



Wan Junaidi (centre) and Fauziah, on his left, in a photo call with Azizah (fourth left) and her delegation during the courtesy call. — Astana photo

TYT calls for more court facilities in Sarawak

KUCHING: Sarawak needs more court buildings and facilities across its 12 divisions to improve access to justice, particularly for people living in rural and remote areas, said Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

In a statement issued by Astana Sarawak, Wan Junaidi said the state's vast geographical area posed challenges for people who had to travel long distances to access court services.

He made the remarks during a courtesy call by Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Tan Sri Azizah Nawawi and her delegation at the Astana here yesterday.

Wan Junaidi said the need for more court facilities had previously been highlighted when he served as Minister in Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law).

He stressed that complete, modern and appropriate court infrastructure was essential to ensure an efficient judicial system and a conducive working environment for judges and judicial officers.

He also suggested that the judiciary engage with the Sarawak government to identify suitable strategic locations for

court buildings and related facilities across the state.

Wan Junaidi emphasised the importance of protecting the position, security and dignity of the judiciary, including providing separate entrances and exits for judges attending court proceedings and accessing their chambers.

The Head of State said judges should also receive appropriate facilities, including suitable residential accommodation and official vehicles commensurate with their responsibilities.

He called for the service scheme and retirement age for judges to be considered separately from those of the general civil service, taking into account their duties, experience and expertise, as well as the need to safeguard judicial independence and continuity.

On the legal profession, Wan Junaidi said the Sarawak Advocates Association should have broader representation, including members from every division, to ensure the needs and interests of legal practitioners throughout the state were adequately represented.

Meanwhile, Azizah briefed the Head of State on developments in judicial infrastructure, including plans for a specialised criminal

court and four civil courts.

Wan Junaidi welcomed the developments, saying that they could improve case management, expedite trials and enhance the delivery of judicial services.

He expressed hope that efforts to strengthen the judiciary in Sabah and Sarawak would continue to receive due attention.

"Every segment of society, including those in rural and remote areas, should have easier, fairer and more effective access to the country's legal system."

During the courtesy call, Azizah also presented formal invitations to Wan Junaidi and his wife Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Fauziah Mohd Sanusi to attend and officiate at the gala dinner for the opening of the Legal Year Sabah and Sarawak 2026, scheduled for January next year.

Azizah was accompanied by Sarawak High Court judges Wong Siong Tung, Amelati Parnell and Faridz Gohim Abdullah; High Court Judicial Commissioner Zaleha Mohd Yusuf Pan; Sabah and Sarawak High Court Registrar Datuk Azreena Aziz; and Sarawak Advocates Association president Gunvir Singh Sandu.