

Speech Text By
DATO WEE HONG SENG,
MAYOR OF KUCHING SOUTH CITY COUNCIL (MBKS)

On the Occasion to Officiate the Launching Ceremony of
KEMPEN PENGUMPULAN BUANGAN ELEKTIKAL DAN ELEKTRONIK (BEE)
E-WASTE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN 2022

In Conjunction With **EARTH DAY 2022**

23 APRIL 2022 (SATURDAY)
DEWAN MASYARAKAT MBKS, JALAN PADUNGAN, KUCHING

Selamat Pagi dan Salam Sejahtera,

1. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for taking your time to be here to attend the **Launching Ceremony of Electrical and Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Collection Campaign 2022** or *Pelancaran Kempen Pengumpulan Buangan Elektrikal dan Elektronik (BEE) 2022*. Your presence this morning shows your support, enthusiasm and commitment in environmental issues, especially related to E-Waste management.
2. I would like to thank the organizing committee - the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), Sarawak and the Sarawak State Department of Environment (DOE) in collaboration with Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government (MPHLG), Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development (MUDeNR), Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan (MBKS), Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara (DBKU) and Bintulu Development Authority (BDA) for inviting me to officiate the **Launching Ceremony of E-Waste Collection Campaign 2022** in conjunction with **Earth Day 2022**.
3. I am very happy that MBKS has been chosen as a venue to host the launching of E-Waste Collection Campaign 2022. Your concerted effort and close cooperation in making this event a success is very much appreciated.

Earth Day 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. **Earth Day** is an annual global event, observed on April 22. The annual Earth Day celebration around the world is an effort to appreciate the earth and instill a sense of responsibility as well as raise awareness among the community to protect the earth and the environment. This year, the Earth Day theme is "**Invest in Our Planet**" – a call for governments, businesses and individuals to invest in a better future for the planet.
5. As mentioned by Mdm Peggy Ronin (Controller of Environmental Quality), one of the activities emphasized in conjunction with this year's Earth Day Celebration is the E-Waste Collection Campaign programmes, the activities which are jointly conducted by all us as a stakeholders throughout this year 2022 in Sarawak.

6. I'm sure we all want to save the environment at any cost. Environmental pollution is one of the major problems that are faced in our modern world. However, there has been huge technological advancement in these current days, and this is also inviting negative and harmful effects on the environment. By taking a simple step like planting a tree, we can make the world a better place. To save our environment, everyone has to come together to support it. We have to do some steps because the environment affects us because of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. I believe all the Local Councils in the State had given their best effort in order to tackle the problems caused by wastes especially household waste. For instance, in MBKS, we offer an avenue for public to dispose recyclable items and offer them coupons to trade it for household items. And not to forget, the organic waste collection from our markets converted to compost through the Bio-Mate Compost (high speed composting) as well as black soldier fly composting method. Channelling a significant portion of our organic waste from the landfill to a better use.
8. When we talk about reducing waste and conserving the environment, recycling is one of the many practices that should be imbedded in daily practice. Recycling can help to reduce the amount of wastes diverted to the landfill thus reducing the cost of waste disposal and at the same time, it also reduces the impact of global warming particularly from the emission of Green House Gases from Landfill. Through recycling, we can also conserve both our renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

E- Waste Collection Campaign 2022

Kempen Pengumpulan Buangan Elektrikal Dan Elektronik (BEE) 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. The world produces as much as 50 million tonnes of E-Waste a year. Only 20% of this is formally recycled. The E-Waste produced annually is worth over \$62.5 billion, more than the GDP of most countries (*UN report 2019*). Based on statistical data from 2021 Global E-Waste Control, 57.4 million metric tons of electrical and electronic device waste was generated worldwide in 2021.
10. In Sarawak, a total of 73.4 metric tonnes of e-waste was collected in 2020 and 15.2 metric tonnes in 2021. Meanwhile, during the E-waste collection program conducted recently on 26 March 2022 at Desa Guru Kuching, a total of 20.35 metric tonnes of e-waste was collected.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. There are serious environmental risks if we send E-Waste to a landfill. Disposal of e-waste at landfills could cause leachate pollution of the surface and ground water as the heavy metals dissolve in the soil and bring a negative impact on humans, animals, aquatic and marine life.

12. Besides, in E-Waste, there are precious metals that can be recovered and reused, to reduce dependence on natural resources that need to be mined. Environmentally friendly E-Waste management could help the government to reduce e-waste at our landfills.
13. This programme, the E-Waste Collection Campaign 2022 at the State level is an initiative of the Sarawak Government, aimed at fostering collaboration between the community and government agencies in protecting the environment from pollution due to e-waste and to create awareness on the importance of safely and environmentally friendly of e-waste disposal.
14. This Campaign is one of the ways to address e-waste by collecting e-waste at targeted places for disposal purposes and in compliance with the provisions of the Act, i.e. **Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974 (AKAS 1974)**.
15. In addition, this effort is also in line with the Sarawak Government's requirement that all e-waste is managed in accordance with existing regulations and disposed off safely by a licensed company (registered with the DOE).

The Way Forwards

Ladies and Gentlemen,

16. Premier of Sarawak has clearly envisioned that Sarawak to become a Developed State by 2030. The intention is not only to progress from the economic sector, but also to progress in socio-economic aspects including a sustainable environment. It is important for us to take care of Sarawak, so that it is always clean and healthy for current and future generations.
17. As part of efforts to ensure the well-being of our environment, the Sarawak Government through MUDeNR is in the process to develop a mechanism to manage E-Waste effectively in the State.
18. The Government recognize that a green and clean environment is essential for the well-being of the people of the world. Therefore, the Government is serious and committed in its efforts to address the environmental issues for the benefit of present and future generations. This commitment is clearly reflected in NREB's vision "**A Green, Clean and Healthy Sarawak**".
19. The NREB enforces a number of laws, in addition to implementing policies, programs and activities towards achieving the Vision. Under the **Sarawak Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance** (amended 2019), the offense of disposing of solid waste, including electrical and electronic waste without a permit, is punishable by a fine of up to RM100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Ringgit) and imprisonment for 5 years, if convicted.
20. Under the Local Authorities (Cleanliness) By-Law 1999, the offense of drop, deposit or throw any waste at any public place is punishable by a fine of RM1,000.00 (One Thousand Ringgit) for the first offense and, a further fine of RM2,000.00 (Two Thousand Ringgit) or imprisonment for 6 months or both such fine and imprisonment, if convicted.

21. Meanwhile, Soft Enforcement approach by the NREB are through various environmental education, outreach and awareness programmes such as Kelab Pencinta Alam Sekitar (PALS) for the school children, Environmental Talks and Environmental camps involving general public, communities, private sector and NGOs are also being implemented with the supports from other agencies, local corporate companies and NGOs to help inculcate environmental culture and active public participation towards environmental protection.
22. Sustained and continuous public awareness campaign are being carried out to draw public attention of their equal responsibility in safeguarding the environment.
23. I believe that our local efforts (such as this Campaign) in protecting our environment will contribute towards global initiatives in reducing the emission of green house gases and combating global warming and this initiative will be a catalyst for environmental sustainability in Sarawak.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

24. The Government's intention to address various environmental issues will not succeed without the involvement and support of all stakeholders, namely the government agencies, private sector, business communities, NGOs and civil society. Our continuous efforts to address various environmental issues will ensure that the wealth we enjoy now can be shared with our future generations.
25. I hope this ***Kempen Pengumpulan Buangan Elektrikal dan Elektronik (BEE) 2022 or E-Waste Collection Campaign 2022*** will be successfully implemented and smoothly carried out at various locations throughout Sarawak, as planned this year 2022.
26. Lastly, I would like to once again express my gratitude and congratulations to the NREB and DOE as well as other collaborating agencies (MPLGH, MUDeNR, MBKS, DBKU, BDA and all the PBTs) for your untiring efforts in promoting environmental stewardship in Sarawak.
27. I wish to thank the media for their efforts to continuously highlight the importance of environmental management and protection and also to continue to collaborate with the NREB and other stakeholders to help educate and enhance the culture of environmentalism among our general public.
28. We only have one earth as our home. If we spoil what we have here, we will suffer the consequences of our actions. If we take care of nature, then nature will also take care of us in return. This is a major reason why we should take care of the earth. Together, we must **Invest In Our Planet**. Because a **green future is a prosperous future!**
29. With this, I am pleased to officiate the State level **Launching of Electrical and Electronic Waste Collection Campaign 2022** in conjunction with **Earth Day 2022**.

Thank you, Stay Safe and Selamat Berpuasa !