

**MOHE**  
**Sabah Umno opens door for suspended leaders to rejoin**  
 Sabah Umno has opened its arms to rejoining suspended leaders provided they stayed in contact and submit formal applications.

**WORLD**  
**Mysterious large steel cylinder disrupts traffic in city of Osaka**  
 Japanese firefighters were struggling Friday to move a large metal cylinder suddenly appeared from the ground after seven construction workers and one to the height of a three-story building in the city of Osaka.

**SPORTS**  
**Tottenham seek salvation, Arsenal set for title charge**  
 Tottenham Hotspur would be desperate to avoid relegation as they increasingly depend on Arsenal to win the Premier League.

## Celcom Timur contributes RM.1 million in business zakat to Sabah

**ROTA KINARAU:** Celcom Timur Sabah Sdn Bhd (CTCB) has contributed RM1 million in business zakat to Sabah Islamic Centre (MSIC) president Datuk Seri Panglima Yusoff Yusoff, in the presence of the Yang Di-Pertua Besar Sabah Tun Mustapha, during a ceremony held at Istana Seri Kinabalu on Thursday.

The contribution was presented by CTB chairman Mohamed Jusuf Abdul Awang (left) to MSIC president Datuk Seri Panglima Yusoff Yusoff.

The company currently serves a wide service area, approximately 12,000km across Sabah.



Mohamed Jusuf Abdul Awang (left) presents the zakat to Yusoff Yusoff (right), witnessed by Mustapha Yusoff and others.

# Sabah, Sarawak share equal MA63 rights

Ewon says both states united in defending constitutional guarantees

**ROTA KINARAU:** Sabah and Sarawak share the same rights as agreed upon during the formation of Malaysia, regardless of whether the region is referred to as "Borneo region" or "Sabah and Sarawak region", said Deputy Menteri Besar Ewon Yusoff.

The United Progressive Kinabalu Organisation (UKPO) president said both states are united in defending the full implementation of the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) and the rights contained within it.

While acknowledging that Sabah and Sarawak remain integral parts of the Federation of Malaysia, he said both states share similar rights as agreed during the formation of the country.

"Everybody has the right to express their views. Whether it is called the Borneo region, the Borneo bloc, or the Sabah and Sarawak region, it is we who share alike, the same rights, under MA63," he said.

Malaysian Sabah and Sarawak, there would be no Federation of Malaysia that is a fact.

Ewon said this when met by reporters during a Chinese New Year celebration organised by UKPO at Istana at the Tapanghutan Putatan compound here on Thursday.

Commenting on the terms "Borneo bloc," he said the interpretation can be considered accurate from a geographical perspective as Sabah and Sarawak are located on the same island and are separated from Peninsular Malaysia by the South China Sea.

However, in the context of



WARM WELCOME: Ewon receives a warm welcome upon arriving at the event.

nation-building he noted that the view expressed by Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor is also valid as Sabah and Sarawak remain part of the Federation and one nation, Malaysia.

"It means that the Federation of Malaysia continues to develop as a country, the MA63 and the rights of Sabah and Sarawak must be honored," he said.

Ewon noted that as long as the matters agreed under MA63 remain unimplemented, the right to demand these rights will continue.

In the state's federal government, Sabah and Sarawak currently have several official platforms to negotiate the implementation of MA63, including the MA63 Implementation Action Council and the MA63 Technical Committee, which meet annually.

"These platforms serve as channels for negotiations to ensure that the rights of Sabah and Sarawak are implemented," he said.

Ewon also recalled that when Singapore was still part of the federation, there were constitutional safeguards for territories outside Malaysia, including Sabah and Sarawak.

"At that time, President Malaysia did not hold more than three legislative powers through parliamentary means," he said.

However, he said the assurance disappeared after Singapore left the federation of Malaysia, even though the safeguards were among the reasons Sabah and Sarawak agreed to join Malaysia.

"That is why some people view Sabah and Sarawak as a bloc in Borneo. We are not an independent

## Matbali to keep raising Pan Borneo Highway delays

Matbali to keep raising Pan Borneo Highway delays

**ROTA KINARAU:** The overall implementation of the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sabah has fallen significantly behind schedule, and the issue will continue to be raised in Parliament, said Minister of Transport, Datuk Marhal Mohd.

The Minister of Parliament said the progress of the project in Sabah remains far behind that of neighbouring Sarawak despite its importance as a key catalyst for the state's economic development.

After raising the matter several times in Parliament, Mohd. Marhal said his disappointment in terms of the project's implementation in Sabah is compounded as soon as possible.

"I will continue to raise the matter in Parliament as soon as possible," he said.

He added that the development of the project will continue to be monitored periodically in the fighting parliamentary constituency along the Sandakan-Matbali-Sarawak



Datuk Marhal Mohd.

highway. Sarawak Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Muzain said the government had imposed restricted access road designs in Sabah but has high priority project for failing to complete the road in Sarawak.

"I will continue to raise the matter in Parliament as soon as possible," he said.

He added that the development of the project will continue to be monitored periodically in the fighting parliamentary constituency along the Sandakan-Matbali-Sarawak



Photo shows the seized wildlife parts.

## Election Court upholds Fairuz Renddan's victory in Pintas

**ROTA KINARAU:** The Election Court has dismissed with costs an appeal filed by the United Progressive Kinabalu Organisation (UKPO) against the victory of Fairuz Renddan in the Pintas constituency during the 15th general election.

The court, headed by Justice Justice Datuk Seri Goh Jitendra, found that the appellant's appeal was without merit.

The court also found that, by reason of the nature and complexity of the strict mandatory election rules and the statutory provisions of the Election Offences Act 1961, the petitioner will invoke the



Datuk Fairuz Renddan

Fairuz also ordered for costs of RM10,000 to be paid by UKPO.

Pandarik had argued that a corrupt practice had taken place during the election held on March 8, 2022, in violation of sections 101, 102, 103 and 104 of the Election Offences Act 1961.

Initially, Pandarik had named the first respondent, Pintas Pintas, as the returning officer for the second respondent, and the third respondent, and the fourth respondent, as the petitioner, as he did not wish to proceed with the petition against the second and third respondents, with both respondents struck out.

In his petition, Pandarik among others, sought a declaration that the election was void and that the results of the election should be null and void.

Pandarik was represented by counsel Subhanikus Vangipoli, while Pintas was represented by Rameshwaran Subashy M Sothran, Mohd Ali Hafiz Mohd Idris, and Daidi Muzaid.

During the trial, Pandarik, who contested on the Pintas constituency, alleged that the returning officer had allowed 100 votes to be counted for Pintas, which was not a valid vote.

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## Tuanan man arrested for selling protected wildlife parts

**ROTA KINARAU:** A 36-year-old man was arrested for selling protected wildlife parts in a farm, police officers in Sandakan on Thursday.

The man, identified as Tuanan, was arrested by Sandakan Wildlife Department director Mohd Suffian Abu Bakar and the arrest made around Sandakan, followed a public tip-off about wildlife sales in the area.

"Among the seized parts were two sets of bear claws, one set from a bear, one set from a bear tooth, a pangolin scale, a set of deer, and a porcupine