

**Commissioning Ceremony of New Building, Pei Min Middle School, Miri**  
**Speech by Temenggong Dato Vincent Lau Lee Ming**  
**Chairman of The Sarawak United Association of**  
**Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board**

Date: 11 July 2024 (Thursday)  
Time: 12.30pm  
Venue: Pei Min Middle School, Miri

Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg;  
Yang Berhormat-Yang Berhormat Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Members of Parliament Malaysia, Members of Sarawak State Legislative Assembly and Permanent Secretary;  
Mr Khor Ooi Long, Chairman of Pei Min Middle School Management Board of Directors;  
Directors of School Management Board;  
Mr Ang Lip Chuan, Organising Chairman;  
Members of the Organising Committee;  
Fellow team members of The Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board;  
Mr Yeo Yew Hoe, Principal for Pei Min Middle School and Teachers;  
Distinguished guest;  
Friends from the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for inviting me to be a part of this prestigious ceremony to celebrate and witness the commissioning of the new administration and education building of Pei Min Middle School.

Today, we are privileged to have our Honourable Premier of Sarawak, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, gracing today's grand ceremony.

I would like to congratulate the School Management Board of Directors headed by Mr. Khor Ooi Long, the fraternity of Pei Min Middle School, and all who have contributed to this remarkable project. Your collective efforts have culminated in the successful completion and opening of this new building.

Recognising the crucial role of a conducive learning environment in enhancing academic performance and achievements, the School Management Board of Pei Min Middle School started raising funds a few years back for the construction of this new block, which was completed in 2021. This building offers a more conducive learning environment and well-equipped facilities for both teachers and students. We are also deeply grateful to YAB Premier for allocating an additional MYR 1 million to support this initiative.

I would like to extend our sincere thanks to YAB Premier and Sarawak Government for the support of multi-stream education and continuous financial assistance to the independent Chinese secondary schools in Sarawak all these years.

Since 2014, the Sarawak government has been allocating annual educational funding to the 14 independent Chinese secondary schools in Sarawak, starting with MYR 3 million and increasing by MYR 1 million each year, reaching MYR 10 million last year, totalling MYR 72 million. In addition, the Sarawak Government has allocated a piece of land to the independent Chinese secondary schools to generate sustainable revenue to support the operation of the schools.

In 2015, the Sarawak government was the first in Malaysia to recognise the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) of independent Chinese secondary schools, allowing our students to apply for study loans and scholarships from Yayasan Sarawak and join the Sarawak civil services, for which we are profoundly thankful.

For decades, independent Chinese secondary schools have been providing high-quality education to children from various ethnic backgrounds, contributing significantly to the national development.

In 2021, the Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board established the “Sarawak Independent Chinese Secondary School Non-Chinese Student Education Fund” to encourage non-Chinese students to enrol in independent Chinese secondary schools. Currently, non-Chinese students comprise about 3% of the student population in the 14 independent Chinese secondary schools in Sarawak. We anticipate this number to increase to 5% to 8% over the next five years.

The Sarawak Government envisions that by 2030, Sarawak will be an advanced state with a thriving society driven by digitalisation and innovation, anchored on Green Economy and a sustainable environment.

I hope that Sarawak’s independent Chinese secondary schools will align their educational goals with these innovative road maps by implementing comprehensive educational reform to meet the changing demands of the global economy, raising the competitiveness of our students and preparing them for future challenges.

Education is crucial for enhancing individual well-being, fostering societal growth, and driving national advancement. Sarawak has set a commendable example by fostering racial and religious harmony and implementing open policies that support multi-stream education. I hope the Federal Government would follow Sarawak’s lead to ensure a consistent and focused high-quality education system across the country.

In closing, I wish Pei Min Middle School continued success and prosperity. May the opening of the Peng Fei Building mark the beginning of even greater achievements. And I wish everyone good health, happiness, and success in all your endeavours. Thank you.