

# 'Pakatan govt making progress in honouring MA63'

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Pakatan Harapan government is making progress in the process to honour Sabah and Sarawak rights according to the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63), according to a senior DAP leader.

Its national vice-chairman Chong Chieng Jen (*pic*) said while it was acknowledged that things were not going as fast as hoped, many of the terms in the MA63 have been honoured.

He said the steering and technical committees formed to oversee the issues had held meetings and com-

pleted their tasks.

"The report will be compiled and finalised but as far as MA63 is concerned, a lot has been covered," he said at the Sabah DAP convention here yesterday.

Chong, who is Sarawak DAP chief, said the doubling of the special grants for Sabah from RM26mil to RM54mil as announced in Budget 2020 was a strong proof that the Pakatan government was sincere about honouring its pledges.

"Yes, the numbers might not be what people here are expecting but

for over 40 years, there has been no attempt to even review this special grant, although it is stated that the special grant is to be reviewed every five years.

"We did the review and doubled the amount within 18 months into power with the promise to review it again in the next five years," he added.

While acknowledging that there was much to be done and that it was a lengthy process to honour the MA63, Chong said what has been achieved so far showed the govern-

ment's sincerity in keeping to its word.

"As representatives of the people, we should be talking about what has been done instead of what has not been achieved," he said.

On Sabah's recent passing of a Bill that allowed 18-year-olds to become elected representatives, he said this was a good and progressive move.

Sabah DAP Socialist Youth chief Phooing Jin Zhe said the Bill would empower young people and help the public change their negative percep-

