



21 March 2024

PAC MEDIA STATEMENT

1. Today, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has tabled the PAC Report on the Management of the Upgrading and Redevelopment of Dilapidated School Buildings under the Ministry of Education (MOE), Public Works Department (JKR) of Malaysia, Sarawak Public Works Department and Sabah Public Works Department.
2. The Report was tabled after the proceeding that was conducted by the PAC on 17 January 2024. In that proceeding, the PAC has summoned the witnesses as follows:
 - i. **Dato' Indera Nik Nasarudin bin Mohd Zawawi**, Chief Secretary of MOE;
 - ii. **Dato' Ir. Hj. Badioezaman bin Ab. Khalik**, Deputy Director General of Works;
 - iii. **Ir. Ts. Br. Dr. Cassidy Anak Morris**, Deputy Director (Infrastructure Sector) of Sarawak JKR; and
 - iv. **Mr. Petrocelli Joseph**, Chief Assistant Director of Sabah JKR.
3. As part of the proceeding, PAC visited four schools in Sarawak on 5 February 2024, namely Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Supok and SK Nanga Grenjang in Saratok as well as SK Serabang and SK Paku Central in Betong.

4. In that proceeding, PAC found that there are some school buildings which had long been identified as unfit for use by the JKR, yet no action has been taken to correct the situation. For instance, a few buildings were recommended for repairs for 12 years, but no action has been taken.
5. PAC was informed that this occurred due to financial constraints, which have forced the MOE to choose several schools that need to be prioritised based on their critical condition or damage.
6. Apart from that, PAC also noted that delays in processing dilapidated school project applications by the MOE have resulted in the issuance of Notices of Change that worsened existing damages, in addition to new requirements to accommodate the latest developments.
7. The PAC found that the MOE's failure to take immediate actions to resolve this issue has resulted in the following consequences:
 - i. buildings or spaces identified as unfit for use by the JKR are still being utilised;
 - ii. the alternatives provided are not conducive, thus affecting the teaching and learning process;
 - iii. there were additional costs such as the costs for the construction of temporary buildings for student relocations, increased overhead costs, time-related expenses, extension costs, and other related expenses that need to be borne by the Government; and
 - iv. increased workload pressure on school/education office/Ministry staff due to demands and complaints from parents/public and pressure on

students as they need to go through the learning sessions in non-conducive and uncomfortable conditions.

8. Therefore, the PAC urges the MOE to implement its planning and take proactive actions to ensure that schools in Malaysia are in a safe and conducive environment.
9. There are four recommendations by the PAC which include the introduction of the Zero Dilapidated School Buildings programme.
10. Based on the proceedings that have been held, PAC has come out with six summaries as follows:
 - i. According to the Auditor-General's Report, only 411 (27.3%) out of 1,505 schools applied for dilapidated projects and 398 of them were approved. However, only 386 projects were implemented, with 123 (31.9%) completed. Meanwhile, 1,094 schools are yet to submit applications for this project.
 - ii. During the proceeding on 17 January 2024, MOE informed that a total of 267 applications of dilapidated projects had been submitted to the Ministry of Economy, with 249 applications approved.
 - iii. MOE has conducted engagement sessions with stakeholders at both federal and state levels to expedite processes related to dilapidated projects, such as Approval of Demolition Proposal, Decision on Allocation Transfer, Matters on Land Ownership, Planning Permission, Notice of Change (NOC), and others.

- iv. The establishment of a Special Task Force on Agency Reform (STAR) and monitoring by the MOE were initiated to ensure ongoing projects are not delayed.
- v. The dilapidated school projects carried out in packages are deemed ineffective, and both the MOE and the JKR agree not to continue with this approach. These sick package-based projects are being closely monitored by the JKR.
- vi. For dilapidated school project applications that have not been submitted to and/or approved by the Ministry of Economy, the MOE has decided to conduct maintenance works to extend the lifespan and functionality of the buildings so that they remain safe for use.

11. As for improvement measures on the Management of the Upgrading and Redevelopment of Dilapidated School Buildings, PAC has come out with four recommendations to be implemented by the MOE which are:

- i. to launch the nationwide Zero Dilapidated School Buildings programme in line with the MOE's commitment to create a safe and conducive environment for the teaching and learning process.
- ii. to enhance the planning and implementation of school maintenance programmes to reduce the likelihood of these schools being categorised as dilapidated schools.
- iii. to strengthen project management practices through continuous meetings of the Ministry's Development Action Committee to ensure that all planned projects are completed on time.

- iv. the Steering Committee for the Redevelopment of Dilapidated School Buildings, chaired by the MOE, needs to be empowered to more effectively address the issues of dilapidated schools.
12. The PAC has given the MOE a two-month deadline to respond to and implement the four recommendations by the PAC before being summoned for follow-up proceedings.
 13. The public can read the statements and findings of this Report by visiting the PAC website at www.parlimen.gov.my/pac.

Thank you.

Honourable Datuk Wira Mas Ermieyati binti Samsuddin
Chairman of PAC