

**Address by Anna Wee,
SHS Organizing Chairperson,
at the opening of the Exhibition of Heritage Buildings Sketches
Old Court House, Kuching, 21 Nov. 2014**

Good morning and welcome.

Thank you, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Patinggi Dato Jamilah Anu for making the time to officiate this event. We are truly honoured by your gracious presence today. A warm welcome to dignitaries and all our guests here.

History matters. History matters because it reminds us of who we were, what we have done and how we may do better. We treasure our heritage because it is central to our sense of belonging and it is an integral part of our national identity.

We want economic development. But we do not like history demolished. We want economic development and modernisation to accompany the integrity of our heritage within the overall process of urban development. The tension between conservation and development remains a work in progress and a challenge for both government and the civil society.

To this end, SHS's role is three-pronged.

Firstly, we do proper documentation of heritage buildings, sites and monuments. Secondly, it is advocacy. And thirdly, we strive to be a catalyst to initiate involvement and a broader engagement with government agencies and councils towards building a stronger institutional policy to conserve heritage wherever possible.

28th Feb 2014 is a day of renewed hope for Sarawakians. It bodes well of a new beginning. A beginning for us all to celebrate our distinct, rich and diverse heritage.

The objective of our membership recruitment drive this year, is, in essence, to build this awareness and to engage more community participation of our shared responsibility.

To those who are not yet members, please join us today. To those who are already members, we welcome your involvement. Because this is our Sarawak - our homeland. We all have a part to play.

Thank you.