WELCOMING SPEECH BY THE COMMUNITY LEADER (KETUA KAUM)

LONG BANGA VILLAGE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH AND HANDOVER

OF THE PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATH PROJECT

30 January 2026

We give thanks to God for His blessings that allow us to gather here today for the Official Launch and Handover Ceremony of the Pedestrian Footpath Project.

First and foremost, on behalf of the entire community of Long Banga A & B, I would like to warmly welcome and extend our highest appreciation and sincere gratitude to YBhg. Datu Haji Hamden Bin Haji Mohammed, Director of the Forest Department Sarawak, as well as all officers and staff of the Forest Department Sarawak present here today, for taking the time to attend and officiate this meaningful and historic event, despite having to endure a long and challenging overland journey to reach our village.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation and congratulations to the Forest Department Sarawak and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for funding and successfully implementing this Pedestrian Footpath Project.

For everyone's information, this pedestrian footpath is approximately 1 kilometre in length, 4 feet in width, and 6 inches in thickness, with a total cost of RM152,000.00.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

We deeply appreciate the concern and commitment shown by the Forest Department Sarawak, which not only safeguards the sustainability of our forests but also cares for the wellbeing and safety of rural communities such as ours in Long Banga and the surrounding communities within the Upper Baram Forest Area (UBFA).

The presence of the Director of Forests and his delegation here today is itself a great honour for the people of this village.

This Pedestrian Footpath Project is very meaningful and provides many benefits to the villagers, among them:

1. Ensuring the Safety of Residents

The dedicated pedestrian pathway reduces the risk of accidents, particularly for children, the elderly, and parents with young children.

2. Facilitating Daily Movement

Residents can move more comfortably to neighbouring houses, churches, schools, clinics, and public places without having to walk through muddy or unsafe paths.

3. Improving Quality of Life and Health

The pathway encourages healthy walking activities while creating a more organised and pleasant village environment.

4. Facilitating Emergency Response

A proper pathway allows quicker movement during emergencies such as transporting patients, disaster response, or other urgent situations.

5. Supporting Village Development

Basic infrastructure such as a pedestrian path forms the foundation for other development initiatives, including community-based tourism and local economic activities.

6. Strengthening Community Bonds

Residents will interact more frequently, strengthening social ties and the spirit of cooperation and mutual support.

7. Demonstrating the Commitment of Government and Agencies

This project reflects the commitment of the government and supporting agencies toward the well-being of rural communities.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

We assure you that the community of Long Banga A & B will continue to give our full cooperation, maintain the facilities that have been built, and support all development initiatives that bring shared benefits.

We see this project as an excellent example of cooperation between government agencies, international organizations, and the local community. In this regard, the people of Long Banga sincerely hope that this collaboration will continue in the future.

On this occasion, we would also like to humbly request that the Forest Department Sarawak and ITTO consider providing additional funding to support the completion, through community cooperation (gotong-royong), of a suspension bridge project across Sungai Puak, which would connect the village to farming and paddy field areas on the other side of the river. This project has remained pending for quite some time.

Finally, once again, I would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Forest Department Sarawak and ITTO for their support, trust, and commitment. May this project mark the beginning of many more initiatives that will bring long-term benefits to the community of Long Banga and the wider UBFA area.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to all members of the organizing committee, the Village Development and Security Committee (JKKK), and all villagers who have contributed directly or indirectly to the success of this event.

Before I conclude, allow me, on behalf of the entire Long Banga community, to humbly seek forgiveness for any shortcomings or weaknesses throughout the course of this ceremony.

Thank you.

UCAPAN ALUAN KETUA KAUM,KAMPUNG LONG BANGA SEMPENAN PERASMIAN DAN PENYERAHAN PROJEK LALUAN PEJALAN KAKI 30.01.2026

Bersyukur kita kepada Tuhan,kerana dengan limpah kurniaNya kita dapat dipertemukan ***sempena Majlis Perasmian Dan Penyerahan Projek Laluan Pejalan Kaki pada pagi ini.***

Pertama sekali,***saya mewakili seluruh masyarakat Kampung Long Banga*** **A & B** ingin mengalu-alukan kehadiran dan merakamkan setinggi tinggi penghargaan dan ucapan terima kasih kepada ***YBhg.Datu Haji Hamden Bin Hj Mohammed***, Pengarah Hutan Sarawak ***serta seluruh warga kerja Jabatan Hutan Sarawak yang ada***, kerana sudi hadir bagi menyempurnakan Majlis yang bersejarah ini*(walaupun terpaksa menempuh perjalanan darat yang jauh lagi mencabar)*
Sekalung penghargaan dan Tahniah juga kepada Jabatan Hutan Sarawak ***dan juga International Tropical Timber Organisation*** **(ITTO)** atas ***pembiayaan*** serta ***pelaksanaan*** Projek Pejalan Kaki ini,dengan jayanya.
Untuk makluman semua,Laluan Pejalan Kaki ini ialah lebih kurang ***1 km panjang,4 kaki lebal dan 6" tebal***,***dengan kos keseluruhan sebanyak RM152,000.00.***

Hadirin yang dihormati sekalian

Kami amat menghargai keprihtinan & kesungguhan pihak Jabatan Hutan Sarawak,yang bukan sahaja menjaga kelestarian hutan,***tetapi juga prihatin terhadap kesejahteraan dan keselamatan komuniti luar Bandar seperti kami di Long Banga serta komuniti UBFA.***Kehadiran YBhg Datu Pengarah serta rombongan warga kerja Jabatan Hutan Sarawak ke kampung kami hari ini sendiri ***sudah menjadi satu penghormatan besar buat masyarakat di sini.***

Projek Laluan Pejalan Kaki ini ***amat bermakna*** dan memberi banyak ***manfaat*** kepada penduduk kampong, yang antara lain:-

1. **Keselamatan Penduduk Terjamin**
   *–Laluan khas pejalan kaki **mengurangkan risiko kemalangan** terutama kepada kanak-kanak,warga emas dan ibu bapa yang membawa anak.*

2. **Memudahkan Pergerakan Harian**
   *–Penduduk dapat **bergerak dengan lebih selesa** ke rumah jiran,gereja,sekolah,klinik atau tempat awam tanpa perlu melalui jalan becak atau berbahaya.*

3- Meningkatkan Kualiti Hidup & Kesihatan

*-**Menggalakkan aktiviti berjalan kaki** yang sihat serta Persekitaran kampung yang lebih kemas dan teratur.*

4-Memudahkan Urusan Kecemasan

*Laluan yang baik **memudahkan pergerakan pantas** ketika kecemasan seperti membawa pesakit,bantuan bencana atau urusan kecemasan*

5-Menyokong pembangunan Kampung

*-Infrastruktur asas seperti laluan pejalan kaki adalah asas kepada pembangunan lain seperti **pelancongan Komuniti dan ekonomi setempat***

6-Mengeratkan Hubungan Komuniti

*-Penduduk **lebih kerap berinteraksi,mengeratkan silatulrahim** dan semangat gotong royong*

7-Menunjukkan Keprihatinan Kerajaan Dan Agensi

*-Projek ini **membuktikan komitmen pihak pembiaya** terhadap kesejahteraan rakyat luar bandar*

Hadirin yang dihormati sekalian

Kami memberi jaminan bahawa masyarakat Kampung Long Banga A & B ***sentiasa bersedia untuk memberi kerjasama penuh***,***menjaga kemudahan yang dibina*** serta ***menyokong segala usaha pembangunan*** yang membawa kebaikan bersama.

Kami melihat Projek ini sebagai satu contoh kerjasama yang sangat baik *antara* ***agensi kerajaan***,***badan antarabangsa*** *dan* ***komuniti*** setempat.Sehubungan itu,***kami di Long Banga amat berharap agar kerjasama ini dapat diteruskan pada masa akan datang.***Dengan kesempatan ini,***kami dengan rendah hati*** memohon agar pihak Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan ITTO dapat mempertimbangkan pemberian dana tambahan bagi menyiapkan (secara gotong royong)***satu Projek Jambatan Gantung ke Kawasan ladang dan sawah di sebarang Sungai Puak*** *(yang sudah tersadai buat sekian lama)*

Akhir kata,sekali lagi saya mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Jabatan Hutan Sarawak dan ITTO ***atas sumbangan,kepercayaan dan komitmen yang telah diberikan***.Semoga projek ini menjadi permulaan kepada lebih banyak inisiatif yang membawa manfaat berpanjangan ***kepada masyarakat di Long Banga khasnya dan dalam kawasan UBFA amnya.***

Ucapan penghargaan dan Terima kasih yang tak terhingga juga kami tujukan kepada semua AJK Pengelola Majlis ,***JKKK Kampung***,serta semua penduduk kampung yang terlibat baik secara langsung mahupun tidak langsung dalam menjayakan majlis ini.***Sebelum mengundur diri***,izinkan saya,saya mewakili seluruh masyarakat Kampung Long Banga ***menyusun sepuluh jari memohon ampun & maaf*** atas sebarang kelemahan dan kekurangan sepanjang majlis ini berlangsung.