

SISTEM CRY Sdn. Bhd.

**CLICK FINGERPRINT
 TIME ATTENDANCE
 DOOR ACCESS
 CONTROL
 CL-928**
 EAST MALAYSIA DISTRIBUTION
 TEL: 088-723424 (3 Lines), FAX: 088-723598

Daily Express

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF EAST MALAYSIA

New Listing
MODERN DOOR
 RM 899.99
 088-495 000
 012-418 6008

 SUPERWOOD INDUSTRIES

PPH 8/12/2024 (031085) Vol. 191 Kota Kinabalu, Friday, July 19, 2024 RM1.50 Established 1963

KYTS aims to play crucial role PAGE 2

Drug epidemic if no measures taken: Ratib PAGE 3

MP: Rise in depression stats worrying PAGE 4

Winner 

For more info scan here 

Prioritise the 40pc for Sabah

KOTA KINABALU: Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey G Kitingan (pic) urged the Madani government to prioritise the implementation of the 40 per cent net revenue allocation for Sabah, especially now that the State Government has provided the necessary data.

"Ensuring that Sabah receives its rightful share of revenue is not merely a financial issue but a matter of justice and fairness.

"Concrete steps must be taken to fulfil this commitment and ensure that all aspects of MA63 are fully implemented in a timely and transparent manner," said the Parti Solidariti Tanah Airku (Star Sabah) President, in a statement, Thursday.

He said the proposed 12-month time frame, discussed and agreed upon in the technical committee meetings, for finalising the implementation of the 40 per cent net revenue allocation formula for Sabah expired Thursday (July 18).

"Despite this, there has been no

progress or announcement regarding this critical issue. This lack of action clearly demonstrates a lack of seriousness from the Federal Government," he said.

He said the 40 per cent net revenue allocation is essential for ensuring that Sabah receives a fair share of the revenue generated within its borders, supporting the State's development and improving the welfare of its people.

"For decades, Sabahans have been waiting for the full implementation of this agreement, which is crucial for the State's economic growth and overall prosperity," he said.

He said the ongoing failure to honour the 40 per cent revenue entitlement perpetuates economic disparities and contributes to the underdevelopment and poverty of Sabah.

He said the people of Sabah deserve better, and it is time for the Federal Government to demonstrate its commitment to rectifying this long-standing issue.

"The people of Sabah have waited long enough. It is time for the Federal Government to act with urgency and sincerity.

"The successful implementation of MA63, including the 40 per cent net revenue allocation, will benefit Sabah and strengthen the unity and cohesion of our nation as a whole," he said.



The three suspects being taken to court yesterday.

'Flying passports': Three remanded

Aishah Abdullah
KOTA KINABALU: Three enforcement officers of a department here are ordered to be remanded for six days from today (Friday) to assist in investigations into a passport renewal forgery syndicate or "flying passports".

The remand order was issued by Magistrate Wan Farrah Fariza Wan Ghazali at the Magistrate's Court here, Thursday, following an application from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Two of the three suspects were represented by their respective counsels, while the other was not represented.

MACC Prosecuting Officer Norsham Saharom appeared for the prosecution.

Sabah MACC Director Datuk S Karunanithy, when contacted, confirmed the matter and the case was being investigated under Section 17(a) of the MACC Act 2009.

The three enforcement officers, in their 40s and 50s, were arrested on Wednesday after giving their statements at the Sabah MACC office here.

According to sources, a month-long surveillance uncovered

'Flying passports': Sabah MACC nabs 3
 The enforcement officers involved allegedly handed passports to middlemen without the presence of applicants still abroad, the source added.

Our report yesterday.
 The syndicate suspected of offering bribes totalling about RM300,000 to the involved officers.
 The syndicate is believed to have been active since last year.
 "All suspects detained are believed to have engaged in these activities from 2023 until now, receiving bribes of around RM3,000 per passport applicant."
 "Initial investigations revealed about 100 applicants involved, with the modus operandi involving forging recipient signatures and manipulating the applicant's fingerprint stamp system, despite regulations requiring applicants to be physically present at the agency to collect passports," the source said.
 "The enforcement officers involved allegedly handed passports to middlemen without the presence of applicants still abroad, the source added."



The atmosphere in the capital city is supercharged with excitement as the day of the Installation Ceremony of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, the 17th King of Malaysia, draws closer.

Excitement as King's installation draws near

KUALA LUMPUR: The atmosphere in the capital city is supercharged with excitement as the day of the Installation Ceremony of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, the 17th King of Malaysia, draws closer.

A walkabout found that the air around the capital city is enlivened by digital displays at key locations, including Kuala Lumpur International Airport Terminal 1, congratulating His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, in addition to banners and billboards announcing the historic event put up in public spaces.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) said over 1,000 banners have been hung along roadsides since last Friday in conjunction with the event. The banners will be displayed until July 30.

In addition to the Istana Negara area, banners are also placed at 23 other locations around the capital city, including Jalan Syed Putra, Jalan Parlimen, Jalan Ampang, Merdeka Square and Jalan Bukit Bintang, it said.

"DBKL is assisting in the putting up of these banners.

"The process took five days and we hope it will further enliven the atmosphere of this ceremony, which is rarely witnessed as it only occurs once every five years," according to DBKL.

Marketing executive Nor Hidayah Zulkifli, 27, who is visiting the city for the first time with her family, also feels the anticipation.

"I don't want to miss the event that showcases the identity of the Malay Sultanate and the uniqueness of a country practising a Constitutional Monarchy system," she said.

Content creator Nur Fitri Najwa, 27, is also excited to witness the ceremony. "Everyone is very excited to see what happens this Saturday. As Malaysians, we have

been eagerly waiting for this moment because it's a historic event that happens once every five years. Let's all come together to witness this installation ceremony on Saturday," she said.

Personal assistant Nur Syazwina Zakaria, 46, hopes Sultan Ibrahim can become a ruler of the nation who prioritises the interests and welfare of the people.

"I am also excited to watch the installation ceremony considering it is a ceremonial event full of royal protocols that are rarely seen," she said.

Consultant Mohammad Fariq Mohammad Razalim, 46, hopes Sultan Ibrahim will always be a monarch who empathises with the people and listens to their issues, especially concerning the cost of living.

He said he would watch the live broadcast of the momentous ceremony on television stations with his children this Saturday.

Events in conjunction with the Installation Ceremony of the 17th King of Malaysia began Thursday with the Yasin recital and Doa Selamat at the National Mosque at 5.30pm, followed by a special Friday sermon today (Friday).

Royal guests expected to attend Sultan Ibrahim's installation ceremony include the Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah, and the King of Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Other events include a Royal Banquet at Istana Negara on Saturday and a visit to the Orang Asli Gombak Hospital by the Queen, Raja Permaisuri Agong Raja Zarith Sofiah, on July 23.

Additionally, the "Raja Kita" exhibition on July 25 and open to the public from July 25 until Sept 2, allowing people to view around 130 royal regalia from the federal level and the State of Johor.

Electronic Plead Guilty system

KOTA KINABALU: The Electronic Plead Guilty system, also known as e-PG, was first implemented in the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak on Wednesday.

In a statement Thursday, the High Courts of Sabah and Sarawak announced the adoption of this innovation and the introduction of their own e-PG module through the e-Kehakiman Sabah and Sarawak (e-KSS) system.

"This innovative system allows individuals charged under 42 minor traffic offences to electronically enter a guilty plea, thereby enhancing efficiency and accessibility while reducing the need for in-person court appearances," the statement said. E-PG was first used at the Shah Alam Magistrate's Court on Feb 5, 2021.

The statement said the e-PG platform offers a secure, user-friendly interface that guides summoned individuals through the online guilty plea process where it is appropriate and permitted by the law.

Allowing summoned individuals to resolve their cases remotely would save time, reduce court congestion and provide a more convenient option for those who might otherwise face challenges attending court in person, it added.

Sabah reaches 30pc target of women in senior roles

Crystal E Hermenegildus
KOTA KINABALU: Sabah has reached its goal of appointing women to 30 per cent of senior government roles, announced Datuk James Ratib (pic).

The State Community Development and People's Wellbeing Minister highlighted that three women currently serve as permanent secretaries in ministries, including his own, Tourism, Culture and Environment, and Rural Development.

"To date, the State Government has allocated 30 to 40 per cent of positions for Sabah women, whether in government departments or in government-linked companies (GLCs) in Sabah.

"If there are more women leaders with charisma and leadership, they could head departments or hold senior positions," he said in a statement after officiating the 2024 Credible Women Leadership Conference at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC), here.

On the 2024 Credible Women Leadership Conference, James said eight out of 20 heads of women's departments, or 40 per cent, participated.

He said the programme, which has been running from 2011, has trained 12 Women of Substance (WoS), encompassing a total of 450 female officers under the Sabah Women's Affairs Department (Jhewa).

"The Ministry, through Jhewa, always encourages more women to venture into challenging fields requiring specialised skills, in line with the rapidly evolving technological landscape.

"Women need to break free from the constraints that have long limited their roles and thinking.

"They must progress alongside the nation's advancement in this era of global development," he said.

James said the conference aligns with the theme of the 2024 International Women's Day celebration, "Wanita Dju-lang Negara Gemilang."

He said the State Government consistently provides support and encouragement to female officers serving in the Government, particularly through Jhewa, a special programme dedicated to women's leadership.

"The success of an official in the public service is no longer judged by seniority but by excellent work performance, regardless of age.

"There is no denying that women's achievement and representation as decision-makers have reached 30pc, including positions such as Permanent Secretaries of Ministries and Heads of State Departments.

"I see the performance of female officers in this cloud service becoming increasingly prominent. Today, we observe women holding important positions in both the public and private sectors.

See Page 2, Col. 1

Citizenship Bill postponed again

KUALA LUMPUR: The second and third readings of the Citizenship Bill, along with three others, have been postponed again to the next Dewan Rakyat meeting in October.

Deputy Law and Institutional Reform Minister M Kulasegaran said the other three bills are the Multi (Federal Territories) Bill 2024, Administration of Islamic Law (Federal Territories) Act 1993 (Amend-

ment) and Syariah Court Civil Procedure (Federal Territories) Act 1998 (Amendment).

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2024 was last postponed in March, after its first reading, when Dewan Rakyat Speaker Johari Abdul said he had to bring the session to a close. The Government had received flak from opposition MPs for the previous postponement.