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SELANGOR JOURNAL

Solid returns from land premium collection

The Selangor government has exceeded its 2019 target in increasing its revenue from the collection of land premium.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced last December that the state Land and District Offices and the Land and Mines Office (PTGS) have collected a total of RM1.088 billion, surpassing

the state government's target by one per cent.

The achievement is of great significance as the Land and District Offices and PTGS are the main revenue-generating machinery for the state, contributing 80 per cent of the administration's income. A confident Amirudin says this would provide Selangor with much financial stability.

MORE ON PAGE 7



NEW CITY

THE golden state of Selangor now houses three cities within its territory. Subang Jaya has been given the green light by the Cabinet to be upgraded to city status, making it the state's third after Shah Alam and Petaling Jaya.

MORE ON PAGES 8 & 9



PHOTOS BY HAFIZ OTHMAN & ASRI SAPFIE

Crime figures drop, says top cop

SHAH ALAM - Selangor police recorded a 7.16 per cent reduction in the crime index last year, which is equivalent to 1,528 cases, says Commissioner Datuk Noor Azam Jamaludin (*pic*).

The Selangor police chief said a total of 19,810 cases were recorded in 2019 compared to 21,338 cases the previous year.

"Out of the total number of cases, we have solved 12,232

cases or 61.75 per cent, surpassing the 45 per cent target.

"We also opened 33,977 Investigation Papers (IP), of which 18,574 have been prosecuted," he told a press conference at the state police headquarters, here on Jan 7.

The state Criminal Investigation Department is also coming down hard on organised crime by targeting gangs, he added.

"We arrested 439 suspects for gang-related offences under the Prevention of Crime Act (Poca) last year."

Noor Azam said the state Commercial Crimes Investigation Department (CCID) recorded 2,162 cases involving more than RM71 million in losses last year.

He also stressed that the state police are prepared to go over and beyond when it comes to

protecting residents from criminals.

With the given budget from the state government through the state Supply Bill 2020, we will add more closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras to monitor criminal activities in hotspot areas.

As of October last year, a total of 775 CCTV units were installed state-wide. An additional 4,225 will be added this year.



Ops to sniff out civil servants on drugs



Mohd Khalil (second from right) shows several types of drugs confiscated by police, at a press conference on Dec 12 last year — Picture by BERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR - The police will conduct a special operation known as Operation Libero Purus to detect civil servants believed to be involved with drugs.

Bukit Aman Narcotics CID director Datuk Mohd Khalil Kader Mohd said official letters on the operation have been sent to all heads of government departments and agencies.

"The respective department heads are required to provide a list of names of their personnel whom they believe are involved with drugs.

"Once the police receive the lists, they will conduct urine tests to see if the civil servants involved are tested positive or negative for drugs before fol-

low-up action is taken."

The operation, he said, would be ongoing to ensure civil servants lead healthy, drug-free lives.

On a separate matter, Khalil said the police has uncovered a new tactic used by drug trafficking syndicates whereby they employ the services of courier companies.

Khalil, however, did not elaborate further on the case as it is still under investigation.

"The police will hold a discussion with 116 domestic delivery companies on Jan 16 to find out their operating procedures, especially to overcome the issue of drugs being delivered via courier.

"The police will work with the delivery companies and provide them with a contact point in the event such an incident takes place in their firm."

Last year alone, police seized 20 tonnes of drugs worth RM2.7 billion, a sharp increase from the 8.9 tonnes worth RM394.23 million seized in 2018.

A total of 164,914 individuals were arrested for drug trafficking, drug possession and drugs showing up in their urine after tests were conducted throughout last year. Among those arrested were nine leaders of drug distribution syndicates.

"The police also uncovered 23 drug laboratories nationwide in the same period. — Bernama

Sex awareness videos the best outreach method

PETALING JAYA - The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry will continue to collaborate with non-governmental organisations (NGO) in producing videos on sexual awareness for children via their online platform this year.

Deputy Minister Hannah Yeoh said the government believes that by utilising the platform, it could educate young people, and also provide them with a means to ask for help if they fall victim to sexual abuse.

"We would collaborate on developing content not only for children up to six years old but also for teenagers.

"The most important thing in producing such videos is the delivery of information and aid to children who become victims or need help," Yeoh told reporters after attending the World Vision Malaysia 70th anniversary celebration here on Jan 7.

On June 24 last year, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail launched five sexual awareness videos

for children via the YouTube platform as part of the government's efforts in reducing the incidence of sexual crimes against children in the country.

The one-minute videos in each series were a collaboration between the government and NGO Malaysians Against Pornography, besides Google as the YouTube operator.

Yeoh said the five videos had achieved four million views as of December last year.

In her speech, Yeoh expressed her support for World Vision's mission to ensure that children are cared for, protected, educated and given every opportunity to build a better future.

"I believe that if everyone comes together and support each other, the dream of helping every child live to the fullest could be made a reality," she said.

Also present were World Vision Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Daniel Boey and its advocates Deborah Henry, Owen Yap, Phoebe Yap and Freda Liu. — Bernama



Screenshot of one of the sexual awareness videos for children produced by the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry — Source KPWKM

MB calls for more maturity, kindness on social media

By **NORHAYATI UMOR**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has advised the people to be more responsible in using social media.

He said he wants the people to be more mature in assessing situations on social media as it brings benefits if used correctly.

Amirudin is saddened by certain quarters who use the internet as a platform to disseminate hatred and initiate cyberbullying.

"We can create a healthy community by closing the communication gap with the usage of the platform. However, did you know that sending hate speech about a third party is also a form of cyberbullying?" he asked, via his official @Amirudin-

Shari Twitter account on Jan 5.

Amirudin urged people to avoid spreading negative stories.

"Hopefully we will succeed in creating a positive and loving society. Let's put an end to cyberbullying. Social media is not a platform to make enemies and in fact, we should be improving our general knowledge with the platform."

Malaysia is ranked top five globally and highest in Southeast Asia for mobile social media penetration, according to Hootsuite and We Are Social in their Digital 2019 report.

The report said Malaysia's internet penetration is now at 80 per cent, with users spending a daily average of eight hours and five minutes online.



Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin pay a royal visit to the Orang Asli Craft Centre in Kampung Sungai Bumbun, Pulau Carey on Nov 3, 2019. Amirudin was also present during the visit

Special committee to safeguard Orang Asli's welfare

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has set up a permanent committee on matters pertaining to the well-being of the Orang Asli community in the state to ensure better development for them in the future.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said this is in line with the intention of the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who wants to protect the well-being of the Orang Asli community in the state.

"Exco Hee Loy Sian will chair the permanent committee beginning next year. With its establishment (a permanent committee), there are several matters relating to the well-being and development of the Orang Asli community that we can focus on," Amirudin told reporters after attending the Selangor gov-

ernment departments' monthly assembly on Dec 16 last year.

Hee is also the state Environment, Green Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman.

"The establishment of the permanent committee has also been agreed through the state executive council and allocation (for the permanent committee) will be made available next year."

On Nov 3, 2019, Sultan Sharafuddin wanted the federal and state governments to review the declining amount of allocation channelled to the Orang Asli Development Department (Jakoa) since 2017.

The Selangor Sultan expressed his hope that the interests of the Orang Asli would be continuously protected, with focus on the basic

“The establishment of the permanent committee has also been agreed through the state executive council and allocation (for the permanent committee) will be made available next year

AMIRUDIN SHARI
Selangor Menteri Besar

needs of the community.

Sultan Sharafuddin also urged the Orang Asli community to pay more attention to the education of their young so that they would not be left behind as the state continues to develop. — Bernama

Selangor sets sights on 8mil tourists

SUBANG - The Selangor state government is targeting eight million in tourist arrivals this year, as part of the overall Visit Malaysia 2020 campaign.

State Tourism and Culture, Malay Civilisation and Heritage Committee Chairman Datuk Abdul Rashid Asari said the aim is to surpass the number of tourists in 2019.

"The target is reasonable because of the various tourism products that Selangor offers. Last year, 7.2 million tourists made their way to Selangor, creating some RM20.6 million in tax revenue," he told members of the press during a welcome ceremony for tourists on the first day of the new year at the Subang Sky-park Terminal.

"Medical tourism is one of our features, as the state government is working alongside the Malaysia Health Travel Council to promote Malaysia Year Health Travel 2020. One of our hospitals in Subang Jaya has been recognised at the Asia Pacific level.

"For eco-tourism, natural sites like the Taman Botani in Shah

Alam, Sungai Congkak in Hulu Langat, and the Sky Mirror in Kuala Selangor should be regarded as potential tourist destinations."

Abdul Rashid also noted that Selangor will feature, as part of its sports tourism highlights, the Twin City Marathon on Jan 18 and 19 in Cyberjaya, the Selangor Marathon on Feb 22 and 23 in Sepang, and the Malaysia Women Marathon on March 8 in Petaling Jaya.

"On the cultural side, the Romania Grand Gathering for biking aficionados will be held on April 11 and 12, and the Selangor International Indigenous Arts Festival on Aug 1 and 2."

Some RM9.7 million has been allocated this year for enhancing and promoting tourism in the state.

Visit Malaysia 2020 aims to bring 30 million international tourists into the country and generate up to RM100 billion in tourism revenue throughout the year.

Selangor is currently the third most popular state for visitors, after Sabah and Penang.



Abdul Rashid presents visitors with gifts of batik at the Subang Sky-park Terminal on Jan 1

One million houses in 10 years achievable: Zuraida

PUTRAJAYA - The government is on track to achieve its promise to provide one million affordable housing units within 10 years for the B40 group by 2028, as outlined in the Pakatan Harapan (PH) manifesto.

Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said private developers nationwide have expressed their willingness to build more houses priced at less than RM300,000.

She said to date, 39,864 units of affordable housing have been completed and 181,211 units more are under construction. Some 386,340 units are in the planning stage.

"For the ministry, this is a major promise with a target of 100,000 units a year. Private de-

velopers have been actively involved in the construction of these affordable homes," she said in a recent interview with *Bernama*.

Other categories of houses are also being developed, including 3,898 units under the people's housing project (PPR), 4,448 units for youth transit homes and 4,245 units under the civil servant housing scheme (PPAM), all of which are to be completed this year, she said.

She added that Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad (SPNB) has provided houses to 4,989 families nationwide, of which 3,019 are Rumah Mesra Rakyat, while another 1,970 units are under the SPNB Affordable Housing scheme.

Zuraida also spoke about her discussions with several private developers, saying they are aware of the market needs for houses priced under RM300,000, and that the developers would respond to the government's call to limit the construction of luxury houses.

"They understand that many luxury houses are unsold or are still in the selling process, so it would not be appropriate for them to keep building," she said.

According to Zuraida, the issue of unsold luxury houses is due to the mismatch of demand and supply following the lack of proper data.

To address the issue, the ministry is developing a data system that will provide information on

projected housing demand according to location and price, she said.

"The system is expected to be ready by the end of 2020. This data will provide a more accurate analysis of housing planning especially for private developers."

Zuraida said the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is also concerned about providing quality and comfort to home buyers and adhering to the National Affordable Housing Policy (DRMM) by setting a minimum area of 900 square feet for each home, as well as providing other amenities such as recreational facilities and halls.

"We are refining this mechanism. Houses that follow this new method are in the pro-

cess of tendering, so by 2020, the construction of houses under the ministry will follow the DRMM specification."

She said the government is also working to increase homeownership through various means like the Rent-to-Own (RTO) scheme to assist potential buyers of PPR units that are not eligible for bank financing.

"If they are able to pay the monthly rent consistently, it can be used as a supporting document to apply for a loan when they are ready," she said.

Currently, there are seven RTO projects with two each in Selangor and Kelantan, and one each in Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan and Penang. — *Bernama*

Selangor resolves to reduce unemployment

By **NAZLI IBRAHIM**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government aims to reduce the rate of unemployment by 2.5 per cent from the current 2.8 per cent, says state Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee Chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman.

Mohd Khairuddin said reducing the unemployment rate would be the committee's main agenda for the year.

"Job opportunities are very important and there should be a joint effort with all other departments within the state to ensure that this unemployment issue is handled well.

"The state government is tak-

ing several initiatives to ensure that this is achieved before 2021, such as holding more career fairs across Selangor. The state administration will also focus on organising job fairs at a larger scale at the state level and hold smaller events in state districts.

"I am confident that with the effort and job opportunities created, we can achieve our target," he said at the Selangor New Year 2020 celebrations at the Merdeka Square on New Year's Eve.

Apart from organising job fairs, the state government would take up other initiatives to develop economic opportunities for the youth, such as conducting courses under the human capital development committee

and providing vocational training and career enhancement programmes.

On another matter, Mohd Khairuddin said he hopes Selangor will be selected to host the Malaysian Games (Sukma) 2022, which will be decided by this month.

Aside from Selangor, three other states were also offered to host the games, namely Penang, Kedah and Sabah.

Perak hosted the 2018 Sukma and Johor will host the next edition in July 2020. Selangor last played host to in 1998.

Mohd Khairuddin also expressed his optimism in hosting, saying that the state is able due to its economic strength.



Mohd Khairuddin speaks at the new year celebrations at Merdeka Square

Free pneumococcal shots for Year 2020 babies

IPOH - Babies born from this year onwards will be eligible for free pneumococcal vaccinations starting June, said Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye.

He said the ministry is in the process of procuring the vaccine for distribution to all clinics and hospitals.

"A total of RM60 million has

been allocated for the pneumococcal vaccination programme, which we expect to be implemented by June. Every baby born from Jan 1 this year is eligible.

"Babies born before that date are not included in the budget, so we cannot give them the vaccination for free," he told re-

porters in Ipoh on Jan 3.

When tabling Budget 2020 on Oct 11 last year, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng announced that the government will allocate RM30.6 billion to the Health Ministry, of which RM60 million is for children's pneumococcal vaccination. — *Bernama*

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A royal journey, in words



SHAH ALAM - The life story of Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin as Tengku Permaisuri Selangor has now been made into a book titled "My first year journey, from TV news anchor to Tengku Permaisuri Selangor: An Anecdotal Experience".

The 133-page coffee table book is penned by her sister Datin Dr Norely Abdul Rahman and is sold at RM160 each, with part of its proceeds going to the "Stray Free Selangor" campaign to help stray animals.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin has been the Royal Patron for the campaign, which comes under the care of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), since 2017.

The book, written in English, was launched by Sultan Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah at Pustaka Raja Tun Uda here on

Dec 16 last year.

At the event, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin said the book details her experiences as the Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, and describes the customs and palace protocol in Balairung Seri.

"My objective is to enable readers to know my experiences and the customs and language of the palace, and the history of the Selangor Sultanate.

"I am grateful and excited over the publication of the book even though at the same time, I have mixed feelings and sometimes, am divided over it. I have always been someone who is not fond of sharing my life story and personal details," she said.

Raja Muda Selangor Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and members of the Selangor royal family graced the event.



The life story of Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, titled 'My first year journey, from TV news anchor to Tengku Permaisuri Selangor: An Anecdotal Experience', was launched by Sultan Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah at Pustaka Raja Tun Uda, Shah Alam, on Dec 16, 2019

Also present were Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali and Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Author Norely, who holds a doctorate degree in education from Asia e University, Kuala Lumpur, said it took her three years to finish the book due to Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin's tight schedule.

Norely said her youngest sibling was initially reluctant to share her life story, saying it was "uninteresting", but that she had

eventually managed to convince her sister that the people would want to know about her experiences.

Norely takes the view that when someone is "at the top", there would be people who idolise them while others would criticise.

"That is why I feel it is better if the people know our roots and the real story."

She added that the book is divided into 14 chapters, each based on a different experience of the Tengku Permaisuri.

"I am grateful to Tuanku Sultan (Sultan Sharafuddin) who provided significant pointers, especially concerning the language, terminology and protocol of the palace," she said.

On whether the book would be translated into Bahasa Melayu, Norely said this would be decided by the Sultan himself.

So far, 1,500 copies of the book have been printed and anyone who wishes to get a copy could refer to the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page for further information. — Bernama

Flexi fare brings savings for ETS passengers



SHAH ALAM - Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd's (KTMB) ETS train passengers will be able to enjoy flexible rates for journeys scheduled in March 2020, with the introduction of the "flexi fare", the Transport Ministry said on Dec 30, 2019.

Tickets will be sold from Jan 15 onwards for the travel period of between March 1 and 31.

The rate applies to pre-booked tickets for the festive or holiday season and not for last-minute purchases.

The ministry said in a statement that this would result in savings for passengers if they plan their trips ahead.

Other promotions for passengers would be introduced periodically.

The ministry said the decision to allow flexi tickets was made on Dec 18 in a Cabinet meeting, after a study was done on all aspects, including passenger profile.

"It is in line with the government's wish to ensure that the people get the best ser-

vices and continue to choose public transport, such as trains, as their main mode of travel," the statement read.

KTMB will allow passengers to choose their seats without additional charges for the travel period between March 1 and 31.

The concession price for government retirees and spouses, senior citizens, disabled, children between the ages of four and 12, students who are holders of the KTM i-card, members of the police

force and the army, and firemen, would remain.

The ETS recorded 3.9 million passengers in 2018, following the extension of the route from Padang Besar to Gemas.

It ferried 215,000 passengers during its first year of operation between Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur in 2010.

The ministry said the inter-city train service has become popular among passengers as its punctuality rate hits more than 95 per cent.

Lim upbeat about economic growth and returns

KUALA LUMPUR - The government, which remains steadfast in the belief that Malaysia will achieve economic growth of 4.8 per cent this year, expects to see positive effects from its development spending latest by June 2020, said Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng.

"We are confident about maintaining the projection, supported by a rebound in commodity prices, growth in investment spurred especially by government spending, as well as expectations of a positive outcome to the US-China trade war," he told *Bernama* in an in-

terview recently.

Lim was commenting on the downward revisions of the 2020 growth projections by economists. Last month, the World Bank Group trimmed its forecast of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for this year to 4.5 per cent from 4.6 per cent previously on weakening investment and trade activity recorded in the third quarter of last year.

According to him, some ministries disbursed the development expenditure allocated to them under the 2019 Budget a little late — in May or June — al-



though the funds were released in January.

"Tenders could only be called in September or October, and the awarding of contracts could

only be made two or three months after that. Therefore, work (on the projects) could only begin at the end of 2019 or in 2020.

"There was no problem in terms of development expenditure for ongoing projects, but new projects would have to be brought forward to 2020 and added to the 2020 Budget (for new developments)."

On the US-China trade war, Lim said an end to the dispute would serve as a catalyst to spur the economy.

"As an exporting economy, Malaysia will benefit. Like it or

not, we are affected by the external trade environment.

"So if we look at the forecast growth in global trade of 1.2 per cent in 2019, the lowest in 10 years, and against this backdrop, we are expecting to achieve a GDP growth of 4.7 per cent.

"In 2020, global trade growth is expected to increase to about three per cent, and based on this, we are confident of achieving a 4.8 per cent GDP growth. If the US-China trade war is resolved, we may even witness better growth," he said. — *Bernama*

Asean chamber gives back to local businesses

KUALA LUMPUR - The Asean Chamber of Commerce seeks to work with the Finance Ministry in opening up opportunities for Malaysian entrepreneurs to explore markets in the region.

President Datuk Moehamad Izat Emir said the chamber discussed ways to do so during a meeting with Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng on Dec 31, last year.

The chamber, he said, would like the government to give attention to the oil and gas, textile, plantation and food sectors to strengthen the position of Malaysian entrepreneurs at the Asean level.

"The meeting with the finance minister today was to ensure the advancement of our country's trade. We have provided clear guidance on the direction for enhancing the credibility of local entrepreneurs on the Asean stage.

"The Asean Chamber of Commerce will also organise a series of visits to countries in the region to improve business interactions with them," he said in a statement.

Also present at the meeting were MOFAZ Group President Mohamed Fauzy Abdul Hamid, who helms the chamber's Secretariat for Cooperation with the International Association of Islamic Business (IAIB), and Investment and Property Bureau Chairman Datuk Tan Choon Hwa.

Moehamad Izat said the two-year-old Asean Chamber of Commerce has held trade missions to, among others, Russia, Kazakhstan, Qatar and Indonesia (Jakarta and Pekanbaru).

"During our visit to Indonesia, we met Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan in an effort to strengthen relations with the traders there.

"Qatar looks especially attractive as many traders in the country are keen to collaborate with us, and Naluri Alam has been selected to arrange an alliance between traders in the two countries."

Moehamad Izat said the focus on several business areas needed to be expedited to benefit entrepreneurs in the country as well as the Asean community. — *Bernama*



Asia-Pac airlines soar high in punctuality ranking

KUALA LUMPUR - OAG, the world's leading provider of travel data has released its annual Punctuality League 2020, the industry's most comprehensive ranking of on-time performance (OTP) for the world's largest airlines and airports.

Airlines in Asia-Pacific dominated global rankings with nine out of the top 20 most punctual airlines in the world coming from the region: Garuda Indonesia (1), Skymark Airlines (3), All Nippon Airways (7), Jetstar Asia (8), Singapore Airlines (9), Thai AirAsia (10), Japan Airlines (15), Qantas Airways (18) and Indonesia AirAsia (20).

Garuda Indonesia takes the top spot globally and regionally, with an impressive OTP of 95.01 per cent. Skymark Airlines (OTP 90.12 per cent) ranks in the top three for both the Global Airline and Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) categories.

"Asia Pacific carriers and airports continued to demonstrate exceptional OTP this year, with many LCCs and legacy carriers improving year-over-year performance. The leading performance of Garuda Indonesia, Skymark Airlines, Osaka Itami and Tokyo Haneda on the global stage is commendable," said OAG head of JAPAC, Mayur (Mac) Patel.

The region's LCCs performed exceptionally well, with nine carriers ranking in the top 20 for that respective category, including Skymark Airlines (1), Jetstar Asia (2) and Thai AirAsia (3), according to a statement.

In addition, Japanese airport Osaka Itami (ITM) finished as the most punctual Large Airport for a second consecutive year with an OTP of 88.03 per cent. Singapore Changi (SIN; OTP 84.03 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (KUL; OTP 75.04 per cent) and Seoul Incheon (ICN; OTP 74.95 per cent) all improved their OTP in the Mega Airport category. — *Bernama*

MB: Land premium collection exceeds 2019 target

By NAZLI IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - In a span of two weeks, the Selangor Land and District Offices and the Land and Mines Office (PTGS) have managed to increase revenue from the collection of land premium from RM1.066 billion to RM1.088 billion.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said the RM22 million increase has exceeded the state government's target for 2019.

"For 2019, as of Nov 30, the Land and District Offices statewide collected 99.6 per cent or RM1,066,412,067.01 (in land premiums). In other words, it was a tremendous achievement for the state government as it almost reached 100 per cent of our target.

"Earlier, state PTGS director Datuk Zulkefli Khalid explained that the collection of RM1,088,000,000 means that (PTGS and the Land and District Offices) have achieved 101 per cent of the state government's target," Amirudin said.

The Menteri Besar was speaking to members of the press during the closing ceremony of the 13th Selangor Land and District Offices Sports Championship at the Ideal Convention Center on Dec 19 last year.

Also present were Zulkefli, State Government Secretary Datuk Mohd Amin Ahmad Ahya, and Kuala Langat District Officer Mohd Jusni Hashim.

Amirudin named the Land and District Offices and PTGS as the main revenue-generating machinery for Selangor, from where 80 per cent of its income is sourced.

He pointed out that the achievement would stabilise Selangor financially and set it off in the direction outlined by the state government.

"I hope in 2020, the respective offices within the government will continue their achievement and make sure they generate more premium revenues for the people's well-being," he said.



Amirudin smiles for a photo op with participants at the 13th Selangor Land and District Offices Sports Championship closing ceremony on Dec 19, 2019

Azmin powers up economy with strength-based hubs

KUALA LUMPUR - In a move to ensure that economic development is not "centred by geography", the government has planned to boost the economy of several key locations based on their strengths and uniqueness.

Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said 15 key economic growth areas (KEGA) have been identified as new sources of growth.

Among them are Islamic Finance Hub 2.0; Commodity Malaysia 2.0; smart and high-value farming; the content industry, which includes animation and digitalisation; as well as services related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Azmin said in a statement on Dec 26 last year.

"To improve regional balance, a sum of RM1.1 billion has been set aside in Budget 2020 to boost regional economic corri-

dor development, among others in Chuping Valley Industrial Area in Perlis (RM50 million), Kuantan Port in Pahang (RM69.5 million), Sungai Segget Centralised Sewerage Treatment Plant in Johor (RM42 million), Samalaju Industrial Park in Sarawak (RM55 million) and Sabah AgroIndustrial Precinct (RM20 million).

"Private investment will also be reinvigorated through more effective incentives, better coordinated promotional strategies and a more conducive business environment," he said.

Starting Jan 1, the minimum monthly wage will increase to RM1,200 in 57 cities and municipalities across Malaysia. This, along with cash transfer programmes, income tax refund and lower cost of borrowings, is also expected to provide additional impetus to household spending.

Azmin noted that the government has made available up to RM1 billion worth of customised packaged investment incentives for over the next five years as a strategic push to attract Fortune 500 companies and global unicorns in high technology sectors.

To qualify, these companies must invest at least RM5 billion each in Malaysia, which will generate additional economic activities, create 150,000 high-quality jobs over the next five years and strengthen the country's manufacturing and services ecosystems.

He said during the first nine months of 2019, significant levels of foreign and domestic investments were approved, which amounted to RM149 billion.

Recognising the importance of infrastructure projects to facilitate supply chains and the

mobility of goods and people, several strategic projects will be continued into the 12th Malaysia Plan such as the Pan-Borneo Highway, East Coast Rail Link, Bandar Malaysia and Gemas-Johor Bahru Electrified Double Tracking project.

"Towards accelerating the digital economy and improving competitiveness, the government has successfully lowered broadband prices by 49 per cent and will implement the National Fibreisation and Connectivity Plan over the next five years," he said.

Tax incentives will also be provided to further promote high value-added activities and increase productivity in transitioning into a 5G-enabled digital economy and Industry 4.0.

In addition, a comprehensive incentive package would be offered to small and medium

enterprises (SMEs) to increase their contribution to the economy and facilitate access to financing.

This includes an additional RM50 million in allocation for My Co-Investment Fund administered by the Securities Commission to leverage digital financial innovation platforms to help finance underserved SMEs.

"The government will provide a 50 per cent matching grant of up to RM5,000 per company to adopt digitalisation for their business operation including the electronic point-of-sale systems, enterprise resource planning and electronic payroll systems.

"This matching grant will be worth RM500 million over five years, limited to the first 100,000 SMEs applying to upgrade their systems," Azmin added. — Bernama



NEWLY MINTED CITY WITH A HEART

By ASHWIN KUMAR

SUBANG Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) president Noraini Roslan has vowed to improve the lives of the people in her city by enabling an economically and socially balanced environment.

In line with the Selangor government agenda "Maju Bersama", Noraini said the council aims for the people of Subang Jaya to move forward together in achieving its aspirations.

"When I say improving people's lives, I'm talking about people's economic status and also about social harmony in the district.

"What is a city if we still have people who cannot make ends meet? How can we help to improve their lives? We got to look at who we are leaving behind," Noraini told *Selangor Journal* in an interview on Jan 7.

Noraini said this when asked to comment on MPSJ's vision and also her own for



the year 2020.

The seventh MPSJ president said making Subang Jaya a happy and comfortable place to live is her main priority for the year.

"Whether serving in a municipal or local council, the nature of the problems are

similar but it's about the people. Sometimes it takes time to explain the issues (to the people). In return, we have to match their demands to provide quality services," she said.

Last year, MPSJ was one of the Federal government's Local Government Star Rating System winners.

Noraini said the award would be a motivation for the local council to put the people first and attend to their needs.

"Awards aside, it is the people who are able to assess us better than anyone else. They can evaluate us through the number of complaints lodged (against us). In 2019, we saw an eight per cent decrease in the number of complaints received compared to the previous year.



When I say improving people's lives, I'm talking about people's economic status and also about social harmony in the district. What is a city if we still have people who cannot make ends meet? How can we help to improve their lives? We got to look at who we are leaving behind

NORAINI ROSLAN
SUBANG JAYA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MPSJ) PRESIDENT



Through several education programmes in Subang Jaya schools, we managed to increase the collection of recycled items last year. Educating the younger generation has been more effective than the campaigns targeted at the general public

NORAINI ROSLAN
SUBANG JAYA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MPSJ) PRESIDENT



"However, at the beginning of the year, we received a high number of complaints. This was because of the new contractors hired by KDEBWM for the waste collection in Subang Jaya," she said, in reference to KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd.

In Jan 1 last year, KDEBWM took over the task of managing waste from MPSJ, with a cross-subsidy scheme.

Noraini said there were numerous complaints in the first few weeks of the takeover as the contractors struggled to organise logistics and familiarise with the collection areas.

She said the council had then made contingency plans such as forming a task force inclusive of MPSJ staff and a committee to act on the complaints and cases of inefficient services by the new contractors.

Meanwhile, on MPSJ's newly minted city status, Noraini said the council had

- 1.3. Noraini, along with State Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han, visits the LDP highways in Puchong to address the flash floods issue
2. Noraini is briefed during her visit to the SS15 commercial area in Subang Jaya
3. Noraini inspects the drainage at the SS15 area in Subang Jaya



conveyed the approval by the Cabinet to the state government through its Housing and Local Government department.

"MPSJ will go through a gazette process as required under Act 171 ... it is in the pipeline. In fact, there is extra budget allocated for this," she said, in reference to the law under the Local Government Act 1976.

Covering 16,180ha, MPSJ's administration covers Subang Jaya, Bandar Sunway, Putra Heights, Seri Kembangan, Seri Serdang, Puchong, as well as parts of Balakong and Batu Tiga.

According to the Statistics Department, its population is 798,830 as of 2015.

In 1997, Subang Jaya was carved out from the then Petaling Jaya District Council and upgraded to become a municipal council.

Since then, the urban township has grown by leaps and bounds and has been working towards achieving city status since it first submitted the application in 2014.

Currently, there are two other city councils in the state — Petaling Jaya City Council, which achieved the status in 2006,

and Shah Alam City Council in 2010.

Meanwhile, on recycling initiatives, Noraini said education and awareness campaigns are important to ensure the success of the programme.

"Through several education programmes in Subang Jaya schools, we managed to increase the collection of items to be recycled from 17,000kg to 70,000kg last year.

"Educating the younger generation has been more effective than the campaigns targeted at the general public," she said.

Responding to the problem of frequent flash floods in Serdang, Noraini said MPSJ is continuously communicating and coordinating with relevant parties to address the issue.

"I am pleased to announce that RM300 million has been allocated through the Economics Affairs Ministry in order to rectify the problem," she said.





ROAD SAFETY: It starts with us!

By **ASHWIN KUMAR**

The responsibility of keeping our roads safe lies with us, its users. This is the advice of Selangor Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Department (JSPT) Chief Superintendent Azman Shari'at in light of the Chinese New Year celebration on Jan 25.

Festive season or not, however, Azman hopes to see the number of fatal accidents reduced as a result of effective enforcement by the traffic police.

"Our KPI for this year in Selangor and our continuous goal is to lower the number of road deaths," he told *Selangor Journal* recently.

Azman said while the number of unpaid road summonses is still high,



We want the community to shift their focus away from fines and money and instead work on learning about road safety and changing their behaviour

AZMAN SHARI'AT
 SELANGOR TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION
 AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
 (JSPT)

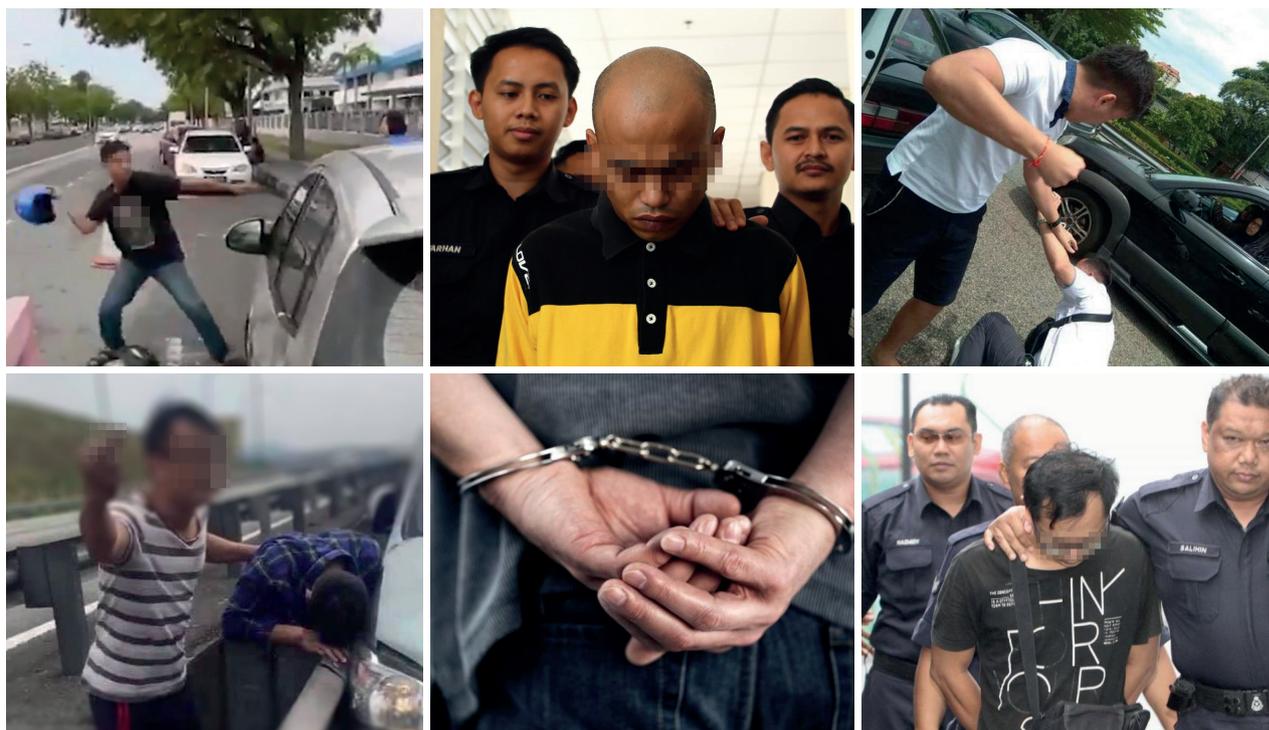
Recent incidents of road rage captured via dashcam recordings, and officers conducting checks during road safety operations





I see a lot of incidents where people get angry easily on the road. Road users should adopt the mindset that they must be emotionally stable before starting up their car

AZMAN SHARI'AT
 SELANGOR TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION
 AND ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT
 (JSPT)



Road rage incidents and the arrest of suspects

focus should be on preventing accidents through education and enforcement in the state.

"We want the community to shift their focus away from fines and money and instead work on learning about road safety and changing their behaviour.

"I see a lot of incidents where people get angry easily on the road. Road users should adopt the mindset that they must be emotionally stable before starting up their car."

Singling out road rage as a particular concern, Azman advised road users to always be wary of others.

If someone overtakes another vehicle in an unlawful manner, don't take matters into your own hands; let the police handle it. Road safety must be on everyone's mind, especially during busy periods like the upcoming Chinese New Year holidays."

The festive season is closing in, but Azman said the Selangor police has not received the official announcement from

their federal counterparts on the launch of Ops Selamat.

Ops Selamat, formerly known as Ops Sikap, is a traffic operation carried out by the JSPT to ensure the safety and welfare of all road users during festive seasons.

"When the operation commences, the JSPT is prepared to be on duty to ensure road-users' safety. Those who think they can outsmart the police must be prepared to receive their summonses in the mail two weeks later," Azman said.

When asked about the steps taken by the JSPT to find a solution for the staggering number of road accidents in Selangor annually, he said police will be issuing on-the-spot summonses of RM300 to road users who commit any of the six major offences during the operation.

The six major offences are driving in the emergency lane, speeding, using mobile phones while driving, cutting queues,

overtaking at double lines and not obeying traffic light rules.

"We will do our part in enforcing the law on the road but we need Malaysians to take road safety seriously. We want everyone to be safe and have a good Chinese New Year in their hometowns," continued Azman.

In 2018, traffic police identified 40 roads across the country that recorded a high number of deaths and subsequently, extra enforcement was activated along these hotspots to lower the number of deaths.



Mat Rempit and "Samseng Jalanan" detained during police checks

The top three states with the highest number of road accidents in 2018 were Selangor with 163,078 accidents, Johor with 78,812 accidents and Kuala Lumpur with 72,284.

KEEPING EMOTIONS IN CHECK

According to Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia psychology expert Associate Professor Dr Rozmi Ismail, road safety should be adopted as part of our culture.

"When you pass your driving test, you do two things. One, you apply what you have learned from the driving schools and the other is that you adopt your own safety measures and etiquette while on

the road each day," Dr Rozmi said.

"The authorities are already doing their best to enforce the law but they must not seem to only focus on punishing errant drivers by setting up roadblocks and issuing summonses. That is not the right way.

"Of course, the fatality rate goes down but more focus should be given to the drivers' attitudes and behaviour. The reality is that traffic offenders are people who have passed their driving test. They are legal license holders."

However, when motorists have no regard for the safety of others, the number of fatalities will just keep increasing, he quipped.

"Increasing operations and deploying more traffic personnel will not curb or reduce accidents and fatalities if the road users themselves continue to misbehave.

"This perennial problem can be addressed if the motorists are not selfish when driving, follow speed limits and respect others.

"By doing so, our hope in bringing down the number of road fatalities and accidents could be met and that is the real achievement," he said.

Dr Rozmi also highlighted that road rage has become synonymous with accidents in the country.

"The root cause of any road rage incident is the frame of mind of the driver. Life can be very complicated for some people. With the current economic situation, many of us are working two to three different jobs and when faced with a tense situation, we can be easily triggered.

"How do we contain road rage? The drivers must learn to drive properly. Identify the causes of stress, and address the situation with calmness and self-control. Tolerance is often just a catchphrase in our multi-racial country," he said.



Enforcement personnel on duty during road blocks

Subang Jaya gets city status

By NAZLI IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - Subang Jaya is now a city, making it the third city in Selangor after Shah Alam and Petaling Jaya.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said apart from the accreditation given to the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ), the Kuala Langat local authority has also been upgraded from district council to municipal council status.

cil status.

"Yesterday we received confirmation that the Cabinet has agreed and approved to upgrade the Kuala Langat District Council to Kuala Langat Municipal Council.

"The Cabinet has also officially approved the upgrade of MPSJ to Subang Jaya City Council, which we had outlined and suggested for," he said at the Budget 2020 Appreciation Ceremony with Selangor government

departments and agencies held at the Menteri Besar's official residence on Dec 17, 2019.

Amirudin said the achievement is in line with the state government's 2019 target in improving the quality and status of the local authorities in Selangor.

He said the Kuala Selangor Local District (MDKS) will also be receiving municipal council status soon, but that it is still trying to meet some criteria required to achieve the target.



Amirudin delivers his speech at the appreciation ceremony on Dec 17, 2019

'Blue tears' bring stream of visitors to Kuala Selangor

SHAH ALAM - The "blue tears" phenomenon in the waters of the Selangor River has become the latest attraction for Visit Malaysia 2020 (VM2020).

Kuala Selangor District Council President Rahilah Rahmat said the beautiful occurrence, caused by bioluminescent organisms, has drawn many curious visitors to the town.

"We (the council) would like to support Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to make Visit Malaysia 2020 a national mission by sharing the beauty of our country.

"I hope the people of Kuala Selangor would take advantage of this and provide the best service for visitors who come to see the 'blue tears'.

With this move, we may increase our revenue as well," she said in a statement on Jan 7.

The phenomenon occurs when blooms of phytoplankton, a microscopic marine plant, re-



act with the oxygen present in seawater, causing them to turn a mesmerising blue.

Last year, it caught the attention of Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, who came to witness the dazzling display of colour for herself while touring nearby Sekinchan with an entourage.



State govt mulls takeover of Indah Water

SHAH ALAM - The intention and objective of the state government to take over the management of Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd (IWK) is to protect the interests of the people in Klang Valley and to solve the problem of constant water disruptions in Selangor.

Selangor State Executive Councillor for Environment Hee Loy Sian said at the moment, IWK faces difficulties in resolving the recurring problem of odour pollution in the national sewerage operator's piping line in Selangor.

"This has prompted us to take over the management of IWK. The state has no direct interest in taking over the IWK from the Federal government. However, if they (the Federal government) are unable to resolve the issue, the state government has to take responsibility and propose a takeover.

"The takeover is to ensure the interests of the people of Selangor, Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur, and that they are protected from the odour pollution and water disruptions," Hee told *SelangorKini* recently.

Meanwhile, Hee refuted the claim made by Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Xavier Jayakumar that the Selangor government has failed to address pollution issues at the water source stream.

"The incident is a result of the IWK's shortcomings in carrying out its routine operations. Their system allowed an automated process to keep running with-



The takeover is to ensure the interests of the people of Selangor, Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur, and that they are protected from the odour pollution and water disruptions

out human supervision outside of working hours. After working hours, the unmanned plant was processing industrial waste and produced effluents.

"IWK was processing industrial waste as if it were treating sewerage. The Department of Environment (DOE) should monitor and ensure that industrial waste material is transported to special disposal sites, rather than dumped into IWK's manhole," he said.

On Dec 21 last year the Sungai Semenyih Water Treatment Plant (LRA) was forced to cease operations due to odour pollution, which was caused by the disposal of illegal waste with solvent at the inlet around the IWK plant in Bandar Bukit Mahkota, Cheras.

Following the closure, some 1.5 million residents in 366 areas in Petaling, Hulu Langat, Kuala Langat and Sepang were affected.

Ng calls for newer, better ways to manage waste

By NORHAYATI UMOR

SHAH ALAM - Comprehensive study and research must be undertaken in order to create an efficient solid waste management and disposal system.

Selangor Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han said improvements in the areas of administration, data systems, technology, and the use of artificial intelligence, all contribute to a better quality system.

The methods used to upgrade our system should be on par with those used in developed countries. Not only will this achieve Selangor's 2025 smart state vision, but it would also be good for the people, Ng said.

"The state government continuously welcomes the initiatives on waste management and disposal introduced by its subsidiaries or agencies.

"To achieve our smart state aspiration, we would like to see new initiatives explored such as data systems, technology and artificial intelligence."

Ng was speaking at the handing-over ceremony of garbage compactor trucks in areas under the purview of the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) on Dec 26, last year.

Also present were Shah Alam Deputy Mayor Mohd Rashidi Ruslan, KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd (KDEBWM) board Chairman Raja Shahreen Raja Othman and KDEBWM Managing Director Ramli Tahir.

Ng added that the state administration is satisfied with the latest achievement by KDEBWM in the solid waste management industry.

He said the company, which is fully-owned by Menteri Besar Incorporated, is also exploring other initiatives including the recycling of waste and compostable



Ng (left) officiates the handing-over ceremony of garbage compactor trucks to the council

plastic waste.

KDEBWM is also looking into plastic-based bio-diesel technology, as well as the setting up of

a waste-to-energy plant, a material recovery facility, and a recycling and composting plant

"I hope this new initiative by

KDEBWM would benefit the solid waste management industry and bring about investment returns for Selangor," he added.



Free bulky waste collection in time for CNY

SHAH ALAM - Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) in collaboration with KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd (KDEBWM) will be conducting a free collection of bulky waste in conjunction with the Chinese New Year celebration.

MPSJ, in a statement via its official Facebook account on Jan 5, said that the collection drive will be held for 12 days, starting Jan 24, and will be conducted within its adminis-

trative area.

Priority will be given to residents celebrating Chinese New Year and starting from Jan 5 they can contact the Department of Environmental Management at 03-8026 7433/7431/7430/3182 to request for the service.

"Residents who are preparing for Chinese New Year celebrations can dispose of bulky items like furniture, mattresses and electrical items for free," the statement read.

Zuraida calls for smoking zones across nation

SHAH ALAM - The Housing and Local Government Ministry (KPKT) has urged for local authorities (PBTs) to provide suitable smoking zones following the enforcement of the smoking ban at eateries beginning Jan 1.

Its minister Zuraida Kamaruddin said the ministry would request for PBTs across the country to identify suitable locations to set up the smoking zones.

"This planning will be implemented in stages beginning of next year under several selected PBTs," she said in a statement on Dec 22 last year.

The Health Ministry has announced that smoking and vaping would be strictly prohibited in all eateries nationwide from 2020.

Its deputy minister Dr Lee Boon Chye said that offenders would face a fine of RM250, but that it would be reduced to



The smoking zone provided by MPAJ in a commercial area in Ampang

RM150 if the fine is settled within a month.

Meanwhile, on Dec 20 last year, Zuraida visited the smoking zone provided by the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ), which is located three metres away from eateries as directed by the Health Ministry.

She urged smokers to only

smoke in designated areas and to not litter their cigarette butts.

"We urge the local authorities to enforce the Waste Disposal By-law on smokers who litter their cigarette butts.

"We hope that smokers will cooperate with us to keep our environment clean," she said.

No resting on laurels in Rat Year, says expert

By ASHWIN KUMAR

Make use of every opportunity that comes along — that is the key to success in 2020 for the people of Selangor.

This is based on the reading of the ancient Chinese philosophy of Feng Shui on what the year of the Metal Rat holds for the people of the state.

According to the Chinese zodiac, those who were born in the year of the Rat are perfectionists, good communicators, quick-witted, level headed and always on the alert.

Some personalities born in this year include Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex, Jimmy Choo, Katy Perry, Antonio Banderas, Ben Affleck, Cameron Diaz and President Jimmy Carter.

Chinese Metaphysics expert Datuk Joey Yap, founder of the Mastery Academy of Chinese Metaphysics and Chief Consultant of the Joey Yap Consulting Group, shared with *Selangor Journal* about the things to look out for this year for each of the animal signs.

Yap also provides an overview of the obstacles and opportunities that would follow in the coming months.

Yap said 2020 would be a year where the people of Selangor would face sudden changes, keeping them on their toes.

“Some might face challenges that are similar to those in the previous year. However, for people who have been thriving in a challenging environment, this would be an exciting year ahead.

“Rather than waiting for fortune and luck, expanding and adding new skills

would be a good idea for everyone this year. Anyone with the traits of adaptability and innovation will be at an advantage.”

A prominent figure in Chinese Metaphysics and author of over 180 books, Yap said networking and building connections are important in order to get ahead of others.

When asked what the year of the Metal Rat holds for Selangor's economy and administration, Yap said it is best for the state government to secure an alternative plan for all sectors to maintain sustainability.

“It is good for the state administration to express caution in execution and decision making as the economy will ‘appear’ to be fine. However, things will only look fine on the surface because we believe there is a lack of strength from the metal element, which represents wealth.

“The best strategy to overcome this is by making use of every opportunity that comes along,” he said.

Yap has almost the same predictions for matters on the social front. He said things would appear calm but there would be hiccups behind the scene.

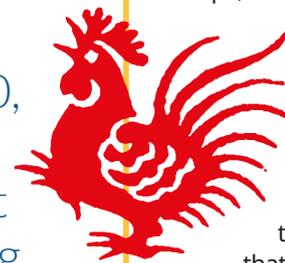
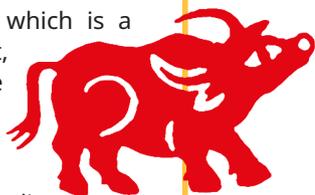
He assured, however, that with the help of “Nobleman Star”, which is a lucky sign in the BaZi chart, any turbulence would be short-lived.

Yap explained that the BaZi chart is a reading tool to analyse an individual's zodiac characteristics.

“In 2020, Chou (Ox) and Yin (Tiger)



The Goat, Rooster, Ox and Rabbit signs are the thrivers in 2020, which means that all the best stars are looking out for you and it is a year that makes you stellar



form a ‘hidden combination’ in the BaZi Chart. This means there will be individuals who will cause hurt to the people and create anger among the people but with the help of ‘Nobleman Star’, these troubles would be eliminated.”

Yap explained that the 12 animal signs are divided into three groups — the go-getters, the givers and the thrivers.

“The tiger, pig and monkey can be categorised as the go-getters. People from this group can get the ball rolling. All they have to do is to learn to overcome their challenges and adapt to the changes around them. Only then will the year bring change to many aspects of their life.

“The givers are the Dragon, Rat, Dog and Snake signs. 2020 is an exciting year for them as new friendships, new connections and new beginnings are within reach. All eyes would be on the Rat, as it is a good time for them to step up and be good leaders.

“The Goat, Rooster, Ox and Rabbit signs are the thrivers in 2020, which means that all the best stars are looking out for you and it is a year that makes you stellar.

Yap added that the animal signs of Ox and Rooster would be able to harness the power of turning negative outcomes into positive ones this coming year.

“Problems could just be opportunities in disguise for these people,” he said.

Pre-season fixture brings Red Giants to China

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

SHAH ALAM - The Red Giants has confirmed that it would take part in the Meizhou Hakka Cup, the pre-season tournament in China, between 24 and 29 Jan.

The Selangor Football Association (FAS), via its official Twitter account, confirmed the matter on Dec 22, last year.

Meizhou Hakka FC will also play host to Thailand Division 1 Club, Chonburi FC, and South Ko-

rea Division 1 Club, Sangju Sangmu, for the tournament.

Meizhou Hakka FC was established in 2013 and currently ranks 10th in the China League One division where they collected 39 points throughout the 2019 season.

The tournament would be a test for B Sathianathan's team to step up and play in an Asian level competition before kickstarting the 2020 Malaysian League season.

Selangor will also be organising its own invitational tournament, the 2020 Asian Challenge, on Jan 18 and 19 at the Shah Alam Stadium, with top Southeast Asian clubs set to compete.

Among them are Bangkok United (Thailand), Hanoi FC (Vietnam) and Persib Bandung (Indonesia) - the three best neighbouring clubs.



Asian Champions League target for Sathianathan's boys

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has set its sights on qualifying for the 2021 Asian Champions League.

Head coach B. Sathianathan said this would be the team's main aim when the Malaysia League kicks off in February.

"AFC has slots for Malaysian teams, so that will be our target, to qualify for the competition," he said when contacted by *Bernama*.

Preparations for the 2020 Super League campaign are going well with many of the squad members have already reported for duty.

"The majority have begun training except for Syahmi Safari as he was involved in the SEA Games recently, so I've let him report for duty (later) in January.

"Our new Singaporean import player, Safuwani (Muhammad Safuwani Bahardin), is training hard and our only other import player, Rufino Segovia (from Spain) will be back in training soon after his injury last season."

Besides Safuwani, the Red Giants will have five new players in its stable for the new campaign.

They are former Perak players Brendan Gan and Nor Hakim Hassan and former PKNS FC players, Nicholas Ryan Swirad, Rodney Calvin Akwensivie and Tauffiq Ar Rasyid.

Selangor ended last season's campaign in third place in the Super League standings, and also qualified for the last four in the Malaysia Cup. — *Bernama*

Another sponsorship boost for host Selangor



FAS secretary-general Dr Johan Kamal Hamidon (left) with Meor at the Asia Challenge 2020 press conference held at the Shah Alam Stadium on Dec 14 — Picture by BERNAMA

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has secured another leading name to co-sponsor the Asia Challenge 2020, following its partnership with top logistics company ANF Logistics Sdn Bhd.

ANF Logistics Director Meor Mohd Fadzlan said his company is confident that the Red Giants will rise to the occasion and deliver its sting in the international-level tournament on Jan 18 and 19.

"As a die-hard fan of the Red Giants, I trust the direction and leadership of the Selangor Football Association (FAS), which is helmed by Raja Muda Selangor Tengku Amir Shah.

"I would like to thank the FAS for giving us the opportunity to be part of the

prestigious tournament. From the logistics aspect, hosting such a tournament would give us a chance to strengthen our relationships with the participants of the tournament," Meor said in a statement on Dec 26 last year.

He added that the pre-season tournament would give prominence to the air cargo forwarding and transport service provider.

Aside from ANF Logistics, FAS has also received sponsorships from Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd, the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA), Fuel Athletics Malaysia, Malaysia Airlines, Ekspres Mutiara and Avisena Specialist Hospital.

The Asia Challenge 2020 will see

neighbouring giants Hanoi FC, Persib Bandung, Bangkok United and our own Red Giants competing for the cup. All four clubs hail from the top leagues in their respective countries.

It will follow a point scoring system much like the Emirates Cup, the pre-season tournament hosted by the English club Arsenal.

As a reward, the champion will bring home US\$10,000 (RM41,353), together with the Royal Selangor trophy. The runner-up will win US\$5,000 (RM20,676).

Tickets can be purchased via the FAS website for as cheap as RM15 (for Selangor team cardholders), RM30 (for non-card holders) and RM5 (for children).

FAS calls on youths to take up refereeing

SHAH ALAM - The Football Association of Selangor (FAS) aims to produce 250 referees by the end of this year to handle football matches in the state.

FAS Referees Committee Vice-Chairman Abdul Basith Abdul Hamid said various programmes would be launched to attract more people, especially youths, to take up refereeing.

"We have lined up several programmes to make refereeing an attractive second career for youths.

"This career can generate good income and help them economically," he told reporters after the opening of a seminar for 174 FAS League referees for the 2020 season on Dec 29, 2019.

Abdul Basith also said FAS is committed to producing more female referees as this field is growing and holds promise for women. — *Bernama*



IEEE EDUSOC MALAYSIA CHAPTER

SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

13 JANUARY 2020

Jan 13

IEEE Education Society Malaysia Chapter (EduSoc) Annual General Meeting

Time: 1.15pm - 4.15pm

Location: Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam

Cervical Cancer Awareness

16th January 2020 | 12pm - 1:30pm
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COMMON GROUND X HEALTOPEDIA

January 18

Free Soap Making Class - For Chinese New Year 2020

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Location: BF1 Malaysia - Herbals And Essential Oils, Segambut



January 18

FB Marketing MASTERY Seminar, KL

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Location: KL Gateway, Kuala Lumpur

Officially Harith Iskander

January 27

Time: 8:30 PM - 11:30 PM
 Location: The Joke Factory

January 16

Cervical Cancer Awareness Health Talk

Time: 12pm - 1.30pm

Location: Common Ground, Ampang

January 16

FREE Business Branding Masterclass

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Location: Hyatt House Kuala Lumpur, Mont Kiara



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Time: 3pm - 7.30pm

Location: Trailblazer Success Centre, Taman Desa Melawati

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Sepang International Circuit, Selangor

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