



PRESS RELEASE  
for immediate release

Kuching, 15th December 2017

**Sarawak Heritage Society pays courtesy call to Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth & Sports**

The Executive Committee of the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) paid a courtesy call to YB Datuk Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth & Sports at his office in Baitul Makmur today.

Led by its President, Dato Sri Robert Jacob Ridu, the delegation's visit was a follow-up to a recent meeting with the Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari.

YB Datuk Karim had stated that the State's policy, legislative and regulatory framework on heritage assets and the Heritage Ordinance need to be revisited. This is to ensure that heritage management is consistent and coordinated with a clear partition of scope, not overlapping with that of the Sarawak Museum's.

YB Datuk also acknowledged the delicate tension between heritage conservation and development. He believes that a pragmatic balance between economic development and conservation can be achieved when a proper heritage management framework is in place. SHS agrees with the Minister that with innovative planning and adaptive reuse, the integrity of our cultural and built heritage need not be compromised.

SHS explored a variety of heritage management issues with the Minister and found that its views are generally in sync with the Sarawak Government's plans and intentions for Sarawak heritage management.

Among the areas proposed was a built heritage Baseline Study, using independent consultants, which would include a technical assessment of buildings, documenting heritage assets within defined "heritage zones" of Kuching. The results of such a study would provide valuable inputs for heritage management, city planning and urban rejuvenation. SHS also urged allocation of more government funds for maintaining listed government-owned heritage sites as well as incentivising private owners to maintain their heritage assets.

YB Datuk Karim acknowledged a common shared vision and encouraged members of Sarawak Heritage Society and Sarawak Museum to hold further discussions for future collaboration.

Also present at the discussion were Encik Tazudin Mohtar and Harry Johia, representatives of the Sarawak Museum.

-----END-----

#### About Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS)

The Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) was set up as a non-partisan, non-governmental and non-profit organisation in 2007. Its mission is to promote the conservation, permanent preservation and sustainable management of Sarawak's unique cultural heritage assets, both tangible (buildings, monuments, sites, cultural landscapes, objects) and intangible (traditional arts and crafts, customs and traditions, food). More details can be found on the SHS website ([sarawakheritagesociety.com](http://sarawakheritagesociety.com)) and Facebook page.