PRESS STATEMENT
BY
THE CHIEF MINISTER
YAB DATUK PATINGGI (DR) ABANG HAJI
ABDUL RAHMAN ZOHARI
BIN DATUK TUN ABANG OPENG

Thank you for joining us this afternoon. I would like to share with you an important milestone in our journey to develop a hydrogen economy for the state.

As Sarawak pursues sustainable development to achieve high income status by 2030, technological innovation will play a major role in realising this vision.

The State Government, under my leadership, is forming a Research Council to oversee various sectors including technology.

- One primary area of focus will be in energy related areas such as alternative energy potential, electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cells research.
- Sarawak Energy has been entrusted to spearhead the effort to look for new sources of clean energy starting with a research in hydrogen fuel cell application in the state.

As such, I am pleased to announce that Sarawak Energy is setting up a team to do this.

Sarawak Energy's research in hydrogen and fuel cells shall form an integral part of the government's new emphasis to develop the state, leveraging on research and development towards reaching our vision 2030 goals.

The findings and recommendations from this study will be shared with the Research Council. This will guide us in further decision making in regards to the adoption of hydrogen and fuel cell technology.

With abundant clean hydroelectric power resources, Sarawak provides an ideal setting for enabling the hydrogen economy.

- We are taking pioneering steps to explore the commercial and public application of hydrogen and fuel cell technology with this study.

- It is hoped that hydrogen could be the primary fuel of choice for areas such as the transportation sector and energy storage as the technology matures and becomes commercially attractive in the future.

Sarawak aspires to transform the public transportation sector with clean and green technologies.

- Hydrogen and fuel cell technology is known to be clean since water is the only by-product in the process of producing electricity.
- If we are successful in applying this technology particularly in the transportation sector, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuel and lower our carbon footprint so that our people will be able to enjoy modern and efficient public transportation with minimal impact on the environment.
- This will also contribute to Malaysia's commitment towards reducing CO_2 emission intensity by 45% by 2030.
- Hydrogen and fuel cells technology can be a critical element in helping to realise this ambitious target.
- Sarawak can play a pivotal role in developing these technologies that will alter the energy utilisation landscape in the country and propel our economy forward.

I would like to state my appreciation to Sarawak Energy for taking up this challenge and the first step in assisting the State in this endeavour.

Thank you.