



SELANGOR JOURNAL



THE Department of Statistics Malaysia has reported that Selangor leads in economic growth at 6.7 per cent, exceeding the national growth at 4.3 per cent. The state also retains its position as the leading contributor to the country's gross domestic product (GDP), with an achievement of 24.2 per cent in 2019.

With a high per capita GDP of RM54,807 last year, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the proud achievement shows that the state's revenue is strong and balanced, in line with the population growth.

Economic Success



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Exco seeks rehab for abusive husbands

SHAH ALAM - The State Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Committee chairman says abusive husbands should go for rehabilitation therapy to avoid repeated incidents of domestic violence.

Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said at present there is no jurisdiction that makes it mandatory for abusers to undergo therapy.

"In many of the cases, the ones that seek counselling services are the victims (wives) as they may experience stress or depression. However, husbands do not do anything to better themselves

from being abusive.

"If we do not take the steps to improve the situation, the wife will continue being a victim of abuse.

"Apart from lodging a police report, I hope there will be an act that can compel the husbands to go for rehabilitation. There have been too many repeated abuse cases after the husband persuaded and begged the wife (for reconciliation)," Dr Siti Mariah told *SelangorKini* on July 28.



On July 13, the state executive councillor said in collaboration with the Women's Aid Association, the emergency hotline for victims of abuse had received 361 calls in March, and 898 calls in April,

in comparison to the 266 received in January and the 250 in February.

During the movement control order enforced on March 18, Selangor had recorded 90 domestic violence cases.

Indigenous people not forgotten

By NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD

SHAH ALAM - A total of 5,941 indigenous people or Orang Asal in Selangor are to benefit from the state's second economic stimulus package, the Selangor Care Package 2.0, following the impact from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said that the Orang Asal are given due recognition and that the state gives particular attention to the welfare of the indigenous group.

"Those that would benefit include the people of the Temuan and Mahmeri tribes, and others in 74 villages.

"We should always remember the important role they play in shaping the identity and honour-



ing the spirit of Selangor Darul Ehsan," he said in conjunction with the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on Aug 9.

Selangor had in its economic stimulus package announced on

April 1 allocated RM297,050 to the state's Orang Asal community, benefitting 22,992 people.

The funds provide daily provisions like rice, flour, sugar, milk and cooking oil that amounts to RM50 per household.

Three areas picked for anti-drug trials

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has chosen three areas in the state to kickstart a project to address the problem of drug abuse.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said Petaling Jaya Selatan, Bagan Sungai Besar and Felda Hulu Selangor have been identified as the most suitable locations for the pilot project.

"These are the initial focus areas where we will not only ad-

dress the problem of addicts but also distributors and the entire drug network.

"Different methods will be used in these three areas. If any of the methods are successful, we will apply them to other areas as well," he said after chairing the State Government's Special Task Force meeting to address the drug problem in Selangor, here on July 22.

Amirudin, who is also the chairman of the Malaysian Drug Pre-

vention Association (Pemadam) in Selangor, said the three locations were selected last year based on the high number of drug cases recorded there.

"Although Selangor is the state with the lowest number of drug cases with a ratio of 200 people out of 100,000, we remain committed to curbing the problem.

"This effort requires cooperation from all agencies including the youths and students," he said.

PN no different from BN, says MB

AMPANG - The policies of the Perikatan Nasional (PN) government are becoming too much like those of the former Barisan Nasional (BN) administration, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Selangor PKR chief said the recent episodes of targeted attacks on journalists and members of the opposition party go against the spirit of reform and that PN has begun to pave the way for Umno and BN to return to power.

"Malaysia had jumped ahead 22 places in the World Press Freedom Index under the administration of the Pa-

katan Harapan government, but now the ranking has dropped.

"In the beginning, PN had claimed themselves as the government for the people but now it seems to be otherwise as they have stopped channelling allocations for the opposition representatives," said Amirudin at the PKR Information Convention held at the De Palma Hotel, here on July 26.

"PN will eventually be the puppet for Umno and BN. Come GE15, PN candidates may even use the Umno and BN logo and flags ... then we shall see," he said.



MediaSelangor

Selangor's media arm gets a new name

SHAH ALAM - The publisher of *SelangorKini*, *Selangor Journal* and *TV Selangor* is now known as Media Selangor Sdn Bhd after receiving approval from the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM).

The rebranding exercise is part of the company's efforts to strengthen its publishing operations.

The use of 'Selangor' in the company's name was officially approved by the Selangor State Executive Council in June before the application was submitted to SSM.

Formerly known as Communication Corporation Sdn Bhd (CCSB), the subsidiary of the Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI) was established more than 11 years ago as the official media of the state government.

Apart from the *Selangor-Kini* weekly newspaper and the *TV Selangor* online portal,

Media Selangor also publishes newspapers and operates news portals in Mandarin, Tamil and English.

"Along with the change of the company's name, Media Selangor also introduced a new logo to standardise the company's identity. This is part of the company's rebranding exercise to give a new lease of life to the Media Selangor team," said its chief executive officer Mohamed Fareed Mohamed Ashaaree.

In addition to the change, all Media Selangor publications will also use new mastheads soon.

The company currently employs 80 staff members and is committed to producing high-quality content.

For the latest news on Selangor, visit selangorkini.my, selangorTV.my, selangorjournal.my, selangorkini.my/zh-hans/ (Mandarin) and selangorkini.my/ta/ (Tamil).

Selangor achieves high GDP per capita

SHAH ALAM - Selangor recorded a high per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of RM54,807 last year, exceeding the national level at RM46,367.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the proud achievement shows that the state's revenue is strong and balanced, in line with the population growth.

"This is an indication that the productivity of the Selangor people is critical and vital in sustaining the Selangor economy.

"Take pride in this news, do

not forget to always work hard to improve ourselves," said Amirudin on Aug 12.

Five other states have also surpassed the national level: the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur (RM129,589), the Federal Territory of Labuan (RM77,800), Penang (RM55,062), Sarawak (RM53,230) and Melaka (RM49,052).

In 2018, Selangor recorded RM51,539 worth of GDP per capita.

Amirudin said the rapid economic growth factor made the state become the highest con-

tributor to the country's GDP last year with an achievement of 24.2 per cent compared to other states.

This is followed by the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur with 16.4 per cent, Sarawak (9.6 per cent), Johor (9.4 per cent), Penang (6.7 per cent) and Sabah (6.0 per cent).

"The high-impact and sustainable economic performance of the state during that year bore fruit and shaped the country's high-quality production output," he said.

Meanwhile, Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the rise in the state's contribution to the national GDP shows that Selangor has become more prominent in economic development.

He said although there will be challenging times ahead following the Covid-19 pandemic, the state administration is hopeful that it would be able to maintain a reasonable and comfortable rate of growth.

"We managed to increase by another 0.5 per cent and in 2019, it became the highest contribution throughout the years.

"It would be very challenging for this year after the pandemic but we keep our fingers crossed because Selangor is still the most industrialised state. The services industry still remains strong and we are contributing to the whole region," he told Selangor Journal in an interview.

In 2018, Selangor contributed 23.7 per cent to the national GDP.



Amirudin flags off the 'Info On Wheels Merdeka' convoy at the State Secretariat building in Shah Alam on July 28

MB: Rukun Negara will unite us all

SHAH ALAM - The people should understand the objective and principles of the Rukun Negara that was introduced 50 years ago as it would be the uniting factor between the different races.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said failure to appreciate the principles could lead to racial issues and disputes, especially among the youths. This will give rise to extremism and lead to disunity.

"Belief in God, loyalty to the king and country, upholding the supremacy of the constitution, abiding by the rule of law, and courtesy and morality — these are the principles that make up the Rukun Negara that have united the nation for the past 50 years.

"In the last three years, we have

seen that small racial incidents can lead to bigger issues and this can cause us to be suspicious of one another and create a split among us as.

"We have to deal with this matter in a transparent manner and not get carried away otherwise we will end up with a generation that will fail to be rational when differences arise," said Amirudin in his speech during the 2020 National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign at the state level on July 28.

Amirudin cited the recent act of vandalism where the murals of Malaysian leaders in Shah Alam were spray-painted on as an example of a failure to appreciate the principles of the Rukun Negara.

He also said the people should learn

from crises that have happened in the past, such as the 1969 racial clashes and the economic turbulence of the 90s, and also the current Covid-19 situation, and work hand-in-hand to develop the country.

After his speech, Amirudin flagged off the 'Info On Wheels Merdeka' convoy at the Dewan Jubli Perak of the State Secretariat building, here on July 28.

Earlier the same day, he observed, together with other Selangor civil servants, the address delivered by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in conjunction with the launch of the National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign, which was broadcasted live from the Dataran Perdana at Perdana Putra building, in Putrajaya.

A card that leaves no one behind

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has introduced the SELangkah (Step in, safely card), an easy-to-use contact tracing method that takes into account the needs of people with different abilities ('orang kelainan upaya' or OKU).

It comes in the form of a card bearing a QR code that is unique to the identity of the cardholder.

Head of the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the cardholders would only be required to present the card at any business premises to have the QR code scanned, which would ease the registration process for the OKU citizens.

"Alhamdulillah (thank God) this is part of our commitment ... STFC introduces SELangkah to achieve UHC (universal healthcare coverage) and ensure that no one is left behind.

"This was especially (made) for those with visual impairment and other abilities," he said on Aug 11.

In a separate post on the SELangkah Squad's official Twitter account, SELangkah is said to be a low-tech and inclusive solution for Covid-19 contact tracing.

"We know it's difficult for OKUs to operate a smartphone to scan a QR code.

"So we start to issue a unique QR card for the OKUs, and shop owners can scan their card whenever they visit their shop," the post stated.

Those interested to know more about the card or wish to apply for one may WhatsApp the SELangkah Squad at 014-3025655.

"The card is provided for free," a representative from the SELangkah Squad told *SelangorKini*.

All that is needed are the applicant's name, phone number, address and OKU card number and the SELangkah will be mailed to them.

The SELangkah system was introduced on May 4 to ease the Covid-19 contact tracing process.

Premises owners are required to print out the QR code from the websites selangkah.mbise-langkor.com.my or selangkah.my and have it displayed for visitors to scan.

Nine companies pay RM23m in zakat

SHAH ALAM - The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj received RM23 million in business zakat (tithe) from nine companies on behalf of the Selangor Zakat Board (LZS) at a ceremony held at Istana Bukit Kayangan here on Aug 6.

The companies are Tenaga Nasional Berhad (RM5.38 million), UMW Holdings Berhad (RM4.14 million), Malaysian Palm Oil Board (RM2.58 million), Bank Kerjasama Rakyat (RM2.53 million), Kumpulan Alam Flora Sdn Bhd (RM1.98 million) and Anih Berhad (RM1.97 million).

Also contributing are Padi Beras Nasional Berhad (RM1.79 million), Maybank Islamic Berhad (RM1.3 million) and Northport (Malaysia) Berhad (RM1.25 million).

The business tithes were for the 2019 financial year.

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

The event was also attended by Selangor Islamic Religious Council chairman Datuk Setia Mohammed Kushrin Munawi, LZS chairman Tan Sri Syed Anwar Syed Putra Jamalullail and LZS chief executive officer Saipolyazan M Yusop. - Bernama



GiatMara set to retrain job seekers

SHAH ALAM - GiatMara is ready to collaborate with the Selangor government to implement the Selangor Kerjaya (Selangor Jobs) initiative by providing training for individuals who have lost their job due to the Covid-19 situation.



laid off following the pandemic are aged around 40 and for them to return to the workforce may be difficult. So one of the solutions is to nurture them as entrepreneurs.

"We are prepared to work together with the state government to provide the best possible training with the allocated funds," he said on Aug 4.

On July 13, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari presented the state economic recovery plan, which includes the Selangor Kerjaya initiative aimed to benefit 10,000 unemployed individuals.

Its chairman Datuk Abdul Halim Mansor said the institution is equipped with the facilities and premises to conduct the training in each parliamentary location in the state.

"We have 12 training clusters that not only produce high-skilled workers to suit the Industry 4.0 but also nurture them to become entrepreneurs that would enable them to start their own business in the future.

"Many of those who were

State renews plan to fight virus

By **NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD**

SETIA ALAM - The Selangor government will get down to work to continue its fight against Covid-19 in the state now that the Hari Raya Aidiladha break is over.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state administration will meet with the

Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) and the Selangor State Health Department to draw up a plan, following the recent increase in new cases.

"We have mentioned this before, this is a long-term problem and there is no solution to it until a vaccine is found. There are only two effective measures (against the virus), which are practising

the standard operating procedure (SOP) and enforcing the movement control order (MCO).

"The state government is prepared should the MCO is re-implemented as this is the best move to break the chain of infection of the virus," said Amirudin after the launch of the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) Publicity and Public Participation programme for the MBSA Local Plan Draft 2035 at the Setia City Convention Centre, here on July 27.

Amirudin also reminded the public to keep adhering to the SOP as the local authorities are not able to continuously conduct checks due to a shortage of manpower.

On July 26, Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the government would consider enforcing the MCO should the number of new Covid-19 infections reach three digits.



The Selangor government will draw up a plan to continue its fight against Covid-19 as there are no permanent solutions to the infection until a vaccine is found — Picture by REUTERS

Job fair on hold, awaiting guidelines

SHAH ALAM - The standard operating procedure (SOP) that is being drawn up for the career fair that will take place at the end of this month is now in the last stages of finalisation, said the State exco on youth development.

Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the fair could not be held sooner because the guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid-19 had to be reviewed in stages.

"Today we discussed with the Selangor Covid-19 Prevention Task Force and several agencies to get an opinion on the method and compliance of the SOP. The date (of the fair) will be announced later,"

he said when contacted on Aug 4.

Meanwhile, Mohd Khairuddin said a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Social Security Organisation (Socso) will be signed soon so that the fair can proceed.

"Socso is responsible for determining the number of employers participating in the fair, including the type of employment offered and the number of vacancies."

The Selangor Career Fair offers 24,500 job opportunities and applicants need to fill out a Socso form before being selected to attend the program.

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RM58m to create a higher-skilled workforce

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Kerajaan (Selangor Jobs) initiative announced in the state economic recovery package will create more high-skilled workers, who would be the choice of employers and in line with the Industrial Revolution (IR) 4.0.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) president Datuk Abdul Halim Mansor welcomed the swift decision by the state administration to act on the rising unemployment issue due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

"The move by the state government to help 10,000 people by channelling such a large allocation is timely as many have lost their jobs.

"Not only would they be able to be employed, but they could also become entrepreneurs with new skills," said Abdul Halim on July 21.

The RM58 million allocated for the initiative that will be implemented throughout the next three years is part of the state administration's efforts to address the unemployment issue following the

closure of businesses during the enforced movement control order beginning March 18.

Aside from providing training, it also features a profiling system and database that takes into account the job preferences, characteristics, competency and workforce skills in Selangor.

The programme is part of the three key thrusts of the economic recovery plan under capacity building. The other two thrusts are food security and economic sustainability.



Cash aid a welcome, says tourism chief



SHAH ALAM - The tourism subsidy vouchers channelled to hotels, licensed homestays, community hosts and theme parks would be able to attract more domestic tourists to Selangor, says Azrul Shah Mohamad.

The Tourism Selangor general manager said the incentive, totalling RM2 million, can help to meet the target of attracting the six million tourists to the state in line with the Reset Tourism vision.

"We welcome the subsidy voucher, including the one-off RM1,000 cash incentive for tourist operators, homestay manag-

ers and community hosts, which shows the state government's efforts to revive the tourism industry.

"I am confident that the new target can be achieved whereby most of it will be contributed by domestic tourists," he said on July 18.

Meanwhile, Azrul Shah said the 'Pusing Selangor Dulu' campaign has piqued the interest of the locals and that more promotions will be made, including working closely with industry players to develop a new tourism package.

Unemployed urged to do business online

By SHEEDA FATHIL

SHAH ALAM - State Entrepreneur, Rural, Village and Traditional Village Development Committee chairman Rodziah Ismail has encouraged individuals who lost their job during the movement control order (MCO) to venture into online businesses.

Rodziah said this is the best way for them to increase their income but that they must first have some basic knowledge in business.

"The state government cares about the people who

need a fast income after losing their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic; we advise them to take the first step by doing business digitally.

"I do not encourage them to sell on the sidewalk, but if there is a need they should apply for a licence from the local authority to avoid unnecessary risks," said Rodziah to *Selangorkini*.

A Social Security Organisation (Socso) report has shown a 42 per cent increase in the number of people who have lost their job in the first quarter of this year.



I do not encourage them to sell on the sidewalk, but if there is a need they should apply for a licence from the local authority to avoid unnecessary risks

RODZIAH ISMAIL
State Entrepreneur, Rural, Village and Tradisional Village Development Committee Chairman

The unemployment rate is expected to hit 4 per cent in 2020 compared to 3.2 per cent during the Asia financial crisis in 1997 and 3.7 per cent during the economic downturn in 2018.



Reminder for Covid-19 patients

SHAH ALAM - The people of Selangor who have contracted the Covid-19 infection are urged to claim the special RM1,000 one-off allocation provided under the state's second economic recovery package, the Selangor Cares Package 2.0.

Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said application for the funds can be accessed via www.selangorprihatin.com.

She said the special aid is open

to those who have resided in Selangor for more than five years and have been tested positive for Covid-19 by the hospital, government clinics, or registered medical institutions.

"A total of 195 individuals out of 349 applicants have benefitted from the initiative.

"The number of applications is quite low as the state government is facing some limitations to obtain the patients' data as it is subject to

the Personal Data Protection Act.

"Therefore, we urge former patients or their family members to come forward and apply for the aid," said the State Health, Welfare, Women and Family Empowerment Committee chairman on July 22.

The state government has allocated RM1.8 million for the initiative.

As of Aug 14, Selangor has recorded a total 2,144 confirmed Covid-19 cases.

Economy plunges into worst slump since 1998

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia's economy plunged into its first contraction since the 2009 global financial crisis in the second quarter as the Covid-19 pandemic ravaged business activity, prompting the central bank to sharply cut its GDP forecast for this year.

The central bank said on Aug 14 gross domestic product shrank by 17.1 per cent in April-June from the same period a year earlier — its worst slump in over 20 years and a much deeper contraction than the 10 per cent decline forecast in a Reuters poll.

The downturn comes as the government imposed strict curbs on movement and businesses for most of the second quarter to contain the spread of

the coronavirus which has infected more than 9,000 people in the Southeast Asian country.

It was Malaysia's worst economic slump since the Asian financial crisis in 1998 and marked a sharp decline from the 0.7 per cent year-on-year growth seen in the first quarter. Economies have slumped throughout Southeast Asia due to the coronavirus fallout, with Singapore and the Philippines both now in recession.

The central bank cut its GDP forecast for this year, expecting the economy to shrink by between 3.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent in 2020. It previously said the economy could contract as much as 2 per cent this year in the worst-case scenario.

The data showed a broad-based fall in economic activity, but there were signs of recovery in June especially in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

"The extent of GDP decline has improved quite significantly as the economy began to be reopened in May," said Bank Islam chief economist Dr Mohd Afzani-zam Abdul Rashid, predicting a continued recovery.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Governor Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus (*pic*) expected economic activity to gradually pick up in the second half after the government eased its coronavirus curbs, helped by a global growth recovery and domestic policy support. The government has rolled out stimulus packages to-



talling nearly RM270 billion this year to help the public and businesses weather the pandemic.

The BNM has slashed interest

rates by 125 basis points to 1.75 per cent so far this year, with analysts expecting at least one more cut in 2020.

"I am cautiously optimistic that the worst is behind us," said Nor Shamsiah, forecasting a 5.5 per cent-8 per cent growth in 2021.

But Nor Shamsiah said there is room for more targeted policy measures in case of a second outbreak.

"This includes our monetary policy, our liquidity measures and financial measures. Likewise, the government will retain some fiscal space to provide stimulus and support for households and businesses if the need arises," Nor Shamsiah said.

- Reuters

Fewer private-sector jobs in Q2

KUALA LUMPUR - Private sector jobs decreased to 8.4 million in the second quarter (Q2) of 2020 from 8.6 million recorded in the first quarter, said the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

The statistics published in the Employment Statistics, Q2, 2020 report is based on the Quarterly Employment Survey conducted on formal private sector establishments which included labour demand statistics, encompassing jobs, filled jobs, vacancies and jobs created by skill category and economic activity.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said during the quarter, the rate of filled jobs fell 0.1 percentage points against the previous quarter to 98 per cent, translating the total filled jobs to 8.2 million, while job opportunities which were indicated by vacancies were 170,000.

"With most economic activities impeded in April and then gradual leeway throughout May and June, businesses were still subjected to strict standard operating procedures," he said in a statement on Aug 13.

He said the interstate travel ban restricted the mobility of

the people and further impacted business revenue.

"These subsequently caused fewer labour demand by industries, as reflected by the lower number of job vacancies compared to a year ago," he said.

Meanwhile, the rate of vacancies decreased by 0.5 percentage points year-on-year to 2.0 per cent but grew marginally by 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous quarter.

He said more than half of job vacancies were semi-skilled while the skilled encompassed 23.1 per cent.

By economic activities, 55.1 per cent of job vacancies were in the manufacturing sector particularly in the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products, rubber and plastics products, chemical and pharmaceutical products, as well as food products.

"As for services with a share of 17.3 per cent, most of the vacancies were in wholesale and retail trade, land transport, warehousing and support activities for transportation, food and beverages, and finance and insurance industries," he said.

In addition, it was observed that a significant number of job

As the new normal sets in, businesses begin to strategise to meet the changing needs of consumers, which may gradually shift the requirement of skill sets

DR MOHD UZIR MAHIDIN

Chief statistician
Malaysia



terly jobs created last year.

Mohd Uzir said the country's business community is primarily made up of medium and small enterprises and the stimulus packages introduced in stages since the beginning of the movement control order are beneficial to the businesses going into the recovery period.

"As the new normal sets in, these businesses begin to strategise to meet the changing

needs of consumers, which in turn may gradually shift the requirement of employees' skill sets," he said.

He added that on the supply side, jobseekers could leverage on the current labour demand situation to re-examine and expand their skills and knowledge and subsequently increase agility, hence, raising employability in the labour market. - Bernama

State records highest direct investment

By **NADIAH ZAMLUS**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor recorded its highest ever direct investment (DDI) in 2019 at RM315 million, which is also the highest in the country, says the Selangor Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the statistics from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) showed that the state fiscal policy is strong with a recorded foreign direct

investment (FDI) of RM6,625.4 million.

"The economic outlook in 2020 is very challenging as the world's major financial organisations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), had projected a very weak global economic development following the Covid-19 situation," said Amirudin on July 27.

However, Amirudin said the state government will contin-

ue to boost the state economy through Selangor's stimulus package, including its economic recovery plan.

"The recovery plan includes three thrusts — food security, economic sustainability, and capacity building — with a total economic value of RM55.85 billion," he added.

Selangor remains the leading gross domestic product (GDP) contributor by state with a recorded 24.2 per cent in 2019.



Covid-19 response backed by good governance

AMPANG - The Selangor government's healthy financial position has enabled it to formulate an economic stimulus package to help those who have been affected by the Covid-19 situation, says its Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government's efforts to battle the crisis have also been backed by the remarkable potential of the state executive councillors, the Selangor Covid-19 taskforce and all parties involved in ensuring the wellbeing of the people.

"Selangor has exceptional capabilities to address the impact of Covid-19, compared to other states.

"This would not have been achievable without good governance," said Amirudin during

“Selangor has exceptional capabilities to address the impact of Covid-19, compared to other states

AMIRUDIN SHARI
Selangor Menteri Besar

the PKR Information Convention held at the De Palma Hotel, here on July 26.

Amirudin said Selangor was also the first to set allocations



for Covid-19 mass screenings, which were mainly carried out via the drive-through method.

"We also introduced the Covid-19 contact tracing system SELangkah (Langkah Masuk Dengan Selamat) that could be used in other states."

On July 13, Amirudin had announced the third phase of Selangor's economic stimulus package, continuing on from the earlier Selangor Cares Package and the Selangor Cares Package 2.0.

The state government had already spent RM260,144,464.54 million through the two initial economic stimulus packages, benefitting some 3.5 million people in Selangor.

Selangor can hold out another MCO: MB

SETIA ALAM - The economic sector in Selangor will keep moving even if the movement control order (MCO) has to be reimplemented.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said measures to break the Covid-19 chain of infection come with repercussions to the economy, but having good internet access in the city areas is a mitigating factor.

"We are fortunate as Selangor is equipped with good infrastruc-

tures, such as an extensive internet network.

"We have proven that the economy can keep moving during a time of MCO," said Amirudin after the launch of the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) Publicity and Public Participation programme for the MBSA Local Plan Draft 2035 at the Setia City Convention Centre, here on July 27.

The Federal government had enforced the nationwide MCO on

March 18, which had restricted various economic and social sectors from operating, with exceptions to several crucial services.

Most businesses were slowly allowed to reopen from May 13 as Covid-19 cases across the country waned.

On July 20, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said reclosing the economic sector could result in the country suffering an estimated RM2 billion losses a day.

Glove maker Hartalega poised for expansion

SHAH ALAM - Hartalega Holdings Bhd (Hartalega) has acquired a 38-hectare (ha) parcel of land located in Banting, Selangor, to be used as the future site for the glovemakers next phase of expansion, Hartalega Next Generation Complex (NGC) 2.0, *the Edge Markets* reported on July 30.

NGC stands for Hartalega's Next Generation Integrated Glove Manufacturing Complex in Sepang, Selangor.

Citing Hartalega's annual report released on July 30, the preliminary plans for NGC 2.0 include seven production plants, comprising 82 production lines with an installed capacity of 32 billion pieces of gloves.

"As we continue to ramp up capacity, we are cognizant of the fact that the baseline for global demand has shifted and this is expected to be the new normal.

"Premised on this and as a group which adopts a longer-term perspective, our strategic growth plans are aligned with the anticipated long-term needs of the global healthcare industry," the report quoted Hartalega executive chairman Kuan Kam Hon.

Kuan said that the plan is expected to bring the group's total installed capacity to 76 billion pieces per annum once

the site is completed.

"For the short term, given this critical period for the world, we are steadfast in fulfilling our role and responsibility in the healthcare value chain.

"Going beyond this and looking ahead, we intend to leverage on our strong foundation and technological edge to maintain our positive trajectory in the years to come," he was quoted in the report.

For the financial year ended March 31, 2020, Hartalega recorded RM434.78 million in net profit with a record of RM2.9 billion in revenue.

Kuan said higher sales volume had supported the group's performance, which increased by 8.8 per cent to 31 billion pieces in 2020 following the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a separate report on Aug 3, Hartalega had overtaken Public Bank Bhd to become Malaysia's third most valuable listed company on July 2020's final trading day after its market capitalisation of about RM69.51 billion exceeded Public Bank's estimated RM66 billion.

Hartalega's share price had closed up 16 sen or 0.8 per cent on July 30 at RM20.28 while Public Bank shares fell 54 sen or 3.08 per cent to RM17.

Covid-19:

The promise of new frontiers

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

The Covid-19 virus has brought irreversible changes to every country it has invaded. Nation after nation imposed lockdowns as it spread and infected millions.

In Malaysia, our action was swift to contain it. On March 15 when the number of infections soared to 190 cases a day, the Federal government called for the movement control order. By March 18, all of the country's business and social sectors, as well as its borders on every side, were closed.

The sudden move had not only brought a major shock to people, but also significantly impacted businesses and the economy. Many jobs were lost, and along with it, people's means to secure the very basics of living.

Selangor, being the largest contributor to the Malaysian economy with a recorded gross domestic product (GDP) of 24.2 per cent, was quick on its feet to draw up the first series of stimulus packages. As early on as March 18, a plan was announced to the people.

Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the state administration had relied on data and statistics that were readily available to formulate a stimulus plan that would reach the target groups and those who were most severely affected.

"The whole package was done in a very short span of time based on the urgency to respond to the suddenly-announced MCO, and later its extensions.

"We had to respond almost immediately to the predicament of the people and offer immediate help as well as temporary relief," he said.

Teng told *Selangor Journal* in an interview that the most recent recovery plan announced by the Menteri Besar is even more comprehensive, and takes the long-term approach to stimulate the economy by looking at the weakest sector, which is construction and development.

"The idea behind this is to close the digital gap between the rural and urban groups, which is why we look more into the B40 to make sure that they are not left out."



The silver lining to this crisis is that there are now more opportunities for the state to promote itself as the investment destination, simply because of the wider market available online.

TAKING LESSONS

Teng said there had to be a paradigm shift when formulating the recovery plan. The new normal, he added, had driven the state's decision-makers to think of a new approach while staying in line with Selangor's vision and mission.

"The pandemic gave us a good lesson to look at one of our weakest links in economic development. That is why the plan has more emphasis on agriculture and takes a holistic approach by looking into new technology, and new forms of agriculture such as vertical farming.

"It is a long process but we are learning lessons from the pandemic. Our approach has to be flexible and adjustable because there are so many unpredictable things in times ahead," he said.

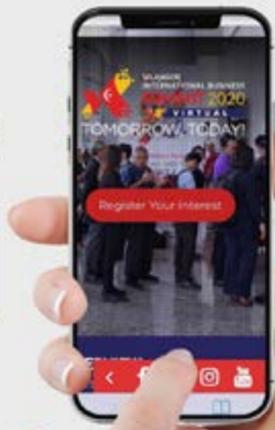
THE DIGITAL MOVE

As part of the state government's future plans to lure foreign investors, Teng said many online webinars and programmes have been lined up as the world over, travel restrictions have been put in place.

Though this would be the first time such an initiative is held, Teng said the state administration remains optimistic that it would be able to attract more investments and keep up its track record despite the challenges ahead.

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The Selangor International Business Summit 2020 will be held in the virtual arena for the first time



The Selangor Aerospace Action Plan is a key part of the state's economic recovery plan

The silver lining to this crisis, he added, is that there are now more opportunities for the state to promote itself as the investment destination, simply because of the wider market available online.

"It has been tough. In previous years we would have travelled to about seven countries by August but this year, we only visited one before the MCO was enforced.

"But in the past six months, though we have not been able to move physically, we now have shifted to the web. The US-China trade war is at its peak, and we have taken this opportunity to lure more investors from Asia via our series of webinars.

"There are many opportunities from Taiwan and other countries in the neighbouring region. The problem is that the border has not yet been opened so we have to communicate online."

Teng said among the programmes that are scheduled include the virtual Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS), which is expected to be launched by October, the Selangor Business Conference, the Smart City Conference, and the Selangor R&D and Innovation Expo.

"We are using this period of time to upgrade our content and carry on our promotion (of the state) via the internet. Our first session will be a webinar presentation next week with the directors of commercials in the Fujian province (of China).

"This will be our first attempt. But next year, with SIBS, we will be conducting both online and actual live programmes concurrently.

"But again, this is a blessing in disguise as we may be able to explore a wider market. It is a new

frontier. Previously it was not easy for us to carry out promotional events to different parts of the world but now with the digital facilities that we have, we are able to do better."

FLYING HIGH

The state government remains committed to being the leader in the aerospace industry as more than 62 per cent of the sector is based in Selangor.

Aside from the formation of the Selangor Darul Ehsan Aerospace Industry Coordination Office (SDaico) to carry out the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan, several programmes have been planned to further boost the aviation sector.

"We have one specific project where we are in the midst of convincing local investors to develop the aerospace manufacturing park. I have recently met with prospective investors and invited all parties and stakeholders to come in ... not only land-owners and developers but also those who are already in this industry.

"We are going on very actively because we expect that after the recovery, the aerospace industry will bounce back but of course, with some changes that will become the new normal. We are working on it and doing necessary adjustments.

"We are also planning to have the Selangor airshow very soon. Perhaps next year we will have the first private jet exhibitions and it will be very exciting," he added.

On the right track to recovery

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

MANY Malaysians faced challenges during the movement control order (MCO), implemented nationwide on March 18 to contain the Covid-19 outbreak.

The economy suffered and among the most severe reverberations was the rise in unemployment, with a record-high figure registered in May at 5.3 per cent or a total of 826,100 jobless Malaysians, based on the statistics by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

The number fell to 4.9 per cent in June as the government had started to ease the MCO restrictions on May 4 and had allowed many economic sectors to resume operations under strict standard operating procedures (SOP).

To cushion the impact of the 47-day MCO, the Federal government formulated several economic stimulus packages to ease the financial burden of the people, such as the six-month loan moratorium.

Selangor, being the leading gross domestic product (GDP) contributor by state in the country, had also drawn up three economic stimulus packages.

The latest was the financial recovery plan, which covers three main thrusts — food security, economic sustainability, and capacity building.

Opportunities for the poor

Sunway University economist lecturer Prof Yeah Kim Leng said the Selangor administration is on the right track to address the issue of unemployment by focusing on upskilling, training and creating more income-generating opportunities.

He said it is crucial to provide an avenue for entrepreneurs and also opportunities



for the B40 group and the urban poor as these groups are in need of more support from the government.

"We note that the Federal government has already come up with four stimulus packages between March and June. It is highly beneficial for the (Selangor) state government to roll out whatever resources they have to provide additional support.

"Looking at the economic growth in the second quarter of the year, many countries reported their GDP to have slumped sharply. Therefore, whatever assistance that the government, including the state and local authorities, can provide to the people and businesses is much needed," he told *Selangor Journal* recently.

Following the revision of Malaysia's poverty line (PLI) from a monthly household

income of RM980 to RM2,208, Yeah said this reflects a jump in the country's poverty rate with more households now living below the poverty line.

Malaysia's poverty rate rose from 0.4 per cent in 2016 to 5.6 per cent last year.

"It is a positive note for the state to channel aid to the newly-defined households that are below the poverty line.

"The capacity building thrust in the recovery plan is more critical now due to the sharp economic decline. With this, Selangor will more likely contribute to the recovery of the economy," he said.

Yeah lauded the state government's efforts to extend some of the initiatives introduced during the MCO, such as the e-Kitchen through the Selangor Platform (Plats), which has RM12 million in projected sales.

"Right now, it is vital to focus on the loss of jobs and incomes to ensure adequate support for those severely affected.

"In the future, the state could push for faster growth especially in high sectors of the economy, creating a spillover of opportunities to help to raise jobs and bring higher income opportunities for the lower-income groups," he said.

Making agriculture attractive

Yeah noted that the focus on food security is essential and said that the state would be able to focus on modern and advanced agriculture through several initiatives introduced, such as the Selangor Agro Market and the Selangor AgroData initiative.

"Agriculture should be made exciting to attract youths to venture into modern agriculture. This, along with the move towards digitalisation, have to go hand

in hand while leveraging on the younger generation.

"Such initiatives are needed, and Selangor is one of the states that can modernise agriculture by using digital technology. By setting up the areas to allow better use of the digital platform to push agro products, small-scale farmers including urban farmers will be provided with more opportunities to ensure food security in the state."

Yeah said the state government should also use internet data initiatives to enhance the delivery of government support towards the low-income groups and develop a more comprehensive database to ensure no one is left behind.

Sustaining investor confidence

Yeah said a well-managed state that is progressive and attractive to the global market is likely to sustain investment momentum, despite the decline in foreign investment following Covid-19.

"For a stable state government, the key is to sustain investor confidence. It has a well-established industrial and manufacturing base to attract new industry such as in medical devices, and the electrical and electronics industry.

"The state in the short term should move towards a digital economy. Selangor can narrow the urban-rural gap by ensuring the urban low-income households benefit from such a shift," said Yeah, adding that the Covid-19 situation has pushed for more significant investment through the use of the internet as well as e-commerce and other digital technology, including Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things.

Chance for recovery

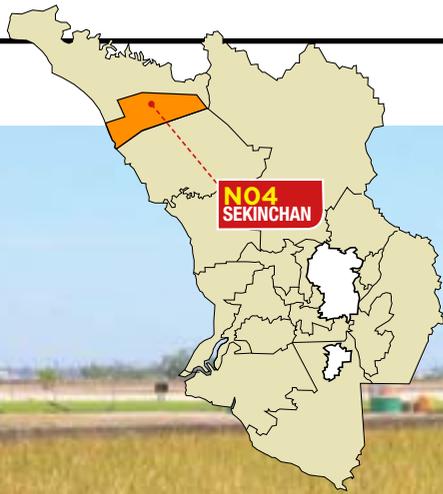
Despite the gloomy outlook for the aviation industry due to the closing of borders and fewer people travelling by air, Selangor has the potential to look to other segments of the industry such as satellite and communications, repair and overhaul (MRO), and drone technology.

"Until the situation normalises from Covid-19, the aviation sector will likely continue to suffer due to the decline in demand, and most airlines are facing serious trouble in order to survive.

"But Selangor can look to other segments ... in terms of MRO, given that many aircraft are now sitting in hangers, much can be done in terms of servicing and maintenance when the industry resumes, and with that aerospace players can position themselves for recovery.

"When that happens, it would be a bright spot for Selangor and the aviation sector," he said.





Welcome to my beautiful Sekinchan

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

NESTLED in the north of Selangor under the Sabak Bernam constituency, Sekinchan has much to offer as it is now one of the main tourist destinations in the state.

Its state assemblyman Ng Suee Lim, who has served the people for 16 years, is very much dedicated to ensuring that Sekinchan not only plays its role in uplifting the tourism sector following the Covid-19 outbreak but also become a leading producer of agriculture to help the state prioritise food security.

Ng, who currently serves as Speaker of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, shares with *Selangor Journal* the wonders of Sekinchan and how his ability to converse fluently in the Javanese language helps to build a connection with the locals.

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

Ng Suee Lim (NSL): Sekinchan is known as the rice bowl of Selangor due to its high yield in the crop. Aside from rice production, it also contributes to the fishing industry and has a large traditional fishing village. Because of the green paddy fields, I have also been working to promote Sekinchan as an eco-tourism destination since 2004 and this has been a success because not only

is Sekinchan able to attract local tourists, it also has its share of foreign tourists. Although tourism was badly affected by the movement control order (MCO), we have seen it recover following the ease in restrictions. We have some new attractions, such as the Four Seasons Paddy Centre, which is already open to the public but has yet to be launched. And we also have a coconut farm where visitors can come and enjoy fresh coconut drinks.

SJ: What would you say the main attraction in your constituency is?

NSL: We have many restaurants and eateries that offer fresh and delicious seafood dishes at affordable prices. As I have mentioned, our rice and fisheries production are of notable standards. We have even received approval from the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry and Beras Wangi to plant seeds from the Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Mardi). This means that the quality of our Beras Wangi is at par with international standards. As for our fishery products, our fishermen had received overwhelming demand during the MCO as many people stayed home and ordered their fresh produce online.

SJ: What are some of the concerns that are raised by your

constituents and how do you plan to address them?

NSL: There are several issues that are of people's concern. One of them is land ownership where settlers have resided in Bagan on Malay reserves for over 50 years but do not have the grant. So I worked on solving each case individually and by 2010, we had helped 250 families involving some 77 acres of land. It was a win-win situation.

SJ: What are some of your achievements so far in your constituency?

NSL: Aside from the land ownership issue, in terms of boosting eco-tourism, we have managed to collaborate with Kuala Selangor to come up with comprehensive packages, such as offering attractive overstay packages that include visits to Sky Mirror and Blue Tears. In the last 10 years, we have formed the Sekinchan Tourism Development Association where we include industry players like the hotel, homestay and restaurant owners, and we meet regularly to discuss on how to further develop the area to become more holistic. There is also the issue of overcrowdedness of the fishing jetty so I have come up with a system to monitor the



jetties. In the pilot project which started three years ago, 86 jetties had been gazetted under Section 62 of the National Land Code and licensed out to the owners via the Fishermen Association. Back then there was no inventory to keep track of the number of jetties so now we have made it systematic and this model will be adopted in Sungai Besar, Sabak Bernam, Tanjung Karang and Kuala Selangor.

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

NSL: I like to come up with win-win solutions when an issue arises.

es. For example, there was a rise in unemployment following the MCO and some people began to set up stalls in areas that were not allowed. We approached them politely and helped them the best we could, such as relocating their stalls. We give them a chance. My ability to speak the Javanese language gives me more advantage compared to other assemblymen because when you are able to speak the local language of the Malay communities, such as in Parit 7 where there are many Javanese people, and Parit 8 and 9 of the Banjar people, it is easy to approach them. It enables a better understanding of their traditions and customs too.

Council officers empowered to issue compounds

By **AFIX REDZUAN**

PUCHONG - Local authorities can take action against premises that do not comply with the standard operating procedure (SOP) to combat Covid-19, which includes the mandatory wearing of protective face masks.

State executive councillor Ng Sze Han said this is allowed under the Local Government Act 1976.

"If we refer to the Act, there is a clause that gives local authorities the jurisdiction to enforce any policies or guidelines in order to contain a pandemic.

"Action can be taken against premises that do not adhere to the rules," said Ng during a press conference after visiting a flood mitigation project in Puchong Jaya on July 23.

This follows the Federal gov-

ernment's recent announcement to make the wearing of face masks compulsory in crowded public spaces and on public transportation beginning Aug 1.

Senior Minister (Security Cluster) Datuk Seri Ismail Yaakob said those who flout this directive can be slapped with a RM1,000 compound notice under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988.



There is a clause that gives local authorities the jurisdiction to enforce any policies or guidelines in order to contain a pandemic

NG SZE HAN

State executive councillor



Flood mitigation works done by early 2021

PUCHONG - The flood mitigation project along Jalan Kenari 1, here, is expected to resolve the issue of flash floods in front of the IOI shopping mall when it is completed in February next year.

State Local Government, Public Transportation and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han said the project will divert excess water from Puchong Jaya to an unused mining pond behind the shopping centre.

The RM4 million project involves a culvert that spans 300 meters.

"The cost of the second phase of the project will be borne by the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ), IOI Corporation, and Lingkaran Trans Kota Holdings Bhd (Littrak).

"After the project is completed, we are confident that it will resolve the flooding issues in

front of the IOI shopping mall," said Ng after visiting the project site here on July 23.

He said the project is a long-term solution to address the flooding problems while MPSJ continues to carry out short-term maintenance works.

Unexpected heavy rainfall in the afternoon of July 22 had caused the areas around the IOI shopping centre, including Bandar Puteri, Taman Kinrara Section 1, 2, 3 and Taman Melur, Mile 13, to experience flash floods.

The Kinrara state assemblyman said that the flooding at the SetiaWalk mall on the same day, however, is not related to the flood mitigation project as the drains there were upgraded two years ago.

The cause of the incident is being investigated by the local council.



Lim (second from left) and other women's rights activists meet with Nik Ezanee (centre) to seek help from the police in dealing with cases of domestic abuse — Picture via FACEBOOK

Activists seek police help to fight abuse

SHAH ALAM - Police have expressed their commitment to tackle the issue of domestic violence, says state representative Lim Yi Wei.

The Kampung Tunku assemblyman said her office had received several reports of spousal abuse during the movement control order (MCO) period.

"The police take the matter seriously as it involves the safety and wellbeing of the people.

We hope the issue will be resolved in the best manner," she told *SelangorKini* on July 29.

Lim, along with advocacy groups All Women's Action Society and Women's Aid Organisation, had met with Petaling Jaya OCPD Asst Comm Nik Ezanee Mohd Faisal to discuss the matter.

Lim said an awareness forum will be organised in September to educate the people on the implications of domestic violence.

"The panel members of the forum will include the police. We will educate the people on how to stop domestic abuse from happening as well as the precautionary steps," she said.

On July 13, state executive councillor Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said that Selangor had recorded 90 domestic violence cases during the time of the MCO, which began on March 18.

Warnings first for smoking, drinking in parks

SHAH ALAM - Individuals found smoking or drinking in public playgrounds in Selangor will first be issued warnings and advice during a three-month grace period, after which fines will be issued for the same offences.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the move to warn offenders is an educational approach and will

be implemented for a period of three months to allow the public to get accustomed to the ban.

He said the ban on smoking and drinking in public playgrounds is effective from July 30 through a circular issued by the Selangor State Secretary.

State Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Committee chair-

man Ng Sze Han said the ban was made after the state government approved the amendment to the Selangor Local Councils Park By-Law 2005.

"We will implement the ban on smoking and drinking in public parks much like the implementation of the smoking ban in food premises and restaurants," said Amirudin at a press confer-

ence on Aug 9.

"This is because the ban involves many things including how enforcement methods will be implemented. However, if there are still those who violate the ban in public playgrounds after that, they can be fined up to RM1,000 as stipulated in the Selangor local councils park by-law."

Amirudin, who earlier launched a state-level Public Parks Anti-Drinking and Smoking Campaign here, also expressed the readiness of the state government to expand the ban to other public places.

There are also plans to work with the State Education Department to highlight the issue to students. - Bernama

Norita sets the bar high for Selangor

SHAH ALAM - Thirty-five years of experience as the chief operating officer with the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) has given Norita Mohd Sidek the assurance that she is ready to take the helm of another large state-owned company.

The new chief executive officer of Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI) said her skills in property development has enabled her to be more focused on managing state assets.

"This is a big responsibility given to me by Selangor Men-

teri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, and also the trust given by the government to jointly develop Selangor.

"My goal is to increase the efficiency of MBI and its subsidiaries and place Selangor in the lead," said the 60-year-old.

On Aug 3, Norita was appointed to replace YM Raja Shahreen Raja Othman at MBI, whose contract had expired on Nov 30 last year.

She met Amirudin on Aug 5 at the Menteri Besar's office at the State Secretariat Building to receive her letter of appointment.



My goal is to increase the efficiency of MBI and its subsidiaries and place Selangor in the lead

NORITA MOHD SIDEK

MBI chief executive officer



Amirudin presents the letter of appointment to Norita at his office on Aug 5

Former PKNS COO takes over as head of MBI

SHAH ALAM - The appointment of Norita Mohd Sidek as the new head of Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI) proves the openness of the state government.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the vast experience of the former chief operating officer of the Selangor State Development Corpo-

ration (PKNS) could strengthen the consortium function of the state government subsidiary, especially after Covid-19.

"This is proof of the openness of the state government and I hope the chief executive officer can continue to develop MBI and complete the mission of Selangor becoming a Smart State by 2025," Amirudin told

SelangorKini on Aug 5.

Earlier, Norita met Amirudin at the Selangor Menteri Besar's office and received her letter of appointment.

On Aug 3, Norita was appointed as the new chief executive officer of MBI to replace Raja Shahreen Raja Othman whose contract expired on Nov 30 last year.

Body cams to ensure transparency

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

SHAH ALAM - Two local authorities in Selangor have started to equip their enforcement officers with body-worn cameras in an effort to ensure better efficiency and transparency.

Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) Corporate and Strategic Management Department deputy director Azfarizal Abdul Rashid said the local council's enforcement officers use the body-worn cameras daily or during special operations held from time to time.

The use of the cameras started in March before the movement control order was enforced.

Officers under the Operation Unit, Anti-Litter Unit and Towing Unit are equipped with the device.

"This is part of our proactive move to monitor the conduct of the officers when on the field. It is also to be used as reference or evidence should any untoward incident take place," he told *Selangor Journal* recently, adding that no incident has been reported as of July 23.

Azfarizal said of the 12 units of body-worn cameras owned by the council, six are used by the Enforcement Department.

Meanwhile, Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) Corporate

Communications officer Norhayati Ahmad said their officers have begun using surveillance cameras since July last year.

She said the council's cameras, 10 units in all, use the mobile surveillance system from IAC Security.

"The equipment that is used has an average battery life of eight hours with continuous use. Its video quality is 32GB and in high definition, and is capable of capturing night visuals as well as sound.

"The cameras are used for the safety of the enforcement officers and to avoid incidents like physical assaults or verbal altercations. Their recordings can be used as evidence.

"It is also to increase the integrity, efficiency, and transparency of our officers when dealing with the people," she told *Selangor Journal*.

On June 22, state Local Government, Public Transportation and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han said that the local authorities in Selangor are given until the end of the year to equip their enforcement officers with body-worn cameras.

Apart from MPSJ and MPAJ, Ng said the Petaling Jaya City Council has also begun using the device.



Doing his best for 'mini Malaysia'

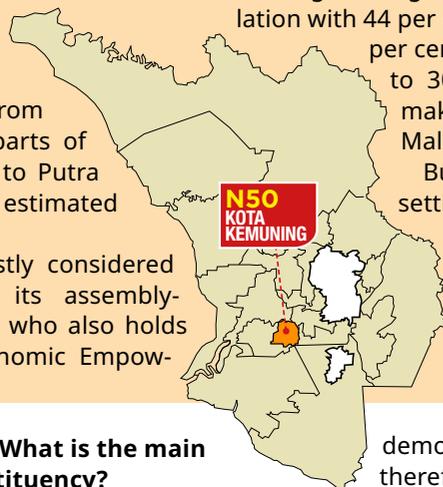
By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

THE Kota Kemuning constituency covers a large area, from Seri Muda, across parts of Shah Alam, and up to Putra Heights, with an estimated 59,000 population.

Though it is mostly considered an urban setting, its assemblyman V Ganabatirau, who also holds the State Socio-economic Empow-

erment, Development and Caring Government portfolio, said Kota Kemuning has a good mix of the population with 44 per cent Malays, over 30 per cent Chinese and close to 30 per cent Indians, making it a model mini Malaysia.

But with such a mixed setting comes various challenges, and Ganabatirau is intent on solving each of them in the best way possible.



demographic is diversified, therefore certain areas are densely populated while others like Putra Heights and Alam Mega are peaceful and developed well. Several mosques, temples and churches are also located here.

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

VG: There are many issues here due to the large area, and one of them is the issue of bureaucracy as many of the problems that need to be addressed require the cooperation of other local councils and agencies. I try my best to speed up the process by pushing the authorities to take action and address the people's concerns, but some of it is beyond my control, such as the infrastructural design of the constituency which was never made with a huge population in mind. The biggest problem faced by people is traffic congestion. Despite the highways, traffic is still very jammed and I have appealed to the local authorities for much better infrastructure to ease the traffic flow. Public transportation is very much lacking. There is no rail transport except for the LRT coming into Putra Heights.

SJ: What would you say the main attraction is in Kota Kemuning?

VG: I would say it has a variety of good food, be it Malay, Indian or even Korean and Japanese. Aside from the golf resorts, there are a lot of green areas here as many public parks are located in the constituency. It is an eco-friendly area, but unfortunately, it is also highly congested and has quite poor planning to accommodate the high number of population. But as I have mentioned, the



FROM TOP

Ganabatirau during the Plant-a-Tree campaign at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Alam Megah 2

Working with his team to find the best solutions to flooding in Taman Sri Muda

Handing over food supplies to the Hock Onn temple community at Jalan Bukit Kemuning

The planning of the place is not on par with its development. Other issues that require attention include floods, littering of garbage and the surge in the number of foreigners.

SJ: What are some of your achievements so far in your constituency?

VG: I have arranged many townhall sessions with residents associations and Rukun Tetangga to address the issues raised by the people. Now we can see that the local authorities, namely the Shah Alam City Council, are more progressive. Other government agencies are also pushing to become better... I do not want to see the people becoming the victim of bureaucracy. For example, after I won the seat in 2018, the first roundabout project in Kota Kemuning looked as if it had been abandoned but we pushed it through and got the project approved. The flooding and clogging issues in Seri Muda have also improved due to the works done to the drainage system. I make sure to highlight minor issues like drainage repairs and road surface works. Not all of these things are under my jurisdiction, but I make it a point that people know we care for them and that we try our best to cater to their problems.

SJ: What are some of your problem-solving methods?

VG: The approach I take is to not play the blaming game as this does not help the people. We would try to understand their problems and we channel them to the right authorities through writing or addressing it in our monthly meeting. It is about getting the right people to do the job. It is a new culture for the authorities and agencies to see me be very aggressive but I would like to be transparent with them. We should not be defensive but let us work together to ensure how the people of this area, who are so varied socially, can live harmoniously together.



Going for Sukma e-sports gold

By AFIX REDZUAN

SHAH ALAM - Selangor is set on winning the gold medal in the Mobile Legends e-Sports: Bang Bang, which will be held for the first time at the upcoming edition of the Malaysian Sports Games (Sukma).

Coach Mohammad Al Hatta Shokri said the state will be represented by seven players and the best strategies are currently being planned for the biannual multi-sports event to be held in Johor next year.

"We have seven players and I will be focusing on them to ensure they give their very best.

"We are aiming for gold. I will be setting the strategy and the rest will be on the players' mental strength," he told *SelangorKini* when contacted recently.

Mohammad Al Hatta said as part of their preparation, three players will be competing in the Mobile Legends Professional League for two months beginning Aug 28.

He said the international league is a good platform for the players to gain experience, learn to read their opponents' strategies as well as improve their stress management skills.

The Mobile Legends multi-player online battle arena was

released in 2016 and requires two opposing teams to battle one another by destroying the enemy's base while defending their own.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had previously said that the e-Sports industry can grow rapidly and is supported by the state government.

This has been proven through the immensely popular Selangor Cyber Games, which runs through five editions, as well as its stay-at-home online tournament held on April 8 and 9 during the time of the movement control order.



Sathianathan satisfied after first friendly

SHAH ALAM - Coach B Sathianathan says he is satisfied with the performance of his players when they beat Penang 4-1 in a friendly game at the Football Association of Selangor (FAS) Training Centre on Aug 5.

However, he said there were some weaknesses that need to be improved fast before the CIMB Super League resumes on Aug 26.

"I am happy with the players' performance that showed their high level of commitment. But even though we won 4-1, I think we can still improve in several areas," said the Red Giants coach.

Sathianathan admitted that the players still find it difficult to get back into rhythm, especially in passing and dribbling, when they got back into match action for the first time since the enforcement of the movement control order.

Meanwhile, FAS has received approval from the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) to use its stadium for next season's games.

FAS secretary-general Dr Johan Kamal Hamidon informed that a verbal agreement on the matter was made after an hour of meeting with MBPJ mayor Dato' Mohd Sayuthi Bakar on Aug 10.



Allocations maintained despite virus

SHAH ALAM - A total of RM2.24 million has been allocated for upgrading and maintaining sports facilities in the 56 state constituencies, says Selangor State Exco on Sports, Mohd Khairuddin Othman.

Mohd Khairuddin said the state government is committed to ensuring that the facilities are in good condition in line with the goal of cultivating a sports culture among the community.

"Even though the country is being hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, the allocation to maintain sports facilities has not changed. This is our commitment towards creating a society that loves sports and recreation.

"Each constituency receives an allocation of RM40,000 every year and it is channelled based on the application by the elected representatives (wakil rakyat) of the respective constituencies, for example, a request for an additional fund to build futsal courts or upgrade existing infrastructure," he told *SelangorKini* on Aug 4.

Mohd Khairuddin said sports facilities at the district level would be improved from time to time in line with the Selangor's Smart State 2025 vision.

"Selangor will never forget to develop sports at the grassroots level and we want to ensure that facilities in urban and rural areas are upgraded."

Stadium's repairs will be costly, says MB

PETALING JAYA - Repairs to the Shah Alam Stadium may cost up to RM250 million and the state government is assessing the damage before making an allocation for the upgrading, said Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.



and its wiring would cost RM30 million, while the total repair works for the 26-year-old facility could hit RM250 million.

These factors mean it would take some time before the repairs are completed.

Changing the roof alone would take

four to six months, Amirudin said.

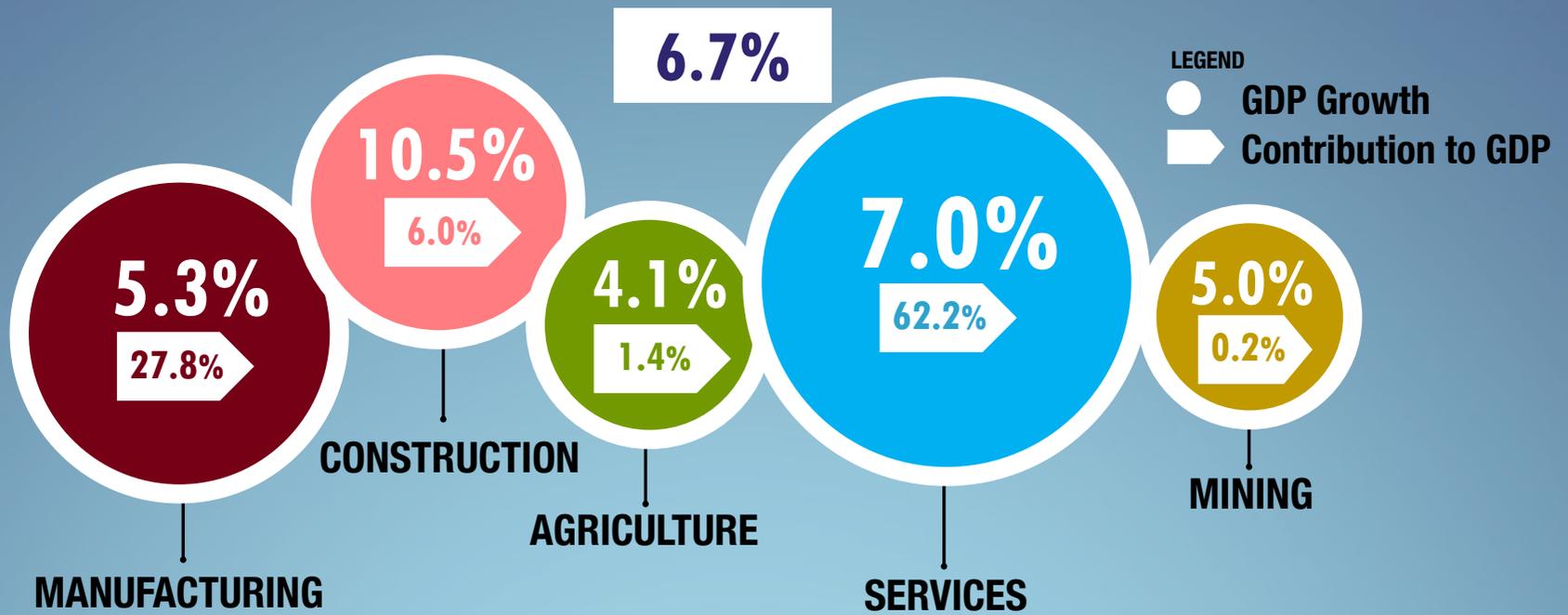
He added that he has been in talks with the Football Association of Selangor on the repairs.

"We have asked the Selangor team to move temporarily to the Petaling Jaya City Council Stadium before returning to the Shah Alam Stadium in 2022 or 2023," he told reporters at the launch of English Premier League club Liverpool FC's new jersey for the 2020/21 season at a sports equipment shop here on Aug 6. - Bernama

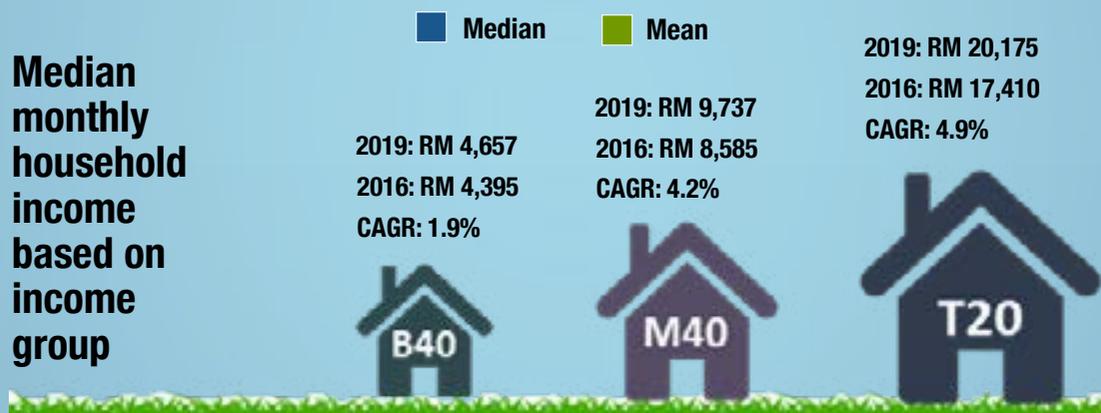
He said replacing the polycarbonate roof

SELANGOR SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT 2019

ECONOMIC GROWTH



Household income and spending



0.9%

Consumer price index
(including Putrajaya)



76.0%

3.5 MILLION

Employed residents



2.9%

Unemployment rate



Total domestic visitors

33.6 MILLION



Revenue of local authorities
(RM million)

1 Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam **RM434.6**

2 Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya **RM365.9**

3 Majlis Perbandaran Subang Jaya **RM291.6**

Source:
STATE SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT 2019 - SELANGOR,
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

