDI (WN.KP. 800930-13-5055)** ... 1st Defendant
2. **DAYANG NORLIATI BINTI ABANG SHAMAT (WN.KP. 811031-13-5610)** ... 2nd Defendant
Both at No. 25 Lorong Cenderawasih 7J2, Taman Haziq, Off Jalan Depo, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak.

And/Or
Both at No 17 Kampung Tengah, 95000 Sri Aman, Sarawak.

In pursuance of the Order of Court dated the 22nd day of June, 2026 the Valuer/Real Estate Agent will sell by

PUBLIC TENDER

Tenders to be submitted to High Court Registry, Kuching on or before **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, and the tenders opening date is on **Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Auction Room, High Court, Kuching, in the presence of the Court Bailiff, the property specified in the Schedule hereunder:-

SCHEDULE

All that parcel of land together with a Double Storey Intermediate Terraced House thereon and appurtenances thereof situated at **Lorong Cenderawasih 7, Jalan Depo**, Kuching containing an area of **201.6 square metres**, more or less and described as **Lot 4741 Block 17 Salak Land District**.

Annual Rent : RM0.00
Category : Town Land, Native Area Land
Date of Expiry : 17/02/2080
Special Conditions : (i) This land is to be used only for the purposes 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, Kuching Division and shall also be in accordance with detailed drawings and specifications approved by The Commission of the City of Kuching North and shall be completed within one (1) year from the date of such approval by the Commission.

The above property will be sold subject to the reserve price of **RM500,000.00** (sold subject to all the conditions and restrictions attached to the title of the land and on an "as is where is" basis) fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions of Sale set forth in the Proclamation.

For further particulars, please apply to M/s Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. Advocates, Room 508, 5th Floor, Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-414261 or M/s C H Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd, No. 26 (First Floor), Lot 352, Section 54, Wisma Nasion Horizon, Jalan Petanak, 93100, P.O.Box 2236, 93744, Kuching, Telephone No. 082-231331.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026.

Registered Estate Agent
C H WILLIAMS, TALHAR, WONG & YEO SDN BHD
(197501002547) (VE1)J0082

53627H03JXF

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, the family members of
the late **MR TIONG CHUNG HOO**
who was called to be with the Lord on
Wednesday 2nd September, 2026
would like to express our heartfelt appreciation
and gratitude to:-

- Deputy Minister YB Datuk Michael Tiang Ming Tee.
- Catholic Priests, Nuns, Brothers & Sisters and Sibü Mortuary Service Group.
- Community leaders, Business associates, President and Members of various association and organization and their members.
- Doctors, Nurses and Staff of Rejang Medical Centre, Sibü.
- and all colleagues, neighbours, relatives and friends from near and far for their kind visit and attendance, for their words of comfort, prayers, donation, wreaths, message of condolence and all those who have rendered their assistance in one way or another during our recent bereavement.

Father: Tiong See Seng (Deceased)
Mother: Ho Nguok Hua

Brothers:

Tiong Chung Thai (Deceased)
Tiong Chung Ing (Deceased)
Tiong Chun Ming (Deceased)
Tiong Chung Hua
Dato Sri Tiong Chiong Kui
Tiong Chung Teck

Sisters:

Tiong Leh Hua
Tiong Leh Huong
Tiong Leh Mee
Tiong Leh Na

Sisters-In-Law:

Ting Siew Yung
Ting Siu Hiong
Lau Hee Khiing
Lau Sui Hwei
Datin Sri Ting Siew Eng
Wong Siew Moi

Brothers-In-Law:

Soo Chin Chi
Wong King Ping

Yek Sie Ping

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