



## **Press Statement by the Sabah Law Society**

The Sabah Law Society (SLS) wholeheartedly supports the recent statement by YAA Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of Malaysia, on the urgent need to update our legal framework in response to rapid technological advancements. As digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data management reshape various sectors, the law must evolve to address emerging challenges and ensure justice in a digital age.

In Sabah, where the state government is driving efforts to accelerate the digital economy, especially in rural areas, this call for legal reform is particularly crucial. As outlined in recent initiatives to enhance digital connectivity in underserved regions, there will be a surge in digital transactions, online services, and the use of advanced technologies. This progress requires legal protections for citizens engaging with these new platforms, ensuring their rights are safeguarded from potential risks such as data breaches, fraud, and misuse of digital resources.

The digital transformation taking place in Sabah illustrates how essential it is for laws to keep pace with technological growth. Communities across rural areas are gaining access to new economic opportunities, but without updated legal safeguards, they may also face increased vulnerabilities. Legal reform is essential not just to regulate new technologies but to ensure inclusivity, so that all citizens benefit equally from digital advancements.

The SLS stands ready to collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to assist in the development and implementation of these much-needed reforms. As Sabah moves towards a more interconnected digital future, it is critical that the legal framework not only supports technological progress but also anticipates the potential issues that come with it.

Modernizing and reforming the law will protect the people and also ensure that Sabah's progress in the digital economy is sustained, inclusive and resilient.

The Sabah Law Society is committed to contributing its expertise and resources to ensure that Sabah's legal system remains resilient and adaptable in the face of these rapid changes. We believe that a proactive approach to legal reform, one that embraces both innovation and responsibility, will position Sabah and Malaysia as leaders in digital governance, while safeguarding the rights and interests of all citizens.

Mohamed Nazim Maduarin  
President  
13th October 2024