



CONGRATULATIONS: Anthony (right) receives an Excellent Service Award from Dr Penguang (left) as others look on.

## A great year for Betong District Council

By Anthony Aga  
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**BETONG:** This has been a great year for Betong District Council (BDC) as far as development is concerned.

According to its secretary, Anthony Luta Juing, BDC scored a three-star rating after securing 81.14 marks based on the National Audit Department's Audit Accountability Index (AAI) – an improvement compared to a two-star rating achieved in the previous year.

BDC's website which scored 64 per cent was rated four-star by the Malaysian Government Portals, he added.

Under the star rating system by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, BDC scored 66.37 per cent to obtain a three-star rating which is the best among the four three-star rated

district councils in the state.

The other three-star rated district councils are Saratok, Dalat and Mukah, Lundu and Sibu Rural District Council.

Besides that, BDC had been chosen to represent the state and Sabah district councils at the national-level Toilet Cleanliness competition.

During the World Toilet Day seminar held in Kuala Lumpur recently, BDC was in fifth place after being rated three stars with 74.58 marks, he disclosed.

During the function, a total of 31 officers from five district councils namely Sarikei, Lubok Antu, Saratok, Meradong/Julau and host Betong received excellent service awards from permanent secretary to the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development Dr Penguang Manggil.

## Jeep. apparel, shoes launches new fall-winter collection

**KUALA LUMPUR:** To express its love for Mother Nature, renowned Jeep. apparel and shoes launched a new fall – winter collection themed 'Love the Earth'.

The latest collection is inspired by the shades and elements of nature for those who celebrate and love earth's beauty.

In line with its 'Live Without Limits' tagline, this collection is designed for adventure lovers and urbanites, who enjoy city lifestyle.

The fashion wear is ideal for work and play in the tropical climate.

For men's designs, the collection is for those who enjoy city lifestyle and outdoor adventure with a touch of ruggedness.

Cargo pants and jeans are improved in materials, fitting and colour tones while checked shirts are refreshed with new prints and earthy tones such as khaki, grey and brown.

Basic tops like polo and round neck tees with graphics are refreshed with vibrant colours like blue, green, yellow, and others.

Jeep. continues to improve its denim shirts and military jackets to provide better fitting and comfort for explorers and travellers this holiday season.

Warm colours and earth tones like brown and khaki green will keep adventurers warm in their travel.

For shoes, confident men can expect fine calf leather boots and shoes in rugged designs for travelling and social gatherings.

Rugged calf leather shoes are mostly available in tan, black and white. For women's designs, the collection is made for the modern and confident women who want to be adventurous and fashionable.

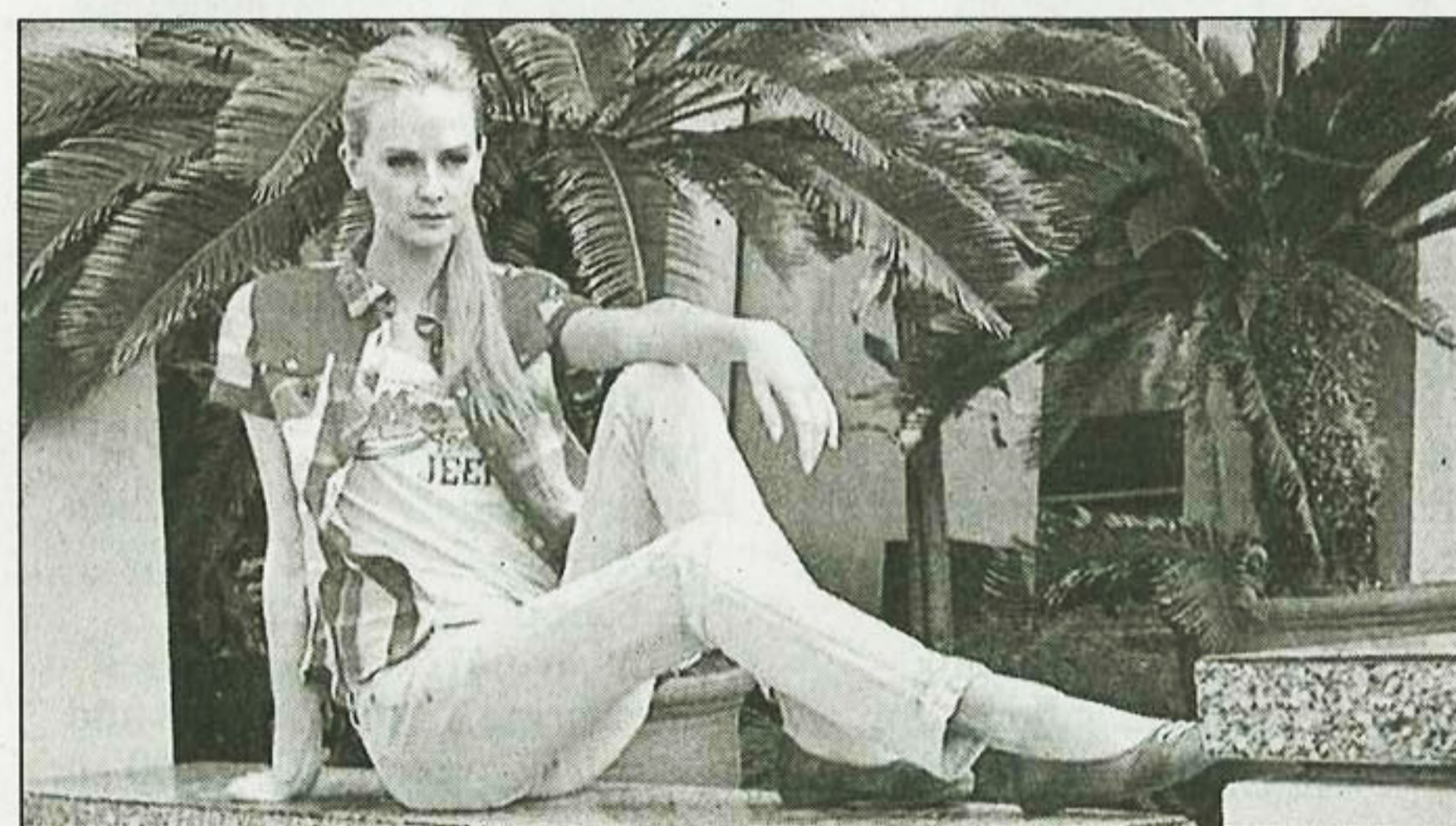
While men discover and explore the magnificence of nature, women celebrate the beauty of it.

Women's wear celebrates the beauty of nature with checked shirts printed with refreshed bright floral designs, refined denim shirts and dresses in darker shades of blue, green, red, grey, brown, and beige.

This collection also features improved and refreshed jeans,



LOVE THE EARTH: Jeep. collection is designed for adventure lovers and urbanites.



COOL COLOURS: Jeep. fashion for a tropical holiday this season.

pants and jiggling in shades of nature like blue, brown and black.

Fashionable and active women can expect to stay comfortable without compromising on fashion in these refined materials for travels to cities and even the countryside. Jeep. ladies shoes have style, comfort and performance all in one neat package while its pumps focus on soft comfort fitting in contemporary style.

While sticking to its predominant earth tone, the new collection is refreshed with dashing colours like apple green, orange and red. For Kids' designs, the season offers rugged outdoor fashion for active children.

Basic tees and checked shirts are designed to be paired with cargo

shorts and jeans.

Polo and tees come in colourful stripes and graphics depicting nature. The new collection for girls also highlights beautiful denim and corduroy dresses and shirts with floral prints to celebrate the theme 'Love The Earth'.

Since 1941, Jeep. brand has been a symbol of freedom and capability.

Jeep. apparel in Malaysia is designed, produced, distributed, and marketed by Jordone Corporation Sdn Bhd.

For Jeep. footwear, it is marketed by Bonia Corporation Bhd under two subsidiaries – Alpha Footwear Sdn Bhd (men's shoes) and Scarpa Marketing Sdn Bhd (ladies' shoes).

## 'Private education sector must rectify perception of high cost'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Public perception that Malaysia's private education sector is expensive should be rectified through better information from the relevant institutions, said Ministry of Higher Education, deputy secretary-general (Management) Datuk Omar Abd Rahman yesterday.

"Most private education institutions in Malaysia actually offer reasonable fees and are also recognised by the Public Services Department and Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

"Therefore, hopefully education exhibitions which gather well known local and international universities such as this will change that perception," he said after

opening the 33rd Facon Education Fair at the Putra World Trade Centre, here yesterday.

The nationwide fair, which started yesterday, will end today.

"Among the ways we can develop our higher education sector is to get students to consider local courses which are internationally recognised," he said.

Such courses would enable the students to study locally, without having to go abroad, he added.

"This fair offers a great variety of choices for higher education, not just for school leavers but career people as well," said Omar. — Bernama



ONE FOR THE ALBUM: Group photo of Pang (seated centre) and everyone involved.

## Youth urged to protect nation's independence, strengthen unity

**SANDAKAN:** The Patriotism and Nationalism Programme is one of the nine core youth development programmes to raise awareness on loyalty to the government in efforts to maintain the country's development.

Minister of Youth and Sports Datuk Peter Pang En Yin said his ministry's efforts in implementing the programme provided an opportunity for the community and its youth to appreciate their roles and responsibilities in society.

"Hopefully, what we shared through this programme will improve the knowledge related to the establishment of Malaysia and maintain the stability of this developing country.

"As concerned citizens, we know our

roles and responsibilities towards the development of this country. This is consistent with the national principles and the aspirations of the government," he said.

Pang said this at the opening of the Patriotism Programme which featured poster drawings and talks on nationalism, organised by the Sabah Ministry of Youth and Sports with Pandu Puteri Association Sandakan

at the ministry's lecture hall, here, yesterday.

The Karamunting assemblyman said the programme was also organised to explain the government's various efforts in creating a progressive, dynamic and patriotic community.

Hence, he said, as a new generation of diverse cultures, the youth should protect the nation's independence and strengthen its unity and harmony.

Prayer Time	
KUCHING	
IMSAK	5:01
SUBUH	5:11
SYURUK	6:31
ZUHUR	12:36
ASAR	4:00
MAGHRIB	6:36
ISYAK	7:51
SIBU	
IMSAK	4:55
SUBUH	5:05
SYURUK	6:25
ZUHUR	12:28
ASAR	3:52
MAGHRIB	6:27
ISYAK	7:41
MIRI	
IMSAK	4:49
SUBUH	4:59
SYURUK	6:21
ZUHUR	12:22
ASAR	3:44
MAGHRIB	6:18
ISYAK	7:33

PREPARED BY:  
Unit Fakis Syarikat  
PEJABAT MUFTI NEGERI SARAWAK

### WEATHER TODAY

KUCHING	SAMARAHAN
SRI AMAN	SARIKEI
KAPIT	LIMBANG
SIBU	BINTULU
MUKAH	BETONG
MIRI	KOTA KINABALU
KUANTAN	KUALA LUMPUR
PULAU PINANG	JOHOR BAHRU

Sunny Rainy Cloudy Rain & Thunderstorm Rain & Strong Wind

**SARAWAK, SABAH & PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**  
SOURCE: MALAYSIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

### SARAWAK

**MORNING**  
Kuching, Samarahan, Betong, Mukah and Bintulu rain, Sarikei, KApit, Sibu, Miri and Limbang cloudy, other areas no rain.

**AFTERNOON**  
All areas isolated thunderstorms.

**NIGHT**  
All areas isolated rain.

### SABAH

**MORNING**  
All areas isolated rain.

**AFTERNOON**  
All areas isolated thunderstorms.

**NIGHT**  
All areas rain.

### PENINSULAR

**MORNING**  
Perak cloudy over coastal areas, P Pinang cloudy, other areas no rain.

**AFTERNOON**  
Johor, Kedah, N Sembilan, Putrajaya, P Pinang, Selangor, Perak and W Persekutuan thunderstorms, other areas rain.

**NIGHT**  
Perak and Perlis cloudy, Kedah, N Sembilan, P Pinang, Selangor, W Persekutuan rain, other areas no rain.

SEA CONDITION IN SARAWAK WATER Sea Wave: 1.5 – 2.5 Wind direction / Speed: Southeast 30 – 40 km/h

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Sibu	December 10	RH Hotel
Sandakan	December 14	Sandakan Hotel
Kota Kinabalu	December 15	Promenade Hotel
Tawau	December 16	MB Hotel

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