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SELANGOR JOURNAL



The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, delivers his royal address at Balairung Seri, Istana Alam Shah, Klang on his 74th birthday celebrations, accompanied by Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

MORE ON PAGE 3

Selangor smart city vision on global map

Selangor made history in November by becoming the first state to represent Malaysia at the Smart City Expo World Congress, which took place in Barcelona, Spain. The state government's participation reflects Selangor's commitment in fulfilling its aspiration to become a smart state by 2025.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had witnessed the launch of the Selangor Regional Powerhouse Roadmap as well as the signing of joint undertakings between Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI Selangor) and foreign companies at the global event.

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Amirudin receives top state honours

By NORHAYATI UMOR

KLANG - Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari was conferred the Dato' Seri title in conjunction with the 74th birthday celebrations of the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah on December 11.

Amirudin headed a list of 91 medal recipients in Selangor and was awarded the First Class Darjah Kebesaran Seri Paduka Mahkota Selangor (SPMS).

Wearing a sky blue baju Melayu, Amirudin was accompanied by his wife Masdiana Muhamad.

The ceremony was held at the Istana Alam Shah here.

Amirudin, 39, was appointed the 16th Menteri Besar in June last year and prior to that, was a member of the Selangor State Executive Council, holding the portfolio for Youth Development, Sports, Cultural and Entrepreneurship Development since 2014.

He was also the manager of the Selangor FA football team and was the Selangor State Sports Council deputy chairman from 2008 to 2010.

In conjunction with the Sultan's birthday, the state government received 2,268 applications for awards and titles. It nominated 958 individuals, out of which 91 were selected to receive the state's highest honours.

Amirudin is the sole recipient of the Dato' Seri title this year.



Sultan Sharafuddin conferring the Dato' Seri title upon Amirudin at Istana Alam Shah on December 11.

Women in politics help bridge gender divide

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - Political empowerment has been identified as the major contributor to the improvement of the Malaysia Gender Gap Index (MGGI) in 2018, the Department of Statistics Malaysia revealed on November 25.

Malaysia is now ranked 63 out of 144 countries in the Global Gender Gap report, as compared to 70 in 2017.

The MGGI identifies the gap between women and men across four sub-indices: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. A score of 1.0 (100 per cent) indicates no gap between men and women, with both groups achieving equality.

"Based on the MGGI 2018 score, our ranking has improved. Simultaneously, with-in East Asia and the Pacific, Malaysia stands at the sixth position, has climbed two positions compared to 2017, and ahead of Indonesia, China and Brunei Darussalam,"

Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said in a statement.

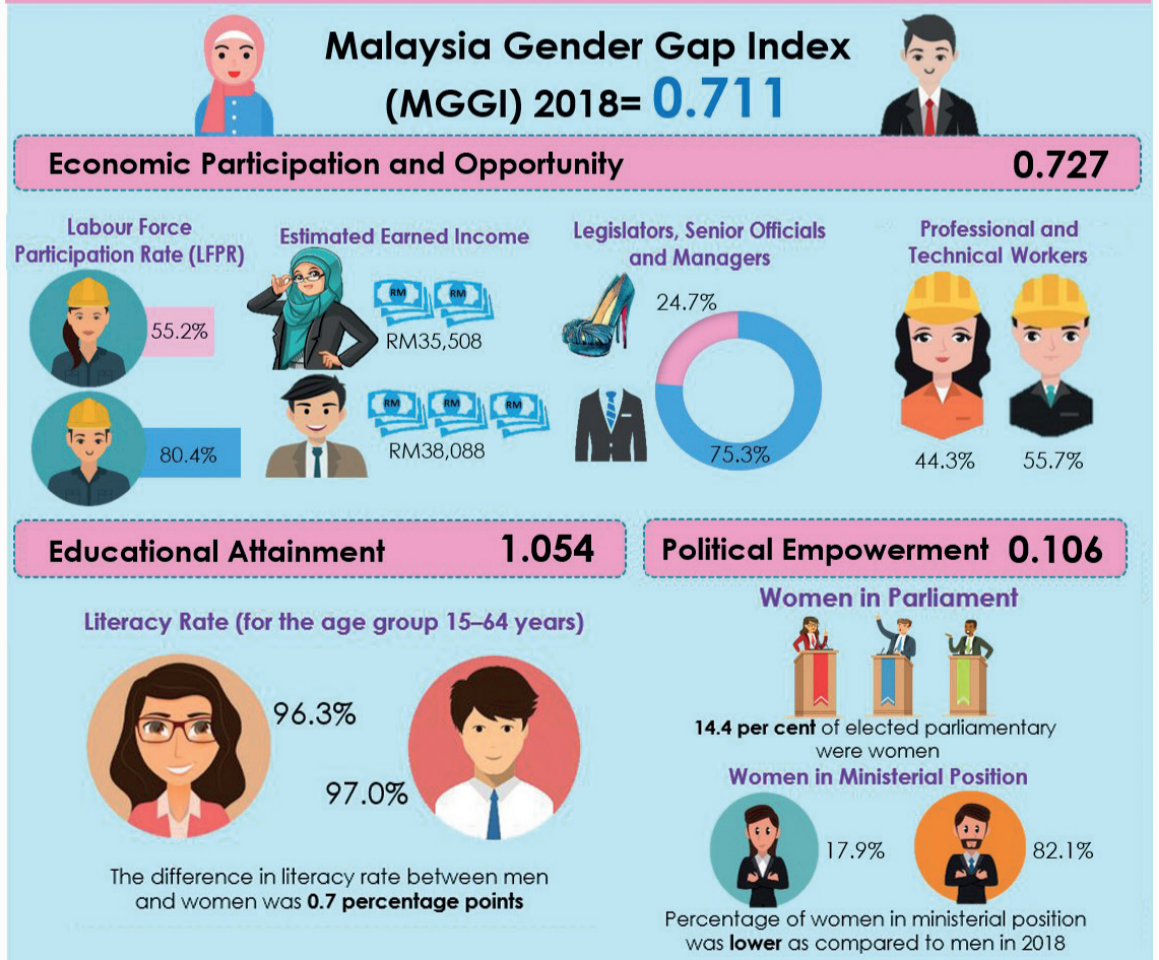
Mohd Uzir was commenting on the publication titled Statistics on Women Empowerment in Selected Domains in Malaysia 2018, which features gender-related statistics in Malaysia for the years between 2016 and 2018.

He said the MGGI in 2018 showed an average score of 0.711, and had improved from the 0.697 average score of the previous year.

"Health and survival sub-index recorded a score of 0.958, followed by economic participation and opportunity (0.727), and political empowerment (0.106). The political empowerment subindex was the major contributor to the increase of the MGGI score in 2018," he added.

According to the statistics, 14.4 per cent of elected parliamentarians were women, although the percentage of women in ministerial positions (17.9 per cent) was significantly lower compared to men (82.1 per cent).

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN MALAYSIA 2019



Sources: Statistics on Women Empowerment in Selected Domains, Malaysia, 2019
Department of Statistics, Malaysia

The numbers also show that women between the ages of 15 and 64 have a literacy rate of 96.3 per cent, as opposed to men in the same age group who are 97 per cent literate.

"Recognising the significant role of women, Malaysia is committed to achieving gender equality and promoting the rights of women and girls. The government's con-

tinuous effort and commitment towards achieving gender equality are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and Eleventh Malaysia Plan," said Mohd Uzir.

Duty, honour and love for his people



Sultan Sharafuddin inspecting the guard of honour on his 74th birthday celebrations at Istana Alam Shah, Klang

By NAZLI IBRAHIM

THE people of Selangor are blessed to be led by a ruler who is attentive to the affairs of the state.

This is reflected through Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah's firmness in his royal decrees, as well as the visits he has made to his people, that have changed many lives and touched many hearts.

While often promoting tolerance and greater understanding between the different faiths and communities in his state, Sultan Sharafuddin also sees great importance in upholding Islam and its values.

He once raised the idea of liberalism and how some people are now championing for equal rights for people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

"Such hidden threats will destroy Islam and its followers from the inside," he said in his royal address at a ceremony held at the Balairung Seri, Istana Alam Shah in Klang on March 3.

Aside from being well versed in current issues, Sultan Sharafuddin often takes part in programmes that carry the message of environmental awareness.

On July 21, His Majesty graced the Selangor Urban Planting Programme 2019 held at Lingkar Cyberpoint Barat, Cyberjaya, during which he planted the 'Swietenia Macrophylla' tree, also known as the Mahogany.

During the event, a total of 1,500 shade trees and 3,000 shrubs were planted by 2,000 participants from the public sector, higher learning institutes, schools and NGOs.

Orang Asli welfare close to his heart

Sultan Sharafuddin has always shown great interest in the welfare and development of the Orang Asli community.

At his royal meet with the Orang Asli people in Carey Island on November 3, the Sultan urged the federal and state governments to give sufficient allocation for the development of the indigenous group.

"I hope the welfare of the Orang Asli community would continue and that focus would be given on their basic development," he said.

Sultan Sharafuddin had ordered for 584.852 hectares (1,445.2 acres) of land on Carey Island to be gazetted by the state government for the placement of the Orang Asli

people as well as for their development.

Sympathy for fireman Adib

Sultan Sharafuddin was sympathetic towards the tragedy that befell fireman Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim last year.

"I was made to understand that the deceased was attacked while performing his duty in extinguishing the fire in the riot incident that took place near Sri Maha Mariamman temple, USJ, on November 27, 2018.

"I would like to convey my sympathy and condolences to the deceased's family and hope that they are brave in facing this unfortunate fate," he said in his message to Adib's father.

An eye on the economy

His Majesty has great interest in economic issues, particularly on investments in Selangor, as a healthy economy means being able to attract investors and open up job opportunities for the people.

On October 10, Sultan Sharafuddin launched the Selangor International Business Summit 2019, which was held at the Malaysia International



1. Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin visit the Orang Asli Community in Carey Island on November 3. The royal couple is accompanied by Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari
2. Sultan Sharafuddin pays his respects at the Makam Diraja Klang on November 9
3. Sultan Sharafuddin graces the royal tea reception in conjunction with his 74th birthday celebrations. By his side is his consort Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin

Trade & Exhibition Centre.

He also visited the exhibitions at the summit, where local and foreign investors, as well as multinational and small and medium enterprises, convened.

Sultan Sharafuddin also attended celebrations marking 50 years of Toyota Malaysia's vehicle production in the country on June 25 in Bukit Raja industrial area, Klang.

A love for fine things

This year, Sultan Sharafuddin also graced a number of art shows. He visited the Mihrab exhibition by Segaris Art Centre in Kuala Lumpur on November 2, and also the Art Expo Malaysia 2019 at the MATRADE Exhibition and Conven-

tion Centre Kuala Lumpur on October 10.

Duty bound

The Sultan is most committed to his royal duties. It was His Majesty who chaired the 252nd special Conference of Rulers meeting, which was held in conjunction with the oath taking ceremony of Sultan of Pahang, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Shah, as the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong, on January 31.

Sultan Sharafuddin also chaired the two-day 254th meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara on July 3.



Selangor comes down hard on domestic abuse



By **NADIAH ZAMLUS**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor state government has initiated the Integrated Safe Community Programme to address the high number of domestic violence in the state.

With the cooperation of NGO Women's Aid Organisation, the pilot project was initiated to empower the community as Selangor records the highest number of domestic violence cases nationwide.

State Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Committee

chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud (*pic*) said clear information on domestic violence would be channelled to the public through the campaign.

"According to the United Nations report, about 15 per cent of women worldwide face domestic violence.

"Selangor also records the highest number of domestic violence, with 91 cases out of a total of 340 cases (27 per cent) reported to the Social Welfare Department from January to June this year coming from the state," she said on a *Bernama* talk show 'Selangor Safe Community Ini-

tiative' on December 9.

Dr Siti Mariah said with the programme's launch and the increase in awareness among the public, more reports of cases of abuse are expected.

She said the campaign would involve the state government, social activists, the Village Community Management Council (MPKK) and community leaders.

"I hope this pilot project will be emulated by other states as domestic violence can take place anywhere."

Malaysian girls not getting enough exercise, says WHO

SHAH ALAM - About 90 per cent of teenage girls in Malaysia are not doing enough physical activity, according to a global study published in November.

The study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and published in *The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health Journal* was carried out between 2001 and 2016, and examined the lifestyles of some 1.6 million students aged between 11 and 17 years old across 146 countries.

According to the study, 91.4 per cent of Malaysian teenage girls did not get sufficient exercise in 2016, compared to 91.1 per cent in 2011, making it a 0.3 per cent increase in five years.

Teenage boys in Malaysia had performed just a little better, with the number of those not doing enough exercise standing at 80.6 per cent in 2016, and 82.5 per cent in 2001.

The study said that over 80 per cent of school-going adolescents worldwide had not met the physical activity recommendations set by WHO. The organisation advocates 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise daily.

The trend in Malaysia, therefore, is

consistent with global trends.

WHO also noted that there is evidence many health benefits gained during teenage years carry forward into adulthood.

"Furthermore, there is a growing body of evidence suggesting a positive impact of physical activity on cognitive development and prosocial behaviour," the study read.

WHO has recommended for all countries to develop or update national policy and implementation plans on physical activity.

"Most importantly, (to) allocate the necessary political priority and resources to enable implementation, or their commitment to increase physical activity will not be achieved," it said.

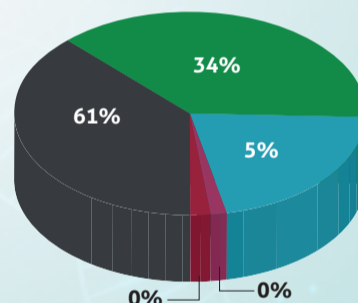
"Without exception, all countries should prioritise policy and programmes that target children and adolescents, especially girls."

The regions included in the study were categorised as central and eastern Europe, central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, high-income Asia Pacific, high-income western countries, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

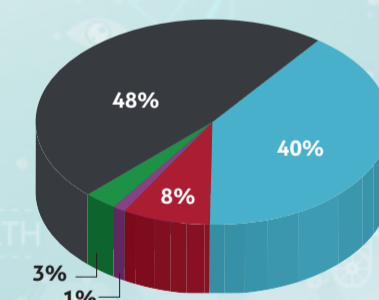
HIV Transmission in Malaysia

(1990 - 2018)

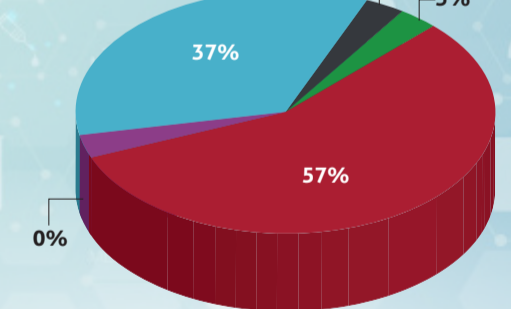
1990



2010



2018



Source: Disease Control Division, Health Ministry

High-risk sex main cause of HIV spread

SHAH ALAM - The Health Ministry has revealed that male homosexual intercourse is the main cause of HIV transmission in Malaysia, taking up 57 per cent of an unstated number of total cases.

In conjunction with World HIV Day 2019 on December 1, the ministry has released some statistics on the changes in HIV transmission trends from when the disease was first recorded in Malaysia in 1990 until 2018.

Intravenous drug use had been the main transmission method three decades ago, accounting for 61 per cent of cases, as shown in an infographic shared by the ministry. Sexual activity,

both heterosexual and homosexual, accounted for just 5 per cent in the 1990s.

Apart from sexual activities and infection through needle-sharing among drug addicts, the ministry said HIV is also transmitted through pregnancies, blood or organ donations, and accidents caused by infected needles.

In 2018, over half of the total number of cases were due to same-sex activities between men, and only three per cent of the cases were caused by needle-sharing.

The remaining 37 per cent of cases were from heterosexual activities and another three per cent were due to other causes.

Singaporeans top Selangor's visitors list

PETALING JAYA - Selangor was most visited by Singaporeans in 2018 compared to tourists from other nations, said Datuk Abdul Rashid Asari (*pic*).

The Selangor Culture, Tourism, Malay Customs and Heritage Committee Chairman said out of a total of 7.23 million visitors to the state in 2018, some 316,230 were our southern neighbours.

"This a great achievement that would boost the Selangor tourism industry as well as the state and national economy.

"We have also recorded a total of RM10.3 million in tourism tax, which is an added revenue for the state government," he said at the launch of the state level Visit Malaysia 2020 (VMY2020) at Eastin Hotel Kuala Lumpur on November 22.

Also present were Deputy Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik and Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Selangor Director Syed Mohd Fariz Syed Mansor.

Abdul Rashid said the state government, through Tourism Selan-



gor, is working on strategic planning to increase the number of visitors in 2020.

Several events have been planned in conjunction with VMY2020, including the Selangor Marathon, the Selangor Cruise Festival, the Selangor Golf Open, the Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta Yacht Race and the Selangor International

Indigenous Arts Festival.

"Selangor has interesting tourism products to offer and they should be developed," he said.

Abdul Rashid also urged the Selangor people to help promote the VMY2020 logo and theme song, which were launched by the Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in July.

Rich heritage a boon for VMY2020

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

PETALING JAYA - The rich cultural heritage of the various ethnicities in Selangor bodes well for the Visit Malaysia 2020 (VMY2020) campaign.

Deputy Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik said because of this, the Federal government's 30 million foreign tourist target for 2020 would be achievable.

He said a projected total of RM100 billion in revenue collected from foreign tourists would stimulate both the state and national economy.

"With the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (being the gateway into the country, Selangor is one of the top three states in attracting foreign visitors.

"Therefore, we will be collaborating with the state government through Tourism Selangor in boosting ecotourism and cultural tourism, and promoting such places as the Mah Meri Orang Asli Village," said Muhammad Bakhtiar at the launch of the state level Visit Malaysia 2020 at Eastin Hotel Kuala Lumpur on November 21.

"The Federal government has offered incentives to help the tourism industry in Selangor. This includes the Galakan Melancong Malaysia, the Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund and the Special Tourism Fund.

"We hope Tourism Malaysia and Tourism Selangor will continue to collaborate in promoting tourism activities, especially in the state," he said.



Daulat Tuanku

MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY BLESS OUR SULTAN

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH ALHAJ
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ

D.K., D.M.N., D.K. (Terengganu), D.K. (Kelantan), D.K. (Perak), D.K. (Perlis), D.K. (Negeri Sembilan), D.K. (Kedah), D.K. (Johor), S.P.M.S., S.S.I.S., S.P.M.J.

SULTAN AND RULER OF THE STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN
AND ALL ITS DEPENDENCIES

Heartiest Salutations And Congratulations
In Conjunction With His Royal Highness' 74th Birthday
On 11th December 2019

With utmost sincerity,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MANAGEMENT & STAFF

INVEST
SELANGOR
THE GOLDEN STATE OF MALAYSIA



Selangor exceeds investment goal with RM16.4b in 2019



SHAH ALAM - Selangor has recorded a total of RM16.4 billion in investment in the manufacturing sector from January to September 2019.

Its Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the data revealed by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) shows that the Selangor state government has surpassed its target of achieving RM10 billion in investment this year.

He said the recorded investment puts Selangor at the top position among other states as of the third quarter of 2019.

"Last year, Selangor had achieved the highest recorded investment in 30 years, with a total investment of RM18.9 billion, despite the US-China trade war and the global economic slowdown.

economic slowdown.

"This proves that Selangor's political and administrative stability, the state government's investor-friendly policies and high-quality infrastructure facilities are among the factors that attract investors to invest in the state," he said in a statement on December 4.

Amirudin said the 100-Days Approval Policy that will be introduced in 2020 is part of the state administration's commitment to ease business transactions, promote investment and boost Selangor's economic potential.

He said he hopes that the achievement would drive the state government to continue making Selangor the economic axis of Malaysia while championing the welfare of the people.

Malaysia records RM149b of approved investments

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia has become more selective in its investment agenda, attracting quality investments in targeted ecosystems that are projected to have significant knock-on effects throughout the domestic economy, said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Darell Leiking.

In a statement on November 29, he said Malaysia recorded RM149 billion worth of approved investments in the services, manufacturing and primary sectors in the first nine months (January to September) of this year.

"This was 4.4 per cent higher than the RM142.6 billion approved in the same period last year.

"These investments involved 4,025 projects and will create an additional of 93,841 job opportunities," said Darell.

The majority of the investments came from domestic sources, which contributed RM82.7 billion or 55.5 per cent of the total investments.

Foreign direct investments (FDI) represented 44.5 per cent or RM66.3 billion.

"Total approved FDI in these three main sectors increased by 6.5 per cent to

RM66.3 billion in January-September 2019 from RM62.2 billion in the same period last year," he said.

In terms of sectors, the services sector attracted RM85 billion involving 3,299 approved projects compared with RM74.9 billion comprising 2,931 projects recorded in the corresponding period last year.

These projects are poised to generate over 38,800 employment opportunities.

Out of the total, 72 per cent or RM61.2 billion were from domestic sources and the balance of 28 per cent or RM23.8 billion were foreign investments.

The manufacturing sector approved 671 projects worth RM57.7 billion in the first nine months of 2019 compared with 467 projects with investments of RM57.5 billion in January-September 2018.

Domestic investments amounted to RM18.5 billion or 32.1 per cent, an increase of 81.7 per cent from RM10.2 billion in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the primary sector contributed RM6.3 billion or 4.2 per cent of the total approved investments in

January-September 2019.

The mining subsector continued to lead with approved investments of RM5.9 billion, followed by plantation and commodities with RM275.2 million, and agriculture with RM135.1 million.

Foreign investments dominated the approved investments for the sector totalling RM3.3 billion while domestic sources contributed RM3 billion.

"Despite the ongoing trade tensions pointing to slower growth, we will stick to the course and continue attracting strategic partners to invest in Malaysia.

"This will generate more spillover impact on the economy through the growth of the local supply chain ecosystems and improvement of the Malaysian workforce," said Darell.

As of September 2019, he said the Malaysian Investment Development Authority was actively negotiating 682 projects with proposed investments of RM37.6 billion.

These include 242 projects within the manufacturing sector (RM26.6 billion) and 440 projects in the services sector (RM11.0 billion). - Bernama

SST revenue collection surpasses target

KUALA LUMPUR - The total sales and services tax (SST) revenue collected from January until October this year is RM22.6 billion, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Amiruddin Hamzah said.

He said the tax revenue has exceeded this year's target of RM21 billion, even with two months to go.

"It surpassed our initial expectations. We intend to ensure that the economy continues to grow, with many large-scale businesses flourishing and the number of people paying taxes, especially business taxes, getting bigger.

"This will indirectly increase the country's source of income," he said when winding up the debate on the Finance Bill 2019 at the Dewan Rakyat on December 2.

The SST was reintroduced on September 1, 2018, in place of the abolished Goods and Services Tax (GST). The SST was gazetted on August 26, 2018.

On income tax exemption, Amiruddin said a 10 per cent deduction would be given to any companies that make cash donations to the construction of any house of worship or to management funds approved under Section 44 (6) of the Income Tax Act 1967.

"The companies are entitled



We intend to ensure that the economy continues to grow, with many large-scale businesses flourishing and the number of people paying taxes, especially business taxes, getting bigger

AMIRUDDIN HAMZAH
Deputy Finance Minister

to a 10 per cent tax deduction from their aggregate income provided they provide receipts as proof of the donations," he said.

The bill was approved by the Dewan Rakyat after the third reading. - Bernama

Fernandes: AirAsia optimistic of growth

SEPANG - AirAsia Group Bhd is optimistic about its business growth in 2020 amid sustained travel demand and economic headwinds, despite the ongoing protests in Hong Kong.

Group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes (*pic*) said the company has grown in more than 20 years since founding the low-cost airline and would continue to offer affordable pricing.

"Travel has become a necessity. People will have holidays, people would want to migrate for work. My outlook would remain really positive. We see more growth, that is why we bought 300 aircraft.

"We are very optimistic," he told reporters after welcoming AirAsia's first Airbus A321neo from Hamburg, Germany here on November 22.

Tourism Minister Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi was also present.

Earlier this year, AirAsia converted 253 orders for the A320neo to the larger A321neo version, with a total of 353 aircraft on order, making AirAsia one of the world's largest customers for the A321neo. The aircraft is now set to become the first to operate in Malaysia.

The A321neo is a member of the best-selling Airbus A320 Family incorporating the very latest technologies, such as new-generation engines and Sharklets which together aim



Tony Fernandes

to deliver over 10 per cent in fuel savings.

"Profit will increase. We are looking for a strong year in 2020," he added.

Asked whether the group plans to float its unit in the Philippines, Fernandes said it would wait for a fair valuation.

"The Philippines is our diamond in the rough because it exists in the border of China and Taiwan and (is) a great connector to the east of America. We are doing great and we do not want to sell ourselves cheap."

The Philippines unit of AirAsia is postponing its initial public offering to next year or 2021 while it focuses on corporate reorganisation and seeking funds from existing shareholders.

The low-cost airline has been looking to go public and raise about US\$200 million since 2015 but has shelved its

plans several times because of weak markets and volatile oil prices.

In his speech, Mohamaddin said increasing flight connectivity from other destinations to Malaysia is one of the initiatives to boost arrivals into Malaysia and meet Visit Malaysia 2020 campaign targets.

"Indeed, AirAsia has contributed significantly towards the growth of tourism in Malaysia with the addition of the AirAsia A321neo into its fleet which has an additional 50 seats as compared to the current Airbus A320 that AirAsia uses," he added.

AirAsia will eventually replace the existing fleet of A320 and A320neo aircraft throughout the network covering Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, India and Japan.

With 236 seats - a 27 per cent increase in capacity compared to AirAsia's present fleet of A320 (180 seats) and A320neo (186 seats), the A321neo will be able to meet strong ongoing demands across the network with significant operational efficiencies. This will open up opportunities to explore new destinations.

AirAsia Group currently operates a wholly Airbus Family fleet of aircraft, flying out of its hubs in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, India and Japan. - Bernama

Federal govt offshore debt stands at RM29.2b

KUALA LUMPUR - The federal government's offshore borrowing stood at RM29.2 billion as of the end of June this year, the Dewan Rakyat was told on November 20.

In a written reply at the Dewan Rakyat, the Finance Ministry said the debt only constituted 1.9 per cent of the total federal government debt, and included US dollar-denominated debt (RM15.9 billion), yen (RM13.1 billion), Islamic dinar (RM216 million), euro (RM1.6 million) and Canadian dollar (RM2.5 million).

It said the federal government's offshore borrowing is also below the ceiling of RM35 billion set under the External Loans Act 1963.

The ministry said this when replying to a question from Lipis MP Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad on the total outstanding bonds and loans received by the government from foreign countries or parties.

The Finance Ministry said as of end-June this year, the federal government debt amounted to RM799.1 billion or 52.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

It said the total debt is still below the 55 per cent level of GDP.

The ministry said under prudent debt management, every bond or sukuk issuance denominated in foreign currencies must be examined more carefully taking into account the statutory limit

The federal government's offshore debt only constituted 1.9 per cent of the total federal government debt, and included US dollar-denominated debt (RM15.9 billion), yen (RM13.1 billion), Islamic dinar (RM216 million), euro (RM1.6 million) and Canadian dollar (RM2.5 million)

of offshore borrowing, debt maturity profile, and foreign risk exposure to the country rating.

"This is to ensure the government is able to broaden the investor base, get value for money on coupon rates and subsequently achieve the main objective of reducing the government financing cost." - Bernama

MAHB to attract more airlines for VMY 2020

SHAH ALAM - Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) is working on campaigns to attract more airlines into the country for Visit Malaysia 2020, *Free Malaysia Today (FMT)* reported on November 19.

Its group chief executive officer Raja Azmi Raja Nazuddin told the news portal that MAHB is planning to engage nine airlines to fly to its airports, which will add to several that have already started flying into Malaysia this year.

He said among the airlines that have begun landing in the country are Air Busan, Batik Air, Air Arabia, Scoot, Qatar Airways, and Royal Brunei.

"These airlines came in a very big way. The frequency of

their flights ranges from three times a week to daily.

"There is a lot of interest in Malaysia, not just for tourism but also for business, education, and health.

"We are delighted to have facilitated this increase in air traffic to the country through our various efforts," Raja Azmi was quoted by the English portal.

He said there was also the introduction of new routes by Indigo, which now flies into Malaysia 21 times a week, and also Citilink, AirAsia Thailand and Philippines Airlines.

Some airlines have also increased their flight frequencies from India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

He told *FMT* that there are also plans with several airlines that are already flying into Malaysia to add 16 routes to the five international airports in the country.



The rich aqua and silver silhouettes win the hearts of the audience



Modesty in full splendour

THE SELANGOR MODEST FASHION GALA 2019 debuts with the highlight on the Royal Collection, a showcase of designs inspired by the state's traditional fashion, and infused with a modern and modest touch.



Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin graces the gala at the Four Seasons Hotel on December 3, 2019

“

An initiative by the state government under Invest Selangor Berhad, Selangor Modest Fashion is a realisation of Selangor's vision to empower and create global champions while positioning itself to become a designer hub for modest fashion in the next five years



Hazzerwan Lee and Mariam Musa, the faces behind the label Wan & Mary, win top prize

Wan & Mary has chosen the ocean as their design concept, winning them the most coveted prize of the night



By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM and NADIAH ZAMLUS

THEMED 'Redefining Modesty', the show was graced by Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, and the wife of the Tengku Mahkota of Kelantan, Cik Puan Sofie Louise Johansson. It was held at the Four Seasons Hotel on December 4.

Also present was the Raja Muda of Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah.

The highly anticipated gala had opened with nine aspiring designers each showcasing three ready-to-wear (RTW) outfits and one look for the Royal Collection.

The budding designers had undergone a four-month competition for the Selangor Modest Fashion Aspiring Award under the mentorship and supervision of industry experts like fashion curator Faizal Hamid, fashion stylist Zaihani Mohd Zain and KL Fashion Week founder Andrew Tan.

Wan and Mary, who had only ventured into the fashion industry a year ago, emerged the winner of the competition.

The show also featured 12 established designers, such as Melinda Looi, Datuk Tom Abang Saufi, Datuk Radzuan Radziwill, FIZIWOO, and Rizman Ruzaini, each showcasing their creations for the Royal Collection.

The collection showcased designs for both men and women, inspired by the nine-petal 'Bunga Tanjung', the official flower of Selangor. The flower is also one

of the key elements in the architectural designs of the Selangor royal palace.

Selangor Modest Fashion, through the gala, had aimed to engage with local and international royalty, socialites, corporate figures, celebrities, lifestyle influencers, and industry players to further promote the growth of the modest fashion industry in the state.

An initiative by the state government under Invest Selangor Berhad, Selangor Modest Fashion is a realisation of Selangor's vision to empower and create global champions while positioning itself to become a designer hub for modest fashion in the next five years.

The fashion industry in Malaysia is growing at a steady pace of 12 per cent yearly and has an estimated revenue growth of RM2 billion, from RM3.5 billion in 2019 to RM5.5 billion by 2023.

WAN & MARY TRIUMPHS

WAN & MARY, a label owned by Hazzerwan Lee and Mariam Musa, won the jury's hearts and were crowned as the top aspiring designers at the Selangor Modest Fashion 2019.

The award came as a surprise to the two friends from Mara Rembau High School, going on stage to receive their prize from Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

Hazzerwan said the choice of using the ocean as the theme for the duo's cre-

ASPIRING DESIGNERS

The aspiring designers started off on the right footing and took the opportunity to highlight their talent.

- Nadd Hassan
- Nicole Teoh
- Riza Ib.harim
- Shawn L.
- Wan & Mary
- Arunsayfull
- Emin Madrosa
- Fyrose
- Ghaania

ESTABLISHED DESIGNERS

The established names of the Malaysian fashion scene showcase their creativity.

- Tom Abang Saufi
- Melinda Looi
- Innai Red
- Datuk Radzuan Radziwill
- FIZIWOO
- Mimpikita
- Rizman Ruzaini
- Khoon Hooi
- Syaiful Baharim
- Jimmy Lim
- Syomirizwa Gupta
- Farhana (Brunei)

“

Busana santun or modest fashion is in high demand both domestically and abroad, especially in the Middle East

HAZZERWAN LEE
WAN & MARY

ations truly brought them luck.

"We adopted a combination of the colours of the sea, while the shape of the dress was styled following the patterns of sea waves," he told Media Selangor.

Meanwhile, Mariam said she is confident that Selangor's mission to bring attention to modest fashion wear is in line with the current developments in the fashion world.

"Busana santun or modest fashion is in high demand both domestically and abroad, especially in the Middle East.

"I also view this fashion as one that is rich in culture and can be a great choice for people of all races and religions," she said.



The Pitch@Selangor competition on November 26, 2019, drew a 500-strong crowd. The inaugural event was held at One World Hotel in Petaling Jaya.

Picture by PITCH@SELANGOR/SITEC

“Entrepreneurship and technology innovations have always remained in the heart of the Selangor government. SITEC was established in 2015 to develop Selangor as the regional trading hub for e-commerce and to uplift the startup ecosystem

NG SZE HAN

Selangor Local Government,
Public Transportation, and New Village
Development Committee Chairman

Pitch@Selangor: Empowering the best business minds



Picture by PITCH@SELANGOR/SITEC

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

THE inaugural Pitch@Selangor competition kicked off on November 26 as part of the Selangor state government's effort to promote digital entrepreneurship and innovation, and will contribute towards the Smart Selangor initiative through advancements in business and commercial ecosystems.

The business pitching event, organised by the Selangor Information Technology & E-Commerce Council (SITEC), provides a platform for new

businesses to connect with potential supporters including angel investors, mentors, and business partners.

Selangor Local Government, Public Transportation, and New Village Development Committee Chairman Ng Sze Han said Pitch@Selangor provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs and business startups to validate their business proposals as well as for the state government to recognise the best business concepts and models.

“Entrepreneurship and technology innovations have always remained in the heart of the Selangor government.

SITEC was established in 2015 to develop Selangor as the regional trading hub for e-commerce and to uplift the startup ecosystem.

“To achieve the smart state agenda, Selangor needs to promote digital entrepreneurship and innovation that will drive technology investment, nurture local tech champions and create high-value jobs and business opportunities,” Ng said in his opening speech at the launch of Pitch@Selangor held at One World Hotel.

Also present at the event were SITEC chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping and Entre-

preneur Development Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Mohd Hatta Md Ramli.

Ng said SITEC had launched various initiatives, such as E-Commerce Education and Online 100, the Apps 100 programme, and the Selangor Accelerator Programme (SAP), which have nurtured over 575 merchants and mentored 60 startups in the past four-and-a-half years.

He said the 16 contestants in the Pitch@Selangor competition, which had contested under the small and medium enterprise (SME) and social enterprise categories, were shortlisted from hundreds of local startups, of which many are alumni to SAP.

The champions of Pitch@Selangor were awarded a trip to Silicon Valley in California, home to many startups and global technology giants, as well as a RM10,000 prize.

Second and third place winners took home RM8,000 and RM6,000 in prize money respectively. All winners were awarded a trophy and a certificate.

STATE REPS FEATURE AS PANEL JUDGES

WITH the participation of 16 startups, Pitch@Selangor 2019 featured six Selangor state as-

semblymen as its panel judges.

SITEC chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping, in his welcome speech, said the competition aims to help SMEs and social enterprises in Selangor boost and accelerate their entrepreneurship work and propose their innovative proposals to various stakeholders.

“The participation of six honourable Selangor state assemblymen demonstrates how public and private sector stakeholders can work together to provide enhanced media publicity, better market access and new funding opportunities to startups.

“Visionary leadership will help to drive the growth of an Entrepreneurial Nation (E Nation) that thrives on innovation and creativity,” Yong said.

Yong added that the event would also be able to identify potential innovative products and solutions from entrepreneurs and startups that could be piloted or adopted by the state government as well as the private sector.

He noted that impactful startups and inspiring entrepreneurs could be driven from a sustainable ecosystem offering capacity-building initiatives in growing talent.

“A vibrant entrepreneurship and startup community will be a crucial element that contrib-



1. Petotum, the winner of the social enterprise category
2. Dropee, the winner of the small and medium enterprise category
3. Ng (left) and Yong present appreciation awards to event partners
4. The panel of judges, which includes state representatives

- Lim Yi Wei
Bukit Tunku state assemblyman.

THE WINNERS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Petotum co-founder Afifah Basir, first prize winner in the social enterprise category

“For most startups, going to Silicon Valley is the ultimate dream and we are happy that our dream will come true very soon. We are excited to see what’s happening on the other side of the world, what the latest trend in tech is.

“We really hope we can bring back what we learn, and share the knowledge, inspiration and amazing stories with our team members and friends, and accelerate our startup growth. For us, it is more like a study trip and we look forward to learning more.

“With the RM500,000 commercialisation grant that we received from Teraju SUPERB very recently, we hope that we can use it to upgrade our pet care management system, and also to help others in the pet care business such as pet hotels, veterinary clinics and retail shops.

utes towards Selangor state’s agenda of achieving the smart state status by 2025,” he said.

The six state representatives who participated as the panel judges were:

- **Edry Faizal Eddy Yusof**
Dusan Tua state assemblyman
- **Juwairiya Zulkifli**
Bukit Melawati state assemblyman
- **Adhif Syan Abdullah**
Dengkil state assemblyman
- **Rajiv Rishyakaran**
Bukit Gasing state assemblyman
- **Rozana Zainal Abidin**
Permatang state

The top three winners are:

► **SME category**



Dropee : a technology company aimed at addressing the SME market

Biztory : a cloud accounting system designed for small businesses and startups

NakRide : a local-based company providing a platform for peer-to-peer motorbike sharing

► **Social enterprise**



Petotum : A tech enabler startup to empower the pet care industry

Langit : An impact-driven social enterprise aspiring to bridge the urban and rural economies

Biji-Biji Initiative : Aims to tackle the plastic waste problem through innovative and self-sustaining solutions for underserved communities

“We will focus on empowering micro, small and medium businesses focusing on pet care and at the same time, create more awareness on the importance of animal welfare, and on rescue and adoption efforts to control the stray population in Malaysia.”

Dropee business development and marketing head Alia Al-sagoff, first prize winner in the SME category

“On behalf of Dropee.com, I feel that the trip to Silicon Valley is an amazing initiative from SITEC and the Selangor government. This shows just

how serious their commitment is in grooming Malaysian startups, SMEs, and social enterprises for long-term future success — by exposing us to the land of tech giants and startups galore.

“SITEC did a fantastic job in garnering interest and attendance from locals across all walks of life, as well as in curating the shortlisted SMEs and social enterprises for Pitch@Selangor 2019.

“All attendees were genuinely curious and visited each participating booth in order to learn more about the latest developments within the SME, startup and Social Enterprise scene in Selangor. Winning the Pitch@Selangor 2019 competition was the icing on our cake and a joyous moment for all of us at Dropee.

“Dropee.com as a company is poised for further nationwide expansion within Malaysia, as well as regional expansion within Southeast Asia.

“We aim to service at least 10,000 retailers by the end of 2020, through relevant industry partnerships, obsessive focus on our quality of service, and unrelenting spirit of our team to capture more growth in our markets.”

Picture by PITCH@SELANGOR/SITEC

By NAZLI IBRAHIM

KLANG - An increase in public awareness on environmental issues is said to be one of the factors that has led to a reduction in river pollution in Selangor.

Menteri Besar of Selangor Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said this is evident as more people have stepped up to lodge complaints when they notice suspicious activities.

"Overall, the number of river pollution cases has declined over the years but we need more time to eradicate the problem.

"In the last couple of years, there has been an increase in public awareness as some of the cases we dealt with came from public complaints," he said at a press conference at the launching ceremony of the Flood Mitigation Proposal Project at Jalan Sungai Rasah and Jalan Padang Jawa on November 26.

Amirudin said the Selangor Water Management Authority (LUAS) and the Department of Environment (DOE) had on several occasions successfully

Cleaner rivers thanks to public vigilance

addressed river pollution issues by preventing contaminated substances from entering the water intake points of treatment plants.

He said the swift action by the two agencies was achievable due to the complaints lodged by members of the public on contamination activities at Sungai Semenyih, Sijangkang, Kuala Langat and Sungai Selangor.

"Not all pollution cases resulted in the disruption of water supply as there were many times where we managed to contain the contamination before it reached the intake point of the water treatment plants, thanks to public complaints."



Izham manoeuvres an excavator at the Bandar Puteri reservoir on November 19

Underground reservoirs to combat floods

KLANG - The Selangor state government is looking into new technology to have reservoirs constructed underneath fields or parking areas to contain floods in the state.

Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman Izham Hashim said a modern alternative should be used in building the underground reservoirs in order for them to serve their purpose.

"The key components of a drainage and flood reservoir should be included in developments.

"Rapid development is one of the causes of floods, which gives a large impact by destroy-

ing public property.

"Due to limited space, we have to look into new technology that would enable us to build reservoirs beneath fields or parking areas," he told Media Selangor when met at the Selangor Flood Reservoir Maintenance Programme at Bandar Puteri Reservoir on November 19.

Izham also said the state government would look into the construction of vertical detention ponds as an alternative to underground reservoirs.

The topography of the land area would be the deciding factor, as many places are already packed with existing infrastructure.

Meanwhile, a total of RM9.5 million was spent this year on the maintenance of reservoirs in Selangor.

Selangor Department of Irrigation and Drainage (JPS) deputy director Saari Abdullah said several maintenance works have been carried out and priority was given based on the degree of damage in each case.

He said the works include the removal of silt and sludge, the maintenance of drains, the cleaning of waste in reservoirs, and the maintenance and repair works of landscape structures.

He added that to date, JPS has completed the maintenance works of 110 out of 553 drainage and flood reservoirs.

Waste management a priority for PJ

PETALING JAYA - The Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) remains committed to improving efforts in diversifying the implementation of recycling projects involving stakeholders.

Its mayor Datuk Mohd Sayuthi Bakar (*pic*) said that this is to enable cost-saving measures for waste collection and public cleanup services.

"MBPJ spent RM85 million on waste collection and public cleanup services last year, while for landfill fees, MBPJ also bore RM12 million in cost.

"Waste management is also on MBPJ's main agenda in heading towards a low carbon city status as this contributes an eight per cent reduction," he said at the Petaling Jaya Waste Summit 2019 conference.

Mohd Sayuthi said MBPJ has also targeted 30 per cent of residential units in Petaling Jaya to be involved in recycling activities this year.

"The PJ Eco Recycling Plaza, located on SS8, would be the centrepiece of an integrated Circular Economy reference and research centre, with recycling and upcycling facilities.

"I urge the participation of the public and corporations in order to increase the recycling programmes, to ensure the continuity and sustainability of Petaling Jaya," Mohd



Sayuthi Bakar said.

MBPJ was selected as the winner of the Waste Composting Initiative programme, implemented by the 2019 Green Neighborhood Initiative.

The three award-winning areas were Desa Mentari Block 3, Kampung Selamat PJU 10 and SS20.

Sayuthi said that MBPJ also provides incentives for free compost bins and assessment tax deductions to homeowners who carry out composting activities in their homes.

"The state government has also agreed to implement waste treatment processes by converting waste to energy at the local authority level.

"The composting centre developed by MBPJ uses 'Anaerobic Digester' technology, which produces liquid compost and biogas to generate electricity," he said.



RM12m pumped into beautifying PJ

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

PETALING JAYA - The Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) has allocated RM12.95 million for the maintenance of 38 landscaped areas under its watch next year.

Petalang Jaya Mayor Mohd Sayuthi Bakar said the allocation is for the creation of an environment that features natural elements that provides for the wellbeing of the people.

"The allocation would be used for the maintenance of shade trees, lawn mowing and

cleaning as well as the disposal of garden waste in public parks and open spaces," he said when chairing MBPJ's Full Meeting No.11 / 2019, at the council's headquarters here on November 27.

Mohd Sayuthi said a special allocation of RM4.28 million has been set aside to improve the quality of maintenance services in 15 public parks.

He said the method would facilitate for effective monitoring of all aspects of landscape maintenance works.

"For that purpose, we have allocated RM3.1 million to ap-

point 15 panel contractors who would be assisting MBPJ to carry out repairs based on site findings or consumer complaints.

"We want to make sure the amenities and facilities available in the parks and around Petaling Jaya are in good condition and safe to use."

He said a total of RM300,000 has also been allocated for the Landscape Culture Programme to encourage the participation of the community in beautifying public spaces, as well as to raise awareness on the issue.

Free bus service riding on success

RAWANG - The Smart Selangor free bus service comprising 138 buses operating on 43 routes across the state has cost a total of RM106 million to date.

Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Executive Councilor (exco) Ng Sze Han said that the expenditure, however, has created a positive impact as 8.8 million travellers were recorded using the buses in the first seven months of 2019.

"The cost of the Smart Selangor Bus programme is RM106 million. The state government had allocated RM81 million for the bus service at the beginning of its implementation, with the remaining RM25 million provided by the local authorities (PBT).

"A total of RM30 million was allocated by the state adminis-

tration this year to expand and improve the bus service," said Ng at the Selayang Municipal Council's Smart Bus Line Route 3 launch in Batu Arang on November 27.

Speaking to the media, Ng said the state government is ready to expand the bus routes, should there be demands for it.

However, he said the initiative would require the cooperation of the PBTs to jointly finance the cost of the proposed routes.

For the coming year, he said the state government has allocated RM30 million to finance the cost of the bus operations.

"Our focus in 2020 is on improving the quality of the Smart Selangor bus service and plans to convert existing buses to electric ones in the future."



Suka-Suka Run to mark council's anniversary

CYBERJAYA - The Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang) invites the public to participate in the Suka-Suka Run 2019 on December 21, in conjunction with the No Car Day and the local council's 14th anniversary.

In a statement on Facebook, MPSepang said a RM35 registration fee will be charged for early birds under the individual category, whereas for the four-persons category, a RM120 charge will be imposed. The run is limited to 200 participants.

"The program will be held at the Persiaran Semarak Api at 6am, and each participant

MPSEPANG 14th ANNIVERSARY
PENYERTAAN INDIVIDU HANYA RM 35
1 KUMPULAN 4 ORANG RM 120

UNTUK PENYERTAAN
<https://cps4.me/SukaSukaRun>
<https://jomrun.page.link/Yyez>

LOKASI : Majlis Perbandaran Sepang, Cyberjaya
KATEGORI : 5 KM

MASA :
 Pengesahan : 6.00 Pagi
 Pendaftaran : 6.45 Pagi
 Senamrobik : 7.00 Pagi
 Flag Off : 7.15 Pagi

TARIKH : 21 Disember 2019 (Sabtu)

URUS SETIA :
 Unit Korporat & Perhubungan Awam
 Majlis Perbandaran Sepang, Cyber 1
 63200 Cyberjaya, Selangor D.E.
 Encik Khairul & Cik Azmah
 03-8319 0200/0300 (ext 301/302)

would be provided with a running kit containing a T-shirt and a medal," he said.

MPSepang said the program will be made more exhilarating with a lucky draw offering a variety of exciting prizes. The clos-

ing date for entry is December 16.

For further inquiries, the Corporate and Public Relations Unit can be contacted at 03-83190200 (extension 301 or 302).

Only RM50 a year to ride a horse

SHAH ALAM - Denai Alam Recreational Club, now known as the Shah Alam Parliamentary Constituency Horse Riding and Recreational Club, has reduced its annual fee to RM50 for one family compared to the previous RM290 rate.

The club's founder, Datuk Terry Teo, said the new fee would come into effect on January 1, next year.

"With this new rate, residents in Shah Alam need only pay RM50 a year for each family. Those living in Selangor have to pay RM100 and families from outside Selangor, RM150.

"The RM290 fee will only apply to families from abroad," he told reporters at an event to launch the club's new name by the Federal Territories Minister and Shah Alam Member of Par-

liament Khalid Abdul Samad on December 12.

Teo said the club's goal of reducing the annual fee is to attract more people, regardless of their background, to learn horse riding.

"Everybody knows horse riding involves high costs, which is why we lowered the fee because we want to help people learn to ride horses.

"Since the establishment of this club about 11 years ago, about 10,000 people have learned to ride and handle horses. We hope that with the new fees this figure will double."

There are 80 horses in the club that are available to its members. In addition to equestrian activities, the club offers archery, fish feeding and a petting zoo. - Bernama

Selangor puts Malaysia on global map

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

IN fulfilling its aspiration to become a smart state by 2025, Selangor had in November made history by becoming the first state representative from Malaysia to take part in the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC), which took place in Barcelona, Spain.

During the three-day event which ran from November 19 to 22, the state government witnessed the launch of the Selangor Regional Powerhouse Roadmap document as well as the signing of three joint undertakings between Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI Selangor) and foreign companies.

Leading the Selangor delegates was Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, who said the state government's participation in the global event would take Selangor one step further in becoming a smart state.

"Selangor is proud to be the sole state government representative from Malaysia.

"It is the manifestation of our burning desire to be a regional smart state by 2025," said Amirudin on an Instagram post on November 20.

Amirudin said the state government's policy on becoming a smart state, initiated in 2015, has proven to be on the right track.

"At the global congress that involved 146 countries, Selangor was ranked in the same position as Jakarta and Bandung in the Asean region," he said.

The annual SCEWC event is the biggest gathering of stakeholders in the field of smart city development, bringing together government authorities, corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, thinkers, researchers and innovators to find solutions to urban issues as well as the creation of opportunities for their joint cooperation.

Themed 'Cities made of Dreams', the event saw the participation of 1,010 exhibiting companies and 700 cities, including Selangor.

Roadmap gets international feedback

The Selangor government, through its strategic investment arm MBI Selangor, received international feedback on the Selangor Regional Powerhouse



Picture by MBI Selangor

Roadmap document.

The document, which is a result of discussions to realise the state's aspiration in becoming a regional economic power, was launched by Amirudin at the event.

MBI Selangor chief executive officer Raja Shahreen Raja Othman, in a statement on November 26, said the launch was held at the international expo as it was the leading platform that brought together international experts, industry players and various stakeholders who were knowledgeable on city and future urban development.

He said this had allowed MBI Selangor to gain direct feedback and critique on the document.

"We have already received some feedback from other countries, including from governments that can see potential areas of cooperation to be developed through this roadmap," he said.

With 11 smart focus fields and 10 initiatives, the document offers Selangor a blueprint on moving forward after the successful transformation into a smart state by 2025.

Various forums and discussion were previously held with stakeholders in Malaysia to gather views and feedback.

Raja Shahreen said the pres-



Amirudin (centre) and fellow Selangor delegates at the congress in Barcelona on November 20.

Raja Shahreen (top left) and Amirudin witnessing the signing of the MoA with foreign companies.

ent challenge is to think out of the box to find solutions for current and upcoming issues in Selangor.

With that, he said, Selangor would need to focus on developing talent, particularly in building up the capabilities of youths in the state.

Selangor inks three foreign pacts

MBI Selangor has signed three joint undertakings with foreign companies. The event was held at the Smart Selangor Pavilion Expo at the SCEWC, witnessed by Amirudin.

Raja Shahreen said the joint cooperation would take Selangor one step closer in becoming a premier smart state in the Asean region by 2025.

"Our challenge is to ensure the people of Selangor benefit from these cooperations and any similar joint efforts that we may have in the future."

He said the joint undertakings corresponds to the national Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 policy, which is a 10-year vision to restructure Malaysia's low-skill labour-intensive economy to a knowledge-based economy.

"With the state already hav-

ing a head start with Smart Selangor initiative four years ago, we are ready to be part of the Vision in ensuring benefits for all, be it in creating opportunities in business, work or education," he said.

The Smart Selangor Pavilion showcases participation from MBI Selangor subsidiaries Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad Waste Management (KDEBWM), Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU), Smartsel Sdn Bhd and other state agencies including the Selangor Economic Development Corporation-Selangor Industrial Corporation (PKNS-SIC) and Central Spectrum.

Brendan Gan now stands among giants

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

SHAH ALAM - Rife speculations over the fate of Melaka midfielder Brendan Gan (*pic*) for the upcoming Malaysian League (M League) football challenge next season have now been answered, with his entry into the Red Giants.

The matter was announced by the Selangor Football Association (FAS) in a video release featuring the 31-year-old, which was uploaded to the club's official social media platform on December 1.

"I'm ready to go through every challenge and will always give my best in whatever I do," said Gan.

"This is a new challenge and it's not easy. I thirst for success and I want to do this with Selangor."

Excited to join the team which won the Malaysia Cup 33 times, Gan, who is of Malaysian-Australian parentage, also posted a picture on his Instagram relating to the latest update.

"My vision for 2020 is now very clear. I am going to start an exciting new adventure with the Selangor team.

"I will put in all my energy, positivity and 100 per cent effort daily for the team," he wrote.

The presence of the former Kelantan and Perak player would add to the Selangor squad's prowess in the midfield, giving the Red Giants a chance to win back the Malaysia Cup next season.



Gan, who is currently in his best performance level, displayed excellent sportsmanship when he was with Harimau Malaya when the team played against Thailand in the 2022 World Cup/Asia Cup 2023 qualifying

campaign in early November.

He scored once and provided an assist for another goal during the match.

To date, Selangor has signed two players, Gan and Rodney Celvin.

Cash rewards for star athletes

By NAZLI IBRAHIM

PETALING JAYA - Selangor athletes who represented the country and won medals at the 30th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in the Philippines will receive an incentive from the state government.

State Youth Generation Development, Sports and Human Capital Development Committee Chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman (*pic*), however, said that the amount of the incentive has yet to be determined.



"It is in line with the Menteri Besar's instructions for us to acknowledge the achievements of successful Selangor athletes in the SEA Games.

"The amount will be determined later. As with previous years, Selangor has given incentives to reward outstanding athletes, and this year, many Selangor athletes, among them Farah Ann, have achieved targeted goals," he said, in reference to national gymnast Farah Ann Abdul Hadi, who recently won her third SEA Games gold.

Mohd Khairuddin was speaking to the media at the 2019 Larian Menjunjung Kasih in conjunction with the Sultan of Selangor's 74th birthday celebrations, at the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) Square here on December 8.

He said the distribution of the said incentive would be done at an event to be held later, once the allocation has been decided by the state government.

Harimau Malaya climbs in FIFA rankings



Harimau Malaya celebrate their victory after the match against Thailand at the Bukit Jalil Stadium on November 14. — Picture by BERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR - The national football squad Harimau Malaya have risen by four rungs to claim 154th spot in the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) rankings.

The latest development was announced by the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) via its official Facebook page, based on the latest rankings update on November 29.

Based on the rankings issued by FIFA, the national team settled at 154th place with 1,040 points.

The positive development of Tan Cheng Hoe's boys followed a 1-0 win against Tajikistan in a friendly match as well as victories against Thailand (2-1) and Indonesia (2-0) in 2022 World Cup/2023 Asia Cup Qualifiers Group G matches recently.

Japan remained as Asia's number one at 28th spot, followed by Iran (33), South Korea (41) and Australia (42).

Vietnam retained as the Asean leader at 94th place, followed by Thailand (113), Philippines (124) and Myanmar (136).

Singapore trails our tigers at the 157th spot. - Bernama

30TH SEA GAMES FINAL MEDAL TALLY

	G	S	B
PHILIPPINES	149	117	121
VIETNAM	98	85	105
THAILAND	92	103	123
INDONESIA	72	84	111
MALAYSIA	56	58	72
SINGAPORE	53	46	68
MYANMAR	4	18	51
CAMBODIA	4	6	36
BRUNEI	2	5	6
LAOS	1	5	28
TIMOR-LESTE	0	1	5

MALAYSIA PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONERS

design for VALUE

DEC 2019
17-18
@ D.SCHOOL MALAYSIA
HRDF | 12 + 12 PDU

Conference & Workshop

December 17 - 18

DESIGN FOR VALUE - Malaysia Project Management Practitioners Conference

Time: 9am - 5.30pm
Location: d.school Malaysia (Genovasi)

SHAH ALAM MEGA STREET Festival 2019
at Shah Alam Stadium, Car Park W4
(di Tempat Letak Kereta W4, Stadium Shah Alam)
Friday - Sunday | 27 - 29 December 2019
(Jumaat - Sabtu | 27 - 29 Desember 2019)

December 27 - 29

SHAH ALAM MEGA STREET FESTIVAL

Time: 10am to 11.30pm
Location: Stadium Shah Alam

Sony Centre SUNWAY PYRAMID

ALPHA FULL FRAME WORKSHOP

BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY

January 4

BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY BY SONY
Time: 11am to 2pm
Location: Sony Centre Sunway Pyramid

SITEC ACADEMY

EC101 E-Commerce Marketplace & Website
Language: English

FREE ENTRANCE LIMITED TO 120 PAX

January 7

2020 SITEC E-Commerce Class 101: E-Commerce Marketplace & Website

Time: 1.30pm to 4pm
Selangor Digital Creative Centre, i-City Shah Alam

December 21 - 22

COMIC FIESTA 2019
Time: 10am to 7pm
Location: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC)

Comic Fiesta is one of Southeast Asia's largest and longest-running convention that focuses on animation, comics and games (ACG) events. Tens of thousands of comic artists, illustrators, cosplayers and fans of the culture would gather at the annual affair.

December 31

CITTA 2020 NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
Time: 9pm onwards
Location: Citta Mall

January 11 - 12

VALUE INVESTING SUMMIT 2020
Time: 9am to 6pm
Location: Nexus Bangsar South

UNLOCKING YOUR WEALTH BLUEPRINT

January 11

MMI Into The Future by Malaysian Medics International
Time: 8.30am to 5.30pm
Location: Monash University Malaysia

'MMI Into The Future' gives an idea to medical students on how life after medical school would be like. Most medical students are unaware on how to plan out their future due to lack of knowledge and information overload on the internet. The event will also provide them with choices on specialisation and clinical research pathways, and touch on pharmaceutical and medical law, as well as briefly on working overseas.

January 16

IR 4.0 TALK @ Klang Valley
Time: 9.30am to 1pm
Location: Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Berhad, Petaling Jaya

CGC DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMME

EMBRACE CHANGE, INVENT THE FUTURE

IR 4.0 TALK
JAN 16 THURSDAY
9.30AM - 1.00PM
BANGUNAN CGC