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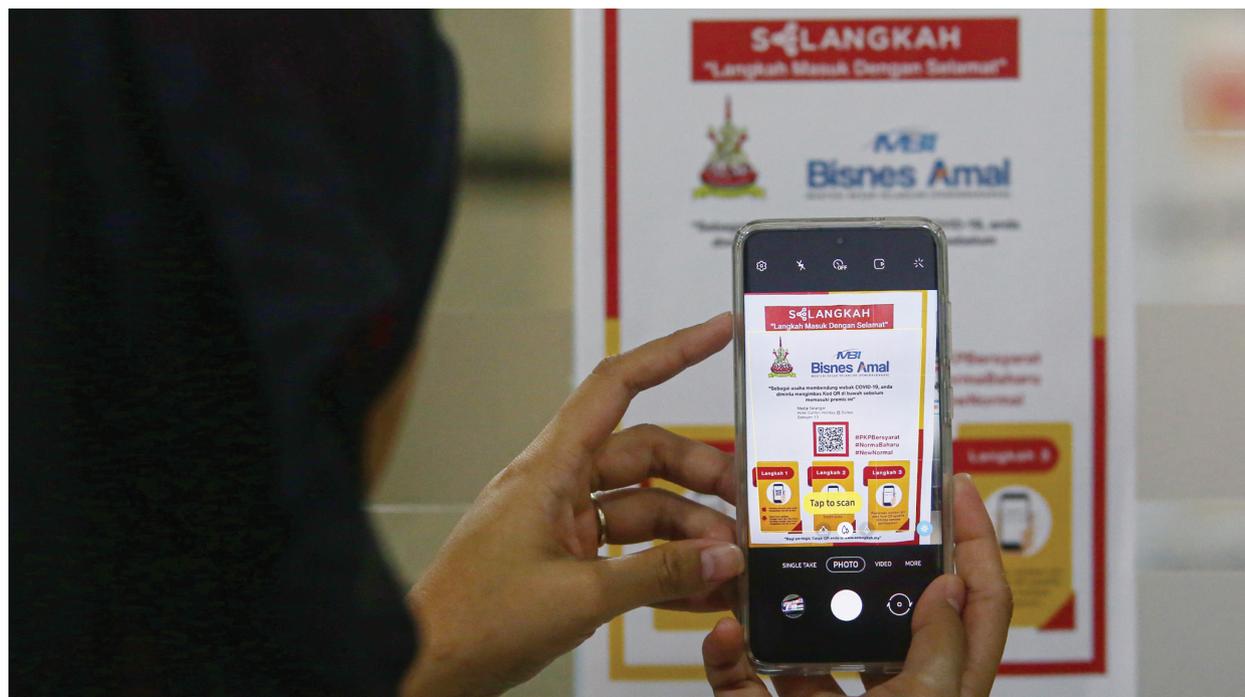
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# SELANGOR JOURNAL

## A step ahead with SELangkah



**THE** Selangor government has introduced SELangkah — a Covid-19 contact tracing tool that safeguards privacy and is easy to use.

Its implementation requires the scanning of QR codes displayed at government offices and private businesses, with visitors leaving only their names and phone numbers behind.

Aside from the contact tracing initiative, the state's other measures in curbing the spread of the virus include Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari's decision to take a softer approach in opening up the economy.

Amirudin said Selangor, with the highest recorded figures in the country, needs more time to go through the standard operating procedures set by the Federal government and plans to restart businesses in stages.

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A healthcare worker administers a Covid-19 test to a Hulu Langat resident during the mass screening exercise in the district on April 12

## Testing to prioritise orphans, the elderly

By NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor Covid-19 targeted community screening will resume its operations, and will focus on testing residents at nursing homes as well as children at orphanages at coronavirus hotspots across the state, says the Selangor Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the programme will focus on senior citizens and children, including residents of old folks' homes

that are not registered under the Social Welfare Department.

"What is important is for the screenings to be done. So welfare homes in hotspot areas will be prioritised.

"Based on the screening operation previously held in Hulu Langat, the Covid-19 cases were detected from those living in nursing homes. Therefore, we will focus on the elderly as they are in the high-risk group," he said during an interview via Skype broadcasted on *Astro Awani* on May 7.

Amirudin said the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) is also prepared to conduct screenings on foreign workers, should the need arise.

He said the locations for the screenings will be finalised after the Health Ministry announces them under the enforced movement control order.

"The state government is co-operating with the State Health Department and will work together to break the Covid-19 chain of infection," he added.

## Asymptomatic cases among those tested

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor targeted community testing operation for Covid-19 has identified 10 confirmed cases out of the 5,433 individuals screened, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Selangor Menteri Besar said out of the total confirmed cases, eight were asymptomatic carriers.

"The state government will continue the community screening to help the Health Ministry (MOH) in identifying those who have been infected, especially the ones who are in the high-risk group.

"We will proceed with the initiative in a strategic manner while taking into account feedback from the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 on devising plans for the new normal after the movement control order (MCO) is lifted," he said in a statement on April 28.

"The preparation includes efforts to revive the state economy."

Amirudin said the mass testings targeting red zones

were carried out in seven stages and involved six areas.

They started on April 11 and 12 in Hulu Langat and ended in Bandar Baru Selayang on April 22 and 23.

"The testings, which were conducted via drive-through services and door-to-door visits, had used the RT-PCR method that is approved by the MOH," said Amirudin, in reference to the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction laboratory technique.

"It was carried out in collaboration with Selangor State Development Corporation's (PKNS) wholly-owned subsidiary, Selcare Clinic, as well as the District Health Offices, local authorities and police."

So far, the highest number of screenings were carried out in the districts of Petaling and Klang, with 1,826 people tested.

People who have had their test samples taken can check their status report at [www.selangorprihatin.com](http://www.selangorprihatin.com) beginning May 1.



## Masking up now mandatory at govt offices

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government has made it compulsory for the public to wear face masks when visiting state administrative offices, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said the state administration will ensure that there will be enough stock for businesses to supply to the consumers.

"Mask-wearing has to be part of our routine, especially in Selangor, to make sure that the Covid-19 infection rate will drop," he told *SelangorKini* when met on May 4.

Amirudin had earlier attended a video conference with state assemblymen and members of the Selangor National Security Council.



## Use SELangkah till vaccine found: Dr Dzul

**SHAH ALAM** - The SELangkah initiative, which has been introduced by the state government for Covid-19 contact tracing, should be used until a vaccine for the coronavirus is available, says Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

The Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) head said the initiative would help businesses track any incidence of infection from customers who had visited their outlets.

"Covid-19 may still be present around us and we need to be wise before a vaccine or antiviral drugs for the virus is found.

"SELangkah is also moving in towards the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era," he wrote in his official Twitter account on May 6.

The contact tracing initiative was introduced by Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on May 4.

# State's contact tracing tool rolled out

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

**SHAH ALAM** – The SELangkah Covid-19 contact tracing system will be adopted at all government offices and private businesses in Selangor, taking effect on May 6.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said this includes state administrative buildings, private offices, restaurants, shopping malls as well as health-care facilities across the state.

He said the decision was made during the Selangor State Executive Council meeting on May 6.

"The simple online portal is free and open to everyone. It functions as an electronic logbook (e-logbook) that would record the visitation history of everyone at a particular place.

"Using the system in a large scale manner will complement the Federal government's efforts in Covid-19 contact tracing through the MyTrace phone application, as well as double-check the information. This will help in efforts to contain the spread of the virus," he said in a statement.

On May 4, the Selangor government

announced the SELangkah initiative, which works to trace anyone entering government and business premises in the state.

Amirudin said the move is to ease the registration process of individuals visiting public places through the use of an automated QR code system.

Beginning May 5, all owners of the said premises were able to create their own QR code through the selangkah.mbiselangor.com.my website or selangkah.my.

Amirudin said many premises have already registered for the initiative, and calls for the speedy participation of others.

Once each premises is assigned a QR code, it must be easily accessible to visitors who are required to scan it using their mobile phones. This can be done either upon entering the premises or when making payment at the counter.

With each scan, a person's date and time of visit to a particular place, as well as his or her phone number, will be stored and managed by the state government and local authorities.

Once a Covid-19 case is detected at a particular location, health officers will be



Amirudin scans the SELangkah QR code before entering the Plats and Grab Malaysia e-kitchen at the Padang Awam Batu Caves public hall in Batu Caves, on May 8

notified and contact tracing can begin.

"We hope that SELangkah will become a new normal for economic activities under the modified conditional movement control order (MCMCO), similar to what is being practised in other countries that have adopted the best practices (in combating the pandemic), such as South Ko-

rea," Amirudin said.

He stressed that Covid-19 can only be contained if all parties play their role.

"Health is everyone's business," he said.

For further information, visit [www.selangkah.my](http://www.selangkah.my) or contact the SELangkah hotline at 03-55138898/0143025655.

## No phone? Not a problem

**SHAH ALAM** – Manual registration is allowed for all senior citizens and those who are less tech-savvy should they have problems in using the SELangkah contact tracing system when visiting government offices, retail outlets and restaurants.

State Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Committee chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said an exception is also made for those who do not own a smartphone, as the SELangkah method requires people to scan a QR code and key in their name and phone number at each place they visit.

"The state government is finding ways to cater to those who do not have smartphones," said Dr Siti Mariah at a press conference here on May 13.

Places that use SELangkah — the acronym for "Langkah Masuk dengan Selamat" — also need not ask their customers to provide their contact details twice (once manually and once more via SELangkah), as the authorities do not need duplicate versions of the information for contact tracing.

Dr Siti Mariah said all contact details provided will be shared between the state government, the Selangor State Health Department and local authorities. These governing bodies also have direct



access to the SELangkah system to monitor and audit its implementation.

Businesses are required to adhere to the standard operating procedures already outlined for them.

"We urge all business owners and the public to fully use the SELangkah system so that we can ease the contact tracing process for the frontliners and also protect ourselves," she said.

## Your privacy assured, public told

**SHAH ALAM** – The SELangkah initiative that was introduced by the Selangor government for Covid-19 contact tracing is a safe and effective system.

Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 member Dr Helmi Zakariah said the initiative will not breach the data privacy of its users as it only records the time and location of a particular visit.

"When we download a phone app, the biggest concern the public has is the question of data privacy and the tracking of their movement. But with this system, we make the place a person visits as the 'control centre'.

"So when a person visits a particular outlet, we only track that person's visitation history at that particular place and also for others who

have visited at that same time, to help in contact tracing," he said in a video presentation shared on [amirudinshari.com](http://amirudinshari.com).

Dr Helmi said SELangkah was formed after the state government realised that there are limitations to the current contact tracing mechanisms, which mostly require manual logins.

He said the first phase of the system had started at wet markets and grocery shops, which are high-risk places vital to the economy.

The online contact tracing initiative was introduced on May 5, where business outlets are required to obtain a QR code through the [selangkah.mbiselangor.com.my](http://selangkah.mbiselangor.com.my) website or [selangkah.my](http://selangkah.my), and have it displayed for their patrons to scan.

# Ruler calls for vigilance, strength



By **ASHWIN KUMAR**

**SHAH ALAM** – The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah has reminded the people to be careful following the lifting of several restrictions under the conditional movement control order (MCMO).

His Royal Highness said that the people must adjust to the new norms, which include only leaving the house when necessary and not gathering in large groups for weddings and Hari Raya open houses.

“Adhere to social distancing rules. You must always wear a mask when you are out and keep your general hygiene impeccable which includes always washing your hands or using

hand sanitisers.

“The elderly and those who are feeling unwell are advised to stay at home,” he said in a posting which was uploaded on the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page on May 5.

Sultan Sharafuddin also expressed his concern over Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations and cautioned the people to observe the festivities with their immediate family members only and to not go back to their hometowns.

“I pray that the situation will ease and we will win this fight against the pandemic. The community must stay strong and work together for us to succeed.”

The Selangor Ruler said the measures taken under the movement control order (MCO)

had seen the flattening of the Covid-19 curve in Selangor as well as a relative containment of the disease.

“I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the frontliners on the tireless dedication and hard work that they have put in during these challenging and unprecedented times which ensures that the health systems are protected and able to cope.

“Thank you and well done to all the doctors, nurses, ancillary staff of all the hospitals in Selangor, policemen, firemen and Rela.

“We also appreciate the family members of the frontliners for their support and patience,” he said.

## No interstate travel as PM extends CMCO

**KUALA LUMPUR** – The conditional movement control order (CMCO) has been extended until June 9, which means interstate travel for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration is not allowed, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said on May 10.

The prime minister said the four-week extension was made on the advice of the Health Ministry (MOH) and the National Security Council (NSC) to curb the spread of Covid-19.

“Our efforts (in fighting Covid-19) have yet to achieve full success. Measures are still needed to fight this pandemic. I also find that the public generally wants the government to continue taking the appropriate measures to fight this pandemic,” he said in a special address aired over national television.

The government had earlier implemented the CMCO from May 4 to 12 to allow almost all economic and social sectors to reopen in a controlled and orderly manner.

Muhyiddin said the extension means that all regulations and standard operating procedures (SOPs) implemented under the current CMCO will remain in force until June 9.

He said any changes to the regulations, SOPs or list of sectors allowed to operate would be announced from time to time.

Muhyiddin pointed out that the CMCO period coincided with several major festivals like Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Pesta Kaamatan and Hari Gawai which usually involved mass movements of people.

Conveying his apologies to the people, Muhyiddin said that

in the interest of the safety and health of the population, interstate travel to return to hometowns and villages for Aidilfitri is not allowed.

However, Aidilfitri, Pesta Kaamatan or Hari Gawai can still be celebrated by making visits to close neighbours and family members staying in the same state subject to a maximum of 20 people at one time although big feasts or open houses cannot be held, he added.

The prime minister advised every family to observe health SOPs like social distancing, wearing face masks and using hand sanitisers when celebrating the festivals.

Muhyiddin also said studies done by a Singapore-based research agency had ranked Malaysia fourth out of 105 countries in terms of the people's satisfaction with efforts taken by the government to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

In this connection, he thanked the frontliners for sacrificing a lot to keep Malaysians safe from the coronavirus, which has infected more than four million people worldwide and caused 278,631 deaths as of May 10.

He said as a result of the discipline shown by Malaysians during the Movement Control Order (MCO) and CMCO, and their tireless efforts, almost all districts or zones in the country



have achieved green status.

Although the country has achieved many positive developments in the fight against the pandemic, Muhyiddin reminded the people of the need to continue taking action to break the chain of infection.

According to medical experts, the process of producing a vaccine might take some time, between 12 and 18 months, he said.

“I have contacted several foreign leaders and was told that clinical tests were being actively conducted to develop a vaccine

for this virus. I hope the vaccine can be produced as quickly as possible so that we can be free from this Covid-19 threat as soon as possible,” he added.

The government implemented the MCO on March 18 for a two-week period and since then there have been three two-week extensions, with the fourth phase of the MCO scheduled to end on May 12.

However, on May 4 the government enforced the CMCO that was to have ended on May 12, and has now extended it to June 9. — Bernama

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## We needed more time, says MB

**SHAH ALAM** – The Selangor government welcomes the Federal administration's decision to reopen the economic sectors under the conditional movement control order (CMCO), but said it is tied down by the short notice.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government needs some time to run through the standard operating procedures (SOPs) under the conditional MCO before it can allow all the sectors in the state to resume operations.

"We didn't have enough time (to review the SOPs) ... that is why Kedah has also only enforced it today (May 7) and Kelantan on Friday (May 8).

"During the previous Selangor state executive council meeting, we had not presented each and every one (of the sectors) because the SOP is quite lengthy and that is why more time is needed. Discussions with the Prime Minister also gave room for us to adjust based on a particular environment, district or locality," said Amirudin during a talk show via Skype aired on *Astro Awani* on May 7.

On May 3, Selangor had announced it would impose the modified conditional movement control order (MCMCO), which had additional conditions initiated by the state.

The conditions include banning dine-ins at restaurants and eateries, and not allowing roadside stalls and food trucks to operate before May 12.

The decision was made following a series of meetings involving the Selangor National Security Council, the Selangor Covid-19 operation centre, the Selangor Covid-19 Task Force, city mayors and local councillors.

## Renewed calls for folks to stay home

**SHAH ALAM** – People are urged to remain at home despite the Federal government's relaxation of the movement control order, says the Selangor Menteri Besar.

"Collective effort from everyone is needed in breaking the Covid-19 chain of infection. We can beat it together," said Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on Twitter on May 6.

Through an infographic sourced from the Health Ministry, Amirudin explained the reasons why people must remain at home — primarily to curb the virus from spreading to others if one is infected, and to protect those in high-risk groups, such as senior citizens and people with chronic illnesses.

Staying at home would help to keep the green zones green and assist the yellow zones in becoming green, he said.

He also reminded people to keep safe social distances when outside of the home.



# Selangor gives back to the frontliners

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

**SHAH ALAM** – The Selangor government has agreed to give a one-off special financial assistance with a total amount of RM18.5 million targeted at civil servants, public sector workers, and the frontliners, which will be paid in June.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the cash aid is a show of appreciation to the public service sector, especially those who are actively involved in the fight against the Covid-19 outbreak.

This includes local authorities, state statutory bodies and subsidiary companies of the state government.

"Taking into account their sacrifices in working tirelessly, the state government has agreed to give a one-off cash payment of RM1,000 to civil servants grade 56 and below, including frontliners, as well as those who have worked around the clock at the Covid-19 operation centre.

"However, state executive council members and state assemblymen will not be included," he told a press conference at his official residence here on May 15.

Amirudin said RM1.335 million has been allocated for the secretaries and committee members of the village community management councils (MPKK) in 371 traditional villages, each to receive a RM300 one-off cash assistance.

He said a total RM4.171 million



has been budgeted for the mosques and surau across Selangor.

"For the mosques, one nazir (mosque official), two iman, two bilal, and two siak, will each receive a one-off RM400 cash assistance, with a total budget of RM1.092 million.

"As for the surau, the chairman, two imam, and one bilal and siak will receive RM300 each, with a total allocation of RM3.079 million," he said.

Meanwhile, Amirudin has also updated on the progress of the state's second stimulus package, the Selangor Cares Package 2.0, announced on April 1.

The progress so far:

- The RM200 incentive promised to each of the 2,193 frontliners has

been given out.

- Targeted community screening has taken place in several hotspots, with 5,433 samples taken. Out of the total, 10 were positive for Covid-19.

- Some 16,829 traders and small businesses registered via *selangor-prihatin.com* have received a RM500 one-off cash aid.

- Some 135 farmers participating in the Selangor Agro Market have recorded sales of RM7.37 million.

- A total of 75,580 school students have signed up for the e-learning programme at *selangortutor.com*.

- The SELangkah contact tracing system has recorded over one million logins.

- A total of RM37,000 has been disbursed to the family members of Covid-19 victims, with each family receiving RM1,000.

## Dining at restaurants now allowed

**SHAH ALAM** – Restaurants and food operators are allowed to operate fully and accept dine-in customers effective May 13, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

In a statement on May 12, he said food and beverage outlets can operate from 7am to 10pm with the social distancing rule in place.

However, Amirudin said dining at sidewalks and parking lots is still not allowed.

"Restaurants and food operators are urged to provide pre-order services to avoid overcrowding.

"The local authorities will also do spot checks from time to time to ensure optimum compliance of

the SOPs (standard operating procedures)," he said in the statement.

Amirudin said roadside stalls and food trucks can now operate from 8am to 10pm, but limited to drive-through, take-away and delivery services.

As for wet and fresh markets, they can operate as normal but no slaughtering of animals are allowed.

Amirudin said morning markets (*pasar pagi*) and night markets (*pasar malam*) remain closed.

"Following the extension of the conditional movement control order until June 9, the state government had today (May 12) met with

city mayors, local authorities, and district officers and had agreed on the decision made," the statement read.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said all parks are now open for outdoor sports and recreational activities, including fishing, from 7am to 7pm.

However, hiking and camping are still not allowed.

The Selangor state secretariat will issue a detailed circular on the new rules, which will apply from May 13 to June 9.

"Any other activities or matters that have not been mentioned are subject to the SOPs set by the National Security Council," he added.

# Covid-19 won't affect 12MP, says Zafrul

**PORT KLANG** – The 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) is not currently seen as being negatively impacted by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, said Finance Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz.

He said this is because the 12MP, which covers the 2021-2025 period, is a long-term economic plan and the government is also studying a targeted economic recovery plan which will be tabled at the end of this month.

"It (12MP) is a long-term economic plan which spans five years. Therefore, the effects of Covid-19 shouldn't affect it.

"Nonetheless, the 2021 Budget, which is expected to be announced in October or November, should take into account current economic factors," Tengku Zafrul told members of the press after a working visit to the Royal Malaysian Customs Department's Northport office here on May 7.

When asked which aspects would be given focus when preparing the 2021 Budget, he said the government would concentrate more on

efforts to revive the country's economy.

He said in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak, the government had drafted a six-phase plan to improve the economy, and during the tabling of the Budget, the economy would be in the "Revitalise" phase of the plan.

"The 2021 Budget tabling is viewed as coming under the fifth phase, which is the period for revitalising the economy," said Tengku Zafrul.

The first phase, "Resolve", took place when the government started implementing the movement control order (MCO).

This was followed by the "Resilience" phase (when the government announced the Prihatin package to assist the people and the economic sector) and then the "Restart" phase (referring to the reopening of the economy).

"It will take at least a month to see the effects (of the Restart phase)," he said.

The fourth phase in the 6R plan is "Recovery".

"Hence the government's plan at the end of this month is to announce a six-month economic recovery plan — how we can restore the country's economy," he said.

Then comes the fifth phase (Revitalise), and moving on from that, the sixth and final phase, "Reform".

On the economic growth forecast for the year, Tengku Zafrul reiterated that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) performance is expected to be lower than Bank Negara Malaysia's forecast of a -2 to 0.5 per cent growth announced on April 3.

He explained that the central bank's projection was based on the early implementation of the MCO before the government made further extensions.

"For this year, everything will depend on how we tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. We have begun reopening the economic sectors in stages and this is hoped, more or less, to help mend the country's economy.

"The faster we tackle the pandemic, the faster we can rebuild our economy," he said. — Bernama

## E-commerce poised for strong growth

**KUALA LUMPUR** – E-commerce's contribution to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to rise this year on increased consumer confidence in digital transactions amid the movement control order, said MDEC chief operating officer Ng Wan Peng.

She noted that under the National e-Commerce Strategic Roadmap, e-commerce was estimated to record a 20 per cent growth rate this year to RM170 billion.

"We believe that this (growth) may be higher due to the change in consumer behaviour. Even after the MCO, consumer behaviour should still remain as it is — people would still prefer to buy online — so we are poised to achieve our target," she told reporters at the e-Dagang Expo (eDX) virtual press conference here on May 5.

In 2018, e-commerce made up only about eight per cent of the GDP, amounting to RM150 billion, and it has grown since, especially during the MCO period.

MDEC chief executive officer Surina Shukri said the 2019 e-commerce figures were still being verified; however, the numbers seemed encouraging with the emerging trends in consumer behaviour that saw an increase in confidence from the consumer and business standpoints.

"People are trying to go digital and see it is quite easy to do so, and this is very encouraging," she said.

eDX, which ran from May 4 to 8, was a free, virtual event hosted by its Go e-Commerce platform, designed to accelerate business readiness, adoption of electronic business tools and advance capabilities of micro-entrepreneurs, startups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) alike.

Surina said during the MCO, it was a pleasant surprise to see the high level of cooperation and coordination among industry peers in trying to achieve the same goals.

"The collaborations that we're seeing are very encouraging as we are now very focused on scaling the (digital) initiatives to upgrade the ability and upscale everybody in the area."

She said the government had tried to nurture e-commerce since 2017, through the National e-Commerce Strategic Roadmap with the help of ministries and agencies, particularly SME Corp, the International Trade and Industry Ministry and its agencies such as the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida).

"E-commerce has been identified as an essential service during MCO, as going digital has become a norm and an enabler during this time."

Surina said for the nation to achieve a digital superpower status, it would depend on connectivity as well as the digital tools to be connected.

"In business, that is the reason why we have e-commerce — to enable companies and businesses to connect directly to their customers.

"Our goal is to give the necessary information to as many people, businesses and entrepreneurs as possible to enable them to go online," she said.

eDX, the first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at engaging with businesses nationwide, saw a series of free webinar and panellist sessions that covered key topics, tips and tricks of the e-commerce trade and inspirational success stories. — Bernama

## Leveraging on hard times to reinvent businesses

**KUALA LUMPUR** – The widespread adoption of the digital economy during the movement control order (MCO) provides numerous opportunities for businesses and consumers to strengthen their ties in the business ecosystem.

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation chief executive officer Surina Shukri (*pic*) said the digital platform is a strong enabler in enhancing the offer and demand system, which traditionally involves various parties over the many stages of the supply chain.

"In the traditional business system, there are a lot of middlemen, so it is quite difficult for products to reach the market.

"Through digitalisation, businesses can connect directly with the customers, thus we can close the gap in the supply chain," she said during the Facing the World's New Norm webinar organised by *Astro Awani*.

The webinar also featured Academy of Sciences Malaysia fellow Dr Madeline Berma and Cyberview Sdn Bhd managing director Najib Ibrahim.



Surina urged local businessmen, especially small- and medium-sized enterprise entrepreneurs and micro-entrepreneurs to be brave enough to venture onto the digital platform as an alternative in marketing their products to generate incomes in this time of crisis.

She said businessmen should innovate and adopt a forward-thinking approach in running their business, in addition to marketing their products via cash-on-delivery or walk-in

methods which provide fewer returns.

"We also need to bridge the digital gap among local entrepreneurs. We have to provide the infrastructure, and the content for them to learn about e-commerce is there, for free, online.

"The most important thing is to have the confidence to try and not give up. If you don't make an effort, you will not get the result," she added. — Bernama

# Economic growth at 0.7% in Q1

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Malaysia's economy grew moderately at 0.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, down from 4.5 per cent in the same quarter last year, as gross domestic product growth slowed in wake of the movement control order (MCO).

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said after a steady expansion in the first two months of the quarter, economic activity came to a sharp downshift with the implementation of the MCO on March 18.

"Movement restrictions including international and domestic travel restrictions, limited work and operating hours and mandatory social distancing significantly curtailed economic activity.

"Production was only permitted for essential goods and services and the industries integral to their supply chains. Labour-intensive and consumer-oriented sectors were also impacted," the central bank said in a statement, issued in conjunction with the release of Malaysia's Q1 2020 GDP performance on May 13.

During the quarter, BNM said headline inflation remained modest at 0.9 per cent, mainly reflecting the lapse in the remaining impact from Sales and Services



Tax implementation and lower price-volatile inflation, while core inflation moderated slightly to 1.3 per cent.

On the exchange rate, the ringgit depreciated by 4.9 per cent against the US dollar during the quarter under review, following large non-resident portfolio outflows amounting to RM26.2 billion as global risk aversion intensified, in line with regional countries amid uncertainties surrounding the duration and severity of the pandemic and its economic impact.

"As a result of the ongoing risk aversion in global financial markets and demand for safe-haven assets, Malaysia continued to experience non-resident portfolio outflows and the ringgit depreciated by 5.8 per cent against the US dollar in 2020 (as at 12 May).

"As this environment of uncertainty will persist in the near-term, capital flows and exchange rate volatility is expected going forward," it said.

Meanwhile, it said net financing expanded at a sustained pace of 4.7 per cent on an annual basis,

supported by higher growth in outstanding loans.

BNM said since the Special Relief Facility (SRF) was made available on March 6, the participating financial institutions (PFIs) and BNM have worked swiftly to implement the SRF to ensure that SMEs benefit quickly, whereby as at May 4, the PFIs have approved more than 20,000 applications amounting to about RM10 billion.

Demand has been overwhelming with the earlier announced RM5 billion SRF allocation taken up quickly and would directly ben-

efit more than 9,000 SMEs across Malaysia, preserving more than 200,000 jobs.

"In view of the strong demand, BNM has upsized the SRF by another RM5 billion to cater for all of the applications approved by PFIs as at May 4, bringing the total final allocation to RM10 billion," it said.

In the first quarter of this year, the central bank said financial institutions have collectively disbursed RM62 billion financing to SMEs, of which RM48 billion are for working capital purposes.

Moving forward, BNM said the Malaysian economy is expected to gradually pick up in the second half of this year as containment measures are eased and the domestic MCO is lifted.

"The sizable fiscal, monetary and financial measures and progress in transport-related public infrastructure projects will provide further support to growth in 2H 2020.

"In line with the projected improvement in global growth, the Malaysian economy is expected to register a positive recovery in 2021," it said, adding that the average headline inflation in 2020 is likely to turn negative due mainly to projections of substantially lower global oil prices. — Bernama

## Putting women at centre of crisis response

**SHAH ALAM** - Many women in Selangor have been economically affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, having lost their source of income during the movement control order (MCO) period.

In a recent survey on the socio-economic impact of the MCO on women's livelihoods, the Institut Wanita Berdaya Selangor, or Selangor Women's Empowerment Institute (IWB), concluded that targeted cash aid has to be channelled directly to women to help them survive.

The survey, which saw the participation of 442 women in the state, found that 25 per cent of them had lost their jobs due to the termination of employment contracts, business closures or being placed on unpaid leave. Another 43 per cent were found to have lost their source of income.

Single mothers, in particular,

emerged as the most vulnerable group, with one out of four living below the poverty line index and nearly half reporting a loss of income brought upon by the MCO.

"Although to a lesser extent, women in the M40 category with a monthly household income are also affected, as 7 per cent of them are either on unpaid leave or have closed their business, and 12 per cent reported having lost their household income due to the MCO," the think tank said in the executive summary of the study released on April 21.

"Those who have dependents, 37 per cent said they do not have the support to look after their dependents when they are working," it added.

The online survey ran for four days from March 24 and had a distribution across different age

groups. It had a larger representation among ethnic Bumiputera groups, households within the B40 category (with monthly household incomes of below RM 6,275) and employed divorced women.

When it comes to financial services, aside from having access to credit cards, personal loans, and asset-backed lending, three out of five women were found to have no access to other forms of financial help.

Fourteen women respondents also said that either they or their spouse had borrowed money from loan sharks.

"Although these women make up just 5 per cent of the sample, the findings are a concern since such financial arrangements are risky and threaten women's financial security in the long term.

"Women who felt more financially prepared were those who

either had longer-lasting savings, access to a credit card or access to a form of financial service," IWB noted.

### Ways forward

IWB has recommended that there should be more coordinated efforts across all state departments to collect and ensure the availability of gender-disaggregated data for crisis response.

Such data is vital for understanding the gendered differences in managing a crisis, for designing temporary increases in Bantuan Sara Hidup (BSH) benefits for large B40 households, and for coming up with preventive measures.

"There should be greater cooperation with existing networks of women-led NGOs and civil society organisations that have been actively working with

on-the-ground communities and have in-depth knowledge of women's specific needs.

"Mitigation strategies should be developed that specifically target the economic impact of the outbreak on women, such as expanding opportunities for women to leverage digital business platforms, providing incentives for B40 women to have stable Wi-Fi connections, and to develop recovery solutions to support women-owned small and medium businesses that may have been negatively impacted by the outbreak," IWB said.

IWB has also recommended the enhancement of financial services and financial literacy for women and emphasised the need for frontliners and those working in essential services, specifically, to be given extra help in caring for their dependents.

# A doctor for all seasons

By ASHWIN KUMAR

Towards the end of 2019, Malaysia was beset by several health issues and though some of them were not new — such as the continued increase in noncommunicable diseases — a few had made headlines and captured public attention.

Polio had made a comeback in East Malaysia after it was eradicated in the country in year 2000. The return of this vaccine-preventable disease raised the question of making vaccination compulsory.

The world was then struck by the onslaught of Covid-19. One by one, countries were hit, and Malaysia was no different. Selangor, in particular, started to struggle with an increasing number of infections.

Having helmed the health portfolio of the state for the past year, Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud's priority has always been to provide the best health care for the people of Selangor.

When the State Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Committee chairman took over the portfolio in May 2018, she armed herself with all the knowledge she could get about health matters in Selangor and got to work immediately, informing people about the initiatives introduced by the administration.

Some of the initiatives close to her heart are the Selangor Health Scheme, the Selangor Health Aid, tuberculosis and mental health incentives, as well as the civil servants' healthcare scheme.

"Health is one of the four core areas that the Selangor government focused on when drafting the 2020 state budget. Other areas are education, economy and safety," she told *Selangor Journal* in an exclusive interview recently.

Dr Siti Mariah said a total of RM58.5 million was allocated for health matters in the state. From that total, RM5 million was set aside for dengue prevention and containment, RM2 million to provide incentives for tuberculosis patients, RM1.5 million for the setting up of the civil servants' healthcare scheme, and RM1 million for mental health issues. The rest of the allocation went into financing the Selangor Health Scheme and the Selangor Health Aid.

## Keeping an eye on dengue

While the state administration's attention has been focused on fighting the Covid-19 outbreak, Dr Siti Mariah warns of the looming risk of dengue due to the warm and wet spell experienced nationwide.

She expressed concern that the dangers of dengue are easily overlooked due to the ongoing threat of the novel coronavirus.

"We should continuously be vigilant as dengue cases may spike at any time. This year alone, Selangor recorded 24,112 dengue-related cases and 27 deaths between January and May 2," she said.

Dr Siti Mariah said the state administration has begun to use Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes to biologically control the spread of dengue in persistent hotspots in Selangor.

Wolbachia is a naturally-occurring bacteria that does not pose any danger to humans, animals or the environment. When male Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes mate with female Aedes mosquitoes, they will produce eggs that will not hatch. This brings the population of Aedes mosquitoes down.

"The project has been initiated in several localities in Selangor. The study of local efficacy and

response has yet to be released by the Health Ministry," she said.

## Covid-19 brainwork

When the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) was formed by the state administration to monitor and control the virus, Dr Siti Mariah was a natural choice to be one of its members.

"Since I have been tasked to handle the health portfolio, I had to understand the availability of resources in the state and act accordingly. I have to, on a daily basis, analyse what can and cannot be done by the state administration as the Selangor government has its own limitations."

Dr Siti Mariah said her job is to translate every idea into a proposal for Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, and then transform the proposals into action plans.

"I have to liaise with the other STFC members and the state administra-

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There will be new ways for people to carry on with their lives. The absence of a control order does not mean social distancing is a thing of the past as it still applies even if we have flattened the curve



tion. We (the STFC) have to convince the MB before deciding on the best action to be taken for the people of Selangor."

When asked about the appointment of former Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad to head the task force, Dr Siti Mariah said it is a deserving one.

"He (Dzulkefly) was the first minister to tackle the pandemic when it hit our country and he did a great job. With his experience and exposure, I would say he is the best person to help Selangor at this point in time."

## Braving the new world order

Like the rest of the world, Malaysia has begun to adopt a "new normal", balancing between the need to restart the economy and the health and safety of the people.

Dr Siti Mariah opined that this means the Malaysian people have to change their routines and adapt to measures that will prevent the infection of Covid-19, especially when the conditional movement control order is lifted.

"There will be new ways for people to carry on with their lives. The absence of a control order does not mean social distancing is a thing of the past as it still applies even if we have flattened the curve. People must realise that they have to do things differently after this, especially habits related to health."

Dr Siti Mariah said the people are responsible for their own health but that health is also a collective responsibility.

"Members of the public need to make adjustments, such as wearing masks in public places, and go about their lives differently, be it how they pray, play or socialise. Religious services and ceremonies, which have been one of the primary drivers of the second wave of Covid-19 cases and responsible for several clusters in Malaysia, have to undergo their own evolution," she said.

Dr Siti Mariah acknowledged that some of the industries would find it hard to adapt to a world ruled by Covid-19, but for others able and willing to make the change, new opportunities await them.

"We have to adapt, adjust and accommodate the new norms into our lives," she added.



# Making the best of a bad situation

By ASHWIN KUMAR

**T**HE impact of Covid-19 has seen the country's job market taking a plunge, with many employers freezing hiring and laying off workers.

According to MIDF Research earlier in May, the rising youth unemployment rate was mainly contributed by the soaring numbers of unemployed graduates, at about 204,000, which makes up 40.5 per cent of the total unemployment.

MIDF said Selangor, the largest employer with 23.2 per cent of the nation's total, saw an overall jobless rate of 2.8 per cent, and 9.4 per cent for youths last year.

According to Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman, the state government is taking several initiatives to ensure that the issues surrounding unemployment are handled well.

"A total of 2.9 million youths populate Selangor, which is almost half of the total population of the state, which houses 6 million people.

“

The state administration expects the unemployment rate for this year to increase to 8.4 per cent due to the pandemic



"The only way to address this issue is by diversifying the approach," he told *Selangor Journal* in a recent interview.

Khairuddin said the state administration expects the unemployment rate for this year to increase to 8.4 per cent due to the pandemic.

"We have projected the unemployment rate after considering the drastic decline in several sectors such as food services, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, real estate and business activities," he said.

Among the key strategies taken by the Selangor government to address the matter is to reduce the expected unemployment rate from 8.4 per cent to 6.0 per cent.

"The other way is to raise workforce adaptability by facilitating the youngsters in the state to adopt the use of technology to help both job seekers and employers," he said.

He also pointed out that the state administration is in the midst of making engagements with the Malaysian Trade Union Congress, the Social Security Organisation, the Malaysian Employers Federation and JobsMalaysia to come up with fresh solutions.

"Our Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has also suggested for my committee to upskill and re-skill the workforce.

"This means Selangor will do its part to train the youth workforce to the digital platform and the opportunities it offers. One has to reskill to survive in the job market."

Khairuddin said that focus should also be given to gig economy jobs, such as delivery services, as it contributes to the economic growth.

"Last year, the state government allocated RM1 million for the Roda Darul Ehsan (RiDE) scheme, which provides a RM350 subsidy to 3,000 youths taking motor licences. The Menteri Besar hoped that with the move, more youths would be able to join the service and logistics sectors in the state.

"The state government was also approached by several e-commerce platforms such as Shopee, Food Panda, Grab and Lazada to engage with them in terms of providing the manpower. We will fulfil them."

Khairuddin also stressed that Selangor is the only Malaysian state to promote micro and small entrepreneurs' products and services via mass e-commerce platforms during the movement control order (MCO).

## A NEW WAY TO PLAY

Khairuddin said while waiting for the Covid-19 battle to be won, the world has to embrace "new norms" and changes to lifestyle must be made.

"Sports and entertainment, which is a major part of our lives, is one area that is severely affected. In Se-

langor, all sports facilities including stadiums are not allowed to be used even during the conditional MCO (CMCO), which is in line with the instructions issued by the state government," he said.

He assured that the state government will come out with guidelines when organising sporting events in the future.

"When will things be back to normal? That's anybody's guess. When things are back to normal, the Malaysian League (M-League), for example, is definitely not going to be the same again.

"Now is not the right time to allow a large audience due to the risk of infections. Every aspect of sports must be reviewed before allowing the athletes to participate in competitions again."

Khairuddin said he is worried that if sporting events are allowed without regulations, a sports cluster will emerge and that will worsen the situation.

On whether stadiums and indoor sporting complexes in the state will be sanitised, Khairuddin said that will depend on the standard operating procedures set by the Health Ministry.

Amirudin has since stated that all parks are now open for outdoor sports and recreational activities from 7am to 7pm.

## GOING E!

Many people will turn to esports as an alternative, even though it is traditionally not regarded as a sport.

Khairuddin said he believes that the esports competitions organised by the Selangor government will provide a beneficial alternative to outdoor sports and also inculcate in the participants the spirit of solidarity in staying at home.

"Currently, we are fully focused on online or virtual programmes. We believe that we are providing a good digital platform for youths who have never had the opportunity to participate in esports tournaments that offer great prizes and pioneering professional

teams. If these youths can play to win, they will also be able to help their families financially," he said, referring to the attractive cash prizes offered.

As of May 12, the esports tournaments organised by the state government have registered 22,420 entries. The state administration is aiming for one million participants by year-end. So far, esports games PUBG and Mobile Legends have proven to be the most popular, reaching 10,000 participants each.

The state government has organised a number of esports tournaments such as the Selangor XTIV Virtual E-Sports 2020 and the Selangor Martial Arts Xtiv Virtual 2020. The tournaments are expected to run till the end of the year.



### PHOTO CAPTION

**1 & 2. Careful planning is needed before large-scale events like the Selangor Mega Job Fair and football matches in packed stadiums are held again**



# Letting the data do the talking

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

**SHAH ALAM** - The Covid-19 pandemic has devastated lives and crippled economies in its wake, pushing nations to find solutions on how to cushion its impact.

Many countries have implemented aggressive measures to contain the spread of the contagion, at extraordinary cost to their economy.

Thousands of businesses were shuttered, sectors deemed “non-essential” were instructed to close, and people were disallowed to travel. Some governments limited the movement of their citizens, some imposed curfews. And almost overnight a new catchphrase was born — social distancing.

How effective these measures are, isn't always clear. In Malaysia, the daily

numbers provided by the government give an indication of our success rate in containing the disease, but to ease a nation back to the path of normalcy requires far more statistics and figures to be made sense of.

Ipsos Malaysia managing director Arun Menon said this is where data collection comes in. Data is vital in helping governments and agencies have an overview of the issues at hand and implement policies for moving forward.

In an online interview with *Selangor Journal*, Arun mentioned that data is essential but more important is the information gathered from the studies conducted.

“The purpose of collecting information is to give insights to our clients so that they can make better decisions to further

improve their business,” he said.

Arun said the global market research company is not just focused on issues within Malaysia, but also keeps an eye on other markets and the trends that come from their data.

“The data collected helps administrations, agencies, the public and media have a deeper understanding of how consumers and citizens think or feel about a topic of research,” he explained.

Arun shared that among the challenges faced by Ipsos during this Covid-19 crisis is the ability to maintain connectivity with its clients.

Many clients, he said, are now cautious about their spending, and therefore Ipsos is coming up with new strategies to cater to their evolving needs.

“With all the uncertainty during this

period, it is essential for us to deliver all the latest updates and data to our clients consistently.

“We are addressing and adapting to the ‘new normal’ by ensuring we stay engaged with all our clients at all times.”

Since the enforcement of the movement control order on March 18, Ipsos Malaysia has released the results of two surveys that strike a chord with most Malaysians — how they feel about the partial lockdown, and concern over unemployment. The information gathered will help those in authority formulate strategies and policies for the near future.

“We will also be looking into the trend of e-commerce, into where people are spending their money and the shift from shopping in physical stores to digital transactions,” he said.



“

The data collected helps administrations, agencies, the public and media have a deeper understanding of how consumers and citizens think or feel about a topic of research

# No cases show up in Sepang

By **KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN**

**SHAH ALAM** - No Covid-19 cases were detected from the Selangor targeted Covid-19 community screening held in Salak Tinggi on April 21.

Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) said the screening was conducted in accordance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and had used test kits that were approved by the Health Ministry (MOH).

"A total of 397 individuals were screened and no positive cases were found. The guidelines set by the MOH and the real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test kits were used during the screening," the task force wrote on its Twit-

ter account on May 7.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on April 28 had announced that 10 positive cases were detected from the 5,433 individuals screened through the large-scale testing. Eight were found to be asymptomatic carriers.

The state's mass testing initiative was carried out in six areas from April 11 to 23.

Drive-through and door-to-door services were conducted in stages in Hulu Langat, Shah Alam, Petaling, Klang, Sepang, Hulu Selangor, Gombak, and at the State Secretariat building.

The community screening report can be downloaded at [www.selangorprihatin.com](http://www.selangorprihatin.com) beginning May 1.



## Plats to go beyond e-bazaar concept

**PETALING JAYA** - The Platform Selangor (Plats) initiative will be expanding to retail other products online and will not be limited to selling just Ramadan fare.

Project manager Shamsul Nashriq said there have been several requests from businesses for the platform to be expanded to promote and retail other local products.

"Plats has its own advantages and we should make use of it so that it becomes more than a platform that sells only food during Ramadan.

"We hope that Plats can be developed in the long run to be utilised by the people of Selangor to sell different products online," he told *SelangorKini* on May 4.

The e-bazaar platform [www.plats.com.my](http://www.plats.com.my) was formed by the state government and currently offers various Ramadan delicacies.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had announced the initiative on April 18 as an effort to help small businesses generate income during the fasting month.



## Agro markets prove a popular pick

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor Agro Market initiative has recorded RM7.37 million in total sales within 67 days it first launched on March 27, says the State Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman.

Izham Hashim said the many branches of markets selling fresh produce record an average daily sales of RM250,000.

"All of the Selangor Agro Markets in nine locations have recorded an over 30 per cent jump in sales since they were first launched.

"The controlled fresh market in Bangi, which began its operations on April 21, has received overwhelming response especially for their meat products," he said.

Izham said the Bangi agro market, which provides a drive-through service, will continue running during the conditional movement control order period, which started on May 4.

"The people must continue to keep a safe social distance and should remain wary," he said, adding that the state government will expand the fresh mar-

ket as it has proven to be beneficial for both the consumers and agropreneurs in Selangor.

The Selangor Agro Market is located in Dengkil, Puchong, Petaling Jaya, Kuala Selangor, Sabak Bernam, the Bandar Baru Bangi community business centre, at the Selayang farmer's market (pasar tani), at the My Farm Outlet in Putrajaya, and in Sections 13 and 15 in Shah Alam.

For online orders, the public can browse through [www.agrobazaar.com](http://www.agrobazaar.com), or visit the Agro Selangor Facebook page for further information.

## New billing method for Air Selangor

**SHAH ALAM** - Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) will only issue water bills once every two months to its customers who did not register for e-billing, says its corporate communications head.

Elina Baseri said the customers will receive a single invoice combining the current and previous month's bills and the payment period will be set 30 days from the date of issuance.

"This billing method is applicable for domestic customers only. For non-domestic customers and e-billing subscribers, they will receive their bills on a monthly basis," she said in a statement on May 4.

Elina said the move is part of Air Selangor's initiative to go paperless.

She also urged customers across the Klang Valley to register for the e-billing

service at <https://update.airselangor.com> and opt to receive their bills via email or WhatsApp.

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

For more information, account holders can contact Air Selangor at 15300, WhatsApp at 019-2800919 or 019-2816793, log on to [www.airselangor.com](http://www.airselangor.com) or visit the company's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

Air Selangor also encourages customers to download the Air Selangor application on their smartphone via the AppStore or Google Play to view their water bills.



# Adun Speaks: Doing her best to serve those with less in life

By ASHWIN KUMAR

**S**eri Serdang assemblyman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud may be a new face in her state constituency that covers large areas of Puchong, but her passion in assisting the low-income group, especially women and children, goes a long way back.

Prior to her current position, she served as the Kota Raja member of parliament for two terms in Klang.

Heading the Selangor Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Executive Committee portfolio, Dr Siti Mariah is now committed to both the state and her constituency, affirming her loyalty through hard work and dedication to the people. She is also a member of the Selangor Covid-19 task force set up by the state government to counter the spread of the disease.



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

**Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud (SMM):** Economically speaking, the people in Seri Serdang come from diverse backgrounds. Some of them are traders and some own businesses. We have a good number of villages (kampung) which we call semi-urban areas. The people from these villages contribute substantially to the economy through odd jobs and farming.

**SJ:** What is the main attraction in your constituency?

**SMM:** Honestly, Seri Serdang is a new area for me and I don't live

there. I don't have time to enjoy my constituency yet because whenever I visit, my entire time is spent serving the people there. I just want to reach out to families, especially those in low-cost flats.

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

**SMM:** We have a considerably large population in my constituency and they are mostly from the B40 group. We have quite a number of low-cost apartments and they are where the B40 group resides. The people from this group depend largely on dai-

ly wages and I always come across problems with illegal vendors or people conducting businesses at places barred by the authorities. They always face legal problems with the authorities. I always try my best to reach out to them and guide them towards using the proper channels when conducting their business.

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

**SMM:** This is the first time I am serving the state constituency and my first two years were focused on getting to know my voters. I have yet to bring big

projects to Seri Serdang. However, I would say meeting and serving the people should be my achievement. Having said that, I managed to set up two service centres — one in Puchong and the other in Seri Serdang. This is to ensure that the residents have better access to my team.

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

**SMM:** I always make sure that I am accessible to the people and I make myself available. I always work with the people and the non-governmental organisations in order to address my voters' grouses.

## FROM TOP

Dr Siti Mariah hand picks some vegetables at the Shah Alam community garden during Earth Day 2019 celebrations, organised by the city council

Surrounded by students of SK Puchong Utama, Dr Siti Mariah applies insecticide to pools of stagnant water during a dengue awareness programme in Puchong

Dr Siti Mariah cheering on the participants of the 2019 Selangor National Conference of Persons with Disabilities in Maeps, Serdang



# Sultan of Selangor Cup called off

By ASHWIN KUMAR

**SHAH ALAM** - The annual Sultan of Selangor Cup football match between Selangor FA and Singapore has been called off due to Covid-19.

The 19th edition of the tournament was due to take place at the Shah Alam Stadium on Aug 15.

The Selangor Royal Office, in a statement, said that the cancellation is due to Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah's concern over the health of the fans.

"His Royal Highness's decision took into account the health and safety of the fans which is of utmost importance and he hopes that the fans will accept this

and stay safe and vigilant during this Covid-19 pandemic.

"His Royal Highness does not want the match to be held 'behind-closed-doors' in an empty stadium as the Sultan of Selangor Cup has always been about the Selangor and Singapore fans playing an integral part in the match, and will always continue to be so.

"God willing, the next edition of The Sultan of Selangor Cup will be played in 2021," the Selangor Royal Office wrote in its official Facebook account on May 13.

The Selangor selection has won the tournament a total of eight times, while Singapore, seven.



## Youths urged to stay home, and play!

**KUALA LUMPUR** - The Selangor government, in collaboration with the Selangor Esports Association, is organising the inaugural Selangor XTIV Virtual E-Sports 2020 (SXVE20) that runs from May 4 until Dec 31.

A total of RM250,000 in cash prizes awaits the winners.

Selangor Youth, Sports and Human Capital Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the first phase of the online tournament features Mobile Legends: Bang Bang, PUBG Mobile, FIFA 20, PES 20 and Dota.

He said the tournament aims to encourage beneficial activities and inculcate the spirit of solidarity among youths to "stay at home".

"The SXVE20, which is divided into three categories — Under-12, Under-18 and Open — is the Selangor government's initiative to encourage the active participation of the public, especially youths, in carrying out useful activities at home during the movement control order period," Mohd Khairuddin said in a statement on May 4.

The tournament, which is targeting more than 100,000 entries, emphasises the development of esports at the grassroots level by providing an opportunity for more new talent.

Those interested to join can register on the official Selangor XTIV Virtual E-Sports 2020 Facebook page. — Bernama

**ESPORTS SELANGOR RAKAN PENGANJUR**

**MOBILE LEGENDS**

**EA GAMES FIFA 20**

**Football PES 2020**

**PUBG**

**DOTA 2**

**JAWATANKUASA TETAP PEMBANGUNAN GENERASI MUDA & SUKAN DAN PEMBANGUNAN MODAL INSAN**

**YAB DATO' SERI AMIRUDIN SHARI**  
Dato' Menteri Besar Selangor

**YB MOHD KHAIRUDDIN**  
Exco Generasi Muda & Sukan

Pertanyaan dan pendaftaran sila hubungi  
**DOTA, MLBB, PUBGM (012.7797.125 SHUKRI) FIFA20, PES20 (018.395.0730 DIANA)**

## Work with GLCs, stadium management told

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government has made a recommendation for the Darul Ehsan Facilities Management (DEFM) to work with state Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) to find a solution in fixing the Shah Alam Stadium.

Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the state government views the condition of the stadium seriously and is committed to having it repaired before bidding to host the Malaysia Games (Sukma) 2022.

"The state administration has recommended that the stadium management, DEFM, work with state GLCs such as Selangor Menteri Besar Incorporated and Permodalan Negeri Selangor Berhad to find a solution to this issue," he told *Selangor Journal* in an interview on May 12.

Khairuddin said the total cost for restoration works on the stadium

is estimated at RM200 million.

"The repair works for the roof alone would cost about RM40 million," he said.

Khairuddin said the state government has also submitted an application to the Federal government to upgrade the Shah Alam Stadium and other sports facilities in Selangor as part of the preparation to host Sukma 2022.

The Shah Alam Stadium, which has been Selangor's home venue for sports events since 1994, was barred from hosting M-League matches for the year due to the poor condition of its polycarbonate roof.

The Malaysian Football League (MFL) had planned to restart the season in September after the games were suspended on March 16, two days before the movement control order was enforced.

However, the season will be entirely called off for the year if it is not allowed to resume in September.

## FAM accepts ministry's M-League ruling

**KUALA LUMPUR** - The Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) has accepted the decision made at the Special Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of The Movement Control Order (MCO) which, among other things, discussed the status of the 2020 Malaysia League (M-League).

The full details of the meeting, however, were not disclosed.

The decision was conveyed by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican to FAM president Datuk Hamidin Mohd Amin and Malaysian Football League (MFL) chief executive officer Datuk Ab Ghani Hassan at a meeting held at the ministry on April 30.

The Special Ministerial Meeting was chaired by Senior Min-

ister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The latest development, which local football fans have been anxiously waiting for, was also shared by Reezal Merican on his Twitter account, @reezal\_merican.

"Met the FAM president and MFL CEO today (April 30) to convey to them the advice and decision of the Special Ministerial Meeting on the Implementation of the MCO that was chaired by the Defence Minister today as a reference for FAM and MFL," he tweeted.

On April 29, Ismail Sabri confirmed having received an official application from FAM to resume the local league.

FAM and MFL have suspended all their activities since March in compliance with the MCO. — Bernama



# SELANGKAH

## “LANGKAH MASUK DENGAN SELAMAT”

STEP 1



Scan the QR code displayed on the poster using the phone camera

STEP 2



Register your phone number. This is a one-time step only

STEP 3



You will receive a pin number. Step in and show the pin number when requested

## HOW IT WORKS

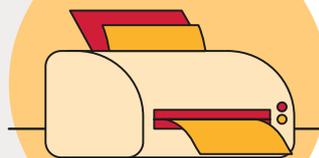
1



[www.selangkah.my](http://www.selangkah.my)

Business owners can go to [selangkah.my](http://selangkah.my) to register and print the QR code

2



Print your QR code poster and display it at the entrance of your premises

3



Guest/customer scans the QR code upon entering the premises

4



This will create a log of phone numbers with timestamps

5



If there is a Covid-19 positive case, the Health Ministry can access the digital log and alert the business owners and visitors who were exposed

#SELANGORGEMPURCOVID19

[www.amirudinshari.com](http://www.amirudinshari.com)



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