

**OPENING ADDRESS AND  
OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF GETS 4.0  
BY YAB DATUK PATINGGI (DR) ABANG  
HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN ZOHARI BIN  
TUN DATUK ABANG HAJI OPENG  
CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK**

**11.00 AM, WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021  
(ZOOM SESSION)**

**[Salutations]**

- Yang Berhormat Menteri-Menteri
- Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, Setiausaha Kerajaan Sarawak
- Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri
- Yang Berbahagia Datu Dr Sabariah Putit, Timbalan Setiausaha Kerajaan Sarawak dan Pengerusi SCOPE
- Tuan-Tuan dan Puan-Puan yang saya hormati
- Assalamualaikum, Salam Sejahtera and Salam Ibu Pertiwiku

**OPENING**

1. A very warm welcome to you all today to the Graduate Enhancement Training Sarawak (GETS) Program Launch.
2. I would like to thank everyone, to all the participants of this event today attending either physically or virtually on social media platforms.
3. My sincere appreciation and thank you to the organizing committee from the Sarawak Centre of Performance Excellence (SCOPE), Leadership Institute (LI) and the State Human Resource Unit (SHRU) as well of the respective state agencies and GETS partners who made this hybrid event to fruition today.
4. Alhamdulillah despite the C19 challenges times, we are able to gather here today to officiate the GETS 4.0 program along with three hundred (300) of our graduates throughout the State-joining us on live streaming.
5. Therefore, this event today marks our recognition of our young local graduates' academic achievements, diversity, talents and socio-economic contributions throughout the State.

## **ABOUT THE GETS 4.0 PROGRAM**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Looking back, the initial first generation GETS program first began in 2018 and is still an ongoing initiative for the past three years due to the increasing demand for new workforce. However, ever since the year 2020, the program rightly has been rebranded as GETS 4.0. In order to be more structured and adopt the Fourth Industry Revolution (IR 4.0) approach to further enhanced the talent development agenda for our youths in Sarawak. This is in line with our digital competencies upskilling initiative in the pursuit the objectives of our Digital Economy Agenda (2022).

## **PCDS 2030 – HUMAN CAPITAL THRUST**

7. I have often said that data is an increasingly valuable economic commodity in both the public and private sector to drive economic growth. Therefore, incorporating the IR 4.0 knowledge model means enterprises in Sarawak would need to expand their value-creation capabilities and reshape business models, especially in this tough pandemic environment.
8. I have recently launched the Post Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030 or PCDS 2030, which is a long-term realignment strategy that focuses on the State's overall socio-economic development through equitable distribution of wealth via jobs and creation of business opportunities. We have to realign the State's economic direction in order to stay on track to achieve the vision of becoming a developed and high-income economy by 2030.
9. In the context of capital and talent development, PCDS has incorporated human capital and talent development in its seven-point agenda as we anticipate the creation of 195,000 high-paying jobs in order to generate a total employment of 1.5 million by 2030.
10. Therefore, today I would like to urge all our young Sarawakians, especially our graduates with us today, to see the vast opportunities of Sarawak's digitalization agenda. Towards this end, I believe GETS 4.0 plays an important role in cultivating digital leaders and instilling the culture of embracing the ever-advancing digital technology and solutions, and always seeking ways to imbue them in our work processes. For example, the LASIS system of the Land and Surveys Department, have provided solutions to enhance the service of the department, thanks to quickness of people in there to see the potentials of IT solutions.
11. I am glad that the GETS 4.0 program has been designed with a special focus on digital competencies such as data analytics and problem-solving skills through on the job trainings. We have to continue to invest in developing our own digital,

technical and creative talents in our endeavour to attain Industry Revolution 4.0 status.

12. In addition to digital skills, there is a strong demand for soft skills such as project management, decision making, critical thinking, communication, design thinking and negotiating which will empower people to equip with the competencies of the digital revolution in order to create a workforce fit for a digital future.

## **PCDS (2030) - DIGITAL & EXECUTION THRUST**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. In the wake of the pandemic, workers around the world have adapted to the practices of working from home. This trend has become prevalent across the globe and it is predicted that it is a new work culture which will stay even after the world recovers from the pandemic. It is a work culture that has incorporated flexibility and employees in many countries, according to a study, are hoping it will continue in the post-COVID world.
14. The evolution of this new work culture also means employers have to adopt hybrid work arrangements and provide the flexibility for employees to work anywhere and anytime. As such, companies with strict and clear protocols for on-site and remote working are likely to retain and attract better digital talents among our young people in the long run.
15. I foresee that the culture of working from home and having flexible work schedules will still be the most viable and safest option at least during the endemic stage of COVID-19. Therefore, organizations need to provide more training around technology to help their employees improve their skills to adapt to the new work environment while maintaining productivity.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

16. The Sarawak Post Covid-19 Development Strategy (2030) vision is indeed an ambitious plan which has been thoughtfully articulated with specific deliverables and output. Certainly, to achieve all agenda under PCDS 2030 will not be an easy task. However, I believe that with perseverance and our Anak Sarawak spirit of Agi Idup Agi Ngelaban among our young people, we can and will achieve our dreams to be a fully developed State by 2030.
17. Finally, I must express my appreciation to Datuk Amar Jaul Samion, The State Secretary of Sarawak, Datu Dr Sabariah Putit, Deputy State Secretary and SCOPE Chairperson, the GETS interns and strategic partners, respective Ministries and

Government agencies as well as Government-Linked Companies and private sectors who have worked very hard and contributed to the State Digital Economy journey thus far.

18. With this remark, I now have the pleasure to officially launch GETS 4.0 program and wish all the local graduates the very best in their undertaking as they begin their career path towards the future.
19. Thank you.