



BY NEVILLE TIMOTHY SANDERS
tribunenew2019@gmail.com

KUCHING: The Sarawak Building Ordinance 1994 will be amended to mandate automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all public buildings statewide.

Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian announced that the ordinance will be tabled during the Sarawak Legislative Assembly (DUN) sitting next year, as promised by the Sarawak Attorney General's office.

"The AED has been around for over two decades, and in advanced countries, the device is compulsory, especially in public places, and it is about time we followed suit.

"The device will be available in both government and private buildings such as shopping malls under the amended ordinance," he said.

(Automated external defibrillators are portable, life-saving devices designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest).

Dr Sim added that under the amended ordinance, there will be other changes, addressing outdated regulations and planning for the states' future.

Sarawak to mandate AEDs in public buildings

"Our building ordinance is quite old, and the changes are long overdue.

"We are not just updating to catch up with the times, but also planning for 2030 and beyond," he said.

He said this when met by reporters after attending the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Rotary Club of Kuching Central and the Kuching South City Council (MBKS) here yesterday.

Alongside the AED, the amendment to the ordinance will also include the introduction of the green building standards in order to align with Sarawak's climate change aspirations.

"We want the green building index, and with that we also want to include the electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in future apartments.



DR Sim (left) officiates at the ceremony for the AED placement devices at Taman Sahabat, together with MBKS Mayor Datuk Wee Hong Seng (centre) and other dignitaries.

"Plus, residents living in apartments have face issues of how to get the EV charges, like who pays for the electricity.

"By making it a regulation,

we can resolve the issues systematically and ensure future readiness," he added.

Dr Sim suggested the AED devices to be placed at security

post in gated communities for easy accessibility. "These device are not ordinary items. Because even if you steal it, who are you going to sell it to, right," he added.

MBKS enhances public safety with AED installations

KUCHING: The installation of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) across key Kuching South City Council (MBKS) areas reflects the council's commitment to safeguard public safety.

MBKS Mayor Datuk Wee Hong Seng said the installation aligns with the council's mission to improve the quality of life for everyone in the city and supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by ensuring access to lifesaving resources during sudden cardiac emergencies, alongside SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by enhancing the safety and resilience of public spaces.

"At MBKS, we embrace the responsibility to make such critical resources accessible, exemplifying our dedication to building a healthier and safer community.

"However, installing AEDs is only the beginning. MBKS recognises the importance of education and

preparedness, which is why we are partnering with Mediclink to conduct training sessions and awareness campaigns," he said in his speech during the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Rotary Club of Kuching Central and MBKS here yesterday.

He also urged all parties to become advocates for the use of the devices by raising awareness about the importance of AEDs and emergency response training, ensuring that more lives can be saved when every second counts.

"I also appeal to the public to help safeguard these lifesaving devices by preventing vandalism, so they remain accessible and functional for those in need," he added. The MoU signing ceremony was witnessed by Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, marking a significant step towards establishing Kuching as a model for cardiovascular emergency preparedness.

The project involves the

installation of five automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at high-traffic locations such as Friendship Park, Stutong Market, Kenyalang Market, MBKS Headquarters, and the Indoor Stadium, all within MBKS' jurisdiction.

These devices, essential for emergency response during cardiac arrests, are expected to play a critical role in saving lives.

The initiative is complemented by comprehensive training sessions on the proper use of AEDs and basic life-saving techniques, targeting both community members and MBKS staff stationed at AED-equipped locations.

MBKS will ensure seamless integration by obtaining necessary approvals, overseeing installation, and managing routine maintenance.

Public workshops and awareness campaigns will also be conducted to foster a culture of health consciousness and emergency readiness.

Fadillah receives lifetime achievement award

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Islamic Leadership by the World Muslim Leadership Forum (WMLF).

The award was presented to him by WMLF chairman Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther and President of the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific Tan Sri Michael Yeoh at Parliament building on Monday.

Fadillah expressed his gratitude for the recognition, which was initially announced during the WMLF forum held in London, United Kingdom, on November 22.

However, he was unable to attend the forum in person to accept the accolade.

"Alhamdulillah, I feel deeply humbled to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Islamic Leadership from the World Muslim Leadership Forum (WMLF)," he said in a Facebook statement yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported

that Mohamed Iqbal commended Fadillah's commitment to advancing sustainability, unity, and leadership within the Islamic world.

"His vision and efforts exemplify the ideals of the WMLF, and this award is a testament to his enduring impact in fostering development-driven solutions that benefit communities globally," Mohamed Iqbal said in a statement.

The 13th edition of WMLF, themed 'Muslim Leadership in Challenging Times: Fostering Inclusivity and Sustainability', served as a platform to discuss strategies for leveraging development to advance sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The forum, jointly organised by KSI, gathered leaders, policymakers, scholars, entrepreneurs, and innovators from across the Islamic world. It highlighted key areas such as gender equality, youth empowerment, climate change, and peace-building in its discussions.