



Colloquium On Identity Issues in Sabah: Bridging Realities and Catalysing Change

DATE : 12 November 2024 (Tuesday)
TIME : 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
LOCATION : Sipadan Hall III
Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC)
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

A. COLLOQUIUM OVERVIEW:

The “Colloquium on Identity Issues in Sabah: Bridging Realities and Catalysing Change” is an initiative aimed at tackling the complex issues of statelessness and undocumented individuals in Sabah.

At the core of this colloquium are the critical issues identified through SUHAKAM’s engagements with the Government of Sabah. Statelessness in Sabah can be broadly categorised into two main groups that demand our attention. The first group includes those who are “stateless by creation”, encompassing individuals without identification due to circumstances such as outdated or expired documents like the *Sijil Banci* or *Kad Burung-Burung*, children born out of wedlock to non-Malaysian mothers, and those in rural areas facing delays in registering births or identification cards. The second group includes the “truly stateless”, such as the Bajau Laut community, who face unique challenges in securing recognition and rights within the state.

This colloquium is not merely a series of discussions but a call to action. Through four targeted plenary sessions, we will explore the journey from policy formulation to political leadership, the lived experience of statelessness, community-led responses, and practical policy recommendations.

By the end of this colloquium, SUHAKAM hopes to foster a greater understanding of the issue of statelessness in Sabah, promote a compassionate and human rights-based approach, and catalyse concrete actions that lead to positive change.



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TIME	AGENDA
08:00 AM – 09:00 AM	Registration of Participants and Breakfast
08:45 AM – 09:00 AM	Arrival of YB Datuk Abidin Madingkir <i>Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister of Sabah</i>
09:00 AM – 09:15 AM	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YBhg. Dato' Seri Mohd Hishamudin Yunus <i>SUHAKAM Chairman</i>
09:15 AM – 09:30 AM	Montage Video and Photography Session
09:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Plenary Session 1: Charting the Course: From Policies to Political Will Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YBhg. Datuk Mariati Robert <i>SUHAKAM Sabah Commissioner</i> Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YB Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Salleh Said Keruak <i>Assemblyman for Usukan (N.10) and Former Chief Minister of Sabah</i> • YB Senator Datuk Nelson W. Angang <i>Senator, Dewan Negara and Secretary-General, UPKO</i> • YBrs. Dr. Chong Eng Leong <i>Former Senator, Dewan Negara and Author of "Population Explosion and Demographic Shift in Sabah"</i>

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	<p>Plenary Session 2: Behind the Labels: Understanding the Human Experience of Statelessness</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rangunath Kesavan <i>SUHAKAM Commissioner</i> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YBrs. Dr. Janifal Alipal <i>Chief Technology Officer, DPBS Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and of Bajau Laut Descent</i> • Mr. Wong Kueng Hui <i>Director, MANDIRI Borneo and Former Stateless Individual</i> • Mr. Mukmin Nantang <i>Co-Founder, Borneo Komrad</i>
12:30 PM – 01:30 PM	Lunch Break
01:30 PM – 03:00 PM	<p>Plenary Session 3: Voices from the Ground: Community-Led Responses to Statelessness</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YBrs. Dr. Farah Nini Dusuki <i>SUHAKAM Children’s Commissioner</i> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yvonne Ching <i>Member of Board of Governors and Ambassador, Grace Alternative Learning Centre</i> • Ms. Chuah Ee Chia <i>Co-Founder, Iskul Sama DiLaut Omodal</i> • Mr. Wadzkir Abdul Hamid <i>Project Analyst and Development, Cahaya Society</i>
03:00 PM – 04:30 PM	<p>Plenary Session 4: Pathways to Progress: Policy Recommendations and Practical Steps for Addressing Statelessness</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Altaf Deviyati <i>SUHAKAM Secretary-General</i> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YB Madam Jannie Lasimbang <i>Assemblywoman for Kapayan (N.25) and Former SUHAKAM Commissioner</i> • YBhg. Datuk Roger Chin <i>Legal Professional and Former President, Sabah Law Society</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Azlina Kamal <i>Education Specialist and Lead, UNICEF Malaysia</i>
04:30 PM – 04:45 PM	Closing Remark: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• YBhg. Datuk Hajah Mariati Robert <i>SUHAKAM Sabah Commissioner</i>
04:45 PM – 05:00 PM	Tea Break and End of Colloquium