

# CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS RESPOND TO PM



A civil society consortium of four organisations welcomes and affirms Prime Minister Dato' Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's recent statements while tabling the 12th Malaysia Plan at the Dewan Rakyat on 27 September. In his address, Dato' Seri Ismail announced that a comprehensive National Energy Policy will be introduced to provide strategic direction for Malaysia to achieve its carbon neutral aspiration by or before 2050. He declared that the nation will no longer build new coal fired power plants and that energy sustainability - including cleaner electricity generation and energy efficiency - will be at the core of our socio-economic development.



*(Solar Panel Maintenance at Kg. Sabibingkol, Pensiangan. Photo credit to Tonibung)*

The Consortium comprises Forever Sabah, TONIBUNG-CREATE, PACOS Trust and Green Empowerment and are working on a Sabah Renewable Energy Rural Electrification Roadmap with the vision to address half of Sabah's rural energy demand by 2027 through mini-grid systems. With support from UK PACT - Partners for Accelerated Climate Transitions - the Consortium is working with Unit Perancangan Ekonomi Negeri Sabah, Kementerian Pembangunan Luar Bandar Sabah, Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd, and other state government agencies. After delivery and socialising of the Roadmap amongst stakeholders in early 2022, the hope is that it will be integrated into the State's strategic planning.



“We look forward to better alignment and meaningful cooperation with government in addressing community development, right livelihood, energy equity, and low carbon local economies in our transition towards a climate resilient future for Sabah and Malaysia.”, says Alice Jipius of TONIBUNG-CREATE who have been building renewable energy micro/mini-grids with communities in Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia for 20 years.



*(Microhydro Site at Kg. Buayan, Penampang. Photo credit to TONIBUNG)*

Dato' Seri Ismail had added that to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), civil society organisations will be recognised as development partners and their roles will be institutionalised in governance mechanisms especially in implementing and monitoring development programs at grassroots level.

“We’re pleased to see this convergence of aspiration and strategy between government and civil society and believe that with our combined will, capacities, and capabilities, we can achieve them. It is very much our intention to bring our best abilities and contributions to the table”, says Cynthia Ong of Forever Sabah who leads and convenes the Consortium.



*(Drone shot of Kg. Sikait, Pagalungan. Photo credit to PACOS Trust)*

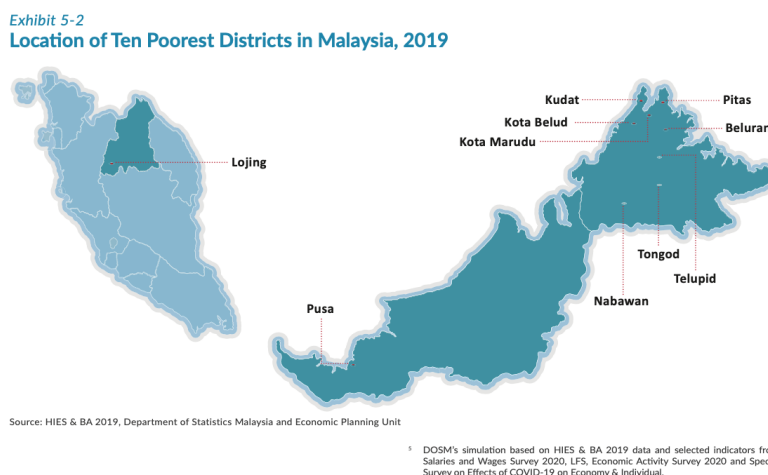
Anne Lasimbang of PACOS Trust who brings decades of grassroots community engagement and project implementation throughout Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia and the region states that “Civil society organisations have access, mobility, and relationships that can ground and enable development in real, resilient, and inclusive ways.”

Gabriel Sundoro Wynn of Green Empowerment closes by adding “Civil society has access to international climate financing resources, expertise and partnerships in distinct ways that can bring value to socio-economic development processes.”



*(Children studying without Electricity, Kg. Dagat. Photo credit to Forever Sabah)*

The Consortium notes that according to the 12th Malaysia Plan, eight of ten poorest districts in the country are in Sabah. From its study results, there is a direct relationship between energy access and socio-economic inclusion; three quarters of Sabah’s unelectrified communities are in those very eight districts.



*(Graphic from page 5-5 of the 12th Malaysia Plan)*

**Learn more about Sabah RE2 Roadmap**

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