



“ Every single sen of the state fund belongs to the people. The money must be translated into developmental programmes for the good of the people of this state. ”

SELANGOR JOURNAL



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BUSINESS

Economic Powerhouse on The Rise

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali's recent visit to Japan in January 2018 saw the signing of two business collaborations worth more than RM 1.26 billion. This sizeable investment from a foreign country further cements Selangor's role in driving the Malaysian economy. In 2016, Selangor contributed 22.7% of the nation's GDP amounting to RM251.6 billion. According to the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), for the period between January to September 2017, Selangor raked in investments worth RM3.049 billion through 132 manufacturing projects while creating 5,494 job opportunities.

This collaboration is another testament of Selangor being the most preferred investment destination for Japanese corporations. It also reflects foreign investors' confidence in the strong fundamentals and administration of Selangor which is based on a policy of good governance, transparency and accountability to fight corruption. One of the practices of good governance in the state is the practice of open tenders. This process upholds transparency and accountability standards that are pegged against international best practices to ensure there are no elements of corruption and the misuse of power. Since 2014 till 21 February 2018, this practice has recorded a savings of RM615.1 million.

In the past Malaysia had a "look East" policy but lately it appears that "the East" is looking towards Selangor for consultancy and business opportunities. Countries like Japan and Taiwan are looking at Selangor as a regional partner in many areas but at the forefront is Selangor's expertise in the halal industry that is creating various opportunities for collaboration.

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Debt Repayments – Can We Afford Them?

The ECRL is one of several Federal projects that is expected to burden the rakyat further.

Story continues on page 4





Equanimity in Troubled Waters

The US\$ 250 million luxury super-yacht Equanimity, is said to be the 54th biggest yacht in the world. At 90 metres, it has a swimming pool on deck, a helipad, movie theatre, spa and sauna — and cabins for 28 crew and 18 guests.

The FBI had tipped off Indonesia that the massive yacht was in its waters somewhere near Bali, Indonesian police traced the yacht to the island of Lombok, then seized it as it sailed into Bali. FBI officials

allege the large, modern vessel named Equanimity had been attempting to evade them in Southeast Asian waters by disabling its automated identification system to avoid questioning over a \$US4.5 billion fraud case.

The US Justice Department claims the Equanimity is owned by 36-year-old Malaysian financier Jho Low, who is believed to have been part of the scheme to siphon billions out of a Malaysian investment fund between 2009 and 2015. On Thursday, a spokesman for Jho Low told

Malaysia's New Straits Times it was "disappointing that, rather than reflecting on the deeply flawed and politically motivated allegations, the DOJ is continuing with its pattern of global overreach — all based on entirely unsupported claims of wrongdoing".

Mr Low's whereabouts are unknown. Over the past 180 days, the Equanimity is believed to have sailed from Malaysia and Singapore to Bali, then to Papua and back. However, there were several points where its movements were unclear.

Ijok Truth Revealed

THE SELANGOR STATE GOVERNMENT UPLIFTS SETTLERS DIGNITY



2016 A global settlement agreement was successfully sealed to resolve the chaos

- Settlers received cash and housing entitlements with a much bigger amount after waiting for 20 years
- The State government did not have to deal with contingent liabilities amounting to RM 5 billion.
- Acting on the wishes of the settlers, Ecoworld agreed to purchase and develop the failed township of Alam Mutiara and Alam Utama.
- The acquisition of 1000 acres of Alam Perdana on behalf of relevant parties* by the State government through the Land Acquisition Act 1960 will be developed without incurring additional costs.
- All relevant parties will be able to recover old debts owed by UMNO cronies amounting to hundreds and millions of ringgit.
- The townships of Alam Perdana, Alam Mutiara and Alam Utama will be released from legal restrictions for the development and wellbeing of the people

*relevant parties refer to bank creditors, non-banking creditors and contractors

2002 -2007 During these years, the BN crony companies have received hundreds and millions of ringgit by pledging the aforementioned lands to the banks and by selling a portion of it to other developers.

2015 **ECOWORLD**
Settlers have identified a reputable developer to resolve their problems and requested the State government to consider this developer.

- The settlers sealed a MOU with the reputable developer that was appointed where the developer promised outstanding cash payments and a house with a market value of RM450K.
- The settlers agreed to support the reputable developer to resolve the chaos.

2009
The State government tried different approach to resolve the lang issue

- The State government tried to acquire the land but received backlash from the crony BN developers and other relevant parties until the State government was exposed to various lawsuits amounting to over RM 5 billion +.

2007
The BN crony developer company had disposed a portion of the land to other crony developers.

- The BN crony developer company had disposed a portion of the land to other crony developers.
- The BN crony developer company received in excess of millions of ringgit on the sale of the land.

1979
Before 1998, the Selangor government created the Green Revolution Plan (Rancangan Revolusi Hijau).

- RRH1 Alam Perdana (1373 acres)
- RRH2 Alam Mutiara (1774 acres)
- RRH3 Alam Utama (1077 acres)
- The plan was designed to help improve the economic standards of settlers.
- Coordinating Agency - PKPS.

1998/1999
The State government administration under Barisan Nasional (BN) gave the land mentioned previously to BN cronies.

- The State government gave the land titles of RRH1, 2 and 3 to BN crony developers whose directors were UMNO state assemblymen.
- Settlers were promised: RM180,000 + RM180,000
- Developers were promised: Alienation of these lands
- Unfortunately, the developers pledged the land to other banks

2006
KPKT declared the development project a failure.

- KPKT (Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Local Authorities) declared the development project stated had failed after the developers received money from the banks amounting to hundreds and millions of ringgit by pledging the land of these settlers.
- This caused:
 - The settlers' lands were open to be auctioned off by the banks.
 - The cash and housing compensation were not given to the settlers

SPAN Urged To Review SPLASH Concession

One of my constituents said that people don't remember what the Selangor state government has done for them in the last five years, but they will certainly remember the last seven days.

And the last one week happens to be just before the next general election, described as one that would be the most fiercely fought in the country.

The seven days were excruciatingly painful for some 500,000 people in Selangor who were stranded without water due to a surge vessel system burst in a water treatment plant.

They were furious with the state government and frustrated with having to deal with overflowing toilets and inability to even buy drinking water, as they were selling out fast.

Their anger is justified. But neither the state government,

Syabas nor Air Selangor were responsible for the mess.

Syarikat Pengeluaran Air Sungai Selangor Sdn Bhd (SPLASH) was awarded a 30-year concession by the previous Barisan Nasional-led Selangor state government in January 2000 to build, operate and maintain the water plant.

This means that SPLASH is the concessionaire and supplier of treated water to SYABAS, and therefore responsible for the water disruption.

SPLASH has not just failed to provide regular updates on the status of repair works but also didn't have proper contingency plan to handle an emergency.

Apparently, three of the water pumps were not repaired or maintained since 2016.

And the fourth pump was recognised as faulty by Air Selangor because of consumer complaints and a loss of 30 MLD (million litres a day) from

the dams.

After repairing the fourth pump, the surge vessel system exploded during the process of reactivation, injuring five workers.

It is clear that the plant was poorly maintained and as a result placed thousands of households without water, distress and not to mention the extra expenses incurred by that people to buy food and water.

As such, the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) needs to investigate as to why the three water pumps were not repaired for more than a year, the causes of the explosion, if procedures were followed, whether systems were maintained properly and if SPLASH should compensate consumers.

The water concessionaire is also facing financial problems given that their debts with Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) run into millions of ringgit.

As such, the crucial ques-



“
Syarikat Pengeluaran Air Sungai Selangor Sdn Bhd (SPLASH) was awarded a 30-year concession by the previous Barisan Nasional-led Selangor state government in January 2000 to build, operate and maintain the water plant.”

tion to ask is whether SPLASH's concession agreement should be terminated given the poor maintenance and staggering debts.

People in Selangor cannot be left highly vulnerable again because of SPLASH's poor performance.

” *Charles Santiago*
Member of Parliament Klang

Ijok Land – Finally Settled

In 2000, the former BN government of Selangor persuaded the settlers in Ijok to sell their land to Mujur Zaman, LBCN and Liputan Canggih – at that time crony companies of UMNO/BN – in exchange for compensation and houses worth RM180,000 each. This was a deal that was never fulfilled by UMNO and its corporate cronies.

The Selangor government under Khalid Ibrahim acquired 1,000 acres of Alam Perdana in 2010, using the Land Acquisition Act 1960. However, it was blocked by a court stay order from doing the same on the remaining 2,200 acres of Alam Mutiara and Alam Utama. This private land is the subject of the RM1.18 billion deal.

The RM1.18 billion recently paid came from a private developer with no links to the state. One of the conditions imposed was that the new landowners and creditors would drop any compensation claims on the state in exchange for their claims being settled by the sale

to the developer. It would then be developed for the benefit of the Selangor people.

Cost RM 500,000 over 980 settlers



The handing over of RM180,000 compensation and houses now worth around RM500,000 to each one of over 980 settlers and their heirs after an 18 year struggle was a good deed facilitated by the present Selangor State Government under the leadership of Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali. After 18 years of disappointment, uncertainty and ill-treatment, they finally have what they were promised.

Uphold Rule of Law

Former MP Mohamed Tawfik Ismail has reminded all members of parliament to uphold the rule of law as PAS' Private Member's Bill, or RUU355, is listed in the parliamentary order paper despite a court order prohibiting it from being tabled.

In an open letter to all MPs, Mohamed Tawfik quoted Article 38 of the Federal Constitution, which states that Parliament must obtain the Conference of Rulers' consent before listing any matters of religion in the Order Paper.

He said listing RUU355 in the Order Paper is in defiance of the judgement from the High Court and in blatant contravention of the Constitution.

He added that the move also contradicted Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia's decision in the past to stop debates on matters that had gone to court, including foreign courts.

The moderation advocate also reminded MPs to remember the oath they took as he did when he was an MP in 1986.

The oath states that an



elected MP must swear to preserve, protect and defend the Federal Constitution.

“As the next general election is imminent, members from both sides of the House must stand united and obey the very laws you passed, demonstrate your sworn commitment to the nation that gave you the sacred duty to defend, uphold and protect their constitutional rights, and demand the Private Member's Bill be withdrawn from the Order Paper immediately,” said Mohamed Tawfik.

“Not to do so is clear contempt of His Majesty and His Majesty's judges, in blatant defiance and contravention of the Constitution, and the trust that the citizens of this nation have placed upon you all,”

he said.

He added that allowing the Bill to be listed in the Order Paper “opens the door to further erosion” of the Federal Constitution.

The Private Members Bill to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 — also known as RUU355 — was listed on Tuesday and Wednesday as the fourth item on the list, behind three government Bills, for second reading and debate.

However, it remains unclear if RUU355 will see the light of the day.

Last March, Tawfik filed an application seeking to declare the Private Member's Bill, better known as RUU355, as unconstitutional and that it flouted Parliament procedures.

The Bill seeks to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 to give syariah courts the power to mete out harsher punishments.

Mohamed Tawfik had named Pandikar and Dewan Rakyat secretary Datuk Roosme Hamzah as defendants in his suit.

On Feb 22 this year, the High Court denied Pandikar's bid to strike out the suit.

Continued from cover page...

On March 12th 2018, Parliament proceedings descended into raucous heckling when Selangor Menteri Besar Dato Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali directed a question to the Prime Minister about the effect of the 1MDB debt issue on interest payments and he responded with a flippant, “the water issue in Selangor is even more critical.”

Quoting an international news report last month, which stated that Malaysia had spent 12.5% of its revenue on interest payments for the national debt in 2016 compared to 9% in 2009, Mohamed Azmin asked if the 1MDB debt issue affected the rise in national debt interest.

“The report says that this year we are expected to spend RM31bil of revenue just to pay interest, and this is the same as two-thirds of (the total) GST collection.

Has the 1MDB debt issue affected the rise in our debt interest or is there a more responsible reason for this?” asked Mohamed Azmin.

After a few minutes of heckling by Federal Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister responded that it was not a question of the quantum of national debt, but the ability to repay it and that “Singapore’s national debts are bigger than ours and their repayment abilities are also existent”.

Needless to say the internet exploded as netizens responded in anger and disbelief at the manner in which the Prime Minister and Federal MPs dismissed such a valid and pertinent question by Mohamed Azmin.

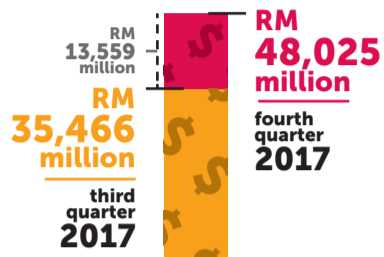
The issue at hand is not whether Singapore or Venezuela or any other country can repay or not but rather why is Malaysia spending so much of its revenue on repaying debts? And if so what debts are we repaying?

The question does not arise if the country can repay, the question is why our GST, taxes and everything else that we are made to pay to the government is used to repay debts that we are not fully aware of.

A point to note is that the ability to repay these debts rises from the rakyat’s pockets. As Mohamed Azmin has pointed out we are paying 2/3 of the GST collected for debts incurred by an overspending and careless federal government.

A prime example of how the Malaysian government is currently overspending is the

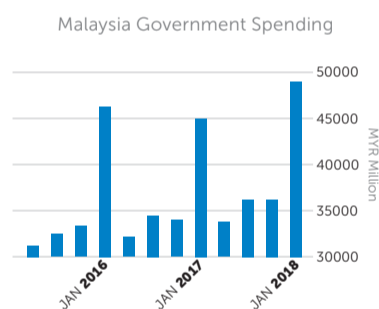
ECRL project. It is one such infrastructure project that will heavily burden the rakyat in terms of debt in years to come as the project lacks transparency and accountability. This is one of those future generations will pay for.



Malaysia Government Spending

The increase of RM 13,559 million in just one quarter is certainly very alarming especially when the total government debt as of end June 2017 stood at RM 688 billion or 50.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Government spending refers to public expenditure on goods and services through policies like setting up budget targets, adjusting taxation, increasing public expenditure and public works or infrastructure projects.



Disproportionate funds

The issue of overspending raised comments from various quarters including Former United Nations assistant secretary-general Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Dr Francis Loh, formerly a professor of politics at Universiti Sains Malaysia and Wan Saiful Wan Jan, the former CEO of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), all of whom were concerned with government spending, sighting the East Coast Rail Line (ECRL) project.

Overspending by Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) and disproportionate allocation of development funds has led to the official government debt increase.

Recommending that allocations to the PMO be slashed to lower rising debt, Jomo said most infrastructure spending is not on the federal budget and often involves dubious public-private partnerships further reducing transparency and accountability as witnessed in the recent rush to start the ECRL

(East Coast Rail Line).

Lacks transparency

Mega-projects such as the ECRL, Tun Razak Exchange, and Bandar Malaysia should be scrutinised by an independent bipartisan parliamentary committee chaired by a member of the opposition party for transparency purposes.

The appointment of the Chinese state-owned enterprise for the ECRL project, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) was however done via direct negotiation method and not on an open tender basis this pre-empts transparency.

If the 688km ECRL which costs 55 billion ringgit fails to generate the expected level of demand and return on investment, it can put the government highly in debt with China.

Huge interest

Some 85% of the ECRL project costs will be funded by China’s Exim Bank through a soft loan at an interest rate of 3.25% per annum and the rest through a sukuk programme by local banks.

At a rate of 3.5% per annum, the interest bill for the project will be huge. Although interest repayment of the loan only begins after a seven-year moratorium, the government will have to subsidise this project which it can ill afford because it is also involved in several other multi-billion ringgit port construction projects while the repayment of those loans will also come calling about the same time.

At RM 80 million per kilometre, it has been slammed by critics as the costliest rail project ever. The government claims that the total costs include planning and design costs and that it includes the tunnels that need to be dug and the difficult terrain that needs to be traversed.

A property newspaper compares similar rails in develop-

ing countries.

In Kenya, Mombasa to Uganda is estimated at RM 7.37 billion (RM61.42 million per km), in Bangladesh, Dhaka to Jessore is estimated at 14.65 billion ringgit (RM68.14 million per km) in Ethiopia, Awash to Weldia is estimated at 7.12 billion ringgit (RM18.07 million per km).

It’s interesting to note that rails in Kenya and Bangladesh include the costs of bridges and other infrastructure and that the Ethiopian one is built 986 metres above sea level and through tricky terrain, all of which cost lower than Malaysia’s ECRL.

Malaysia is borrowing money from China in order to pay a Chinese company to do the job, and after seven years, we still need to pay back the loan plus interest to China. Not only does China get back its money immediately in the form of payment for the work done by CCCC, it will get more money from us when we repay the loan.

It does not matter whether the ECRL is profitable or not, we still have to repay the loan. The risk and liability are completely on the shoulders of Malaysian taxpayers and zero on China.

Questionable viability

The commercial viability of the project has also been questioned. The forecast being the ECRL, despite running through less industrialised parts of Malaysia, will carry almost 60 million tonnes of freight per annum by 2035. This is amazing because even KTM Bhd, which has rail networks in the more industrialised and dense-

ly populated west coast of the peninsula, carries only about six million tonnes of freight per annum. If we fail to achieve this projected freight tonnage, will the project still be financially feasible or will taxpayers have to pay a huge subsidy for the ECRL?

Cautionary tale

The ECRL is part of the many projects under China’s Belt and Road (BRI) initiative, that is building infrastructure and boosting regional connectivity and trade across strategic maritime and land routes. China plans to invest 750 billion US dollars in BRI countries over the next five years. Malaysia is one recipient of this initiative.

In the case of Sri Lanka, China provided loan worth 1.2 billion US dollars to build port Hambantota. This initiative has been beset by problems. The Hambantota port did not have an accompanying industrial zone or other local businesses to drive demand and the port struggled to attract ships and cargo volumes.

In the end it was a loss-making infrastructure and continued consuming massive amounts of national revenue to operate and maintain.

Last July, Sri Lanka’s Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe proposed to China’s Ambassador Yi Xianliang a debt-for-equity swap that would see the Hambantota port and the Mattala airport go to Chinese companies in exchange for 1.2 billion US dollars’ worth of debt relief. China agreed.

Another burden

It is therefore crucial for the government to look at its expenditures and seek out ways to exercise spending discipline and to relook at areas in which it can save by re-prioritising expenses in areas that incur high expenses.

If Malaysia’s debts continue to rise, including taxes, it is the everyday man on the street who will be paying the price for poor fiscal management

It would also bode well for the current federal government to humbly remember who actually repays all these debts.

SDDS Data Category and Component	Unit Description	Q1/16	Q2/16	Q3/16	Q4/16	Q1/17	Q2/17	Q3/17	Q4/17
Central Government Debt									
Current liabilities, total	RM million	626,872	655,745	643,599	648,475	664,482	685,057	687,431	686,838
Short-term debt	RM million	6,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	9,500	9,500	6,500	4,500
Medium- and long-term debt	RM million	620,872	651,245	639,099	643,975	654,982	675,557	680,931	682,338
Domestic debt	RM million	420,255	428,526	413,862	438,248	489,473	496,256	492,335	484,084
Short-term debt	RM million	1,395	1,141	1,000	2,724	8,451	8,288	3,844	1,169
Medium- and long-term debt	RM million	418,860	427,385	412,862	435,524	481,023	487,968	488,491	482,916
External debt	RM million	206,617	227,219	229,737	210,227	175,009	188,800	195,096	202,753
Short-term debt	RM million	4,605	3,359	3,500	1,776	1,049	1,212	2,656	3,331
Medium- and long-term debt	RM million	202,012	223,860	226,237	208,451	173,959	187,588	192,440	199,422
External debt, by currency									
RM	RM million	190,247	206,182	211,759	191,764	156,719	171,067	177,809	186,186
USD	RM million	10,606	14,580	11,327	12,200	12,035	11,654	11,470	10,988
Yen	RM million	5,381	6,080	6,276	5,909	5,914	5,751	5,502	5,286
Other	RM million	382	378	376	356	341	328	315	293
Debt guaranteed by Federal Government	RM million	178,058	180,966	191,085	187,324	195,692	217,370	226,876	n.a.



Continued from cover page...

Halal International Selangor (HIS) will introduce its consultation programs such as Halal Technical Competent Person (HTCP) and its accreditation program - Halal Trade Delivery Assurance (HTDA) to Halal International Japan. This in turn will provide a platform for both Japan and Malaysia to learn from each other's expertise and how best to meet global halal industry compliance standards.

Through the HTCP program a trained person will be equipped with Shariah and halal management knowledge in line with the international halal trade standards. They will also have exposure to halal industry requirements that enable them to practice and maintain the halal guarantees in an organization.

HTDA serves as a halal service centre that coordinates the accreditation program and halal guarantee process. It also carries out performance ratings and rating systems for products, service integrity, reliability, safety and quality.

Acrosx Japan of Halal International Japan, Selangor's counterpart will mobilize this agenda. This collaboration will benefit both parties in terms of trade and services market penetration support, international human resources, investment and technology transfer.

1.26 billion ringgit expansion program

The Selangor delegation's visit to Japan also attracted more investments to Selangor.

Worldwide Holdings Bhd (WHB, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Selangor State Development Corporation) and GS Paperboard and Packaging (GSPP) Group signed an agreement which will allow for a 1.26 billion ringgit expansion of the GS Paperboard's current paper mill business in Selangor.

This agreement creates a joint venture company to develop, manage and operate a new water treatment plant to supply treated river water to GSPP for its paper machine operations. Besides paving the way for a 1.26 billion ringgit expansion

of GSPP's current paper mill business in Kuala Langat, it will allow GS Paper to produce an additional 450,000 tonnes of containerboard paper per year.

Investing in water treatment

The involvement of Worldwide Holdings in the water project will help create a platform for further development of the water treatment business, giving a strategic impact for Worldwide Holdings to expand its business portfolio.

This partnership constitutes part of the State's long-term initiative to nurture the State GLCs to become industry leaders locally and regionally.

The collaboration between GSPP and WHB was established since mid-1990s. GSPP is also a long-term customer of WHB as they use Worldwide landfill facility to dispose their sludge. This joint venture signifies a sustainable and trusting relationship not only between GSPP and WHB but also with the Selangor state government.

The involvement of WHB will help create a platform for further development of water treatment business under the state-government company, giving a strategic impact for WHB to expand its business portfolio.

The high value investment by Oji Holdings Corp and GSPP reflect Selangor being the most preferred investment location among the states of Malaysia. This is in line with the State's continuous effort in being an investment hub for ASEAN. Oji Holdings Corp, the largest paper manufacturer in Japan, owns GSPP.

The agreement between GS Paperboard and Worldwide Holdings marks a major milestone and reflects the sustainable and growing business relationship between Selangor and Japan.

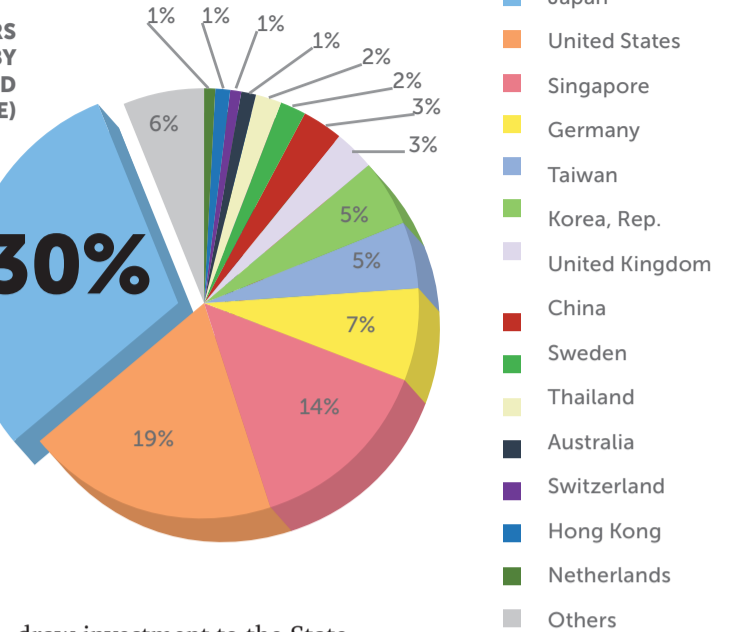
Oji Holdings currently has six packaging plants and one paper mill in Malaysia. It was recently reported that Oji Holdings is planning to increase its market share in the Malaysian corrugated carton industry to 40% from the current 30%.

Collaboration Agreement between Halal International Selangor and Halal International Japan.

This expansion will add another 90,000 tonnes of annual capacity to the group by 2019.

Selangor the gateway for foreign investments

Japanese investment in Selangor has been growing and remains the dominant top 15 of foreign investments into Selangor. The Selangor government is focussed and is active in its effort in making Selangor an investment hub for the ASEAN region and actively continues to

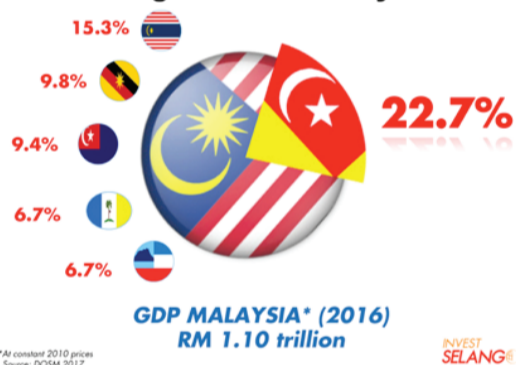


draw investment to the State.

Selangor, among all other states of Malaysia is best positioned to serve as a gateway for foreign companies doing business. This will be a natural outcome of Selangor's vision to transform it into a regional smart state and also to attract potential employment in Selangor.

Selangor, Engine Of Growth For Malaysia's Economy

Percentage Share to Malaysia's GDP



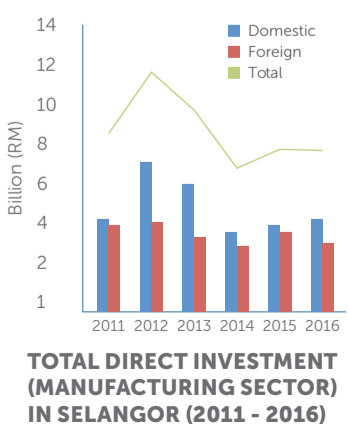
From 2013 to 2016, Selangor also successfully attracted RM34,425,688,466 in total capital investment for 1,008 projects with total employment of 72,806 from the manufacturing sector. From 2016 to September 2017, Selangor garnered total investment of RM3,049,396,790.

According to Department of Statistics Malaysia, GDP contribution in 2016 by six states accounted for 70.6%

GDP. Selangor topped the list with a share of 22.7%, followed by WP Kuala Lumpur (15.3%), Sarawak (9.8%), Johor (9.4%), Pulau Pinang (6.7%) and Sabah (6.7%).

The Selangor State government through Invest Selangor as the state's investment promotion agency (that promotes and facilitates investments in Selangor), is always supportive of foreign investment into Selangor especially in facilitating better project execution and necessary approvals. This initiative of the Selangor government makes it easier for investments to pour in seamlessly.

Selangor Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali's recent achievement is a testament that Selangor under his administration has proven to be more than successful in increasing the state's revenue, making huge contribution to Malaysia's GDP, creating more jobs and bringing material benefit for the rakyat of Selangor.



Tokyo Olympics 2020

The Japanese market in particular holds great promise for Selangor's halal industry with the approaching of the Olympics 2020. Serving Japan's upcoming Tokyo Olympics in 2020 will provide an emerging niche halal market for Selangor's halal industry players as it prepares for the influx of Muslim visitors and spectators who will be flying to the country for the Olympics.

According to a rating agency, more than 20 million tourists are expected to land in Japan in 2020, and over one million of them are Muslims. Selangor's participation will not only bring in revenue to the state, it will also promote Selangor to the global halal arena.

Halal International Selangor is a Selangor State Government initiative which is a Global Halalan Toyayiban Trade and Industry (GHTTI) platform solution that comprises of real estate, delivery assurance, human capital and market development to meet the needs of halal consumers globally.

Halalan toyayiban means food or products that are allowed and permissible for consumption with relation to Syariah law as long as they are safe and not harmful.



Getting To The Heart of The Matter

FOUR-year-old Siti Nur Mujahidah has finally been given a helping hand after living with a hole in her heart and other heart-related illnesses since birth.

Her treatment was fully funded by Selangor government and Selangor Economic Development Corporation (PKNS) through the recently launched Selangor Heart Treatment Scheme.

The special programme is part of the RM44.1mil budget allocated for an integrated healthcare scheme for Selangorians.

Apart from heart treatment,

the integrated healthcare scheme includes basic healthcare, pneumococcal vaccinations, palliative care services for cancer patients and health insurance for civil servants as well as farmers.

During the launch of the heart treatment scheme, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said it was part of Selangor's approach in making quality healthcare services more accessible to its people.

He announced that RM10mil was allocated to help 500 or more heart patients in Selangor to receive treatment from IJN this year.

"In the past 25 years, IJN has succeeded in providing quality and affordable treatment to Malaysians.

"IJN faces high demand when it comes to heart patients locally and internationally.

"However, those who are from lower and middle-income group have problems getting access to treatment as costs keep increasing," he said.

With this in mind, he said, the state government decided to help ease Selangorians' financial burden especially those in B40 and M40 categories, by funding their treatments at IJN.

Health Protection For Civil Servants



Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali recently unveiled the "Skim Peduli Sihat Penjawat Awam Selangor" for the state's civil servants.

"The takaful scheme is an endeavor to help Selangor civil service members obtain quality healthcare.

The scheme will guarantee protection to over 10,000 personnel of grade 44 or less, covering administrative assistance, general workers, enforcement officers, security officers and drivers.

"The state government has allocated RM3 million and we will bear the full cost of this comprehensive scheme," Azmin said.

Some of the scope include: death, work-related disability, medical care, disease related death, disability due to disease, hospitalisation and outpatient medical care in private and public hospitals.

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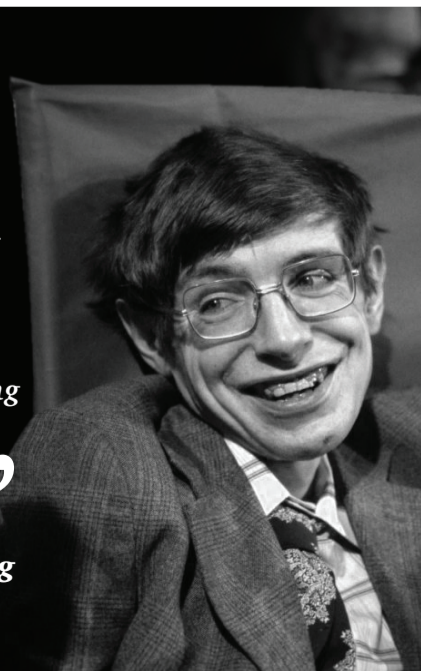
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“
We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star.
But we can understand the universe. That makes us something very special.
”

Stephen Hawking
1942 - 2018



The Fourth Industrial Revolution – Propelling Selangor Forward



by
Prof Dr. Mohd Faiz Abdullah

To borrow a phrase from renowned guru of smart cities and now CIO for the State of Illinois, Hardik Bhatt, we need to “leapfrog from legacy technology to global leadership in becoming a smart state. While Selangor may not be a global leadership yet but aspiring to become a smart state is enough challenge. For that to happen, Selangor has to first earn the status of being the nation’s first smart state.

The onset of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is what we are witnessing now, the meshing and overlapping of domains ie. the physical with the digital realms and both with the biological sphere has created an unprecedented impact in terms of velocity, scope and systems. Not the least of which is the disruptive impact concerning existing skill sets.

According to the latest World Economic Forum (WEF)

report on the future of jobs, with the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution there isn’t time to develop major new skill sets on a large scale over decades as it was the case with previous industrial revolutions because of the unprecedented rate of change in technological advances. Currently in many academic fields, there are situations where that by the time students graduate from a four-year technical degree course, half the knowledge acquired in the first year of the course becomes obsolete.

The findings of the WEF Report suggest that practical skills will undergo accelerating change and major disruption. It is expected that in three years’ time, more than a third of skills not regarded as crucial today will actually become the core skill sets of most occupations. The impact is already noticeable in mobile internet and cloud technology, advances in computing power and Big Data, crowd sourcing and peer-to-peer platforms. The report highlights the rise of the middle class in emerging markets and as we are witnessing, young demographics, rapid urbanization, changing work environments and flexible working hours.

Developed economies with longevity and ageing societies are witnessing new consumer concerns about ethical and privacy issues, women’s rising aspirations and economic power. As we approach 2020, increasing presence will come from advanced robotics and autonomous transport with artificial intelligence and machine learning, advanced materials, biotechnology and genomics.

“
As we approach 2020, increasing presence will come from advanced robotics and autonomous transport with artificial intelligence and machine learning, advanced materials, biotechnology and genomics.
”

Not surprisingly the drivers of change in the technological sector all point to the fact that the speed of change and the rate at which certain skills become obsolete should give us pause and compel us to take urgent steps to recalibrate our human resource strategies.

What does this mean for Selangor?

While Selangor is moving towards becoming a smart state, the Fourth Industrial Revolution will undoubtedly herald a new era of job opportunities to that end in a myriad of fields opened up with creative innovation, however, the trade-off will be the loss of jobs that were once needed under the old paradigm.

Thus, failure to implement changes in the modalities of instruction as well as syllabic content will render not just the courses but the university faculties and schools to be increasingly divorced from the demands of reality. The benchmark for excellence then must first and foremost be founded on academic quality, commercial and industrial utility.

Therefore, the strategic thrust must be geared towards transforming from a labour-intensive economy to a knowledge economy where creative innovation plays a central role. Innovation is the ability to “change the rules of the game”, deliver new products and services and apply ideas that are creative, novel and useful. However, in light of the disruptive nature of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the rapid pace of change, strategies for the attainment of smart state must in all circumstances fac-

tor in the anticipated impact of the changes that will result. Moving towards a smart state would require a new workforce strategy of which a major requirement will be “skills evolution.”

A mindset transformation amongst Government Linked Companies (GLCs) is warranted to optimize talent pooling in areas such as reinventing the HR function, utilizing data analytics, talent diversity, leveraging flexible working arrangements and online talent platforms for the short term.

Selangor the Future of Malaysia

The direction for the longer term, has already been spearheaded by the State Government and it entails rethinking education systems, incentivizing lifelong learning, cross industry and private-public collaboration. In line with its people-centric citizen engagement strategic thrusts, human resource building initiatives are bound with a democratization of education and skills training agenda to expand the accessibility of tertiary institutions as TVET opportunities to the rakyat. At the end of the day, the leadership factor is crucial in propelling Selangor’s change into a regional smart state. It is in this regard that the role of the Menteri Besar is crucial and goes beyond just holding on to the reins of power but also to be a beacon of enlightenment in governance.

With all that in place achieving a regional smart state status in the Fourth Industrial Revolution will no longer be a mere dream but a realistic aspiration capable of full realization.

6 Exquisite Selangor Staycations

“

Travelling is more fun – hell, life is more fun if you can treat it as a series of impulses!

Bill Bryson

”

When that impulse hits to throw routine out the door or when you are just tired of the daily grind, here are 6 escape haunts right in Selangor that won't bust your budget (too badly). Just a hop, skip and a jump from the city-centre, tranquility awaits you. Go ahead, take that weekend break, you know you deserve it!

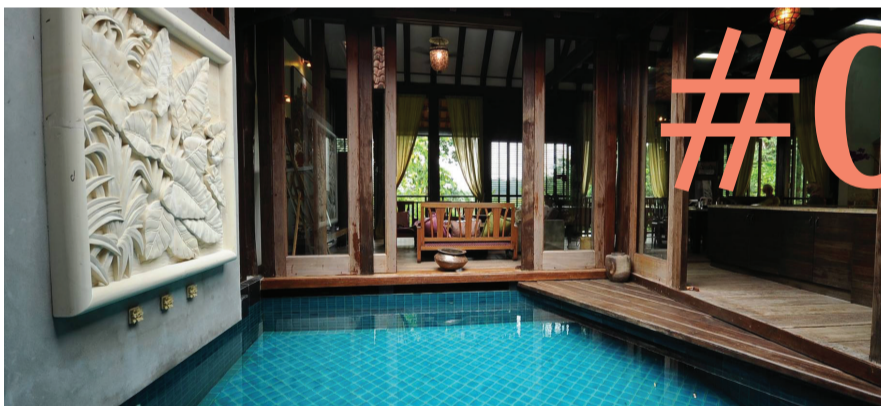


#01

Bamboo Village

Jalan Pelangi 5, 43100 Hulu Langat, Selangor
019-227 5620

An absolutely rustic retreat that is perfect for groups or families looking to reconnect with nature. However, if you are overly attached to your air-conditioning and hot water, this place isn't for you as they only provide electric fans and cold showers. But for the more adventurous, Bamboo Village offers the chance to explore the surrounding attractions like the Sg Serai Hot Springs (15 minutes walking distance) or Sg. Congkak Recreational Forest (20 minutes by car). You can also opt to just chill at their own private pool or take in the sights and sounds of the local town.



#02

Kampung Kuang Retreat

Lorong Orkid, Kuang, Sungai Buloh,
47000 Kuala Lumpur.
+603 2262 0288

Kuang Kampung Retreat is a quaint classic Malaysian home designed and crafted by a Kelantanese artisan. Constructed from balau timber and stone, repurposed from an old palace in Pahang, this architectural gem showcases Malaysian heritage right from the Malaccan decorative bathroom tiles to the antique furniture pieces reminiscent of a bygone era. Soak in the luxurious heritage as you relax in the pool, far from the noisy disruptions of city life.



#03

Taman Sari

Batu 18, Hulu Langat
(directions will be given upon booking)
+6019 271 4299

A unique jungle getaway just 45 minutes away from the city-centre. Imagine sleeping in an open bedroom that offers a panoramic view of the forest reserve right from your king-sized bed. The Bothy @ Taman Sari is truly the perfect private getaway if you are looking for quality time with the other half amidst a lush tropical jungle.

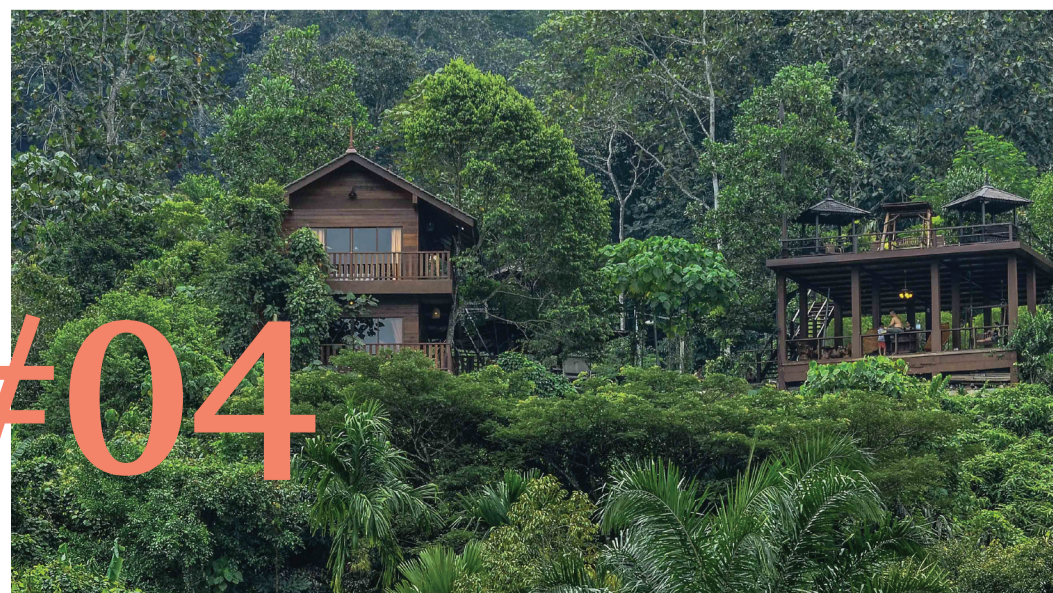
If you are planning a group getaway, The Cottage by the garden is ideal for an intimate group to bond over tranquil surroundings.

Templer Park Rainforest Retreat

22, Jalan 3/2, Templer Height, Templer Park,
48000 Rawang, Selangor
016-203 8562

A sprawling hilltop retreat surrounded by 360° views of the Kanching Rainforest Reserve just a 30-minute drive from the city. An ideal venue for family gatherings or get-togethers in a tranquil environment surrounded by nature's flora and fauna. The Retreat is in a gated and guarded community and offer, amongst other facilities a 1.2m deep infinity pool to splash about. There are also viewing decks strategically located for you to soak in majestic views of Bukit Takun, a lake and the green fairways of a golf course. The surrounding area is home to a number of animals like monkeys, colourful tropical birds, wild fowl, monitor lizards, squirrels and large butterflies that sometimes like to pop-in to check out the human inhabitants at The Retreat.

#04





The Kabin

Jalan Haji Zainal, Jeram,
45800 Kuala Selangor
017-924 7800

A fun, vibrant and unique staycation spot near Remis Beach, The Kabin promises a one of a kind holiday experience in the laid back coastal town of Kuala Selangor. Designed using the smart modular concept, this container boutique resort is constructed from recycled shipping containers and transformed into luxurious, hip accommodation units that can house up to 78 guests. This is an ideal location for a fun beach getaway with friends and family where you can chill by the pool, hangout in the game room or even belt out a few songs in the karaoke room if you are not playing beach games.

Southern Home

850L1, Bagan Sungai Lima,
42940 Pulau Ketam, Selangor
010-4032440

Pulau Ketam is a quaint Chinese fishing village on an island across Port Klang. Time has virtually stood still here where most houses are built on stilts and connected by plank walkways. You will find traditional fishing boat makers here and practically everyone is in the shrimp business. Southern Home is a delightful white and blue cottage which is run by a charming and friendly host. It is a cozy bed and breakfast with 4 rooms that have been breezily decorated in shades of sea blue and white. For an exquisite seafood getaway, this is a must-try staycation.



“
There is pleasure in the
pathless woods,
There is rapture on the
lonely shore,
There is society where
none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music
in its roar;
I love not man the less, but
Nature more.”

George Gordon Byron



Hello you alls my beloved readers, my name is Sri and everyone calls me Puan, so I am Puan Sri okay.

I live in Selangor you know, in the Royal town of Klang. My children are all grown up and live everywhere in Malaysia. I used to work but now I am retired so I take the bus to KL, jalan jalan here and there. I have lived in Klang all my life.

I spend most of my time reading papers, facebooking, instating and my most favourite of all gossiping. Nowadays they call gossip fake news.

I love to gossip it is so enjoyable. We Malaysians can fight about everything but we are united when it comes to gossip.

I have my Chinese neighbour, he passes me some hot tit bits, and then my Indian bread man who passes me some crumbs here and there. And the best are my Malay beasties. I have such a full life because of fake news.

So when Eva and Meena asked me to write something and share my gossips with you all. I was elated. So sayangs, I hope you like it. I hear this and that, so I will share with you all this lovely news.

When I go for some functions I see nowadays all these who's who, the second wives, the remarried divorcees, the wanabe minister's wife, and all. All have one thing in common. Can you guess? Well it's their handbags. I hear one of those handbags can cost more than my poor husband's one year salary betul ke? Can it be true?

I hear a certain lady in our country whom I adore because she still has the hairstyle from my younger days you know. I am so proud of her. Every time you see her she is carrying such beautiful handbags.

This lady really loves handbags rumour has it that she owns at least 12 Hermès Birkin Bags of many colours and they cost total RM4.46 Million, I can buy 5 Bungalows in Shah Alam you know with that money! Can you imagine that? She could have fed 10 orphans for 3 years with

that. Ok very skinny orphans but still.

I read somewhere that handbags are very sought after, and someone actually paid RM 1,485,252 last year for a rare 2014 Himalaya Birkin - a matte white handbag by Hermes.

So my favourite lady is very clever she buys these bags not just for fashion but for investment too maybe someday when there are no more donations from "friends" she might just have to sell them to live like the "queen" she is.

But I find her penchant for expensive handbags is good for her. It makes her feel close to the female population and helps her stand tall. They admire her for her fashion sense while wondering how did she manage to have such an expensive handbag meh? Her husband is a government servant just like my poor husband.

Anyway this is it for today, they won't let me take over the paper so tata, till the next issue my beloved readers!



Consulting A Specialist Clinic

– How To Get The Most Out Of Your First Visit



by
Dr Kartini Farah Rahim
Consultant Dermatologist

I am sure many of us have been to a specialist clinic in Malaysia for various reasons, and after the visit realised that we should have prepared ourselves better. Even as a doctor myself, I still consult with another doctor to gain a holistic perspective of my health. To get the best service from your healthcare provider, take into account the location of the practice, the convenience of making an appointment, the experience of the doctor, the cost and recommendations by your friends into consideration. Your choice should also factor in your health insurance plan and affordability. The decision-making process can be quite stressful for a patient who is already ill. The most convenient choice most Malaysians make is to visit the local specialist at the nearest government hospital. However, given that some patients can't afford to wait for an appointment; the next best option is to see a private specialist.

Choosing a specialist

A patient can surf the Internet to search for a list of specialist doctors. However, according to various surveys, friends' testimonials and word of mouth are the top considerations that influence a person's decision on the choice of doctors. Once a shortlist of doctors has been selected, check their experience and qualifications. In Malaysia, having an M.D., MBBS or MB BCh degree (depending on the university) means that the doctor has completed their undergraduate medical course. The subsequent titles that follow are usually the postgraduate qualifications (e.g. MMED or MS), a membership (e.g. MRCP) or a fellowship from one of the Royal Colleges of Specialists (e.g. FRCP). At times I am intrigued by a plethora of initials behind a

doctor's name. Occasionally, there are initials that I have never seen before. Currently, there are no governing bodies in Malaysia to confirm these titles. Most people would think (albeit wrongly) that having so many letters behind the doctor's name means that they are better qualified.

Under the Medical Act 1971, all medical practitioners both specialists and non-specialists who practice in Malaysia must be registered with the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC). If in doubt, the public can check the specialists' credentials on the National Specialist Register (NSR) database online which is a database of members of the Academy of Medicine Malaysia. Confirmed specialists are listed in the NSR which displays the specialists' current and previous place of practice, their qualifications, the awarding bodies and the year of awards. Patients will be able to select their specialists based on their years of experience and level of knowledge.

You can also look up publications (local or international) by these specialists as well as their contributions to the society. The MMC discourages medical professionals from advertising their services and holds strong views against doctors who resort to publicity, in any form of media including social media and billboards, to promote their skills and practice to gain advantage or public approval. The MMC Code of Professional Conduct and the guidelines for good medical practice explains how a doctor may present themselves or their practice to the public.

Make a list

Once you have chosen your specialist next step is to set an appointment. Once that is settled it is advisable to compile your medical history. A specialist will want to gather information to diagnose your symptoms, using your past medical history. They will require a list of medications including supplements that you have been taking. I would suggest that the

patient list down or take a picture of their medication using their smart phones. As a dermatologist myself, I find that medication lists are extremely helpful in considering if the patient may have an adverse drug reaction. For example, if my patient has eczema, the names of soaps, moisturisers and topical applications used previously must be provided.

If a patient is aware of an illness or disease that they have, it is pertinent that they read up about it. However, patients should bear in mind the source of their information. Most reputable international journals are in English or in other foreign languages that may not be understood by most. Instead, patients can summarise what they know and come up with three questions from their preferred reading materials to seek clarification. The most important questions apart from the diagnosis are: the causes, the course of treatment, the line of inquiry and the prognosis.

Patients should write down their concerns and feelings about their illness and present this piece of information when seeing their specialists.

Be proactive

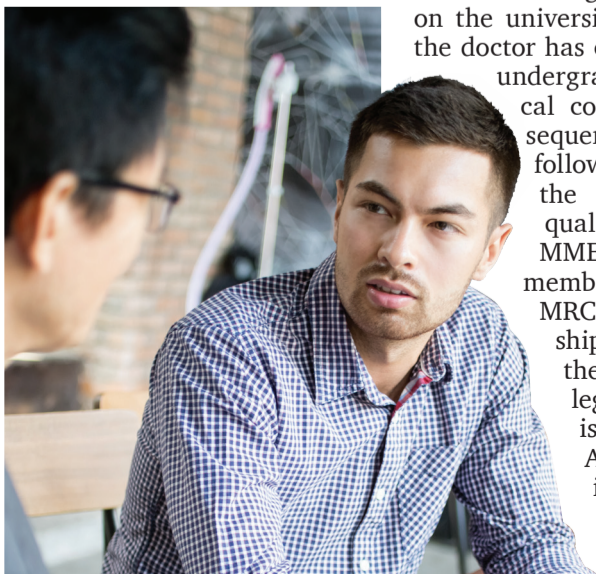
On the day of the appointment, it is always good to bring a friend or a partner. For me it was a relief that I had prepared myself and brought my partner along which helped ease my worry. To get a good gauge of the doctors' ability, it is wise that you set up at least one appointment with the specialist to assess. A good doctor will listen and communicate well by involving the patient in the process of healing. This is called patient-centred communication-the process of providing patients with enough knowledge and understanding to enable them to make informed decisions.

The specialists' medical knowledge may be assessed from their answers to patients' questions. An excellent doctor will avoid any medical jargon and deliver information in small portions to allow 'processing' time. When further inquiries or treatment is required, the doctor must be able to explain the process, the purpose and possible risks and complications. There are times when the doctor may be unable to make decisions due to the complexity of diagnosing the illness despite years of medical training, as it is impossible for doctors to know everything. In this case, it is vital that the doctor is honest about their level of knowledge and encourage patients to refer to another specialist. This shared understanding inspires confidence in a doctor. Personally, I like doctors who summarise all the important points before I leave. The other concern is confidentiality-which is the obligation to keep patients information private and confidential.

Doctors should be able to put patients at ease and build a good rapport. As a patient, you should be able to step out of a clinic feeling positive, understood and well taken care of.

Friends' testimonies and word of mouth is amongst the topmost item that influence one's decision on the choice of doctors.

The Malaysian Medical Council discourages medical professions to advertise themselves and holds strong view against a doctor who resorts to publicity, in any media including the social media and billboards, to promote his skill and practice to gain advantage of public approval.



#Undirosak Should We?



by
G Sara

Voters 2018

Total
14.62M
voters



21 - 30 years old voters
42%

Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy under the Westminster parliamentary system and is categorised as a representative democracy, therefore it practices a system of government elected by all the eligible members of the population, through elected representatives. Therefore it practices a system of government elected by all the eligible members of the population, through elected representatives.

It is important for all citizens to understand how valuable this is. We were lucky we didn't have bloodshed to attain independence and democracy, but many a country had bloodshed just to get the right to an independent democratic nation. We take things for granted and even consider our votes unimportant.

There is also apathy among the younger generation when it comes to voting. Watan, a non-partisan NGO motivated to inspire youths to be voting Malaysians claims that the under 30s form two-thirds of the 3.7 million who are not registered but eligible voters in the country. Of this, 2.43 million are aged between 21 and 30, according to pollster Merdeka Centre.

Minister in the Prime Min-

ister's Department Azalina Othman Said also recently said 1.97 million new voters were registered between 2013 and June this year, 2017, while Minister for Youth and Sports Khairy Jamaluddin has estimated that there would be six million young voters in GE14.

Ensuring that this group understands the importance of their vote cannot be underestimated.

The Right to Vote

The right to vote in this system is one of the fundamental cornerstones, it therefore also allows for the right to protest. Presently, a section of Malaysian youths who are an important part of the equation as they would make up to a large number of voters for the upcoming GE 14, are not happy with the way things are and they want to show their displeasure.

Entry of #Undirosak

The recent entry of #Undirosak, a movement which emerged on social media and Twitter created a channel for mainly youths who feel disillusioned with the current political climate to show their displeasure that stems from the notion that major political parties in the country do not offer viable alternatives to bring about systemic changes in the country. The campaign encourages youth to spoil their votes and exercise their rights.

According to Maryam Lee, one of the leaders of the #Undirosak campaign, spoiling one's vote is a legitimate form of protest, "Although there are many avenues for youth to protest the current political situation in our country, one of the best ways to do it is through the ballot box. This is not the first time that Malaysian youth have protested. We have protested many times before in the past. However, due to the failure of institutions to effect real political and legitimate change, youths feel that they have no choice but to radicalise."

Maryam Lee is quick to point out that being radical is not the same as being a terrorist or an anarchist. She mentions that she grew up being apolitical and that it was only in university that she decided to radicalise after realising what being institutionalised really meant. Maryam Lee believes

that being radical means "to go to the root of the problem."

Should We Spoil Our Votes?

The question then arises, is the spoiling of one's vote, the best way to get to the root of the problem? Not quite according to Law Professor Azmi Sharom of the University of Malaya. "Is #Undirosak an effective way for youth to show their unhappiness? That's a bit complex. Ultimately, what does spoiling your vote really prove? If you're unhappy with both sides, one side will still win. The ruling party is more likely to be the biggest beneficiary of this movement."

"I think that spoiling your vote as a form of protest would probably be more useful if we have an equally vibrant two-party political system therefore, if people are unhappy with both sides, it would make a difference.

The voting process is the best way to change things in this country. But the fact of the matter is despite the issues that we have, we must try to use the system in order to make the very first change this country has ever had and if we don't what is the alternative?"

Professor Azmi Sharom further adds that, "Elections are not the be-all and end-all. Elections are only one part of the democratic process." "#Undirosak does not invalidate those who vote. It should be accepted as part and parcel of the democratic process. Nobody said democracy is pretty."

The current ruling coalition has ruled since independence in 1957, and despite massive street protests and scandals, its political leaders have prevailed over the toughest periods in four decades owing to a divided opposition and support from rural voters. "Malaysia has a long fight ahead, and it is something that can't be solved in one election. Any government that comes to power must be observed and held accountable. It is important to have a system that allows people to keep an eye on the government. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance," says



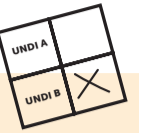
Voters on the street are divided

Mong 37, a dentist believes that regardless of the failures of the Opposition it is important to break the grip of power that the federal government has had for 60 years.

Prem 30, feels that #Undirosak may be a game changer in the political scene because it presents an alternative view on voting rights.

Aznir, 36 sympathises with the cause of #Undirosak but ultimately feels that one has to do their duty to make their vote count and not ruin it.

Muzzammil, 24 year old lawyer. "I say #Undirosak is as much an exercise of democracy as voting. The right to vote any person of your liking must include the right to abstain. So by abstaining, or by going to the polls, stand there for 40 minutes under the hot sun, only to draw moustaches on the candidates is also the exercise of democratic right. I doubt it will change anything, but it is part and parcel of democracy so just let them be."



Professor Azmi Sharom.

At the moment #Undirosak is seen as a campaign geared towards urban youths who are more likely to be fence sitters. "#Undirosak is not meant to be a long-term thing. It is not meant to deter people from voting. It is simply to put out the option to people who feel that they don't have a choice," clarifies Maryam Lee.

As we approach Election Day, who do we want to win the elections? A ruling coalition mired in corruption and who indirectly buys vote via promise of billions in infrastructure development to the rural population? Or for the Opposition who is fighting a cause greater than themselves. The Opposition despite its shortcomings is for the people by the people. We cannot say the same for the ruling coalition with their opulent lifestyles and out of touch leaders.

While #Undirosak may work in a vibrant and mature democracy, our country is a young democracy that has yet to see the effects of a mature political scene due to sixty years of rule by the same political party. It is time our youth stand up and be counted. It is time we give our country a shot at a mature democracy and do what is right for the greater good. As John F. Kennedy aptly said "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."—*Inauguration address, January 1961.*

The Fight For Women To Vote

In the nineteenth century, women were not allowed to vote. During this period, the movement for women's rights had begun although there was no particular political focus. By the close of the nineteenth century, the issue of the vote became the focus of women's struggle for equality.

The first country to grant national-level voting rights to women was the self-governing British colony of New Zealand, which passed the Electoral Bill in September 1893. The British colony of South Australia granted full suffrage in 1894, giving women the right to vote and to stand for parliament. Britain's Parliament passed the Eligibility of Women Act in November 1918, which allowed women to be elected to Parliament. Similarly in 1918, Azerbaijan became the first Muslim-majority (although secular) country to enfranchise women when it introduced universal suffrage. In 1920, the United States passed the 19th amendment which guarantees all American women the right to vote.

In Malaysia, women never had to fight for their suffrage and first exercised their democratic right to cast their votes in the first general election ever held in 1955. According to the Election Commission of Malaysia, in 2013, women constituted 50.23% of the thirteen million registered voters while male voters constituted only 49.7%. This paved the way for the increasing representation of women candidates in politics where 168 women candidates were fielded in the 2013 election compared to 120 women candidates fielded in the previous election in 2008.

Price Of Child Poverty

Fewer Malaysians live in extreme poverty than ever before. Even as Malaysia's population has grown to 31 million people, the number of poor has gradually fallen. The Malaysian government has managed to eliminate poverty through the Millennium Development Goals implemented since 1990. The goal to halve the number of people living on less than a dollar a day by 2015 has already been achieved. However, not everyone has benefited equally and that some, notably children, are being left behind.

Blind spot

A new study by UNICEF revealed that there are higher levels of poverty and malnutrition among children living in low-cost housing in Kuala Lumpur compared to the national average. Although the national poverty rate is less than 1%, the report indicates a 100% of relative poverty amongst children living in low-cost flats in the nation's capital. Further,

the study concludes that 22 per cent of children below 5 years of age are stunted, about 15 percent are underweight, and 23 percent had obesity. Both poverty and malnutrition are well-known risk factors for poor child development, including cognitive functions.

"Children in low-cost flats live in Kuala Lumpur, within easy proximity to amenities; yet, have less access to nutritious food, don't go to preschool, live in perceived unsafe areas and have less opportunity to learn and play than most other children in Malaysia. The reality is: poor children are among us but they often remain unseen. It's clearly a data blind spot," said Marianne Clark-Hattingh, UNICEF representative in Malaysia.

Eating Right

The first two years of a child is a critical period of rapid growth and brain development. During this period, nutrition and environmental factors play important roles in the growth and cognitive development of



Low-cost housing in Kuala Lumpur

a child. Due to the rise in food prices, the weak value of the ringgit, inflation and the Goods and Services Tax, the purchasing power of households have been reduced significantly contributing to a poverty trap that limits access to better nutrition.

"One of the optimal ways to ensure that every child in Malaysia has an equal start in life is by providing a comprehensive social protection floor," added Marianne. "This will facilitate equal access to basic services such as health, education and nutrition for the most marginalised families, thus mitigating the effects of deprivation on children, and help break the cycle of poverty".

Even though Malaysia had

ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1995, Malaysia has done little to uphold its commitment to the protection and welfare of all children with regards to poverty and malnutrition. To date, there is no national feeding program to help undernourished children similar to programs implemented in India and the Philippines. Realising the consequences of poverty and malnutrition among children, the Selangor State Government launched KISS (a scheme to help mothers in poor households provide better for their families) in early 2018. The scheme hopes to fill the void where the federal government has failed to play a great

er role in tackling child poverty and malnutrition.

If Malaysia wishes to realise her aspiration to become a top 20 nation as expressed under the 2050 National Transformation (TN50) and Agenda 2030, the roadmap for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malaysia, it is time that tackling child poverty and malnutrition become a part of our national conscience. If it takes a whole village to raise a child, it takes an entire nation to eradicate poverty and malnutrition. It starts with each of us personally.

BUSINESS

Perangsang Selangor Acquires CPI Penang

Diversified group Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor Berhad (KPS, the Group, Bursa: 5843; Bloomberg: KUPS:MK; Reuters: KPSB.KL) announced its acquisition of Penang-based fully-integrated EMS player, CPI (Penang) Sdn Bhd (CPI), marking the Group's entry into a new sub-sector under manufacturing.

KPS entered into a conditional Share Sale Agreement (SSA) for the acquisition of 100% equity stake in CPI from HK Resources Sdn Bhd and TCS Resources Sdn Bhd for RM250 million. The purchase consideration, which values CPI at an enterprise value to earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EV/EBITDA)



ratio of 6.5 times, will be fully satisfied in cash from internal funds and bank borrowings.

Founded in 1990, CPI today offers complete EMS solution to its customers, from end-to-end plastic injection moulding services encompassing product design or conceptualisation, tool fabrication and production, to complete box-build services. Its plastic injection

moulding division focuses on engineering thermoplastics (ETP) with higher-performing thermal and mechanical properties. CPI is currently operating in the Bayan Lepas Industrial Zone in Penang. It intends to add to its property portfolio for expansion of its EMS capacity in the near future.

CPI's proven capabilities contribute towards its good track record at retaining customers, with significant majority having been with CPI for at least 6 years. The clientele of over 90 corporations worldwide comprises market leaders and multinational companies from the automotive, medical, telecommunications as well as industrial and consumers industries. CPI holds various international quality

management certifications to supply to these industries, including ISO9001:2008, ISO/TS 16949:2009 (Automotive), ISO 14001:2004 (Environment) and ISO 13485 (Medical).

CPI recorded a consistent revenue growth trend in FYE 2015 and 2016 with year-on-year growth of 16% and 17% respectively. Over 50% of the annual revenue is from exports while local sales are primarily to Malaysia-based subsidiaries of multinational groups.

Post-acquisition, KPS intends to retain the senior management team of CPI, including the Chief Executive Officer who is also one of the indirect shareholders of the company.

The proposed acquisition is not subject to the approval of the shareholders of KPS. Bar-

ring unforeseen circumstances, the proposed acquisition is targeted to be completed before the end of Q1 2018, contributing to KPS' financial performance as a group.

Elaborating further on KPS' role in CPI post-acquisition, Fariz added: "We are committed to maintaining the superior quality that CPI has consistently delivered to its customers throughout the years. A key driver to CPI's historical growth is the continuous exploration and investment in resources for capacity expansion and to drive improvement in operational effectiveness and efficiencies of CPI. It is a culture that we support, and we look forward to working with the management team on the ongoing efforts to serve the customers better."

Bridging The Gap



by
G Sara

One of the key themes of this year's UN Habitat 9th World Urban Forum: Caring Government-Caring Community which was held from February 7-13 is the important role that local governments play in creating caring communities. Shakir Ameer, City Council Member of Shah Alam City Council who attended the forum explains how local governments and communities should work together to build holistic societies, "We need to constantly bridge the gap. We need to constantly address socioeconomic issues. We need to empower the people to look after one another. We also need to cultivate this awareness among the younger generation because charity starts at home. There is always a need to address social matters."

Promoting the wellbeing of individuals and communities is fundamental to the work of local governments. As the high cost of living continues to impact on vulnerable individuals and communities, it is important that local governments bolster the wellbeing and resilience of the local population.

Local governments today are facing up to the challenge of unprecedented cuts in expenditure and services, and must demonstrate the economic and social value of its services. This is why local governments have to go beyond the provision of public services. One of the ways local governments can demonstrate the social value of its services is by providing platforms for communities to engage with one another. The participation of communities in local government programs will not only improve their welfare, it will create a ho-



listic, positive environment for the community to thrive.

Although there is no fixed formula, it has long been recognized that local governments are key players in creating the conditions for material wellbeing. Local governments help to increase employment opportunities, regenerating the physical environment and strengthening the local economy. Recent evidence also highlights the role of local governments of nurturing psycho-social wellbeing in local populations so that all members of the com-

munity can reach their potential and live a good life.

To ensure that local governments and communities achieve Malaysia's sustainable development goals (SDG 17), the challenge that local governments need to overcome is the provision of practical support and access to resources that is the foundation for material and psycho-social wellbeing. That way, people with different levels of capacity can affect change in their communities.

Vicious Cycle Of Property Scandals

The years 2016-2017 were busy years for Malaysians, as they were both entertained and provoked by revelations of fraud, abuse of power and impropriety in the buying and selling of land and properties involving statutory bodies and government agencies.

(Compiled from various published sources)



70 acres of TRX land were acquired from the government for

RM 194M

at RM64psf. 1.6 acres were then sold to **Lembaga Tabung Haji** for

RM 188.5M

at RM2,800psf and 1.25 acres sold to **Armed Forces Fund** for

RM 255M

at RM4,700psf



Mara purchase of student accommodation in Melbourne was inflated by

AUD 4.75M



Lost **RM117M**

while a joint venture between Felda Iffco and Abu Dhabi based IFFCO resulted in **RM 23.6M**.



LTAT lost **RM 12M** in investments

Sabah Water Department senior officials were engulfed in a scandal that saw the **MACC confiscating jewellery, handbags, cars, land titles and other items** worth around



RM 114 M, along with **RM 53.7 M** in cash



Paid **RM 160M**

for a property in Kuching, Sarawak when the actual price was **RM 50 million**.



Felda land on Jalan Semarak worth **RM 270 million**

transferred under questionable circumstances.



TABUNG HAJI حي على الفلاح

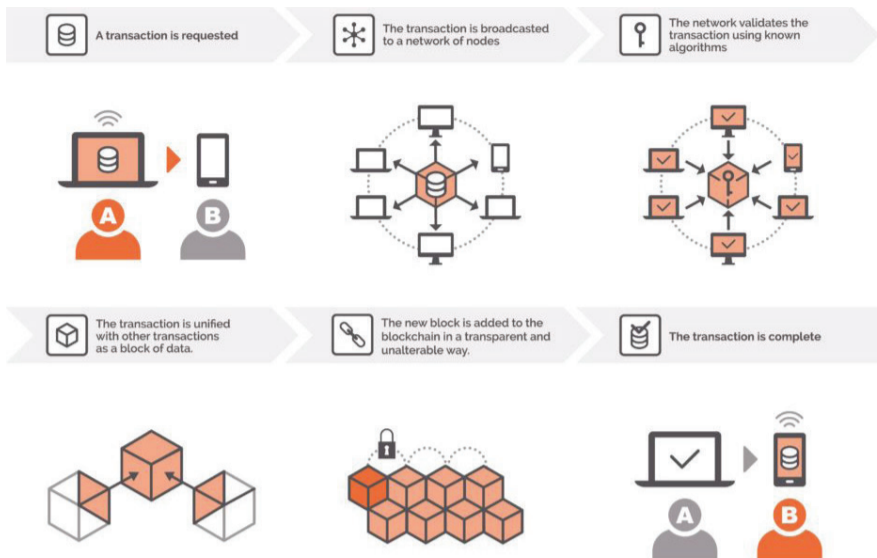
Lembaga Tabung Haji had purchased two plots of land at the TRX for the price of

RM 772 million

using depositors money in an attempt to bail out 1MDB.

Unshackling the Blockchain

by **Cecelia Alphonsus**



What started out as web infrastructure to facilitate the mining of digital currency, Bitcoin, blockchain technology has created the backbone of a revolutionary layer of the internet. The World Economic Forum predicts that 10% of global gross domestic product (GDP) will be stored on blockchain platforms by 2027.

Astounding, but what exactly is blockchain?

Authors of Blockchain Revolution, Don and Alex Tapscott describe it as “an incorruptible digital ledger of economic transactions that can be programmed to record not just financial transactions but virtually everything of value.”

Simply put, it’s a record of new transactions, for example cryptocurrency or any other kind of data. Once the block of information is done, it is added

to the chain to create a chain of blocks, not unlike stringing a pearl necklace. The beauty of the blockchain is that it is continuously reconciled and the database isn’t stored in any single location. It is simultaneously hosted by millions of computers and its data is accessible to anyone on the internet. However, because no centralized version of this information exists, it is virtually impossible for a hacker to penetrate and corrupt data.

The discerning feature of blockchain technology is its ability to allow digital information to be distributed but not copied. This past couple of years has seen a flurry of activity to uncover other potential uses for the technology aside from facilitating cryptocurrency like Bitcoin. To date, the total value of Bitcoins has been valued close to USD\$9 billion, however, blockchains have the potential to create other types of digital value.

Next Wave in Technology
Melanie Swan, author of Blockchain: Blueprint for a New Economy believes that decentralized networks, like Blockchain will be the next huge wave in technology. By design, blockchain operates on a user-to-user or peer-to-peer basis. This kind of mass collaboration opens the door to many new possibilities.

WEB 3.0, TICKING TIME BOMB FOR GOLIATHS?

The Davids – blockchain startups are aiming their catapults on the following three Goliaths targeting their market share through the use of crypto tokens.



Listia, an existing marketplace is developing a decentralized version of eBay called Ink Protocol. Its vision is to decentralize peer-to-peer marketplaces by giving the power back to the buyers and sellers from the companies that run them so that more value can be distributed back to the actual user.



A new generation of startups like Flixo, Stream and Theta want to decentralize platforms that will allow content creators to interact directly with their audiences with the use of crypto tokens. Users will get more choice on how their attention is monetized and can even contribute part of their computing power to the operation of the system.



Imagine after spending a lot of time and money on creating the perfect soundtrack to your life and you can’t move those preferences to another service? It is frustrating to say the least, as Jesse Grushack from Consensus’s Ujo, a blockchain-based music supply chain provider says, “We are being locked into these systems controlled by corporate giants.” Viberate is another company that is looking to eliminate unscrupulous agents with smart contracts.

Blockchain will be the next huge wave in technology. By design, blockchain operates on a user-to-user or peer-to-peer basis. This kind of mass collaboration opens the door to many new possibilities.

A decentralized electoral roll that is open to public scrutiny and cannot be tampered with would definitely be the bane of any corrupt government regime.

Going Beyond Bitcoin

Currently, the most well-known application for Blockchain is in the mining of cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, Litecoin and Ethereum. However, imagine if you will, the potential of this decentralized system that preserves blocks of information on public ledgers, and can be shared by all parties (nodes) on the blockchain but cannot be tampered with?

While most of the focus now is on fintech and turning traditional banking on its head, can you imagine the profound impact it can have on government transparency? Tomica Tillemann, co-founder of the Blockchain Trust Accelerator Initiative plans to use blockchain to increase voter turnout and to make election tampering impossible. A decentralized record of votes cast in any election will be kept on a public ledger that cannot be altered without the entire chain being alerted of the attempt. A decentralized electoral roll that is open to public scrutiny and cannot be tampered with that will put an

end to phantom votes and other forms of vote rigging would definitely be the bane of any corrupt government regime.

Closer to home, state-owned postal service, PT Pos Indonesia in partnership with Corechain launched a system called Digi-ro.in and want to use this technology for different services. In a Media Indonesia report, PT POS Indonesia Managing Director Gilarsi Wahyu Setijono explained that POS Indonesia has always held the function of a financial institution; it serves payments, money transfer and even the payment of civil servants and army members’ pension. With the launch of Digi-ro.in, current account asset management is expected to become more borderless and help eliminate high-level bribery and corruption.

Microsoft and Accenture are trying to attempt a blockchain system that would record the fingerprints of refugees to create a trans-national digital record of their existence that is accessible from anywhere in the world. Just imagine how this can be used to curb hu-

man trafficking and to monitor illegal migrations? Through blockchain an individual can be made visible and traceable via a unique data identifier that can be linked to any person – thus immediately making their employers accountable. Combined with an advanced biometric ID system (similar to India’s Aadhaar system,) it has the potential to create a unique identity database that can be monitored by regulatory bodies and put an end to traffickers confiscating passports from workers.

Provenance, an early adopter of blockchain technology, has pioneered a system that tracks seafood supply chains all the way from catch to consumer. Its pilot project in Indonesia, has pole and line-caught skipjack and yellowfin tuna tagged with RFID tags by local fisherman using handheld devices, they then scan and upload the digital information to the cloud. The data then sits on Provenance’s blockchain ledger, thus creating a permanent record as the fish passes through every stage of the supply chain till it reaches consumers.

Recently the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) launched “Bait-to-Plate” to fight the illegal fishing of tuna in the Pacific Islands. Consumers can download an app to trace store-bought tuna all the way to the source.

Ready or not, pervasive revolutionary technology is taking hold of all forms of communication, information and transactions in the world. Up till the advent of blockchain, tech giants own the database of the technology or site they create and they largely controlled how and what we could do on their site but now with decentralized ledgers, it belongs to the community. The cherry on the node is that the community can now build lots of different business models on top of the database to create its own digital value.

The irony is that “block” “chain” has quite literally “liberalized” and “freed” the internet by decentralizing the world wide web.

#HereWeAre – Women Empowering One Another

by **Cecelia Alphonsus**

Recently, Twitter bought its first ever ad – a 60 second spot aired during the live telecast of the Oscars, linking its brand to a message of female empowerment by promoting the hashtag #HereWeAre. In a tweet, they declared to stand with women around the world to make their voices heard and their presence known. It is incredibly sad that, here we are in 2018, nearly 200 years since the start of the suffrage movement in the US and we are still, apparently, fighting to

be visible on the front line of society.

The Selangor Journal had the privilege and honour of talking to two stellar women, YAM Tengku Datin Paduka Setia Zatahah and Jocelyn Ng, who despite the advantages that come by being their father's daughter, they were adamant to make their own way in the world. Here they share some of their thoughts and experiences on the empowering of women.



YAM Tengku Datin Paduka Setia Zatahah

Women's Day means a celebration of past achievements by women and role models. It's not about breaking the glass ceiling anymore, it's about smashing that glass ceiling.

A royal Princess by birth but an iconic woman in her own right, Tengku Zatahah is the epitome of the modern woman. Do not underestimate this petite graceful beauty with the down to earth charm of the girl next door, she is laced with steely determination and an indomitable spirit to fight for what she believes in.

Going against the tide isn't easy for anyone, princess or not, women are consistently told not to rock the boat or bask in the limelight. This she believes is the biggest challenge for women – the need for self-belief and visibility.

"I have found from my career and experience that in fact for women to realize their true potential is to shine, to be visible. To realize our true potential is to believe that we can achieve our goals, that we can be independent and self-sufficient, that we have the right to dream big and seize opportunities when they come our way."

Many women can relate to the fact that there will be countless naysayers who are bent on raining on your parade no matter what you decide to do. It is this very negativity that spurred her to suc-

ceed on her own merit and to prove them wrong.

"For a woman to feel empowered it means financial independence, it means to work hard and make a success out of whatever you decide to do. It is time for us women to dare to aspire, to be bold."

That said, a common misconception often perpetuated by the media is that an "empowered woman" is often portrayed as a high-profile corporate go-getter or a savvy businesswoman. This inadvertently creates a divide amongst women themselves as many feel that if they are not in that world then they are not "empowered".

Tengku Zatahah sees an empowered woman as one who "can make decisions on her life, a woman who knows her strengths and is in control of her life and ready to take on challenges."

"She can be a low-income housewife who is able to earn a small income sewing quilted blankets from home or a single mom from a poor urban family selling cakes to the community." As Tengku points out, empowerment really has got nothing to do with social status, job position or background.

"Every time you suppress some part of yourself or allow others to play you small, you are ignoring the owner's manual your Creator gave you. What I know for sure is this – you are built not to shrink down to less but to blossom into more, to be more splendid, to be more extraordinary, to use every moment to fill yourself up."



Jocelyn Ng

Focusing on our inadequacies rather than our talents is a common trait among women that transcends culture or educational backgrounds. We'd all do a lot better if we focused more on our strengths.

Jocelyn was the first Malaysian and first woman to be appointed General Manager of PepsiCo Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Mongolia and the Pacific Islands. She was also the first Malaysian and first woman to be appointed Chief Operating Officer of UNIQLO Malaysia which was no mean feat considering that in the consumer retail industry, these positions are normally held by expatriates.

"Everyone has ambition in life," says Jocelyn. "I set goals for myself – my ultimate goal was to run a company, preferably a multinational company in Malaysia. My first job was in market research, I set a goal to be a brand manager, then marketing manager and so on till I reached my ultimate goal of running a company."

"When I am prepared, I do things well and when I do things well, my confidence builds. It is really about doing the little things well."

Confidence is key in empowering yourself for bigger and better things in life. "From a personal self-development perspective, I think we should try and live by the 4Cs – Confidence, Courage, Communication and Care."

Jocelyn believes the 4Cs are key for women to be able to stand up for what we believe in, speak up when something is not right, to mean what we say and say what we mean and most importantly to care for people, to respect diversity and include it in our lives and ultimately, to care for ourselves.

Quite often in the workplace, it is a dog-eat-dog world. This is precisely why to stand out and be visible, Jocelyn says "we need to influence stakeholders." And to do so, allies, sponsors and mentors are important. "Senior women in the workplace need to actively sponsor and mentor younger woman."

"As policy-makers, we need to set targets for the hiring and promotion of women. Notice that I said targets and not quotas because setting a quota means ticking a box, but setting a target means that we have a clearly stated objective of what we need to do, and we will put in place strategies, measures and plans to meet the objective."

"I believe we all have immense possibilities within us. We just need to awaken them. So, my request to all Malaysian women is not to be shy about showing the world how great you are!"

DESIGNING WOMEN

There is nothing more empowering than a woman living at cause, designing her own future despite the norms of society and the curve balls life throws at her. Marisa and Kiran are examples of two such women who allowed their light to shine driven by the need for freedom.



Marisa R Ng is an artist who recently held her first solo curated show at the National Art Gallery – ONG: It

came from a place of love. It was an exhibition dedicated to her grandmother. A single mom, Marisa's ambition is to carve a name for herself as a successful female artist in South East Asia that produces powerful works of art that would make a difference. Her biggest fear in life was having to clock in and out of an office and doing office work, to her it was suffocating. "I need my freedom to express, to explore, to be creative at my own pace and time where I can work independently and in solitary. Without this freedom to create, I die." She hopes that in another 10 years she would be able to build her own dream studio. "Live life as authentically as you can, stay focused and believe in yourself," says Marisa.



Kiran Kuckreja literally woke up one morning to find that her world had changed overnight. Suddenly

she found herself with her savings cleaned out, no more business, no house, no car and only RM100 in her wallet. She knew she needed to do something and fast. Due to her circumstances as a single mum it was difficult to get a full-time job that would fit within her son's school schedule and she certainly didn't have the means to afford a babysitter either. She knew that she had to find a way to earn an income while being a full-time mum. That's when it hit her, that she could start marketing online a weight-loss product she was using and had achieved amazing results. Generally, a private person, Richard Branson's mantra "Screw IT, Let's Do IT!" became her driving force and she took the plunge with fingers crossed. What made her stand out from the countless number of online sellers was her desire to make meaning in people's lives and not just make money, that combined with her devising her own system and packages to market the products, saw phenomenal results – in her customers and her bank account. "Life gave me lemons and I made lemonade out of it. I refused to let circumstances to control me – I'd like to think I took control of circumstances," says Kiran.

Around Town

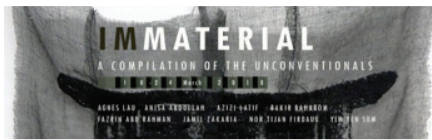


Multi award-winning singer Ruth Sahanaya has been carving out a well-deserved place in the Indonesian and Asian music scene. Now celebrating 30 years of her music career, she continues to charm audiences as one of the foremost pop and R&B divas.

The concert will feature an eclectic mix of her evergreen and latest hits, and also a tribute to her favourite artist.

WED 21 MAR 2018 8:30PM

Tickets: RM380 RM270 RM210 RM150
Visit: <http://www.mpo.com.my/> for more details.



Immaterial' is a group exhibition that focuses on highlighting the possibility of unconventional material in art making. This exhibition does not only aim to emphasize on materials alone but also to disclose the impact that it has on creating new and innovative art process as far as the style and technique goes. The show features ten aspiring local fine artist namely Agnes Lau, Anisa Abdullah, Azizi Latif, Bakir Baharom, Fazrin Abd Rahman, Jamil Zakaria, Nor Tijan Firdaus and Yim Yen Sum. respectively. There will be approximately 20 artworks ranging from wall pieces to three-dimensional pieces.

Immaterial' runs from 10th March until 24th March 2018 at G13 Gallery. Gallery opens daily from 11am to 5pm, closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Visit: www.g13gallery.com for more details



Tickets to the Czech Republic Film Festival 2018 will be screened for FREE, courtesy of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kuala Lumpur.

To redeem the free tickets, just present a print-out or take a snapshot of any Czech Republic Film Festival 2018 article in any publication, on-line postings, GSC digital channels, or just mention "Czech Republic Film Festival 2018" and you will be able to get two (2) complimentary tickets only at GSC Mid Valley or GSC Pavilion KL box office counters.

For more information, visit www.gsc.com.my or <https://www.mzv.cz/kualalumpur>



If you are tired of wandering around town, curl up in bed with the current top 3 movie downloads on Netflix:

1. **The Goodfellas** – Director: Martin Scorsese
2. **Mudbound** – Director: Dee Rees
3. **Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol 2** – Written & Directed: James Gunn

Taken for a Ride



Datuk Teng Chang Khim with Shah Alam residents

by Prem

Selangor dedicated bicycle lanes

Current
148
km

Aim
1000
km

Cycling is a healthy habit. Unfortunately Malaysians are finding it hard to pick it up due to bad traffic, road conditions and lack of suitable cycling spots.

However, the Selangor state government has now made it possible for the rakyat to be able to cycle around Selangor in designated areas. All the local councils within Selangor state will each have their own bicycle lane.

To date 148km of bicycle lanes have been successfully designated, 52km of it were built in new housing estates by developers and handed over to the council.

The state's aim was to have 1,000km of bicycle lanes in Selangor by 2021.

The Selangor government will provide up to RM200,000 to local councils that award tenders to build dedicated bicycle lanes by March 31, 2018.

State Investment, Industrial and Trade, Small and Medium Industry and Transportation Committee chairman Datuk Teng Chang Khim said the incentive was to encourage the councils to design bicycle lanes in their areas.

After the deadline, the amount will be reduced by 50% but the tender will have to be awarded by June. Datuk Teng encouraged all the councils to seize this opportunity.

Teng added that the idea was also to ensure that the councils were in line with the state government's initiative to reduce traffic congestion and build a green community.

The state's current development required residential developers to provide bicycle lanes.

Selangor government's plan this year was to have 128km of bicycle lanes by local councils and as of now about 3.2km has been built by developers which is a positive sign.

In housing areas like Putra Heights where the development is complete, fear not, the bicycle lane shares with the existing road and is called 'shared lane'.

So if you are thinking about making cycling a lifestyle then look out, your housing estate may be the next recipient of this project.

Besides this, avid cyclists may also find it useful to know that there are about 362 cycling routes in the state of Selangor.

You may find routes, maps and comments from avid cyclists at www.bikemap.net. It's a dedicated and comprehensive website for those of you who wish to take up cycling seriously. The website comes highly recommended.

It also suggests that the most

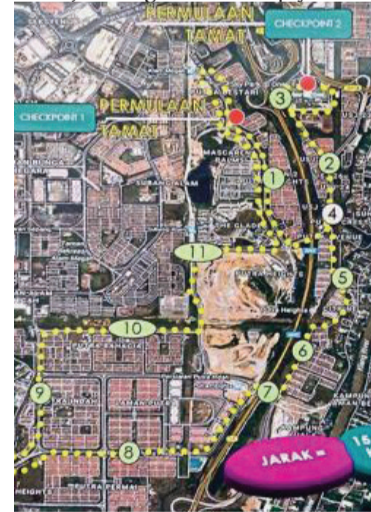
scenic cycling route in PJ is a 2km stretch across the most beautiful part of Petaling Jaya. It profiles a flat cycling area.

The website recommends other cycling regions in Selangor, which includes Kampung Baharu Balakong, Kampung Baru Subang, Putra Heights and Shah Alam.

Shah Alam also has a dirth of scenic cycling spots. Taman Botani Negara in Shah Alam is one. Located at Malaysia's Agriculture Park, it's 15 minutes' drive along the Federal Highway. You may rent a bicycle at RM10 for 1 hour and RM1 for each subsequent hour.

With 1,295 hectares of tropical rain forest, Malaysia's Agriculture Park is one of the largest parks in the world. There are many gardens in this park waiting to be explored with a bicycle.

The other attraction in Shah Alam is bicycle lane introduced by the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) which connects those living in Section 4, 5 and 14 in Shah Alam, Selangor. It is simply called



Trek Basikal Shah Alam.

The lane starts from Section 4 from the parking area of Taman Tasik Shah Alam. Unfortunately, you may have to bring your own bicycle. The Shah Alam Lake Garden situated nearby serves a scenic pit stop.

- The cycling lanes connect several residential areas and takes an interesting route and is shady most of the way.

- Unlike the motorcycle lanes on the Federal Highway that run relatively and boringly straight, the cycling lanes here often take a meandering route. It keeps one wondering what's round the next corner.

- You will find mini-orchards at the back of residential houses that gives shade to cyclists.

- From the residential area, the lanes lead to the Shah Alam Lake Gardens.

- Further along it connects to Section 14, the main commercial hub of the city. Here is where many of the high-rise buildings of the city can be found - one of which is the Shah Alam City Hall. Next to this is the Selangor State Museum.

- Due consideration of the safety of cyclists have been taken into account when these tracks were planned. Bridges span across drains. Bollards have been installed to prevent cars from parking onto these tracks. Low galvanized railing prevents cyclists from falling into adjacent drains. Many stretches are fairly wide to allow bi-directional cycling. Median road lines divide the two directional lanes. Some of the cycling lanes are shared with pedestrian.

- The cycling lanes here have very adequate signages. Many shows that these tracks are for cycling and walking so that other motorists will take note. Special Zebra crossings are provided for cyclists too.