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1 – 31 December 2021

HIGHLIGHTS FOCUS

- **ADB cuts developing Asia GDP outlook as new variant poses risks**
- **Global goods trade hits Covid-19 bumps as risks tilt to downside**
- **Natural gas fuelling a sustainable future for Malaysian gas industry**
- **Malaysia on track for strong, sustainable growth after trade and FDI success in 2021 -Azmin**
- **Sabah CM announces state-owned oil and gas company**
- **New high-yield paddy variety in Sabah**

INTERNATIONAL ANTARABANGSA

ADB cuts developing Asia GDP outlook as new variant poses risks: The Asian Development Bank cut economic growth forecasts for developing Asia, as the emergence of the omicron variant and rising coronavirus infections globally show the pandemic is far from over. The region's gross domestic product will expand 7% this year, down a notch from the 7.1% forecast in September, the ADB said in its Asian Development Outlook Supplement released recently. The expansion will mark a course reversal from last year's 0.1% contraction, and will moderate to 5.3% in 2022 -- slower than the 5.4% previously estimated. (14 December, Bloomberg)

Global goods trade hits Covid-19 bumps as risks tilt to downside: Supply chain disruptions and rising Covid-19 cases reduced the volume of global merchandise trade by 0.8 per cent in the third quarter, ending a 12-month run of solid expansion, according to a report from the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The Geneva-based WTO said North American and European imports were weaker than expected, and exports from both regions declined. Now the Omicron variant of the virus that causes Covid-19 has "tipped the balance of risks towards the downside", the WTO said. (20 December, The Straits Times)

US jobs growth falls far short of expectations: US employers hired only 210,000 more workers in November, missing economists' predictions for stronger growth. Forecasters had been expecting US non-farm payrolls to increase by 550,000. However, the unemployment rate dropped sharply to 4.2% and more Americans returned to the work force. The mixed jobs data does not reflect the emergence of the Omicron variant at the end of November which could affect the economic recovery. (4 December, BBC News)

Brexit: UK signs free trade deal with Australia: The UK has signed a free trade deal with Australia which it says will benefit consumers and businesses. It is described as the first post-Brexit deal negotiated from scratch and not "rolled over" from trade terms that the UK enjoyed while in the EU. The government estimated it would unlock £10.4bn of additional trade while ending tariffs on all UK exports. (17 December, BBC News)

Japan raises FY2022 GDP growth estimate amid risks to outlook: Japan upgraded its growth projections for the next fiscal year starting in April, saying it expected gross domestic product (GDP) to hit a record even amid risks from the Omicron variant and supply constraints, Cabinet Office officials said. The growth projection was raised to 3.2% for fiscal 2022 from a forecast 2.2% real GDP growth seen at a mid-year review in July, helped by a record extra stimulus budget approved recently by parliament. (23 December, Reuters)

China factory activity unexpectedly edges up in December despite Covid-19 outbreaks: China's factory activity unexpectedly accelerated in December, but only by a small margin, amid disruptions from Covid-19 outbreaks and as the broader economy loses momentum in the fourth quarter. The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) rose to 50.3 from 50.1 in November, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) recently

showed. Analysts had expected it to fall slightly to the 50-point mark, which separates growth from contraction. (31 December, The Straits Times)

Global oil's comeback year presages more strength in 2022: Global oil demand roared back in 2021 as the world began to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, and overall world consumption potentially could hit a new record in 2022 - despite efforts to bring down fossil fuel consumption to mitigate climate change. Gasoline and diesel use surged this year as consumers resumed travel and business activity picked up. For 2022, crude consumption is expected to reach 99.53 million barrels per day (bpd), up from 96.2 million bpd this year, according to the International Energy Agency. That would be a hair short of 2019's daily consumption of 99.55 million barrels. (23 December, The Straits Times)

Euro zone business growth slipped in December as Omicron rose: Euro zone business growth slowed more than expected in December as renewed restrictions imposed to curb the Omicron coronavirus variant curtailed the recovery in the bloc's dominant services industry, a recent survey showed. Europe is facing a fourth wave of infections and many governments have been encouraging citizens to stay home and avoid unnecessary social contact. (16 December, Reuters)

Singapore, South Korea agree on first digital trade deal between two Asian nations: Singapore and South Korea have agreed on a new pact that will set rules and standards for digital trade and partnership between the two countries. South Korea's Minister for Trade Yeo Han-Koo and Singapore's Second Minister for Trade and Industry Tan See Leng announced the conclusion of talks on the Korea-Singapore Digital Partnership Agreement (KSDPA). The KSDPA will be Singapore's fourth digital economy agreement (DEA), and its first with an Asian country. (15 December, The Straits Times)

NATIONAL NASIONAL

Natural gas fuelling a sustainable future for Malaysian gas industry:

Natural gas, the cleanest hydrocarbon, has an important role to play in carbon emission reduction, especially in Malaysia. The government has outlined several initiatives to boost the energy industry for future sustainable energy in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) which include natural gas such as the proposed comprehensive National Energy Policy that will provide long-term strategic direction to support the aspiration of carbon neutrality. As important as it was in the past, natural gas will continue to be significantly needed for power generation and as a partner to renewable energy in Malaysia's sustainable future energy system. (30 December, Bernama)

Malaysia on track for strong, sustainable growth after trade and FDI success in 2021 -Azmin:

Despite being a challenging year for Malaysia, the country still ended 2021 with a bang as total trade, for the first time in history, breached the RM2 trillion mark, according to Senior Minister and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali. Trade expanded 24.6 per cent year-on-year to RM2.01 trillion for the January-November 2021 period. Mohamed Azmin said Malaysia also attracted a total of RM177.8 billion approved investments in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors in the period from January to September 2021, representing an outstanding 51.5 per cent jump compared to the same period in 2020. (31 December, Bernama)

Inflationary pressure to prolong into 2022: Inflationary pressure in Malaysia is expected to prolong going into 2022, according to economists. This is given the rising global food and transportation prices that can lead to further disruption in the production supply chain amid growing concerns over the spread of the Omicron variant. Overall, economists have pegged the inflation rate to between 2.3% and 3% for next year. In November, the headline inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), accelerated to a five-month high of 3.3% year-on-year (y-o-y). (27 November, The Star)

Malaysia's approved investment surges 51.5% to RM177.8bil in Jan-Sept 2021: Malaysia registered a stellar approved investment growth of 51.5 per cent year-on-year to RM177.8 billion, involving 3,037 projects, in the period of January-September 2021 (9M2021). Senior Minister cum International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the approved investments, comprising the manufacturing, services and primary sectors, are expected to generate 79,899 jobs in the country. "The country's stellar performance is indeed a testament to investors' strong confidence in Malaysia as a preferred investment hub, particularly our conducive business ecosystem in providing high-skilled talents and having strong readiness in advanced technology. (23 November, The Star)

October's positive key indicators signals economic recovery: The uptrend in most key indicators in October signifies steady economic recovery, driven by the strong growth in total trade (26.5 per cent), said the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said Malaysia's economy picked up in the first nine-month of 2021 (9M2021) with a positive growth of three per cent, compared to -6.4 per cent in 9M2020. "As such, an optimistic economic outlook is anticipated in 2022, with the Asian Development Bank projecting that Asian developing economies will expand by 5.4 per cent." (24 December, Bernama)

Malaysia's exports to grow 24.5pct in 2021, says MIDF Research: MIDF Research has revised up its exports and imports growth projection for 2021 to 24.5 per cent and 23 per cent respectively, from the previous 19.8 per cent and 18.9 per cent. The firm said the performance of foreign trade in November had been more robust than expected, and this would contribute to the economic recovery in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2021. "While Malaysia stands to benefit from the sustained growth in external demand, the slowdown in China and tighter Covid-19 restrictions in other countries are among the risks that could affect exports outlook. (28 December, Business Times)

External trade at new high in November: The country's external trade continued its stellar performance

in November 2021, with a year-on-year (y-o-y) expansion of 34.9% to RM205.5bil, breaching the RM200bil mark for the second time in a row. It was also the 10th consecutive month of double-digit growth since February 2021. In a statement, the International Trade and Industry Ministry said exports rose 32.4% to RM112.2bil, the 15th consecutive month of y-o-y expansion since September 2020. Imports were 38% higher at RM93.3bil and trade surplus increased 10.5% to RM18.9bil. Trade and imports recorded the highest monthly value. (29 November, The Star)

Exports of rubber, products increased by 70.7pc to RM63.2bil in 10-month of 2021, says MRC: Malaysia's rubber products remain dominant in the third quarter of 2021, allowing the industry to continue to thrive and contribute to the country's economy. According to Malaysia Rubber Council (MRC), until October 2021, the overall exports of rubber and rubber products increased by RM63.2 billion (70.7 per cent) as compared to RM37 billion in 2020. The latex goods sector continues to show strong performance amounting to RM51.4 billion, an increase of 86.3 per cent over the same period last year at RM27.6 billion. Rubber gloves remain the highest earner with export revenue of almost RM50 billion, an increase of almost 91 per cent from the previous year. (23 December, Business Times)

Domestic aviation sector showing signs of recovery, says MAVCOM: The Malaysian aviation sector has shown signs of recovery in September and October 2021, reflecting the 56.6 per cent and 190.2 per cent month-on-month (MoM) growth in air passenger traffic, respectively. According to the Malaysian Aviation Commission (Mavcom), air passenger traffic increased by 5.3 per cent and 14.9 per cent, respectively, in both months compared to the same months in 2019. The data was revealed in Mavcom's 10th edition of Industry Report - Waypoint, outlining the performance of the Malaysian aviation sector in the third quarter (Q3) of 2021. The commission said total air passenger traffic for 2021 is expected to edge closer to its best-case forecast of 6.9 million to 7.8 million air travel passengers. (10 December, Business Times)

LOCAL TEMPATAN

Sabah CM announces state-owned oil and gas company: The Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) State Government marked a historic milestone when Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Haji Noor announced the incorporation of the state's wholly-owned oil and gas company – SMJ Petroleum Sdn Bhd. The establishment of SMJ Petroleum Sdn Bhd is the result of the Commercial Collaboration Agreement (CCA) signed between the Sabah State Government and national oil company, Petrolia Nasional Berhad (Petronas). “The CCA is perhaps the most important document after June 16, 1976, when the oil cash payment (royalty) was agreed upon, signed between Sabah and Petronas. The signing of the CCA today indeed marked a new era in Sabah's oil and gas industry,” said Hajiji. (7 December, The Borneo Post)

New high-yield paddy variety in Sabah: The Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry will work with the Malaysian Nuclear Agency (MNA) to introduce the novel paddy variety NMR152 in Sabah. Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said for starters, the paddy variety will be introduced in his constituency in Tambunan. “This is a high-yield variety that can produce 10 metric tonnes of rice per hectare, compared to only two to three tonnes with normal seeds. “It is also resistant to a variety of diseases including tungro which is prevalent in Sabah,” he said. (20 December, The Borneo Post)

Hajiji: Sabah's economy to make better recovery in 2022: Sabah's economy is expected to make better recovery in 2022, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor. He said Sabah's economy is expected to grow at 4 to 4.5 per cent next year. He said the State Government will strengthen the implementation of existing and new development projects under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) for the period 2021 to 2025, adding that these efforts cover all sectors that will boost economic growth and generate more employment opportunities for the people. (31 December, The Borneo Post)

RM1.562 bln sales tax on petroleum products collected by Sabah – Hajiji: Since the implementation of the sales tax on petroleum products in

April last year, the Sabah government has collected RM1.562 billion from oil and gas companies operating in the state, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor. Hajiji, who is also state Finance Minister, said that the sales tax collected was not only on crude oil but also LPG. He said this when replying to Senallang assemblyman Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal during the question and answer session of the State Assembly. (7 December, The Borneo Post)

RM9.6m for Kiulu group rubber cultivation in 12MP: The Sabah Rubber Industry Board (LIGS) introduced the Monsoon Assistance (BMT) and Additional Economic Activity Program (AET) to help smallholders maintain their source of income throughout the season. LIGS Chairman Edward Linggu Bukut said the BMT was given to help ease the burden faced by smallholders and rubber tappers who were unable to tap during the rainy season. “Meanwhile, AET is given to encourage smallholders to get involved in entrepreneurship to increase their income so they do not depend entirely on rubber plantation income,” he said. However, Linggu, who is also the Secretary-General of the Parti Solidariti Tanah Airku (Star) Sabah, stressed that the Group Rubber Planting programme will be continued to increase rubber production in the state. (18 December, Daily Express)

RM33m for Tuaran link and better LD water supply: Jalan Berungis in Tuaran will finally be upgraded to address the daily congestion on the road connecting the State Capital with the northern districts under the Second Rolling Plan of the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP). The project was a request by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Haji Noor as the road is located in his Sulaman state constituency. Costing RM15 million, work to upgrade the 4.09 km stretch from the Berungis roundabout until the Marabahai Spur inter junction is expected to begin next year and completed within 36 months. Works Ministry Deputy Secretary General, Datuk Wan Ahmad Uzir Wan Sulaiman handed the project letter to State Works Ministry Permanent Secretary, Datuk Mohd Jasmin Julpin, witnessed by the Chief Minister in a ceremony at Menara Kinabalu. (15 December, Daily Express)

Sabah secures RM4.4 bln investments in manufacturing sector: Sabah secured seven investments valued at RM4.4 billion

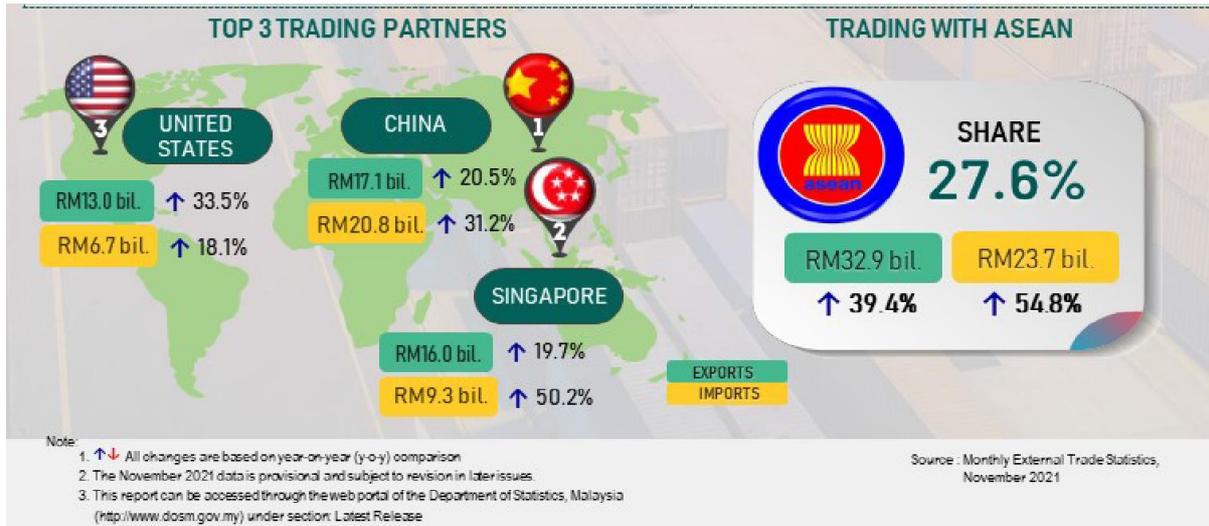
in the manufacturing sector approved by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), the third biggest in the country after Kedah (RM42.6 billion) and Selangor (RM4.6 billion), in the first half of this year. Chief Minister Datuk Hajiji Noor said, all quarters must continue to work together to keep the momentum as the state looks forward to a more productive year ahead. Chairing the second Invest Sabah Bhd (ISB) board of directors meeting, the chief minister said he wants to see more synergy between state and federal agencies in pushing Sabah's investment agenda. (23 December, Bernama)

Kemahiran, pembangunan kepimpinan belia jadi keutamaan: Sebanyak RM95.89 juta yang diperuntukkan kerajaan negeri kepada Kementerian Belia dan Sukan Sabah dalam belanjawan tahun depan akan memberi tumpuan kepada pelbagai inisiatif pembangunan belia terutama dalam program peningkatan kemahiran dan latihan semula. Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Haji Noor berkata, tumpuan akan diberikan kepada kebolehpasaran dan padanan bakat pekerjaan bagi melahirkan golongan belia yang berdaya saing. “Kerajaan akan meneruskan pemberian peruntukan sebanyak RM5 juta kepada persatuan belia sebagai dana permulaan untuk pelaksanaan program sebagai tambahan kepada RM10 juta yang diperuntukkan untuk Program Skim Jaya Usahawan Belia Sabah (SYABAS), satu inisiatif baharu untuk membantu usahawan belia memulihkan perniagaan mereka yang terjejas oleh pandemik COVID-19. (27 Disember, Utusan Borneo)

MOTAC identifying potential tourism products in Lahad Datu: -- The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC) is identifying products in the Segama area, Lahad Datu with potential to be promoted for tourism to help generate economic activities for the local community, said its minister, Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri. Citing the Tapadung Cave, located in Ulu Sungai Segama, she said, it had its own attractions and capable of attracting tourists to Lahad Datu. “Tepadung Cave is the burial place of the ancient Idahan ethnic community. Inside the cave, there are almost 100 small caves that have different attractions and scenery. It is also known for the production of white bird's nests,” she said in a recent statement. (26 December, Bernama)

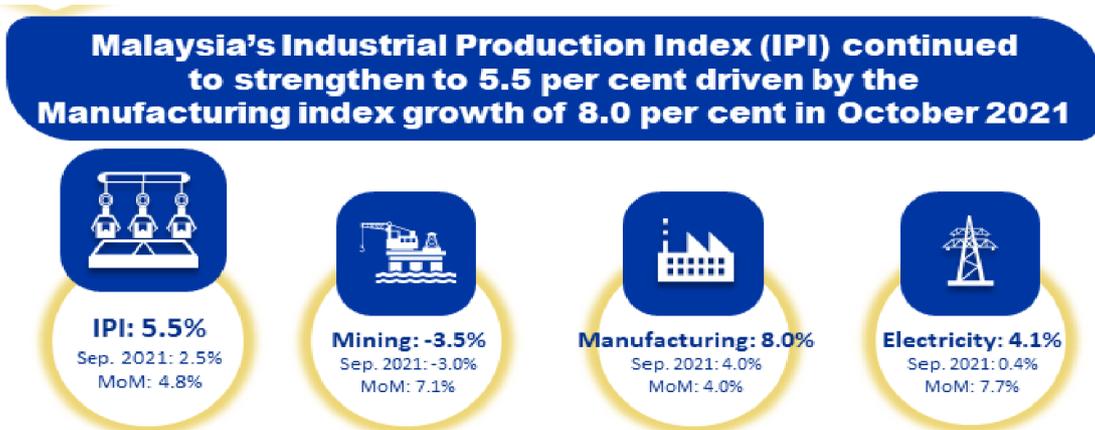
SELECTED FACTS AND FIGURES FAKTA MUTAKHIR

Malaysia's External Trade Statistics Bulletin, November 2021



(Source: 28 December, Department of Statistics Malaysia)

Malaysia's Industrial Production Index (IPI)



(Source: 10 December, Department of Statistics Malaysia)

Malaysia's Economic Indicators: Leading, Coincident & Lagging Indexes, October 2021

LEADING INDEX ROSE 0.3 PER CENT IN OCTOBER 2021, ANTICIPATING THAT THE ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE RECOVERING IN THE NEAR FUTURE



(Source: 24 December, Department of Statistics Malaysia)

Malaysia's Producer Price Index, November 2021

Table 1: Producer Price Index (2010=100) Local Production by Sector (MSIC 2008), Malaysia:

Sector	Weight	Index	Percentage Change (%)					
			Year-on-Year			Month-on-Month		
			Nov 2021	Nov 2020	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Nov 2020	Oct 2021
Total	100.00	116.3	-3.0	13.2	12.6	2.0	1.0	1.4
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	6.73	151.8	21.5	24.8	19.1	11.1	1.2	5.9
Mining	7.93	101.5	-45.8	82.9	71.2	4.4	5.5	-2.3
Manufacturing	81.57	114.7	-0.1	7.9	8.4	0.9	0.4	1.3
Electricity & gas supply	3.44	116.4	-0.2	0.7	-0.3	0.7	0.4	-0.3
Water supply	0.33	112.9	0.9	-0.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.9

(Source: 30 December, Department of Statistics Malaysia)

Malaysia's Monthly Rubber Statistics, October 2021

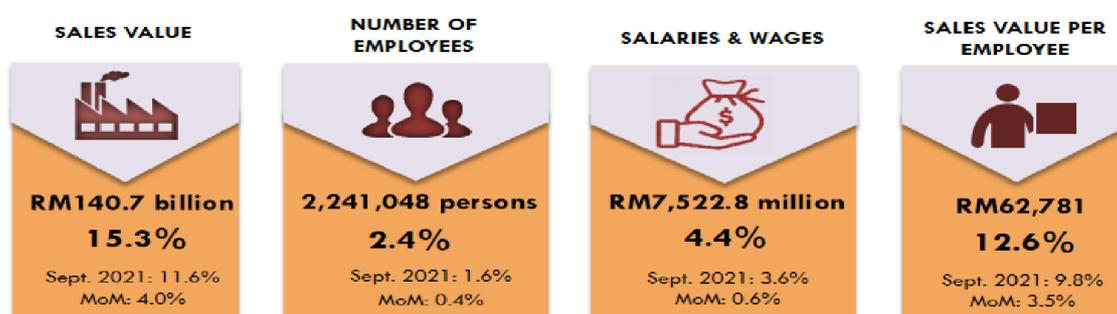
Table 1: Principal statistics of rubber, October 2021

Principal Statistics	October 2020	September 2021	October 2021	Change month-on-month October 2021/ September 2021 (%)	Change year-on-year October 2021/ October 2020 (%)
Production (tonnes)	49,943	41,180	43,127	4.7	(13.6)
Exports (tonnes)	54,492	62,332	62,167	(0.3)	14.1
Imports (tonnes)	120,876	81,190	97,262	19.8	(19.5)
Domestic consumption (tonnes)	48,270	41,421	43,540	5.1	(9.8)
Closing stocks (tonnes)	258,052	292,312	281,723	(3.6)	9.2
Number of paid workers (estate)	10,146	8,313	8,310	(0.04)	(18.1)
Salaries & wages (estate) (RM'000)	15,987	13,588	14,044	3.4	(12.2)

(Source: 15 December, Department of Statistics Malaysia)

Malaysia's Monthly Manufacturing Statistics, October 2021

Malaysia's Manufacturing sales remains double digit growth, 15.3 per cent with an amount of RM140.7 billion in October 2021



(Source: 10 December, Department of Statistics Malaysia)

CURRENT ISSUES

Segera laksanakan, kuatkuasa semula peruntukan undang-undang, hak dalam MA63: Ahli Dewan Negara Senator Datuk Bobby Suan meminta pelaksanaan dan penguatkuasaan semula dengan segera peruntukan undang-undang serta hak-hak keistimewaan yang dinafikan kepada rakyat Sabah, Sarawak dalam tempoh 58 tahun lalu. Katanya, sejak berpuluh tahun lalu sehinggalah ke hari ini, Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MA63) telah banyak didebat, dibincang dan dikaji baik secara akademik, sejarah perundangan, mahu pun mengikut nuansa politik pihak-pihak tertentu. (28 Disember, Utusan Borneo)

Sabah needs larger devt allocation – Bung: Development in Sabah, especially those involving basic facilities such as clean water supply, roads and electricity, needs to be given due attention by the federal government so that the state can develop in tandem with other states. Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Bung Moktar Radin also pointed out that taking into account the geographical factors of the state, Sabah should be given a larger allocation than before. Bung Moktar lamented that development issues faced by people in the state, especially in rural areas, involved basic infrastructure such as water supply, roads and electricity. (26 December, The Borneo Post)

Masiung cadang MOF salur peruntukan awal kepada Sabah: Wakil Rakyat Kuamut Datuk Masiung Banah persoalkan kelewatan Kerajaan Persekutuan menyalurkan dana pembangunan Sabah menyebabkan sebahagian besar peruntukan tidak dapat dibelanjakan. Katanya sepertimana tahun lalu dan beberapa tahun sebelumnya dana pembangunan Sabah hanya disalurkan pada penghujung tahun dan keadaan ini menyebabkan Kementerian atau jabatan di peringkat negeri tidak sempat menyediakan perincian dokumentasi. "Akibatnya sebahagian besar peruntukan pada tahun semasa tidak dapat dibelanjakan dan terpaksa dikembalikan untuk dikitar semula dalam peruntukan tahun berikutnya," katanya. Beliau berkata demikian semasa berucap membahaskan Dasar 1 – 31 December 2021

Kewangan Kerajaan bagi tahun 2022 pada persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Sabah kali ke-16 Kota Kinabalu. (7 Disember, Utusan Borneo)

Half-cooked Penampang Master Plan needs massive improvements: The Penampang Proposed Development Master Plan will need a massive improvement before it can be gazetted, said Pritchard Gumbaris, Political Secretary to Penampang member of parliament Darell Leiking. He said this after the workshop organized by the Sabah Town and Regional Planning Department held on December 15 and 16 at Lintas Platinum Hotel, Penampang. (21 December, The Borneo Post)

Don't wait for public complaints: Concessionaires need to be more committed in maintaining the quality of roads under their care to ensure they are safe for motorists. Datuk James Ratib, who is also Sugut Assemblyman, said the government has not given up on the issue of road damage in the State. It has spent a number of allocations to appoint relevant concession companies to maintain major roads in all districts. He said it was not enough to just patch the holes on the damaged road surface, but to create a highway patrol group to monitor the road condition. "If there are highway patrol groups in certain locations, they can monitor damaged roads and contact their maintenance division for immediate repair," he said. (18 December, Daily Express)

100 keluarga (Sandakan) rayu simpati kerajaan: Seramai 100 keluarga yang terlibat dalam kebakaran di Kampung Gas, Batu Sapi, pada 2018 berharap dapat dipindahkan ke kawasan perumahan Program Perumahan Rakyat (PPR). Presiden Gerakan Pertubuhan Bukan Kerajaan (NGO) Datuk Fadli Fathullah berkata, pihaknya sudah meninjau kawasan penempatan tersebut dan mendapati mangsa yang terjejas akibat kebakaran kini terpaksa menetap di dalam kontena. "Pihak NGO mendapati rakyat di kawasan berkenaan perlu pembelaan dengan kadar segera. "Apabila melihat mereka tinggal di sana, ia tidak selamat didiami serta membahayakan kesihatan penduduk kerana hasil tinjauan, mereka hanya berumahkan kontena yang sangat tidak selesa dan panas selain persekitaran yang tidak bersih,"

katanya selepas menyertai program pembersihan di kampung berkenaan. (12 Disember, Utusan Borneo)

Another call to lift ban on scrap iron exports: The Sabah Scrap Metals Recycle Association (SSMRA) has again called on the State Government to lift the ban on scrap iron exports it imposed in June. Its president, Edwin Chen, said the ban had resulted in an accumulation of scrap iron by SSMRA members and also the reduction in the price of the raw material. "We have informed Industrial Development Minister Datuk Dr Joachim Gunsalam that currently Unimekar is unable to consume the entire collection of scrap iron in the state, but the State Government blindly favored the steel mill and did not listen to us," said Chen in a recent statement. (27 December, The Borneo Post)

SOS Heart Fund rayu kerajaan bantu bina Rumah Transit: Persatuan Tabung Pesakit Jantung Sabah (SOS Heart Fund) merayu kepada kerajaan negeri bersama-sama membangunkan sebuah Rumah Transit di sini untuk kemudahan para pesakit. Presidennya Datuk Eva Susau berkata, perancangan untuk membina kemudahan itu sudah diilhamkan sejak 10 tahun lalu tetapi masih belum berjaya direalisasikan. "Rumah ini adalah khusus kepada pesakit untuk berehat sehingga pulih sepenuhnya selepas berjaya mendapatkan rawatan pembedahan di Korea, Kuala Lumpur atau pun di sini,". (19 Disember, Utusan Borneo)

Dry taps: B'fort villagers call for water catchment: Residents of Kg Selagon urged the State Water Department (JANS) to create a permanent water catchment to solve their frequent water shortage problem. A resident known as Awang said the water supply to the village was often cut off without warning and this caused much inconvenience to the villagers. "Today (16 December) is the fourth day we don't have water supply and this is not the first time it happened. The water supply problem has made life difficult, we can't even wash or take a shower," he lamented. Awang said JANS should be more sensitive in such issues and think of alternatives such as creating a permanent water catchment to meet the needs of the villagers. (16 December, Daily Express)