



SELANGOR JOURNAL

Back to business



FOLLOWING the announcement of the recovery movement control order on June 10, many economic, social and recreational activities in Selangor have recommenced.

Most businesses are now operating at normal hours, markets and bazaars are slowly reopening, and people are outdoors once again.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, however, remains cautious and has reminded all sections of the community to adhere to the standard operating procedure set by the National Security Council and to observe the new normal in practising good hygiene, wearing a face mask and using the SELangkah (Langkah Masuk Dengan Selamat) system for contact tracing.

Amirudin says the state government will not hesitate to impose restrictions on any businesses that breach the SOP.

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Councillor calls for better by-laws to fight dengue

By AFIX REDZUAN

RAWANG - The Selangor government plans to discuss the need to amend its by-laws to enable local authorities to take stricter action to curb the spread of dengue.

State executive councillor Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said better by-laws will make it easier for the authorities to conduct enforcement.

"The current by-laws are difficult to enforce. We have to find the (house or shop) owners to serve the compound to, and (notices) cannot simply be posted anywhere," she said during a media conference here on June 10.

Dr Siti Mariah said the increase in abandoned houses, especially at high-rise buildings, has made it difficult for its Joint Management Body to conduct

clean-ups.

She said the situation worsens when tenants adopt a lackadaisical attitude or when they build illegal house extensions that become breeding grounds for *Aedes* mosquitoes.

"If a place is not properly maintained, cases will come back. Most areas that were previously declared dengue-free only stayed that way for a short while before becoming dengue zones again," she said.

She added that Selangor registered a drop in dengue cases during the recent movement control order compared to the same period last year as people were forced to stay at home.

Earlier, Dr Siti Mariah visited Taman Cempaka in Serendah which recorded 56 dengue cases and one death in the last three months and also Pangsapuri Teratai in Bukit Beruntung.



Stage set to welcome local tourists

SHAH ALAM - Tourism Selangor has set a new target of six million tourists this year with its "Pusing Selangor Dulu!" campaign, as it remains committed to promoting the state to the local market.

General manager Azrul Shah Mohamad said the redirection to focus on local tourists was unavoidable as Covid-19 has greatly impacted global tourism.

"We are strengthening our digital and social media platforms to promote our products and are also working closely with both local and international media through the Media Familiarisation (FAM) trip," said Azrul Shah in reference to the FAM programme, which promotes educational tourism.

"We are planning the e-Travel Fair 2020 as well while establishing a new normal for tourism by emphasising on the importance of hygiene and safety," he told *SelangorKini* when contacted on



June 18.

Azrul Shah expressed confidence that many tourists would be interested to visit Selangor as they did in previous years.

"We urge all tour operators to use the SELangkah system, conduct health checks at entrances to premises, practise social distancing, provide hand sanitisers, and adhere to the guidelines set by the Malaysian Association of Hotels," he said.

Earlier this year, the Selangor administration had aimed for eight million tourists and RM15 billion in tourist receipts this year, as part of the overall Visit Malaysia 2020 campaign.

The campaign was cancelled in March due to the Covid-19 situation.

Selangor on the alert for chikungunya

SHAH ALAM - No chikungunya cases have been reported in Selangor to date despite the sudden spike reported in other states, says Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud.

The Selangor Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Committee chairman, however, said the state government is taking precautionary measures against the mosquito-borne viral infection,

especially at state borders, following the steep increase in cases reported in Perak.

"Even though no cases have been recorded in Selangor, precautionary steps have to be taken especially in areas near the state borders, such as Hulu Selangor.

"We also urge the people to keep practising good personal hygiene and ensure that their surrounding environment is clean, including clearing out

mosquito breeding sites such as accumulated undisposed garbage, unoccupied homes, and drainages," she said.

On May 30, it was reported that 454 cases of chikungunya were registered in Perak from January till May 23.

Perak Health Department director Datuk Dr Ding Lay Ming said this is 30 times more than the 13 cases recorded during the same period last year.

MB cautions against face mask scams

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Menteri Besar has advised the public to stay vigilant against face mask scams on online platforms.

This follows a surge in such fraudulent cases, with the highest number reported in Selangor.

"Face masks are essential in our new normal routine but we should avoid falling victim to such online syndicates.

"Verify the purchases (of the face masks)," Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari wrote on his official Twitter account on June 5.

Amirudin also shared a list of guidelines on purchasing masks, which includes checking buyers' comments or reviews, avoiding wholesale purchases and verifying the legitimacy of the seller by checking the Commercial Crime Investigation Department's website.

Selangor has recorded a total of 122 cases of fraud involving the sale of face masks, which is the highest recorded figure in the country since March 18.

Police have opened 572 investigation papers on the cases, with an estimated loss amounting to RM5.5 million.

To date, 181 individuals have been arrested and 53 charged in court.

More sectors reopen as recovery phase begins

By **ASHWIN KUMAR**

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor government has decided to allow several sectors that cover economic, social and recreational activities in the state to operate during the recovery movement control order (RMCO), says its Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, however, reminded that these sectors are subjected to the standard operating procedure (SOP) set by the National Security Council (NSC).

"The decision was made following a meeting between the state government, mayors, local council presidents and district officers. This follows the Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's announcement of the RMCO which takes place from June 10 until Aug 31.

"The state administration also decided to allow the reopening of music and art classes in Selangor. Hiking ac-

tivities are also allowed but limited to a group of not more than three hikers who have to comply with social distancing measures," Amirudin said in a statement on June 11.

He also pointed out that the reopening of open markets and bazaars will take place in stages from June 15 and in accordance with the SOP set by the NSC.

"The SOP set by the NSC will be used as a reference for implementation and enforcement purposes. However, the SOPs will be coordinated and customised by the respective local authorities (PBT) in accordance with appropriate and strategic standards based on the conditions of their respective areas," he said.

Amirudin also emphasised the importance of using the SELangkah (Langkah Masuk Dengan Selamat) system for contact tracing, practising good hygiene habits and wearing a face mask.

However, the SOPs will be coordinated and customised by the respective local authorities (PBT) in accordance with appropriate and strategic standards based on the conditions of their respective areas

AMIRUDIN SHARI
Selangor Menteri Besar

"The state government will not hesitate to close or impose restrictions on any business premises and areas deemed to be at risk due to a failure to adhere to the SOP," he said.



Strict SOPs for market traders and customers

SHAH ALAM – Selangor has finalised the standard operating procedure (SOP) and opening hours for morning markets, night markets and bazaars, which had reopened in stages from June 15.

The opening hours for morning and open markets, and pasar tani are set at between 6am and 11am, pasar malam or night markets between 4pm and 10pm and bazaars between 5pm and 12am, said Selangor Local Government, Public Transportation and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han in a statement on June 12.

The decision was made following the announcement of the recovery movement control order (RMCO) on June 7 by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Ng said the state government has agreed to empower local councils with the authority to ensure that traders abide by the National Security Council's SOPs, which are as follows:

- Traders are not allowed to employ foreigners.
- Only three people including the owner of the business and assistants are allowed at the premises.
- Only two people per family aged 13 and above are allowed to enter the markets or bazaars.
- No time limit is imposed but customers are advised to keep their visits short.
- Depending on the size of the market or bazaar, more entry and exit points should be provided.

"All parties must follow the SOPs by wearing face masks, and practise social distancing and good hygiene set by the Health Ministry," Ng said.

He added that Selangor's own SELangkah (Langkah Masuk Dengan Selamat) QR code for contact tracing will be displayed at all premises.

Ng also reminded all traders that the Selangor local authorities' enforcement team will not hesitate to take stern action against anyone who flouts the SOPs.

SELangkah, MySejahtera merge to widen scope

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor government has merged its SELangkah (Langkah Masuk Dengan Selamat) Covid-19 contact tracing system with the MySejahtera application developed by the Federal administration.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the joint effort was made to widen the reach in contact tracing while relying on existing measures.

"This newly created integration between SELangkah and MySejahtera would mean premises owners who have been using SELangkah can continue using the system without making any changes.

"This would also enable the sharing of data between the two digital systems, which would make it easier for existing SELangkah users ... The users would be able to use the MySejahtera application to scan the SELangkah QR code, aside from using the existing modalities," he said in a statement on June 5.

Amirudin said due to the overwhelmingly positive response towards SELangkah, the state government, through the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19, has paved the way forward and trained over 30 health officers on May 20 to conduct contact tracing.

"The contact tracing carried out by



Amirudin meets with Dr Adham (second from left) and representatives from the Health Ministry at his official residence on May 28

the health personnel will be integrated across both the MySejahtera application and the SELangkah system.

"To date, more than 250 searches have already been performed (through the use of) SELangkah," said Amirudin, adding that the SELangkah information logs are made accessible to enforcement officers from various government

agencies as well as state and local authorities.

Amirudin had on May 28 met with representatives from the Health Ministry, including its minister, Dr Adham Baba, to discuss future strategies between the central and state governments on curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Empowering farmers for better yield

By **ASHWIN KUMAR**

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor Agro Icon is the state government's latest initiative to empower farmers to become experts in their industry to help others increase crop production, says Izham Hashim.

The State Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman said the initiative aims to train farmers and equip them with the latest technology and farming know-how.

"The objective of the programme is to identify 10 farmers in Selangor who are keen to use modern farming techniques and train them to become teachers or mentors to encourage a younger gen-

eration to join the agriculture sector," Izham told *Selangor Journal* in an exclusive interview.

"The Selangor Agro Icon is open to farmers eligible under the regulations set by the agriculture committee. Farmers practising modern farming and proven to be successful will be selected.

"The state government will audit and assist them in the form of financial schemes and they will mentor other farmers. We will choose the icons from different categories like crop cultivation, livestock production and fish farming," he said.

The programme, which comes under the Selangor Agro Transformation Plan, will be launched soon in collaboration with Selangor Agro TV.

The plan is part of the state government's effort to achieve the Smart Selangor 2025 goals.

Izham also revealed that the state administration is in the final stage to set up a centre of excellence (COE) for agriculture to increase farm produce in the state.

"The COE will be tasked to get input from the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Mardi) and public universities to enable farmers to upgrade and modernise their farms. At the moment, we are the midst of deciding on whether to establish the COE under my committee or we let it operate as a government-linked company," he said.

Pioneer screening method pays off

SHAH ALAM – Selangor is the pioneer state to implement the drive-through concept for Covid-19 mass community screening, rolling it out in the month of April.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the initiative, which was carried out in collaboration with the Selangor State Development Corporation's wholly-owned subsidiary Selcare Clinic, has prioritised those in the high-risk groups and managed to identify asymptomatic individuals in the process.

"This (effort) has helped with Covid-19 contact tracing in Selangor. Thank you to all that were involved," said Amirudin on a Facebook post on June 10.

The drive-through testing, which focused on red zone areas, was assisted by several local authorities.

Selangor also initiated door-to-door mass community testing from April 11 to 23.

Out of the total 5,433 samples taken, 10 had tested positive for the coronavirus and eight were found to be asymptomatic.

Big plans ahead for state's agro sector

SHAH ALAM – The state administration is ramping up efforts to expand the Selangor Agro Market initiative.

State Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman Izham Hashim said one of the efforts includes formulating four plans to ensure the sustainability of the agro markets after Covid-19.

"Even though the agro market had originated from the farmer's market (pasar tani) concept, it now stands strong as a place that guarantees affordable prices. The Selangor Agro Market is here to stay and we will make necessary changes to ensure it operates smoothly.

One of the plans outlined by the state government is a proposal to upgrade existing wet

markets (pasar awam) to agro markets.

"This idea requires collaboration with the local authorities (PBTs). Aside from the upcoming agro mall in Puchong, there are already plans to expand other markets further. This will be developed in collaboration with the private sectors," Izham told *Selangor Journal* in an interview recently.

He said the state is also scouting for permanent locations for the agro market initiative.

"As of now, we have nine permanent locations while the remaining markets are based at the existing farmer's market (pasar tani) locations.

"We also have plans to upgrade them into storage facilities as well as to sell processed food as part of our efforts to expand

the marketing channels for the farmers."

Izham also pointed out that the Selangor Agro Market is the only outlet in the state that is selling fresh chicken and beef at below the controlled price set by the Federal government.

He said chicken is sold at RM7.20 per kilogram, while beef is priced at RM33.50 per kilogram, 50 sen less than what has been set.

The Selangor Agro Market has recorded more than RM13 million in total sales since it was first launched on March 27.

Meanwhile, Izham said the state government has identified 12 types of crops that can help boost and support Selangor's agriculture and plantation sectors.

"The agricultural sector today is a vastly different landscape and requires different types of assistance from the government. For Malaysia to revitalise its agricultural sector, precision agriculture is the way forward.

"Based on our study and research, we have discovered 12 types of crops which can be the prime movers for the country's agricultural sector. They include bananas, pineapples and mushrooms," he added.



The Selangor Mega Job Fair 2019 held at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (Maeps) in Sepang

Selangor expedites plans to hold job fair

SHAH ALAM – Selangor will hold a discussion with the National Security Council (NSC) soon to come up with guidelines for hosting the Job Matching Fair.

Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the job fair will be held throughout the state and an announcement will be made as soon as the green light is given by the NSC.

"This job fair is part of the state's initiative to overcome unemployment as so many businesses have been forced to close during the movement control order that started in March," said Mohd Khairuddin to *SelangorKini*

on June 16.

He said they will also work with Giat Mara and other government agencies as well as the private sector to offer training to job seekers.

Selangor aims to bring down its unemployment rate to 2.5 per cent from the 2.8 per cent that was recorded between 2017 and 2019.

On June 15 the Department of Statistics Malaysia announced that the national unemployment rate rose 48.8 per cent to 778,800 people as of April this year.

This figure sets the unemployment rate at 5.0 per cent which is the nation's highest since 1989 due to the closure of many businesses recently.

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More mosques state-wide allowed to reopen

SHAH ALAM – Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, has consented for more mosques in Selangor to hold Friday and daily congregational prayers starting June 19, while congregation numbers at previously reopened mosques have been increased.

In a statement on June 18, private secretary to the Selangor Ruler, Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani, said all mosques located in the townships that have been declared green zones by the Selangor Health Department are now allowed to open and can welcome 40 people for each congregational prayer.

“His Royal Highness has consented that all the existing 39 mosques previously reopened (to the public) and all mosques in ‘mukim’ (townships) categorised as green zones are to be opened for Friday and selected daily congregational prayers starting June 19,” the statement read.

“The decision was made after taking into consideration the current Covid-19 epidemic data and status in the state.”

However, congregational prayers at suraus, except those performed by the three designated surau officials, is still



The congregation that was allowed to perform the Friday prayers at the Masjid Jamek Ar Rahimiah in Klang, on June 19

not allowed.

Mohamad Munir said the Selangor Ruler has also consented to increase the congregation numbers previously set for the first 39 mosques that reopened.

The Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque, or better known as the State

Mosque, is now allowed to welcome 250 people for selected daily and Friday prayers. The other 38 mosques can now receive 150 attendees.

Mohamad Munir said all members of the congregation must abide by the standard operating procedures set by the

Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais). They are as follows:

- Take their ablution (wudhu) at home
- Bring their own prayer mat (sejadah)
- Wear a face mask inside the mosque
- Practise social distancing at all times

Those who are sick are prohibited from performing prayers at mosques and the congregation is reminded to also adhere to the guidelines set by the National Security Council and the Health Ministry.

Meanwhile, Mohamad Munir said the Selangor Ruler has also decreed that the sacrificial ritual (ibadah korban) for Hari Raya Aidiladha is only allowed within the compounds of the selected 39 mosques and the mosques located inside the green zones.

“No sacrificial ritual is allowed at suraus and Muslims are encouraged to participate in this ritual only at the designated mosques.”

He added that His Royal Highness will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and will make decisions accordingly, in time.

Steps underway to pump up economy

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor government is in the final stage of formulating the state’s economic recovery plan, which is expected to be revealed by July, says Dato’ Seri Amirudin Shari.

In a statement on June 18, the Menteri Besar said the state administration has also agreed to several additional measures that will help to boost the state’s economy as well as help those who have been affected by Covid-19.

The initiatives are as follows:

- **Extension on land premium**

payment period

The state government has agreed to extend the land premium payment period to Sep 30 for notices that have expired from Jan 1, 2020, to June 9, 2020.

The payment of land premiums can also be made in instalments of six months until March 31, 2021, for selected notices (5A and 7G) that have not expired.

“We hope that this initiative would help in alleviating the economic pressures on the developers and investors,” said Amirudin.

- **Extension on rental exemption of premises under the purview of local authorities**

The exemption on rental payment offered under the previously announced state economic stimulus package will be extended another month for the month of May this year.

- **RM50,000 allocated to facilitate Selangor students abroad**

A total of RM50,000 has been allocated for the “Bakul Makanan” programme, which would be channelled to some 600 Selangor students stranded in Egypt due to the Covid-19 situation.

Amirudin said the state continues to monitor the students’ condition while mulling the next course of action.

“The state government, with the cooperation of Wisma Putra, will (also) monitor the condition of other students studying abroad in other countries that are sponsored by Selangor.

“We appreciate the readiness of Wisma Putra to help us should the situation require further action,” Amirudin added.

No more virtual weddings, says Jais

SHAH ALAM – Muslim couples in Selangor planning to wed during the recovery conditional movement control order (RCMO) are now allowed to conduct the solemnisation ceremony in person beginning June 22, says the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais).



Its director Mohd Shahzihan Ahmad (*pic*) said the event can be attended by no more than 15 people — seven from the groom’s side and eight from the bride’s side.

This excludes the bride, groom, the wali (custodian), and the two witnesses.

“There will no longer be ‘akad nikah’ (solemnisation) ceremonies through video conferencing.

“The attendees of the ceremony must adhere to the standard operating procedure set by Jais,” he said in a statement on June 18.

However, Mohd Shahzihan said the “akad nikah” ceremony can only be held at selected mosques or Islamic Religious District Offices with the permission of the marriage registrar.

He has also reminded assistant marriage registrars to facilitate the easing of the marriage application process as well as the “akad nikah” ceremony.





Barber Harriz Ahmad, 29, dressed in personal protective equipment (PPE) preps a customer for a haircut at the Goldcut Barbershop in Balakong



People are seen fishing after the government had announced the RMCO effective June 10

When sound policies, and not politics, saved the day

By JAY JAY DENIS

AFTER the 14th General Election, chief ministers throughout Malaysia took a back seat as the Federal government took the headlines after a change for the first time in history.

All chief ministers except Sarawak were newly-appointed and competed for air-time while finding ways of working with the newly-minted Federal government. If you weren't working in politics, you'd be hard-pressed to name all the chief ministers without hitting "search" on Google.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic piqued the public's interest towards chief ministers when the flaws of certain politicians in the Federal government came to light.

There are two aspects which have seen states depart from Tan Sri Muhyiddin

Yassin's administration in containing and managing Covid-19; the stimulus packages and the movement control order (MCO).

First, Muhyiddin's RM250 billion stimulus package failed the audit test after a deeper dive showed that only RM22 billion or 8.8 per cent was direct cash assistance to the people while the remaining were a mix of grants and loans.

On the other hand, state governments adopted the helicopter money approach to resuscitate their respective economies which were on life support.

Selangor led the way in the peninsula by providing a combination of tax exemptions, rental waivers and cash assistance to day traders who lost their income as stores could not operate during the MCO.

Penang was also quick to step in and help their trishaw riders and taxi driv-

ers with cash assistance as tourism was paused, while also helping e-hailing drivers in the state.

Sarawak too rolled out a whopping assistance package which included utility bill rebates of up to 25 per cent a month and extended the rental waivers for state housing schemes to six months, among other measures.

The initiatives by these and other states like Kedah, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan and Johor went straight to people's pockets, especially those who earned salaries daily at a morning or night market, or council-operated food courts.

These were glaring omissions on the Federal government's part even in the latest package announced by Muhyiddin on June 5.

In comparison, 75 per cent of Selangor's two stimulus packages came in the form of direct cash or payment waivers versus the Federal Prihatin's 8.8 per cent.

Next, Muhyiddin extended the MCO to May 12 in his announcement on April 1.

He then decided to replace the MCO on May 10 with the conditional movement control order (CMCO) which was slated to run till June 9.

The CMCO had allowed dining in at restaurants as well as certain sporting and recreational activities to resume.

In response, state governments pushed back with the federal government's orders in various forms.

This included states politically aligned to the Muhyiddin administration in Kelantan, Pahang and Sarawak – all in unison stating that the health and welfare of their people had to be prioritised.

Similarly, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato'

Seri Amirudin Shari opted for a soft landing instead of a crash landing approach by implementing a modified version of the CMCO which disallowed dining in and certain recreational activities.

Then Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir too, delayed the implementation of the CMCO, with Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal and Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun following suit.

Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Minister of International Trade and Industry, retaliated by claiming these state governments were unconstitutional and threatened the possibility of states being sued.

He is a former Menteri Besar himself.

However, no state government faced legal challenges as the Federal Constitution is clear on the shared responsibility of state and federal governments which includes health and safety policies.

In hindsight, the proactive and bold moves by these chief ministers prove their decisions were vital in containing the spread of Covid-19 and these policies were driven by data and science, not politics.

As a result, we have seen the national Covid-19 infection rate drop tremendously over the past month with economic activity being reopened under strict guidelines and procedures.

This pandemic has strengthened the case for more responsibility and funding to be given to state and local governments, especially at times of crises.

It also shows that when the Federal government errs, state governments can and will not shy away from stepping up to the plate.



Children at Tadika Anak-Anak Bestari at Section 7 Shah Alam do their learning while observing social distancing

MB: Aerospace industry holds great promise

By **KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has much to gain in exploring new investments, and the aerospace industry, in particular, holds great promise for the state's economy, says its Menteri Besar.

With 62 per cent of aerospace-related companies in Malaysia operating in Selangor, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari expressed hope that more parties will grab the chance at becoming a part of the industry's ecosystem.

"There are more than 20 institutes of higher learning in the state that are offering courses in aerospace, (therefore) Selangor has huge potential in this industry," Amirudin said in a Facebook posting on June 11.

Previously, Amirudin had set the target for Selangor to become a major player in the global aerospace industry by 2030 through the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan executed by the Selangor Darul Ehsan Aerospace Industry Coordination Office

(S-Daico).

S-Daico will be at the frontline in helping the industry players by providing information, advisory services as well as potential investment opportunities.

The state's maiden action plan for the aerospace industry targets several areas including infrastructure, incentive, funding, education and training, regulations as well as market access.

In the next 10 years, Malaysia's aero-manufacturing industry is expected to generate RM21.2 billion, the aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul sector RM20.4 billion, and the aircraft engineering and design sector, RM13.6 billion.

On May 18, Amirudin had said that in 2017, the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) activity is the second largest contributor in the industry with RM6.2 billion while manufacturing activities contributed RM6.6 billion to the national revenue.



Amirudin (left) visits an aeroplane hangar at Sepang Aircraft Engineering Sdn Bhd

Selangor goes digital to woo investors

SHAH ALAM - The state government will be conducting virtual expos, seminars and investment meetings to share ideas with industry players, says Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman.

Datuk Teng Chang Kim (pic) said the decision was made after the state's plans to hold investment promotions throughout the year both locally and abroad were stunted due to Covid-19.

"We will host these virtual programmes to replace the investment and trade promotions planned via the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS).

"Aside from providing incentives to attract both local

and foreign investors, the state government will also conduct a study on the policies and the application process of industrial development," he told *SelangorKini* on June 9.

On March 31, Teng had said that the Selangor administration would have to decide on whether to continue with SIBS 2020, which was initially scheduled for Oct 14 to 17 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The international summit was to feature four main components, namely the Selangor International Expo, the Selangor-Asean Business Conference, the Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention, and the Selangor Research and Development and Innovation Expo.



Economic revival as early as December

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia's economy can be expected to be on the recovery path starting from the end of this year and return to growth into 2021, said The World Bank.

Its country manager for Malaysia, Dr Firas Raad, said the country needs to continue with its encouraging and effective public health measures while bringing the economy back to where it was before the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said pro-growth policies coupled with incentives to push the private sector are crucial ingredients in helping the nation recover from the economic downturn.

"The country first needs to continue its effective public health measures to ensure (there is) no second wave or the return of the (Covid-19) virus.

"Aside from that, (it must) continue supporting vulnerable households and focus on the firms that need support and recovery, especially the small and medium enterprises, and then start to think about the medi-

um-term reform agendas, Dr Firas said during Bernama TV's talk-show *The Nation* when discussing the topic "Economic Recovery Plan (The World Bank Perspective)" on June 8.

He said Malaysia should continue its efforts in the reform agenda and work on the areas of governance, the economy and education, in its bid to achieve high-income nation status.

"For Malaysia to cross into high-income country status, it will have to boost productivity growth, and that will only come with great investment in human capital," he said.

He added that the World Bank is in the midst of reviewing the economic impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on Malaysia's economy before deciding whether to revise the country's 2020 gross domestic product (GDP) growth target sometime this month.

The bank in April cut Malaysia's 2020 GDP growth forecast from 4.5 per cent to a negative 0.1 per cent against the backdrop of the coronavirus.

For Malaysia to cross into high-income country status, it will have to boost productivity growth, and that will only come with great investment in human capital

DR FIRAS RAAD

World Bank country manager for Malaysia

Business activities are resuming as the country gradually eased lockdown measures after economic activity froze for more than two months.

The country is now entering the recovery phase of Covid-19 following a declining trend of infections.

The majority of businesses are allowed to reopen, albeit subject to strict conditions. — Bernama

Smart infrastructure for a smart state



By **ASHWIN KUMAR**

Infrastructure plays an important role in rapid economic growth and the alleviation of poverty in a country.

Adequate infrastructure in the form of road and transport systems, power, airports and broadband networks is needed for the Malaysian economy to be on par with other economies of the world.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had previously said that Selangor has good logistics infrastructure such as ports, airports and roads. He also said that an investment ecosystem is already in place in Selangor and these factors have attracted investors to the state.

Leveraging on its smart technology, innovations and solid infrastructure, Selangor now aspires to be Southeast Asia's premier smart state by 2025.

Smart Digital Infrastructure is one of the 12 domains that will help the state achieve its goal, and Izhah Hashim said the state administration's commitment in this area is evident from the plans that have been outlined so far.

"Providing the best infrastructure is a very big task and it is not limited to only fixing potholes and maintaining the drainage system. The state government is always doing its best to offer the best infrastructure to its people. I can assure you that Selangor is moving in the right direction towards achieving its smart state status," the Selangor Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman told *Selangor Journal* in an exclusive interview recently.

Tech solutions

Among the first significant achievements in realising the Selangor Smart State Vision 2025 was the introduction of the Smart Selangor Command Centre (SSCC), a centralised data collection and control room that plays a pivotal role in disaster monitoring in the state.

SSCC gathers and manages all data relating to any kind of disaster. All the data is then sent for further action to the state government or the National Disaster Management Agency.

Izhah said the state government is also planning to introduce a monitoring centre to keep watch on agricultural activities, floods and road safety.

"The state is always seeking to leverage and experiment on the Internet of Things to come up with solutions to improve the quality of life for the people. We are experimenting with a monitoring centre equipped with a system that is capable of measuring vehicles travelling at a normal or reduced traffic speed that does not require them to come to a stop.

"The monitoring centre will also be equipped with high-resolution cameras to monitor floods, and artificial intelligence technology to aid in detecting diseases in plants, pests, and poor plant nutrition in farms," he said.

The monitoring centre will enable better decision-making and improve efficiency in areas such as emergency assistance response.



Selangor Utility Corridor

The Selangor government will also be introducing its own Utility Corridor, designed to streamline all future utility infrastructure works.

Izhah said the corridor will have a comprehensive database so that all maintenance and installation works can be carried out efficiently and in an organised manner.

"The main purpose of this initiative is to save cost, time and most importantly, to not cause inconvenience to the public.

"For example, when road repairs are needed, we have to block the road and remove the existing infrastructure until the work is completed and this is going to incur a big cost. The Utility Corridor can avoid such disruption by constantly monitoring and providing frequent maintenance.

"Communications amenities like fibre optics and telephone cables can also be installed in the Utility Corridor. It will allow works to be carried out quickly, saving time and cost, like how it is done in Japan. Utility companies can increase their work quality in this manner."

Izhah said the plan for the Selangor Utility Corridor was already agreed to in principle before the movement control order took place.

"We will be launching it soon," he said.

A personal challenge

Flood issues have become a great concern for Izhah. He said the existing drainage infrastructure in the state is no longer adequate to deal with the frequent deluges. The various flood mitigation projects that have been launched over the years have done little to alleviate the problem.

"The flood issue is not a matter that can be resolved in an effortless manner. It is a very complicated problem that requires in-depth knowledge about drainage and irrigation.

"A detailed study is needed and should focus on the sustainability guidelines of the Drainage and Irrigation Department's management manual," he said.

These guidelines, Izhah said, would be used as a reference for the planning and development of all flood mitigation efforts.

He said the state administration will upgrade, clean and build more retention ponds and flood control pumping stations. At the moment,

Selangor has around 600 retention ponds.

"We will restructure the retention ponds' ownership. The problem only arises when there is a dispute in regards to the retention ponds' ownership. Such issues turn the ponds into a no man's land and their condition only worsens. We want to end that."

Izhah said the state government has placed over 100 retention ponds under the care of the Selangor Irrigation and Drainage Department.

He added that people need to be aware of infrastructure ownership issues.

"(But) the rakyat just wants flood issues to be addressed, so that is why I want to resolve them internally. I am going to take responsibility for this issue and deliver," he said.



Of factories, floods and fabulous food

By ASHWIN KUMAR

BATU Tiga may not be the most famous township in Selangor, but those who have been there remember it best for one thing: its food. Its state assemblyman Rodziah Ismail knows this and plans to take advantage of the human desire for tasty meals to turn her constituency into a food haven.

Rodziah is not new to Batu Tiga. She has been the representative for the 55,034-strong electorate since 2008 and is also currently heading the Selangor Entrepreneur, Rural, Village and Traditional Village Development Committee portfolio.

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

Rodziah Ismail (RI): We have many factories in my constituency. We are also seeing rapid population growth due to our industrial areas. Many places have been converted into commercial and residential units. I am sure everyone remembers the closure of the JVC Kenwood electronics factory in 2015. However, the closure of the factory did not put an end to the factory sector. In fact, more multinational companies relocated their factories here.

SJ: What is the main attraction in your constituency?

RI: I consider myself lucky to represent my constituency because of its location, population and food. The people who live here are mostly newly married couples, young families, lecturers, civil servants and young graduates who are joining the workforce, and most homes are owner-occupied. Our residents are known to be foodies, so it is no surprise that my constituency offers an abundance of local food at affordable prices. We have Cendol Bawah Pokok, Nasi Gunung, Popiah, Soup Power and Asam Pedas Kam-



pung Kuantan. My plan is to get the hawkers to set up stalls at a permitted location to make it a must-stop for anyone travelling to or through Batu Tiga. Batu Tiga is also famous for its annual Bon Odori festival held as an effort to promote and strengthen ties between Malaysia and Japan, as well as to showcase Japanese culture to Malaysians.

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

RI: The people in my constituency always raise issues concerning congested residential areas, old houses, potholes and floods. The population in Batu Tiga can be described as "super-sized". Hence, we need to manage and find a way to solve these issues. There are many old houses in Batu Tiga, especially in Section 24. Some of these old houses have been around for more than 100 years. They are usually wooden houses in the vil-

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

RI: Previously, the people in Sungai Rasau were frustrated by flash floods that happened frequently, particularly those which resulted in material and financial losses. My councillors and I worked very hard to overcome this. The state government has also been instrumental in addressing this issue. Many infrastruc-

CAPTION

1. Rodziah mingles with the people during the launch of the SJK (T) Ladang Ebor Awards Day in Batu Tiga

2 & 3. Rodziah chats with customers during the *Jom Shopping* programme at the Kemuning Utama Giant Hypermarket in Shah Alam

tures in Batu Tiga were upgraded, especially the roads leading to and from Padang Jawa. It was a challenging period for me and my team. The people of Batu Tiga know what I have contributed to them and those contributions are my legacy.

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

RI: I make sure that I help my voters whenever the need arises. The best way to solve people's problems is by having dialogue sessions with them, together with the authorities concerned. My community service centre also serves as a place where the locals can file their complaints or raise concerns over issues that affect their livelihood. I am not a "ceremonial" people's representative; I am here to address their issues. If you want to know what my secret for being the wakil rakyat for three terms is, it is simple — I don't rest.

Unlocking the digital potential of villages

By ASHWIN KUMAR

The Covid-19 pandemic has proven digital transformation to be essential in driving the economy forward.

Many businesses, including those in farming and fishery, have moved towards digitalisation and ventured into e-commerce to keep afloat during the movement control order (MCO) period due to the restrictions imposed.

With its Smart City goals in place, Selangor is set to become a game changer in bringing digitalisation to the next level.

State Entrepreneur, Rural, Village and Traditional Village Development Committee chairman Rodziah Ismail said digital transformation is key to reshaping the economy in rural areas, which in turn would reduce household income disparity in the rural-urban divide.

"Entrepreneurs should stay creative and innovative by leveraging on the various smart technologies offered through the smart city initiative. They should also change the way they work.

"This would allow them to easily achieve efficiency and effectiveness," she told *Selangor Journal* in an exclusive interview recently.

Rodziah said the state had allocated a total of RM5.4 million for rural and traditional village developments in the recent budget. The allocation was set aside for various initiatives which include the Rural Economic Development programme, the Village (Desa) Economic Development programme, rural training courses, short skill courses and the Sarang Ekonomi Desa initiative.

Empowering rural folk

The state government has organised online courses for some 1,000 rural entrepreneurs during the MCO as part of its initiative to help small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) to market their products through e-commerce platforms.

Rodziah said such online courses would encourage rural



Rodziah during an interview broadcasted on Facebook on June 5

entrepreneurs to utilise the various applications and digital tools to expand and improve on the efficiency of their respective businesses.

"The online courses highlight the state government's level of seriousness in accelerating digital adoption and reinforcing Selangor as an e-commerce hub. The experience they gain via the online courses will give them a huge advantage and increase their chances of sustaining and succeeding in their businesses. Some 343 out of 1,000 participants have started their online business," she said.

Rodziah said the state government is committed to carrying out efforts aimed at increasing monthly household income among rural folk.

"We realised that the sale of craft or handmade products online is booming in Selangor and this clearly shows Selangor is on the right path when it comes to digitising the entrepreneurs in rural areas. We will definitely expand the online courses to more areas."

Stumbling blocks

Rodziah said she has often encouraged rural communities to go cashless, including for bill payments.

The cashless transaction approach is not something new. I am still advocating this approach because going cashless is the way to move forward especially in the state's quest to achieve the smart state goal by 2025.

"However, there have been concerns over how the move would affect rural folks or the older generation once the cashless transaction method is fully implemented. I am quite sympathetic towards that sentiment."

Rodziah said the state government launched the Citizen e-payment platform (CEPat) last year as a single platform where people can make payments to all state government agencies including for zakat, assessment tax, as well as parking.

The development of CEPat was spearheaded by the Smart Selangor Delivery Unit in collaboration with local councils, state

agencies, financial institutions, and e-wallet players.

However, Rodziah said digital literacy and network connectivity remain as stumbling blocks while her committee educates the communities on the cashless method.

"The knowledge gap in using digital devices has not been bridged and this has displaced senior citizens. Some rural areas are still facing connectivity issues and this poses a big challenge," she said.

According to Rodziah, development of the state's Internet infrastructure would be accelerated, especially in rural areas and places without connectivity, in line with the vision to smart up Selangor by 2025.

The state government is working with SmartSel to widen broadband coverage and increase the number of WiFi hotspots throughout the state.

SmartSel is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Selangor Menteri Besar Incorporated whose objective is to develop and manage Selangor's telecom-

munications infrastructure and to speed up the state's digital transformation.

As of last year, the state has achieved a 60 per cent high-speed Internet penetration.

Women as leaders

The position of village heads in Selangor will no longer be restricted to men as the state government has amended its policy to enable women to take up the post.

Rodziah said the state government is already in the process of appointing more female village heads which is in line with her executive committee's target of having a 30 per cent representation of women in leadership positions in the state.

"We are in fact considering to appoint qualified women in the state for other village-level positions which include village secretary and Village Community Management Council (MPKK) members. Hopefully, their appointments can be made soon."

The state executive council has already approved 371 village heads for the 2018/2020 session.

Each village head receives an allowance of RM500 from the Federal government and RM700 from the state.

Furthermore, the Selangor government has agreed to give an allocation of RM10,000 to each village head to enable them to plan and implement programmes that are beneficial to their people.

Rodziah is urging women, especially those in rural areas, to grab at the opportunities available to them to become entrepreneurs.

In a related matter, Rodziah said a total of 496 village heads including those from the Indian community in Selangor received the Group Insurance Scheme (Skim Insurans Berkelompok) at the start of June.

The scheme covers Takaful coverage of up to RM15,000 as well as life insurance involving end-of-life cost payments.

Water bill adjustments in progress

By **NADIAH ZAMLUS**

SHAH ALAM - Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) is in the process of adjusting the water bills in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, as meter reading was put on hold during the movement control order (MCO) period.

Its corporate communications head Elina Basri said the calculation method is in line with the guideline

issued by the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) and the adjustments will be reflected in the June or July bill.

"For overpayment based on the adjustments made before the MCO, the balance will be recorded in the customer's account.

"The process is expected to resolve in July as the complete cycle of the bill would take about a month," Elina said in a statement on June 5.

She said in general, domestic consumers have shown a prorated increase in water usage of 15 per cent a month during the MCO.

Customers who have any inquiries on their water bills can contact Air Selangor at 15300 or send a Whatsapp message to 019-2800919 or 019-2816793. The company can also be reached via email at ecare@airselangor.com or through its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.



Mohd Rashidi (right) puts up a notice of closure at an eatery that had failed to comply with the SOP during the inspection operation at Section 19, Shah Alam, on June 2

Eateries urged to follow guidelines

SHAH ALAM - Restaurant operators and owners of eateries are urged to be firm when advising their customers to follow the standard operating procedure (SOP) during the recovery movement control order (RMCO), says the Shah Alam deputy mayor.

Mohd Rashidi Ruslan said the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) has received several complaints on SOP non-compliance, such as allowing more than two people at a table while dining in.

He said customers can face legal

action from the authorities if they do not observe the guidelines imposed.

"Both businesses and customers are required to follow the SOP to ensure that the Covid-19 chain of infection is broken.

"The leeway given by the government has to be carefully observed as we continue on with the new normal," he told a press conference after an inspection operation on restaurants and eateries here on June 2.

Meanwhile, two eateries at the Section 19 business centre here were

ordered to close for 14 days for violating the SOP.

The action was taken under the Control of Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 as the restaurant operators failed to keep their premises clean, did not use the SELangkah contact tracing system, and did not practice social distancing.

A total of 117 enforcement officers were involved in the operation and received help from the Shah Alam District Police.

Maintenance works resume after MCO

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor state authorities will carry out immediate road and drainage maintenance at the public parking lot area near the Shah Alam Stadium in Section 13, here, to prevent flash floods, says Izham Hashim.

The State Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman said the local authorities, Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and the Public Works Department (JKR) have identified several clogged drains that could not be maintained during the movement control order (MCO).

"The maintenance works were halted due to the MCO. However, since we are now in the recovery phase, work has already started," he told reporters after visiting the stadium on June 10.

Izham said the state government has also suggested building a water retention pond near the stadium as a long-term measure to withstand heavy rainfall.

"We will visit the area first, InshaAllah, we will chair a meeting and discuss the allocation to kick start building the water retention pond soon," he added.

The area was recently hit by a flash flood when the drainage system was unable to cope with a heavy downpour.

Smart busses adopt SELangkah

SHAH ALAM - Smart Selangor Bus passengers are required to scan the SELangkah (Langkah Masuk Dengan Selamat) QR code provided at the bus entrance before using the public transport service, says Ng Sze Han.

The Selangor Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Committee chairman have advised commuters to be patient while queuing up and adhering to the standard operating procedure (SOP) set by the authorities.

"Busses are allowed to only carry 20 passengers at a time. Therefore, the commuters are required to queue up and are advised to not rush when taking the bus.

"Passengers are reminded to observe the social distancing rule, wear a face mask as well as maintain good hygiene when using the service," he told *SelangorKini* on June 11.

Ng also said that the busses are sanitised according to schedule and tell the public not to worry when using the service.

On March 24, the Smart Selangor Bus service was suspended when Covid-19 cases spiked in the state, with its 138 busses that usually travel along 43 routes immediately ceasing operations.





Ng scans the e-wallet QR code displayed at the MPSJ morning market in Bandar Baru Puchong

Ng: Plight of market traders heard

By **NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD**

PUCHONG - A total of 417 morning markets, night markets and bazarias in Selangor have reopened in stages in selected locations beginning June 15.

Selangor Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han said the markets will operate on a rotational basis set by the local authorities to ensure both traders and customers comply with the standard

operating procedures (SOPs).

"We are aware of the plight of the traders who lost their source of income for three months but we have to reopen the markets in stages.

"The local authorities need time to discuss with the hawkers and traders association. There will be a visit to each of the market locations and this will take some time," Ng told the media after visiting the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) morning market on June 15.

Meanwhile, MPSJ president Noraini Roslan has called for the hawkers and traders association to work together in ensuring that the reopening of the markets would run smoothly.

"It would be difficult to leave everything to the local council. We hope that all parties would adhere to the SOP so that there would be no emergence of a morning or night market (Covid-19) cluster.

"We will also continuously monitor the markets," she said.

Dengue hotspots on the rise

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has recorded 61 dengue hotspots out of the 99 detected nationwide, with Hulu Selangor district topping the list of cases.

According to information portal Public Health Malaysia, Apartmen Teratai in Hulu Selangor has registered 131 cases followed by Bandar Bukit Mahkota, Hulu Langat (56), Cyberia SmartHome, Sepang (54) and Mentari Court, Petaling (39).

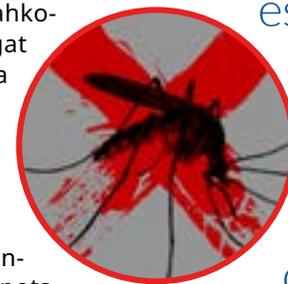
New dengue hotspots were also detected in Taman Impian Ehsan in Hulu Langat with nine cases, Apartmen Mawar, Hulu Selangor (10) and Taman Perindustrian, Seri Kembangan (7).

"The number of dengue-related cases continues to spike despite the country registering single-digit Covid-19 cases yesterday (June 9).

"The public is advised to constantly monitor their surroundings especially in their homes and workplaces, prevent dengue breeding grounds and report to authorities and community leaders for prevention," stated the portal that is operated by the Malaysian Health Ministry (MOH).



The public is advised to constantly monitor their surroundings especially in their homes and workplaces, prevent dengue breeding grounds and report to authorities and community leaders for prevention



On June 9, MOH forecasted a second wave of dengue cases for June until September, following an upward trend with an average increase of eight per cent a week.

A total of 48,584 dengue fever cases and 84 dengue-related deaths were reported from January till June 6 this year.

Cash aid for families affected by landslide

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has allocated a total of RM54,810 in financial assistance to the six families affected by the landslide at Taman Kelab Ukay, Bukit Antarabangsa.

Following the Selangor Economic Action Council (MTES) meeting on June 4, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the breakdown of the financial aid is as follows:

- RM500 in financial aid for each of the six families, at a total of RM3,000
- RM1,000 to assist each family in paying rent for six months, at a total of RM36,000
- Temporary accommodation at

the De Palma Hotel in Ampang for 31 residents from May 30, at a total of RM15,810.

Amirudin said additional funds of RM433,800 have also been set aside for works to strengthen the Sungai Sering riverbank, which will be carried out by the Selangor Irrigation and Drainage Department.

"The state government will also carry out a detailed study on the affected area as several landslide incidents have occurred in the last few years.

"A consultant will be appointed to conduct the study, which will include determining the high-risk areas and analysing and reviewing

the mitigation measures on slope protection that are based on scientific data," he said in a statement on June 6.

Amirudin said the consultant will be appointed by the Selangor and Federal Territories Minerals and Geoscience Department and the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council.

On May 30, the Selangor Fire and Rescue Department was alerted of the landslide in Bukit Antarabangsa at 2.21am and arrived at the scene at 2.33am.

It is reported to have occurred following continuous rain, resulting in soil movement in the area.



‘It’s not an achievement, but my responsibility’

By **ASHWIN KUMAR**

FOR Paya Jaras assemblyman Khairuddin Othman, his priority will always be his constituency despite having his plate full as the Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman.

He has been the representative for the 43,000-strong electorate since 2013.

In an exclusive interview with *Selangor Journal*, Khairuddin said he is now committed to both the state administration and his constituency, and that being a politician means having the opportunity to help the people you represent.

world. The settlement has also contributed immensely to medical research. It has been recognised as a national heritage site.

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

KO: The people in my constituency always raise issues concerning road congestions, floods and infrastructure issues. We have a mixed community with various types of income

groups and that means I anticipate and come across problems with illegal vendors or people conducting business at places barred by the authorities. Dialogue sessions and discussions with the local authorities and enforcement agencies are among the best methods to address the issues in my constituency. On the large number of roadside hawkers, many of whom are unlicensed, I am doing my best to relocate them and help them get permits.

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

KO: I wouldn’t call it an achievement but rather my responsibility, that is, to meet the voters’ needs. Like I mentioned earlier, infrastructure issues are among the most common grouses raised by the residents in Paya Jaras. So, the replacement of water pipes throughout Paya Jaras and the Matang Pagar area, the

construction of the Paya Jaras Mini Stadium and the construction of new stalls at the business centre in Saujana Utama are among my contributions to help the community. The mood can be depressing sometimes given the impact that the Covid-19 outbreak has had on everyday life. People have had their incomes reduced. Some even lost their jobs.

If you ask me, being there at the right time when your community needs you is the biggest achievement. That is why I advocated for the distribution of essential goods for the residents of Paya Jaras during the movement control order.

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

KO: I always make sure that the agencies and the authorities concerned hear out the problems that are faced by the people of Paya Jaras. Once we get the response from the relevant parties, we continue with dialogue sessions and we make sure that we act on the particular issue. My main objective is to ease the burden of the community here. I feel the need to connect with the people.

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

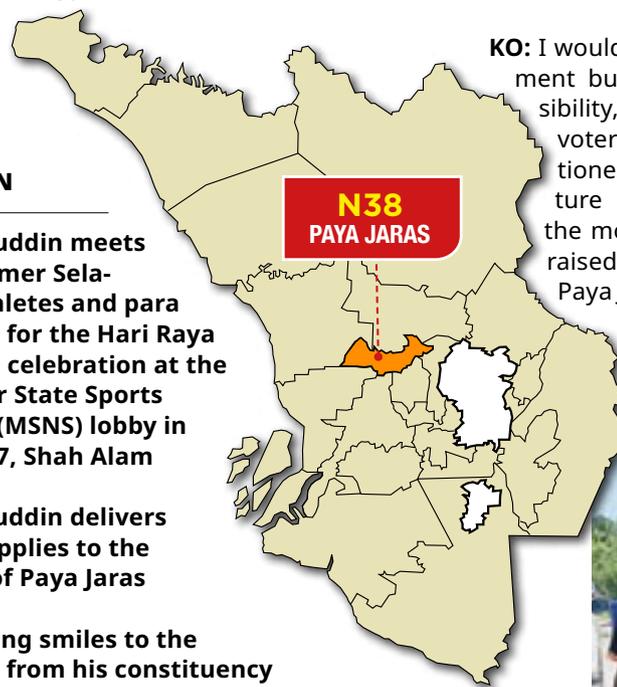
Khairuddin Othman (KO): I would say several sectors such as the Food and Beverage industry, and the plant nursery and flower industries. They are the backbone of Paya Jaras. Paya Jaras has emerged as one of the fastest-growing areas in the Sungai Buloh district due to these industries.

SJ: What is the main attraction?

KO: I wouldn’t name it as an attraction but the Sungai Buloh Leprosy Settlement or Hospital Kusta Sungai Buloh is a landmark. The settlement around the hospital was renamed the National Leprosy Control Centre in 1969 and was the second-largest leprosarium in the

CAPTION

1. Khairuddin meets with former Selangor athletes and para athletes for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration at the Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) lobby in Section 7, Shah Alam
2. Khairuddin delivers basic supplies to the people of Paya Jaras
3. Bringing smiles to the children from his constituency during a back-to-school programme at Econsave in Sungai Buloh



Sukma team going for gold

By SHEEDA FATHIL

SHAH ALAM - Selangor aims to be the champion of the Malaysia Games (Sukma), which has been postponed to March next year, says the state executive councillor.

Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said although the state has not clinched the top spot for some time, the performance of the athletes have improved significantly.

"Many of our national athletes representing the country are from Selangor. This shows that they have great performance and talent.

"The Selangor State Sports Council is also continuously monitoring the athletes' performance and we aim to not only come out as champions in the Sukma games but other upcoming sports events as well," he said during an online talk organised by the state government's think-tank Institute Darul Ehsan on June 6.

Selangor emerged as champions of the Sukma games in 2016 and



We aim to not only come out as champions in the Sukma games but other upcoming sports events as well

KHAIRUDDIN OTHMAN

Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman



2013. Prior to that, it last won the event in 2006.

The biennial national sports event was initially scheduled for July 11 to 19 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

On a separate matter, Mohd Khairuddin dismissed claims that the state administration has recently neglected to focus on other sports like football, sepak takraw and badminton, as it moved towards promoting e-sports when the movement control order started.

"We focused more on e-sports because of the conditional MCO (CMCO), which did

not allow physical activities to be conducted outdoors.

"Therefore, we encouraged the youth to participate in e-sports and avoid activities involving mass gatherings due to the restrictions. But since the CMCO has been lifted, things have gone back to what they were," he said.

The Federal government has announced the replacement of the CMCO with the recovery MCO, effective June 10 till Aug 31.

Sports activities have been allowed to resume under strict standard operating procedures as part of the new normal.

Athletes' training still on hold

KUALA LUMPUR - The national athletics squad is expected to wait until July to begin full training even though the government has allowed many sporting and recreational activities to resume under the recovery movement control order (RMCO).

The National Sport Council (MSN) is currently giving priority to the athletes under the Road to Tokyo (RTT) programme by closing the facilities in Bukit Jalil to other athletes until the special training camp ends on June 30.

National athletics chief coach Mohd Manshahar Abd Jalil said he would be holding a meeting with MSN soon to discuss a suitable date to resume training for all the other athletes as well as the standard operating procedure (SOP) required.

"For the time being, training has not started, (it) may have to

wait until the RTT special training camp in Bukit Jalil is over as they are conducting training under quarantine. We have to adhere to the complete procedure including obtaining the approval of the government, especially the National Security Council to start training.

"However, our athletes would continue to train on their own at suitable venues under the supervision of their respective coaches. The coaches would, in turn, send their training reports to me and MSN every week," he told Bernama on June 15.

The national athletics squad is made up of about 50 athletes including elite and junior athletes. Most of them undergo training at MSN, Bukit Jalil and the Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School.

All national athletes were told to vacate their hostel and return home before the MCO came into

force on March 18. Currently, only athletes preparing for the Olympics under the RTT programme have returned for training.

Most are based at Bukit Jalil, while the badminton squad is based in Bukit Kiara and the sailing team in Langkawi.

Asked if there have been proposals to hold training at alternative venues, Mohd Manshahar said many aspects have to be evaluated such as SOP, facilities and equipment as well as accommodation.

He expressed hope that the Covid-19 restrictions would end soon so that athletes can continue their training which has halted for three months.

"I hope the athletes will remain motivated and be ready to start full training as we are planning the best for them," he said. — Bernama

Selangor's virtual games prove a hit

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2020 programme continues to receive an overwhelming response with 82,694 registrations recorded since it was launched on May 4.

State Youth, Sports and Human Capital Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the Selangor administration remains committed to providing activities for the public, especially the youth, to participate in.

"The state government's role is to support the public's interests by providing them with a platform," he told *SelangorKini* when contacted on June 9.

The inaugural virtual event includes the Selangor Xtiv Virtual e-Sport, the Selangor Virtual Run as well as the Selangor Martial Art Xtiv with a total cash prize of RM431,000.

The online tournament, which aims to encourage youths to participate in beneficial activities during the movement control order period enforced on March 18, is carried out in eight phases and will end on Dec 31.



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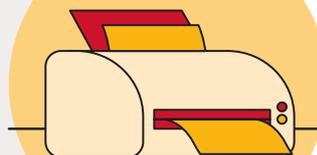
1



www.selangkah.my

Business owners can go to 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

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