



SELANGOR JOURNAL

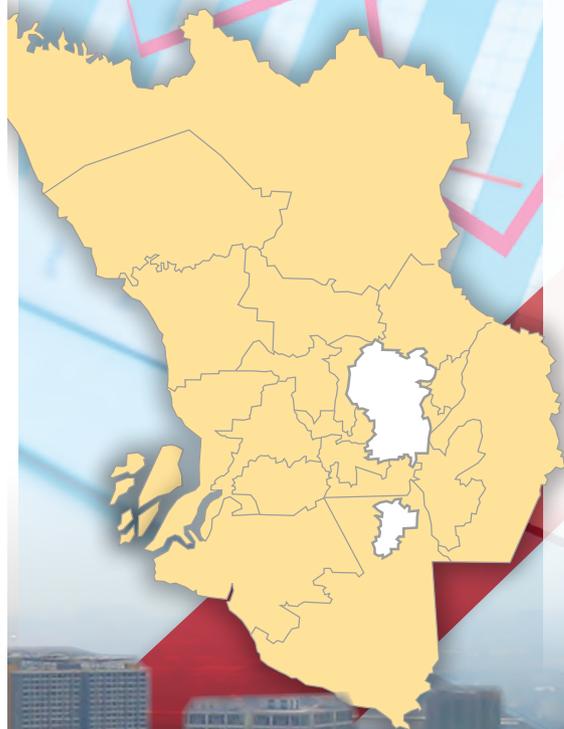
A RM55.8b panacea

SELANGOR Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has announced the state's economic recovery plan, which is also its third stimulus package, to mitigate the effects of the onslaught of Covid-19.

The plan is a continuation of the first and second stimulus package, which were revealed in March and April.

The three main thrusts of the recovery plan address the issues of food security, economic sustainability, and capacity building.

MORE ON PAGES **2 to 5**



RM50m to enhance food security

SHAH ALAM – Selangor has allocated RM50 million for the Food Security Programme, which outlines five key measures.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the programme is one of the Selangor administration's efforts to safeguard food security in the state, the latter being one of the three main points of focus to stimulate the state's economy.

The measures listed in the programme are namely, to expand agricultural areas, increase production activities, empower the Selangor Agriculture Development Corporation (PKPS), enhance agropreneur incentives and boost modern farming methods.

"PKPS will be the main force in moving the food security initiative forward, through



agricultural projects and by optimising the use of 300 acres of land," said Amirudin while tabling the Selangor economic recovery package during the State Legislative Assembly sitting here on July 13.

The state government has also intro-

duced the AgroData initiative to complement and balance the supply and demand of food products as well as to reduce dependence on imported goods.

Amirudin said 5,000 acres of land along the Selangor River network would be utilised under the initiative.

"This area has the potential to be developed as a warehouse to store food and agricultural products for Selangor and the Klang Valley," he said.

He said the initiative offers the use of technology through the agricultural business cycle, and the data collection of supply and demand will be conceptualised through high-tech farming and the Internet of Things.

Amirudin also gave the assurance that

the state's agriculture products will be vastly marketed, including in the rural areas, via the Selangor Digital e-Supply Chain (Seldec).

Effective digital platforms and delivery systems will help to strengthen the economy of the local people, he added.

"The entrepreneurs, especially those in the rural areas, now have the power to manage their own products and this will bypass the cartels' hold on the small farmers, which has caused many to not receive their fair share."

He said Seldec will collaborate with business development agencies, such as Koperasi Warga Hijrah Selangor Bhd, to bring entrepreneurs in rural areas closer to the digital platform ecosystems.



THRUST 1



THRUST 2



THRUST 3

FOOD SECURITY



SELANGOR AGRODATA



FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME
RM50m



SELANGOR DIGITAL
E-SUPPLY CHAIN (SELDEC)

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



RUMAH SELANGORKU
HARAPAN
IDAMAN
RM7.5b
& RUMAH IDAMAN
RM12b



WATER SUPPLY INDUSTRY
RM35.41b



SELANGOR
E-KITCHEN
RM12b



WAAQAF
INVESTMENT
RM50m



TOURISM SUBSIDY VOUCHERS
RM2m

CAPACITY BUILDING



SELANGOR KERJAYA
RM58m



DIGITAL
AMBASSADORS
RM3m



SELANGOR
INTERNET DATA
RM18m



RODA DARUL EHSAN
(RIDE) SCHEME
RM2m

Selangor sets stage for economic revival

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor administration has taken the first step on the road to recovery from the Covid-19 crisis by introducing the state's middle-term economic recovery plan.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has revealed Selangor's third economic stimulus package, with a total economic value of RM55.85 billion, as a continuation of the Selangor Cares Package to mitigate the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The recovery plan, themed "Strengthening People's Resilience, Stimulating State Prosperity", covers three thrusts, namely food security, economic sustainability, and capacity building.

"The implementation of the plan is to boost the economic resilience of the state to rebuild its economy after experiencing a sudden shock following the

Covid-19 pandemic, which has never been anticipated by any global economic expert," said Amirudin when presenting the plan at the State Legislative Assembly sitting on July 13.

Under the previously announced first phase of the Selangor stimulus package, financial aid was disbursed to those affected by the pandemic as well as the frontliners during the early stage of the movement control order (MCO), which was enforced nationwide on March 18.

Additional efforts were revealed in the second package to address the social and economic impacts. They included the Selangor Agro Market, e-Kitchen and Selangor Advance, to help the people adapt to the new normal.

Amirudin said the state government has spent RM260,144,464.54 million to

The plan is to boost the economic resilience of the state to rebuild its economy after experiencing a sudden shock following the Covid-19 pandemic, which has never been anticipated by any global economic expert

AMIRUDIN SHARI
Dato' Menteri Besar

benefit 3.5 million people in Selangor through the two economic stimulus packages, out of the total allocation of RM413.9 million.



WATER SUPPLY INDUSTRY

Total investment value of **RM35.41b** for the next 30 years

- Development projection for 2020 at **RM429m**
- Projection for 2021 at **RM3.2b**

Air Selangor will issue the **Air Selangor Sustainability Sukuk (Sukuk Kelestarian Air Selangor)** under the sustainable and responsible investment sukuk

- Islamic securities or sukuk issues with a total of **RM10b**
- Maturity range between 1 and 20 years

The Air Selangor Sustainability Sukuk will be **used to finance eco-friendly water infrastructure projects** at:

- **8 dams**
- **33 water treatment plants**
- **28,713 kilometres of water pipes**
- **1,577 reservoirs**
- **653 water pump houses**

State issues Islamic bonds under Air Selangor

By **AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK**

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor administration will issue the Air Selangor Sustainability Sukuk (Sukuk Kelestarian Air Selangor) as part of its RM35.41 billion plan to upgrade and enhance the state's water infrastructure in the next 30 years.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the RM10 billion Islamic securities or sukuk will be issued under Pengu-

rusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) with the maturity range of between 1 and 20 years.

"The income from the issuance of the Air Selangor Sustainability Sukuk will be used to finance eco-friendly water infrastructure projects such as upgrading existing water supply facilities. Eight water dams, 33 water treatment plants, 28,713 kilometres of water pipes, 1,577 reservoirs and 653 water pump houses stand

to benefit.

"Also, the investment would be used on new projects such as the Sungai Rasau water treatment plant and the Labohan Dagang Phase 2 water treatment plant.

"The total investment figure is estimated at RM35.41 billion for 30 years. The development projection for 2020 is at RM429 million and for 2021, at RM3.2 billion," said Amirudin while tabling the state economic recovery plan during the

State Legislative Assembly sitting here on July 13.

The issuance of the sukuk is part of Air Selangor's short (3 years) and long (30 years) term business plan, as the sole holder of the license to supply water in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

"Air Selangor leads in the joint effort to enhance and strengthen the water supply industry to be on par with those in developed countries," he added.

Tourism SELANGOR

TOURISM SUBSIDY VOUCHERS



TOURISM SUBSIDY VOUCHERS WORTH **RM2M** TO BE DISBURSED TO HOTELS, LICENSED HOMESTAYS, AND THEME PARKS



RM600,000 ALLOCATED FOR A **SPECIAL ONE-OFF RM1,000** INCENTIVE TO BE DISBURSED TO WORKERS IN THE TOURISM SECTORS

Property market gets a boost

SHAH ALAM – Housing and infrastructure have been given emphasis by the state government, as it plans to stimulate property development and ensure better infrastructure management.

A total incentive of RM7.5 billion has been allocated for the development of the Rumah Selangorku Harapan affordable housing, which allows developers to amend the type of housing to a minimum of 1,000 square feet with a selling price of no more than RM250,000 per unit.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the incentive aims for 30,000 more houses to be developed within the next three years.

"The developer can amend the terms of Rumah Selangorku for types A, B, C, or D to Rumah

Selangorku Harapan with a minimum area of 1,000 square feet and a maximum selling price of RM250,000 per unit, with basic amenities included," said Amirudin on July 13.

He said the incentive allows the state government to gain 3,000 more Rumah Selangorku units with property values exceeding RM750 million for free until 2023.

In addition to the affordable housing, Amirudin also revealed the Rumah Idaman incentive with an economic value of RM12 billion, in collaboration with Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI), which aims to develop 48,000 units in the period of five years for the B40 and M40 groups.

"This housing project does not only resolve the homeownership issues for the B40 and



M40 groups but it would also contribute to the state's economic growth, such as creating jobs for the people."

Amirudin said the state government is also offering the Smart Sewa to Ownership Scheme (2Stay) in two phases, either via the maximum rental of five years or through the Rent to Own programme.

He said the programme will help the B40 group to own a property that is priced at no more than RM200,000.

One-off cash aid for tourist operators

SHAH ALAM – A special one-off RM1,000 incentive will be disbursed to workers in the tourism sectors, with a total allocation of RM600,000.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the cash incentive is applicable to tourist operators, homestay managers and community hosts.

"The state government has also agreed to disburse tourism subsidy vouchers worth RM2 million to hotels, licensed homestays, community hosts and theme parks," he said on July 13.

The tourism industry was put on pause for three months following the enforcement of the movement control order on March 18, which also saw the closing of the country's borders and restrictions on interstate travels.

Tourism activities and travelling between states was allowed beginning June 10, which then opened up opportunities for hoteliers to operate.

Meanwhile, Amirudin also revealed that a substantial allocation has been made to address poverty and lower general costs of living for the urban poor.

A total of RM50 million will be invested via the Waaqaf Investment initiative through a syariah compliant mechanism and disbursed to 1,000 targeted entrepreneurs via the Perbadanan Wakaf Selangor, with a total sales value of RM12 million.

"Implementing a waqaf investment method will address the issue of urban poverty and reduce the burden of high costs of living as well as eliminate household debt," said Amirudin.

e-Kitchen here to stay

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor government's e-Kitchen initiative will be expanded to include retail, restaurants, pharmacies and products made by the people of Selangor.

The Selangor e-Kitchen initiative has helped 133 entrepreneurs with a total recorded sales of RM1.5 million," said Amirudin during the tabling of the



Selangor economic recovery package.

The package showcased three core aspects of the state's recovery efforts: food security, economic sustainability, and capacity building.

A drive to digitise all operations will help to ensure that all e-kitchen entrepreneurs have greater market reach.

ADVISOR: Editorial Advisory Board
GROUP EDITOR: Fathi Aris Omar
EDITOR: Ida Nadirah Ibrahim
SUB EDITOR: Nur Anis Audrey Ong

MARKETING & ADVERTISING:
Nadhrah Azlan nadhrah@mediaselangor.com
Syahir Khadri syahir@mediaselangor.com
PHOTOGRAPHER: Asri Sapfie, Raheemie Arifin,
Hafiz Othman & Fikri Yusof
GRAPHIC & LAYOUT: Graphics Department CCSB

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



Plans to upskill, reskill the workforce

By NUR AISHAH MOHD AMIN

SHAH ALAM – Selangor Kerjaya (Selangor Jobs) aims to benefit 10,000 people in the state who lost their job due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri Amirudin Shari said the Selangor Kerjaya retraining programme will cost the state RM58 million

and will be implemented for three years.

“Through Selangor Kerjaya, a profiling system and database that takes into account the preferences, characteristics, competency and workforce skills in Selangor, we will be able to match job seekers with industry demands and fill up posts as well as manage Selangor talents more accu-

rately,” he said.

Amirudin said this at the tabling of the state economic recovery plan during the State Legislative Assembly sitting here on July 13.

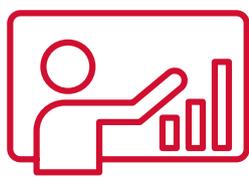
He added that those who join the programme will be given training on new skills, as well as upskilled and reskilled to meet demands, in line with Industrial 4.0.



**SELANGOR KERJAYA
RM58M**



TO PROVIDE A PROFILING DATABASE THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE PREFERENCES, CHARACTERISTICS, COMPETENCY AND WORKFORCE SKILLS OF JOB SEEKERS



TO TRAIN AND RETRAIN **10,000** PEOPLE IN THE STATE, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO LOST THEIR JOBS, FOR THREE YEARS IN LINE WITH INDUSTRIAL 4.0



**SELANGOR DIGITAL AMBASSADORS
INITIATIVE RM18 MILLION**

ESTIMATED TO BENEFIT **40,000** RECIPIENTS IN THE STATE



COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND TELCO COMPANIES TO SUPPORT SELANGOR'S DIGITALISATION INITIATIVE IN ORDER TO MEET ITS SMART STATE VISION BY 2025



AFFORDABLE INTERNET ACCESS



UNLIMITED INTERNET ACCESS



BETTER INTERNET CONNECTIVITY FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN RURAL AREAS, WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS, AND THE B40 GROUP

Digital opportunities for all

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor government aims to leave no one behind in its quest to become a digital-savvy state.

Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri Amirudin Shari said RM3 million has been allocated for the Digital Ambassadors Initiative to build a tech-savvy nation, and to target groups such as senior citizens, through both private and public learning institutions, NGOs, and Team Selangor.

“The Covid-19 situation has opened up opportunities for the global population to go digital.

This initiative will help the target groups to have more access to the digital socio-economy,” he said when presenting the economic recovery plan on July 13.

The state has also allocated RM18 million to the Selangor Internet Data Initiative that will ensure better connectivity for some 40,000 people.

“The initiative has several objectives. It aims to provide affordable internet access to ensure that the state’s digitalisation efforts can benefit everyone.

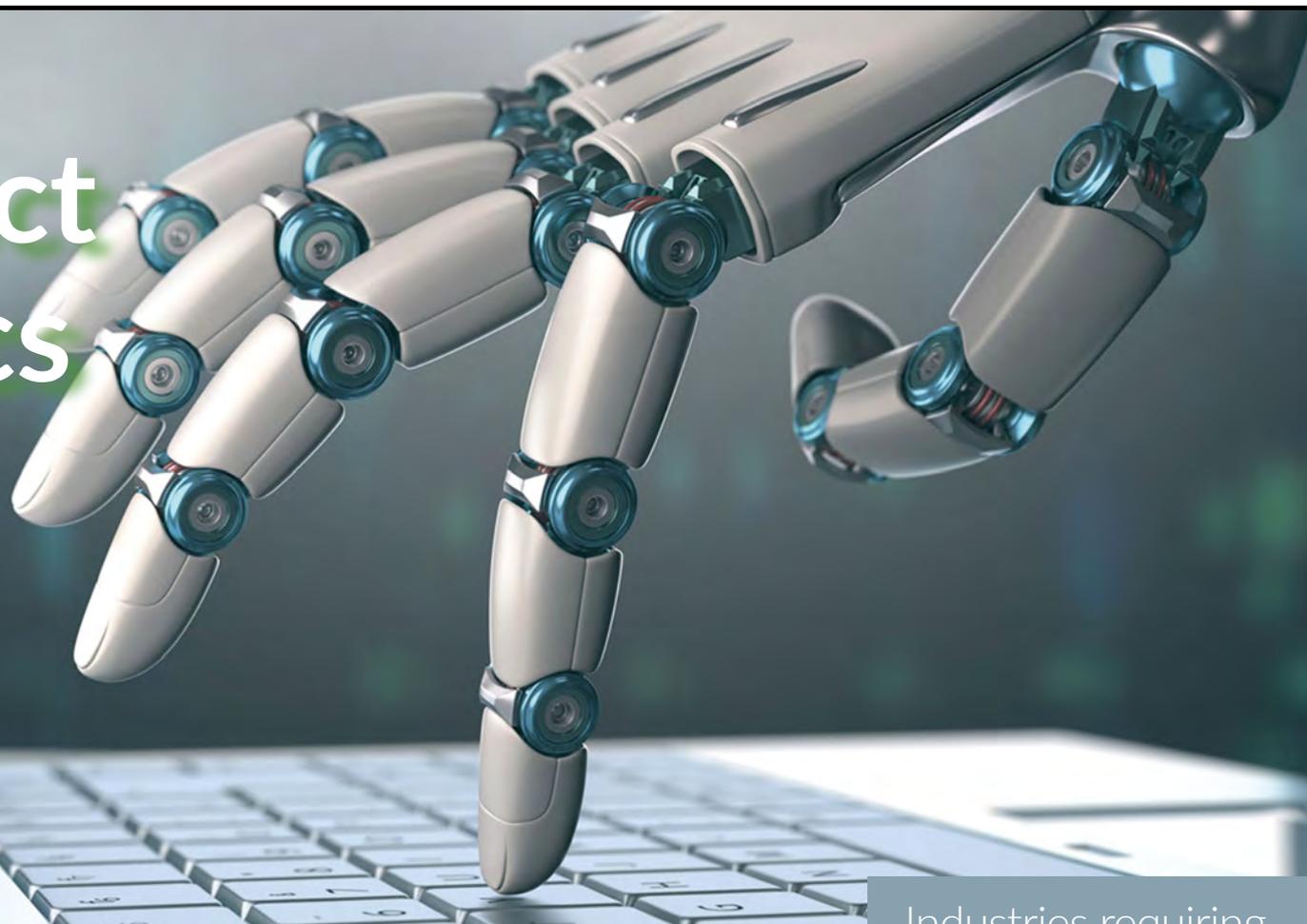
“It also aims to offer unlimited internet access to the people, especially to students and teachers in rural areas, to women entrepreneurs, and to those in the B40 group.”

Meanwhile, Amirudin said additional funds of RM1 million will be allocated to the Roda Darul Ehsan (RiDE) scheme, bringing the total to RM2 million.

The scheme provides subsidies to 3,000 youths between the ages of 17 and 30 who are taking the B2 motor licence.



The impact of robotics and the future of work



By JAY JAY DENIS

WE are suffering now from a bad attack of economic pessimism.

Not my words, but the words of John Maynard Keynes when he wrote *The Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren* in 1930.

Looking a century ahead 90 years ago, Keynes said humanity was struggling to chart a bright future as the global economy was still in the thick of The Great Depression.

Ninety years on, that first line is truer than ever.

The Covid-19 crisis is this generation's Greatest War and we are not out of the woods yet.

To have some semblance of normal activity, we have seen the acceleration of digitisation of our daily lives; in buying and selling food, in operating a restaurant and in delivering and receiving goods.

While this has given hope that prosperity in a post-Covid-19 life is possible, governments around the globe have not begun to address the biggest question of our times: unemployment caused by the increasing dependency on software and machines, or “technological unemployment”, as Keynes put it.

Robots will replace around 20 million jobs around the world by 2030, UK-based firm Oxford Economics studied.

And the most severely displaced jobs will be in manufacturing, as each new robot will wipe out 1.6 jobs done by human beings.

However, it will be a double whammy as workers who are replaced in manufacturing and get a new job in transport, construction, maintenance and administra-

tion work face the next automation risk.

And the countries most at risk are the ones having people with a lower skillset or where workers do more repetitive jobs.

Industries requiring more human elements like compassion, care, creativity and social intelligence will be more resistant to automation until that one day when the combination of software and hardware is able to completely replace human beings.

Now, automation isn't a bad thing. Personally, I think it is a prerequisite to achieving humanity's ultimate goal; a better quality of life for us and the generation to come.

However, the only polity in a position to govern for all — the haves and have nots — is the government.

Companies investing in automation do it for two reasons; to increase production, and to reduce their costs of hiring workers.

A machine replacing a human being does not need lunch breaks, rest, medical benefits, social security insurance or compensation when a company decides to fire a worker. Neither will that machine be part of a union to demand a higher salary at the end of the year.

Ultimately, most companies operate on the notion that it must have enough liquidity and boost share prices because the salaries and bonuses of its board of directors is dependent on these two numbers.

However, if governments approach this vast level of unemployment with an approach of “you're on your own” economics, the social security system, pension funds and healthcare system will be unsustainable because an unemployed or bankrupt person cannot possibly partici-

pate in the economy.

That is precisely why it is prime time for Malaysia to start putting new ideas on the table to deal with a worker who has lost their job.

Today, the unemployment rate stands at 5.3 per cent, about 826,100 are without work in large part due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Regardless, that rate is only going to increase after the loan moratorium ends and people have to begin repaying their loans.

A considerable number of companies could also use this opportunity to go digital and replace their workers in an effort to cut down on costs as they weather the Covid-19 storm.

To deal with this, economists have proposed a Public Equity Fund outside the existing system of taxation, which will comprise a percentage of initial public offerings (IPOs) of tech companies to be placed as shares in this fund.

Profits from this fund can then be used to pay a universal basic dividend to workers, set aside budgets for retraining, relocation and job search allowances, wage insurance and continued healthcare benefits.

Now, at the start, this fund will, of course, be small but it can only increase over time and is a counter-proposal to a universal basic income which could be unsustainable as it is within the existing taxation system and can only increase if taxes go up.

And increasing taxes as we face a recession will lead to deflationary forces rising as people will reduce their spending, keeping whatever little they have left in their bank accounts.

Renowned economist Mariana Mazzu-

Industries requiring more human elements like compassion, care, creativity and social intelligence will be more resistant to automation until that one day when the combination of software and hardware is able to completely replace human beings

cato has mooted the idea of a green fiscal stimulus to put the government's money into green, clean technology which can reduce costs over the long run to consumers while also tackling climate change.

Ideas like this and others can go some way into ensuring that our economic future is optimistic, unlike the pessimism of the 1930s which led to the Second World War.

Ultimately, the choice is in our hands. Do we desire a Star Trek-like future where humanity and machines live in a mutualistic setting or let the current trajectory continue into a future similar to *The Matrix*, where human beings lead a rebellion against the machines?

My choice is clear.

Aerospace industry gets top priority



By **KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor economic recovery plan will be tabled soon to address the state's focus on growing the aerospace industry, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said an economic boost would ensure that the state would meet its target to become the main industry player in the global aerospace sector in 10 years' time.

"The Covid-19 outbreak and the implementation of the movement control order (MCO) had majorly impacted the aerospace industry in both the services and manufacturing sector.

"Even though a lot of the sectors have resumed operations, the recovery process is still slow. For example, many aircraft are still unable to fly and the number of passengers has dropped," Amirudin told *SelangorKini* after witnessing the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understand-

ing between Invest Selangor Berhad and the Malaysia Aerospace Industry Association, here on June 26.

Also present were Invest Selangor chief executive officer Datuk Hasan Azhari Idris and Naguib Mohd Nor, who represented the association.

Amirudin said the state government welcomes feedback from aerospace industry players from time to time in order to continue uplifting the sector.

Selangor has aimed 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.

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

Mustapa: Economy to turn around next year

PADANG BESAR - The country's economy, which is currently experiencing a contraction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, is expected to fully recover next year.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the government is focusing on efforts to boost economic growth and restoring the country to the pre-Covid-19 state of

affairs.

"We know that the country is still dealing with the (Covid-19) health crisis. However, almost all economic sectors have reopened; the retail sector is improving while the tourism sector has yet to strengthen.

"We hope the domestic tourism sector will expand in the next one or two months," he said to reporters after visiting the Chup-

ing Valley Industrial Area here on July 2.

Also present was Northern Corridor Implementation Authority chief executive Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John.

Mustapa said that the government had played a major role in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis, stabilising the situation and subsequently moving towards recovery.

He added that the government is not only focusing on economic recovery efforts, it is also planning for economic growth.

"We had to deal with a serious economic crisis in the first quarter of 2020, with economic growth at only 0.7 per cent, and this will contract even further in the second quarter.

"As such, the government has announced three total econom-

ic stimulus packages totalling RM295 billion and it is a huge amount that has never been spent in handling such a crisis before," he said.

Mustapa said the banking institutions also contributed to the economic stimulus packages, stressing that the banking system had played a major role in helping the government. — Bernama

'Protecting livelihoods more crucial than ever'

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia's economy is projected to contract by 3.1 per cent in 2020 due to a sharp slowdown in business activities caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the country is expected to resume growth in 2021 at 6.9 per cent as the outbreak eases, said the World Bank.

"The near-term outlook, however, is unusually uncertain at present," the World Bank said in *Surviving the Storm*, the latest edition of the World Bank's Malaysia Economic Monitor, released on June 25.

"The pandemic, coupled with

a changing world of work also raises the need for a more enhanced social protection system in Malaysia," it said.

Aggregate investment contracted for the fifth consecutive quarter by 4.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 (Q1 2020), as compared to a contraction of 0.7 per cent in Q4 2019, with broad-based weaknesses in both private and public investment.

Due to weak external demand, Malaysia's exports of goods and services declined for a third consecutive quarter by 7.1 per cent in Q1 2020 (Q4 2019: -3.4 per cent), the largest

decline since the global financial crisis in 2009, according to the report.

Private consumption moderated to 6.7 per cent in Q1 2020, down from 8.1 per cent in Q4 2019, largely reflecting the substantial impact of Covid-19 and the movement control order on retail, travel, leisure, and recreational spending, and consumption of durable goods during the previous period.

World Bank Country Manager for Malaysia Firas Raad said important social protection measures were needed to help vulnerable Malaysians survive the

current economic storm and thrive in a new post-pandemic reality.

"Protecting livelihoods is important so that those who have lost their jobs and businesses are able to get back on their feet and contribute to Malaysia's economic recovery," he said.

The report has recommended that government efforts in the near-term focus on supporting relief and recovery efforts by deepening social assistance for lower-income households, improving the delivery of social protection programmes, and promoting job recovery.

As the recovery continues, further rounds of cash transfers will remain vitally important to mitigate acute financial strains among the most vulnerable groups in the Malaysian society, and to support domestic consumption and human capital development.

Over the medium and long term, support for lower-income groups can be gradually expanded to ensure that Malaysia's social protection system provides a minimum level of safeguarding to all households and individuals in need. — Bernama



By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

THE move to allow nearly all sectors of the economy to resume operations on May 1 was vital for kick-starting businesses. People started crowding supermarkets, visiting shopping malls and traffic jams were commonplace again.

The economy had to be rebooted; life had to go on. Yet, Covid-19 was still among us, lurking as double-digit cases in pockets of the society during the conditional movement control order period.

Selangor had taken the lead to introduce a simple yet effective method of contact tracing – a mechanism called SELangkah – that has now reached a total of 5.9 million users in the state since it was first introduced on May 5.

The initiative, which was formulated by Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 member Dr Helmi Zakariah, acts as a preventive measure to detect the transmission of the virus before it is able to spread further within the community.

Dr Helmi said the only crucial information needed in the contact tracing tool is the phone numbers of people, in order to determine the link of infections.

“How SELangkah is different is, instead of measuring the number of active cases, you are measuring the number of cases that may potentially happen before they actually do,” said Dr Helmi in a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*.

“Step in Safely”

Dr Helmi, who has been introduced as the brain behind SELangkah by Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri Amirudin Shari, said the contact tracing system was simplified to ease the process for both the users and the owners of business premises.

Since the only information required are phone numbers, users do not need to worry about a breach of data privacy. They will instead have the assurance that a preventive measure is in place, hence the tagline “Step In Safely”.

“In contact tracing, it isn’t really about how big your data lake is, but how efficient the system is to sift through the massive amount of data to find the interlinkage between individuals.

“This technology is by no means perfect, and neither is it the most precise – but this is exactly the part where we can’t let perfection destroy a good enough innovation,” he said.

Dr Helmi said recent figures on the use of SELangkah show that it has received a good acceptability rate.

Citing an Oxford University study published on April 16, Dr Helmi said an e-tracing ecosystem can be referred to as statistically effective if it is utilised by 60 per cent of the population.

“Our most recent figure shows that 5.9 million people in Selangor have joined the ecosystem,

which has insofar generated about 60 million logs across 270 000 premises.

“From this perspective – the population of Selangor is about 6.2 million, to compare with the 5.9 million uptakes I cited earlier – we can satisfyingly say that at least in Selangor, SELangkah has reached a statistical threshold for it to be a useful e-tracing ecosystem.”

Dr Helmi said in terms of performance, a total

of 1,208 contacts have been generated from 225 Covid-19 patients.

Only health professionals are allowed to do the human aspect of contact tracing, and to date, 321 business premises have been alerted to conduct in-house sanitisation.

“If I were to speculate, the very fact we were able to identify 225 patients showed that we were able to prevent a potentially bigger outbreak of

SELangkah: Keeping the people safe every step of the way



The message we want to give is that when a person sees the SELangkah poster at a particular place, he or she will say: This place is safe.

Dr Helmi Zakariah

SELANGOR TASK FORCE FOR COVID-19 MEMBER

up to 3.5 times more patients, based on the reproductive rate of the coronavirus at that point of the pandemic,” he said.

Improving on inclusivity

Dr Helmi said SELangkah was formed to include all levels of the community and is being improved over time to ensure that the contact tracing procedure is able to reach inside communities.

He said the concept of scanning the QR code using the camera in a smartphone is the easiest method to start off with, in comparison to having to download a separate application.

“Through SELangkah, we are measuring how many people would get infected. And we were able to achieve this by learning from other sectors. The approach used is the same as the ones people use in the retail and micro economy sectors.

“Therefore, we have taken the steps to ensure inclusivity, which is going back to basics and relying on something that most people have (the smartphone). The simplicity of data makes it inclusive and the technology should benefit everyone,” said Dr Helmi.

Dr Helmi said the contact tracing system has recently introduced the option to submit data via SMS for those who have a mobile phone that is not a smartphone.

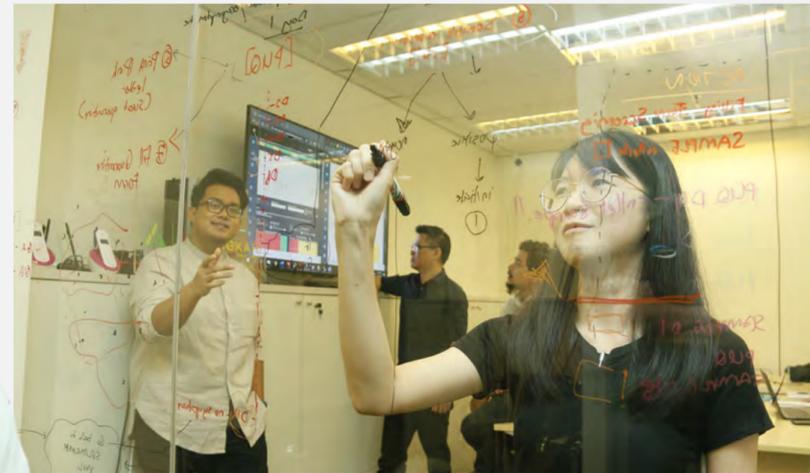
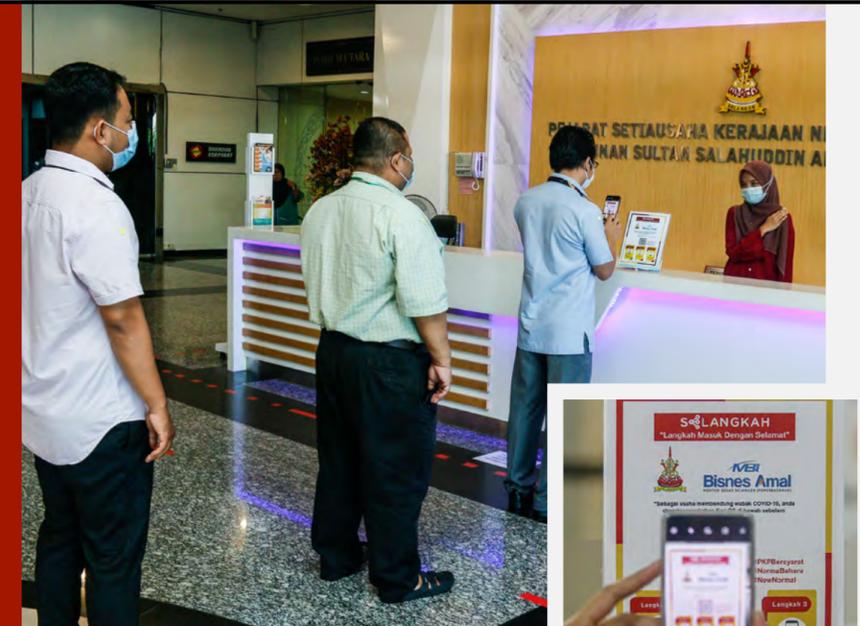
“We are also looking into providing the option for shops or premises to be able to key in the manually logged data from their customers or visitors into the digital system ... but this is something that has to be thought through thoroughly.

“The method of registration is important. If we turn the system into a phone app, that would be limited. The picture that we captured from SELangkah and Covid-19 is that many of those that are at risk are in the B40 group ... they do not have the leisure of social distancing,” he said.

Dr Helmi said SELangkah is also fully compliant with the advisory under the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA).

Moving forward

Dr Helmi said SELangkah was initially developed to only be used in Selangor, but the technology has since been offered to other states in the coun-



FROM TOP

It has become a new normal for people to scan the SELangkah QR code before entering a public place

Dr Helmi (left) and his team brainstorming ideas at the SELangkah operation centre

Dr Helmi shows how data is collected and stored into the SELangkah system

try as contact tracing cannot be limited by state lines. Each state now has its own access to the data collected via the system.

“We wouldn’t want SELangkah to be the only contract tracing system because when you have centralised data, everyone will rely on that one system. If the system crashes, there will be no backup,” said Dr Helmi, explaining that having different systems, such as the Federal’s MySejahtara app, would prevent the data from being monopolised.

Dr Helmi advised the public to continue using the contract tracing system in efforts to curb Covid-19 from spreading, and urged business premises to give emphasis to the system.

“Our message to the people is that a second wave is coming, and we have to make sure that we have done everything we can to prepare for this.

“If you are a business owner, provide the SELangkah QR code at your premises, and if you are a customer, insist that the business owner displays the SELangkah system. We would like to tell the people that we are in this together.

“The message we want to give is that when a person sees the SELangkah poster at a particular place, he or she will say: This place is safe.”

Smoking, drinking now banned at all parks

SHAH ALAM – Selangor has announced a ban on smoking, vaping and drinking at all playgrounds and recreational parks throughout the state with immediate effect.

State Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han said the ban came into force after the state government approved amendments to the Selangor Local Councils Park Bylaw 2005.

“The Selangor government has added drinking, smoking and vaping to the list of offences.

“Previously, the list did not include drinking and smoking as a



prohibited activity,” he told reporters here on July 14.

Ng said this made Selangor the first state to ban drinking, smoking

and vaping at playgrounds and recreational parks.

Local authorities in Selangor have been instructed to monitor these places and anyone caught committing an offence can be fined RM1,000.

“For the comfort and health of visitors — in particular children and senior citizens — to carry out activities especially post-Covid-19, it is time for us to ban drinking and smoking at playgrounds and recreational parks.

“The public is encouraged to be the eyes and ears of the local authorities and report any offenders,” he said. — Bernama

More land for food crops

KLANG - The Selangor government will gazette more land for agriculture purposes in the next three months to ensure food security and sustainability for the country.

State Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman Izham Hashim said his committee is identifying and collecting information relating to the matter as some of the lands are owned by subsidiaries of the state administration, the Agriculture Department and District and Land Offices, while some others are abandoned.

“Some of the lands has been gazetted but we want to ensure we

have enough to be used for agriculture and secured for the future.

“The Covid-19 outbreak, which led to the enforced movement control order, has taught us that we must give special attention to the agriculture and food industry aside from development,” he told a press conference at the Meru Agriculture Office, here, on July 8.

Izham said all land marked for agriculture will be sectioned and categorised based on the suitable greens to be planted as underlined in the Selangor Agro Transformation Plan.

“The state permanent committee on agriculture has identified 12 types of plants that are suitable

based on consumer demand as well as those that would be able to drive the local economy. This is also to encourage more youths to venture into agriculture and thus reduce the country's dependence on imported food,” he said.

Earlier, Izham presented financial aid worth RM385,500 to 948 farmers to ease their burdens.

The state government has allocated a total RM1.5 million under its second economic stimulus package, the Selangor Cares Package 2.0, to help farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen affected by the enforcement of the movement control order.

No new malaria cases

SHAH ALAM – The malaria outbreak reported in Ampang is under control as no new infections have been recorded to date, says state executive councillor Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud.



The State Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Committee chairman said the prompt action by the Hulu Langat Health District Office in conducting blood tests for 3,017 individuals in the area has helped to contain the disease.

“The public do not have to worry as the health agency has taken action, including eliminating standing water at construction sites.

“Preventive measures against the disease have also been extended to the nearby housing area. Residents have been advised against doing outdoor activities at night to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes,” she told *SelangorKini* on July 10.

Previously, 14 malaria cases were detected in Ampang, involving 13 foreign workers and one Malaysian citizen.

The infection was traced back to an Indonesian construction worker at the Sungai Besi-Klang highway, who got sick in his home country.

On June 26, the Health Ministry announced that all patients have fully recovered from the disease. The first case of the outbreak was detected on May 20 and the last, on June 12.

Soil-free solutions for urban farmers

SHAH ALAM - Aquaponic and hydroponic systems, which are methods of farming without the use of soil, will be introduced to community farmers in urban areas in an effort to increase food production.

State Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman Izham Hashim said farmers in urban areas should embrace modern techniques to generate higher returns.

“The aquaponic system requires minimal space. Only one-fourth of an acre is needed to produce high-quality fish and plants,” he told *SelangorKini* when discussing the benefits of the method that combines the cultivation of aquatic organisms and plants in an integrated system.

“The same goes for the hydroponic system, where vegetables can be planted indoors or under roofed areas. Soil and weather conditions would not be a problem as the planting method uses water and environmentally-friendly fertilisers,” he said.

Izham said his committee is not only ready to give support and advice to urban farmers, but also plans to provide them with organic fertilisers to boost the quality of their crops.



Sultan regrets attitude of those ignoring SOP



SHAH ALAM – The Selangor Palace has issued a statement voicing the Ruler's concerns over the people's indifference to the standard operating procedure (SOP) created to combat Covid-19.

Signed by the Selangor Palace, the statement conveys Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah's warning of a risk of a second surge of the virus if the people continue to be complacent.

Carrying a direct message from the Sultan, the statement read:

"I would like to express my concern and worries about the current situation. Many, particularly the people of Selangor, are found to have been neglecting the standard operating procedure that has been set to curb the spread of Covid-19.

"My own observation found that the people are no longer adhering to the guidelines, such as wearing the protective face mask when in public or keeping

a social distance.

"I would like to remind all citizens to continue being disciplined and to keep on wearing protective face masks, cleaning their hands by using sanitisers or soap, and maintain a social distance of at least one metre. If you are unwell, do not go out in public.

"I do not wish to see the people living through hardship or be in situations where the risk of contracting the virus is very high. It would result in the loss of lives."

Sultan Sharafuddin also reminded the people to appreciate the sacrifices made by those in the frontlines, especially the healthcare workers, and to not further impose on them.

His Royal Highness stressed that as long as a vaccine for Covid-19 has yet to be developed, the people must continue to regard the SOP as the best method to keep the infection under control.

Target testing sped up intervention: Exco

SHAH ALAM - In Selangor, 18 of the 24 deaths due to Covid-19 involved patients with underlying health conditions, said the state health exco.

Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said nine of the deceased had suffered from high blood pressure, six had diabetes, two had heart problems and one had cancer.

"The victims who suffered from these symptoms could not overcome the virus.

"This is why the state government took the direct approach in conducting Covid-19 tests at the homes of the target groups, which are the elderly, to contain the spread of the virus," said Dr Siti Mariah when answering an oral question from Hulu Kelang assemblyman Saari Sungib at the State Legislative Assembly sitting here on July 15.

Meanwhile, the State Health, Welfare, Women and Family Empowerment Committee chairman said that Selangor's population density is the reason behind the state recording among the highest number of Covid-19 cases in the country.

She said if the comparison was made based on the ratio of people and the number of cases of the disease, Selangor would not be seen to have been severely affected.

"There are about 6.5 million people and areas like Petaling record a high number of cases because of the high number of population.

"Previously, there was also a phase when Selangor had the third-highest number of Covid-19 cases behind Putrajaya and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur," she said.

The Seri Serdang state assemblyman was responding to a question by Bukit Antarabangsa state representative Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali on the high number of Covid-19 cases in Selangor.



During the tabling of the Selangor economic recovery plan on July 13, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari invited all members of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly to give a standing ovation to all Covid-19 frontliners for their dedication in answering the call of duty. The lawmakers rose to their feet to show their appreciation for the immense contributions and sacrifices made to contain the virus

Traders urged to join Seldec's e-marketplace

By AFIX REDZUAN

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Digital e-Supply Chain (Seldec) aims to create 7,800 jobs in various sectors by 2025, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said the online marketplace has 395 entrepreneurs registered so far and has received an overwhelming response, especially among youths who have recently lost their jobs.

"This programme helps entrepreneurs, particularly those in the rural areas, to improve on their socio-economic condition and also provides them with training and knowledge on the digital marketing system.

"We are targeting to have at least 1,000 entrepreneurs registered (with the programme) in three years' time," said Amirudin

during the launch of the Seldec online portal and the Seldec Rider application at the Selangor State Secretariat building here on June 24.

The platform also offers courier service across the state via Seldec Rider.

"A total of 100 people have registered (under Seldec Rider) and the number will increase as we are planning to set up more collection hubs and delivery coverage areas in the state," he added.

Seldec, which is spearheaded by the Selangor Industrial Corporation Sdn Bhd, connects businesses and customers in real-time via their website at www.seldec.com.my.

Among the items on sale include fresh produce, frozen foods, supplements and clothing.



Seldec Riders showcase the delivery backpacks after the launch of the Seldec online portal and the Seldec Rider application at the Selangor State Secretariat building on June 24

Medical tourism to boost visitor numbers

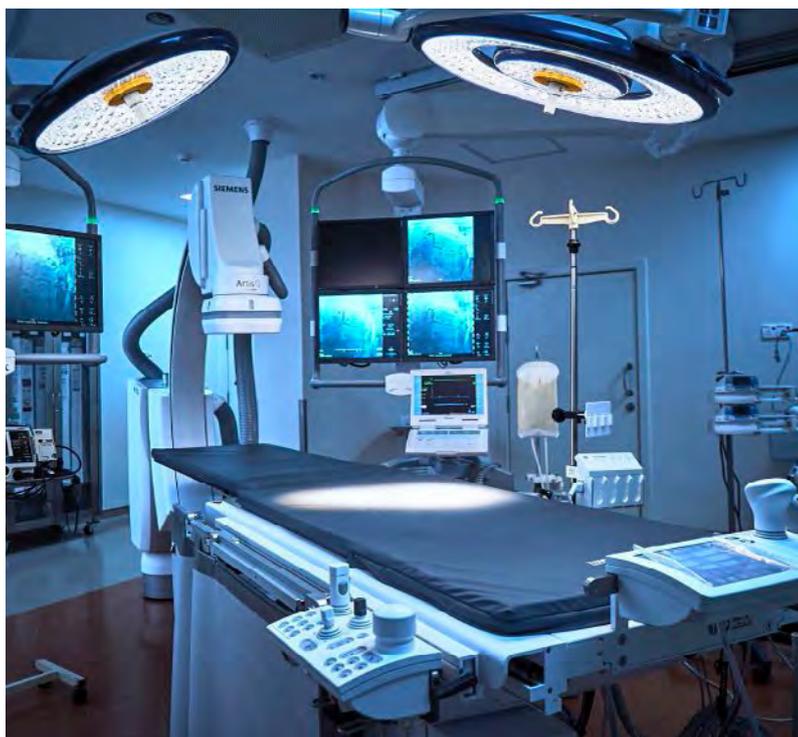
SHAH ALAM - The reopening of the country's borders for medical purposes is a major boon for Selangor as the state has more than 20 hospitals listed under the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC).

Tourism Selangor general manager Azrul Shah Mohamad said the announcement has spurred them to focus on the medical tourism sector to uplift the state's economy during the recovery movement control order period.

"Among the hospitals registered with MHTC are KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital, Metro Women's Hospital, Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital, Columbia Asia Hospital - Puchong, Prof Muhaya Eye & Lasik Centre and Avisena Specialist Hospital.

"Therefore we are confident that the state government's new target via Tourism Selangor to get six million tourists this year can be achieved," Azrul told *SelangorKini* on June 23.

In February, Azrul said records show that 142,000 Indonesian



tourists had entered Selangor for medical purposes between January and September last year.

Meanwhile, the number of patients seeking treatment in Selangor rose to 240,000 in 2018, compared to 135,000 in 2015.

On June 16, Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced that the entry of foreigners into the country for medical purposes is now allowed but they must register with MHTC.

State sets goals to protect its forests

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has made plans to increase the total area of forest reserve in the state to 35 per cent in five years' time as part of the state's long-term goal, says state executive councillor Hee Loy Sian.

The State Environment, Green Technology, Science and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman said a short-term plan would be to ensure that the land mass for forest reserves in Selangor does not fall below 30 per cent.

At present, the estimated land mass for forest reserves in the state is 250,207 hectares, which stands at 31 per cent.

"(The long-term plan) will see the increase in forest reserve areas by 2025, which includes natural forests, peat swamp forests and mangrove forests.

"As for degazetted forest reserves used for development, and the construction of transmission lines, highways and pipelines, they will be replaced with new forest areas of equal mass or more," he told *SelangorKini* on June 24.

Hee said the existing Selangor National Forestry Act (Adoption) (Amendment) Enactment 1985 is adequate in protecting the environment.

"However, we will make improvements from time to time while keeping the focus on matters such as the forest service charge, violations under the specific legislative provisions and imposing penalties for breach of license terms or regulations," he said.

Attention will also be given to other issues like cross-border trade or crime and money laundering in the forestry or timber-based industries in order to safeguard the forest reserves in Selangor.

Klang River showing signs of better health

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) project to rehabilitate the Klang River has been successful in improving the water quality of the river, elevating it from a class four rating to a class three.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government is optimistic that the water quality of the river, considered as among the most polluted in the country, could improve to a class two soon if the SMG project run by Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) is implemented well.

"During the movement control order, the Klang River had already shown positive signs (of recovery) and that was a good development.

"The state government now plans to develop the banks of the river and we believe this will also benefit Selangor economically," he told reporters here on July 2.

Amirudin said a comprehensive guideline will be drawn up for all future projects on the banks of the river so that these projects can be carried out without affecting the quality of the water.

Earlier, he presented prizes to the winners of the "SMG Water You Doing? Show Us Your Art" competition at a ceremony held at the Selangor State Secretariat building, here.

The competition, held in April and organised by LLSB, had attracted 120 comic strip



submissions where participants were required to reflect on the state of the country's rivers.

Danial Asyraf Zulkifli, 22,

from Kuala Terengganu, bagged first prize and was awarded RM2,000 while second and third place went to Yasmin

Nadhira Nasharuddin, 20, and Amir Faiz Zahib, 23, who took home RM1,000 and RM500, respectively. — Bernama

Celebrations in store for Subang Jaya

SHAH ALAM - Subang Jaya will change its status from a municipality to a city on Oct 20 as it has received the consent from Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) president Noraini Roslan said Subang Jaya has been a municipality for 22 years since 1997.

"Thankfully, MPSJ has received the consent from the Selangor Sultan and Oct 20 will be the date of the enforcement of the Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ)," she said during the council's full board meeting on June 24.

Last December, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had announced Subang Jaya's city status after the state government received the approval from the Ministry of

Housing and Local Government.

Apart from MPSJ, the Kuala Langat local authority too, has been upgraded from district council to municipal council status.

Subang Jaya will be the third city in Selangor after Petaling Jaya and Shah Alam.

The Petaling Jaya City Council achieved its status in 2006 and the Shah Alam City Council in 2010.

Subang Jaya was carved out from the then Petaling Jaya District Council in 1997 and upgraded to become a municipal council.

Selangor has six other municipalities — Selayang, Ampang Jaya, Klang, Kajang, Sepang and Kuala Langat — and three district councils, namely Hulu Selangor, Sabak Bernam and Kuala Selangor.



Body cam deadline for council officers

SERDANG - The local authorities in Selangor are given until the end of the year to equip their enforcement officers with body-worn cameras, says state executive councillor Ng Sze Han.

The state Local Government, Public Transportation and New Village Development Committee chairman said the use of body-worn cameras would improve the efficiency and integrity of the local authorities, especially in the event of unforeseen circumstances taking place while on duty.

"As of now, several local au-

thorities have begun using body-worn cameras, such as Petaling Jaya City Council, Ampang Jaya Municipal Council, and Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ).

"We are not making it compulsory for the enforcement officers to wear the cameras (now), but let's say a group of five officers are out on duty, (at least) one of them should be equipped with the camera," he told reporters after his visit to the Balakong industrial area on June 22.

Also present were Balakong state assemblyman Wong Siew

Ki and Bangi member of parliament Ong Kian Ming.

Ng added that the equipment is at an affordable price and that the local authorities can purchase them in phases.

In February, the Selangor government started to consider the need for surveillance cameras for enforcement officers out on duty.

This followed the circulation of a video showing a dispute between an MPSJ enforcement officer and an elderly man, reportedly taking place in USJ9, Subang Jaya, on Feb 13.

Bid for bag fee to carry more weight

SHAH ALAM - The Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) has proposed for the 20 sen per plastic bag initiative to be made a mandatory condition for all applications of business licenses next year.

Its Corporate Department director Mohamad Zin Masoad had suggested that the condition be included in the license bill, which would allow action to be taken if the terms are violated.

"This year we have spread awareness and promoted the initiative to all businesses so that it would be implemented fully in areas under the purview of MPS," he told SelangorKini when contacted on July 2.

Mohamad Zin said to date, a total of 127 business premises under the local council have registered for the programme.

"We hope this will help the

state government in creating a cleaner and healthier environment as well as in formulating a holistic sustainability programme," he added.

The Selangor government had given approval for the plastic bag fee to be collected through local authorities from Jan 1, this year.

The funds will be channelled to the state Trust Fund and used for environmental programmes.



Improving lives through education

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

Izham Hashim (IH): The composition of people is our strength. We have almost 50,000 voters in Pandan Indah and they come from various backgrounds. This opens up the opportunity for many of them to contribute to the economy via the food and beverage industry. Therefore, I plan out economic programmes or initiatives in accordance to their potentiality.

SJ: What would the main attraction be in Pandan Indah?

IH: I would say Pandan Indah is famous for its food. We have a few residential areas such as Taman Shamelin Perkasa, Pandan Jaya and Taman Maluri that are famous for their restaurants and hawker stalls. Whenever I visit Pandan Indah, I would explore the eateries and try out as many types of food as possible.

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

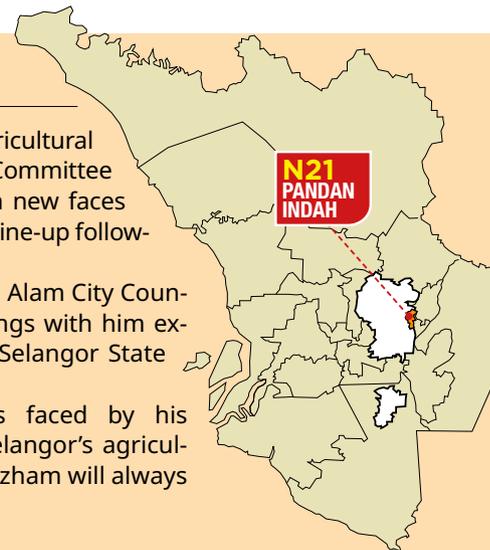
IH: Social problems are rife. I often have to solve matters relating to crime. I am not just talking about wayside robberies; we have problems relating to the distribution and abuse of drugs. This aside, we also have a number of low-cost apartments where the people are struggling to make ends meet. My Pandan Indah community service team has introduced some educational and awareness programmes

By ASHWIN KUMAR

Heading the Selangor Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee portfolio, Izham Hashim is one of the seven new faces who made up the Selangor executive council line-up following the General Election in 2018.

Having previously served as a councillor in the Shah Alam City Council and the Subang Jaya Municipal Council, Izham brings with him experience and a work ethic that is vital to the role of Selangor State Legislative Assemblyman for Pandan Indah.

Juggling between state affairs and the issues faced by his 49,063-strong electorate is no easy task. Although Selangor's agriculture and infrastructure are matters close to his heart, Izham will always make time for the people who need him most.



tribute positively to the economy and also benefit themselves.

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

IH: Upgrading facilities and infrastructures to create a comfortable life for the people of Pandan Indah has been an ongoing effort. I also emphasise a lot on the importance of community programmes. I attended several dialogue sessions with heads of houses of worship to remind them of their role in educating the people on the importance of living together harmoniously. Community programmes are the tool to keep the people informed about our duties and the state government's vision. During the movement control order, I was pleased that I was finally able to spend quality time with the people in Pandan Indah. I had ample time to learn about my voters and hear them out. My team and I delivered four tonnes of fish and 400 chickens to the needy families.

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

IH: I don't have a specific formula to address the issues faced by the Pandan Indah community. But to me, every issue must be tackled in a holistic way. I have been maintaining my service centre with 10 staff; six of whom are special officers who report to me specifically on the issues faced by the Pandan Indah people. And I always make sure that all plans related to community development in Pandan Indah are strategically executed.

in schools to remind the students of the importance of being on the right path. Proper and effective education is the only way to address this issue. I am also in the midst of conducting a comprehensive study on attracting the youngsters in my constituency to join online businesses or the e-commerce sectors. The youngsters are energetic and they should take up this opportunity so that they can con-

FROM TOP LEFT

Izham has a chat with a voucher recipient during the Jom Shopping Chinese New Year 2020 initiative

The residents of Kampung Setingan Pandan Jaya queue up to receive their food hampers during the Covid-19 outbreak

A boy is all smiles as he accepts a new school bag from Izham during the Back to School Programme 2020



Popular e-sport gets nod from NSC



“

This is a proud achievement and I wish to thank everyone who has worked hard in organising a beneficial activity that is in line with the needs of our youth

KHAIRUDDIN OTHMAN

Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman

By **KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2020 e-sport programme has received recognition from the National Sports Council (NSC) for recording 85,031 participants so far, said the state's sports exco.

Mohd Khairuddin Othman said Selangor is the only state that has ever organised a large-scale virtual video game competition and has even attracted participants from overseas.

"The foreign participants are from Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Japan, India and the United States. I believe this programme is beginning to grab people's attention.

"This is a proud achievement and I wish to thank everyone who has worked hard

in organising a beneficial activity that is in line with the needs of our youth," he said at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting here on July 14.

Mohd Khairuddin was speaking in reply to a question from Balakong assemblyman Wong Siew Ki on the activities that were organised during the movement control order and the efforts undertaken to empower the Local Youth Movement (PeBT).

The inaugural event features the Selangor Xtiv Virtual e-Sport, the Selangor Virtual Run and the Selangor Martial Art Xtiv, with prizes totalling RM431,000.

The competition, which spans eight phases, ends on Dec 31, and is aimed at encouraging the community, especially the youth, to stay active during the Covid-19 outbreak.



Selangor football players warm up for their first training session at the SUK field in Shah Alam on June 22

Back at training, but metres apart

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor football team is happy to be back on the pitch for practice even though the new norm disallows contact training.

Head coach B. Sathianathan said the Red Giants have gone through two training sessions since June 16 and have complied to the standard operating procedure provided by the Malaysia Football League (MFL).

"I am satisfied with the players' performance as many of them have maintained their body weight, and some have become more muscular from doing muscle-strengthening exercises.

"We will be focusing on defence such as dribbling, shooting and passing, starting from tomorrow," he said when contacted by *Selan-*

gorKini on June 24.

Sathianathan said all of the players are injury free and are prepared for training.

Three players, however, are exempted from training for the time being. They are Ifedayo Olusegun and Safuwan Baharudin, who are both in their respective homelands, and Khyril Muhymeen, who is on paternity leave.

Sathianathan, who is also the Football Coaches Association of Malaysia president, said the team is awaiting approval for full-contact practice sessions as this would involve technical training.

He believes that MFL chief executive officer Datuk Ab Ghani Hassan will make due consideration to allow full-contact training in the near future.

Track team gets set for August

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor track and field team taking part in the 20th Malaysia Games (Sukma) are expected to begin formal training by early August.

Coach Simon Lau said the athletes are currently training on their own based on the programmes that have been assigned to them and are monitored via video recording.

"For those who are living outside the city areas, some of their parents are worried about sending them for outdoor training sessions so we monitor their performance by video.

"We expect training on the running tracks to begin on July 22 or early August, depending on the developments during the recovery movement control order period," said Lau when contacted by *SelangorKini*.

Lau said Selangor plans to send 28 track runners to compete in Johor, and as of now, 19 athletes are qualified based on merit.

In the 2018 Sukma held in Perak, Selangor bagged eight gold medals, making them the overall champion for the track and field category after 20 years. Sukma is held biennially.



The state's long-distance track runners doing their exercise routines at the Kota Raja Stadium in Klang on July 4



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