

**Long Service Awards Ceremony for
Teachers of Sarawak Independent Chinese Secondary School 2022
Speech by Temenggong Dato Vincent Lau Lee Ming
President of The Sarawak United Association of
Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board**

Date: 5 November 2022 (Saturday)
Time: 10.30am
Venue: RH Hall, Level 8, Wisma Huawen Du Zhong, Sibu

A very good morning to my fellow Chinese education contributors, the Long Service Awards recipients and all our guests here.

First of all, on behalf of the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for being here today at the Long Service Awards Ceremony for Teachers of Sarawak Independent Chinese Secondary School for the year 2022.

With this award organised by the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board, we aim to honor and further ignite our teachers' passion for the noble role they are playing in the society and the lives of many, to raise awareness among the public of how important it is to care for and support the essential work that our independent Chinese secondary school educators are doing, and to make a positive impact on the development of all our teachers, in order to inspire a deeper and higher regard for the teaching profession as well as to uplift the morale among our teachers on their commendable paths.

We Sarawakians are incredibly fortunate to live on vast pieces of land. For the same reason, the long travels that ensue may have prevented some Long Service Awards recipients from attending and receiving the honor in person today. Nevertheless, I hope each and every awarded teacher will view this recognition of their decades-long service as the utmost badge of honor; a lifelong personal achievement. It is also my hope that, with awards like these, more members of our society may give the teaching profession the highest esteem and appreciation it deserves, holding the most respectable place among all careers and professions.

As we present the Long Service Awards to a group of 27 teachers today who come from all over Sarawak, including the Southern, Central and Northern regions, let us congratulate all the award recipients and wish them all the best in their pursuit of ideals and excellence. Education forms the foundation of any society. I hope you always treasure the exceptional position that you are in where you inspire and shape the mind of the next generations every single day, and that you are ready to dedicate your lifetime to education. I also hope you find meaning in your sacrifices and achieve greatness from a seemingly ordinary place.

My fellow educators. You have long worked patiently, tirelessly and dutifully. Never for fame nor fortune. While you nurture the hope and future of our nation, the young talents, and thereby giving them the possibility for a better future, you are making an enduring mark on the nation's education system and the entire society. With that said, we also must recognize that there is room for improvement in the current overall quality of our independent Chinese secondary school teachers. The same goes for the social standing of teaching as an occupation, compensation for teachers, and teacher management. Those are just a few of the criteria required to build a reputable, well-structured, lively teaching staff that is highly qualified and effective — a crucial step in advancing the Chinese education in Malaysia.

I'd like to emphasise again how remarkably important it is for our teachers to prioritise your professional development. The Sarawak Independent Chinese Secondary School Working Committee has been vigorously promoting on-the-job training, Diploma in Education programme and other continuous learning opportunities. With the aforementioned initiative, we hope more teachers will equip themselves with certifiable professional qualifications and further establish their teaching abilities as an accomplished professional in an effort to keep up with the ever-changing educational needs.

Last but not least, I look forward to seeing your continuous effort in moving Chinese education forward. You are most definitely not alone in fighting for the betterment of the Malaysian Independent Chinese Secondary School education system, the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board will walk side-by-side with you to create a brighter future. Thank you and I wish you all an abundance of health and happiness in your journey.