

## PPSDM appointed by ministry to run Food Bank programme in Miri

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Chiew (front, left) joins other distinguished guests in a group photo-call. Seen from right are Elias, Zulhaidah, Dr Teo, Awang Azman and Malvina.

**MIRI:** The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) plans to expand its Food Bank Malaysia programme here.

According to Persatuan Prihatin Sibuti dan Daerah Miri (PPSDM) vice-president Chiew Choon Man, his side has already engaged with the ministry in implementing the programme here.

"They (KPDNHEP) have appointed us as one of the appointed NGOs (non-governmental organisations) in charge of the Food Bank programme.

"The ministry has launched this programme in a few places in Peninsular Malaysia, so our 'persatuan' (association) is going to engage them. We have met the officer in Miri and also some of the big supermarkets.

"After this, we will focus on running the Food Bank programme, which is meant for the B40 group.

"Basically, it is a way to channel the food surplus in the markets to those who need it more, as a way to ease their financial burden," said Chiew when met at a forum conducted by PPSDM at Pustaka Miri recently.

The session hosted 50 participants, comprising members of the public.

The forum on 'Maju atau Mundur' (Moving Forward or Backward), was open to any of those who wanted to know more about Sarawak's affairs, its development and its future, said Chiew.

"Our aim is to increase the people's awareness of the social, economic and political issues that are related to us. We hope to contribute in building a society that share concerns about the wellbeing of everyone around us, especially the less-fortunate ones," he said, adding that the PPSDM had conducted many



activities towards this objective, including a forum on issues affecting Sarawakian workers which was held on this year's Labour Day.

"And today, we have this forum to discuss more issues concerning us, especially on current developments after 56 years since the formation of Malaysia, along with some political issues.

"We hope through this event, we could have a better understanding.

"Now that the federal government has changed, we wish to have experts from the academic field and also the civil societies to give us a clearer picture on how Sarawak should stand in the future," he added.

Forum speakers were Universiti Malaya's Associate Professor Dr Awang Azman Awang Pawi who had undertaken various researches on the politics and general development in Sarawak; and Malvina Albert Klinsing from the Dayak Think Tank Association Sarawak (DTTAS).

Champs Education's representative Sebastian Lim moderated the session.

Miri MP Dr Michael Teo, Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Women executive committee member and Sibuti PKR Women chief Zulhaidah Suboh, and DTTAS president Elias Lipi Mat also attended the forum.

