



Security and unity will not be achieved if we do not know or are suspicious of each other. Therefore, the people of Selangor must foster the spirit of belonging, unity and peace among each other,

*Amirudin Shari
Selangor Menteri Besar*



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SELANGOR GDP GROWTH HIGHER THAN NATIONAL

As we managed to record a huge growth of 7.1 percent – above the national rate – the State Government has been thinking and planning every day so that this growth can be channelled in the best way possible to the people.

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MB – SELANGOR YET TO DECIDE ON WATER TARIFF INCREASE

SHAH ALAM – The decision to increase water tariffs in the state has yet to be made as discussion between the State Government and the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources has yet to take place.

“
Selangor is waiting for a discussion to take place; this process involves all parties, as well as meeting with the people.
– Amirudin Shari

Selangor Menteri Besar, Amirudin Shari, said it would be decided after a meeting with the ministry soon.

However, he said, the State Government will maintain a reasonable tariff rate.

“Selangor is waiting for a discussion to take place; this process involves all parties, as well as meeting with the people.”

“We need to look at many aspects. The meeting with the Ministry will be held in the near future,” he said when met after delivering a mandate to civil servants at Petaling District Government Office Complex here.

Earlier, the Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Xavier Jayakumar proposed that water tariffs be increased gradually this year in line with the government’s efforts to restructure the water supply services industry in the country.

Amirudin said the matter was also proposed as no increase was made in the long run in most states.

“For example, Pahang and Perlis have not increased theirs in the last 30 years, while Selangor’s water tariff has not been raised for the past 12 years,” he said.

“I will make sure if it goes up, it will be lower than the electricity tariff.”

Pulau Pinang previously confirmed that water tariffs rose by up to 20 per cent, while Negeri Sembilan and Perak were still looking at the effects and justifications, but did not refuse to take the same action.

Meanwhile, Johor will not raise the utility tariff rates on the ground as it has already done so in 2015.

SELANGOR JOURNAL

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“
Starting over is an acceptance of a past we can’t change, an unrelenting conviction that the future can be different, and the stubborn wisdom to use the past to make the future what the past was not.
”

Craig D. Lounsbrough



Selangor GDP Growth Higher Than National

Selangor's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has seen a growth of 7.1 percent, predominantly higher than the national GDP growth rate of 5.9 percent.

According to Selangor Menteri Besar Amirudin Shari, the economic growth enjoyed by Selangor enables the State Government to channel aid and support to the people to improve their economic status.

"As we managed to record a huge growth of 7.1 percent – above the national rate – the State Government has been thinking and planning every day so that this growth can be channelled in the best way possible to the people," he said.

Malaysia's 'golden state' contributed approximately 23.0 percent of the nation's GDP, making Selangor the main economic driver for the country in 2017. This is in line with the global economic growth in 2017, as Malaysia recorded a stronger GDP growth of 5.9 percent, compared to 4.2 percent in 2016.

2017 saw seven states outpacing the national GDP growth rate, namely Sabah (8.2 percent), Melaka (8.1 percent), Pahang (7.8 percent), Kuala Lumpur (7.4 percent), Selangor (7.1 percent), Johor (6.2 percent) and Labuan (6.1 percent). Meanwhile, Perlis had the lowest GDP growth in 2017 at 2.3 percent, while Penang is the only state which saw a slower GDP growth in 2017 than previously, at 5.3 percent, as compared to 5.6 percent in 2016.

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– Amirudin Shari

In 2017, the GDP per capita at the national level rose to RM42,218, from RM38,915 in 2016. Kuala Lumpur (RM111,321), followed by Labuan (RM65,949), Penang (RM49,873), Sarawak (RM49,327), Selangor (RM48,091) and Melaka (RM46,015) bested the national level, while Kelantan recorded the lowest GDP per capita at RM13,593.

The three sectors that recorded growth which helped drive state performances are services, manufacturing and agriculture, as based on the State Socio-Economic Report.

"In the future – in the next five years – we will try to build programmes that care for and support the people, not just financial aid programmes and free subsidies, but also programmes that empower the people."

"The effort will continue, as we have helped individuals out of poverty, bringing people from one status to a higher status, and eventually succeeding in helping others," he said.

Amirudin said this at the presentation of donations to religious institutions in conjunction with the Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat (IPR) programme, at Jamiul Ehsan Mosque, Kampung Kubu Gajah on January 11.

At the same time, Amirudin said the State Government would implement a series of re-alignments of the IPR programme by focusing on needy groups.

"Among them is the complimentary water treatment scheme plus the free provision of 20 cubic meters of water, which has been increased to 25 cubic meters," he said.



ELECTRIC BUSES IN LINE WITH SMART STATE VISION 2025

SHAH ALAM – The proposal to use electric buses as part of the free bus service known as ‘Smart Bus Selangor’ is being considered by the State Government as it is in line with the vision of making the state a Smart State by 2025.

Selangor Menteri Besar, Amirudin Shari, said the use of electric buses provides various advantages such as being environmentally-friendly technology, cost saving, competitive and equipped with the latest technology needed.

“As a developed and precarious state, we are aiming for the full use of electric buses in which the technology is more environmentally-friendly, competitive, has the ability to facilitate the people and more that will meet our aspiration to become a ‘Smart State’ state by 2025.

“What was presented met our expectations but we did not only take into consideration its features and the sophisticated technology, we also took into consideration how its existence can benefit the people,” he said.

This was said by Amirudin after receiving a briefing from the electric bus provider Asiana Kencana on their electric buses at the Selangor State Economic Action Council (MTES) Meeting Room at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Building on Jan 8.

Amirudin said the State Government will evaluate the proposal presented by Asiana Kencana before making any decision.

He said any decision to be made would be in line with the Selangor State Master Plan.

“What matters is that we can cultivate and encourage people to use public transport services,



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– Amirudin Shari



and the important thing is that we can streamline and strengthen the services provided by Selangor Smart Buses,” he said.

Amirudin noticed that at present, 27 Selangor Smart Buses have been operating in more than 39 routes across Selangor.

Prior to that, Amirudin took a ride on the electric bus proposed by Asiana Kencana Company.

In addition to using environmentally friendly and economical technologies, other advanced features available are facial recognition, gender, location detection and age groups that facilitate bus owners building databases for research purposes.

In addition to research purposes, the database obtained can also be used for security purposes such as identifying criminals and others.

The electric bus is also equipped with special facilities for disabled people (OKU).



SULTAN NAZRIN LAUNCHES UNIFUJI REFINERY AND OPTIMIL COMPLEX

TANJUNG MALIM – The Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Nazrin Shah, launched United Plantation's (UP) high-tech palm oil processing plant, the Unifuji Refinery and Optimil Complex, at Ulu Bernam on January 17.

UP chief executive officer Datuk Carl Bek-Nielsen said the goal of the project has been to construct a plant that would surpass the strictest food safety, sustainability and hygiene standards in the world, com-

bined with an energy matrix running completely without the use of fossil fuels.

"Over the last 15 years, the palm oil industry has been subjected to a negative media campaign. This has often been painful, and at times one-sided, especially in this age of fake news," he said.

This decision to build a new palm oil mill called "Optimil" was made in 2015 by the board of UP.

According to Bek-Nielsen, the palm oil industry must rise to this challenge and show

“Over the last 15 years, the palm oil industry has been subjected to a negative media campaign. This has often been painful, and at times one-sided, especially in this age of fake news”

-Datuk Carl Bek-Nielsen

leadership in accepting change and doing what is necessary.

"We in UP will do our best in continuing to play our part in sharing these sustainable practices and also, more importantly, to live up to the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals," he added.

Also present at the launch were his consort, Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu and his wife, Datin Seri Nomee Ashikin Mohammed Radzi.



MATRADE APPOINTS HALIM MOHAMMAD AS CHAIRMAN



KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) has appointed Tan Sri Halim Mohammad as its seventh chairman, effective January 1, 2019.

Halim is the founding director of the Halim Mazmin Bhd Group.

This is Halim's second appointment as Matrade's chairman. His previous tenure as the agency's chairman was from 2004 to 2010.

Prior to that he was already a member of Matrade's board for eight years.

"During his first stewardship, Halim mooted the idea of specialised business matching called Incoming Buying Mission, now known as International Sourcing Programme and during this period also, Malaysia International Halal Showcase (Mihas) became the world's largest halal trade fair.

"With him at the helm, Matrade began ramping up initiatives to venture into Latin America in the effort to diversify the



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Tan Sri Halim Mohammad

export market. He is also a big proponent of Bumiputera and women participation in international trade," said the agency's in a statement today.

Matrade is an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and is mandated to execute trade promotion initiatives for the country.



Rebound in Malaysia's Property Market

“The property market in Malaysia experienced a pick-up in activities during the second half of 2018, as pockets of opportunities can be discovered in different areas across the region, barring any external shocks such as a global economic slowdown,” it said in a statement on January 8.

In the meantime, the industrial sector continues its resilience due to a favourable growth trajectory in key manufacturing industries.

Even so, the office and retail markets are set to remain challenging due to elevated supply levels, said Knight Frank Malaysia.

Knight Frank Malaysia adds that this year is predicted to see a higher level of land banking activities among industrial property developers.

This was said as strong latent demand continues to be omnipresent especially for industrial properties with high specifications, as occupiers understand the need to jump onto the Industry 4.0 bandwagon in order to future-proof their businesses.

“The property market in Malaysia experienced a pick-up in activities during the second half of 2018, as pockets of opportunities can be discovered in different areas across the region, barring any external shocks such as a global economic slowdown,”
— Knight Frank Malaysia

pects to see new large-scale industrial developments taking shape in strategic locations due to robust demand for warehouses. For instance, the proposed Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in Pulau Indah, which was recently unveiled by the government, is expected to generate interest from manufacturers and logistics operators alike.

“All in all, Malaysia’s industrial property sector, which has been the silver lining for Malaysia’s subdued property market in recent years, is set to continue its resilience.”

The views are in conjunction with Knight Frank Malaysia’s latest research report, ‘Real Estate Highlights 2nd Half of 2018’, launched on January 8, which included highlights on the property trends and outlook in Malaysia’s key markets.

Knight Frank Malaysia is known to offer advice and solutions across a comprehensive portfolio of property services and is licensed to undertake valuations/consultancy, estate agency and property management.



KUALA LUMPUR — According to property advisor Knight Frank Malaysia, sentiment in Malaysia’s property market is expected to improve in 2019, as policies announced under Budget 2019 are expected to strengthen demand especially among first-time homebuyers, particularly the residential property market.

Free Affordable Homes in Federal Territories

The government has teamed up with Malaysia’s sole electric utility company, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), to provide free affordable housing to 40 extremely impoverished and needy families under the My Home, My Paradise (Baiti Jannati) scheme.

Recently, keys to the free affordable houses at Lembah Pantai, Kuala Lumpur were handed over to the tenants. While they are not required to pay monthly rent, the units cannot be leased or sold to others.

However, these residential properties can be given or inherited by their children or heirs if they fall within the underprivileged category. The units, which cost from RM50,000 to RM70,000 each, have been fully repaired and refurbished before they were handed over to the 40 needy families.

The programme under the People’s Housing Project (PPR) and Public Housing Projects DBKL (PA DBKL) community aims to help improve the living standards of indigent households and provide them with dwellings without having to worry about their monthly rent.

The scheme, however, is only open to un-

derprivileged families who had registered with Baitulmal, the e-Kasih system and the Social Welfare Department (JKM). Also qualified are Orang Kurang Upaya (OKU) or people with disabilities, as well as single mothers and fathers who have many children to support and care for.

According to Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Shahrudin Md Salleh, who handed the Baiti Jannati units, the government targets to provide a total of 90 Baiti Jannati units to qualified families this year.

“The main objective of this programme is to improve the lives of those struggling with poverty in the Federal Territory by giving them their own homes,” he said, adding that the Federal Territories Ministry plans to continue its partnerships with various private firms to implement the scheme.

The Baiti Jannati scheme is a partnership between power provider Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), Federal Territories Foundation and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL). TNB donated RM2 million of its zakat money for the scheme and the fund will be used to repay the housing loans for the units.

IQI Global and Common Ground to Offer Co-Working Space

PETALING JAYA — Global real estate agency IQI Global, together with Malaysia’s largest leading co-working space, Common Ground Works Sdn Bhd, have partnered up to market the communal workspaces.

“At IQI, our philosophy is to go beyond real estate. We are continuously branching out into new frontiers, and this is one of our many new ventures,” said IQI Global group CEO, Kashif Ansari

“2018 was an amazing year for partnerships and innovations for IQI, and for us, this latest partnership is a great way to start the New Year. We look forward to working with Common Ground together.”

The signing ceremony between IQI Global group CEO Kashif Ansari and Common Ground Work Sdn Bhd head of operations Ru Sow took place in Common Ground, TTDI on January 8.

Through this agreement, IQI’s agents is set to bring in new potential clients to use the various co-working spaces, services and amenities provided by Common Ground.

Common Ground opened their first outlet in Damansara Height in March 2017. Today, they have 11 outlets in Malaysia and two in Philippines.

According to Sow, Common ground is also planning to open outlets in Bangkok and Jakarta, with the hope to achieve more than double the numbers in all four countries this year.

“Part of our success can be credited to the support of our trusted allies, and we’re very excited to have IQI’s valued agents to join us with this new partnership.

“We look forward to the many upcoming opportunities to work with IQI and to a great year of growth together,” she added.

Azmin Praised For Good Financial Management



Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali and Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng have been performing their duties well after Pakatan Harapan took over Putrajaya, according to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Although Pakatan Harapan inherited a financially troubled government from Barisan Nasional, both Azmin and Lim successfully drafted the 2019 Budget despite the country being heavily indebted, said Dr Mahathir in an interview with Sin Chew Daily recently.

“Considering the country’s current situation, I think both of them have done quite well. We initially thought that 2019 Budget will have a very big deficit, but it is not as big as we had expected,” he said.

Pakatan Harapan has been doing everything it can to reduce government debts since it took over, according to Dr Mahathir. Among the initiatives taken are the reduction of cost or deferring of mega projects namely the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya line (MRT2) at a lower cost of RM13.11 billion, and ECRL which has been postponed to a later date.

He also spoke about his reason for appointing Azmin and Lim to their re-

“**Considering the country’s current situation, I think both of them have done quite well. We initially thought that 2019 Budget will have a very big deficit, but it is not as big as we had expected,**

- PM

spective positions. “If we let Guan Eng be in charge of everything (finance and economic affairs), the Malays will not be happy, but if we let Azmin take care of everything, Guan Eng will not be happy,” he remarked.

Dr Mahathir said while both economic affairs and finance are important positions, he has broken tradition by appointing Lim as the country’s first Chinese Finance Minister after more than 40 years.

“I have broken a tradition that lasted for many years by appointing Guan Eng as Finance Minister. The last one was Tun Tan Siew Sin, after Siew Sin there was no Chinese Finance Minister. But I chose to appoint Guan Eng, partly because of his track record in managing Penang. To strike a balance, I have to let Azmin manage economic affairs,” he explained.

According to Dr Mahathir, local businesses are currently pessimistic about the country’s economic outlook seeing as the global economy is at a decline, further aggravated by the trade war between the US and China, which has affected Malaysia as well, while adding that the boycott on palm oil has been affecting the country negatively.

AZMIN AND GUAN ENG



Azmin Ali

Minister of Economic Affairs



Lim Guan Eng

Minister of Finance

DECEMBER 5, 2018

Led the Malaysian delegation at the 12th Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee in Vienna on December 5, 2018. The meeting investigated the current progress of the cooperation between oil producing nations.

OCTOBER 24, 2018

Had a discussion on Malaysia-EU Trade and Investment Relations with H.E Maria Castillo, Head of the EU Delegation and Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service on October 24, 2018.

OCTOBER 18, 2018

On October 18, 2018, Pakatan Harapan tabled its first economic blueprint to put the country's economy back on track. According to Azmin, the mid-term review of the 11th Malaysia Plan represents a paradigm shift in approach to economic planning: Prioritise Sustainable People-centric Programmes, Good Governance and Accountability.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

Chaired the 6th Settlement session of the IMT-GT Ministers from September 30 to October 1, 2018 in Melaka. The 24th IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting aims to carry out a mid-term review of the Implementation Blueprint 2017-2021 and to establish IMT-GT Industrial Revolution 4.0 Framework.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Attended the World Economic Forum on ASEAN on Sept 12, 2018 as representative from Malaysia.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Signed a bilateral agreement on the High-speed Rail project based on a new understanding with Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Singapore, Khaw Boon Wan on Sept 5, 2018. Through this agreement, Singapore has agreed to suspend the construction of the HSR Project for a period up to 31 May 2020 while Malaysia will bear the agreed cost in suspending the project.

NOVEMBER 2, 2018

Tabled and presented the nation's 2019 Budget on November 2, 2018.

AUGUST 20, 2018

Made the case for the return of the Sales and Service Tax (SST) at Dewan Negara on August 20, 2018. Lim had said that Malaysians have rejected GST and it was time for the new administration to deliver what the people want.

MAY 13, 2018

Reviewed mega projects and coped with hefty debts left by the previous government upon appointment as the the nation's minister of finance.

Azmin - Malaysia and Singapore to Postpone JMCIM Meeting

TANAH RATA – Malaysia and Singapore mutually agreed to postpone the 14th Malaysia-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee for Iskandar Malaysia (JMCIM) meeting scheduled to take place on January 14.

Appointed to lead the Malaysian delegation to the meeting, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said this was due to certain issues to be discussed in the meeting were closely related to matters raised in a bilateral meeting between Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister, Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah and his Singaporean counterpart Dr Vivian Balakrishnan on January 8.

The Economics Affairs Minister held a meeting with Dr Balakrishnan and Singapore's National Development Minister Lawrence Wong on January 13 and January 14 to further discuss certain issues before they are brought to the next JMCIM meeting.

"Since the meeting between the two foreign ministers has just taken place and both countries have issued a positive joint statement, I do not want to interfere with the process by having the JMCIM meeting now. It's a good idea to defer it," he said.

This was said by Azmin at SMK Sultan Ahmad Shah, the nomination centre for the Cameron Highlands by-election here, on January 12.

It was reported that the JMCIM meeting was in limbo after a Malaysian Marine Department vessel with Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Osman Sapian on board sailed near disputed waters between both countries on January 9.

Singapore had responded to the incident by sending several vessels to the area off the Tanjung Pelepas Port and expressed dissatisfaction over the incident.

Following the incident, the Singapore Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement saying that the intrusion into Singapore Territorial Waters off Tuas has made the JMCIM meeting "untenable", and proposed to postpone it, to which Malaysia agreed.

When asked if the incident had affected the relationship between the two countries, Azmin replied with a firm no.

Azmin explains that the foreign ministries of both countries have taken an open approach to ensure that all issues pertaining to the maritime border are resolved in good faith.

SELANGOR QUICK TAKES

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Community Service Programme with Syrian Children by Selangor Students – Dec 26

BANGI – A student of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Shah Alam conducted community service programmes with more than 40 Syrian children through the Co-curriculum Centre, Bimbingan Alternatif Cintra Syria Malaysia Centre on Dec 26.

The 'A Day with Syrian Kids' social programme, with the collaboration of the Suspended Meal humanitarian organization is organized in conjunction with the World Volunteer Day 2018.



180 Selangor Children Receive "Back to School" Contribution – Dec 30

KUALA SELANGOR – A total of 180 Selangor children who will enter Year One in 2019 received a "Back to School" contribution by the Bukit Melawati State Assemblyman Juwairiya Zulkifli on Dec 30.

According to Juwairiya, the "Back to School" contribution programme was jointly organized by the Bukit Malawati People's Service Center, Selangor Menteri Besar's Incorporation (MBI) and YAWAS (YAWAS).



KDEBWM Excels in State's Solid Waste Management – Dec 27

KUALA SELANGOR – KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd (KDEBWM) has successfully demonstrated a high commitment and excellence in implementing a Smart Waste Solution based solid waste management system as an effective solution in the state over the past two years.

On Dec 27, Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development EXCO, Ng Sze Han said smart business-based models that emphasized 'Internet of Things' (IoT) also enabled the company to receive recognition from the International Consulting and Research firm.

Water Selangor Plans to Invest RM30 Billion CAPEX For 30 Years – Jan 4

PUTRAJAYA – Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) plans a RM30 billion capital expenditure (CAPEX) for 30 years starting from this year, to upgrade the water services system in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

On Jan 4, Selangor Menteri Besar, Amirudin Shari, said the CAPEX investment program included overcoming non-revenue water issues.

SELGATE-PROPADU Builds Bangi Hospital Worth RM267.6 Million – Dec 31

SHAH ALAM – The community in Bangi received a RM267.6 million modern hospital facility following the signing of a joint venture agreement between the wholly-owned subsidiary of the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS), Selgate Corporation Sdn Bhd (SELGATE) and Propadu Engineering Sdn Bhd (PROPADU).

According to Selangor Menteri Besar, Amirudin Shari, the modern hospital is able to accommodate 223 beds and is equipped with the latest medical equipment with multi-disciplinary treatment in obstetrics and genetics, pediatrics, orthopedics, general medicine and general surgery.

31 Participants Completed the Selangor Youth & Training Programme – Jan 13

KAJANG – A total of 31 trainees who are students of the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) successfully completed the Selangor Skills Training & Work Programme organised by the Johor Skills at the German-Malaysian Institute (GMI) on Jan 13.

The first programme, organised in cooperation with the Selangor Zakat Board (LZS), was held for a week, starting January 7.

UNISEL Is Committed in Continuing It's Agenda Of Success – Jan 8

SHAH ALAM – The University of Selangor (UNISEL) continues to be committed in pursuing the agenda of success and making headway with the university, this year.

On Jan 8, its president and vice-chancellor, Prof. Dato' Dr Mohammad Redzuan Othman, said that this could be realised through the building of culture, excellent work quality and competitiveness among staff.

TAWAS Passed 13,944 Applications Throughout 2018 – Jan 2

SHAH ALAM – A total of 13,944 applications for the Tabung Warisan Anak Selangor (TAWAS) were approved throughout 2018.

On Jan 2, Tabung Warisan Anak Selangor (YAWAS) said via its website that 24,634 applications were received last year compared to 40,357 applications in 2017

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NATIONAL NEWS QUICK TAKES

SELANGOR JOURNAL



Malaysia files charges against Goldman Sachs in light of 1MDB Scandal - 20 December 2019

Malaysia has said it filed criminal charges against Goldman Sachs and two of the US bank's former employees, in connection with a corruption and money-laundering probe at the state fund 1MDB

Harimau Malaya Accepts Defeat at AFF Suzuki Cup Finals - 15 December 2018

Malaysia's National team took on Vietnam at a packed My Dinh National Stadium but failed to lift the cup as Vietnam won 3-2 on aggregate.

A Nation Mourns - Death of Adib - 17 December 2018

Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim, the fireman who was hospitalised after being assaulted during a riot at a temple in Subang Jaya last month, passed away at IJN on December 17.



Back To School - 2 January 2019

The new school year has begun across the country. According to the Education Ministry's website, there will be 214 school days and 73 holidays in 2019



Sultan Muhammad V is Malaysia's first king to abdicate the throne - 6 January 2019

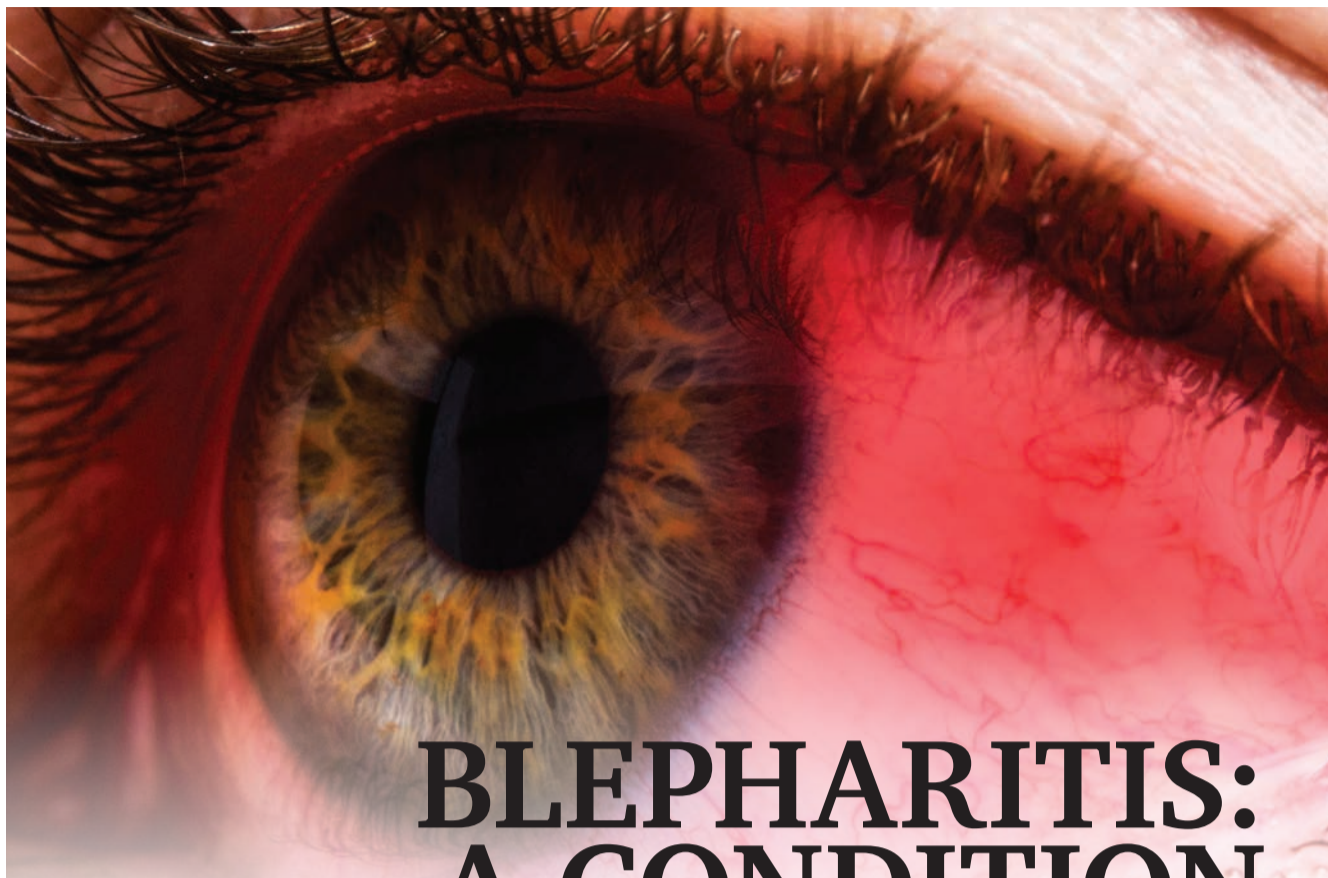
Sending Malaysians into shock, Malaysia's 15th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Muhammad V, announced that he is King no more, and having abdicated the throne to the next ruler. The abdication, which is a first for Malaysia as no previous holders of the office have ever abdicated, caused a chain of events that included the appointment of Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah as the new Sultan of Pahang, and thus in line to be installed as the next Yang di-Pertuan Agong. The unusual abdication also prompted Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad to seek audience with the Sultan of Johor despite the tumultuous relationship between the Tengku Mahkota Johor and the Prime Minister. The public were amused by pictures and news of the two sharing a ride in a vintage Proton Saga.

Malaysian Eateries now part of smoke free zone - 1 January 2019

It's all systems go for the nationwide smoking ban at all eateries and restaurants in Malaysia starting on Tuesday (Jan 1).

Malaysia's December palm oil stocks up 6.92% - 14 January 2019

Malaysia's total palm oil stocks in December 2018 rose to 6.92 per cent to a record high of 3.22 million tonnes from 3.01 million tonnes in November.



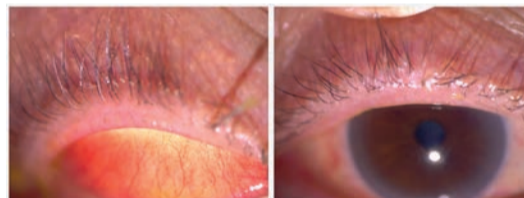
BLEPHARITIS: A CONDITION UNKNOWN TO MANY

by
**Dr Zurina
Zainal Abidin**



What is blepharitis?

Blepharitis is inflammation of the eyelids. It's a common cause of sore, red eyelids and crusty eyelashes. It is a common eye disorder caused either by bacteria, or a skin condition such as dandruff of the scalp or rosacea. It affects people of all ages but is more common in people who have oily skin, dandruff and dry eyes due to blockage or dysfunction of the meibomian glands (tear glands at the eyelids). It is also more common in children and the elderly.



Red and flaky eyelids in blepharitis



Patient with blepharitis complicated by corneal ulcer

What are the symptoms of blepharitis?

A person suffering from blepharitis may have watery and red eyes associated with a gritty, burning or stinging sensation in the eyes. The eyelids may appear greasy, and can be itchy, red and swollen. Other common symptoms are flaking of the skin around the eyes and crusted eyelashes upon awakening. This may cause a person suffering from blepharitis to blink more frequently, and to experience sensitivity to light due to irritation. In chronic untreated or under-treated cases, eyelashes may grow abnormally (misdirected eyelashes), or there may be a loss of eyelashes.

When someone has 'red eye' most people will associate this with conjunctivitis, or, in laymen's terms, 'sore eyes'. While conjunctivitis is the most common cause of 'red eye', due to various causes like bacterial or viral infections, allergies or dry eyes, a condition called blepharitis is also a common cause.

As blepharitis is a potentially recurrent and ongoing problem, it is essential to maintain good eyelid hygiene. It is also advisable to visit your nearest ophthalmologist regularly if the problem gets worse or recurs too often.

Is Blepharitis treatable?

The good news is that blepharitis is a treatable condition. However, you may need treatment for many weeks up to months and it is a recurrent problem. The diagnosis is usually made when the patient visits an ophthalmologist (eye specialist), where examination under the slit lamp shows crusted and dandruff-like material on the eyelashes and eyelids.

The ophthalmologist will usually advise the following:

Warm compresses

Warm compresses work by warming the material that blocks the glands, and will loosen the crusts on the eyelid.

Lid Cleaning

Lid cleaning or lid hygiene can be done with baby shampoo or with a baking soda solution, as this does not hurt the eye, or with commercially-prepared lid wipes.



Technique for cleaning the eyelid

An example of commercially-prepared lid wipes



Baby shampoo or a sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) solution can be used for eyelid hygiene



Ingredients for a baking soda solution

Antibiotics

If the above treatments do not work, the ophthalmologist may prescribe an antibiotic ointment or an antibiotic plus steroid eye ointment. The antibiotic in tablet form commonly used to treat blepharitis is doxycycline. It is the same antibiotic used to treat acne rosacea.



Blended Coal for a Sustainable Supply

Blended coal, which is derived from the process of blending of high grade imported coal with low grade high ash coals, has long been adopted in many countries. Many methods may be used for the process.

As part of a continuous effort to ensure a sustainable coal supply for electricity generation is in place, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) is introducing blended coal at its coal-fired power plant in Lumut, Perak,

On January 13, the national utility company announced that the introduction of blended coal for the Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station, which produces 20% of Peninsular Malaysia's energy generation, will help secure coal supply for the power plant going forward.

Apart from generating a sus-

tainable supply for electricity, this notable effort by TNB is also in line with the growing trend among utilities to use blended coal to match power demand with the availability of coal supply.

Blended coal, which is derived from the process of blending of high grade imported coal with low grade high ash coals, has long been adopted in many countries. Many methods may be used for the process. The blending can occur at the coal mine, preparation plant, trans-shipment point, or at a power station.

The method selected for the process depends upon the site conditions, the level of blend-

ing required, the quantity to be stored and blended, the accuracy required, and the end use of the blended coal. For instance, in large power stations that handle very large quantities of coal, the stacking method with a fully mechanized system is followed.

Oftentimes, power plants fired by coal rely on one or two sources of coal, limiting the

opportunity to blend their coal supplies. Nevertheless, to be competitive in today's market, plant operators who are profit conscious are purchasing coal from multiple sources that usually vary in quality and constituents such as sulphur, mercury, ash and moisture.

Thus, to take advantage of the various lower-cost coal it is necessary to blend the various stocks to obtain a preferred blend. The typical method is to push the piles together with heavy material moving equipment. Be that as it may, this is a very inconsistent and labour intense method for blending coal. Once the coal stocks are blended using this method, operators are left with an inconsistently blended coal supply. To improve or modify the blend, one must continue to add more coal to the mix and continue to push and hope.

Nonetheless, no matter how

painstaking it is, aside from having a sustainable supply for electricity, the process of using blended coal will also increase the efficiency of coal-fired plants by slightly reducing the quantity of coal needed as burning less coal means less greenhouse gases emitted.

The Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station, which has a generation capacity of 4,100 megawatts, consumes 15 million tonnes of sub-bituminous coal per year. The power station took delivery of its first blended coal shipment on Dec 31, 2018, at the neighbouring Lekir Bulk Terminal, which is owned by TNB's wholly-owned subsidiary Integrex Bhd.

The coal is imported from Indonesia by another wholly-owned subsidiary, TNB Fuel Services Sdn Bhd, which supplies fuel and coal for the country's power plants. TNB Jana-manjung Sdn Bhd, the operator of the Sultan Azlan Shah Power Station, will then conduct a trial burn exercise and lab analysis to ensure blended coal meets the emission standard and the combustion compatibility of the power plant prior to the plant's usage of the coal.

AIDING COMPANIES ADAPT TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



By
Batrisyia Jay

A leader in the Document Services and Communications space, Fuji Xerox launched 14 new models of digital colour multifunction printers: the ApeosPort-VII / DocuCentre-VII Colour Series on January 10.

The 'Fuji Xerox Smart Work Gateway for Digital Transformation' event was launched by The Minister of Entrepreneur Development, YB Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, KL.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan emphasised that the government welcomes industry leaders such as Fuji Xerox to support and partner with the ministry in structured programmes that can promote the adoption of the digital economy among Malaysian SME's.

"The launch of 'The Smart Work Gateway for Digital Transformation' is a key step forward for Fuji Xerox to lead the evolution of digitalization technologies to Malaysian companies, especially SMEs."

"We look to more industry players to step forward with long-term programmes that can benefit SMEs to become digitalized, and not merely computerised," said Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan.

"Smart Work Gateway for Digital Transformation is our

We look to more industry players to step forward with long-term programme that can benefit SMEs to become digitalized, and not merely computerised,

- YB Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan

vision in supporting our customer's Digital Transformation journey by providing them a suite of smart solution, combining our new ApeosPort-VII series of colour multifunction device platform plus our solution and services for our customer to automate their work processes, digitalize business information, connect to the cloud, while ensuring end-to-end total information security throughout business their operations," said Mark Tan, President of Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd, Malaysia Operations.

"With our 'Smart Work Gateway for Digital Transformation' suite of digital solutions and services, Fuji Xerox is ready to assist and support, especially the Malaysian SME's, in embracing the digitalisation in

their journey towards Digital Transformation," explained Mark.

The ApeosPort-VII / DocuCentre-VII Colour Series is designed as a perfect solution for digital transformation by making operations simple, removing technological barriers and allowing greater flexibility to work.

The entire user experience has been redefined, from its clever interactive touch screen and intelligent automated processes to its seamless integration with cloud services and security features allowing users powerful control over the creation and distribution of physical and digital documents, as well as predictive management for timely informed decision making.

It provides various unique solutions for simplicity in use, quick and easy digitalization, seamless connection to cloud services, and enhanced security, to support the flexible and diversified working styles of businesses for improved performance.

With the concept of 'Smart Work Gateway for Digital Transformation', these new series by Fuji Xerox aims to help Malaysian companies, particularly SME's, to accelerate growth, productivity and efficiency in the digital economy.



The Smoking Ban: Confusing or Efficient?

By
Muhaimin Merican

Starting on the 1st of January 2019, smokers are no longer allowed to smoke in public eateries such as restaurants, hawker stalls and coffee shops. The ban encompasses all kinds of nicotine based smoking products including cigarettes, vapes as well as shisha. The ban adds public eateries to a long list of places where smoking is now prohibited.

Back in October, the Health Ministry announced the ban will begin taking place starting in January 2019 in an effort to curb smoking in public areas. Those caught smoking in prohibited areas would be fined up to RM10,000 or face two years jail while eateries found to have allowed customers to light up would be fined up to RM2,500.

Malaysia's Health Minister, Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, has since claimed that the enforcement of the ban has helped to increase the revenue of restaurants due to families bringing their children out to eat at local eateries. He added that over 3,000 premises and restaurant owners had been briefed on the standard operating procedures and methods of enforcing the ban, during townhall meetings with the ministry.

The Health Ministry has since tasked thousands of officers nationwide to enforce the ban, but gave a six-month grace period before offenders are fined. According to the Deputy Health Minis-

ter, Dr Lee Boon Chye, although the implementation of the smoking ban will be carried out beginning this month and the ministry has the authority to penalise the offenders, the first six months will act as a grace period which will focus on warning and education.

However, since its implementation earlier this month, the ban has sparked a lively debate on whether or not the ban is fair towards every Malaysian.

Public sentiments toward the ban have since been divided. Many have applauded the health Ministry for the leap towards a healthier way of life. However, there are also members of the public questioning the purpose of the ban and if the implementation was not properly handled.

Many restaurant owners have since complained about how the ban has affected their business. Malaysia Singapore Coffee Shop Proprietors' General Association president Datuk Ho Su Mong said around 30% of their customers are smokers and are no longer showing up since the ban came into place. He also mentioned that members have complained that their shops customers have dwindled and been less busy since the implementation of the smoking ban on the 1st of January 2019. He also said that workers also had to deal with customers who refused to put out their cigarettes despite being told to do so.

Agreeing with Ho, Restoran Ipoh Raya DR owner Zainal Abidin Mirrah Maidin felt that the government had

failed to take into consideration the consequences restaurant operators would face before implementing the ban. He applauded the government's initiative to help non-smokers but had failed to take smokers who wished to continue smoking into consideration.

Malaysian Indian Restaurant Owners Association president Muthusamy Thirumeni and Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association president Ayob Khan Muhamad Yakub had previously asked the government to allow restaurant owners to provide smoking and non-smoking areas in restaurants. They had brought up designated smoking areas because it was culture among Malaysians to have a puff of smoke during their *teh tarik* sessions. However, Deputy Health Minister Dr Lee Boon Chye said they could not consider the proposal as public health was still their main priority.

Another major problem the Health Ministry is facing regarding the ban is that they are being taken to court over the issue by a Smoker's Rights Group calling themselves *Pertahankan Hak Perokok* (PHP). The group has initiated a judicial review on it in order to get the ministry to respond to its engagement call. The chairman, Mohd Hanizam said that the only thing the group wants is for smokers to be allowed to smoke in the open-air areas within eateries like before. They also want to discuss possible alternatives like assigning designated smoking areas which have been done

in other countries.

Prominent lawyer, Dato Hasnal Rezua Merican, believes that the lawsuit was a rather farfetched move. He also mentioned the complexity of the lawsuit due to the fact that the Malaysian Ministry of Health did not prohibit the act of smoking but merely prohibited the act of smoking in public eateries. Hasnal also mentioned that the Ministry of Health is only following the act which was passed in Parliament and that the Control of Tobacco Product Regulations 2004 had recently been amended in 2018, gazetted on December 24 last year, and came into force on January 1, to include the smoking distance at restaurants. He added since there was no similar case to this in the past, we would have to watch how it all unfolds in court.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that the smoking ban has caused a split among Malaysians from all walks of life from politicians to coffee shop owners to lawyers. While we can all agree that the smoking ban was a step in the right direction we cannot deny that it has left us all wondering whether the implementation of the ban has been done properly or if it was too rushed. We nevertheless cannot overlook that, whether be it protecting the public health or fighting for the rights of smokers or establishing designated smoking areas to preserve "*teh tarik* culture", everyone is just doing what they believe is best for the nation and its people.

How bad is smoking in Malaysia?

Facts



Smokers tend to die 10 years earlier than non-smokers



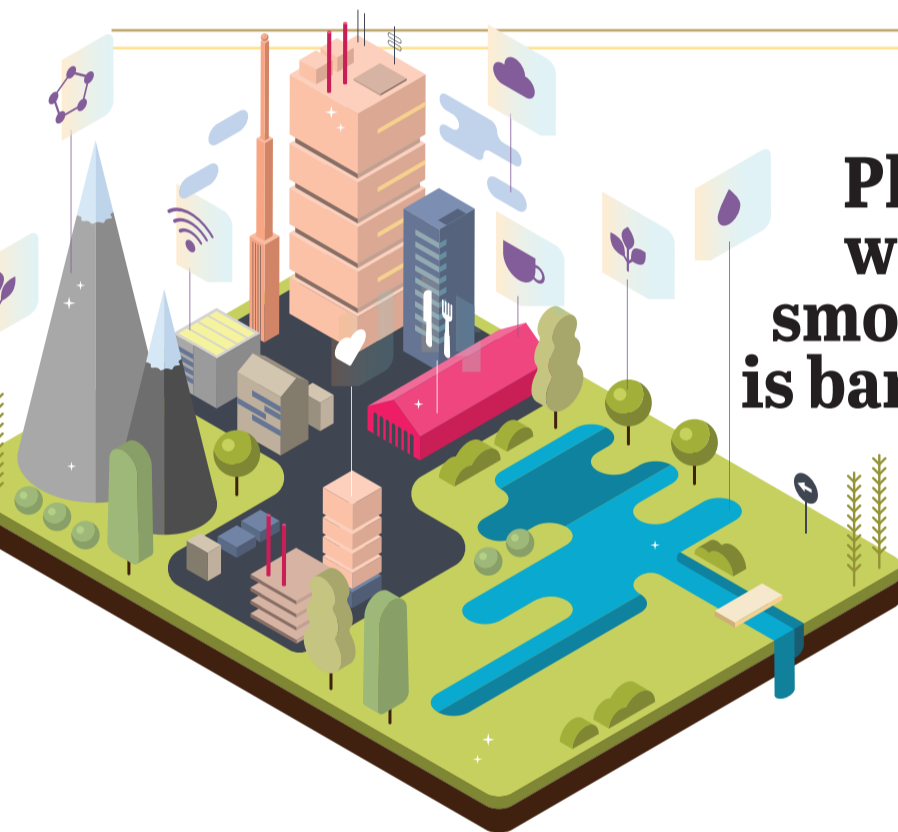
Malaysian cigarettes are ranked 8th most expensive in the whole of Asia



Malaysia has the 2nd biggest vaping market in the world



Malaysia is one of the countries in the world with the highest percentage of teenage smokers in the world



Places where smoking is banned

- Entertainment centres, or theatres (does not include pubs, discotheques, night clubs, or casinos during their operation hours)
- Any area of a hospital or clinic
- Public lifts and toilets
- Eating places or shops
- Public vehicles and public transport terminals
- Airports
- Any area of government premises
- Any area of a building used for assemblies (other than private or residential buildings, or in a public place)
- Any area of an educational institution or higher educational institution
- Any area of a nursery
- School buses
- Any floor with a service counter in buildings
- Any area of shopping complexes
- Any area of petrol stations
- Any area in stadiums, sports complexes, fitness centres, or gyms
- Any religious building or public place
- Any area of a library
- Any area of internet cafes
- Any area of National Service training grounds
- Any air-conditioned working spaces with a centralized air conditioned system
- Any rest and recreational areas in buildings, playgrounds, or gardens.
- Any public parks, except an open public car park
- Any observation tower, camp site, canopy bridge.



90% of Lung Cancer cases are caused by smoking



40% of Malaysian men smoke

36.3% of schoolboys from the age range of 13 to 15 are smokers

34.5% of smokers consume illegal cigarettes

Only **9.5%** of daily smokers have quit



<1% of Malaysian women smoke

AROUND TOWN

January 2019

THE MIND'S EYE

by Henri Cartier-Bresson



Tintabudi is an independent bookshop established in 2016. Located in Kampung Attap, Kuala Lumpur, the bookshop specializes in books on philosophy, literature and arts. The book reading and discussion part of a series of events held fortnightly at the shop. The objective is trying to bring people together and discuss books that matter.

For this event, Tintabudi collaborates with Leica Store Malaysia to discuss a selection of writings by renowned photographer Henri Cartier Bresson from his book The Mind's Eye.

Leica Store at Avenue K, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur
January 26, 2019
Visit Evenbrite for more info
[facebook.com/events/573821216397614/](https://www.facebook.com/events/573821216397614/)



FREE KPI WORKSHOP @ HELP UNIVERSITY

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Remarks: We have limited seats, first come first serve basis.

January 24, 2019
HELP University, KL
[facebook.com/events/237042447194133/](https://www.facebook.com/events/237042447194133/)



WESTERN OPERA AND THE FORMATION OF IMPERIAL CULTURE IN SEA

The transmission of Western opera to south-eastern Asia was linked to empire building and the formation of imperial culture. The circulation and appeal of Western operatic groups affirms the significance of musical performance in the creation of a wider Western colonial and imperial culture that transcended national borders of the Portuguese, Dutch, British and Spanish empires.

This process of cultural contact and production began in the 1830s in Macau, Calcutta, and Batavia and came to encompass Singapore, Hong Kong, and Manila in the 1860s.

A lecture by Akiko Sugiyama, PhD, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, University of Malaya, focuses on two maritime journeys of Western operatic groups in the late 1830s, one traveling from South America to Macau and another from Calcutta to Batavia. By doing so, it seeks to illuminate the onset of operatic globalization of the nineteenth century in South-east Asia.

January 26, 2019
Malaysia Design Archive, 2nd Floor, 84, Jalan Rotan, Kampung Attap, KL
[facebook.com/events/1004828436379568/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1004828436379568/)

OPENING OF INGENIOUS SOUL

INGENIOUS SOUL will showcase a naïve art style by ten young and senior artists; Ali Akbar Othman, Artjamila, Elly Nor Suria, Ismail Baba, KhairulSani Ismail, Lyna Khairi, Nancy Lua Ching Sing, Widodo Soerono, Yeanni Koo and Zurin Shaari.

The exhibition will be from 10 to 25 January 2019 at Galeri Prima, and is divided into genres such as Outsider Art, Primitive Art, Folk Art, Naïve Art and Marginal Art.

A simple opening reception will be held on Wednesday, 16 January 2019, 8pm and will be officiated by Datin Nonadiah Abdullah, Independent Non-Executive Director of Tomei Consolidated Berhad.

Galeri Prima, Jalan Riong, Bangsar
January 25, 2019
[facebook.com/events/493639234498987/](https://www.facebook.com/events/493639234498987/)

ingenious Soul

ALI AKBAR OTHMAN • ARTJAMILA • ELLY NOR SURIA • ISMAIL BABA • KHAIRULSANI ISMAIL • LYNNA KHAIRI
NANCY LUA CHING SING • WIDODO SOERONO • YEANNI KOO • ZURIN SHAARI

Wednesday, 16 January 2019 8pm - 10pm
Galeri Prima
Balai Berita Bangsar

To be officiated by: Datin Nonadiah Abdullah
Exhibition runs from: 10 January - 25 January 2019

Support by
STRAITS TIMES

MMU
MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY



VENUE: MPH MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY
CYBERJAYA CAMPUS

DATE: 9TH FEBRUARY 2018

TICKET PRICE: OUTSIDERS: (RM 45)

RM 5 DISCOUNT FOR THOSE WHO
SHARE THE EVENT ON THEIR
SOCIAL MEDIA!

BOOGIE TIME IN MMU

Obesity has been an ongoing issue in Malaysia for decades. As such, cardio exercises are one of the solutions that can help reduce the rising obesity rate in the country. Zumba, Masala Bhanga, UJam and Salsation are some of the official certified exercises in Malaysia with professionally trained instructors. Like aerobics, this is a rather enjoyable type of cardio that uses music to create a lively and entertaining atmosphere.

Organised by students of MMU, the event aims for a better and healthier nation by encouraging Malaysians to achieve a balanced and healthy lifestyle through exercise. The event also aims to create awareness on the dangers of obesity and the need to have a healthy lifestyle among Malaysians. Among the activities included are Zumba, Masala Bhanga, UJam and Salsation.

MPH Multimedia University, Cyberjaya Campus, MMU.
February 9, 2019

RM40 (Public), RM25 (MMU Staff and Student), contact 011-39699687 to purchase.
[facebook.com/Boogie-Time-378753379601584/](https://www.facebook.com/Boogie-Time-378753379601584/)

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