



*I would like to wish the people of Selangor Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Maaf Zahir dan Batin. May you have a safe journey back to your hometown this raya season.*

Amirudin Shari  
Selangor Menteri Besar



# SELANGOR JOURNAL

May this Eid be a source of immense blessing and joy for you and your family.

**Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri**



## Amirudin - Leading with passion and compassion

**19** June 2018 began a brand-new era for Selangorians as they heralded a new Menteri Besar for Selangor. The successor to Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali was revealed to be a young and vibrant candidate by the name of Amirudin Shari, the second youngest candidate to ever hold the position of Selangor Menteri Besar. **Story continues on Page 4**



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## Be a Mentor to Empower Women

**F**or a woman, having a mentor who is also a woman can prove to be extremely beneficial, as navigating the work landscape can be complicated at times— particularly in an industry that is dominated by the opposite sex. **Story continues on Page 7**

## Use of Smart Selangor App Begins

**SHAH ALAM** — Residents in the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) area are able to use the Smart Selangor Parking (SSP) app from 22 May.

Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU), in a statement, informed that MPSJ is the seventh local authority (PBT) to use the application.

According to the statement, the SSP application developed by the state government through SSDU is a uniformly-integrated online payment and parking payment system.

“The application also includes other additional functions, such as reminders of parking timeout periods, cross-user credit sharing and registration of up to six different vehicle numbers,” the statement read.

“For credit purchase transactions, several online channels are available to facilitate users such as online banking, credit cards and even e-wallets.”

Meanwhile, the SSDU stated that the SSP application also enables local authorities to monitor and aids in their enforcement process, especially in issues relating to misconduct and parking payment.

The application is a Smart Selangor initiative developed under the “Smart Transport and Mobility” domain.

Its aim is to educate the people of Selangor to use smart technology for the convenience of the government’s service delivery.

“It also reflects that the state government remains committed to providing the best facilities, in line with the agenda [of moving] towards [becoming a] Smart State by 2025,” said the statement.

The Smart Selangor Parking application can also be used in areas under the purview of the Shah Alam City Council, Sepang Municipal Council and Petaling Jaya City Council.

It can also be used in areas under the Kajang Municipal Council, Selayang Municipal Council and Ampang Jaya Municipal Council.

## ‘Mysterious Deaths’ Not Verified

**PETALING JAYA** — Claims of ‘mysterious’ deaths plaguing the Batek Orang Asli community in Kampung Kuala Koh cannot be verified, says the Kelantan State Health Department.

Its director Dr Zaini Hussin said that as of 7 June, no official reports had been made on the alleged deaths.

“The claim that 12 residents have died could not be verified as no one has officially reported the deaths, whether at hospitals or health clinics in the area,” said Dr Zaini in a statement issued on 7 June.

However, Dr Zaini said there had been a cluster of respiratory tract infections among members of the community.

The Health Department and Orang Asli Development Department (Jakoa) instantly dispatched a health team to the Orang Asli village, where 29 people were found to be suffering from the infection.

The infected were referred to the Ar-

ing Health Clinic and the Chiku 3 Health Clinic in Gua Musang, Dr Zaini said.

Out of the 29, 12 were treated as outpatients, while 17 were referred to Gua Musang Hospital and three others to Kuala Krai Hospital for further treatment.

“Clinical examination showed signs of infection in the respiratory area,” he said.

Dr Zaini added that the two hospitals were carrying out further tests to determine what caused the infection.

He said three out of the 29 were babies and 10 were children.

Meanwhile, there were claims that 13 members of the Batek tribe living in Kampung Kuala Koh had died from a ‘mysterious’ illness that was plaguing the community.

Kampung Kuala Koh headman Mamat Pokok stated that the illness plagued members of the community throughout the Ramadan period.

“We suspect that it is caused by a polluted pond (*air tandak*),” he said, adding that the pond was their source of water.

Mamat Pokok suspected the pollution was caused by waste from an iron ore mine that has been operating in the area for the past four years.

Kelantan Pakatan Harapan chairman Senator Datuk Husam Musa said urgent action must be taken to save the Orang Asli community.

Investigations should be carried out on whether the community was affected by contaminated water.

“Immediate measures to supply clean water should be implemented and the impact of the nearby iron ore mining plant should also be investigated and addressed,” he said.

At the same time, he also called on all relevant agencies to look into the issue and take proactive measures to save the victims.

## Cyberjaya—Selangor’s Model Smart City

**CYBERJAYA** — Cyberjaya will continue to be the model smart city of Selangor, said Sepang District Officer Mohd. Yazid Sairi.

He said the model included the development of the Cyberjaya City Center and the Cyberjaya Innovation Fund for the Future.

According to Mohd. Yazid, the establishment of the Cyberjaya Regional Financial Technology and Hospital Hub was also a model for regional development.

“The Sepang district, especially Cyberjaya, has been selected for the development of high-tech clusters and science parks that include the Aeropolis and Aerospace cluster at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, while the eco-tourism cluster is along the coast of Morib to the Pelek River,” he said.

He said this in his speech to His Royal Highness (DYMM) Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, at the Fast-Breaking with the People in conjunction with the Nuzul Al-Quran celebration at Raja Fi Sabilillah Mosque, on 22 May.



Mohd. Yazid said various types of high-impact development had enabled Sepang to become the leading district in Asia.

“Moreover, we have the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), which contains commercial business complexes, independent commercial zones, theme parks, hotels, conference halls, nature conservation zones and green tourism zones,” he said.

Meanwhile, he stated that tourism-oriented development projects were also planned, beginning with the KLIA Aeropolis project from Bagan Lalang beach to Tanjung Rhu beach.

“This coastal development is expected to transform the landscape of Sepang as an attractive tourist destination, offering hotel facilities, theme parks, villas, restaurants, conference halls and shopping centres,” he said.

At the same time, Mohd. Yazid said the private sector also played a part in the development in Sepang, which involved the building of various types of housing, as well as business and industrial projects.

He said the participation of the private sector was a catalyst for the clustering development strategy introduced by the state government.

## SELANGOR JOURNAL

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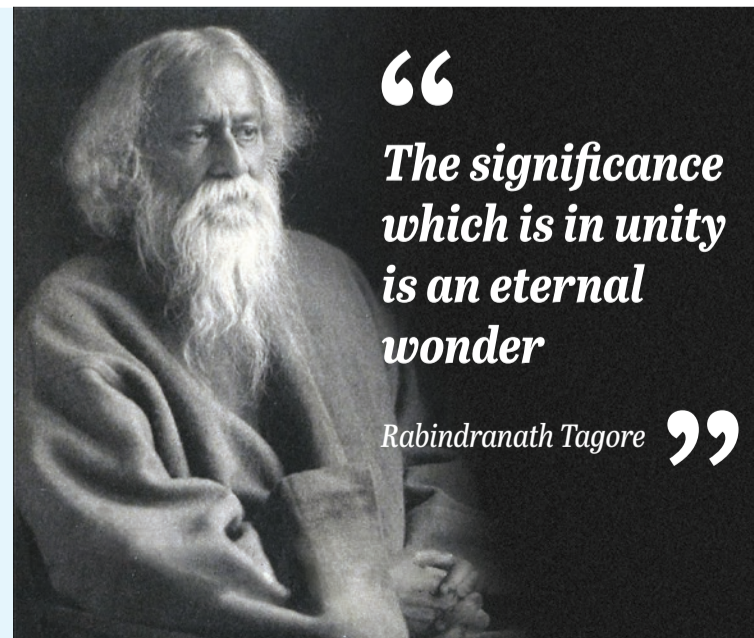
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“  
*The significance  
which is in unity  
is an eternal  
wonder*”

Rabindranath Tagore

## Water supply from Sungai Langat treatment plant restored

**SHAH ALAM** — Selangor Water Supply Company (SYABAS) announced that water supply in Kuala Lumpur, Petaling and Hulu Langat affected by a blockage of the Sungai Langat water treatment plant's mechanical filtration system has been fully restored.

Abdul Raof Ahmad, Head of Client Relationship and Water Management Communication Sdn. Bhd., said the problem has been identified to be a result of a malfunction due to heavy rains upstream and the quantity of rubbish accumulated in the river.

"We are thankful to our customers and all those who have been cooperating during the interruption period and apologize for any inconvenience," he said in a statement on 7 June.

He also advised users to download the Air Selangor mobile app to gain information about water supply.

Production of treated water at the Sungai Langat water treatment plant had been affected by heavy rains upstream which had caused large quantities of rubbish to clog the mechanical filtration system, causing the malfunction.

The incident had affected water supply in several areas in Hulu Langat, Kuala Lumpur and Petaling in stages.

## Latheefa Koya—First Woman to Head MACC

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Rights lawyer, Latheefa Beebi Koya, has been appointed as head of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), replacing Mohd Shukri Abdull whose contract was granted to expire ahead of its deadline on 17 May, 2020.

On 6 June, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) announced that Latheefa would serve as MACC chief for two years beginning 1 June.

"The appointment is among the steps towards reform in government institutions," it said.

Latheefa is the fifth MACC chief commissioner, taking over from Datuk Seri Mohd Shukri Abdull.

This makes Latheefa the first woman in the nation to head the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Besides being the first woman to head the MACC, Latheefa is also the first woman to be appointed as head of the country's anti-corruption authority, including MACC's predecessors Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) and National Bureau of Investigations (NBI).

Many viewed the move to be unilateral. However, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the decision to appoint Latheefa Koya as the new Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief is final.

"I have appointed many people and many officers and she [Latheefa] is one of the officers," said Tun M.



"The appointment is final, and the decision has already been made," he added.

Tun M said this when met at an Aidi-filtri open house hosted by Kedah Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, and his wife Tok Puan Norzieta Zakaria, at the latter's official residence in Seri Mentaloon on 8 June.

Born in Kerala, India, Latheefa has lived in Kuala Lumpur since she was 3 months old.

The 46-year-old grew up in Petaling Jaya and is an alumna of Taman Petaling Girls School and the Assunta Girls School.

Latheefa worked while studying for her law degree, which she obtained from the University of London in 1997.

On 8 February 2001, Latheefa was admitted to the Malaysian Bar.

Latheefa is a partner at the law firm Daim&Gamany, having worked with the firm since May 2002.

Latheefa is now tasked to steer the anti-graft body to aid the realisation of the government's National Anti-Corruption Plan 2019-2023 launched last January, as the MACC is determined to continue its vital role in the battle against corruption within the nation.

Numerous high-profile bribery cases involving individuals are set for trial in the months ahead during Latheefa's two-year contract as MACC chief.

These include the likes of Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Umno treasurer Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, as well as former Sabah Umno chief Tan Sri Musa Aman.

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# Amirudin - Leading with passion and compassion

By  
Batrisyia Jay

SELANGOR JOURNAL

Continued from cover page...

With an easy-going and laidback demeanour, the people have come to know Amirudin as an approachable and receptive individual ever since he clocked in as the new Menteri Besar for the state a year ago.

To commemorate his first year in office, Selangor Journal decided to shed more light on the man now helming the golden state of Malaysia with much success.

## A Walk Down Memory Lane

Amirudin Shari began his career in politics at the tender age of 18 after having discovered his passion for politics amidst the twists and turns Reformasi '98, a movement that he diligently followed and kept abreast throughout his student years.

The then-18-year-old entered UPM to pursue his degree and decided to join several student movements, where he met people who shared the same interest in politics. "My first taste of politics was with [Keadilan Youth Movement] Angkatan Muda Keadilan (AMK), where I was elected as the EXCO of AMK in charge of the student affairs bureau," said Amirudin in an exclusive interview with Selangor Journal.

In 2007, Amirudin, who by then had risen up the ranks in AMK, was elected as the Vice Chief of AMK. He rose further in the political scene to the position of Executive Secretary of Parti Keadilan Rakyat Selangor two years later. Currently, the father of six and husband to Masdiana Mohamad is a member of the party Central Leadership Committee. Therefore, continuing the legacy from the previous administration has always been the focus for the Selangor Menteri Besar.



## Amirudin's journey towards becoming Dato' Menteri Besar of Selangor:

**2004**

Active involvement in KEADILAN Youth's Wing; elected as Vice Chief of the division.

**2008**

Won a seat in the Selangor State Assembly on his first attempt in the 12th general elections as a candidate for Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR). The Democratic Action Party (DAP) and the Islamic Party (PAS) formed the Pakatan Rakyat coalition, defeating the Barisan Nasional for the very first time in Selangor electoral history.

**2014**

Contested for the Keadilan Youth Chief's post in party polls but lost to Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.



**2016**

Led the Selangor FA football team to the Malaysia Cup finals and to win SUKMA 2016. The same year, Amirudin hosted the Yamaha 125z Mega Gathering and successfully gathered 15,000 motorcycle enthusiasts to demonstrate that not all youth activities related to motorcycles are negative.



**2017**

Hosted the second Yamaha 125z Mega Gathering with over 30,000 participants for the Kapcaipackers of the 'Selangor to London' programme, an expedition of a Selangorian couple on a moped through 25 countries.



**2007**

Elected as the Vice Chief of Angkatan Muda Keadilan (AMK).

**2013**

Re-elected as Member of the Selangor State Assembly.

**2014**

Appointed as the Selangor State Executive Councillor for Youth Development, Sports, Culture and Entrepreneurship Development under Dato' Azmin Ali's administrations.

**2014**

Appointed as manager to the Selangor FA football team who lead the team in two consecutive Malaysia Cup Finals and the famous 33rd mission to win was accomplished in the same year.

**2017**

Officiated the 2017 Selangor Literature Award (Anugerah Sastera Selangor) as the State Executive Councillor in charge of Youth, Sports, Culture and Entrepreneurship. This marked the beginning for furthering efforts to reviving the culture and arts scene in Selangor.



**2018**

Appointed as the new Menteri Besar of Selangor on 19 June 2018.

Amirudin revealed that there are five main areas he intends to focus on to ensure the state's continuous growth. These are providing affordable homes, an effective transportation system and an integrated health care system for the people of Selangor, creating an environmentally-friendly state, and, last but not least, creating quality high-income jobs for the people. "I believe that these are the main areas which will help boost economic growth and ensure the well-being of the state and that its people are well taken care of," he said.



I believe that these are the main areas which will help boost economic growth and ensure the well-being of the state and that its people are well taken care of.

Selangor Menteri Besar,  
Amirudin Shari



Ever since he was elected as the Menteri Besar of Selangor a year ago, Amirudin has been diligently following up on the growth thrusts in order to further improve the mechanisms of the state.

## Amirudin's achievements and triumphs as the Selangor Menteri Besar in his one year in office:



### Increasing Job Opportunities and Maintaining a Stable Economy

On August 2018, developer Central Spectrum (M) Sdn. Bhd. announced that furniture retailer IKEA will be investing RM 908 million to set up a new regional distribution and supply chain centre in Pulau Indah, Selangor.

From then on, construction of the biggest regional DC (Distribution Centre) in the Asia Pacific region commenced, and the centre is expected to be open in September 2020. The aforementioned centre will supply the Southeast Asian and Indian markets, IKEA said in a statement on 29 January 2019.

In other words, IKEA's new regional distribution and supply chain centre in the Pulau Indah Industrial Park will lead to a positive spillover effect and accelerate the socio-economic development of the area.

Central Spectrum (M) Sdn. Bhd., the developer of the centre, is hopeful that the centre will open up at least 500 job opportunities. "We believe with IKEA's establishment in Pulau Indah, many foreign investors, namely from China, Korea and Japan will also follow IKEA's footsteps and set up their business in Pulau Indah," said General Manager (Development) Noor Azhuril Adnan.

Amirudin agrees with the notion, adding that these vacancies will involve and be opened to those with a specific and qualified talent as the ability to influence and bring in foreign investors is always a good sign in any business. "Although it is a large logistics hub, some of it involves automation or robotics and the rest of the skilled manpower and is open to graduates to fill in these kind of job vacancies," he said.

On 29 January, the Selangor Menteri Besar had inaugurated the ground-breaking ceremony of the IKEAS's DC in Pulau Indah. With so much potential and opportunities on hand, the development is sure to further boost the investment industry in Selangor and Malaysia in general.



### A Triumphant First Belanjawan Selangor

On 23 November 2018, Amirudin revealed a state budget of RM 2.56 billion based on six main thrusts in infrastructure, economy, education, social and rural development, and health while prioritizing physical development.

In presenting his inaugural budget for the state at the State Legislative Assembly, Amirudin stated that the budget was equally divided between operating and development expenditures, with each receiving an allocation of RM 1.28 billion.

### Ensuring Selangorians are Homeowners

Gifting Selangorians with an affordable housing scheme has always been the topmost priority for Amirudin. Thus, he was happy to report that a total of 24,869 units of *Rumah Selangorku* will be fully completed by 2025—proving that the State Government is committed to ensuring the well-being and socioeconomic position of the people of Selangor through owning their own homes. As such, regular monitoring is often carried out to ensure developers comply with various requirements concerning the construction of *Rumah Selangorku* units.

"As I have stressed before, the state government will not hesitate to cancel the approval if the developer does not cooperate even though the negotiations have been made for 18 months after the approval has been granted. In fact, the state government believes that the problem of affordable housing can be overcome with the construction of *Rumah Selangorku* units," said Amirudin.

With strong support from the Federal Government, Amirudin is confident the implementation of the National Housing Policy 2.0 and the Affordable Housing Policy can be realized. He feels

that these policies will solve many issues related to housing, such as the loan approval process, in addition to balancing the ratio of affordable housing and independent pricing today. It has been reported that construction of *Rumah Selangorku* units has surpassed the initial target of 15,000 units set in 2018, with 28,639 units built as of 31 August last year, and 3,770 units delivered.

As of September last year, there are a total of 204 approved projects offering 104,460 affordable homes to eligible buyers, thus proving that the *Rumah Selangorku* scheme introduced five years ago has met with a good response.

On 6 April 2018, the state government launched the *Rumah Idaman Rakyat Selangor* scheme. Implemented by Selangor Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI), this scheme aims to further boost the construction of affordable housing in the state.

"The Selangor government, through the Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI), Permodalan Negeri Selangor Berhad (PNSB) and the Selangor Housing Estate Board (LPHS), has developed a strategy to provide the best residential property solutions for the people of Selangor," said Amirudin on the housing scheme at the launch-

ing of the *Rumah Idaman Abadi* units and ground breaking ceremony at Bandar Teknologi Kajang on 6 April.

"Today, the Selangor government has introduced a comprehensive solution to affordable home ownership that will revolutionize the country's housing industry," he added.

The *Rumah Idaman* project is a smart partnership between the Selangor Government and the private sector using high technology innovation and close collaboration with financial institutions. It offers a residential area of more than 1,000 square feet, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two car parks with a net price of only RM 250,000. What makes it all the more unique is that each unit of the *Rumah Idaman* houses is supplied with television sets, refrigerators, TV cabinets, kitchen cabinets, air-conditioning in every room and a water heater in the bathroom.

The project will be developed in Kajang, Bangi, Ampang, Shah Alam, Cyberjaya, Dengkil, Setia Alam, Klang, Bandar Saujana Putra, Bandar Salak Tinggi and North Kuala Langat. The state government is currently targeting the construction of 30,000 units of affordable housing within the next five years.

### Improving Selangor's IPR Programme

The *Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat* (IPR) Programme has been created in order to ensure the livelihood of Selangorians all over the state is in good hands. After 10 years of introduction to the public, Amirudin decided to further improve the programme and focus on empowering the people's lives. He noted that although the state government is still providing assistance to target groups, a paradigm shift should be made so that the people will not rely solely on such contributions but will have the initiative to strive for a better life.

"We are doing some studies to see how far the IPR programme has managed to change lives and keep the people out of poverty. We need to see whether the people rely solely on the

state government's assistance," said Amirudin on the matter. The Selangor Menteri Besar stated that even though it is the government's responsibility to help, the ultimate aim is for people to be empowered. Hence, he intends to focus on this aspect.

"Our task is not only to give cash directly to the people but to also ensure that their skills and potential are sharpened for the better."

A total of RM 3.2 billion has since been spent by the state government since 2008 to implement the *Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat* (IPR) programme by distributing state revenue through a special livelihood assistance for the lower income group in Selangor.

According to Amirudin, the administration's ability to professionally maintain Selangor's

progress as a developed state since 2005 has also contributed to the applauded programme's implementation.

In a special interview through the Politics Talk programme titled 'Selangor Roadshow 2019: Progress Along' on TV1, Amirudin was quoted as Selangor would prove to have a capable group, and that is Pakatan Harapan (PH) who will "govern, manage and maintain the state's advanced status and bring prosperity to the people".

Amirudin explained that the re-alignment of the IPR—as set out in the Selangor Budget 2019—does not mean that the state is halting the assistance provided. Instead, it now aims to empower and increase the recipient's skills and potential, thus gifting the people of Selangor with a better quality in life.

## Support and Love from the People

To further commemorate Amirudin Shari's first year in power, Selangor Journal asked Selangorians what they had to say about our Dato' Menteri Besar:



"I am surprised with how diligent the new MB is. Being a reader of the paper I am constantly updated with the whereabouts and latest activity carried out by the MB, and I'm happy to see that he is addressing most of the issues faced by the people within the state and has come up with solutions to combat it such as the affordable housing issue. Keep up the good work MB!"

**Muhd Amir Aziz** | 26  
Sales Executive



"The new MB, Amirudin Shari, heeds the people of Selangor's concern on water issues and seems to be very responsible about it. This comes as a relief, especially to those like me as a housewife with four children, as the lack of water or water disruption can be very troublesome for us. Just the other day I saw how quick the MB was to reach and help the citizens over a burst water pipe incident, and this proves my point. I think he is on the right track in becoming a great MB for the state."

**Nurdiana** | 37  
Housewife



"For me, I am impressed with the MB's ability to ensure that the people of Selangor are given an affordable housing scheme. With the economic issues we are currently facing, this is exactly what the people need. The features of the units are extremely beneficial to the buyers and I read that more units are to be built in different areas around Selangor. I'm very happy with the progress and the opportunity that is given to the people of Selangor."

**Edmund Lim** | 32  
Businessman

## Tabung Harapan to Repay Part of 1MDB's Debt

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Tabung Harapan Malaysia's (THM) entire funds of RM 203.29 million will be used to repay a portion of 1Malaysia Development Bhd.'s (1MDB) debt, said Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng.

During its meeting on 24 April, the THM trust accounts committee had decided that the THM money be used to pay a portion of 1MDB's 2019 debt amounting to RM1.7 billion.

"While the THM funds may not be able to repay 1MDB's entire debt of RM51 billion, the funds will remain as a symbol of Malaysians' loyalty and patriotism when it comes to repaying the country's debt," said Lim in a statement on 16 May.

According to Lim, the total amount of the funds stood at RM202,716,775.10 as of 14 January, the closing date for contributions.

Moreover, there was an interest amount received from fixed deposit investments totalling RM 575,342.31 up to 31 March.

## Ringgit Recovery After Bank Negara Initiatives

**KUALA LUMPUR** — RHB Research sees the ringgit recovering against the US dollar following the six major initiatives carried out by Bank Negara Malaysia to improve liquidity of the local financial market, as well as to strengthen the domestic forex market.

Its head of rates/forex strategy, global treasury and global markets, Suresh Ramanathan, said these enhancements in the FEA rules are seen as an encouragement to mitigate and/or to soften the impact from recent external headwinds that are affecting the ringgit.

"We believe Malaysia's fundamentals are still intact, growth at 4.5 per cent in Q1 2019 and above market consensus. Current account balance in surplus of RM 16.4 billion vs RM10.8 billion in Q4 18, was larger than expected while Brent prices are north of USUSD 70 per barrel," he said.

He sees the ringgit growing to 3.90 against the USUSD in Q2 and 3.86 in Q3 and 3.80 in Q4. The ringgit is anticipated to firm up further to 3.76 in Q1 of 2020 and 3.70 in Q2 of 2020.

According to Suresh, the ringgit faced risks mainly from the lack of dollar liquidity in the onshore market, and was a key driver of the recent underperformance of the currency.

"We believe the inclusion of Trust banks' and Global custodians in the dynamic hedging programme will increase the dollar liquidity into the system and provide the smooth FX transaction for offshore investors when they profit-take in their trades," said Suresh.

"The ability to buy forward contracts in Ringgit beyond the current 25 per cent of underlying assets indicates the onshore forward market and the offshore forward market (NDF) gap could narrow, since offshore investors can hedge more in the onshore market," he added.

"We are keeping intact our USD/ringgit forecast levels and the recent initiatives by Bank Negara strengthen our conviction [that] further gains are in store for the currency."

## RM 300 *duit raya* for Felda settlers

**T**he government handed out RM 300 for all Felda settlers as *duit raya* during the Aidilfitri festive season.

According to Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the assistance totalling RM 34 million was provided because the government took into account the financial burden of settlers who are waiting for their trees to bear fruit.

According to the Economic Affairs Ministry, the Cabinet agreed to give the *duit raya*, together with arrears due, to

112,635 settlers.

On 23 May, Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali had said the government did not intend to give *duit raya* to Felda settlers throughout the country as the country's financial situation did not permit it.

He had said that the government was focusing on providing the settlers with aids for cost of living and advance on produce.

However, according to the circular released by the Economic Affairs Ministry, all Felda settlers were to receive RM 300, as well as arrears due to them, before Aidilfitri.



## Alliance Islamic Bank Launches Social Crowdfunding Platform



**KUALA LUMPUR** — Alliance Islamic Bank Bhd. launched its first social crowdfunding platform, SocioBiz, with the aim to create a greater socioeconomic impact for the financially disadvantaged.

With the tagline "Empowering Communities through Entrepreneurship", the AIS' SocioBiz platform targets individuals seeking to raise funds to start or expand a business, or to acquire a new life skill for earning a sustainable livelihood.

Alliance Islamic Bank had signed a memorandum of collaboration with Islamic fintech venture builder, Ethis Ventures Malaysia, and beneficiary partners, Yayasan Kebajikan Negara (YKN), Yayasan Noor al-Syakur (Yanas), and Pertubuhan Kebajikan Islam Malaysia (Perkim).

Rizal Il-Ehzan, CEO of Alliance Islamic Bank said the platform aims to provide an ecosystem where people can channel their donations to empower individuals to be economically independent through businesses.

Funds obtained through this platform will be used to help

individuals be financially independent and stable, either through starting or growing a business, or through acquiring new skills.

"This charity ecosystem also seeks to address two key challenges for donors and recipients, that is, the transparency of the overall allocation and distribution of funds sourced for charity, and the credibility of the cause or recipient," he said.

According to Rizal, this was one of the projects through which the bank seeks to channel zakat in a meaningful manner.

"Our role is to connect communities to viable and sustainable financial solutions. For the first year, 100 per cent of the funds sourced will be channelled to the recipients as AIS will bear all the administration fees," he stated.

"This will enable individuals seeking funding to leverage on this opportunity at no cost to them. This year, we aim to help raise up to RM240,000 for the different campaigns. We also pledge to match the contribu-

tion raised from the public."

Umar Munshi, Ethis Group and Ethis Ventures' managing director and founder said the partnership with the bank would bring to the community a social crowdfunding platform under GlobalSadaqah.com, which integrates Islamic finance principles.

"Through partnership, we offer donors and recipients an innovative and transparent platform to connect. We hope to inspire more donors and financial institutions to partner with us and create an impact on other areas of need within our communities," said Umar.

Alliance Islamic Bank's SocioBiz's aims to identify and promote at least two recipients each month on the platform.

To-date, SocioBiz has rolled out six campaigns, and raised over RM23,000 through its platform.

In future, the SocioBiz platform will include social enterprises that are focused on elevating or improving social or environmental issues, start-ups, and SMEs.



By  
Batrisyia Jay

# Be a Mentor to Empower Women

American actor, director and producer, Denzel Washington once said, “Show me a successful individual and I’ll show you someone who had real positive influences in his or her life. I don’t care what you do for a living—if you do it well, I’m sure there was someone cheering you on or showing the way. A mentor.”

This is certainly accurate, as a mentor is often deemed to be the catalyst for elevating the career development of an individual. Relaying real-life lessons and skills to their fellow protégés, mentors tend to open pathways to professional networks, while helping and enabling their understudies to connect to other industry professionals, who in turn can help shape their protégés careers successfully.

Offering emotional support, acting as a role model and actively supporting their protégé’s career, a mentor often acts as a coach who assists an individual in successfully completing challenging assignments and, occasionally, protecting them politically as well.

For a woman, having a mentor who is also a woman can prove to be extremely beneficial, as navigating the work landscape can be complicated at times— particularly in an industry that is dominated by the opposite sex. Thus, having a woman mentor who herself has experienced the trials and tribulations often faced at the workplace, such as overcoming gender stereotypes and negotiating raising a family during peak career development stages, is no doubt a massive advantage, particularly for a young professional.

For Selangorian women, the Empowered Women’s Institute (IWB) acts as our very own ‘mentor’ as it is committed to

help the government formulate policies and strategies to empower women towards a more inclusive, sustainable and fair Selangor. Its advisor, Minister of Housing and Local Government, Zuraida Kamaruddin, has stated that IWB aims to



“It is to promote the image of women in this state and make Selangor an example of a woman-friendly state.”

Zuraida Kamaruddin

enhance women’s socio-economy while speeding up their abilities in leadership and decision-making.

“It is to promote the image of women in this state and make Selangor an example of a woman-friendly state,” she said. To date, the IWB has aided in formulating the Selangor Women’s Policies and Action Plan for 2017 to 2020, which is

part of the state government’s roadmap for the development of women in the state.

To commemorate the International Women’s Day last March, Selangor Menteri Besar, Amirudin Shari, announced that the state government will continue to implement the agenda to raise the status of women through various programmes in the state. These include the Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor (KISS) initiative, the establishment of the Selangor Women’s Empowerment Institute (IWB) and Women’s Empowerment Centres (PWB) in all 56 State constituencies in Selangor.

Amirudin firmly believes that the role of women should not be confined to family affairs only, and that they should also be hailed as decision-makers and policy implementers in politics and economics.

“Hence, this year we have demonstrated commitment through ‘Work From Home’ policies, where KISS programme participants can actively engage in building their own micro-enterprises to generate income, instead of being restricted from economic engagement simply because of the responsibility of having to take care of the children,” he said.

On that note, Selangor has become the only state with 30 per cent participation of women in executive bodies, namely in the State Executive Council.



## 1. Train her to lead

Training your protégé on how to take the lead in certain aspects is the best thing a mentor can do. Help her to develop leadership skills and, step by step, you will notice that your protégé will take the initiative to take ownership of her career, thus preparing her for long-term success. Be sure to ask her the right questions in order to help your protégé reflect on her career issues and personal goals, while being clear as to why you are training her to take the lead.



## 2. Encourage and help her acquire challenging tasks

In order for your protégé to be able to build her self-confidence and critical skills, and to be effective, it is vital for her to take on challenging assignments and executive roles. Your task is to identify her weaknesses and advantages as this will help her to grow her skill set. Moreover, having your protégé handle an important task will help elevate her reputation and broaden her network while prepping her for more responsibility in the future.



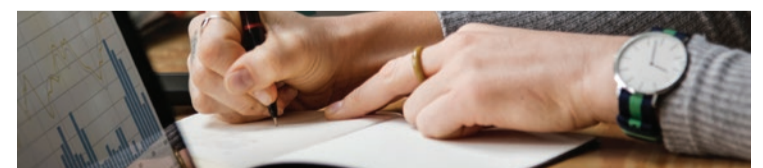
## 3. Find someone who is different than you are

The most common mistakes mentors tend to make is to find an exact replica of themselves to be their protégé. While you are meant to be the teacher in this relationship, mentoring an individual often means that you are also learning something new each day, and this works better when your protégé is not a ‘mini you’. Identify an individual that has the opposite skill set, views, weaknesses and strengths as you do, in order for both of you to benefit from the process.



## 4. Be accessible to your protégé

As a mentor, it is your task to ensure that your protégé is always able to contact you. When you do not engage with your protégé often, you will find that she will not be a hundred per cent committed to her tasks, and this in turn will stunt her growth and progress in the workplace. Thus, be sure that you are able to dedicate and commit your time to the development of your protégé amidst other projects.



## 5. Train them on professional etiquette

While it is vital to help your protégé to find a process that will aid her in executing her task perfectly, prepping her on how to sound and look professional is just as important in the work field. Thus, coach your protégé on the expected etiquette and skills, such as good public speaking skills, proper presentation skills and even the proper attire required of a high-profile executive woman—factors that present them as suitable and reliable executives in the workplace.



By  
Muhaimin Merican



# Petaling: Heart of Selangor

**D**ubbed the ‘Heart of Selangor’ due to its location right in the middle of Selangor, the Petaling district is one of the most populated districts in Selangor. It borders multiple districts in the state such as Kuala Selangor to the North, Klang to the West, Gombak to the East, and Hulu Langat to the South. It also borders the nation’s capital city, Kuala Lumpur, in the Southeast direction.

Once a part of Kuala Lumpur, the Petaling district is located right in the midst of the Klang Valley and is home to 1.6 million people. Even so, the district only covers an area of 484.32 sq. km, making it the smallest district in Selangor.

The Petaling District houses multiple cities, towns and municipalities that are known as urban centres, such as Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam, Subang Jaya and Damansara.

The district is comprised of four *mukim* (sub-districts), namely Bukit Raja, Sungai Buloh, Damansara and Petaling.

## ■ Governance

Although the district is made up of four *mukim*, its local administration is divided into three local governments: the Shah Alam City Council, the Petaling Jaya City Council and the Subang Jaya Municipal Council.

The Shah Alam City Council administers the Shah Alam city centre as well as the Klang District, Bukit Raja, Setia Alam, Subang and the Sungai Buloh area.

The Petaling Jaya City Council administers over the Petaling Jaya city centre and Damansara..

The Subang Jaya Municipal Council administers over the south of the district, with heavily populated areas such as Subang Jaya, UEP Subang Jaya (USJ), Putra Heights, Batu Tiga, parts of Puchong and Seri Kembangan under its

jurisdiction.

The district is home to eight Parliamentary seats that are represented in the Federal Parliament (Dewan Rakyat). In addition, the district also has 16 DUN seats which are represented in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly (Dewan Undangan Negeri).

## ■ Founding and Growth

The Petaling District was founded in 1952 by the then-British High Commissioner of Malaya, Sir Gerald Templar. Named after the Petaling tree that was common in the area during its development, Petaling was created on the old Effingham estate in order to deal with the overpopulation affecting Kuala Lumpur at the time.

Its location within 10 km of Kuala Lumpur made Petaling an ideal location for a satellite town. A satellite town was necessary, according to Sir Gerald Templar, to help move some of the population out of Kuala Lumpur, as well as to curb the then-rampant communist activity in the area. Because of this, the first few settlement areas were fenced off from the surrounding areas.

The development of Petaling Jaya commenced in 1952 with the construction of 800 houses in the area known as ‘Old Town’ today.

In addition, the southern and western parts of the district were developed

as industrial areas for tin mining. Modern-day towns such as Puchong, Subang Jaya and Sungai Way are all results of early mining activities in the Petaling District. The tin mining industry in the Petaling District was one of the main reasons that the towns boomed and became populated.

The Petaling Jaya Town Authority was in charge of the district’s local governance from 1954 up until 1974, when Petaling was split from Kuala Lumpur and the latter was declared the capital city of Malaysia.

After the split, the Petaling Jaya City Council was set up to govern the Petaling District. The Damansara and Bukit Raja *mukim* were added to the Petaling District.

In 1997, the Subang Jaya Municipal Council was created to administer over the Southern part of the Petaling District.

In 2006, Petaling Jaya or PJ, as it had come to be fondly known, was officially declared a city. As a city, Petaling Jaya received the honour of being awarded the UNESCO Best Learning Cities Award in 2019 for its role in promoting Education and Lifelong Learning.

## ■ Businesses in the Petaling District

The Petaling district is one of the wealthiest districts in the state and this can be attributed to the economic activity within the district.

There are multiple malls in the district, as well as several business areas. Prominent malls in the area include the Amcorp Mall, The Curve, IPC, and 1 Utama—the latter being the country’s largest shopping mall and the seventh largest in the world!



▲ 1 Utama—the latter being the country’s largest shopping mall and the seventh largest in the world!



**Petaling  
Selangor**

The Petaling District houses multiple cities, towns and municipalities that are known as urban centres, such as Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam, Subang Jaya and Damansara.

The district is comprised of four *mukim* (sub-districts), namely Bukit Raja, Sungai Buloh, Damansara and Petaling.



**Historical Significance**

The Petaling District is host to many places of historical significance.

The SJK (C) Han Ming which is located in Puchong Batu 14 today, is known as one of the oldest Chinese schools in the district. It has been in operation since 1921.

In 1954, the then-Chief Justice of Malaya, Michael Hogan, brought a nun, Sister Enda, to Petaling Jaya to set up the Assunta primary school. From then on, during the 65 years it has been active, the Assunta Girls' School has produced some outstanding alumnae, among them are former Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz as well as Mercy Malaysia founder and former president Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood.



**Assunta Girls' School has produced some outstanding alumnae, among them are former Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz as well as Mercy Malaysia founder and former president Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood.**



In the north of the Petaling District, you can find the Elmina Estate. The Elmina Estate is the second oldest oil palm plantation in Malaysia. Established in 1917, the estate was bought over by The Selangor Oil Palm Company Ltd., who purchased the 3,407-acre estate in 1923 and opened a new oil palm factory there in 1927. The estate is also the site where Japanese Airlines (JAL) flight 715 crashed as it was approaching Subang Airport in 1977. Remains from the crash were found in the soil surrounding the estate up until 2011.

One of Petaling's most famous landmarks is the first drive-through restaurant in Malaysia. Established in 1965, the now iconic A&W located in the heart of Petaling Jaya was the country's first introduction to the drive-through concept popular in the West in the 1950's. Today, the outlet itself makes about RM 4 million. Sadly, the outlet will be closing down by the end of this year to make way for a parking area.

**Petaling Jaya: Satellite Town turned City**

Having started out as town to accommodate overpopulation in Kuala Lumpur, Petaling has now grown to a district containing a city.

However, many residents who witnessed the growth of this district feel that it is important to avoid overpopulation and overdevelopment in order to preserve the special and nostalgic ambience of this district.



Assunta Girls' School ▲

The Elmina Estate is the second oldest oil palm plantation in Malaysia ▼



Japanese Airlines (JAL) flight 715 crashed as it was approaching Subang Airport in 1977 ▼



▲ A&W located in the heart of Petaling Jaya

To better understand the life in the Petaling District, we went down to the four *mukim* (sub-districts) to interview everyday people on their experience on living in the Petaling District. This is what some of them had to say:



**Mukim Bukit Raja:**



I love it here, they have everything in Petaling!

**Muhammad Ariff** | 25  
Graphic Designer, Bukit Raja



My family has lived here for three generations and we still wouldn't move. Petaling just feels right for me

**Wong Kah Meng** | 28  
Mechanic, Bukit Raja



**Mukim Sungai Buloh:**



I was born here in 1996 and I've also studied here. I've been in Petaling my whole life. It is my home and I have a feeling it will continue to be my home

**Siti Atikah** | 22  
Student, Sungai Buloh



I love the diversity you can find here. The Chinese schools, the Malay villages and Hindu *kuil*. Everyone just accepts that their neighbour is different and we celebrate that

**Natania Stevens** | 18  
Retail Assistant, Sungai Buloh



**Mukim Damansara:**



I had no idea our IKEA in Mutiara Damansara was the biggest one in Southeast Asia. And I live just 10 minutes away!

**Samantha Ng** | 32  
Businesswoman, Damansara



Damansara is just a nice and fun place to live in. Everything is in the area

**Daarshini** | 29  
Communications Manager, Damansara



**Mukim Petaling:**



My grandma used to live here. It's a wonderful place. Everywhere you look, there's something for everyone

**Lina Tan** | 45  
Housewife, Petaling Jaya



I grew up here with all my friends. Now, everyone has moved away with their family. But I will never forget the beauty we had when we were growing up. Petaling will always be a magical place for us

**Tan Mei Mei** | 68  
Retiree, Petaling

# SELANGOR QUICK TAKES

SELANGOR JOURNAL

## Kajang Prison grants seven-day release to two prisoners



Kajang Prison allowed two prisoners to join their families for Hari Raya for a week under its 'release on licence' programme. Selangor and Federal Territory Kuala Lumpur Prisons director, Abd. Kadir Rais said the release is a form of rehabilitation for prisoners through the involvement of their families. The feeling of being reaccepted and being with their families is an important form of support for prisoners, especially those who are trying to return to society. Well-behaved prisoners who have served not less than four years with the remaining sentence of one year are considered for this programme.



## Aidilfitri incentives for civil servants, mosque staff

In the spirit of Ramadan, Dato' Menteri Besar, Amiruddin Shari, has announced that he will be handing out the Selangor Mahabbah Incentive. This incentive is a special financial assistance that is equivalent to one month's salary, to be paid out to 19,244 civil servants of Selangor and 739 Federal staff serving in Selangor. In addition, the state government has also introduced Ramadan Mahabbah Incentives for the 2053 *surau* and 390 mosques in the state. This incentive benefits 12,995 mosque and *surau* staff throughout Selangor.

## Selangor government buildings to ban disposable plastics



The Selangor government will enforce a campaign to stop the use of single-use plastics at all departments and agencies under the state's administration from 1 July. State Environment, Green Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation Committee chairman, Hee Loy Sian, said the proposal for the implementation of the campaign was approved by the state government last Wednesday in line with Malaysia's 'Roadmap Towards Zero Single-use Plastics 2018-2030'.



## Selangor records highest death toll in Op Selamat

The death toll on the tenth day of Op Selamat has risen to 176. Royal Malaysia Police corporate communications head, Senior Asst Comm Datuk Asmawati Ahmad, said a total of 16,470 accidents involving 23,263 vehicles were reported between 29 May and 7 June. The Op Selamat 15 road safety operation was launched on 29 May in conjunction with the Aidilfitri festive season. A total of 164 fatal accidents were recorded resulting in 28 deaths in Selangor. Traffic offenders in Selangor raked up 30,529 summonses followed by 17,706 summonses issued in Johor and 16,464 summonses issued in Perak.

# NATIONAL NEWS QUICK TAKES

SELANGOR JOURNAL



## Former Pahang ruler Sultan Ahmad Shah passes away

Former Pahang ruler Sultan Ahmad Shah passed away at 8.50 a.m., on 22 May, 2019. Pahang Menteri Besar Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said Sultan Ahmad Shah, 88, died at the National Heart Institute in Kuala Lumpur. The Sultan was said to have been undergoing intensive treatment at the institute. Sultan Ahmad Shah, who served as Pahang ruler for almost 45 years, abdicated in January this year. He had been ill for some time. He was succeeded by his son, Tengku Abdullah, who became the country's sixteenth Yang di-Pertuan Agong on 31 January. Under the rotational system of the Malaysian constitutional monarchy, Sultan Ahmad Shah himself served as the seventh Yang di-Pertuan Agong from April 26, 1979 to April 25, 1984.

## Civil servants urged to stay neutral



Civil servants have been advised not to tie themselves to any ruling party. This is to ensure that they remain neutral and are able to focus on their tasks and responsibilities. Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said being non-partisan will enable each and every civil servant to undertake and implement their service in a more effective manner for the ruling government.



## PM and cabinet host Aidilfitri open house in Putrajaya

Malaysians from all walks of life turned up at Seri Perdana in their best Hari Raya outfits for the Prime Minister's Hari Raya Open House. Numbering in the hundreds, the visitors, including families and children, began arriving at the main gate of the Seri Perdana complex as early as 8.30 a.m. Visitors were allowed to enter the compound of the Prime Minister's official residence at 10 a.m.

In his Hari Raya address, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded Malaysians today to be thankful to foreign workers who toil nationwide to ensure Hari Raya Aidilfitri could be celebrated without any disruptions. The Prime Minister said that while Malaysians enjoying the festivities throughout the Raya celebrations, Malaysians must remember that without foreign workers, the country would have continued to be a poor state that cannot be developed. In his message, Dr Mahathir also took the opportunity to ask for forgiveness for any wrongdoings he or his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali, may have committed throughout the year.



## Be grateful to foreign workers, Dr M tells Malaysians

## Federal Govt Adopts Penang's Housing Formula



**PENANG** — According to Housing, Town and Country Planning and Local Government Committee chairman, Jagdeep Singh Deo, Penang still leads in many areas, including in the implementation of housing policies.

Jagdeep said that the state's formula on housing was adopted by the Federal Government after Pakatan Harapan took over last year.

"To date, 102,054 affordable, low-cost and low medium-cost units have either been built, are being built and approved to be built in Penang," he said.

"This is far higher than the 75,531 units pledged in Pakatan Harapan Penang's GE14 manifesto to be delivered by 2025," he told a press conference at Komtar on 9 May.

Jagdeep was outlining the successful projects under his portfolio since the last general election on 9 May 2018.

Jagdeep noted that RM 32 million had been spent on 370 projects in eligible private housing schemes, all under the state's 80 per cent Maintenance Fund programme implemented for housing units valued up to RM150,000.

"We have also spent RM174.6 million in maintaining some 50 public housing schemes since 2008 in Penang," he said.

"We will continue with this programme."

Jagdeep stated that the current Penang government already had 11 years' experience in managing the state.

"It is different for the Feder-

**This is far higher than the 75,531 units pledged in Pakatan Harapan Penang's GE14 manifesto to be delivered by 2025.**

Housing, Town and Country Planning and Local Government Committee chairman, Jagdeep Singh Deo

al Government, which has been under the Pakatan rule for just a year now," said Jagdeep.

"It would be unrealistic to achieve all that has been promised within a year," he said, referring to Pakatan Harapan's having taken charge of the Federal Government for the past one year.

Jagdeep went on to explain that the move for Penang to be

a smart state was in full swing with the installation of 100 per cent LED streetlights, the first plan the country has ever seen.

The project will be completed on the island and mainland in five years.

"Through a pilot project under YTL Communications (YES) Sdn. Bhd., we brought the Teragrath WiFi network to the island's heritage zone which can deliver 170 mbps, touted as one of the fastest in the world," he said.

"Our smart parking system at council-run parking lots using [a] mobile application and e-wallet payment will be completed in two years' time."

Jagdeep said he had also instructed both the Penang Island City Council and Seberang Prai Municipal Council to double the number of trees to be planted from 100,000 to 200,000 trees.

The move is aimed at combating the effects of possible climate change in the state.

In regard to town and country planning, Jagdeep added that the local plans on the island and mainland would be finalized soon, with impending approval of the Penang Structure Plan 2030 by the state and National Physical Planning Council.

## No More Affordable Housing Policy for Civil Servants

**KUALA LUMPUR** — The government will no longer provide allocation of affordable homes built by the government for civil servants. On 13 May, Housing and Local Government (KPPT) Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin revealed the reasons for such a move.

"The implementation of this new policy follows the setting up of a new sole entity that makes Perbadanan PR1MA Malaysia, Syarikat Perumahan Negara Bhd. (SPNB), Uda Holdings Bhd., the Housing Programme for the Hardcore Poor (PPRT) and 1Malaysia Civil Servants Housing (PPA1M) to be standardized under one roof to empower the [achievement of the] objectives of the Pakatan Harapan administration," she said.

Zuraida was reported as saying that such a policy is meant to create a mix of residents from society in affordable housing developments, and to encourage social interaction between civil servants and the public to share their views, experience and knowledge to enhance a sustainable community.

She explained that the new policy takes effect immediately and civil servants will now have to apply for such housing like other Malaysians.

According to Zuraida, KPPT at the moment has 13 affordable housing projects with 38,000 units from three projects already completed, and 122,000 units in 10 projects undergoing development at the moment.

Meanwhile, civil servants union Cuepacs president, Datuk Azih Muda, said that the KPPT should not have made such a "sudden announcement" and should have "consulted with stakeholders".

"The minister should discuss with Cuepacs to find the best mechanism in resolving the method of homeownership among civil servants," he said.



## Cause of cracks in Bandar Damai Perdana homes probed

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is investigating the cause of cracks that have appeared in several houses in Bandar Damai Perdana in Kuala Lumpur.

According to residents, blasting activities at two project sites—a housing development in Alam Damai and the con-

struction of a tunnel for the Langat 2 water treatment plant project in Taman Desa Cheras—is likely to be the cause.

Mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan stated that investigations would take about two weeks.

"About 13 residents living near the projects complained to

me about the cracks but we are not sure if it is because of the blasting," said Nor Hisham.

"We will look into remedial works and the cost involved once the investigation is concluded."

Nor Hisham noted that although the residents are living at the border of Selangor, the projects involved are situated in Kuala Lumpur.

"As such, DBKL will look into it," he said during a visit to both the project sites, as well as Bandar Damai Perdana on 7 June.

Tina Khoo, the secretary of Bandar Damai Perdana 2 Residents' Association, said more than 20 house owners had complained about cracks and noise pollution.

One of the residents, retiree Danny Yap, said the cracks in his house became apparent after the rock blasting activities began near by.

"The contractors are monitoring the situation but the noise is still very loud," he said.

Yap also indicated that he should be compensated for the damage.

Representatives of both projects were present but declined to comment.



By  
Muhaimin Merican

# Hari Raya Aidilfitri Traditions

The festival of Eid, known in Malaysia as Hari Raya Aidilfitri or Hari Raya Puasa, falls on the first day of the month of Syawal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar.

Traditionally, it is celebrated as a joyous occasion following the completion of one month of fasting during Ramadhan.

Unlike in the Middle East, Aidilfitri celebrations in Malaysia often outdo the festivities that accompany Hari Raya Aidiladha or Hari Raya Haji—the festival marking the successful completion of the haj pilgrimage season—which follows about three months later.

The term *Hari Raya* is Malay for ‘big (or grand) day’, thus denoting a festival day. *Puasa* is the Malay word for ‘fasting’, and the entire phrase, *Hari Raya Puasa*, is a rough translation of the Arabic term, *Aidilfitri*, which in itself means ‘Festival of Breaking the Fast’.

Malaysian culture has made Aidilfitri a little different here from how it is celebrated around the world. This ranges from the food served to the clothes worn, and to how the entire festive season is celebrated.

## Duit Raya

During the Aidilfitri season, children look forward to receiving *duit raya*—which can be roughly translated as ‘celebration money’.

The handing out of *duit raya* is a big part of the celebration during the Aidilfitri season and is based on the Muslim practice of giving alms or *sedekah* (charity) to the less fortunate. The tradition has grown beyond giving money to children, however, and has since evolved to include youth who are not yet married or not yet working.

*Duit Raya* is handed out in specially-made colourful packets, and this could be an influence of our Chinese friends who hand out *ang pow* or red packets of money during Chinese New Year.

However, the tradition is not limited to only Malaysia. The practice is also popular in other countries in the region, such as Brunei, Singapore and Indonesia. It is also practised in Sri Lanka, where money is given in notes and not in special envelopes. Much like in Malaysia, the custom is mostly limited to children but some homeowners do give money to unmarried youth.

This tradition is also popular in countries such as Bangladesh and Qatar. Due to the prosperity of the Middle East, the concept of *Eidi*, which roughly translates into ‘gift’, is often a more generous gesture. While usually only small bills are given to houseguests in Malaysia, *Eidi* in the Middle East can be a much larger amount.

visit over the next two days.

The ‘open house’ concept has been introduced over the past few decades, whereby hosts invite friends and relatives on a certain day to come to their house and a variety of traditional Hari Raya dishes are served. This concept has now been picked up by businesses to hold Hari Raya gatherings during this season.

In Brunei, the visiting of relatives is often followed by a *tahlil* or *doa selamat*—special prayer gatherings—where members of the family hold prayers for their loved ones who have passed away. Although the visiting the graves of loved ones is also practiced by some Muslims in Malaysia, it is much more prominently practised in Brunei.

## Visiting Relatives

Hari Raya Aidilfitri is often celebrated around the world for one or two days, beginning on the first day when Muslims go to the mosque to pray and listen to the Aidilfitri *khutbah* (sermon). Then, on returning home, they receive guests and relatives who come to pay them a

## Aidilfitri Songs

If there is one thing uniquely Malaysian about how we celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri in Malaysia, it is the Hari Raya songs that will be played on the radio and in shopping malls and bazaars. Radio listeners and shoppers will be serenaded with tunes that have become evergreen and are known to generations of Malaysians.

Since the first Hari Raya Aidilfitri song was created in 1936, such songs have enjoyed popularity among Malaysians and even Singaporeans and Indonesians. Some of Malaysia’s biggest names in the local music industry such as P. Ramlee, Sudirman, DJ Dave, Aishah and Siti Nurhaliza have created signature Hari Raya Aidilfitri hits that are played every year.

## A Time for Rejoicing

Hari Raya Aidilfitri is celebrated by Muslims around the world. While there may be some variations, especially in the types of food served, the true essence of the festival is never forgotten: to celebrate the successful completion of one month of Ramadan fasting.

## Traditional Dishes

One of the most important parts of Hari Raya Aidilfitri that everyone looks forward to is the food. In Malaysia, each state has their own version of traditional dishes that are served to guests during this festive season.

Aside from *ketupat*, another very special rice dish that makes its way to the table during the Aidilfitri season is *lemang*, which is a glutinous rice dish. Both *ketupat* and *lemang* are usually served with *rendang*. *Rendang* is a dish made from stewing meat or chicken in coconut milk with spices until the liquid has evaporated and the meat is tender.

While it may appear like a humble rice cake, *lemang* is one of the most complicated local dishes to make. To make *lemang*, rice and coconut milk are first mixed to get the rich texture for which this dish is known. After this, the mixture is filled into the hollow sections of bamboos that have been lined with banana leaves on the inside in order to avoid the rice from sticking to the bamboo.

In our neighbouring country, Brunei, the must-serve dish during *Hari Raya* is *ketupat*, though *rendang* and *dodol* (a sticky confection made from coconut milk and palm sugar), which are served during Aidilfitri in Malaysia, are not popular there.

A dish that you would find in most Bruneian households during the *Hari Raya* season is *satay*, the regionally-famous grilled meat skewers.

In Bangladesh, sweets take centre spot on the dining table during the festive season. One of the most popular sweet dishes is a pudding called *kheer*. It is made by boiling with milk and sugar one of the following: rice, broken wheat, tapioca, vermicelli, sweet corn, and various others. It is most often flavoured with cardamom, raisins, saffron, cashews, pistachios, almonds or other dry fruits and nuts.

Another popular dish in the Middle East during Hari Raya is *Om Ali*. Roughly translating as ‘Ali’s Mother’, this dish is a type of pastry that is divided into pieces and blended with pistachios, coconut flakes, raisins and plenty of sugar. Milk, sometimes with cream, is poured over the mixture, which is then sprinkled with cinnamon. Finally, the mixture is baked in the oven until the surface is golden brown. It can be eaten hot or cold.

To find out what Hari Raya Aidilfitri meant for people around the world compared to how we celebrate it in Malaysia, we sat down with 7 people who had spent Hari Raya in different parts of the world like the Nusantara region, the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent and the West. This is what they had to say:



**Hasheef**, celebrated Hari Raya in Sri Lanka: The fireworks and firecrackers are a big part of Hari Raya in Sri Lanka. On the Eve of Eid, the whole family gathers together and begins to light them and it just brings us closer together

**Nur Amalia**, celebrated Hari Raya in Qatar: Hari Raya in Qatar is not celebrated as grand as it is here. It is a much more traditional affair.



**BK Saba**, celebrated Hari Raya in Bangladesh: The food served during Eid in Bangladesh is not the same as the food they serve here but the excitement is still the same!

**Akif**, celebrated Hari Raya in Brunei: Brunei doesn’t have *rendang*, *lemang* or *dodol* like what we hear in the Malaysian Raya Songs. I never associated those food with Hari Raya.



**Hadi**, celebrated Hari Raya in Washington, USA: The United States is a melting pot for Muslims from different racial backgrounds. We celebrated Hari Raya based on how Malaysians celebrated it and it made us really miss celebrating Hari Raya in Malaysia.

Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri!



## FMM welcomes effort to return waste

Malaysia will send back some 3,000 metric tons of non-recyclable plastic waste to their originating countries in a move to avoid becoming a dumping ground for rich nations.

The move by the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry (MESTECC) to return the waste to countries such as the US, UK, Canada and Australia was well-received by the The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM).

FMM president Datuk Soh Tian Lai was “fully supportive” of the “decisive step” taken by the Ministry.

“This would help Malaysia restrict the import of such waste from other countries more effectively,” he said in a statement.

Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Yeo Bee Yin, had earlier announced that 60 containers filled to the brim with contaminated waste had been intercepted en route to illegal processing facilities in Malaysia.

Items in the intercepted containers included cables from the UK, contaminated milk cartons from Australia and compact discs from Bangladesh, as well as bales of electronic and household waste from the US, Canada, Japan, Saudi Arabia and China.



**This would help Malaysia restrict the import of such waste from other countries more effectively.**

FMM president Datuk Soh Tian Lai



The government has clamped down on dozens of illegal plastic recycling facilities that had mushroomed across the country, shuttering more than 150 plants since last July. Yeo said China’s plastic waste ban had “opened up the eyes of the world to see that we have a huge garbage and recycling problem.”

## No unfair currency practices in Malaysia, says BNM

Malaysia’s inclusion in the currency manipulator list by the US treasury will not affect the country’s economy, according to the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM).

The central bank said Malaysia supports free and fair trade, and does not practise unfair currency practices. It also mentioned that Malaysia adopts a floating exchange rate.

There will be no consequences for the Malaysian economy from Malaysia’s inclusion in the list, according to the central bank

“The Malaysian economy remains resilient, underpinned by strong economic fundamentals, including the flexibility accorded by a floating exchange rate and strong external balance,” BNM said in a statement.



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In the latest report, besides Malaysia, the list of countries monitored for currency manipulation included China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore, and Vietnam.



## Malaysia still No. 22 in World Competitiveness Yearbook

Malaysia remains at the 22nd spot in the IMD World Competitive Yearbook (WCY) 2019 which rates the competitiveness of countries around the world.

Among the 63 countries listed this year by the IMD World Competitiveness Centre in Lausanne, Switzerland, Malaysia scored 82.54 out of 100 points.

With a score of 82.54 out of 100 points, Malaysia sustained its position for the second year, reflecting the positive sentiments of the business community towards the new government, announced International Trade and Industry Minister,

Datuk Darell Leiking.

The report showed improvements compared to the previous year in terms of rankings and value scores in institutional-related indicators such as bribery and corruption, transparency, bureaucracy, justice, social cohesion and public finance.

“All these indicators increased in value score more than 10 per cent, ranging between 10.8 per cent in public finances to 31.1 per cent in bribery and corruption,” he said in a statement.

The WCY 2019 assesses economies based on four competitiveness input factors

namely economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure with each encompassing five sub-factors.

Malaysia emerged second among the 28 economies with gross domestic product per capita less than USD 20,000.

Overall, Malaysia continues to be ahead of Belgium (27th), South Korea (28th) and Japan (30th).

Malaysia was narrowly overtaken by New Zealand by one spot to be ranked 7th among the 14 Asia-Pacific economies, and was second only to Singapore in Asean, outpacing other nations in the region.

# Neoliberal Reforms Strengthening Monopoly Power and Abuses

By  
Jomo Kwame Sundaram,  
Anis Chowdhury

KUALA LUMPUR and SYDNEY, May 07  
(IPS)

Over the last four decades, the growing concentration of market power in the hands of oligopolies, if not monopolies, has been greatly enabled by ostensibly neo-liberal reforms, worsening wealth concentration and gross inequalities in the world.

The 'counter-revolution' against Keynesian and development economics four decades ago, which inspired the Washington Consensus, claimed to promote economic liberalization, including market competition. However, strengthening property rights entitlements, especially for intellectual property, has been far more important.

Such oligopolistic and monopolistic trends have recently accelerated in much of the world, while already feeble anti-trust efforts have lagged far behind. Over a century after US President Teddy Roosevelt's anti-trust initiatives, with the neoliberal rhetoric of recent decades, many all over the world still have great expectations of similar US reform initiatives.

## ■ Privacy Legislation For...?

Responding to the 'big data' controversy, Apple CEO Tim Cook's recent Time magazine opinion called for US privacy legislation informed by four principles for user rights: firstly, corporations should collect as little user data as possible; secondly, users should know what data has been collected and why; thirdly, users should be able "to access, correct and delete [their] personal data"; and fourthly, data should be secure, "without which trust is impossible".

Cook has also proposed a US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 'data-broker clearinghouse', with all entities handling data required to register, so that the public can track how their data has been sold, and delete their own, if they so choose.

“These third parties can then use the Facebook and Google platforms and their vast personal data troves to manipulate what individual users see, read, think and buy. Google thus earned some USD 95 billion, while Facebook earned about USD 40 billion in 2017 alone.”

While a national privacy legislation should include these principles, the proposals do not recognize that transparency and post-hoc control do not address some of the worst dangers posed by online platform monopolies such as Google and Amazon.

Their monopolistic market power implies that users are often not really able to exercise their notional rights to privacy. For example, without a realistic alternative to Google's search function, people have little option but to provide personal information about themselves, especially when their work or participation in society requires them to use Google.

Effective privacy legislation thus requires regulating such corporations, so that they no longer have any incentive to exploit user data. As Cambridge Analytica whistle-blower Christopher Wylie has suggested, "We should take a step back from this narrative of consent and start to look at the fact that people don't have a choice."

## ■ Digital Public Policy?

Facebook and Google are able to collect considerable amounts of personal data, enabling them to secure monopoly profits by renting their platforms and data to third parties.

These third parties can then use the Facebook and Google platforms and their vast personal data troves to manipulate what individual users see, read, think and buy. Google thus earned some USD 95 billion, while Facebook earned about USD 40 billion in 2017 alone.

Appropriate public policy can make this business model far less lucrative. The US has previously used various 'common carriage' rules to limit or prevent railways, telecommunication companies and other monopolistic owners of essential infrastructure from discriminating among different users.

For example, AT&T was not allowed to set different rates or terms of service for different people based on what it could learn about their personal lives. Applying similar rules to Google, Facebook and Amazon now would reduce much of their incentive to collect, use, sell or rent personal data by limiting their means to profit from thus using such information.

To be sure, Apple also benefits from the Google and Facebook business models. In 2018, Google paid Apple USD 9 billion to become the default search engine on Apple products, while Goldman Sachs expects such payments to increase to USD 12 billion in 2019.

## ■ US reforms today

The US-based Open Markets Institute (OMI) has proposed new laws to overrule pro-monopoly judicial precedents and to empower employees, consumers and small businesses against abuses by large monopolies.

Accordingly, the OMI has proposed four measures to the US Congress' Judiciary Committee: firstly, to investigate growing concentration in and control of specific industries; secondly, to conduct hearings on the relationship of such concentration to political corruption; thirdly, to educate the public about what it describes as the national 'monopoly crisis'; and fourthly, to advocate anti-monopoly policies and principles with

other Congressional committees and federal agencies.

The OMI recommends beginning with pharmaceuticals, hospital fees, dominant platforms, advertising, labour, inequality, agriculture, other FTC priorities, the US Justice Department's Antitrust Division, trade and national security.

## ■ Developing countries?

It is doubtful, however, that the rest of the world, especially developing countries, can count on US policy reforms to protect, let alone advance, their best interests, whether in terms of development or even appropriate competition policy.

Given the limited size of most developing economies, a single-minded obsession with competition may well undermine the likelihood of achieving economies of scale and international competitiveness, both important for accelerating economic development.

Size matters, and what may be appropriate for large economies may not be appropriate for smaller national economies. Furthermore, the limited jurisdiction of US legislation is likely to encourage corporations to engage in regulatory arbitrage abroad to their own advantage.

In any case, even if US lawmakers and regulators are able to protect and advance US public interest through appropriate and effective regulatory policy, there is little reason to assume that the best interests of others will be best served by the effective exercise of US regulations.

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### Excerpt:

Visit this story at

[ipsnews.net/2019/05/neoliberal-reforms-strengthening-monopoly-power-abuses](https://ipsnews.net/2019/05/neoliberal-reforms-strengthening-monopoly-power-abuses)



Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, was a member of the new Malaysian Government's Council of Eminent Persons.



Anis Chowdhury

# Open House Celebration



## Hari Raya Aidilfitri 2019

### Selangor State Open House

15th June 2019 (Saturday) | 8 pm  
Bulatan Bazarena, Section 13 Shah Alam

