

# SHS is confident it can contribute and value add to the conservation and promotion of Sarawak's heritage in the following ways

## Focus Areas

## Highlights

**1** Conduct an assessment of the public policy, regulatory, financing and enforcement framework

- Assessment would **review existing frameworks**, and where necessary provide **insights** and **recommendations**
- To be headed up by a small SHS-led technical team
- Team would require relevant information and involvement from the following key stakeholders (non-exhaustive)
  - Ministry of Tourism Arts & Culture, Sarawak
  - The Sarawak Museum Department
  - State Planning Authority
  - Lands & Survey
  - DBKU & MBKS
  - LCDA
- This assessment could be followed by a workshop to discuss findings and chart the way forward.

**2** Facilitate a **Baseline Technical Study** by independent consultants on Kuching's heritage zone

- The content of such a study would be the following 4 key areas:-
  - i. Provide an **expert assessment** of the **built** and **intangible heritage conservation potential** of the Kuching heritage core, taking into account current and proposed programmes and projects (e.g. Heritage Square, Heritage Trail, etc)
  - ii. Outline proposals for a **mid-term strategy** and **planning itinerary** for the **heritage core**
  - iii. Draft a Concept Paper / **Terms of Reference** for the preparation of an **Inventory of Heritage Assets** and a Special Area Plan for the heritage core
  - iv. Present a technical opinion and suggestions on **conservation itineraries** that could be envisaged for **specific assets** such as the old Brooke Dockyard and the old Hokkien school building at Jalan Tabuan.

**3** Raise public awareness

- To continue to raise public awareness through site visits, field trips, study tours, outings, large and small conferences, forums, talks
- Social Media Communication
- better structuring of information on various aspects of Sarawak cultural heritage,
- collaboration with other stakeholders involved in heritage conservation: beyond Government agencies,
- sourcing sponsorship for project financing, building on existing tax incentives

# In return, SHS are kindly requesting for the following commitments to be able to work effectively and efficiently

## From the Government

### ① Strengthened public policy, regulatory, financing and enforcement framework

- There should be stronger enforcement of the existing building and heritage regulations. For example, the historical centre of Kuching is a landscape of rampant illegal, often unsightly building extensions, signages and loud colours



### ② Strengthened Cultural Heritage Management Framework

- The framework would have diverse facets, e.g. policy, strategy, regulatory, and financial
- Our view is that the first step should be to **commission a candid, independent review** of the current status of **Sarawak's heritage conservation and management**.
- The actual **gazetting** of **heritage sites** that have long been in the **pipeline** for listing, as well as additional sites and areas, e.g. the old Hokkien School, Siniawan Bazaar, the old Brooke Dockyard, and creation of a gazetted heritage zone

### ③ Government Budget Allocations

- The State may need to consider providing Government budgets or measures
  - i. commensurate to the **maintenance requirements** of the gazetted government-owned heritage sites
  - ii. providing **financial support** to **selected** heritage conservation **projects**
  - iii. providing **financial incentives** to **private owners** of built heritage to conserve and maintain their assets.

## From all Stakeholders

### ④ Increased public awareness of heritage protection and conservation issues

### ⑤ Grassroot participation & willingness to highlight to SHS and relevant agencies those areas where heritage assets are being damaged or improvement to heritage management is required.

### ⑥ Active participation by holders of heritage assets in their conservation and management.