



MEDIA STATEMENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA (SUHAKAM)

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SUHAKAM STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH SARAWAK GOVERNMENT TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

KUALA LUMPUR (2 JULY 2026) - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) today paid a courtesy call on the Premier of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, at the Premier's Office, Kompleks Satria Pertiwi in Petra Jaya, Kuching. The meeting served as an important platform to strengthen cooperation between SUHAKAM and the Sarawak Government in advancing the promotion and protection of human rights through constructive dialogue, policy engagement and strategic collaboration.

During the courtesy call, SUHAKAM expressed its appreciation to the Premier for the warm reception and the opportunity to exchange views on matters relating to human rights, inclusive development and the well-being of the people of Sarawak. SUHAKAM commended the Sarawak Government's continued commitment to integrating human rights principles into its development agenda, particularly through policies and programmes that improve the lives of vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised communities.

The Commission acknowledged the Sarawak Government's progressive social protection initiatives, including the Endowment Fund Sarawak (EFS), Bantuan Ibu Bersalin (BIB), the Kenyalang Gold Card (KGC), targeted medical assistance programmes, women's empowerment initiatives, the One Stop Early Intervention Centre (OSEIC) for children and persons with disabilities, investments in early childhood education through SeDidik, as well as the Free Tertiary Education Scheme Sarawak. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a comprehensive approach towards social inclusion and equitable development throughout every stage of life.

SUHAKAM also shared its mandate as Malaysia's National Human Rights Institution under the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act 1999 (Act 597) and reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the Sarawak Government in promoting a rights-based approach to governance, policymaking and service delivery.

SUHAKAM and the Sarawak Government recognised the importance of sustained engagement and collaboration in advancing human rights, particularly through initiatives that promote equality, social justice, accessibility and the protection of vulnerable groups. In particular, SUHAKAM Sarawak's looks forward to strengthening collaboration with the Sarawak Government to advance and protect the rights and well-being of children through joint initiatives in child protection, child participation, public awareness, capacity-building and advocacy, in line with the best interests of every child.

SUHAKAM believes that close collaboration between the Commission and State Governments is essential in ensuring that development is not only economically sustainable but also inclusive, equitable and centred on human dignity. The Commission looks forward to further strengthening its partnership with the Sarawak Government in advancing human rights and improving the quality of life and well-being of all Sarawakians.

"Human rights are most meaningful when they are translated into policies and programmes that improve people's everyday lives. SUHAKAM welcomes the Sarawak Government's openness to continued engagement and looks forward to working together in advancing a rights-based and people-centred development agenda," said SUHAKAM Chairperson, Dato' Seri Mohd Hishamudin Yunus.

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**Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
2 July 2026**