



**SIDANG MEDIA KHAS YAB KETUA MENTERI SARAWAK
6 Mei 2020, 12.00 tengah hari, Wisma Bapa Malaysia**

**POST COVID-19 EXIT ECONOMIC STRATEGY UP TO 2030
(FORMATION OF SARAWAK ECONOMIC ACTION COUNCIL)**

INTRODUCTION

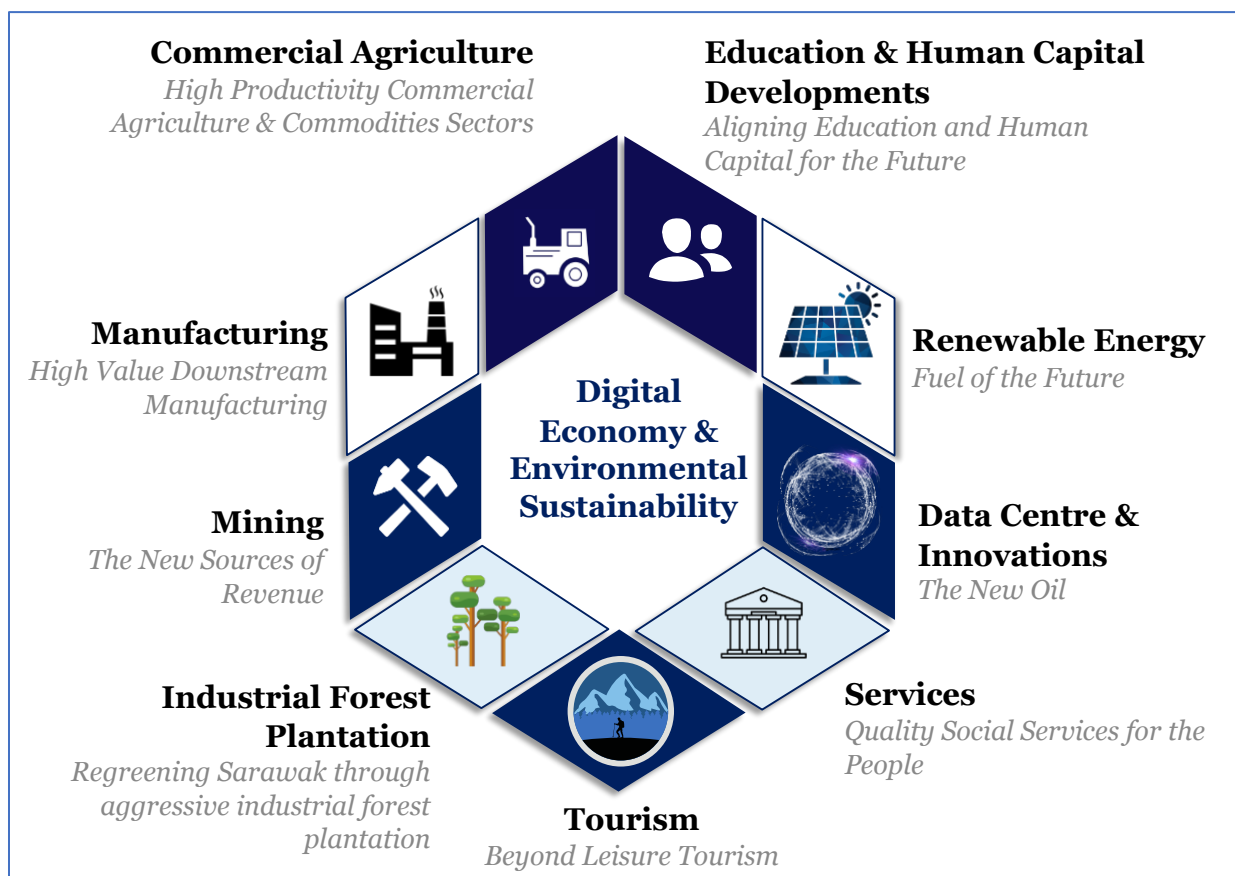
The Covid-19 pandemic is inflicting high and rising human cost worldwide. Protecting lives and allowing health system to cope have required isolation, lockdown and widespread closure to slow the spread of the virus. The health crisis is therefore having a severe impact on economic activities worldwide.

The global economy is projected to contract sharply by negative 3% in 2020 much worse than during the 2008 financial crisis. Malaysia is not spared from this pandemic and is projected to grow between negative 2.0% to 0.5% in 2020 affected by both weak global demand, disruption of supply chain and containment measures both abroad and domestic.

The impacts brought by the pandemic has resulted in the creation and emergence of "New Norms" globally and we would not be able to do "Business as Usual" anymore. This is the scenario that we have never experience before and would require us to exercise new way of doing things now and in the future.

Therefore, we have reviewed our development strategies under the 12th Malaysia Plan to recover from severe economic impact due to COVID-19 so as to remain resilient, adapting to “new normal” and promote future economic growth and development.

POST COVID-19 EXIT ECONOMIC STRATEGY UP TO 2030



Moving forward, Sarawak will anchor on two core principles in developing its economic, social and governance sectors. In 2030, our major economic sector will be fully developed based on these two core principles:

1. Digital Economy; &
2. Environmental Sustainability

To enhance our economic productivity and competitiveness, we will intensify our Digital Economy Agenda across all sectors of Sarawak's economy. Hence, Data Centre plays a pivotal role in driving innovation in the digital application sphere.

Sustainable environment will feature prominently in our future development plan. We will ensure that Sarawak achieve a clean, healthy, and resilient environment for the current and future generations.

Data Centre and Innovation – The New Oil

We will increase the capacity of our Data Centre and Innovation to cater for the ever-increasing demands across all economic sectors domestically as well as global needs. The enhanced capacity will be further supported by ever growing need of digital services such as Digital ID, Digital Wallet, Big Data, Blockchain, Fintech, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence. Our Data Centre and Innovation will be environmentally sustainable as it consumes renewable energy. Big Data will be the new oil of our economy.

Mining – The New Source of Revenue

Sarawak Government will emphasize on the mining sector as the we have abundant minerals and natural resources such as oil, gas, coal, silica sands, limestones and others as new sources of revenue.

Our mining sector, particularly the oil and gas sector will utilize our Data Centre and Innovation to enhance its resources planning and

deployment in place of conventional method. This will increase productivity and efficiency, and global good practices can be adopted by other mining sectors. The mining sector will be a new source of our revenue.

High Productivity Commercial Agriculture & Commodity Sector

In agriculture, the focus would be on commercialization and modernization leveraging on latest technology and Artificial Intelligence to intensify and improve productivity, New business model will be introduced increase productions and productivity. Increasing productivity in agriculture and commodity sector is key to this effort. New innovations especially precision farming with the application of Internet of Things (IoT) as well as latest research and development applications will be intensified.

High Value Downstream Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector will be transformed for more value added and downstream processing activities especially in high tech (e.g. Electrics & Electronics), heavy industries (e.g. Steel, Aluminium), resource (e.g. Timber, biodiversity, Petrochemical) and non-resource based downstream industries as well as build the capacity of the SMEs.

Re-greening Sarawak through Aggressive Industrial Forest Plantations

Sarawak Government will focus on sustainable forest management through partnerships between government, businesses and the community. Among the key initiatives are:

- Aggressive industrial forest plantations
- Reforestation of degraded areas; &
- International certification of our forest management practices

This effort will help preserve and conserve our forest for the future and generate revenue for Sarawak. This will also make Sarawak globally recognised as contributor to UN and Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG) decarbonisation efforts.

Beyond Leisure Tourism

Post COVID-19, tourism industry would take longer time to jump start. As such, great effort will be initiated to build up tourists' confidence and airlines to resume their operation. We will intensify our efforts to develop this sector through product developments, and key initiatives would include diversification into other tourism products beyond leisure tourism (e.g. Medical, Sports, education and other home-grown events).

Sarawak's natural endowments such as resorts, caves, natural lakes, national parks, rivers and mountains will be given added emphasis for tourism activities.

Quality Social Services for the People

We need new approaches in our key services sectors for the wellbeing of our people. For example, we need to introduce new

housing policies to ensure healthy living. We need to develop new capabilities in healthcare sectors, Post COVID-19 era.

Renewable Energy – Fuel of the Future

Encourage the use of Renewable Energy sources such as hydropower, solar, biomass, hydrogen and biogas to generate electricity to achieve balanced energy mix and reduce carbon emission.

Aligning Education and Human Capital for the Future

Our education system will build talented workforce that is agile and adaptive to the ever-changing landscape of industries in Sarawak. This is important for continuous innovation to sustain our economic growth.

The other key sectors such as infrastructure, logistics, utilities, telecommunication, transport and welfare will be continued to support these key social and economic initiatives.

Sarawak Economic Action Council

In light of the above post-COVID-19 exit development agenda, it is therefore pertinent for the State to get views of the stakeholders, i.e. chambers of commerce, professionals and academics to deliberate in details the various sectors in order to formulate action plans for achieving the new economic agenda for Sarawak.

The council will study the details of the above propositions that are to be submitted to the government by September 2020.

