



LAPORAN PEMETAAN ISU KAWASAN PARLIMEN

2026

WILAYAH SARAWAK | P.212 SIBU



APPGM-SDG



PERSATUAN PROMOSI
MATLAMAT PEMBANGUNAN LESTARI
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Welcoming Remarks

YB TUAN OSCAR LING CHAI YEW

*APPGM-SDG Committee Member;
Member of Parliament for Sibu (P.212)*



The year 2026 marks the seventh year of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG)'s work across Sarawak. Operating as a cross-party platform, APPGM-SDG provides a collaborative space to support national sustainable development priorities through evidence-based, community-level research. Grounded in the United Nations framework of **Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)**, APPGM-SDG seeks to understand how socio-economic development, resource allocation, and local governance intersect to shape everyday well-being. Sarawak's geographic expanse, diverse settlement patterns, and distinct regional economies highlight the value of place-based policy planning. Rather than applying a single administrative template across the state, sustainable progress requires understanding the varied functional roles and demographic dynamics of each division. By carrying out on-the-ground issue-mapping fieldwork exercises across diverse constituencies, APPGM-SDG contributes empirical observations that help complement formal statistics and inform constructive dialogue across all sectors.

In my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Sibu (P212), I welcome this mapping initiative as a valuable contribution to our constituency's continued progress. Sibu plays an enduring role as a key commercial hub and regional centre for the central Rajang Basin, naturally serving as a destination for employment, commerce, and rural-to-urban population mobility. This steady demographic movement underscores the importance of resilient municipal planning and responsive community support systems. A key focus highlighted during our engagements in Sibu is the coordination of affordable, quality community housing alongside basic consumer literacy. Navigating housing markets, standard rental procedures, and institutional documentation are challenges for low-income wage earners and incoming families seeking work. Enhancing community outreach, streamlining public information on tenancy rights, and fostering transparent housing management mechanisms are practical steps that provide stability for working households. Furthermore, supporting Sibu's long-term sustainability involves continuing

to upgrade essential public amenities, ensuring accessible healthcare services, and cultivating an environment conducive to skilled employment and balanced growth.

Achieving sustainable development is an ongoing, shared effort that benefits from structured data, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and active community participation. The perspectives documented in the *Parliamentary Constituencies Issue Mapping Reports Compilation 2026 (Volume 6: Sarawak Region)* offer an informative snapshot of local realities, socio-economic aspirations, and practical development opportunities. As the elected representative for Sibü and a committee member of APPGM-SDG, I trust the *Compilation* and the reports it encompasses will serve as a balanced, useful resource for policymakers, government agencies, academia, and civil society partners working toward the common goal of shared prosperity in Sarawak.

Foreword

PUAN NUR RAHMAH OTHMAN

APPGM-SDG Executive Director



The localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) begins with understanding how national development priorities are experienced by people in their everyday lives. While national policies set the direction for development, it is at the community, district and parliamentary constituency levels that the realities of inequality, access to services, livelihoods and environmental challenges are felt most directly. This is where development policies meet the realities of people and communities, and where gaps between policy intentions and lived experiences often become most visible.

Since its establishment, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) has sought to better understand these realities through constituency-level issue mapping. Over the years, we have had the opportunity to visit communities, listen to local voices, engage with stakeholders and document the issues that affect people in their daily lives. These experiences have reminded us that sustainable development cannot be approached from the top down alone. It must begin with a genuine understanding of the people, places and circumstances we are seeking to support.

The *Parliamentary Constituencies Issue Mapping Reports Compilation 2026 (Volume 1-6)* covering 16 parliamentary constituencies, is part of this continuing effort. Bringing together findings from different constituencies allows us to look beyond individual cases and identify broader patterns, shared challenges as well as the distinct realities of different regions. Some issues may be common across constituencies, while others are shaped by geography, local economies, access to infrastructure, community needs and the capacity of local institutions.

For APPGM-SDG, issue mapping is therefore not simply about documenting problems. It is about understanding why these issues persist, recognising what communities are already doing to address them, and identifying where greater coordination or support is needed. The findings can help strengthen the conversations and partnerships between

Members of Parliament, government agencies, local authorities, civil society organisations and, most importantly, the communities themselves.

As APPGM-SDG continues its localisation journey, the role of this ground-level evidence becomes increasingly important. The findings in this compilation can provide useful perspectives for policy discussions, programme development and resource allocation, while helping decision-makers better appreciate the different needs and priorities across regions.

These findings should prompt us to ask what more can be done at the policy and institutional level. Many of the issues raised by communities are not new, and some require action that goes beyond the capacity of communities or local actors alone. We hope that the evidence gathered through this process will be given due consideration by the relevant ministries and agencies, particularly in reviewing existing programmes, strengthening implementation and directing resources where they are most needed. Issue mapping should not end with identifying a problem; it should help create a clearer pathway towards action and accountability.

I hope this compilation will be viewed as more than a collection of findings. Behind every issue documented are people, communities and lived experiences. Their voices should continue to guide how we think about development and where we direct our collective efforts.

May this compilation contribute to a stronger understanding of our communities and, ultimately, to a more inclusive development journey where no constituency, community or individual is left behind.

Introduction

RAINE MELISSA RIMAN

Head of Region for Sarawak



The *Parliamentary Constituencies Issue Mapping Reports Compilation 2026 (Volume 6: Sarawak Region)* evaluates localised development challenges, lived experiences, and policy priorities across three distinct parliamentary constituencies: P194 Petra Jaya (Kuching Division), P212 Sibü (Sibü Division), and P202 Sri Aman (Sri Aman Division). APPGM-SDG's localisation process in 2026 involved a total of 16 new parliamentary constituencies. The distribution of constituencies is illustrated in *Diagram 1* and *Table 1*.

Diagram 1. Parliamentary Constituencies involved in the Localization Process of APPGM-SDG in 2026



In marking the seventh year of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) in the region, the reports included in this *Compilation* operationalises the transformative United Nations (UN) mandate to *Leave No One Behind* (LNOB) by examining how spatial, socioeconomic, and institutional factors intersect to drive community vulnerability.

Sarawak's geographic scale and dispersed settlements necessitate a place-based analytical framework. Rather than viewing development through aggregate indicators or

a linear urban-rural spectrum, our findings capture three distinct structural environments:

Established Urban Growth (P194 Petra Jaya): As part of Sarawak's capital, Petra Jaya faces intense pressures stemming from urban land scarcity, rapid densification, and severe housing-to-income mismatches. With the state median household income at approximately RM3,000 against an average home price of RM540,000, which is the third highest in Malaysia, interventions must prioritise spatial master planning, property price regulation, and inclusive urban expansion.

Regional Economic Hub & Labour Migration (P212 Sibul): As Central Sarawak's primary commercial destination for internal migrant labour, Sibul contends with urgent demands for low-cost, community-centric housing. The critical policy lever here extends beyond physical construction to institutional literacy: educating low-income tenants on contractual rights, tenure security, and regulatory protections to eliminate predatory intermediaries and misinformation.

Rural Connectivity & Public Service Delivery (P202 Sri Aman): Encompassing expansive interior districts such as Pantu and Lingga, Sri Aman demonstrates the persistent friction of distance. Key imperatives include upgrading timber and plantation access tracks into gazetted road networks, establishing local secondary education infrastructure (addressing transit deficits of up to 100 km), and resolving severe human resource shortfalls in healthcare, where rural clinical vacancies approach 50 percent. The institutional mandate of the Sri Aman Development Authority (SADA) provides a model for decentralised, place-based rural governance.

By synthesising field-based engagements, focus group discussions, and administrative inputs across the economic, social, environmental, and governance pillars, these reports provide a localised evidence base for regional development strategies. It connects grassroots realities directly with state and federal policy apparatuses, ensuring that development planning in Sarawak is targeted, equitable, and systematically responsive to community-level realities.

Table 1. List of 16 Parliamentary Constituencies Involved in APPGM-SDG Activities for the Year 2026

NO.	ZONE/ REGION	PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY	CODE	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	PARTY	TARGETED AGENCIES	APPGM-SDG RELATED AGENCIES
1.	North	Pokok Sena	P.008	YB Dato' Haji Ahmad bin Saad @ Yahaya	PN-PAS	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Pokok Sena	Dr. Thanaraj Murudi
2.	North	Padang Serai	P.017	YB Dato' Azman bin Nasrudin	PN-BERSATU	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Kulim	Dr. Thanaraj Murudi
3.	North	Batu Gajah	P.066	YB Tuan Sivakumar a/l Varatharaju Naidu	PH-DAP	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Kinta	Dr. Thanaraj Murudi
4.	East Coast	Pengkalan Chepa	P.020	YB Datuk Dr. Ahmad Marzuk bin Shaary	PN-PAS	Pejabat Tanah dan Jajahan Kota Bharu	Nur Syadhira Mohd Razali
5.	East Coast	Kubang Kerian	P.024	YB Dato' Sri Tuan Ibrahim bin Tuan Man	PN-PAS	Pejabat Tanah dan Jajahan Kota Bharu	Dr. Siti Nur Ain Zakinuddin
6.	East Coast	Kuala Terengganu	P.036	YB Datuk Haji Ahmad Amzad bin Mohamed @ Hashim	PN-PAS	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Kuala Terengganu	Nur Syadhira Mohd Razali
7.	East Coast	Jerantut	P.081	YB Ir. Ts. Hj. Khairil Nizam bin Khirudin	PN-PAS	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Jerantut	Nur Syadhira Mohd Razali
8.	East Coast	Rompin	P.091	YB Dato' Haji Abdul Khalib bin Abdullah	PN-BERSATU	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Rompin	Nur Syadhira Mohd Razali
9.	Central	Puchong	P.103	YB Puan Yeo Bee Yin	PH-DAP	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Petaling; Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ)	Dr. Teo Lee Ken

NO.	ZONE/ REGION	PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY	CODE	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	PARTY	TARGETED AGENCIES	APPGM-SDG RELATED AGENCIES
10.	Central	Putrajaya	P.125	YB Dr. Radzi Jidin	PN- BERSATU	Jabatan Wilayah Persekutuan; Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPj)	Nurul Syaza Mazelan
11.	South	Kota Melaka	P.138	YB Tuan Khoo Poay Tiong	PH-DAP	Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Melaka Tengah	Siti Noraiysah Rohim
12.	Sabah	Sepanggar	P.171	YB Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud	PH-PKR	Dewan Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu (DBKK)	Mc Jeanet Lempisik @ Marx
13.	Sabah	Batu Sapi	P.185	YB Tuan Khairul Firdaus bin Akbar Khan	GRS	Majlis Perbandaran Sandakan (MPS)	Mc Jeanet Lempisik @ Marx
14.	Sarawak	Petra Jaya	P.194	YAB Datuk Amar Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof	GPS-PBB	Pejabat Residen Bahagian Kuching; Pejabat Daerah Kuching; Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara (DBKU)	Raine Melissa Riman
15.	Sarawak	Sri Aman	P.202	YB Dato' Sri Doris Sophia anak Brodi	GPS-PRS	Pejabat Residen Bahagian Sri Aman; Pejabat Daerah Sri Aman; Pejabat Daerah Pantu; Pejabat Daerah Lingga; Majlis Daerah Sri Aman	Raine Melissa Riman

NO.	ZONE/ REGION	PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY	CODE	MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	PARTY	TARGETED AGENCIES	APPGM-SDG RELATED AGENCIES
16.	Sarawak	Sibu	P.212	YB Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew	PH-DAP	Pejabat Residen Bahagian Sibu; Pejabat Daerah Sibu; Majlis Perbandaran Sibu; Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibu	Raine Melissa Riman

PART A

Issue Mapping Visit Report

P.212 Sibu

WITH THE SUPPORT FROM

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SIBU, YB TUAN OSCAR LING CHAI YEW



PLACES VISITED:

DAY 1 (24/03/2026)

- 1.FGD 1: Dialogue Session with the Foochow Community of Tanjung Kunyit/ Paradom
- 2.FGD 2: Dialogue Session with the Foochow Community in Sungai Sadit
- 3.FGD 3: Dialogue session with Foochow Farmers of Sungai Bidut

DAY 2 (25/03/2026)

- 4.FGD 4: Dialogue Session with Foochow Community of Empawah, Lebaan and Bukit Lan
- 5.FGD 5: Dialogue Session with Iban Community Leaders of Bawang Assan
- 6.FGD 6: Dialogue Session with Residents of Taman Indah (Low-cost Housing)

DAY 3 (26/03/2026)

- 7.FGD 7: Dialogue Session with Community Leaders and JKKK of Kampung Bahagia Jaya
- 8.FGD 8: Dialogue Session with Residents of PPR Rantau Panjang (Inter-state migrants)

DAY 4 (27/03/2026)

- 9.FGD 9: Dialogue Session with Residents of Rejang Park (Senior Citizens)
- 10.FGD 10: Dialogue Session with Muslim Community of Kampung Jeriah B
- 11.FGD 11: Key Informant Interview Session with the Resident Representatives for Kemuyang

RESEARCH TEAM



Raine Melissa Riman
Lead Researcher



Dr. Eva Kristin Larry Sait



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Dr. Teo Sue Ann

ISSUE MAPPING VISIT: FIELDWORK IN SIBU



15 January 2026
Inception meeting



27 January & 8 March 2026
Profiling and Coordination Meeting



24 March 2026
FGD 1: Dialogue Session with the Foochow Community of Tanjung Kunyit/Paradom



25 March 2026
FGD 4: Dialogue Session with Foochow Community of Empawah, Lebaan and Bukit Lan



24 March 2026
FGD 3: Dialogue session with Foochow farmers of Sungai Bidut



24 March 2026
FGD 2: Dialogue Session with the Foochow community of Sungai Sadit



25 March 2026
FGD 5: Dialogue Session with Iban Community Leaders of Kampung Baru Bawang Assan



25 March 2026
FGD 6: Dialogue Session with Residents of Taman Indah (Low-Cost Housing)



26 March 2026
FGD 7: Dialogue Session with Community Leaders and JKKK of Kampung Bahagia Jaya



27 March 2026
FGD 10: Dialogue Session with Muslim Kampung Jeriah B



27 March 2026
FGD 9: Dialogue Session with residents of Rejang Park (Senior Citizens)



26 March 2026
FGD 8: Dialogue Session with residents of PPR Rantau Panjang (Inter-state Migrants)



27 March 2026
FGD 11: Key Informant Interview with Resident Representatives of Kemuyang

15/01/2026

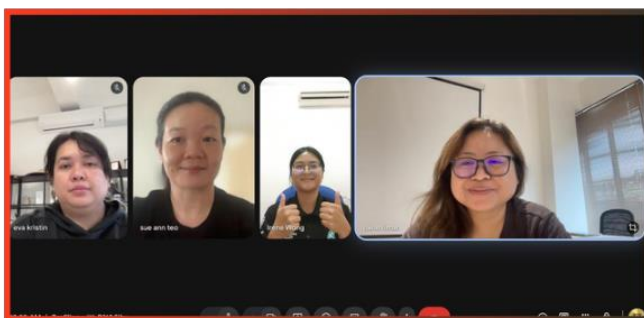
INCEPTION MEETING



An inception meeting was held with the Member of Parliament for Sibu, YB Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew, to initiate the issue mapping visit for the Sibu parliamentary constituency. Sibu encompasses both urban and rural areas, covering three State Assembly constituencies—DUN Bawang Assan, Pelawan, and Nangka—with a total area of approximately 1,399 km². The constituency has a majority Chinese electorate (53%), followed by native Sarawakians (46.6%), with smaller representations from Indian (0.1%) and other ethnic groups (0.3%) (DOSM, 2020). The issue mapping exercise will focus on key areas including the development of “third spaces” for active ageing in urban settings, challenges related to low-cost housing, and socio-economic pressures linked to Sibu’s role as a central hub for internal migration in central Sarawak.

27/02/2026

PROFILING AND COORDINATION MEETING



A profiling and coordination meeting was held with Irene Wong, Special Assistant to YB Oscar Ling, to identify priority communities for the upcoming issue mapping visit. The session highlighted a diverse range of locations, spanning urban areas such as Taman Indah, and Rejang Park, to suburban localities including Kampung Jeriah, Kemuyang, Sungai Sadit, Empawah, Tanjung Kunyit, Rantau Panjang Flats, and Kampung Bahagia Jaya, as well as rural areas within the Bawang Assan constituency. The discussion underscored key developmental gaps across different settlement types and town planning contexts in Sibu. A follow-up coordination meeting was subsequently held on 8 March 2026 to further refine fieldwork planning.

24/03/2026

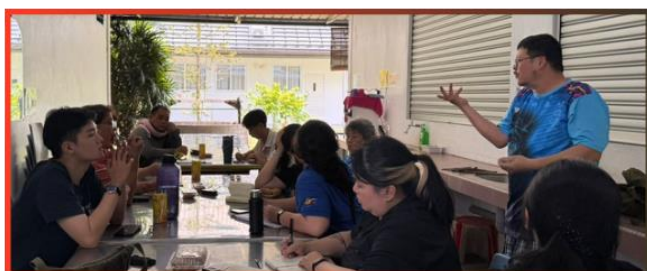
FGD 1: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH THE FOOCHOW COMMUNITY OF TANJUNG KUNYIT/PARADOM



Tanjung Kunyit is one of the earliest Foochow settlements, where a once predominantly farming community has gradually diversified into business activities, while a significant number of residents remain engaged in agriculture. The session highlighted several key challenges, including **(1) infrastructure quality** with residents reporting over a month of poor treated water supply in the Paradom area; **(2) road safety concerns** along the Jambatan Lanang–Paradom stretch, where the absence of street lighting and poorly maintained roadside vegetation pose risks to night commuters; **(3) educational support gaps**, particularly at SJKC Chung Cheng, where the integrated special education programme (PPKI) faces limitations due to insufficient ICT equipment; **(4) ageing population dynamics** driven by the outmigration of younger residents, resulting in a predominantly elderly population; and **(5) employment constraints**, which continue to push younger generations to seek better opportunities in urban centres or overseas, including Singapore, Brunei, and the Solomon Islands.

24/03/2026

FGD 2: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH THE FOOCHOW COMMUNITY IN SUNGAI SADIT



Sungai Sadit is one of the earliest Foochow settlements, established in the 1910s, and remains a generational farming community rooted along the riverbanks. Today they face a range of interconnected challenges. These include **(1) economic vulnerability**, as smallholders contend with rising costs of agricultural inputs such as fertilisers and herbicides, alongside a **(2) perceived exclusion** from government support, subsidies, and agricultural assistance. These challenges are further compounded by **(3) flash flooding** linked to poor drainage design **(4) unclear road jurisdiction**, resulting in **(5) maintenance gaps** and overgrown roadside vegetation. **(6) Security and safety concerns** have also emerged, with residents reporting increased cases of drug abuse and theft, alongside a growing **(7) human–wildlife conflict**, including crocodile attacks on livestock and pets. Taken together with limited local employment opportunities, these factors have contributed to **(8) youth outmigration** to urban centres, leaving behind a predominantly ageing population.

24/03/2026

FGD 3: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH FOOCHOW FARMERS OF SUNGAI BIDUT



Conversations with Sungai Bidut Foochow farmers reflect a community struggling to maintain its agricultural heritage. They experience **(1)** gaps in governance and representation, as the local Penghulu resides outside the area, limiting accessibility and responsiveness to local concerns. **(2)** Resource constraints, including budgetary limitations, frequently delay essential infrastructure and agricultural projects. **(3)** Economic pressures are also significant, with smallholders facing rising input costs for fertiliser, fuel, and imported materials, alongside a heavy reliance on seed supplies from West Malaysia. These challenges are compounded by **(4)** distribution gaps in agricultural support, as existing subsidies are perceived to benefit large-scale farmers more than small-scale Chinese farmers. **(5)** Shifts in local supply chains, such as boarding schools procuring less from local farms in favour of bulk importers, further reduce local market opportunities. The community's livelihood is also affected by **(6)** flooding events, which cause crop loss, with farmers emphasising the importance of regular drainage and irrigation maintenance to mitigate rising water tables. **(7)** Road safety remains a concern, as overgrown roadside vegetation and unmaintained trees obstruct street lighting and reduce visibility at sharp bends. Finally, **(8)** recurrent vandalism of wooden bridges adds an ongoing maintenance and financial burden, highlighting persistent community safety challenges.

25/03/2026

FGD 4: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH FOOCHOW COMMUNITY OF EMPAWAH, LEBAAH AND BUKIT LAN



Discussions with peri-urban Foochow communities in Empawah, Lebaan, and Bukit Lan, particularly multigenerational farmers ranging from smallholders to established farming enterprises, reveal a range of challenges. **(1)** Road safety hazards were frequently cited, resulting from poorly maintained street trees. **(2)** Dam design failures have caused damage to crops in nearby areas. **(3)** Residents also expressed frustration over inconsistent project management by contractors, leading to irregular delivery of services. **(4)** Crime, drug use, and other social issues were identified as significant threats to community wellbeing, with drug abuse and gambling increasingly linked to theft and a perceived lack of effective law enforcement. **(5)** Economic sustainability is further constrained by agriculture and market access hurdles, as farmers struggle to sell their produce and **(6)** younger generations are pushed out of the sector due to land shortages and high cost of operations. Labour and industrial challenges, including **(7)** difficulties in hiring affordable local workers and restrictions on migrant labour, pose additional burdens for medium- to large-scale farmers and industrial operators. Finally, **(8)** community members perceive the distribution of agricultural support from agencies as inequitable.

25/03/2026

FGD 5: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH IBAN COMMUNITY LEADERS OF KAMPUNG BARU BAWANG ASSAN



The session brought together approximately 20 Tuai Rumah from 20 longhouses, alongside their lead Penghulu, representing the Iban community of Kampung Baru Bawang Assan. The discussion provided insight into the complexities faced by a hybrid rural-urban Iban community navigating evolving governance structures. The Penghulu guided the dialogue towards an emerging discourse on **(1) state and parliamentary constituency redelineation**, which is perceived as a potential mechanism to improve the distribution of resources, enhance representation, and enable more context-specific responses to local needs. This perspective reflects an aspiration for governance arrangements that bring decision-making processes closer to the communities they serve. Such considerations are particularly salient within expansive administrative regions like Sibu, where the interplay between urban and rural development priorities continues to shape access to services and resource allocation. **(2) Poor drainage conditions**, attributed by community representatives to inadequate maintenance, point to underlying funding constraints in service delivery, where agencies frequently cite limited budget allocations as contributing to delays in drainage upkeep. **(3) The operational failure of existing water gates** within the Batang Lebaan river system, originally constructed to support paddy cultivation, has constrained the community's capacity to regulate water levels and manage drainage effectively. Leaders further highlighted **(4) flooding vulnerability**, where stagnant water can persist for several weeks during king tides and monsoon periods. From an economic perspective, these conditions lead to **(5) significant losses in agricultural output**, affecting both subsistence crops and supplementary income sources. Last but not least, the community has raised concerns over **(6) rising drug abuse** with the needs towards intervention or solution.

26/03/2026

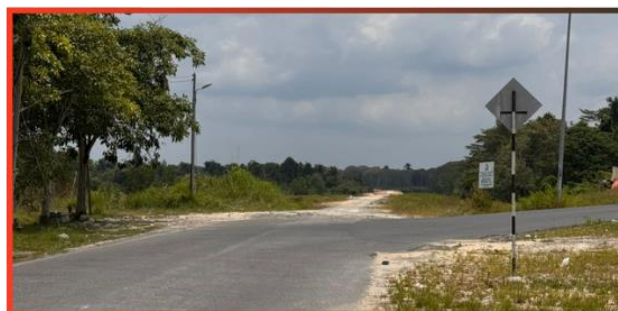
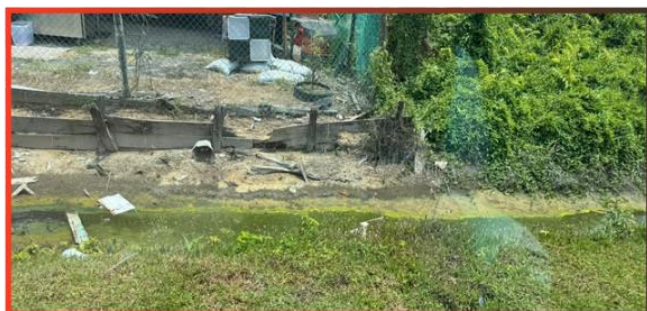
FGD 6: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH RESIDENTS OF TAMAN INDAH (LOW-COST HOUSING)



The single-storey units in Taman Indah were developed around 1989 to early 90s to support low-income households. Over time, ownership has evolved, with several properties transferred to second or subsequent owners. The area is surrounded by higher-cost housing developments, highlighting contrasts in housing conditions and infrastructure quality. Discussion with the residents of Taman Indah explores their challenges in **(1)** experiencing significant urban decay, driven by progressive land subsidence linked to poor soil bearing capacity and potential substructure degradation over time, resulting in structural failures of homes and deformed drainage systems. **(2)** Flooding is exacerbated by compromised drainage, while **(3)** overgrown vegetation and unmanaged green spaces present public health and safety risks, including wildlife intrusions into their home. Field observations and resident consultations indicate **(4)** low awareness of homeowner rights and limited knowledge of complaint channels, compounded by the **(5)** absence of communal institutions in urban housing format for collective action. **(6)** Institutional responsibility is unclear, as the original developer is no longer reachable. These factors have **(7)** created gaps in structural monitoring and professional assessment, allowing continued deterioration and increasing potential safety hazards.

26/03/2026

FGD 7: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND JKKK OF KAMPUNG BAHAGIA JAYA



Kampung Bahagia Jaya is an example of a rapidly expanding urban village, currently comprising 1,248 housing units, with projections indicating an increase to approximately 1,500 units within the coming year. The community is facing several challenges. **(1)** Traffic congestion is a major concern, as the existing main road is struggling to accommodate both current and future traffic demand. **(2)** Social cohesion is also affected, with a lack of recreational facilities and social spaces that could promote healthy lifestyles while maintaining safety. Residents have raised concerns over **(3)** illegal online gambling, noting the persistent presence of such activities with multiple service points, as well as **(4)** suspected drug-related issues affecting both youth and middle-aged groups. These social challenges are compounded by **(5)** limited personnel capacity for routine policing. **(6)** Illegal motorbike racing further contributes to noise disturbances and road safety risks for residents.

The **(7)** absence of adequate street lighting along the 28-year-old Teku to PPR Rantau Panjang corridor has also contributed to recorded accidents, with authorities citing funding constraints to provide street lightings. **(8)** Healthcare infrastructure is another pressing need, with the community requesting the expedited construction of a long-promised Klinik Kesihatan. The physical environment of the housing area is similarly vulnerable, facing **(9)** landslide and slope stability risks following heavy rainfall, as well as flooding and drainage limitations exacerbated by inadequate maintenance and underlying peat soil. Finally, these issues highlight **(10)** planning and inter-agency coordination gaps, as there is a perception of limited collaboration between state and federal agencies and developers, resulting in infrastructure planning that is often reactive rather than anticipatory, including systems such as water supply.

26/03/2026

FGD 8: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH PPR RANTAU PANJANG (INTER-STATE MIGRANTS)



Discussions at PPR Rantau Panjang underscored the complex challenges faced by an inter-migrant community. Tenants in this housing area are primarily from rural parts of Central Sarawak and are not registered constituents in Sibu. Many of the issues raised reflect broader dynamics associated with internal migration, which is a common occurrence that contributes to the evolving social and urban landscape of the city. At present, the community is struggling with **(1)** unreliable water supply having endured two years of low pressure and intermittent disruptions. Their vulnerability is compounded by **(2)** deep-seated housing security and tenure concerns, where a shift from the perceived "rent-to-own" model to a "rental-only" arrangement has sparked fears of potential eviction among long-term tenants, alongside **(3)** anxiety over the limited affordability of alternative housing options in Sibu town. **(4)** Trust and communication gaps between residents and managing authorities further exacerbate these challenges, with transparency and clarity from the authorities perceived as insufficient. **(5)** Residents also cited inconsistent maintenance services, noting that repair requests often require prolonged follow-ups. **(6)** The physical constraints of the housing units present accessibility challenges, as the absence of lifts, with family members resorting to carrying their elderly and disabled residents up and down staircases. **(7)** There are cases of undocumented children, as a result of single parents leaving children under the care of elderly relatives, resulting in exclusion from formal schooling and dependence on informal schooling at home or via local KRT initiatives.

27/03/2026

FGD 9: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH RESIDENTS OF REJANG PARK (ELDERLY COMMUNITY)



Rejang Park, one of Sibu's most established mature estates, is currently transitioning into a prominent residential area while facing the challenges of an actively ageing community. Although the neighbourhood remains highly liveable, residents have identified several urban design limitations, including **(1)** a lack of elderly-friendly infrastructure such as hand railings and barrier-free sidewalks to support its ageing population. These physical constraints extend to the legacy layout of commercial areas, where **(2)** parking shortages reflect a mismatch between planning in the 70s with modern vehicle volumes. **(3)** Regional traffic congestion along the single-carriageway of Jalan Ulu Sungai Merah towards Nan Sang has also become a major bottleneck to get to the neighbourhood. As urban residents, the Rejang Park community is also concerned with broader infrastructure issues across Sibu town, which include **(4)** deteriorating road conditions, with uneven surfaces and potholes along Bukit Assek, as well as **(5)** strained healthcare facilities, which residents depend on for essential healthcare services, including insufficient parking at Sibu General Hospital and visible structural sinking at the Jalan Oya community clinic. **(6)** A looming socio-economic pressure is the renewal of leasehold land titles set for 2030, where rising costs—from RM1,000 to over RM3,000—pose a significant financial burden for pensioners.

Despite these challenges, strong community cohesion remains a hallmark of Rejang Park, supported by robust religious and social networks such as the Methodist Senior Hub (SCAC), the Methodist Senior Learning Centre, and the Methodist Church Sibu Jalan Archer Day Care Centre.

27/03/2026

FGD 10: DIALOGUE SESSION WITH MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF KAMPUNG JERIAH B



Kampung Jeriah is a traditional multi-ethnic village on the outskirts of Sibu, with livelihoods centred on daily wage and informal work. The settlement includes more than 20 year old PPRT-assisted households and transitional informal units, all built on peat soil, which presents ongoing challenges for ground stability, drainage, and infrastructure development. Residents shared their multiple issues which are made worst by **(1)** an ineffective and inaccessible community leader. **(2)** Existing PPRT homeowners/tenants reported a lack of repair assistance for subsidised houses, with perceptions of political bias in the allocation of available support. **(3)** Poor construction quality with deteriorating materials. **(4)** Incomplete housing handovers, with some units delivered without basic utilities such as electricity and water; where homeowners claimed that contractors failed to follow through on post-handover installations. **(5)** Prohibitive cost of installation for utilities, particularly for electricity, forces some residents to rely on cheap solar panels. **(6)** Inadequate street lighting and unsafe road conditions, including narrow roads with deep roadside trenches contributing to frequent accidents. **(7)** Community members reported that road upgrading works initiated around 2022, including the delivery of piling materials for widening, were subsequently halted. Residents noted that the materials were removed and no further progress or official project signage has been provided, causing concern and uncertainty regarding the completion of the project.

27/03/2026

FGD 11: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW SESSION WITH RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVES OF KEMUYANG

Kemuyang, a sprawling residential area on the outskirts of Sibu town, is primarily inhabited by pensioners and ex-army personnel and faces several critical planning and enforcement challenges. One key issue is the **(1)** absence of Occupation Permits (OP) for a number of properties, resulting from premature handover by the developer. Residents who carried out renovations immediately after receiving their keys are unable to obtain OPs unless the added structures are removed and the original floor plan restored. Contributing factors include limited awareness of the required procedures and buyers' rights. **(2)** Residents also report low water pressure during peak hours (morning and evening), which has been worsened by increased population density from new housing developments. The community highlighted **(3)** the absence of safe recreational facilities for children, forcing them to play along roadsides or in vacant shop lots and raising safety concerns. **(4)** Prevalent social issues among youths, including underage smoking and illegal motorbike racing, were also reported, which residents attribute to a lack of structured recreational spaces within the estate. These factors collectively **(5)** contribute to heightened road and traffic safety risks.

PART B

Issue Mapping Report

P.212 Sibü

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List of Abbreviations

AADK	Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan (National Anti-Drugs Agency)
APM	Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (Civil Defence Force)
APPGM-SDG	All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals
BOMBA	Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia)
DAP	Democratic Action Party
DDC	Divisional Development Committee
DDMC	Divisional Disaster Management Committee
DID	Department of Irrigation and Drainage (Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran - JPS)
DOA	Department of Agriculture (Jabatan Pertanian)
DOSM	Department of Statistics Malaysia (Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia)
DUN	Dewan Undangan Negeri (State Legislative Assembly)
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GE13 / GE14 / GE15	13th / 14th / 15th General Election (Pilihan Raya Umum)
GPS	Gabungan Parti Sarawak
HDC	Housing Development Corporation Sarawak
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
JBALB	Jabatan Bekalan Air Luar Bandar Sarawak (Sarawak Rural Water Supply Department)
JKKK	Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung (Village Development and Security Committee)
JKM	Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (Social Welfare Department)
JKR	Jabatan Kerja Raya (Public Works Department)
JMB	Joint Management Body
JPN	Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara (National Registration Department)
KII	Key Informant Interview
KKDW	Kementerian Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah (Ministry of Rural and Regional Development)
KMKK	Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum (Community and Clan Leaders)

KPWK	Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development)
KRT	Kawasan Rukun Tetangga (Neighborhood Watch Committee)
LFPR	Labor Force Participation Rate
MCRCR	Malaysian Code of Responsible Conduct in Research
MDLBS	Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü (Sibü Rural District Council - SRDC)
MEITD	Ministry of Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak
MINTRED	Ministry of International Trade, Industry and Investment Sarawak
MP	Member of Parliament
MPHLG	Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak
MPS	Majlis Perbandaran Sibü (Sibü Municipal Council - SMC)
MRP	Minor Rural Projects
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NEET	Not in Employment, Education, or Training
OP	Occupation Permit
PBB	Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu
PCDS 2030	Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030
PDP	Progressive Democratic Party
PDRM	Polis Diraja Malaysia (Royal Malaysia Police)
PH	Pakatan Harapan
PKB	Pejabat Kesihatan Bahagian (Divisional Health Office)
PPAN	Program Penstrukturan dan Pembangunan Asas Pertanian (Agricultural Land Optimization Programme)
PPD	Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah (District Education Office)
PPKI	Program Pendidikan Khas Integrasi (Integrated Special Education Programme)
PPR	Program Perumahan Rakyat (People's Housing Programme)
PPRS	Program Perumahan Rakyat Sejahtera
PPRT	Program Perumahan Rakyat Termiskin (Hardcore Poor Housing Programme)
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RMK-13 / RMK-14	Rancangan Malaysia Ke-13 / Ke-14 (13th / 14th Malaysia Plan)
RTP	Rural Transformation Projects

SCAC	Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference (Methodist Church)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEB	Sarawak Energy Berhad
SJKC	Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina (National-Type Chinese Primary School)
SMC	Sibu Municipal Council (Majlis Perbandaran Sibü - MPS)
SPA	State Planning Authority Sarawak
SPR	Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia (Election Commission of Malaysia)
SRDC	Sibü Rural District Council (Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü - MDLBS)
STIDC	Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
SUPP	Sarawak United Peoples' Party
TR	Tuai Rumah (Iban Longhouse Headman)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SUPP	Sarawak United Peoples' Party
TR	Tuai Rumah (Iban Longhouse Headman)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The federal parliamentary seat of P212 Sibü is held by YB Oscar Ling Chai Yew, a senior political figure affiliated with the Democratic Action Party (DAP) under the *Pakatan Harapan* (PH) coalition. Winning the seat initially in the 2013 general election and retaining it across the 14th and 15th General Elections (GE15) in November 2022, he maintains an active legislative presence in the Dewan Rakyat. His legislative portfolio centers on regional public healthcare infrastructure, municipal flood alleviation, riverine and civil aviation connectivity, technical educational equity, and urban renewal across the central Rajang basin, positioning him as a key legislator in East Malaysian federal governance.



YB Oscar Ling Chai Yew

Background: Parliamentary Constituency of Sibü (P212)

Encompassing a territorial expanse of roughly 1,399 square kilometres within the Sibü Division, the federal constituency of P212 Sibü forms the central urban, commercial, and administrative core of the lower Rajang basin. Establishing its historic importance as a major timber and riverine trading enclave during the late nineteenth century, the township continues to function as a crucial bellwether within Sarawak's socio-political environment. The physical geography integrates dense municipal housing grids, established shophouse commercial strips, expanding suburban developments, and peri-urban agricultural lands alongside traditional riverine longhouse communities.

Subnational census records indicate that the constituency contains a diverse population distribution. The multi-ethnic demographic comprises a Chinese majority (53.0 percent), complemented by native Sarawak Bumiputera cohorts (46.6 percent)—primarily Iban, Malay, and Melanau populations—with minor Indian (0.1 percent) and other resident groups (0.3 percent). Beyond its civic function, Sibü serves as a key receiving locality for internal rural migrants moving from interior riverine territories in search of economic opportunities.

State Constituencies under P212 Sibü

The federal constituency of P212 Sibü comprises three (3) state legislative assemblies under the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly (*Dewan Undangan Negeri*):

- **N52 Bawang Assan:** Encompasses peri-urban riverine belts along the Rajang and Lebaan estuaries, native Iban longhouse communities, and established Foochow agrarian farming zones.

- **N53 Pelawan:** Covers a broad municipal residential and commercial precinct featuring mature housing estates, prominent school clusters, and developing transportation networks.
- **N54 Nangka:** Integrates historic Malay/Melanau urban villages, planned suburban developments, higher technical instruction institutions, and light industrial zones.

Political Representation and Party Affiliation

The representation of P212 Sibü reflects a dynamic, pluralist electoral landscape characterized by divergent partisan allegiances across federal and state levels. Historically a contested seat between the *Barisan Nasional/Gabungan Parti Sarawak* (GPS) component parties—specifically the Sarawak United Peoples' Party (SUPP)—and the Democratic Action Party (DAP), the federal seat was held by Oscar Ling Chai Yew following the 2013, 2018, and 2022 general elections.

At the state legislative assembly level, the constituent state seats exhibit a distinct multi-coalition alignment under the *Gabungan Parti Sarawak* (GPS) administration:

- **Bawang Assan (N52):** Long held by veteran politician YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh, whose political apparatus integrated back into the ruling GPS state alignment via the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP).
- **Pelawan (N53):** Represented by YB Michael Tiang Ming Tee of GPS-SUPP, who concurrently serves as Deputy Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak.
- **Nangka (N54):** Represented by YB Datuk Dr. Annuar Rapae of GPS-PBB, who serves as Deputy Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak.

Administrative Structure and Leadership

The public administration and delivery architecture of Sarawak operate through a structured dual system comprising the general administrative machinery under the Premier's Department (*Pejabat Residen dan Pejabat Daerah*) and the local government statutory authorities (*Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan*) operating under the Local Authorities Ordinance 1996. Within P212 Sibü, this institutional matrix bridges regional development coordination, grassroots leadership supervision, urban municipal maintenance, and peri-urban rural infrastructure delivery. Regional governance and municipal operations are managed through the following administrative and civic leadership structures:

Divisional and District Administration

- **Resident of Sibü Division:** Tuan Superi bin Awang Said
- **District Officer of Sibü:** Tuan Tsong Chow Choon

Local Authorities

- **Sibü Municipal Council / Majlis Perbandaran Sibü (MPS):** Headed by Chairman Cr. Clarence Ting Ing Horh, administering the central urban core, commercial hubs, and planned municipal zones.
- **Sibü Rural District Council / Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü (MDLBS):** Headed by Chairman Cr. Sempurai Petrus Ngelai, overseeing peri-urban belts, riverine zones, and rural longhouse settlements across Bawang Assan and surrounding rural districts.

The Resident's Office serves as the primary executive arm of the Sarawak Civil Service at the divisional tier, headed by the Divisional Resident and supported by District Officers and Administrative Officers (*Pegawai Tadbir Sarawak*). It functions as the principal inter-agency clearinghouse connecting state policy directives with on-the-ground operational execution:

- **Macro-Development Coordination and Project Monitoring:** The Resident chairs the Divisional Development Committee (DDC), harmonizing capital expenditures under the Five-Year Malaysia Plans, the Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), and localized state grants—namely the Rural Transformation Projects (RTP) and Minor Rural Projects (MRP). It evaluates implementation bottlenecks across sectoral agencies such as the Public Works Department (JKR), Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), and Sarawak Rural Water Supply Department (JBALB).
- **Disaster Management and Emergency Governance:** The Resident heads the Divisional Disaster Management Committee (DDMC). In a flood-vulnerable basin like Sibü, the Resident's Office coordinates multi-agency emergency operations—mobilising the Civil Defence Force (APM), Police (PDRM), Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba), and Social Welfare Department (JKM)—to manage evacuation centers (*Pusat Pemindahan Sementara*), food distribution, and fluvial flood relief during monsoon surges.
- **Native Customary Administration and Community Leadership (KMKK):** The Resident's and District Offices oversee the appointment, welfare, and supervision of community chiefs (*Ketua Masyarakat dan Ketua Kaum*, KMKK)—including the Temenggung, Pemanca, Penghulu, Kapitan, and Tuai Rumah. They maintain

statutory records for village development committees (JKKK) and administer the Native Court system (*Mahkamah Bumiputera*) to arbitrate customary land and personal status disputes.

- **Statutory and Advisory Functions:** The Resident serves as an official advisor to local councils across the division, facilitating alignment between local council master plans and state political priorities. The office also oversees statutory licensing, probate registrations, and civil celebrations.

Local authorities in Sarawak operate as separate corporate bodies endowed with perpetual succession under the Local Authorities Ordinance 1996, reporting portfolio-wise to the Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak (MPHLG). Because P212 Sibü spans high-density urban grids alongside expansive rural-riverine perimeters, its municipal governance is bifurcated between two specialized councils:

- **Sibü Municipal Council / Majlis Perbandaran Sibü (MPS):** Administers the urban township core, high-density residential developments (such as Rejang Park and Taman Indah), and commercial-industrial trading corridors].
- **Sibü Rural District Council / Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü (MDLBS):** Administers the peri-urban belts, agricultural enclaves (Sungai Bidut, Sungai Sadit), and rural longhouse territories across Bawang Assan and surrounding rural districts.

Under the governing statutory framework, these local authorities carry out four core mandates:

- **Urban Planning, Building Control, and Permitting:** Local councils regulate spatial development within their rating zones pursuant to the Building Ordinance 1994 and town planning by-laws.. They review architectural submissions, verify structural integrity, and issue Occupation Permits (OP). As revealed in suburban estates like Kemuyang, procedural breakdowns during handover and unpermitted home renovations directly intersect with council OP approvals.
- **Infrastructure Maintenance and Flood Mitigation Operations:** Councils are responsible for repairing and lighting municipal streets, desilting primary and secondary storm drains, and clearing roadside verges. Given Sibü's peat-soil landscape, both MPS and MDLBS collaborate with DID to manage localised drainage infrastructure, roadside culverts, and tidal gate linkages to curb structural subsidence and road flooding.

- **Public Health, Waste Management, and Environmental Sanitation:** Pursuant to the Protection of Public Health Ordinance 1999, local councils deliver scheduled municipal solid waste collection, desludge septic tanks, abate public nuisances, inspect food premises and hawker stalls, and conduct vector control against mosquito- and rodent-borne diseases.
- **Civic Revenue Generation and Asset Management:** Local authorities generate independent operating revenues through property assessment rates (*cukai taksiran*), business licensing, market stall rentals, and street parking fees, reinvesting funds into community recreational parks, street furniture, and public sports facilities.

While the Resident's Office and the local councils fulfill differentiated legal mandates, their functional overlap is critical for effective constituency administration. Findings from grassroots issue mapping in P212 Sibu reveal persistent institutional challenges where inter-agency coordination is essential.

1.1 Geography and Topography

The geographic landscape of P212 Sibu is fundamentally dictated by its position within the lower Rajang River delta basin, where the confluence of the Rajang and Igan rivers creates a dynamic, low-lying fluvial topography. The entire physical morphology of Sibu has conditioned its historical settlement patterns, agrarian suitability, and urban civil engineering constraints. Spanning alluvial river terraces, expansive low-lying coastal floodplains, and widespread peat swamp formations, the physical geography requires specialized municipal engineering to withstand high water tables, monsoonal hydrodynamics, and peat subsidence.

Geographical Extent and Spatial Boundaries

The federal constituency of P212 Sibu encompasses a territorial area of approximately 1,399 square kilometres. The constituency is bounded by the neighbouring parliamentary constituencies of Lanang (P211) to the south and east, Mukah (P213) to the north, and Tanjong Manis (P206) toward the coastal delta in the west. Flanked by major distributaries including the Batang Lebaan and Batang Igan, Sibu's spatial boundaries integrate central municipal commercial cores with semi-isolated island-riverine farming settlements.

Topographical Zones and Physical Terrain

The physical topography of P212 Sibu is categorised across three primary physiographic classifications:

- **Alluvial Riverine Lowlands and Levees:** Situated along the riverbanks of the Batang Rajang, Batang Igan, and Batang Lebaan, encompassing established agrarian

enclaves like Tanjung Kunyit, Paradom, Sungai Sadit, and Sungai Bidut. Topographical elevations spanning 0 to 12 metres above sea level heighten vulnerability to fluvial flooding, tidal inundation, and siltation.

- **Peat Swamp Basins and Subsiding Plains:** Covering extensive sectors of central Bukit Assek, Taman Indah, and urban villages such as Kampung Jeriah, this zone features deep organic peat formations with weak load-bearing potential. Ongoing soil compaction and structural movement cause major foundation failure, road subsidence, and drainage system impairment.
- **Slightly Elevated Undulating Terraces:** Extending toward interior perimeters within the Kemuyang and Teku belts, reaching altitudes of 30 to 50 metres above sea level. These elevated belts accommodate expanding suburban developments, industrial estates, and public housing initiatives, though heavy monsoonal precipitation triggers localized surface runoff and slope erosion.

1.2 Demographic

The demographic composition of P212 Sibü reflects over a century of agricultural migration, commercial consolidation, and contemporary urban-industrial restructuring.

Historical Foundations and Settlement Geography

The settlement morphology of Sibü originated with indigenous Melanau and Malay riverine villages along the Rajang, followed by the systematic settlement of Foochow agricultural immigrants led by Wong Nai Siong in 1901 under a formal concession with the Brooke administration:

- **Foochow Agrarian Belts:** Communities established intensive smallholder cash-crop farms along riverine strips such as Tanjung Kunyit, Sungai Sadit, Sungai Bidut, and Lebaan, transitioning from rubber and pepper to peri-urban vegetable farming.
- **Indigenous Riverine Enclaves:** Iban populations established longhouse networks across Bawang Assan and surrounding rural tributaries, practicing rotational farming, fishing, and agro-forestry
- **Urban Commercial Settlement:** The township core developed around riverbank wharfages, evolving into a dense commercial trading center dominated by retail enterprises, financial services, and riverine logistics.

- Resettlement Schemes and Modern Urban Villages: Post-independence suburbanization and security policies led to the creation of planned villages (Kampung Bahagia Jaya, Kampung Jeriah) and low-cost public housing estates (Taman Indah, PPR Rantau Panjang) designed to house growing urban populations and industrial laborers.

Ethnic Composition

The population distribution demonstrates a structured socio-spatial division :

Table 1. Population Composition by Ethnicity for Sibü (P.212)

NO.	ETHNICITY	PERCENTAGE (%)
1.	Chinese	53.0
2.	Bumiputera	46.6
3.	Indian	0.1
4.	Others	0.3
Total		100

- Chinese Population (53.0 percent): Primarily composed of Foochow dialect speakers, situated across central commercial nodes, established residential precincts like Rejang Park, and productive agrarian riverbank stretches including Sungai Sadit, Empawah, and Sungai Bidut..
- Sarawak Bumiputera Cohorts (46.6 percent): Encompasses indigenous Iban longhouse settlements throughout Bawang Assan, historic Malay and Melanau urban villages such as Kampung Datu, Nangka, and Kampung Jeriah, alongside rural internal migrants located in public housing developments.
- Other Resident Groups (0.4 percent): Includes non-local public service personnel, Indian commercial proprietors, and short-term workers deployed within marine manufacturing and transport networks.

Age Structure and Socioeconomic Indicators

Sibü displays the socio-demographic features of an actively aging urban society. Established housing areas such as Rejang Park feature high concentrations of retirees and pensioners, demanding elderly-friendly pedestrian infrastructure, integrated social spaces, and specialized geriatric healthcare facilities. Concurrently, low-cost housing schemes like Taman Indah and PPR Rantau Panjang support low-to-middle-income families, daily-wage laborers, and single-parent households characterized by heightened vulnerability to utility disruptions, tenure insecurity, and structural cost-of-living shocks.

Rural-Urban Migration and Out-Migration Dynamics

Sibü is shaped by a dual migration dynamic: sustained outmigration of skilled local youths alongside an influx of interior rural migrants:

- **Brain Drain and Youth Outmigration:** Structural limitations in high-value, knowledge-intensive employment drive educated youths to relocate to Kuching, Peninsular Malaysia, and international destinations such as Singapore, Brunei, and the Solomon Islands. This leaves rural farming enclaves (Paradom, Tanjung Kunyit) and established residential estates heavily dependent on an aging workforce.
- **Internal In-Migration and Urban Informality:** Migrants from rural parts of Central Sarawak settle in suburban housing flats (PPR Rantau Panjang) and informal settlements in search of educational and wage opportunities. Many remain unregistered constituents locally, creating administrative gaps in public resource allocation and compounding social challenges, including cases of undocumented children excluded from formal schooling systems.

1.3 Livelihood Strategies and Economic Activities

Economic livelihoods across P212 Sibü bridge urban commercial retail, riverine agricultural smallholdings, industrial shipbuilding, public sector administration, and informal wage work.

Agrarian Smallholders and Peri-Urban Farming

The peri-urban agrarian belts of Sungai Sadit, Sungai Bidut, Empawah, Lebaan, and Bukit Lan serve as the primary food basket for Sibü town. Smallholders cultivate leafy vegetables, fruits, and cash crops, operating within multi-generational family enterprises. However, production is constrained by rising input costs (imported chemical fertilisers, fuel, herbicides), dependence on West Malaysian seed supplies, drainage-induced flash flooding, and labour shortages caused by youth outmigration and restrictions on migrant hiring.

Shipbuilding, Heavy Riverine Fabrication, and Logistics

Anchored along the Rajang River, Sibü's shipbuilding and marine engineering sector represents a major industrial pillar. The cluster manufactures offshore support vessels, tugboats, and riverine barges for domestic and regional markets. Nonetheless, downstream operations face fluctuating steel prices, competition from regional yards, and a reliance on skilled technicians, requiring policy interventions to foster modern maritime advanced manufacturing.

Commercial Wholesale, Retail MSMEs, and Urban Services

The commercial downtown core and mature retail estates (e.g., Rejang Park) host dense ecosystems of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These businesses handle grocery trade, motor vehicle servicing, agricultural input distribution, and regional food logistics. Challenges include legacy town-planning bottlenecks, parking shortages, rising commercial lease title renewal costs, and infrastructure deterioration along subsiding road corridors like Bukit Assek.

Informal Employment and Vulnerable Livelihood Strategies

In suburban communities such as Kampung Jeriah B, Taman Indah, and PPR Rantau Panjang, a substantial portion of the population relies on daily-wage labor, informal transport, localised trading, and cottage food preparation. Household budgets are vulnerable to utility installation tariffs, rental model shifts, and infrastructure deficits, requiring expanded micro-enterprise assistance and social safety net coverage.

1.4 Relations between the SDG Conceptual Framework and the Local Context

Localising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within P212 Sibu involves addressing the unique developmental realities of an aging, river-dependent urban and agrarian constituency.

Table 2. Relations Between the SDG Conceptual Framework and the Local Context — Mapping SDGs 1, 3, 6, 8, 11 and 16 to local realities and implementation challenges in P212 Sibu

SDG GOAL & TARGET	LOCAL REALITIES IN P212 SIBU	STRUCTURAL GAPS & IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES
SDG 1: No Poverty (Target 1.4: Equal Rights to Economic Resources)	Concentration of low-income families and internal migrants in Taman Indah and PPR Rantau Panjang relying on informal wage earnings.	Shift from rent-to-own to rental-only models in PPR housing; high cost of basic utility hookups forcing low-income households into precarious arrangements.
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being (Target 3.8: Access to Quality Healthcare)	Heavy reliance on Sibu General Hospital and Jalan Oya Community Clinic, alongside active aging groups in Rejang Park.	Severe parking shortages at Sibu General Hospital; structural sinking at Jalan Oya Clinic; delays in constructing Klinik Kesihatan Teku.
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation (Target 6.1: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water)	Peri-urban and suburban communities (Paradom, PPR Rantau Panjang, Kemuyang) experience supply interruptions.	Persistent low water pressure during peak hours in Kemuyang; over a month of substandard treated water in Paradom; unmaintained drainage lines.
SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth (Target 8.6: Youth Employment & Training)	Generational Foochow family farms and riverine smallholders facing market access hurdles and farm-gate price compression.	Youth outmigration to West Malaysia/Singapore; high fertiliser/seed input costs; lack of local high-wage technical employment opportunities.
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities (Target 11.2 & 11.7:	High rate of peat subsidence in mature estates (Rejang Park, Taman Indah); chronic	Absence of barrier-free walking paths for elderly; inoperative Batang Lebaan water gates; escalating

SDG GOAL & TARGET	LOCAL REALITIES IN P212 SIBU	STRUCTURAL GAPS & IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES
Resilient Urban Planning and Public Spaces)	flood-prone lowlands in Bawang Assan and Sungai Bidut.	costs of leasehold land title renewals set for 2030.
SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions (Target 16.6 & 16.9: Transparent and Inclusive Institutions)	Grassroots governance interactions across JKKs, village heads, and municipal councils (MPS and MDLBS).	Unclear road/drainage maintenance jurisdictions; absent or inaccessible community leadership; undocumented children without formal school access.

Policy Integration and Multi-Stakeholder Governance

Fulfilling sustainable development targets across P212 Sibü requires systematic inter-agency alignment. Delivering the Bukit Assek Redevelopment Plan, the Sibü Flood Mitigation Scheme, and social housing rehabilitations requires coordinated execution across the Parliamentary Constituency Service Centre, the Sibü Municipal Council (MPS), the Sibü Rural District Council (MDLBS), the Land and Survey Department, and technical bodies such as the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) and JBALB. Structured community participation—such as APPGM-SDG issue mapping visits—provides an empirical baseline to ensure public policies directly resolve localized vulnerabilities.

2.0 RESEARCH METHOD & METHODOLOGY

This baseline assessment for the P212 Sibü parliamentary constituency applies an evidence-based issue mapping methodology established under the operational framework of the All Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG). To examine localized vulnerabilities, institutional bottlenecks, and community priorities, the study adopted a qualitative field research design. Primary data collection was conducted via Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools—specifically Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)—capturing direct perspectives across riverine, suburban, and urban localities. These field insights were triangulated with desk research covering regional demographic profiles, geographical classifications, town planning documents, and administrative statistics published by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) and local authorities.

To ensure linguistic accessibility and authentic communication, the research was conducted utilizing localised languages and dialects, specifically Foochow, localised Sarawak Malay, Iban, and English, drawing on their communicative functions in everyday conversational interaction. Discourse analysis was applied to evaluate qualitative transcripts, structured around content, context, and assumption:

- Content: Systematic thematic classification of reported developmental deficits, operational execution delays, and explicit municipal infrastructure demands
- Context: Analytical contextualization of spatial environments (subsiding low-cost public flats, riverine agrarian belts, senior daycare centers, mature housing estates), socio-demographic strata, and emotional registers of urgency
- Assumption: Deconstruction of unstated community perceptions regarding institutional responsiveness, land tenure stability, equity in agricultural subsidy distribution, and legal liabilities of developers

Table 3. Research Approach

ANALYTIC DIMENSION	THEORETICAL DEFINITION & CORE FOCUS	METHODOLOGICAL APPLICATION IN P212 SIBU
Content	Thematic categorisation of utterances, interaction types, and formal statements (Coulthard 1977; Rahim 2018).	Systematic coding of recorded developmental deficits: treated water interruptions, drainage failures, rising agricultural input costs, tenure insecurity, youth outmigration, and drug abuse.
Context	Examination of sociolinguistic grammar, syntax, spatio-temporal environments, and emotional registers (Stubbs 1983; Rahim 2018).	Contextualizing dialogues within specific geographic settings: subsidising low-cost flats (Taman Indah), mature housing estates (Rejang Park), riverine longhouses (Bawang Assan), and farming zones.
Assumption	Interrogation of underlying beliefs, unstated norms, values, and perceptual frameworks (Rahim 2018).	Deconstructing community assumptions regarding electoral redelineation, systemic political bias in agricultural assistance, and municipal boundaries.
Analytic Dimension	Theoretical Definition & Core Focus	Methodological Application in P212 Sibü
Content	Thematic categorisation of utterances, interaction types, and formal statements (Coulthard 1977; Rahim 2018).	Systematic coding of recorded developmental deficits: treated water interruptions, drainage failures, rising agricultural input costs, tenure insecurity, youth outmigration, and drug abuse.

2.1 Issue Mapping Approach and Fieldwork Execution

Field investigations in P212 Sibü took place from 24 to 27 March 2026, mobilising eleven (11) comprehensive field dialogue sessions comprising ten (1 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and one (1) Key Informant Interview (KII) across diverse urban, suburban, and rural communities. Sampling was purposively stratified to ensure representation across commercial traders, generational Foochow smallholders, aging pensioners, Iban longhouse chieftains, low-cost housing residents, and internal migrant households.

Institutional Coordination and Field Deployment Logistics

The issue mapping exercise was initiated through high-level consultations and field coordination with the Member of Parliament for Sibü, YB Oscar Ling Chai Yew, and Special

Assistant Irene Wong.. Initial preparatory briefings took place during an inception meeting on 15 January 2026, followed by profiling and operational coordination sessions on 27 February 2026 and 8 March 2026 to identify priority communities and finalise itinerary logistics. Grassroots access was facilitated via local community leaders, Village Development and Security Committees (JKKK), neighborhood committees (KRT), and regional chieftains.

The APPGM-SDG team conducting fieldwork to map SDG issues in the Sibu parliamentary constituency comprises the following members:

1. Raine Melissa Riman : Lead Researcher
2. Dr. Eva Kristin Larry Sait : Researcher
3. Corrin Alicia Nero : Researcher
4. Dr. Teo Sue Ann : Researcher

Table 4. Sibu Parliamentary Constituency Issue Mapping Fieldwork Programme

DATE	DIALOGUE SESSION/FGD
24 March 2026 (Tuesday)	• FGD 1: Dialogue Session with the Foochow Community of Tanjung Kunyit / Paradom • FGD 2: Dialogue Session with the Foochow Community in Sungai Sadit • FGD 3: Dialogue Session with Foochow Farmers of Sungai Bidut
25 March 2026 (Wednesday)	• FGD 4: Dialogue Session with Foochow Community of Empawah, Lebaan, and Bukit Lan • FGD 5: Dialogue Session with Iban Community Leaders of Kampung Baru Bawang Assan (~20 TRs) • FGD 6: Dialogue Session with Residents of Taman Indah (Low-Cost Housing Scheme)
26 March 2026 (Thursday)	• FGD 7: Dialogue Session with Community Leaders and JKKK of Kampung Bahagia Jaya • FGD 8: Dialogue Session with Residents of PPR Rantau Panjang (Inter-State / Migrant Cohorts)
27 March 2026 (Friday)	• FGD 9: Dialogue Session with Residents of Rejang Park (Elderly Community) • FGD 10: Dialogue Session with Muslim Community of Kampung Jeriah B • FGD 11: Key Informant Interview (KII) Session with Resident Representatives of Kemuyang

2.2 Fieldwork Ethical Considerations

Primary field investigations operated in strict compliance with statutory ethical standards set under the Malaysian Code of Responsible Conduct in Research (MCRCR) alongside data protection directives in the Personal Data Protection Act 2010 (Act 709) :

- **Informed Consent and Voluntary Engagement:** Explicit consent was formally requested from community representatives and participants prior to initiating audio recording, photographic documentation, or verbal transcription. Field respondents maintained full discretion to opt out of recording, with researchers relying exclusively on detailed manual notes.
- **Anonymisation and Data Protection:** Individual identity markers and specific residential locations were systematically scrubbed from research transcripts to uphold participant privacy [10]. Primary digital records were secured in protected institutional databases restricted to designated research personnel.
- **Cultural Decorum and Non-Maleficence:** Focus group facilitation observed local social protocol, ensuring culturally sensitive interaction across multi-ethnic community cohorts.
- **Reciprocal Reporting and Policy Utility:** Field insights were synthesized into structured baseline data, provided directly to parliamentary constituency service centers, local municipal authorities, and policy committees to guide local resource allocation.

2.3 Fieldwork Challenges and Adaptive Strategies

- **Multilingual Facilitation and Interpretive Translation:** Primary data collection necessitated concurrent linguistic facilitation across regional Foochow dialects, native Iban, Sarawak Malay, and English. The investigative team implemented structured debriefs alongside cross-verification protocols to preserve qualitative integrity.
- **Hydrological Hazards and Meteorological Adaptations:** Field execution coincided with heavy monsoonal precipitation, requiring dynamic itinerary adjustments to evaluate flood-prone lowlands within the Sungai Bidut and Lebaan perimeters.
- **Institutional Jurisdictions and Governance Overlaps:** Fragmented administrative boundaries spanning municipal authorities (MPS), rural councils (MDLBS), the Public Works Department (JKR), and the Department of Irrigation and

Drainage (DID) generated complex operational overlaps]. Field personnel maintained objective neutrality, aligning community grievances directly with relevant statutory portfolios.

- **Land Tenure and Socio-Legal Sensitivities:** Sensitive investigations regarding undocumented children residing in public housing (PPR), unpermitted residential alterations in Kemuyang, and leasehold extension premiums demanded discreet, confidential dialogue mechanisms.

2.4 Research Limitations

- **Dialectal and Sociolinguistic Nuances:** Subtleties inherent to Foochow vernacular or localized Iban expressions potentially undergo subtle conceptual flattening when translated into standard Malay and English mediums.
- **Temporal and Seasonal Fieldwork Windows:** The four-day research timeframe restricted longitudinal observation of community coping mechanisms across fluctuating monsoonal weather shifts and agricultural seasons.
- **Disclosure Hesitancy Among Vulnerable Cohorts:** Apprehension among marginalised households concerning citizenship status, outstanding utility balances, or unpermitted structural alterations likely prompted conservative disclosures regarding domestic living conditions.
- **Sample Stratification Limits:** Although eleven field consultations encompassed primary stakeholder groups, isolated agrarian farmsteads and mobile rural populations require expanded empirical investigation in future research phases.

3.0 KEY ISSUES AND CROSS-CUTTING SDGS

Table 5. Key Issues and Cross-Cutting SDGs

NO	KEY ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSION	TARGETED GROUPS	TARGETED LOCATION	PRIMARY SDG ALIGNMENT
1	Urban decay, structural failures & subsidence	Significant urban decay and structural failures of homes and deformed drains driven by progressive land subsidence linked to poor soil bearing capacity.	Social	Homeowners, residents	Taman Indah	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Target 11.1 (Adequate, Safe, and Affordable Housing) Target 11.7 (Inclusive and Safe Public Spaces)
2	Poor drainage design & maintenance deficits	Poor drainage conditions and inadequate maintenance due to agency funding constraints leading to persistent water stagnation and flash flooding.	Environment	Local residents, commuters	Sungai Sadit, Bawang Assan, Taman Indah, Kampung Bahagia Jaya	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Target 6.3 (Improve Water Quality & Wastewater Management) SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Target 11.5 (Reduce the Impacts of Natural Disasters & Flooding)

NO	KEY ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSION	TARGETED GROUPS	TARGETED LOCATION	PRIMARY SDG ALIGNMENT
3	Agricultural flooding & crop losses	Flooding events causing crop loss and rising water tables, necessitating regular drainage and irrigation upkeep.	Environment	Farmers, agricultural producers	Sungai Bidut, Kampung Baru Bawang Assan	SDG 2: Zero Hunger Target 2.3 (Double Agricultural Productivity of Small-Scale Producers) SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Target 11.5 (Mitigate Disaster Risk and Agricultural Flood Impacts)
4	Poor treated water supply & disruptions	Over a month of poorly treated water supply in Paradom, and 2 years of low water pressure and intermittent disruptions in public housing.	Social	PPR tenants, rural households	Tanjung Kunyit / Paradom, PPR Rantau Panjang	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Target 6.1 (Universal and Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water) Target 6.2 (Adequate and Equitable Sanitation for All)
5	Traffic congestion & road bottlenecks	Severe traffic congestion on single-carriageways struggling to cope with rising residential traffic demand.	Social	Commuters, local motorists	Kampung Bahagia Jaya, Jalan Ulu Sungai Merah towards Nan Sang	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure Target 9.1 (Develop Sustainable Infrastructure)

NO	KEY ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSION	TARGETED GROUPS	TARGETED LOCATION	PRIMARY SDG ALIGNMENT
						SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Target 11.2 (Improve Transport Networks & Traffic Management)
6	Drug abuse & cross-demographic substance use	Escalating drug abuse affecting youth and middle-aged groups across rural, agricultural, and urban communities.	Social	Youth, families, local communities	Sungai Sadit, Empawah / Lebaan / Bukit Lan, Kampung Baru Bawang Assan, Kampung Bahagia Jaya	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being Target 3.5 (Strengthen Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse) SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions Target 16.1 (Significantly Reduce Violence & Related Deaths)
7	Tenure insecurity & eviction anxiety in ppr	Misinformation on the existence of a policy shifts from "rent-to-own" to "rental-only" model triggering fears of eviction among internal migrant tenants facing unaffordable open-market housing.	Social	Low-income tenants, internal migrants	PPR Rantau Panjang	SDG 1: No Poverty Target 1.4 (Equal Rights to Land Tenure, Basic Services & Property) SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

NO	KEY ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSION	TARGETED GROUPS	TARGETED LOCATION	PRIMARY SDG ALIGNMENT
						Target 10.2 (Promote Economic Inclusion for Low-Income Groups)
8	Agricultural labour constraints & land shortages	High operational costs to establish and maintain farms, acute shortages of affordable local labour, strict migrant workers hiring policies, and land scarcity pushing youth out of farming and causing outmigration.	Economy	Farm owners, agricultural workers	Empawah, Lebaan, Bukit Lan	SDG 2: Zero Hunger Target 2.3 (Sustainable Food Production Systems) SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth Target 8.5 (Achieve Full and Productive Rural Employment)
9	Delayed healthcare facility construction	Long-delayed construction of a promised local health clinic (Klinik Kesihatan) to serve an expanding suburban population.	Social	Suburban residents, patient community	Kampung Bahagia Jaya	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being Target 3.8 (Achieve Universal Health Coverage & Clinic Access) SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Target 11.1 (Access to Essential Municipal Infrastructure)

NO	KEY ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSION	TARGETED GROUPS	TARGETED LOCATION	PRIMARY SDG ALIGNMENT
10	Youth outmigration & demographic ageing	Sustained outmigration of younger generations to urban centres and overseas labour markets resulting in demographic ageing, affecting workforce sustainability and civic leadership continuity.	Social	Youth, senior citizens, local community	Tanjung Kunyit / Paradom, Sungai Sadit, Rejang Park	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being Target 3.4 (Community Social Wellbeing) SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth Target 8.6 (Reduce the Proportion of Youth Not in Employment/Training)

4.0 OVERVIEW OF ISSUES

4.1 Detailed Findings of Key Issues

Table 6. Detailed Findings of FGD 1

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 1: Foochow Community of Tanjung Kunyit/ Paradom Date : 24th March 2026 Tanjung Kunyit is one of Sibu's earliest Foochow settlements. While historically an agrarian baseline, it has diversified into commercial enterprises, though small-scale agriculture remains vital.			
1	Treated water disruption	Residents in the Paradom sub-area experienced over a month of substandard, low-pressure, or turbid treated water supply, indicating structural distribution defects in rural water schemes.	Sarawak Water has completed pipeline replacements in Tg Kunyit/Paradom and approved an acute water treatment facility for PPR Rantau Panjang (scheduled for operational commissioning following accredited lab testing).
2	Road safety & night transit hazards	The Jambatan Lanang-Paradom connection suffers from zero street lighting infrastructure combined with unmaintained, overgrown roadside vegetation, drastically reducing visibility and creating lethal hazards for night commuters.	JKR: In lieu of street lighting, solar road studs are installed along the road divider to illuminate the roads at night. (Note: Public Works Department (JKR) interventions are limited to gazetted State and Federal road networks. Proposed highway upgrades under RMK-13 currently await budgetary approval. To immediately address night-time traffic risks along unlit corridors, JKR is piloting the

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
			installation of solar reflective road studs as a cost-effective safety intervention.)
3	Educational support gaps in special needs	SJKC Chung Cheng operates an Integrated Special Education Programme (PPKI). However, severe shortages in modern ICT equipment, assistive technology, and digital teaching aids restrict effective learning outcomes for special needs students.	School management is advised to submit official infrastructure requisitions directly to the District Education Office (PPD).
4	Demographic inversion & youth outmigration	Limited local employment beyond baseline farming/retail drives massive youth outmigration to urban hubs or international markets (Singapore, Brunei, Solomon Islands). This leaves behind an elderly vulnerable demographic without family caregiving support.	Policy strategies focus on expanding high-value agrotechnology and localized economic opportunities to retain talent. Cross-agency policy synthesis is required to address long-term social care and age-friendly urban economic planning.

Table 7. Detailed Findings of FGD 2

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 2: Dialogue Session with the Foochow Community in Sungai Sadit Date : 24th March 2026			
Established in the 1910s along the riverbanks, Sungai Sadit represents a generational farming cluster struggling with systemic economic and environmental pressures.			
1	Economic vulnerability in agriculture	Smallholders are trapped by steep inflation in basic agricultural inputs, particularly chemical fertilisers, weedicides, and pesticides, shrinking farm profit margins.	Agricultural assistance policy is prioritising sustainable commercial farming enterprises over repetitive smallholder input distribution.
2	Perceived exclusion from public subsidies	Farmers report feeling systematically bypassed or ineligible for government agricultural assistance, subsidies, and modernization grants compared to larger commercial operations.	Proposals for collection centers and specialized agrotechnology projects (e.g., green housing) are undergoing state-level review under land optimization programs (PPAN).
3	Flash flooding & drainage defects	Inadequately designed riverbank drainage channels and mismatched culvert capacities trigger recurrent flash floods during high rainfall events, destroying crops.	Township drainage and road network master plans are determined by the State Planning Authority (SPA) rather than local councils. Due to Sibu's unique soil dynamics, standardized drainage specifications frequently fail. Future engineering solutions must incorporate localized soil foundation designs rather than generic models to ensure long-term structural integrity.

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
4	Jurisdictional ambiguity in road maintenance	Confusion over whether municipal, district, or public works agencies own local farm roads leads to maintenance deadlocks, allowing roads to deteriorate and vegetation to overgrow.	The project is not within JKR's gazetted portfolio; identified as localized, small-scale infrastructure works under municipal/RTP administration.
5	Social security & wildlife hazards	A double threat of rising property theft linked to drug abuse, alongside escalating human-wildlife conflict—specifically frequent crocodile attacks on local pets and farm livestock along river access points.	Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) strategy focuses primary enforcement on high-level distribution networks and routine venue inspections rather than low-level users. Complementing police enforcement, the District Office and KPWK fund targeted community and school-level preventive education. PDRM maintains enforcement campaigns targeting illicit gambling operations and property crime, coordinated alongside AADK addiction mitigation programs.

Table 8. Detailed Findings of FGD 3

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 3: Foochow Farmers of Sungai Bidut Date : 24th March 2026			
Sungai Bidut is a primary agricultural zone vital to Sibu's local fresh produce supply chain, currently experiencing significant structural disruption.			
1	Governance & representation disconnect	The appointed local Penghulu resides outside the community's geographic boundaries, causing severe communication breakdowns and delay in addressing urgent local issues.	Administrative leadership structure under review by local District Administration.
2	Supply chain & market displacement	Changes in institutional procurement—such as local boarding schools switching from local fresh farms to large-scale bulk importers—have cut off predictable income streams for smallholders.	Commercial import policies fall outside Department of Agriculture (DOA) regulatory scope and require comprehensive state and federal policy alignment.
3	Input & resource constraints	Heavy dependence on imported seed stock from West Malaysia, combined with soaring fuel and fertilizer costs, severely handicaps local farm production.	Agricultural assistance policy is prioritizing sustainable commercial farming enterprises over repetitive smallholder input distribution.
4	Flooding & water table management	Inconsistent maintenance of drainage/irrigation canals leads to waterlogging, root rot, and severe harvest losses during periods of elevated water tables.	The Department of Agriculture (DOA) provides annual input subsidies, though broader support under RMK-13 will prioritize high-potential commercial producers to establish sustainable agricultural hubs.

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
			Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) flood mitigation projects (e.g., bund construction along main corridors) are scheduled under RMK-13. Disbursement of federal disaster relief funds remains challenging due to stringent documentation criteria requiring identical pre- and post-disaster photographic evidence.
5	Vandalism & infrastructure strain	Recurrent targeted vandalism and destruction of timber access bridges place an unfair financial and operational burden on farmers needing to transport crops to market.	Sibu Municipal Council (SMC) and Sibu Rural District Council (SRDC) scope is strictly confined to public road and drainage maintenance; small-scale local access infrastructure falls under municipal/RTP administration allocations and community-led initiatives.

Table 9. Detailed Findings of FGD 4

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 4: Foochow Community of Empawah, Lebaan and Bukit Lan Date : 25th March 2026 These peri-urban farming belts feature a mix of smallholders and larger commercial agricultural enterprises.			
1	Dam engineering & design failures	Poorly designed water retention dams and control structures in the area have malfunctioned, releasing uncontrolled excess water and submerging nearby farm plots.	Mitigation and structural review fall within the long-term infrastructure planning scope of the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).
2	Contractor oversight & service gaps	Irregular and unmonitored execution by appointed public service contractors leads to incomplete road works, neglected tree trimming, and substandard maintenance delivery.	Local council and agency maintenance response timelines are subject to inter-agency funding allocations and scope boundaries. Case-by-case engagement and public service contractor evaluations are conducted through local council monitoring.
3	Social security deterioration	Rising rates of illegal gambling and substance abuse are directly correlated with an uptick in petty theft and farm equipment burglary, compounded by minimal police presence.	PDRM maintains enforcement campaigns targeting illicit gambling operations and property crime, coordinated alongside AADK addiction mitigation programs. Primary enforcement focuses on distribution networks alongside preventive community education.
4	Generational agriculture succession crisis	Soaring land prices and high initial capital operational costs discourage youth from taking over family farms, causing agricultural land consolidation or abandonment.	Policy strategies focus on expanding high-value agrotechnology and localized economic opportunities to retain talent and modernize agricultural enterprises under land optimization programs (PPAN).

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
5	Labour market constraints	Strict foreign worker quota regulations combined with high local wage expectations make hiring affordable agricultural labor virtually impossible for mid-sized farms.	To counter youth outmigration and labour constraints, DOA is expanding modern agrotechnology initiatives—such as the Smart School Farming program—to introduce automated farming methodologies to younger demographics and specialized community groups.

Table 10. Detailed Findings of FGD 5

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 5 : Iban Community of Kampung Baru, Bawang Assan Date : 25th March 2026			
A semi-rural riverine community situated along the Batang Lebaan river system within the N52 Bawang Assan state constituency of P212 Sibü. Functioning as a cluster of approximately 20 traditional Iban longhouses led by their respective Tuai Rumah and an area Penghulu, it represents a hybrid rural-urban community navigating the interface between traditional subsistence practices and modern governance structures. Livelihoods in the settlement are closely linked to farming and riverine resources, but the community faces acute environmental and infrastructure challenges.			
1	Push for electoral & administrative redelineation	Leaders advocated for state/parliamentary constituency redelineation to bridge the vast development gap between rural longhouses and urban Sibü, aiming for localised funding allocation.	Administrative leadership and constituency structures require high-level policy review and state/federal electoral administration alignment.
2	Water control system (water gates) breakdown	Infrastructure built to support paddy cultivation—specifically river water control gates along the Batang Lebaan—is non-functional, preventing farmers from regulating water levels.	No direct agency response recorded during the session. Referred to DID for technical audit.
3	Monsoon & king tide submersion	Low-lying longhouses and farmlands suffer prolonged inundation (lasting several weeks) when monsoon rain coincides with coastal king tides, destroying subsistence crops.	Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) flood mitigation projects (e.g., bund construction along main corridors) are scheduled under RMK-13.

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
4	Substance abuse escalation	Widespread concern regarding youth drug addiction in longhouses, with leaders calling for localized rehabilitation and law enforcement interventions.	Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) strategy focuses primary enforcement on high-level distribution networks and routine venue inspections. Complementing police enforcement, the District Office and KPWK fund targeted community-level preventive education and AADK addiction mitigation programs.

Table 11. Detailed Findings of FGD 6

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 6: Residents of Taman Indah Low-Cost Housing Date : 26th April 2026 Developed around 1989–1990 for low-income urban families, this single-storey housing scheme sits adjacent to affluent developments, creating a stark socio-economic contrast.			
1	Progressive land subsidence & structural decay	Built on soil with poor bearing capacity, ongoing subsoil settling has fractured house foundations, cracked walls, and collapsed monsoon drainage channels.	Sibu Municipal Council's (SMC) scope is strictly confined to public road and drainage maintenance; structural issues regarding private dwellings fall under the jurisdiction of the Housing Purchaser Claims Tribunal. Given that 70–80% of Sibü features soft peat soil—leading to significant ground settlement, utility disruptions, and drainage collapse—SMC recommends commissioned soil investigations. SMC, SRDC, SEB, Sarawak Water, and Telcos should establish an integrated infrastructure planning approach.
2	Absence of developer accountability & legal void	The original housing developer is defunct/unreachable. With no Joint Management Body (JMB) or active residents' association, homeowners have no legal entity to manage structural restoration.	Structural issues regarding private dwellings fall under the jurisdiction of the Housing Purchaser Claims Tribunal. Community-led initiatives and legal frameworks under housing management fall under statutory state housing guidelines.

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
3	Ignorance of homeowner rights	Residents lack technical understanding of structural safety monitoring, institutional complaint channels, or tenant/owner legal protections.	Relevant ministries and housing agencies advocate resident engagement through formal resident association frameworks and consumer rights channels.
4	Environmental health risks	Damaged drainage coupled with unkept public land leads to stagnant sewage pools, mosquito breeding, and venomous snake/wildlife intrusions into living quarters.	SMC faces severe budgetary constraints regarding ongoing facility upkeep and maintenance. Remediation of deteriorated public walkways and collapsed drainage in older estates remains constrained by limited municipal funds across multiple housing zones.

Table 12. Detailed Findings of FGD 7

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 7: Community Leaders And Jkkl Of Kampung Bahagia Jaya Date : 26th March 2026 A rapidly urbanising village expanding from 1,248 to 1,500 units within a year, putting extreme pressure on public amenities.			
1	Gridlock & road infrastructure deficit	The main access arterial is severely undersized for current traffic volumes, causing daily congestion.	To alleviate suburban congestion, an outer ring road network connecting Ulu Sungai Merah to major hubs has been planned under Projek Rakyat. While preliminary design works are approved, full physical construction awaits final capital allocation. Phase 1 of the Teku-Pasai Siong linkage incorporates a 700-meter elevated viaduct specifically designed to prevent road settlement over deep peat soil.
2	Social decay, illegal gambling & mat rempit	Proliferation of covert online gambling dens, youth drug abuse, and dangerous illegal motorcycle racing (<i>mat rempit</i>) due to zero recreational facilities and inadequate police staffing.	PDRM conducts targeted weekend operations along known hot-spots under Section 42 of the Road Transport Act 1987, enabling vehicle impoundment and detention of offenders. Police collaborate with designated School Liaison Officers to conduct direct parental engagements, youth counseling, and awareness campaigns alongside AADK mitigation programs. SMC is exploring expanding community-led initiatives for recreational space.

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
3	Hazardous transit corridors	The 28-year-old road corridor connecting Teku to PPR Rantau Panjang completely lacks street lighting due to funding shortfalls, leading to frequent traffic fatalities.	Public Works Department (JKR) interventions are limited to gazetted State and Federal road networks. Proposed highway upgrades under RMK-13 currently await budgetary approval. JKR is piloting the installation of solar reflective road studs as a cost-effective safety intervention.
4	Delayed essential healthcare facilities	Long-standing promises by authorities to construct a localized <i>Klinik Kesihatan</i> remain unfulfilled, forcing residents to travel far for basic care.	The proposed Type-2 Teku Baru Health Clinic has been submitted under RMK-14 and is currently in the land acquisition phase. To address immediate spatial and structural safety concerns at existing facilities, the Divisional Health Office (PKB) is executing commercial space leasing arrangements pending permanent site land acquisitions and Ministry of Finance approvals.
5	Peat soil hazards & inter-agency friction	Uncoordinated planning between utilities, municipal councils, and federal agencies leads to reactive, poor-quality road surfacing on peat soil subject to landslides and sinkholes.	Slope failures in targeted areas (e.g., Kg Bahagia Jaya) were primarily induced by alterations in natural surface drainage flow toward slope toes. Corrective realignments and drainage stabilization are required. Relevant agencies (SMC, SRDC, SEB, Sarawak Water, Telcos) should establish an integrated infrastructure planning approach.

Table 13. Detailed Findings of FGD 8

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 8: Residents of PPR Rantau Panjang – Inter-State Migrants Date : 26th March 2026 A public housing complex housing internal rural-to-urban migrants from Central Sarawak, most of whom are not registered voters in Sibu.			
1	Chronic water deprivation	Residents have suffered two continuous years of low water pressure and unscheduled supply cuts, forcing manual water hauling up high-rise stairs.	Sarawak Water has approved an acute water treatment facility for PPR Rantau Panjang (scheduled for operational commissioning following accredited lab testing). Broader peak-hour supply constraints will be resolved upon completion of the Salim Water Treatment Plant Phase 3 expansion.
2	Tenure insecurity & fear of eviction	Misinformation on the status of residency with a perceived "Rent-to-Own" program to strict "Rental-Only" terms have raised widespread anxiety over potential mass evictions.	PPR Rantau Panjang operates strictly under a municipal rental framework without a rent-to-own facility; six-year tenancy renewals are subject to formal selection committee evaluation.
3	Physical accessibility barriers	Multi-storey apartment blocks lack elevators. Families with elderly, sick, or physically disabled members must manually carry them up and down several flights of stairs.	Maintenance response timelines are subject to inter-agency funding allocations and scope boundaries. Housing Development Corporation (HDC) maintenance covers specified common assets.
4	Education exclusion & undocumented children	Internal migration dynamics—where young single parents leave children under the care of grandparents—have resulted in unregistered births. These undocumented children are	Cases require direct administrative intervention through formal submissions to the National Registration Department (JPN) and Social Welfare Department (JKM).

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
		barred from public schools, depending entirely on informal local KRT classes.	

Table 14. Detailed Findings of FGD 9

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 9: Residents of Rejang Park – Elderly Community Date : 27th March 2026 One of Sibu's primary established residential suburbs, now facing the challenges of a rapidly ageing resident demographic.			
1	Deficit in ageing-friendly urban design	Pedestrian infrastructure lacks basic senior accessibility features such as continuous handrails, tactile paving, or ramped, barrier-free sidewalks.	Following the establishment of a Youth/Child Council, SMC is exploring the formation of a dedicated Senior Advisory Committee to address age-friendly infrastructure. Remediation of deteriorated public walkways and collapsed drainage in older estates (e.g., Rejang Park) remains constrained by limited municipal funds across multiple housing zones.
2	Legacy commercial mismatch	Commercial layout designs from the 1970s cannot cope with modern vehicle ownership, resulting in permanent double-parking and traffic gridlock.	Commercial public parking management is currently undergoing digital transformation to optimize space turnover and utilization efficiency.
3	Healthcare system overburden	Severe parking deficits at Sibu General Hospital and visible foundation sinking at the Jalan Oya Community Clinic threaten access to medical services.	To address immediate spatial and structural safety concerns at existing facilities (e.g., KKJabatan Orang / Jalan Oya), the Divisional Health Office (PKB) is executing commercial space leasing arrangements pending permanent site land acquisitions and Ministry of Finance approvals.

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
4	Residential land lease renewal strain	Approaching 2030 land lease expirations pose a severe threat, as land premium renewal fees jump from RM1,000 to over RM3,000 per lot, severely burdening low-income retirees.	Policy and land title premium adjustments fall under the jurisdiction of the Land and Survey Department.

Table 15. Detailed Findings of FGD 10

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
FGD 10: Community of Kampung Jeriah B Date : 27th March 2026 A peri-urban settlement built over 20 years ago on deep peat soil, housing daily-wage earners, informal workers, and PPRT recipients.			
1	Ineffective local leadership & perceived political favoritism	Community leaders are largely inaccessible, with residents reporting political bias in the distribution of welfare and PPRT housing repair grants.	For older rural housing units (PPRT), home improvement assistance is now structured under the Program Perumahan Rakyat Sejahtera (PPRS), where applications routed through the Sibü District Office require final endorsement from the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW). Leadership issues are subject to District Administration review.
2	Substandard housing & missing utilities	Houses constructed under housing assistance programs exhibit dangerous construction flaws. Multiple homes were handed over without electricity or water connections due to contractor non-compliance.	Permanent utility connections require a valid Occupation Permit (OP). However, through a special framework with SMC, a temporary 6-month renewable water supply agreement can be granted at commercial tariffs pending final OP approval.
3	Exorbitant utility grid connection costs	High connection fees charged by utility companies force low-income households to rely on small, unreliable solar panels or illegal wiring.	Elevated topography and full capacity at Salim Treatment Plant limit immediate water expansion, compounded by high soil movement causing sub-surface pipe bursts. Grid connection relief remains dependent on utility provider capital projects.

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
4	Road infrastructure failure & abandonment	Narrow settlement roads are flanked by un-railed deep drainage trenches. Road widening works launched around 2022 were abruptly abandoned, materials removed, and no updates provided.	The project is not within JKR's gazetted portfolio; identified as localized, small-scale infrastructure works under municipal/RTP administration.

Table 16. Detailed Findings of Key Informant Review

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
Key Informant Interview: Resident Representatives Of Housing Estate In Kemuyang Date : 27th March 2026 An expanding suburban housing estate heavily populated by government retirees and ex-military personnel.			
1	Occupation permit (OP) legal impasse	Premature key handovers by developers led buyers to perform home extensions before official OP issuance. Local council regulations now refuse OP approval unless homeowners demolish modifications at their own expense.	Occupation Permits (OP) cannot be issued due to unauthorized structural extensions built up to drainage reserves, which violate municipal and Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA) safety codes. Sibu Rural District Council (SRDC) is engaging property owners on a case-by-case basis to either rectify/demolish non-compliant structures or submit revised architectural plans through qualified professionals. Temporary 6-month renewable water supply agreements have been facilitated pending official compliance.
2	Low utility pressures & rapid sprawl	Uncontrolled suburban housing growth without upgrading main supply pipes leaves residents with virtually no water pressure during peak morning and evening usage hours.	Broader peak-hour supply constraints and pressure drops at system extremities will be resolved upon the completion of the Salim Water Treatment Plant Phase 3 expansion (83% completed; targeted operational completion by December).
3	Lack of youth facilities & road safety risks	Absence of structured parks or sports facilities forces children and youths to gather in vacant shop halls or play along active roads, driving up	SMC faces severe budgetary constraints regarding ongoing facility upkeep and maintenance. Long-term sustainability relies heavily on expanding community-led initiatives (e.g., NGO park adoptions). PDRM collaborates

NO.	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	AGENCY FEEDBACK
		rates of underage smoking and illegal motorcycle street racing.	with School Liaison Officers for youth counseling and awareness campaigns.

4.2 Issue Prioritisation

4.2.1 Prioritised Issue 1 : Drug Abuse & Cross-Demographic Substance Use

Communities face persistent challenges in ensuring adequate social security and protection, particularly in relation to public safety, youth vulnerability, family wellbeing, and community-level prevention mechanisms. These challenges are compounded by the presence of drug-related activities in certain community areas, limited enforcement capacity, weakening community-based vigilance, and gaps in early intervention and inter-agency coordination. The issue therefore extends beyond substance abuse itself and reflects broader gaps in the local social protection and community safety ecosystem. The problems related to the prioritised issue are :

Rural and Riverine Penetration

In peri-urban Foochow enclaves such as Sungai Sadit and Empawah/Lebaan/Bukit Lan, as well as the riverine Iban longhouses of Kampung Baru Bawang Assan, community leaders reported rising drug addiction. This has triggered secondary crime waves, including petty theft and illegal trespass onto farmlands. In Bawang Assan, the council of approximately 20 *Tuai Rumah* expressed urgent concern over the vulnerability of longhouse youths who lack structured community intervention programs.

Suburban Settlement and Enforcement Gaps

In expanding suburban villages such as Kampung Bahagia Jaya, residents linked drug abuse directly to unchecked illicit activities, including illegal online gambling dens that operate within residential rows. Communities noted that limited personnel and routine patrols from the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) and the National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK) contribute to unhindered supply corridors along suburban and riverine transport routes

Addressing substance abuse across P212 Sibu requires multi-stakeholder enforcement and public health interventions. Key recommendations include: establishing localised community-based rehabilitation and counseling facilities; expanding intelligence-led PDRM/AADK mobile policing along the Rajang riverine corridor; and integrating Village Development and Security Committees (JKKK), church welfare units, and longhouse leadership into community policing committees.

Table 17. Summary of Issue 1

Problems relating to prioritised issue	1. Rural and riverine settlement penetration 2. Suburban settlement and enforcement gaps
Recommendations	1. Establish a multi-stakeholder enforcement and reporting mechanism - from grassroots to agency 2. Strengthen participatory grassroots and leadership surveillance on mobile policing
Affected Group(s)	Intergenerational drug abusers and gamblers
Location	Empawah, Lebaan, Bukit Lan, Sungai Sadit, Sungai Bidut, Bawang Assan, Taman Bahagia Jaya
SDG RELATED TO ISSUES	
Related SDG	Related SDG Targets
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	Target 3.5: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse Target 3.8: Universal health coverage and access to quality healthcare services
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Target 11.7: Universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, and green public spaces, particularly for older persons and youth
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	Target 16.1 : Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. Target 16.6 & Target 16.7: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels; ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

4.2.2 Prioritised Issue 2 : Cross Cultural Youth Development and Talent Retention in P212 Sibü

The socio-economic vitality of P212 Sibü is constrained by the persistent loss of human capital and a severe shortage of civic recreational infrastructure dedicated to young people. The problems related to the prioritised issue are :

Deficit of Recreational Facilities and "Third Spaces"

Across newer suburban corridors such as Kemuyang and Kampung Bahagia Jaya, residents highlighted an acute absence of safe recreational spaces, playgrounds, and public sports facilities. In Kemuyang, children and adolescents are forced to play along roadside verges or within vacant commercial shop lots, resulting in road safety hazards and social concerns such as underage smoking and illegal motorcycle street racing (*mat rempit*). In Kampung Bahagia Jaya, the lack of sports spaces along the Teku-PPR Rantau Panjang corridor leaves youths without healthy extracurricular alternatives, constraining civic well-being

Economic Constraints and Structural Brain Drain

In agrarian belts (Sungai Bidut, Tanjung Kunyit, Paradom), young people are systematically pushed out of smallholder agriculture due to escalating fertilizer and herbicide input costs, land shortages, and suppressed farmgate pricing. With limited higher-value manufacturing and digital service jobs within Sibü town, educated youths migrate to Kuching, Peninsular Malaysia, or foreign labor markets including Singapore, Brunei, and the Solomon Islands, exacerbating youth labor underutilisation under SDG Target 8.6.

Educational Equity and Special Needs Support

In low-income public housing areas like PPR Rantau Panjang, educational marginalisation was reported among informal rural migrant households, including undocumented children excluded from formal schooling who rely on home-based tutoring or localised welfare initiatives. Meanwhile, in semi-rural schools such as SJKC Chung Cheng (Tanjung Kunyit), integrated special education programs (PPKI) face constraints due to deficient ICT and digital learning tools.

Fostering youth retention requires developing integrated youth sports complexes and multi-purpose civic centers under the Rural Transformation Projects (RTP) and Sibü Municipal Council (MPS) frameworks; providing technical skills training in modern agrotechnology and maritime engineering; improving digital classroom infrastructure in suburban and rural schools; and establishing formal community transit links to connect suburban youths with vocational education institutes in central Sarawak.

Table 18. Summary of Issue 2

Problems relating to prioritised issue	1. Deficit of Recreational Facilities and "Third Spaces" 2. Economic Constraints and Structural Brain Drain 3. Educational Equity and Special Needs Support
Recommendations	1. Rejuvenating Social Health via Cross-Cultural and Faith-Based Programmes: Revitalizing community youth programs to strengthen psychosocial resilience, emotional well-being, and social cohesion 2. Civic & Sports Infrastructure: Developing integrated youth sports complexes, green recreational parks, and multi-purpose civic facilities under the Rural Transformation Projects (RTP) and Sibu Municipal Council (MPS) frameworks 3. Economic Capacity & Technical Pathways: Providing structured technical skills training in modern smart-agrotechnology, digital commerce, and riverine maritime engineering, while offering micro-grants for young entrepreneurs to lower the barrier of entry into local farming and enterprise
Affected Group(s)	Youths in urban, semi urban and rural Sibu
Location	Sibu Division as a whole
SDG RELATED TO ISSUES	
Related SDG	Related SDG Targets
SDG 4: Quality Education	Target 4.4: Substantially increase the number of youth who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.

	Target 4.5: Eliminate gender and socioeconomic disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable.
SDG 8 : Decent Work and Economic Growth	Target 8.6: Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET). Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Target 11.7: Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, and green public spaces, particularly for children, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

4.2.3 Prioritised Issue 3 : An Actively Ageing Community & Elderly Welfare

Sibu displays the demographic profile of an accelerating aging society, driven by long-term fertility declines and extensive outward migration of working-age youths. This creates an "empty-nest" dynamic where senior citizens remain in mature suburban estates and agrarian riverbanks with limited caregiving support. In addition to that, 1970s legacy commercial town planning such as Rejang Park—one of Sibu's earliest and most established planned housing estates—has evolved into a prominent residential hub for pensioners and senior citizens. Despite remaining a vibrant and liveable community, the estate suffers from substantial urban design constraints that fail to cater to an aging demographic. The problem related to the prioritised issue are:

Deficit of Safe Pedestrian Infrastructure

The neighbourhoods and development in Sibu as a whole lacks dedicated, elderly-friendly walking infrastructure, such as barrier-free, non-slip sidewalks, continuous pedestrian handrails, gentle access ramps, and tactile paving. Broken pavements, elevated curb drops, and unpaved verges present severe trip-and-fall hazards for seniors navigating the estate on foot. The vulnerability of Rejang Park's elderly cohort is mitigated by strong community cohesion anchored in church-led social support systems. Facilities such as the Methodist Senior Hub (SCAC), the Methodist Senior Learning Centre, and the Methodist Church Sibu Jalan Archer Day Care Centre provide structured daily care, adult learning programmes, and socialisation. However, these facilities require complementary municipal infrastructure to ensure seniors can travel safely between their homes and community centres.

Deteriorating Municipal Connectivity and Strained Healthcare Access

Senior residents depend on Sibu General Hospital and the Jalan Oya Community Clinic for chronic illness management and outpatient treatments. However, accessing these facilities presents significant physical obstacles due to degradations and severe vehicular congestion and an acute deficit of parking bays at Sibu General Hospital.

Financial Burden of Land Leasehold Renewals

A critical socio-economic anxiety voiced by retirees in Rejang Park concerns the expiration of 60-year residential land lease titles due around 2030. Escalating renewal premiums—rising from historical baselines of approximately RM1,000 to figures exceeding RM3,000—place a severe financial strain on elderly households subsisting on fixed pensions or modest personal saving.

Addressing the aging population in P212 Sibu—most notably evidenced in mature estates like Rejang Park—requires retrofitting urban infrastructure to create barrier-free, non-slip pedestrian walkways, safety handrails along open drains, and alleviated commercial parking layouts to ensure universal mobility; expediting structural stabilization works at the sinking Jalan Oya Community Clinic, resolving acute vehicular parking deficits at Sibu General Hospital, and supporting church-led senior daycare hubs to deliver equitable healthcare and psychosocial well-being; introducing targeted policy concessions and subsidised rates for pensioners on fixed incomes facing the impending 2030 expiration and surging costs of 60-year residential land leasehold renewals; and establishing community-based "third spaces" such as adult learning centers to counter the social isolation and caregiving deficits experienced by an "empty-nest" elderly demographic left behind by widespread youth outmigration.

Table 19. Summary of Issue 3

Problems relating to prioritised issue	1. Deficit of Safe Pedestrian Infrastructure 2. Deteriorating Municipal Connectivity and Strained Healthcare Access 3. Financial Burden of Land Leasehold Renewals
Recommendations	1. Universal Accessibility & Safe Walkways Development Sibu Municipal Council (MPS) should retrofit Rejang Park's residential loop and central park zones with continuous barrier-

	free walkways, supportive handrails along stepped drains, tactile paths, well-lit pedestrian crossings, and traffic-calming speed tables 2. Healthcare Facility Upgrades: Expediting the structural retrofitting of the sinking Jalan Oya Clinic, resolving the parking bottleneck at Sibu General Hospital through dedicated senior-citizen transit loops 3. Fiscal Relief on Lease Renewals: Formulating a targeted state concession or phased premium payment framework for senior homeowners and pensioners facing 2030 lease renewals 4. Expansion of Integrated Senior Third Spaces: Providing municipal grants and co-funding to expand community daycare hubs, geriatric wellness spaces, and intergenerational social programs in mature estates across Sibu
Affected Group(s)	Ageing and senior population
Location	Sibu Division as a whole
SDG RELATED TO ISSUES	
Related SDG	Related SDG Targets
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	Target 3.8: Universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential healthcare services for chronic and geriatric care. Target 3.4: Promote mental health and well-being through supportive community and active aging networks
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Target 11.7: Universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, and green public spaces, particularly for older persons and persons with disabilities. Target 11.2: Safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road

	safety and public transit with special attention to older persons.
SDG 10 : Reduced Inequalities	Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, disability, or status.
SDG 1: No Poverty	Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable, including older persons. Target 1.4: Equal rights to economic resources, basic services, and ownership and control over land and property.

5.0 PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF SOLUTION PROJECTS

Three (3) major projects have been identified for the Sibü parliamentary constituency to address several issues that have emerged.

	PROJECT 1	PROJECT 2	PROJECT 3
Project Title	Pembelajaran Alat Muzik Tradisional Cina untuk Komuniti	Impian Civic Literacy and Community Empowerment Programme	Menjana Pendapatan Ekonomi Rakan Muda Mudi di Kawasan Pedalaman Melalui Jualan Makanan dan Minuman
Relevant SDG(s)	SDG 3, 4, 11	SDG 3, 4, 10, 16, 17	SDG 1, 3, 8
Objective(s)	- To expand access to music education and encourage greater interest in traditional music among the community in Sibü. - To promote and strengthen the local music culture and ecosystem. - To provide participants with opportunities to develop new skills, build self-confidence, and appreciate traditional cultural heritage that is increasingly less practised among younger generations.	- To improve electoral literacy among underserved communities in Sibü, particularly on electoral processes, democratic institutions, voter rights and responsibilities. - To strengthen civic participation by helping participants understand the roles of elected representatives and identify appropriate channels for engaging with public institutions. - To build participants' confidence in community decision-making and encourage more informed	- To provide income-generating and employment opportunities for young people in the rural Bawang Assan community through food and beverage sales. - To equip participants with practical skills and knowledge in food preparation, food handling, hygiene, promotion, sales, and financial management. - To strengthen participants' confidence, employability and entrepreneurial capabilities through hands-on training

	PROJECT 1	PROJECT 2	PROJECT 3
		and responsible participation in civic affairs. To improve awareness of preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyles through basic health screenings and health education sessions.	and involvement in community-based economic activities. To encourage active participation among rural youth in community activities while fostering teamwork, responsibility and community cohesion.
Expected Outcome(s)	- Participants developed basic skills in playing traditional Chinese musical instruments, including <i>dizi</i>, <i>guzheng</i>, <i>zhongruan</i> and <i>liuqin</i>. - Improved musical knowledge, technical skills and confidence through regular training and performance preparation. - Gained greater creativity, self-confidence and appreciation of traditional Chinese arts and cultural heritage.	- Improved understanding of democratic institutions, including the roles of Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies, elected representatives and local authorities. - Increased electoral awareness, including knowledge of electoral processes, voter rights and responsibilities, electoral boundaries and informed participation. - Greater confidence in civic and community participation, enabling participants to engage more effectively in community decision-	- Gained practical skills and knowledge in food preparation, food handling, hygiene, promotion, sales, and financial management. - Improved the participants' confidence and ability to generate income through food and beverage sales and other economic activities. - Employment and entrepreneurship opportunities are created for young people in the rural Bawang Assan community.

	PROJECT 1	PROJECT 2	PROJECT 3
	Strengthened the participants' ability to perform collaboratively as a group through sectional, ensemble and full rehearsals.	- making and with elected representatives and public institutions. - Improved ability to evaluate information and identify misinformation, supporting more responsible participation in civic discourse. - Increased awareness of preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyles through health screening and health education activities.	- Able to apply the skills and knowledge gained to pursue employment or undertake income-generating activities independently. - Increased local economic activity and improved socioeconomic well-being, particularly among the younger generation in the rural community.
Solution Provider	Persatuan Kebajikan Penduduk Rejang Park Sibu	Persatuan Impian Malaysia	Gereja Methodist Iban, Bawang Assan, Sibu
Activities/ Processes	Month 1: - Introduction to the SDGs, project objectives and basic music concepts. - Introduction to basic music notation and instruments. - Basic music workshop. - Basic instrument technique training. Month 2:	4 Months (6 communities within Sibu): Month 1: 2 communities Month 2: 2 communities Month 3: 1 community Month 4: 1 community Part 1: Community Electoral Literacy Programme Introduction to Malaysia's democratic institutions, including Parliament, State Legislative	Month 1: - Participant recruitment - Project briefing and participant selection - Introduction to SDGs Month 2: - Briefing on proper food handling procedures and hygiene practices for the project.

	PROJECT 1	PROJECT 2	PROJECT 3
	5. Intensive technical training by instrument section. 6. Continued technical training by instrument section. 7. Continued technical training to strengthen individual skills. 8. Small-group/sectional training and practice of the main repertoire. 9. Small ensemble training combining different instruments. 10. Combined ensemble training involving all instruments. Month 3: 11. Full rehearsal in preparation for the final performance. 12. Mock performance, assessment and final 13. Community Performance: Participants showcase the skills and repertoire	Assemblies, separation of powers, and the roles of MPs, ADUNs and local authorities. • Electoral literacy workshop covering electoral processes, voter rights and responsibilities, electoral boundaries, informed participation, and misinformation. • Civic participation discussion. • Community dialogue session to discuss community issues and identify constructive channels for civic engagement Part 2: Community Health Screening and Awareness • Blood pressure screening. • Diabetes screening. • BMI assessment. • Preventive healthcare education. • Healthy lifestyle awareness. • Referral pathways for participants identified as being at risk.	5. Training in preparing quality food products that meet customers' preferences. 6. Selection of the sales menu and standardisation of recipes to ensure consistent product quality. 7. Procurement and management of the equipment and raw materials. Month 3: 8. Food production 9. Preparation of the sales venue 10. Briefing on promotional methods and implementation of promotional activities, including preparing posters with the menu, dates, days and location. Month 4: 11. Sales within the local community, including at the

	PROJECT 1	PROJECT 2	PROJECT 3
	developed throughout the programme through a final community performance.		village, school, community programmes and local events. 12. Financial management and sales record-keeping, including recording sales revenue, operating costs and project profits.
Total Funding (RM)	40,000	40,000	40,000
Location	Sibu	Sibu	Bawang Assan, Sibu
Duration	3 months	4 months	3 months

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