

**CEQ, Mdm Peggy Ronin Edin Opening Remark for the Launching of  
Electrical and Electronic Waste Collection Campaign, 2022 in  
conjunction with Earth Day 2022  
23 April 2022 (Saturday) at Dewan Masyarakat MBKS, Jalan  
Padungan, Kuching**

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**Introduction:**

1. We would have thought that Covid-19 and the prolong period of lockdown - would dampen the rate of consumerism, decreased consumption.
2. Interestingly, it's the opposite. Work-from-home, Study-from-home, online selling had led to increased demand by employees, students and citizens alike, for various electronic products such as computers, laptops and other gadgets.
3. In our rural areas, increased internet penetration and wider provision of electricity supply further boost demand from our rural communities for electronic items like handphones, smart TVs and other electrical appliances.
4. Going forward, the Development of Smart cities, increasing adoption of IoT, rapid and vast high-tech innovations, hence, fast changing trend, could push the demand for electronic products further.

**E-Waste and BEE Collection Campaign**

5. In a simplest term, electronic waste or E-waste refers to discarded and unwanted electrical and electronic devices and appliances.

6. This definition also extends to used electronics which are destined for refurbishment, reuse, resale or salvage recycling through material recovery or disposal.
7. We are well-aware that indiscriminate dumping or informal processing of E-Waste can adversely affect our health and cause environmental pollution.
8. Electronic Waste is categorised as hazardous waste due to the presence of toxic materials such as lead, mercury, arsenic, etc, if allowed to permeate into the earth, would contaminate the water sources eventually end up threatened the aquatic life, our lives and our livelihoods.
9. Being the agencies entrusted to protect the environment, NREB and DOE Sarawak are doing our best in finding ways on how we can minimise or even eliminate this grim possibility.
10. This BEE Collection Campaign albeit a baby step is a good start for us to raise awareness among our people whilst simultaneously ensuring the E-Waste are deposited at designated places for proper recycling or safe disposal.
11. At the same time, we also want to expose our people to the concept of circular economy the concept that is becoming more prevalent nowadays. This is where we anticipate all the electrical and electronic products like any other resources, materials or energy would be kept in the economic system for as long as feasible and at the "highest value' possible.
12. Meaning, the life cycle of the product or material is extended which implies reducing waste to a minimum.

13. E-waste contains many valuable, recoverable materials such as aluminium, copper, gold, silver, plastics and ferrous materials.
14. Hence, the idea of rigorously promoting and undertaking activities and works - for recovery and recycling of E-waste not only will extend the lifespan of our landfills, warranty a cleaner and healthier environment, but also make sense financially.

### **Earth Day 2022:**

15. The world celebrates Earth Day every year on April 22 since 1970.
16. This year, the theme is "Invest in our Planet" which according to the President of EarthDay.org - Ms Kathleen Rogers is about "taking action and participating in community measures to help solve the issue of mis-managed waste."
17. Hence, in accord with other people around the world amidst this Earth Day celebration, we call upon every person in our beloved State of Sarawak to act together government, businesses, society at large, everyone is accounted for, everyone is accountable - to manage and to protect the environment, to restore nature and to build a healthy planet for our children, our grandchildren and our great-great grandchildren.

### **Conclusion and Calls for Action:**

18. Like any other habits, the habit of reducing, reuse, repurpose, recycling or simply call Eco-friendly habit - Environmentally Conscious Lifestyle, should be cultivated, and begins in our homes, then spills to our workplace, our local community; thereafter infiltrates our towns and cities, our districts, our divisions; and ultimately reshapes our State, our Nation, our World.

19. Building this habit and lifestyle, it's not hard. It only needs behaviour change. It only needs gut to do the right thing. It only needs willpower to persevere.
  
20. Hence, we would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the efforts of many who have, still are, and in the future, doing their parts in any elements of the waste management might it be for BEE, glass, papers, plastics, metal, tyres, and many other waste.
  
21. Our thanks also to all the ministries, departments and agencies, the contractors, members of the BEE Organizing Committee, members of the public, the media and all of you presence here this morning. Thank you for making this BEE Collection Campaign possible.
  
22. To our guest of honour, Dato Mayor and the MBKS Team, thank you for officiating and hosting today's event.

**Selamat Menyambut Hari Bumi 2022. Selamat Berpuasa.**

Together We Continue to Invest in Our Planet, and God bless.

Thank you!

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