

Community testing reaches 5,400 people

4

Selangor Ruler suspends Ramadan events

5

The business world through a new lens

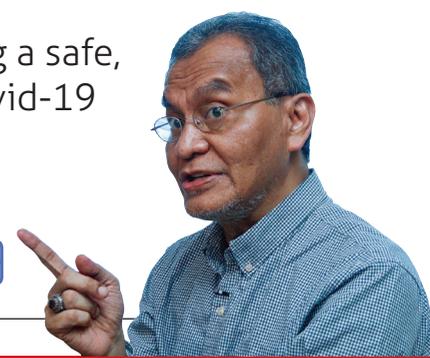
6

There's more to Kajang than satay, says Hee

14

Mapping a safe, post Covid-19 future

8&9



FREE | APRIL 2020 | www.selangorjournal.my

SELANGOR JOURNAL

Dawn of a 'new norm'

The sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus, which began in December last year, has put the world on standstill as lockdowns are imposed to contain its spread.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has called for the people to adapt to the new practices put in place to fight the virus — the new normal — and accept that life after Covid-19 will not be the same.

He said there is a silver lining behind the crisis as people are pushed to adjust to new technologies.

MORE ON PAGE 3



DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR FAVOURITE BREAKING-OF-FAST DELICACIES THIS RAMADAN AT



PLATS PLATFORMSELANGOR www.plats.com.my



Vaccine shots must continue: MOH

KUALA LUMPUR – The Health Ministry (MOH) has highlighted that immunisation programmes at health facilities continue as usual and wants parents to adhere to the set immunisation schedules and appointments.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said parents who have gone back to their hometowns have to set an appointment for their children's immunisation at any nearby health clinic or private clinic to avoid immunisation delay.

He said a delay in immunisation could put their children at increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and polio.

This could also lead to an outbreak of such diseases that could be life-threatening if not contained, he added.

"In our effort to break the chain of Covid-19 in-

fection with the recommendations from WHO (World Health Organisation), children's immunisation schedules must be followed to maintain a high level of herd immunity," he said in a statement on April 24 in conjunction with World Immunisation Week that falls each year from April 24 to 30.

This year's theme — #VaccinesWorkForAll — has been selected by WHO to promote immunisation as well as its importance in protecting people from all walks of life from contracting vaccine-preventable diseases.

Dr Noor Hisham said it is well known that immunisation has been proven as among the most successful and cost-effective public health interventions in reducing death from a vaccine-preventable disease.

He added that history and facts have proven that immunisation has saved millions of lives worldwide. However, for the past couple of years, several countries have experienced outbreaks of vaccine-preventable dis-

eases such as measles and polio.

Malaysia was also shocked by the re-emergence of a polio case in December 2019 after the country was declared polio-free 27 years ago.

"To date, there have been four polio cases confirmed through laboratory tests as well as two polio compatible cases that met the clinical features of polio, all of which occurred in Sabah," Dr Noor Hisham said.

On measles cases, he said the 1,077 cases last year is a decrease from the 1,958 cases in 2018 nationwide. However, the number of deaths increased to 15 in 2019, compared to six in 2018.

Meanwhile, a total of 915 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) have been recorded with 20 deaths in 2019, which is an increase from the 892 cases with 22 deaths in 2018. In addition, 16 diphtheria cases were recorded with six deaths last year compared to 18 cases with six deaths in 2018, he said.

"The majority of these cases were due to not getting the vaccine injections. There were also cases of infants who had yet to reach the appropriate age to receive the vaccines."

On behalf of MOH, he also expressed all-round appreciation to individuals and organisations who had contributed to the success of immunisation programmes, particularly to the medical frontliners involved in providing the vaccine and the public for their support. — BERNAMA



Couples can now wed online, says Jais

SHAH ALAM – Starting April 20, Muslim couples wanting to get married in Selangor can have their marriage solemnisation ceremony done via video conferencing, subject to special approval from the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais).



Jais director Mohd Shahzihan Ahmad in a statement on April 20 said a detailed process has been mapped out and new regulations prepared to ensure that the ceremony is compliant with Islamic law, implemented in a fair, easy-to-understand manner and easily followed by the couples.

Special approval will only be granted after Jais receives all the relevant documentation and information from each couple.

Applicants would then be informed of the date of their solemnisation ceremony, which would be carried out via a video conference.

Once the MCO is over, couples who have successfully been solemnised will be required to present themselves at the nearest district religious office to submit the temporary marriage slip and to receive the Selangor Marriage Certificate according to Section 26 of the Islamic Family Law (State of Selangor) Enactment 2003.

Prior to this decision, all marriage solemnisation ceremonies in Selangor had been postponed due to the movement control order and after five Jais marriage solemnisation officers had to be quarantined after coming into close contact with individuals infected with Covid-19. — BERNAMA

MCO necessary, say most Malaysians

SHAH ALAM – A majority 95 per cent of Malaysians say they agree with the movement control order (MCO) measures enforced by the Federal government.

According to market research company Ipsos, the significant number of people who support the move said that it is the correct thing to do given the risks posed by the virus.

"(The remaining) 5 per cent believe that the order is excessive, an over-reaction, and would not solve the outbreak," Ipsos said in a statement on April 9.

The study was generated by the Coronavirus Tracker Result between March 23 and 26, involving 1,000 Malaysian adults aged 18 years and above.

The findings of the survey also showed that a majority of the respondents feel that the government and its officials have effectively carried out efforts to contain the virus.

Furthermore, over 90 per cent have given a good performance rating for the work done by health organisations in the country, the Federal administration, and local and regional health au-

thorities.

However, 37 per cent of the respondents, mainly those below 35 years old, from the lower-income group and with a lower education level, feel that the media coverage on the Covid-19 outbreak has been exaggerated.

"Initially, Italy had the perception that the media was exaggerating (about the outbreak too) but the perception dropped significantly the following week," the study said when doing a global comparison.

Like the Italians, some 68 per cent of

Malaysians are optimistic that life will return to normal by June.

The majority who believe this is from the lower-income segment and younger group, the survey noted.

Vietnam, China and India are among the countries that show the highest optimism in their ability to return to normalcy.

Meanwhile, Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had revealed on April 9 that the nationwide compliance rate with the MCO had reached 97 per cent.

Let us rise to the challenge, says MB

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM – There is a silver lining in the midst of the chaos and crisis brought upon by the Covid-19 pandemic, says Selangor Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said preparations in facing the cognitive challenges of the "new normal" by adjusting and adapting to them would determine if the opportunities align ahead.

Citing the Selangor smart state vision as an example, Amirudin said the current situation is the best time for the state administration to show its commitment to achieving the goal.

"This is the best time to show how serious we are in becoming a smart state. Are we prepared to (fully) implement this? Is our support system prepared?"

"It seems like we do have good potential and characteristics in place.

"This is why there are several aspects that we can gain from," said Amirudin during an interview aired on TV3's morning talk show *Malaysia Hari Ini*, on April 9.

He said several meetings held at the state administrative level have been successfully carried out through various teleconferencing platforms, such as GMeet, Skype, and Zoom, adapting to the social distancing rule.

"This has opened up a new space for teleconferencing and how distance is no longer an obstruction or restraint for us to continue with our initiatives and daily affairs."

Amirudin said the cancellation of Ramadan bazaars to avoid mass gatherings had also opened up new opportunities with the formation of the e-bazaar platform, Grab Selangor, which was first revealed by the state administration on April 8.

He said the initiative, in collaboration with Grab Malaysia, has been receiving good response from food and beverage businesses and other traders.

The state government had later extended the programme to other delivery partners under the Selangor Platform (Plats), which includes Bungkusit, Mr Speedy, Zepto Express and Mat-Despatch.

"This is a new normal that has tremendous positive potential that would open up creative job opportunities, which we probably would have described as in-essential previously."

Amirudin once again urged Malaysians, and especially the people of Selangor, to adhere to the movement control order by staying at home and practising social distancing.



The quiet streets of Shah Alam during the movement control order period



Muazzin Muhammad Mohamad Yusof calls the faithful to prayer from an empty hall at the Tengku Ampuan Jemaah Mosque in Shah Alam on March 18



A Grab rider and his Food Panda counterpart make their deliveries through clear roads in Kuala Lumpur — Picture by BERNAMA

Embrace new norms, life won't be the same: PM

SHAH ALAM – Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said although the number of new Covid-19 cases has dropped recently, the battle is far from over.

Even after the outbreak is contained, life will not be the same and the nation will have to adjust to the "new normal", he said.

"If this downward trend continues in the coming weeks, we would be able to control the Covid-19 outbreak," the prime minister said in a special broadcast an-

nouncing the extension of the first phase of the movement control order (MCO) on April 10.

However, Muhyiddin gave the alert that the nation must be prepared to spend longer time indoors until the government is confident that the disease has been fully contained.

"It may go on for a few more months before we are able to fully contain the virus. Even so, life will not be the same as it used to be. As long as the virus is still

present, we have to keep practising social distancing, good hygiene habits and avoid crowded areas.

"In short, our life in the next coming months or year will not be as it used to be. We will be facing the 'new normal', we cannot continue our normal daily routines as we did before."

On April 24, Muhyiddin announced the fourth extension of the MCO, to run from April 29 to May 12.

Although the same movement restric-

tions are in place, the Federal government has planned to relax the regulations, which includes allowing students staying on campuses to return to their homes.

The administration is also considering allowing a single-trip journey home for those who are stuck in their hometowns or other places at the time phase one of the MCO was enforced.

Details of the plan and its standard operating procedures will be announced soon.



A healthcare worker takes a swab from a local resident for Covid-19 screening at a drive-through operation at Dewan Raja Muda Musa in Section 7, Shah Alam, on April 18

Mass screening drive a success

By **NAEEM RAFFI**

SHAH ALAM – The targeted Covid-19 community screening initiated by the Selangor government has reached beyond its initial target with a total of 5,400 individuals tested, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Selangor Menteri Besar said the large-scale testing programme has received overwhelming response since it was first introduced on April 11.

"The people had responded and cooperated well throughout the operation and we had exceeded our initial 5,000 target.

"A full report on the initiative will be available to the public on Sunday (April 26)," he said when met after chairing the meeting on Covid-19 developments at the Selangor secretariat building (SUK), here on April 24.

When asked whether the mass testing op-

eration will be continued, Amirudin said that the decision lies with the mufti of Selangor.

"This is because the administered screening involves the nasal swab. We will refer to the Selangor mufti on the matter.

"We are also waiting for another 5,000 test kits to arrive from Korea," he said

The mass testing initiative, coordinated by Selcare Clinic Sdn Bhd, was carried out in several red zone areas two weeks before the Ramadan month began on April 24.

A two-day operation from April 22 was held in Gombak and Hulu Selangor, where 1,200 people participated.

Another 1,800 individuals were screened in Klang and Petaling over a two-day period from April 19.

The first operation was held in Hulu Langat for two days from April 11 and involved 649 local residents.

Survey: How has the virus affected you?

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor government has launched a public survey to study the economic and social impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the people in the state.

Coordinated by Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI), the survey is accessible online and respondents are asked to fill up a Google Doc Survey Form.

"Representing the state government, MBI is carrying out a survey to understand in detail how the Covid-19 outbreak has affected the public.

"We would like to know the kind of challenges faced and the needs of the Selangor people," the welcome statement on the survey form reads.

MBI gives assurance on data protection of the information submitted but added that the information will be used as future reference by the state government when formulating upcoming initiatives that would benefit all.

"Your participation in this survey is very much appreciated," it says.

The survey form can be found at <http://gg.gg/survey-MBI> and it is open to participants aged 18 and above.

It includes several sections, such as an overview of the respondent's occupation, and questions on how the movement control order has affected the respondent's daily activities.

State sets up Covid-19 Fund

SHAH ALAM – The state government has set up a Selangor Covid-19 Fund and it is open to anyone who wishes to contribute.

The public can channel their support by depositing money into the Maybank Islamic account 562106684326 in Ringgit.

The donations can be made through internet banking, cheques, the Real-Time Electronic Transfer of Funds and Se-

curities (Rentas) system, via ATM machines and telegraphic transfers (TT).

All donations are tax exempted under Subsection 44(6) of the Income Tax Act by the Inland Revenue Board (IRB).

The IRB will accept official government receipts and various types of transfer slips, including cash transfer slips, cheque deposit machine slips

and online payment slips, as well as Rentas and TT receipts.

The fund was introduced by Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari when announcing the second phase of the state stimulus package, Selangor Cares 2.0, on April 1.

A total of RM8.15 million was collected on the first day it was set up, with RM250,000 contributed by state assemblymen.

Free e-learning for Selangor students

SHAH ALAM – Due to the spiralling number of Covid-19 cases in the country that has led to the temporary closure of schools, the state administration has started a free e-learning platform for all Selangor students, said the Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the e-learning platform has been made available for students from Year One to Form Five so that they can continue to study at home during the movement control order (MCO) period.

"Education is an important aspect of human capital development in Selangor especially in our quest to push for a smart state by 2025. The e-learning platform is an initiative under the second phase of the Selangor economic stimulus package (announced on

April 1).

"It will be activated today (and available) until May 31 and students in Selangor can register and use this application through the website at selangortutor.com," he said in a statement on April 2.

Amirudin said the e-learning application is accessible via desktop computers, notebooks, tablets, and smartphones.

A total of 130,000 online worksheets in line with the Education Ministry's curriculum are available on the platform.

"Parents will be able to access the application as well, to keep track of their children's online learning."



The e-learning platform has been made available for students from Year One to Form Five so that they can continue to study at home during the movement control order (MCO) period

Amirudin had announced the second phase of cash assistance to cushion the economy via the Selangor Cares Package 2.0 worth RM272.5 million, bringing the total amount contributed by the state so far to RM400 million.

ADVISOR: Editorial Advisory Board
GROUP EDITOR: Fathi Aris Omar
EDITOR: Ida Nadirah Ibrahim
SUB EDITOR: Nur Anis Audrey Ong
JOURNALIST: Ashwin Kumar
MARKETING & ADVERTISING:

Nadhras Azlan nadhras@mediaselangor.com
 Syahir Khadri syahir@mediaselangor.com
PHOTOGRAPHER: Asri Sapfie, Raheemie Arifin,
 Hafiz Othman & Fikri Yusof

GRAPHIC & LAYOUT: Graphics Department CCSB

Level 2, Carlton Holiday Hotel & Suites, No 1, Persiaran Akuatik 13/43,
 Section 13, 40100, Shah Alam, Selangor
 Tel : 03-5523 4856 Fax : 03-5523 5856 Email: info@mediaselangor.com



Sultan suspends Ramadan events with the people

SHAH ALAM – The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, has suspended the congregational tarawih prayers and breaking of fast events with the public due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Sultan's private secretary Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani in a statement on April 8 said the decision was made as part of the precautionary measures to contain the spread of Covid-19.

"It has been a tradition for the Selangor Sultan to 'buka puasa' with the people in all the districts during the month of Ramadan.

"Unfortunately, in putting the safety of the people first, the Selangor Sul-

tan, with a heavy heart, has decided to suspend the breaking of fast events and tarawih prayers with the people.

"The decision was made in order to curb the spread of the disease and to prevent the people from the risk of infection," he said.

Mohamad Munir, however, said the handing out of "duit raya" and distribution of zakat to asnaf (eligible zakat recipients) will continue through online transactions or cash vouchers.

"The recipients will receive RM500 in cash aid and zakat allocation from the Selangor Zakat Board (LZS) through the safer and efficient method of crediting

the amount into the recipients' bank accounts.

"LZS will also provide cash vouchers to those who do not have a bank account. The vouchers can be claimed at any nearest Bank Islam branch," he said.

Sultan Sharafuddin has also advised the Muslim community in Selangor to adhere to the guidelines provided by the Health Ministry during the month of Ramadan.

"Sultan Sharafuddin prays that the people will be spared from the Covid-19 infection and that the country will see the end of the pandemic soon," Mohamad Munir added.

Business opportunities open up with e-expo

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

SHAH ALAM – In adapting to the new realities surrounding the movement control order (MCO), the Selangor government has planned another online initiative to help small businesses sell their products for the festive season.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state administration is in the final stages of developing a Raya e-expo and plans to introduce it a week after Ramadan begins on April 24.

"We will launch another e-bazaar, which is the Raya e-expo, and are in the final stages of finalising the initiative.

"This will allow sellers of songkok, kuih raya, and other Raya treats to market their products through an online platform," said Amirudin during a Facebook Live session with PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun and Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, on April 21.

Amirudin said in 2019, a total of 16,445 businesses were involved in the state's Ramadan and Raya bazaars.

"If we don't help them adapt to the online business platform, we worry that their income would be affected, and this would cause the economy to weaken further," he said.

The proposed Raya e-expo is the second online initiative after the state's Ramadan e-bazaar, which adopts an online ordering system and collaborates with e-hailing services.

"The cancellation of the Ramadan bazaar has a huge impact, and with the e-bazaar, we can help 10 to 20 per cent of the total traders that could have been in business."

On another matter, Amirudin said about 98 per cent of mosques in the state have been disinfected.

"This is part of our preparations for the comfort of the people should the Federal government lift the movement control order," he said.



Spoilt for choice with two e-bazaars

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor government is introducing the e-Bazar Ramadan Selangor Grab and also the Selangor Platform (Plats) as two exclusive e-commerce sites for selling Ramadan fare.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government has also identified 77 collection centres consisting of 10 local authority halls and 67 restaurants that will be providing food for the Selangor people.

"The food will be delivered by our delivery partners such as Grab, Bungkusit, Mr Speedy, Zepto Express

and MatDespatch and the centres will comply with the social distancing rules and strict cleanliness requirements.

"Traders have received the typhoid injection as required by the Ministry of Health and the local authorities," Amirudin said in a statement on April 18.

The e-kitchen concept only serves as a collection centre and no cooking activity will be done there, he stressed.

"Walk-in purchases are not allowed. In encouraging traders to

participate in the programme, the state government also offers easy financing without interest of between RM3,000 and RM5,000 to eligible small traders through Hijrah Selangor."

Amirudin added that the state government also provided digitalisation incentives worth RM600,000 to encourage traders to participate in the e-bazaar initiative.

He said the digitalisation initiative is a catalyst to help the people of Selangor adapt to the new normal amid the Covid-19 outbreak. – BERNAMA

TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC WORLD ORDER

By ASHWIN KUMAR

Governments the world over are grappling to contain the after-effects of Covid-19, with many struggling to hold up their economies weakened by the pandemic.

On the homefront, the nation's economic activity is also facing a decline, with the movement control order taking place since March 18.

According to Invest Selangor Berhad (Invest Selangor), the state economy is not excluded from the domino effect of the global slump but several necessary actions have been taken to bolster the aftercare aspect of services to foreign investors and local businesses.

Its chief executive officer Datuk Hasan Azhari Idris (*pic*) has expressed confidence that the economy will be able to bounce back, albeit moderately, based on the fiscal measures undertaken at the Federal level as well as additional financial support by the state government.

"Reports from various sources such as the World Bank and Bank Negara Malaysia have indicated that a recession this year is inevitable. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development predicts that global Foreign Direct Investment flows will decrease by 30 to 40 per cent until 2021,"

he told *Selangor Journal* in an email interview.

"Earlier this year, the state was targeting a total investment value of RM12 billion for the year 2020.

"While it is still very early to determine the effect of the pandemic towards our target of investment for this year, the state will continue to assess the global economic condition and consult the industries to see if any readjustment of the target will be done," he said.

Continuous support

As the investment promotion agency of the state, Hasan Azhari said Invest Selangor continues to provide facilitation and assistance to companies in Selangor in these times of uncertainty.

He said the steps taken are crucial in retaining the presence of foreign investors in the state and restoring their confidence.

"During the MCO, Invest Selangor has provided assistance through setting up a special task force to communicate with the industry and investors

"We are also providing clarification and recommendation to MITI on the essential



manufacturers and their supply chain suppliers' applications for operation during the order period," said Hasan Azhari in reference to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

He said the wholly-owned state government agency has also conducted a survey on the

impact of the MCO on companies operating in Selangor, and the data collected will help in providing an impact assessment and be forwarded to the state administration.

"The restriction of movement has also forced Malaysian companies, including Invest Selangor, to look at and operate differently from our office SOP as we are now operating remotely from our homes.

"Business is as usual, but in new norms," he said.

Hopes of bouncing back

Hasan Azhari said although the MCO is necessary in order to curb the spread of the virus, the move has, however, severely impacted both local and foreign manufacturing companies.

"While certain operations regarded as essential were allowed to resume during the MCO, the essential industries' supply chain manufacturers and suppliers such as packaging manufacturers, semi-processed goods suppliers and logistics operators were not allowed to operate at the early stage of MCO, thus disrupting essential goods' supply chain."

However, he said both the essential industries and supply chain suppliers have now been given operational approval by MITI, but are doing so under strict conditions.

On the non-essential sectors, which Hasan Azhari said contribute significantly to the state's economy, they are taking a hit from the movement control order too, based on Invest Selangor's industry impact survey.

Some of these sectors include automotive, wood product, machinery equipment,

furniture, and biotechnology factories and plants.

"With that said, I must reiterate that Selangor will continue to have competitive advantages to offer potential investors, once they are ready to relook their business plan in the near future.

"The state administration will remain committed to offer the best value propositions to our potential investors by increasing our state machinery efficiency and support system."

Hasan Azhari believes that Selangor's diverse businesses that range beyond the affected industries, such as aerospace, medical devices, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as well as food and beverage manufacturing, will help to buffer the impact of Covid-19.

New rules of the game

Looking on the brighter side of the pandemic, Hasan Azhari said the major disruptions around the globe have resulted in a new way of doing business.

"We realise that some strategies will need to be restructured towards strengthening our existing ecosystem to ensure it will be able to better withstand economic uncertainties in the future, especially in ICT and E-commerce.

"The MCO situation, for example, has made the adoption of digitalisation in business operations a necessity rather than an option, in order to stay competitive during these trying times," he explained.

In the long run, Hasan Azhari said more quality investments are needed to supplement and improve these ecosystems to boost Selangor's industries into becoming high value-added contributors to the economy.

"In the future, we are hoping to attract investors with Industry 4.0 capabilities such as automation, industrial internet of things and advanced robotics that will position Selangor as a high-technology manufacturing hub.

"It will be also necessary for us to work with the right agencies that oversee the training and upskilling of the Selangor workforce that will prepare our manufacturing sector for the Industry 4.0 era."



Leading the state through hard times

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has announced an additional allocation of RM272.5 million in the second phase of the state stimulus package, the Selangor Cares Package 2.0, bringing the total amount allocated to cushioning the economic impact of Covid-19 to RM400 million.

On March 20, the state administration had announced a RM127.78 million allocation for the first phase of the stimulus package, which featured seven initiatives.

For the second phase, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the package was formulated based on two core challenges brought about by the pandemic.

"Firstly, we looked at how we could combat the outbreak and contain it from spreading, and secondly, how we could address the current and post-pandemic economic situation.

"For this purpose, the state government has allocated RM272 million. The state administration has agreed to assist the Federal government's efforts to stop the spread of the outbreak in Selangor," he said in a broadcasted press conference on April 1.

Amirudin said his administration believes in practising the "whole-of-government, whole-of-society" approach, and had kickstarted the fund with contributions from the salary of state leaders and top officials.

He said a total amount of RM8.07 million is expected to be collected from the salary cut of the Menteri Besar, state ex-



ecutive councillors, state assemblymen, as well as the top officials from state government subsidiaries.

"The state government is leading the way for everyone to win this battle. In order to make this happen, we need the support of each individual, institution as well as a government agency, and it is important that we have a professional symbiotic

relationship for the good of the people.

"We have seen how Malaysians are coming together to face the outbreak. The biggest asset of the country is the people itself.

"This strength would enable us to combat the disease and continue our efforts in restoring the country's economy."

Among the initiatives included in the

second stimulus package are as follows:

- a RM1,000 cash assistance for the people of Selangor who contracted the Covid-19 virus;
- RM1.344 million allocated for free meals for the healthcare frontliners and workers during the second phase of the movement control order (MCO);
- RM1.5 million to care for the children of frontliners, which will benefit 2,500 families;
- RM10,000 to provide free food to the media for their contribution in delivering the news to the people;
- a RM50,000 allocation to the Selangor Covid-19 Special Action Council for its efforts in formulating measures to combat the outbreak;
- RM3 million allocated for the operations of quarantine centres in Selangor that have received persons under surveillance from the Sri Petaling cluster and those returning home from overseas;
- RM1.35 million for mass-testing to be conducted in Covid-19 hotspots in Selangor, targeting 5,000 people;
- RM42.5 million in funding for the Selangor Skim Peduli Sihat that will benefit 85,000 recipients;
- RM2 million for the state government to provide face masks, hand sanitisers and gloves to the people of Selangor; and
- RM1 million to fund counselling and psychiatric sessions for anyone in the state who suffers from mental health problems stemming from the MCO.

Investment figures hit all-time high

SHAH ALAM - Selangor registered its highest investment record with RM47.8 billion in 2019, which is the highest among other states.

The record-breaking figure is a significant jump from the RM24.73 billion recorded in the preceding year.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) had on April 20 revealed that the manufacturing sector was the biggest contributor.

"The manufacturing sector was the biggest contributor with RM17 billion worth of investment, which is also the highest in Malaysia.

"This shows that Selangor remains an attractive investment destination in 2019 despite the trade war between US and China and the uncertain market downturn," he said in a statement on April 21.

In facing the challenges of the Covid-19 outbreak and the falling crude oil prices,

Amirudin said Selangor is in its best position to magnify digitisation initiatives as well as diversify revenue streams through innovation and simplify administrative procedures.

Earlier, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali said Malaysia had attracted RM207.9 billion worth of approved investments in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors last year.

The top contributing sectors include electrical and electronics with RM25.7 billion investments approved, followed by paper, printing and publishing (RM10.8 billion), transport technology (RM8 billion), non-metallic mineral products (RM6.9 billion), and chemicals and chemical products (RM4.8 billion).

Of the total, domestic investment accounted for 60.4 per cent (RM125.5 billion), while foreign direct investment made up 39.6 per cent (RM82.4 billion).

Selangor to review business plans after MCO

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government will review its investment strategy after the movement control order (MCO) ends, said the State Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman.

Datuk Teng Chang Khim said such measures are needed because the outbreak of the virus has affected the state's investment efforts.

"We will review the investment strategy once the MCO comes to an end and it will be based on global developments too," he told *Selan-*



gorKini when contacted on April 14.

Teng also pointed out that the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the global economy at large and not just Selangor.

On March 4, Teng had said that the state government would take a "wait and see" approach before deciding on whether there is a need to restructure the investment strategy for 2020.

He said the state would have to evaluate the economic impact stemming from the virus outbreak as Selangor had raised the investment target to RM12 billion for the year.

Setting a clear way forward

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

As Covid-19 pushes many nations to the brink of their resources, heads of governments across the world are scrambling to find solutions on how to cushion the social and economic impact caused by the virus.

The Selangor government has taken its own preemptive and proactive measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 within the community. The most populous state in Malaysia houses over six million people and has recorded the highest accumulated number of positive cases at more than 1,300 at press time.

One of the state's course of action was to form a seven-member task force called the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC), chaired by Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, who brings in his expertise as the former health minister as well as his knowledge in medical science.

The formation of the STFC was announced by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on March 9 in the wake of an increasing number of cases.

In a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*, Dr Dzulkefly, who is also the Kuala Selangor member of parliament, talks about the functions and responsibilities of the task force and how it works hand in hand with the state government's policies in battling the spread of the infection.

"The health sector is under the jurisdiction of the Federal government, but what we do is to supplement the efforts that are in place at the state level," said Dr Dzulkefly.

"The task force is more focused on awareness and education, especially on getting the people to better understand Covid-19 as it is a new virus and information surrounding it is constantly developing.

"It is also crucial for the task force to give accurate and updated input to the state government,"

he said.

This alliance is showing results. Selangor has received several acknowledgements for its efforts, and Dr Dzulkefly attributes them to Amirudin's perceptive leadership in managing the crisis.

"He is very responsive on the matter and I believe he does his own reading as well, so he understands the situation easily. When we propose recommendations, he would respond to them.

"Our hope is to see an end to this pandemic that has been a great test to many nations. So what we have to do now is arrange the steps for us to restart," he said.

An exit plan

Many countries have been placed under various forms of lockdown in order to contain the transmission of the virus. Malaysians too, have been confined to their homes since the movement control order (MCO) came into place on March 18.

While agreeing that the MCO is necessary, Dr Dzulkefly said an exit strategy from the order has to be laid out for the people to slowly recover and adapt to the new norms introduced.

He said a meeting with Amirudin has been set for April 27 where the task force will present ways for the people of Selangor to embark on "a soft landing" as they move towards the end of the MCO, and beyond.

"The MCO has been very effective in breaking the chain of transmission and is much needed in the war against the disease, but this has left a large dent on our economy, as well as the social impact. How much longer should we restrict movement? There must be clear steps in planning the way forward.

"The task force has looked into several scenarios as the time has come for us to plan an exit strategy and how to approach this so that we can go back to our lives. We cannot lift the order abruptly but at

the same time, it cannot continue further."

Dr Dzulkefly said one of the proposed approaches is to have different levels of restrictions based on the different zone classifications for each locality.

"I cannot go into detail about what has been planned but this will be revealed in the near future. If MB (Amirudin) buys into our idea, Selangor will be one of the pioneer states to set some distinction on how to manage the post-Covid-19 predicament," he said.

Zooming in on target groups

Dr Dzulkefly said despite shortcomings such as the lack of some crucial data, the state has done well in using Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) methodology, where randomised sampling is carried out using parameters other than population density or incidence rates.

He said this has enabled sampling to zoom in on vulnerable and susceptible high-risk groups, children, and women in the reproduction age bracket.

"This focus on community tracing has shown good results and it is important for us to take such a proactive and preemptive approach.

"Through the targeted community testing that we have conducted, we were able to detect the infection and isolate the cases early. It's what



(Far left) Roadblocks are now a norm when we leave the house but more feasible plans must be made for the long term after the MCO ends

Healthcare workers at the frontline during a targeted community screening in Rantau Panjang, Klang, on April 19 and (below) in Hulu Langat on April 12



“Through the targeted community testing that we have conducted, we were able to detect the infection and isolate the cases early. It's what we call a proactive interventionist (method) and this increases the success rate in identifying sporadic cases as well”

we call a proactive interventionist (method) and this increases the success rate in identifying sporadic cases as well.”

On April 1, Amirudin had announced a RM1.35 million allocation for mass testing to be done in Covid-19 hotspots or red zone areas in Selangor, targeting 5,000 people.

The free large-scale screening operation kicked-off on April 11 and involves door-to-door checks and drive-through services.

Dr Dzulkefly said although the drive-through method has certain limitations as it can only reach those who have vehicles, it is still able to extend to a wider range of the population.

Buying time

Dr Dzulkefly said the characteristics of this virus bring a great challenge: it is smart and cunning, and symptoms only appear a few days after the infection period.

As vaccines may likely take, at best, 12 to 18 months to be available, Dr Dzulkefly said health researchers and academics are also looking at the repurposing of an already approved drug as treatment.

He said one of the STFC members, Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, is spearheading a joint clinical trial between University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) and three Health Ministry (MOH) hospitals on the effectiveness of arthritis medicine to treat severe cases.

Dr Adeeba is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya, and an infectious diseases specialist.

"But we cannot wait for the vaccine, what is most important now is ensuring that our healthcare facilities are well equipped to manage the situation and at the same time mitigate the severity of the issue.

"The MCO is an extreme or enhanced form of social distancing. I am confident that we will be able to go back to our normal lives, just as the world has done after Influenza A, B, and other diseases, which are now seen as seasonal infections," he said, adding that the new norms of social distancing and practising good hygiene habits look set to stay.

1

Reimagining life after Covid-19

By JAY JAY DENIS

Into week four of the Covid-19 movement control order (MCO), many lives have been turned on their heads. The things we were used to — meeting friends, gossiping with colleagues, working at the office, being out and about — have been put on pause. Instead, the likes of Zoom, Houseparty, even Tik Tok for some, are now fixtures in our lives.

We are still achieving the same things, but in a different way. And that is what life will be like post-MCO.

If in the past, new technologies had seemed to only be for millennials living on avocado toast, it is now the bread and butter tools of the ordinary man and woman weathering through this global crisis.

A crisis like no other

The closest we have come to Covid-19 was the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS outbreak in 2002.

That virus was first detected in Nov 2002 and ran till July 31 2003, when the World Health Organisation declared the world free of SARS.

Over 8,000 people were infected by SARS, with 774 losing their lives in 29 countries.

Thus far, Covid-19 has infected more than 1.5 million people across 172 countries. And the death toll has reached 88,000, with many others on ventilators battling for their lives.

If SARS is any indication, we will face this crisis for at least another year, the earliest a vaccine can be made available across the globe.

A year is too long a pause on Malaysia's, and the world's, economy.

The only way to survive this together is to recognise that Covid-19 will not allow things to remain the same.

Technology — regarded as an enabler to stay ahead of the game — is now a necessity just to remain in the game.

Jobs which made physical interaction part of the norm will now have to transition into physically distanced jobs. We have already seen illustrations of that in the way we buy cooked meals and groceries. This will now have to operate at a grander scale in order to press play on the Malaysian economy.

Other aspects of our lives which we don't see — the production of vegetables, poultry and cattle farming, fishing — will require more intricate forms of technological support.

In 2017, Malaysia's food imports bill totalled RM51.3 billion for a nation of 32 million people, a number which has been rising consistently since 1998.

Vegetables, rice and fruit make up the bulk of those imports.

Some of the reasons for this include prohibitive production costs and high risks of production, a report by Khazanah Research Institute found.

This makes Malaysia more vulnerable and less food secure to face a crisis.

This vulnerability becomes even more pronounced in a Covid-19 supply crisis as the countries we import most of our food from — China, India, Thailand, Indonesia and New Zealand — are undergoing some form of lockdown.

To overcome this, efforts towards vertical urban farming at the community level which use less space with a higher yield should be explored.

Urban farming can reduce the cost of travel as well as provide Malaysians with a fresher alternative while creating and supporting local small businesses.

Avenues such as this will mean the jobs we know of today will be replaced by new ones.



PHOTO CAPTION:

1. Police and army officers conduct checks in rainy weather at a roadblock on the Kuala Lumpur-Ipoh route, on March 23

2. Shoppers observe the one-metre social distancing at a grocery store in Cheras, on March 24

On the strategic front, policymakers have yet to address these issues but one cannot fully blame them as this crisis is unlike any other.

However, this crisis will have to force governments to also change. The traditional economic toolkit will fail to jumpstart an economy that is shut.

Dawn of a new era

The Federal government has spent a meagre sum to keep people's pockets from being empty but that money will not last beyond two months.

State governments have topped up with various initiatives — some better than others — to ensure people have enough food on the table through a mixture of waiving rent, subsidising utility bills, handing out cash and stimulating e-commerce.

But these measures are to prevent people from sinking and will not have the maximum impact in an economy facing a supply crisis through lowered production levels in various industries.

In the next phase of policy bazookas,

much focus will have to shift to creating new jobs in e-commerce by training a substantial number of Malaysians who would either be jobless or stuck in industries which have not adapted in time to face a post-MCO era.

Banks can also take on a more developmental role of reviving the many small businesses in Malaysia rather than just focusing on fueling the corporate engine.

We will all have an immense role to play in dragging ourselves back up in order to survive and excel post-MCO. There lay many opportunities ahead.

One thing is for sure: change, like bread and butter, is not an option.

According to the Health Ministry, Covid-19 infections develop through five different stages. This was revealed after nearly 80 per cent of Malaysians who tested positive for the coronavirus had displayed either mild symptoms or none at all, while the remaining 20 per cent fell into the moderate and critical categories. The Health director-general on April 2 classified the five levels of infection.

5 STAGES OF COVID-19

STAGE 1

- Testing positive without any symptoms
- People in this stage are known as asymptomatic carriers
- They can go about their daily routines without feeling ill
- They are usually people with stronger antibodies like children or young adults



STAGE 2

- Testing positive with only mild symptoms
- Symptoms include fevers, dry coughs, and a lack of physical energy
- Risk of transmission is thought to be the greatest at this stage



STAGE 3

- Developing some form of pneumonia
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the US, complications of severe cases include (but are not limited to) pneumonia, hypoxemic respiratory failure (not having enough oxygen in your blood), as well as sepsis (the body's response to an infection) and septic shock

STAGE 4

- Having breathing difficulties and requiring oxygen support
- Shortness of breath can make it extremely difficult for those infected with Covid-19. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 1 out of every 6 people infected with Covid-19 start to develop serious bouts of breathing difficulties at this stage

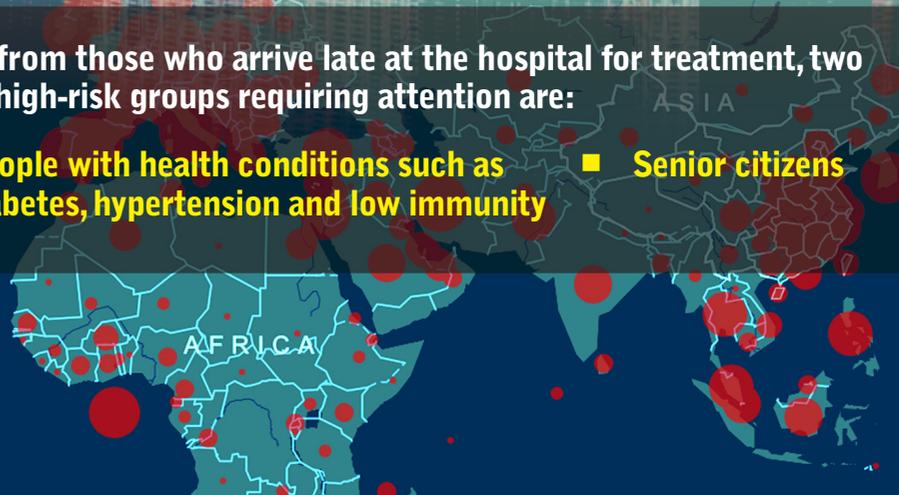


STAGE 5

- Needing to be intubated and put on a ventilator
- Patients who reach this stage require respiratory aid

Aside from those who arrive late at the hospital for treatment, two other high-risk groups requiring attention are:

- People with health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and low immunity
- Senior citizens



MBI staff can claim for masks, sanitisers

SHAH ALAM - Selangor Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI) has allowed its staff to claim for the purchase of hand sanitisers and face masks as an initiative to control the spread of Covid-19.

Its chief executive officer Soffan Affendi Aminudin said

the state-run company is always concerned and proactive about the healthcare needs of the employees.

He said claims can be made through the Outpatient Medical Assistance Scheme, according to the stipulated guidelines, and they should be made

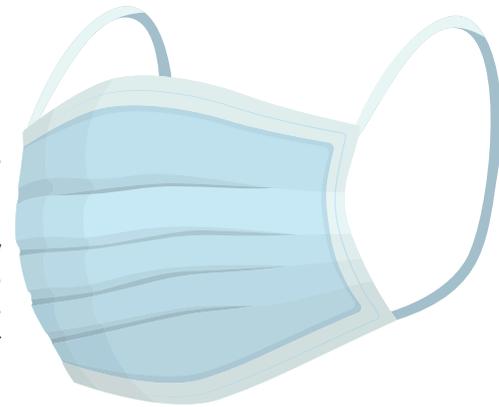
by April 30.

"The hand sanitiser purchase limit is 500 millilitres and the maximum purchase for face masks is RM200," he said in a statement on March 23.

Soffan said each claim should include the receipts of the purchases made even if

there is a balance in the user's clinical card.

All employees are expected to continue with the security measures, and abide by the movement control order, announced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia (Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin)," he said.



New role, new routes for 20 Smart buses

SHAH ALAM - A total of 20 Smart Selangor buses are being used to transport Malaysians who have arrived home from abroad to quarantine centres in the state.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government will bear the cost of maintaining and operating the buses.

"As of today, 20 Smart Selangor buses are operating daily to transport Malaysians who have arrived at the airports to the 14 quarantine centres in Selangor," Amirudin said via his official Twitter account on April 6.

The Selangor Smart Bus on April 3 began its first mission in transporting Malaysians who had arrived from Chennai, India, to the quarantine centres.

The Federal government previously said that Malaysians who return to the country would immediately be quarantined for 14 days.

Among the quarantine centres located in Selangor are the Health Min-



As of April 6, 20 Smart Selangor buses are operating daily to transport Malaysians who have arrived at the airports to the 14 quarantine centres in Selangor

istry Training Institute in Sungai Buloh, the Malaysian Muslim Training Institute in Bangi, the Judicial and Legal Training Institute in Bangi, the Fire and Rescue Academic Centre in Kuala Kubu Bharu and the Al-Nabawiyah Madrasah in Kajang.

Klang Council appoints new president

SHAH ALAM - Dr Ahmad Fadzli Ahmad Tajuddin (*pic*) has been appointed the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) president for a two-year term, effective April 10.

He also heads the National Institute of Public Administration management development and innovation cluster, the *Star Online* reported.

During his official visit to the municipality on April 9, Dr Ahmad Fadzli had distributed face masks and basic necessities to local councillors and MPK's Islamic Workers Welfare Association.

He also held his first meeting with MPK heads of department and was briefed on the Covid-19 situation in Klang and the measures undertaken by the council.



"Social distancing, being indoors and frequent hand washing is important. I urge all Klangites to work from home as Covid-19 cases continue to increase and cause deaths," the English daily quoted Dr Ahmad Fadzli.

The new council president also reminded the residents to put on masks, use alcohol-based hand sanitisers or latex gloves as precautionary measures.

"Based on the Health Ministry's data, Klang district has some 219 cases," he said at the time of the interview.

Born in Ipoh, Dr Ahmad Fadzli holds a doctorate in Business Administration.

He was previously the Malaysian Institute of Integrity (Integriti) acting president and chief executive officer.

Assemblyman reaches out to those in need

SHAH ALAM - About 2,200 families in Bandar Baru Klang received basic necessities and "Jom Shopping" vouchers during the movement control order (MCO).

State assemblyman Datuk Teng Chang Khim said daily essentials were distributed in stages since April 1, to families residing in five low-cost apartments located in his constituency.

Among the apartments that received help are the Mawar Cempaka and Dahlia apartments in Bandar Baru Klang, the Pelangi Indah apartment in Jalan Pekan Baru and the Rebana apartment in Ban-

dar Bukit Raja.

"I hope the daily essentials distributed will lighten the burden of the residents brought about by the MCO.

"I also hope everyone in Selangor will take precautionary measures and remain at home in order to break the chain of the Covid-19 infection," he said.

Teng, who is also the Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman, also advised those with Covid-19 symptoms to get themselves checked at one of the designated hospitals.



Petaling Jaya deputy mayor Johary Anuar (right) briefs Amirudin on the status of the individuals quarantined at Sunway Clio Hotel on April 7

Quarantine centres get extra help

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

PETALING JAYA - The Selangor government has placed one district officer at each quarantine centre in the state to coordinate the supply of basic necessities for those who are undergoing monitoring there.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the officer will also monitor the activities and movements at the centre according to the standard operating procedures in place.

"We will help the quarantine

centres in terms of manpower by placing a district officer that will oversee the operations.

"The preparations made by the officers have to be according to the SOP that is in place. As for food preparations, that will be prepared by the Social Welfare Department," he said after visiting the quarantine centre at the Sunway Clio Hotel in Subang, on April 7.

As of noon on April 6, 389 people had been placed at the hotel since it began functioning as an isolation centre on April 5.

Amirudin said another two quarantine centres in the state — Hilton Hotel in Petaling Jaya and the Judicial and Legal Training Institute in Bandar Baru Bangi — have also started to receive persons under surveillance (PUS) and patients under investigation (PUI).

"The quarantine centres have been set to separate those under surveillance so that we can stop the chain of infections.

"I believe this move will safeguard the health and safety of the public," he said.

Recognition for a job well done

SHAH ALAM - The Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad Waste Management Sdn Bhd (KDEB-WM) has received recognition by an international certification body on the quality of its services in domestic waste collection.

Its Media and Public Relations head Mahfuzah Muhammad Tarmidi said 12 branches of the waste management company have received the ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 AJA EQS Certification, which is an established and leading management systems international certification and training body in Malaysia and Asia.

The branches that have received the recognition are Klang, Ampang, Selayang, Kajang, Hulu Selangor, Sabak Bernam, Kuala Selangor, Kuala Langat, Petaling Jaya, Subang Jaya, Sepang and Shah Alam.

"The certification is significant because this means that we have successfully carried out our operations throughout the five years with trust and responsibility as a smart waste management company in Selangor.

"This acknowledgement would further strengthen our vision and mission in promoting a cleaner and healthier environment, especially in the state, which is in line with our slogan, 'Together We Keep Selangor Clean,'" Mahfuzah said in a statement on



This acknowledgement would further strengthen our vision and mission in promoting a cleaner and healthier environment, especially in the state, which is in line with our slogan, 'Together We Keep Selangor Clean'

April 14.

She said the ISO 9001 certification, which is of international standard, was awarded for the quality of the company's operating procedures while ISO 14001 focuses on environmental standards.

"This accomplishment is part of the commitment of the company's Quality and Compliance Department. We will be focusing our efforts on getting certified in the area of public cleansing," she added.



Water bill just a WhatsApp away

SHAH ALAM - Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) customers can now opt to receive their monthly water bill via Whatsapp.

Its corporate communications head Abdul Halem Mat Som, in a statement on April 6, said the service is available from April 1 and customers from Selangor and Kuala Lumpur can register at [https://](https://update.airselangor.com)

update.airselangor.com.

"Customers who opt to use the WhatsApp service need to make sure the phone number registered on the given website is accurate and can receive messages on the application," he said.

Account holders are also advised to switch from paper bills to e-billing, a service which started in

January 2018, as it is convenient and bill payments can easily be done online.

For more information on water supply matters, account holders can contact Air Selangor at 15300, WhatsApp at 019-2800919 or 019-2816793, or visit its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts or website at www.airselangor.com.

Adun Speaks: My door is always open, says Hee

By ASHWIN KUMAR

HEADING the Selangor Environment, Green Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, and Consumer Affairs Committee portfolio, Hee Loy Sian is the incumbent Selangor State Legislative Assemblyman for Kajang.

He was among the seven new faces in the state legislative lineup following the last General Election.

Post elections, Hee vowed that he would take on two main issues in Kajang, the flood problem and traffic congestion.

Selangor Journal (SJ): What is the main industry in your constituency?

Hee Loy Sian (HLS): Kajang is a learning and education hub. We have established educational institutions here, namely Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, University of Kuala Lumpur, Tunku Abdul Rahman University, Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur and Open University. These higher education institutes open up opportunities for the locals to contribute to the economy via the F&B industry. We have a total of 70,000 voters in Kajang and it is the third biggest constituency in Selangor. I also see the potential for Kajang to grow as a residential hub, considering the availability of land there.

SJ: What are some of the concerns that are regularly raised by your constituents and how do you plan to address them?

HLS: The people in my constituency always raise issues con-

cerning traffic and odour pollution. With regards to traffic, the roads are particularly congested during the morning and evening rush hours. I also always come across complaints relating to odour pollution by residents living near rubber plantations. This happens when errant factory owners dump their industrial waste near the residential areas. I am trying my best to solve these issues in Kajang.

SJ: What is the main attraction in your constituency?

HLS: I would say Kajang's main attractions are Bandar Mahkota Cheras and Kajang Old Town. The Kajang Old Town is where most of the pre-war shophouses and historical buildings are located. Of course, Kajang is famous for its satay but my constituency has more to offer than satay. Foods such as spicy pepper soup and Hong Kong-style chee cheong fun are also famous here. One of our landmarks is Kajang Stadium and Kajang Jamek Mosque, which were built in the 1970s. Apart



from being home to three MRT1 stations (Sungai Jernih, Stadium Kajang and Kajang), Kajang is also linked to several highways such as the Kajang Dispersal Link Expressway (SILK), the Kajang-Seremban Highway (LEKAS) and the North-South Expressway.

SJ: What are some of your achievements in the constituency?

HLS: Previously, the people in Kajang were frustrated by flash floods that happened frequently, particularly those which resulted in material and financial losses. The floods sparked fear among the local folk. The roads in Kajang, especially in Sungai Long and Bandar Mahkota Cheras, were not planned well before they were built. They are too narrow and this caused the floods. But my councillors and I worked very hard to overcome this. It was a challenging period for me and my team. I also realised that people in Kajang are slowly adapting to using public transportation. This was one of my biggest challenges too, educating the people on the benefits of using public transport.



SJ: Can you share with us some of your problem-solving methods?

HLS: According to my schedule, I will normally meet my voters every Wednesday from 8pm to 10pm at our headquarters. However, the days of strictly following the schedule are gone because I now make sure that I help my voters whenever the need arises. Some of them will Whatsapp me directly and some would want to meet me via appointments. At the end of the day, they voted for me and I am answerable to them at all times.

PHOTO CAPTION:

1. Hee inspects the damage caused by a landslide along Jalan Sungai Long, Kajang

2. The Kajang assemblyman tries a hand at frying some Deepavali snacks during celebrations for the festival in Padang Taman Cuepacs, Kajang

3. Hee checks on some oil drums at a factory in Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor after the Sungai Selangor water treatment plant ceased operations due to pollution



Council to review Sukma coaching contracts

By KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN

SHAH ALAM - Selangor will make a decision in May regarding the contract of its Malaysia Games (Sukma) coaches, said the Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS). Its director Adi Faizal Ahmad

Tarmizi said many of the coaches will have their contracts end in July but the sports council will need to review their status earlier following the postponement of the biennial event.

"We have 70 contract coaches. There is no issue for those whose

contracts are until the end of the year.

"But for those with contracts ending in July, we will have to review whether we will be extending them," he said.

Adi Faizal said although Sukma 2020 has been postponed,

the monthly allowance of the coaches has to be paid.

On March 25, the Sukma Supreme Council had unanimously called off the games until further notice.

The sporting event was scheduled to be held from July 11 to



19 in Johor and the Para Sukma 2020 from August 16 to 22.

Selangor had aimed to bring home 45 gold, 40 silver, and 40 bronze medals.

FAM, MFL all set and raring to go

KUALA LUMPUR - The Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) and Malaysian Football League (MFL) are all ready to resume the Malaysia League (M-League) once the movement control order (MCO) is lifted.

FAM secretary-general Stuart Ramalingam said the national governing body and MFL already have a thorough plan in place for all tournaments under FAM, including the Youth Cup and President's Cup, which have been suspended since March 16.

He said FAM and MFL would also implement new standard operating procedures (SOP) that all teams must comply with, including making it compulsory for players and officials to undergo Covid-19 screenings to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

"We have been in touch with all our affiliates, they know that we are ready and they know we have options. Everything is ready but, just like most other countries and leagues in the world, they can't say for certain when it (competitions) will resume, they only can tell you when they wish to start.

"We are ready in terms of scheduling and the SOP on what needs to be done," he told *Bernama* on April 21.



"Based on discussions, we have also prepared the league schedule should it resume in June, July or even August. But for details, it's better for MFL to comment," he said.

FAM and MFL decided to postpone all M-League matches and football activities in the country effective March 16 following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Teams were also not allowed to hold any training sessions or friendly matches during the MCO period.

Meanwhile, Stuart said

FAM would not take a hasty approach in finalising any decisions, especially when it involves issues regarding the nation's safety and security.

"We understand this is not the right time to talk to the ministry (Youth and Sports Ministry) about football as, at the moment, they have a national issue to deal with.

"So, when the time comes for us to discuss, we will have that and I'm sure they will be more informed then to tell us what is the right SOP." — *BERNAMA*

Sukma postponed to safeguard athletes

KUALA LUMPUR - This July's Malaysia Games (Sukma) in Johor has been postponed due to Covid-19.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said the decision to postpone the Games to a date to be confirmed later was made at the Sukma Supreme Committee meeting, which was held via video conference on March 26.

He said in a statement that the decision took into account the most important aspect — the health and safety of the athletes, coaches, officials and everyone involved in the Games.

"The committee also agreed that the new dates will be decided at a meeting to be held in early May, the latest. The majority agreed to two suggested dates, either in December or for the Games to be carried forward to 2021, depending on several factors.

"Among them are the constant monitoring of the latest Covid-19 development; making sure the dates do not clash with other important events like public examinations or major sports activities; as well as to scrutinise and take into account the interests of all Sukma 2020 stakeholders, especially that of host Johor."

Almost 30,000 athletes, officials, media personnel and volunteers are expected to attend the

Johor Sukma from July 11 to 19.

Reezal Merican said he has directed National Sports Council director-general Datuk Ahmad Shapawi Ismail, in cooperation with the Johor Sukma Secretariat, to conduct a comprehensive review by taking into account the feedback from all stakeholders.

The review should comprise all aspects of athlete qualification and preparation, implications on

promotional activities, marketing, pre-Sukma programmes, sponsorship, branding, media coverage, logistics, and facilities for specific sports events to be tabled at the next Sukma Supreme Committee meeting.

The committee comprises all 14 state Youth and Sports executive councillors, including the Johor exco as host; Youth and Sports Ministry secretary-general Dr Waitchalla RRV Suppiah; Olympic Council of Malaysia president Datuk Seri Mohamad Norza Zakaria; Ahmad Shapawi; National Sports Institute chief executive officer Ahmad Faedzal Md Ramli; and the Johor Sukma Secretariat.

Reezal Merican has also made a request to Dr Waitchalla, as chairman of the Johor 2020 Para Sukma Supreme Committee, to similarly postpone the Sukma Para Games scheduled for August 11 to 22. — *BERNAMA*



DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR FAVOURITE BREAKING-OF-FAST DELICACIES THIS RAMADAN AT

PLATS
PLATFORMSELANGOR
www.plats.com.my

Grab

