

SELANGOR JOURNAL

Budget for all

THE Selangor government is all set for an economic rebound after months of financial slump following the Covid-19 outbreak. Formulating programmes and initiatives that promise to leave no one behind, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari says now is the time for the state to forge ahead as the nation's economic reactor.

The state administration recently organised the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue, bringing together a team of stakeholders and experts to share their views for a better future. Details of the dialogue will act as a blueprint for the state's upcoming budget.

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PHOTO BY
HAFIZ OTHMAN & FIKRI YUSOF

Grow and support local talent, says expert



Two lecturers handling a compact, high-speed robotic arm at the Technical Skill Initiative and Iktisas Smart Selangor Exhibition held at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre on March 24

SHAH ALAM - Malaysia, particularly Selangor, has to focus on producing a quality talent pool to be able to compete globally.

Founder and group chief executive officer of Aerodyne Group, Kamarul A, said this should be one of the medium-to-long term solutions in new wealth creation for the country, especially in adapting to the new digital economy.

He said Malaysia should also shift from being a traditionally technology-consuming country to a technology-producing nation.

"The economy today is slowly being replaced with the new digital economy ... we need to start focusing on changing from being a tech-consuming nation to a tech-producing nation.

"What do we need? Talent. But having talent alone is still not enough. We need quality talent that would enable us to compete globally. If we want to be a global tech producer we need global-class talents. This remains as one of the biggest challenges," he said during the wealth creation session at the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue, held at the Setia City Convention Centre, here on Sept 7.

Kamarul said sufficient funding is required for such an initiative and support from the local entrepreneurs is crucial even if the local technology is not at par with other countries. Selangor, he added,

has already initiated several programmes to push entrepreneurs forward.

"So what if the technology is 20 per cent inferior to what you get if you were to import it? Let it be, support the local companies so they can grow and with the investments, they can compete on a global scale," he said.

Commenting on short-term and immediate wealth creation, Kamarul said Selangor could focus on improving and increasing efficiency.

He said this could be carried out using readily available technologies, such as the Internet of Things and the next level of digital transformation.

"This is the part where we have no shortage of capabilities ... we can look into improving from the way we manage the state, the way we do monitoring of state assets, the way we get the full value of state assets, not just through communication but also using technology to allow us to improve this efficiency."

Kamarul cited the water crisis as an example in which the state government can utilise the use of robotics, such as drones, to conduct constant surveillance, which he said would be more cost-efficient.

"When we do this, the cost is lower than using the traditional method. This

will displace some jobs but we can repurpose and retrain the talent.

"Technology can not only improve in this area, but we can retrain this talent so they can fill the requirement of jobs in the future," he added.

The one-day 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue, which serves to gather input from the grassroots and industry players of the state ahead of the state's budget announcement, covered five syndicates — agriculture, tourism and agro-tourism; public health, housing and urban livability; microentrepreneurs, digitalisation and urban poverty; wealth creation; and the creative industry.

Delve deeper into the data: MCMC ex-chairman

SHAH ALAM - The role of the state government can be expanded and be more detailed, says the former chairman of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Al-Ishsal Ishak.

He said the state administration should prioritise in pinpointing the industries whose growth they want to stimulate in order to carry out adequate efforts as soon as possible.

"In terms of its planning efforts, the state government should prioritise which sectors they want to stimulate first for growth. For instance, the development of the F&B sector among the micro-enterprises has shown how the state gov-

ernment can prepare the channels for aid supply not just for funding but also to provide bank assistance for capital financing," said Ishsal during a dialogue session to discuss the 2021 Selangor Budget.

"In this Covid-19 pandemic era, the role of the state government must become more detailed. For instance, manufacturing (sector) forms 22 per cent of the national GDP. In this sector, 98 per cent are SMEs. The listed ones comprise only 174 companies but SMEs comprise over a million of them. We need to go deeper.

"These are very macro data that we

need to break down to get to the granular details."

Ishsal said the state government should be able to tabulate the needed data to develop solutions and remove challenges that exist in the procedures at the local authority and state agency levels.

"At the state level, the local authorities and agencies can get hold of details such as household incomes and so on. Only with this can you then generate the right information or extract the resistance from the process because ultimately, it is the process with the (Federal) government that delays things," he said.

Additionally, Ishsal said pri-

vate-and-public sector collaboration is key towards ensuring that data integration can be used to develop a clear path for the state.

"For instance, obtaining a grant with the state government, does that involve data sharing? Grab (Malaysia) may require information from the government and vice-versa. This is an example of collaboration between the private sector and the (state) government, which is important.

"Above all, the objectives and the focus need to be clear and that is what the Selangor budget needs to look into," Ishsal noted.

Budget to focus on creative economy, agriculture, tourism

SHAH ALAM - Selangor will continue to cast its attention on wealth creation through the creative economy, agriculture and tourism sectors, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said these are some of the top sectors which would be highlighted in the upcoming Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget).

"We will focus on the creative economy sector and of course, on agriculture and tourism post-pandemic.

"We need to figure out how to embrace and empower these sectors to benefit the economy of Selangor and its people," Amirudin told reporters when met after the opening of the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue at the Setia City Convention Centre, here on Sept 7.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said the Federal government should consider the state's significance in the upcoming national 2021 Budget, which is expected to be tabled in November.

"Selangor is a very important state. We have contributed to almost a quarter of the national gross development product (GDP). We hope they will take notice of the many things we have to do (because) we have many plans in place."

Citing the state government's initiatives in digitalisation efforts and establishing Selangor as the premier and regional Smart State in Asean by 2025, Amirudin said Selangor should not be left out in the national budget.

"I hope they don't leave out Selangor as one of the important states in Malaysia to be assisted in terms of our infrastructure development and so on," he noted.

The one-day 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue had covered five syndicates — agriculture, tourism and agro-tourism; public health, housing and urban liveability; microentrepreneurs, digitalisation and urban poverty; wealth creation; and the creative industry.



Amirudin delivers his keynote address at the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue

Smart state vision not just a pipe dream

SHAH ALAM - Selangor's vision to become a smart state in the Asean region by 2025 is not an aspiration that is merely on paper or to only churn out big numbers.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the goal has to be achieved in order for the state to become a livable city that remains competitive and sustainable for the wellbeing of the people.

"The upcoming state budget will address various matters including the creative industry, health, security as well as agriculture, and we will set the direction," said Amirudin during the wrap-up of the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue at the Setia City Convention Centre, here on Sept 7.

He said Selangor has been known for its rapid economic development since the 1980s through the expansion of various industries as well as the main contributor to the national gross domestic income (GDP).

However, he said the framework of the state's development has to ensure that the livelihood of the people run simultaneously with the progress achieved, including in dealing with health issues such as the Covid-19 outbreak.

"Other findings from the budget dialogue sessions, such as agriculture, tourism, entrepreneurship and welfare, should also be given attention in order to plan out development that would benefit all," he said.

'Time to be tech creators, depend less on imports'



SHAH ALAM - Selangor needs to step up to the role of becoming a technology-producing state that is spurred by green technology, says its executive councillor.

State Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said it is important to create awareness on Selangor's need to develop an ecosystem within its manufacturing industry.

He said the state government has to look into ways to achieve this as it will lessen the state's dependence on imported technology and at the same time make it more attractive to investors.

"We are now technology consumers and we only know how to consume ... it is time for us to have the capability to create technology. The state would have to look into how to implement this," he said at the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue at the Setia City Convention Centre, here on Sept 7.

Teng cited Aerodyne Group, a local company specialising in drones and artificial intelligence (AI), that has become the world's third main industry player in the said field.

He said the company is based in Selangor and uses drones for data analysis for the world market.

MB: We will leave no one behind



SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government will ensure that no one is left behind despite its sprint towards digitalisation and the smart state agenda, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the state is aware of the risks of the technology trap, especially involving those who have lost their jobs due to digitalisation and automation, and will review the impact on the people in Selangor.

Citing new ideas raised by economists such as having a public wealth fund to address unem-

ployment issues, Amirudin said such funds would be used to re-skill and upskill workers, deal with climatic changes as well as to bridge the economic gap.

"This has to be a discussion that takes the 'whole of government and whole of society approach', as what was done when we faced the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I would like to express the Selangor government's full commitment towards recovering the economy, bridging the income gap between the rich and poor, as well as ensuring prosperity



and justice in order for the state to remain as Malaysia's economic reactor," said Amirudin in his keynote address during the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue at the Setia City Convention Centre, here on Sept 10.

Although the economic challenges will not be easy to resolve, Amirudin said the state government will work hard to ensure inclusivity and that everyone will be equipped with the right tools to go through the challenges.

"The post-Covid-19 period — or the make-or-break moment — for the middle-income earners and those who are moving towards that income range is crucial," he said.

Have your say on new 'pro-rakyat' website

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has initiated an official website for the people in the state to submit ideas and suggestions for the upcoming Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget).

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the people can log in to the website at www.amirudinshari.com/selangor2021 to give their feedback and suggestions for the 2021 State Budget, which will be tabled at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Oct 30, from 3pm to 5pm.

"It is important to take into account the people's input and aspirations from various levels of society in order to clearly understand the needs of all parties to formulate policies that are more 'pro-rakyat'.

"The people are encouraged to take part and submit any suggestions via the website," said Amirudin in a statement on Sept 3.

The website, he said, will also be the platform to deliver comprehensive information on the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 to the public both inside and outside of Selangor.

Amirudin added that the

The public can log in to the website at www.amirudinshari.com/selangor2021 to give their feedback and suggestions for the 2021 State Budget, which will be tabled at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Oct 30

initiative is important in order for the public, especially the people of Selangor, to understand the objectives as well as the main thrusts of the state budget and how it would benefit everyone.

The 2021 Selangor Budget will focus on five main thrusts — agriculture, tourism and agro-tourism; public health, housing and urban liveability; microentrepreneurs, digitalisation and urban poverty; wealth creation; and the creative industry.

Logo contest to showcase local talent

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor administration is now inviting entries for the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget) Logo Design Contest, which opens till Sep 21.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari is calling for aspiring local graphic designers to showcase their talent and skills by coming up with a logo based on a dynamic and contemporary concept that is in line with the objectives of the upcoming state budget.

The 2021 Selangor Budget will be tabled at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Oct 30.

"The contest reflects the state government's principle in being inclusive and encouraging public participation, especially to have the creative

minds of the country to visualise a logo.

"The submissions will be assessed by a panel of judges that is made up of renowned Malaysian branding experts, graphic designers and visual artists," Amirudin said in a statement on Sept 3.

Judges include founder and head of Thinker Studios Adly Syairi Ramly as well as visual artists Zulamran Hilmi and Engku Iman.

The winner of the competition stands to bring home a MacBook Pro 13" laptop, while the first runner-up will win an iPad Pro. The reward for third place is an iPad Gen 7.

Visit www.amirudinshari.com/selangor2021-pertandingan for further information and the entry form.

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Sultan wants harsh penalties for offenders

SHAH ALAM - Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Al-Haj, has called for those found guilty of polluting the state's source of drinking water to face the full brunt of the law, and that their punishment should include mandatory imprisonment and a maximum fine.

A statement uploaded on the Selangor Royal Office Facebook account on Sept 8 said the Selangor Ruler raised the matter when he granted an audi-

ence to Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari at the Istana Bukit Kayangan, here.

Following the meet, His Royal Highness expressed his concerns for the people of Selangor.

"I would like to see stricter enforcement taken against the illegal building of homes and factories along river banks as they have the potential to pollute Selangor's rivers and tributaries.

"I have also previously instructed

that a special committee be formed by the state government to monitor and ensure that the rivers are not polluted by chemicals or trash that jeopardise the sources of raw water," the statement read.

The Sultan also said that there should not be any political interference in the enforcement of laws on issues involving the environment.

"I fear that if the water crisis continues, the people will protest, and this

could lead to tensions and disrupt social harmony," the Ruler added.

On Sept 3, some 1.2 million people in seven districts were hit with unscheduled water disruption after the Sungai Selangor Phase 1, 2, and 3, and the Rantau Panjang Water Treatment Plants ceased operations.

The one-week water cut affected areas in Kuala Lumpur, Petaling, Klang-Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor, Hulu Selangor, Gombak and Kuala Langat.



A Pengurusan Air Selangor Bhd worker performs several tests to check the quality of the treated water — Picture by BERNAMA

Federal help vital, says MB on water woes

SHAH ALAM - Close cooperation between all agencies, and particularly from the Federal government, is integral to safeguard Selangor's water.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government will refer a detailed and updated report on the pollution of the state's rivers, including the most recent case on Sept 3, to the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC).

"We hope stern action will be taken immediately.

"The state administration would also like to thank the AGC for its swift response on the matter yesterday," said Amirudin in a statement on Sept 8.

He added that he had met with State Legal Advisor Dato' Salim Soib, Selangor Water Management

Authority (Luas) director Dato' Hashim Osman and Department of Environment director Nor Aziah Jaafar to discuss the matter.

On Sept 7, Amirudin said the state and Federal governments must come together to discuss heftier penalties for water polluters.

This is due to the limitations under the Luas Enactment 1999 in comparison to the Federal level's Environmental Quality Act 1974, which allows for prosecution by the AGC.

In the most recent case the Sungai Selangor Phase 1, 2, and 3, and Rantau Panjang Water Treatment Plants had to cease operations due to pollution in Sungai Gong, Rawang.

This resulted in water disruption to 1.2 million account holders in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

Only a fraction of Covid-19 aid disbursed

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has approved 266 applications for the special RM1,000 one-off allocation offered to those in the state who have contracted Covid-19.

A total cost of RM266,000 has been disbursed to the former Covid-19 patients or their family members.

State Health, Welfare, Women and Family Empowerment Committee chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said the amount is only a fraction of the total allocation of RM1.8 million, which was announced in the Selangor stimulus package on April 1.

"The number of applicants is still low and we hope that those who were affected would

come forward and apply for the aid," she told *SelangorKini* on Sept 2.

Previously, former patients or their family members have been urged to submit their application for the special fund as the state administration is facing some limitations in obtaining the patients' data as they are subjected to the Personal Data Protection Act.

The special allocation 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.

Application for the aid can be accessed via www.selangorprihatin.com.



HIDDEN TALENT... Selangor Health, Welfare, Women Empowerment and Family Committee chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud admiring some items produced by housewives under the Tanjung Seri initiative. They include handicraft, embroidery and tailored pieces that are up for sale at the Japanese retail giant Isetan in KLCC, Kuala Lumpur, from Sept 4 to 16. The initiative is part of the state government's efforts to empower single mothers, people of different abilities and those from low-income groups.

State pins hopes on manufacturing sector

By NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD

SEPANG - Selangor is targeting to secure between RM8 and RM10 billion worth of investments in the manufacturing sector for this year based on the current economic situation.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state secured RM3 billion within three months after the economic sectors were allowed to resume operations in May.

"We understand the investment situation but we try to achieve a significant value. Last year, we achieved RM17 billion (in approved manufacturing projects) and RM18.9 billion in 2018, but because of Covid-19, we had to lower it (our target)," said Amirudin, adding that enhancement of the target can be further achieved via investments at the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida).

According to Mida, Selangor was the top investment destination in the country last year and recorded



the highest investments at RM47.8 billion with 315 approved projects.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said innovation and tech investments by the Hartalega Next Generation Complex can be used for the Industrial Revolution 4.0, or 4IR, by producing more high-skilled workers.

"This effort could be made through funding via the Technical Skill Initiative and Iktisas Smart Selangor and we welcome major investments but this has to be planned out to see the benefit of human resource development as well as human capital," he said.

Faithful five picked to propel economy

SHAH ALAM - Five manufacturing sectors have been chosen to drive the state and the country's gross domestic product (GDP), says Dato' Teng Chang Khim.

The Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman said they are the electrical and electronic sector, the machinery sector, the aerospace sector, the food and drinks sector, and the life science sector that covers pharmaceutical and medicine.

"We want to strengthen the manufacturing sector to support the services sector, which is the main thrust of the country's economy," said Teng while commenting on Selangor's GDP performance in 2019.

"This aim is in line with Selangor's intention of not setting other states as its competitors. Instead, it puts countries in the Asia region as its main competitors in economic development."

Currently, the state manufacturing sector only contributes 30 per cent to the GDP compared to 60 per cent by the service sector.

On Aug 6, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced that Selangor contributed 24.2 per cent to the national GDP in 2019, thus maintaining the pole position it has held in the last few years.

He said the figure is an increase of 0.5 per cent from the 23.7 per cent recorded in the same period two years ago.

Helping entrepreneurs go online

KLANG - The Selangor government will provide training for entrepreneurs venturing into e-commerce to learn new skills, says its state executive councillor.

The State Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the profit recorded from the Selangor e-Bazaar Raya programme, which was held in May, has shown that online sales can contribute towards expanding the economy as well as ensuring financial security.

The initiative had recorded RM341.5 million in returns, exceeding its RM8 million target.

"Having a set of skills is essential in the new norms following Covid-19, and we encourage entrepreneurs to venture into this (e-commerce) industry.

"Through Sitec (Selangor Information Technology and e-Commerce Council), we will nurture them with the right skills. We will not succeed simply by providing the funds, but by equipping them with the right skills, they would be able to benefit from it," said Teng during the launch of the Selangor Digital Entrepreneur Roadshow 2020 here on Aug 22.

The second series of the entrepreneur roadshow was held in collaboration with Lazada Malaysia, Boost e-Wallet, Avana, Ninja Van, BungkusIT, Hijrah Selangor, and Youbeli and was attended by 200 participants.

Teng said while online businesses require a low capital, with the correct management, they will be able to record high profits.

"We entered the e-commerce era before Covid-19 (happened). However, when the movement control order was enforced, we had to depend on this method and it has shown to be fruitful."



World's top glove makers choose Selangor

SEPANG - Selangor is the world's largest glove producer, says Invest Selangor Bhd (Invest Selangor) chief executive officer Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris.

Hasan said this is after four top glove producers, Top Glove Corp Bhd, Hartalega Holdings Bhd (Hartalega), Kossan Rubber Industries Bhd and Maxter Glove Manufac-

turing Sdn Bhd chose to invest and run their operations in the state.

"Hartalega is one of the biggest glove manufacturers and is expanding fast. In fact, they are opening a new plant here next month.

"The company is expected to open another operation site in Kuala Langat next year. They will

invest more than RM4 billion in the next three to five years," said Hassan when met after joining Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari for a visit to Hartalega Next Generation Complex (NGC) here on Aug 24.

He said the company's new plant will offer about 4,000 job opportunities.

New digital hub to attract investors near and far

By SHERILYN PANG

KUALA LUMPUR - Invest Selangor Bhd (Invest Selangor) has launched another digitalisation initiative, the Selangor Business Hub (SBH), which allows international and local businesses to engage and network with regional stakeholders.

A total of 3,000 businesses have been targeted to sign up within a year.

Selangor state executive councillor Dato' Teng Chang Khim said that the digital channel of communication for businesses has so far signed up 300 businesses to use and benefit from Invest Selangor's various business options and offerings.

"So far, we have managed to sign up 300 virtual businesses for the SBH. The work is still ongoing. I have the target for us to hit 3,000, and I believe within a year, we may be able to achieve the target," Teng told reporters during the press conference after officiating the SBH here.

"However, that depends on the whole situation as the pandemic is unpredictable. Our recovery movement control order has been extended to Dec 31 this year and we don't know whether it will be further extended or not, so we can't be certain when the international borders will be reopened. However, we have



Teng and Hasan check out the SBH website after the launch of the state's digitalisation initiative

very clear missions and visions that have been set up in our Action Plan for the state of Selangor," he said.

Teng said the SBH will focus on industries identified by the Selangor Industrial Masterplan which was launched in 2017, which focuses on the potentials of five different core industrial clusters in the state of six mil-

lion residents. They are: electrical and electronics, life sciences, food and beverage manufacturing, transport equipment, and machinery.

He said among the top industries in-focus for SBH are the Halal and the aerospace industries.

"Our team is still working hard to put this up. Corporations from various departments of the state

government are going to make sure these initiatives are going to materialise," Teng emphasised.

Meanwhile, Invest Selangor chief executive officer Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris said that SBH could expedite the migration of activities that are normally undertaken physically into a virtual format.

He said investors interested to

enter Selangor to do business can log into the system by self-registering and be opened up to all the options that are made available to them by the Hub.

"We have three main components on SBH at this moment. First is the Selangor trade investment promotional activities containing webinar and conference series; second is the Selangor International Business Summit which features our international and regional expos; and third is the IT programmes developed by the Selangor Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (Sitec)," Hasan explained.

He said, so far, various investors comprising 98 per cent local and international SMEs who have shown interest to invest in the state are already in the process of getting their approval procedures fulfilled with both the state and Federal governments.

Additionally, the newly-updated website of the state investment agency has thus far recorded 3.3 million visitors since it began operating five years ago.

"For the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget), we hope that the announcement will centre around the encouragement for more companies to have their base in Selangor. This way, it will benefit all the industry players and so on," Hasan added.

Virtual meet will spur new interest from Asean, says exco

SHAH ALAM - The Virtual Selangor Asean Business Conference (SABC) 2020 is set to become a catalyst for new investments from the Asean region to strategically take root and expand in Selangor.

Selangor Investment, Industry & Commerce and Small & Medium Enterprise Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the conference will continue to create opportunities for the state to form strategic alliances with its regional partners to accelerate its economic recovery and subsequent growth.

"Selangor, as a state, is Malay-

sia's economic powerhouse and has been growing higher than the national average annually, with our contribution of over 24 per cent to Malaysia's GDP (gross domestic product) in 2019.

"It is also the most strategic investment destination in Malaysia, complemented with a comprehensive infrastructure, equipped with excellent ICT facilities and business-friendly environment," said Teng in his opening remarks at the Virtual SABC 2020 on Aug 25.

He said Selangor has the largest talent pool of about 3.6 mil-

lion people, with over 60,000 graduates coming from 160 higher-learning institutions in the state.

Teng also said the state administration had significantly invested to showcase Selangor as a premier regional economic, industrial and business hub, which led to the annual SABC as part of its globalisation and trade initiatives.

"Over the course of four webinars and a full-day conference scheduled in October 2020, SABC will continue to be the engagement platform to share and dis-

cuss challenges and opportunities, which hopefully, will pave the way for a more comprehensive recovery for all of you," he told the audience.

"Despite the uncertainty and complications, I believe Asean as a region would still be able to remain relevant and strong, with her abundance of resources, positive business ecosystem, talented workforce and a huge market of more than 640 million population."

The first series of the Virtual SABC saw prominent speakers such as the China-Asean Invest-

ment Cooperation Fund's managing director Than Su Ee, the International Data Corporation Asean's managing director Sudev Bangah, and economics professor Dr Jamal Othman from Universiti Malaysia Kebangsaan's Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development.

Themed 'Asean: A Beacon of Light in a Pandemic-Hit World Economy' and organised by Invest Selangor Bhd, the event features four webinars every month starting from Aug 25, culminating with the Selangor International Business Summit 2020 on Oct 14.

Governments around the world have been clambering to get their economies back up since the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Selangor too, is in urgency to rebound its economy, taking advantage of its existing resources and infrastructure to complement the efforts of the Federal administration.

Come Oct 30, the state will be revealing the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget), and preparations are underway to showcase a comprehensive and inclusive budget.

The administration has been inclusive of the views of the people in its plans, organising the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue on Sept 7 at the Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam to get the opinion of experts and stakeholders.

Various suggestions were given throughout the dialogue. Some 18 panellists shared their ideas based on their areas of expertise, and members of the audience too were given the chance to express their concerns.

The one-day dialogue focused on five syndicates, which will form the main thrusts of the upcoming budget. They are: agriculture, tourism and agro-tourism; public health, housing and urban liveability; microentrepreneurs, digitalisation and urban poverty; wealth creation; and the creative industry.

The following is a summary of some of the points highlighted during the dialogue on how the state should move forward.

WEALTH CREATION

The three main themes that were suggested for the state government to focus on wealth creation are technology and innovation, governance, and human capital.

Some of the ideas that will be looked into by the state administration include:

- to focus on shifting from being a tech-consuming state to becoming a tech-producing state and moving towards green technology
- to create an ecosystem in the innovative industry to attract investors to the state. This includes facilitating the business transactions of both domestic and foreign investors and also introducing a soft-landing zone for foreign investors, such as providing co-working spaces so that investors can opt for temporary space rentals
- bringing smart solutions to the digital industry
- providing more space for the manufacturing sector
- to focus on human capital by producing high-skilled workers to meet the needs of the industry and to bridge employment gaps by looking at current demand
- to form a centre of excellence and improve on labour skills especially for the high-technology sectors

AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND AGRO-TOURISM

For this section, the participants spoke on land issues, the commodity industry, access to seeds for planting, and urban poverty. Due to Covid-19, the tourism sector has been badly hit and the state government will look into ways on how the tourism and agriculture sectors can complement one another through agro-tourism.

- to work towards better management of land in the state and address the issue of high prices due to the competition between housing and industrial sectors. The categories of land that are in the legalisation process are: state-owned land, land owned by government-linked agencies (four hectares), land owned by administrative departments, and idle land
- to look into the bleak outlook of the commodity industry, such as cocoa, rubber, and palm oil. Diversifying cash crops should be practised to maximize land use
- to improve on the research and development of seeds and breeds
- to create a mind shift on how to sustain the tourism industry, by creating new sources of wealth. Tour operators to be willing to change the way they conduct business to remain competitive
- to do away with middlemen in the tourism industry so that tour operators will benefit directly
- to provide support to the 640,000 small and medium industries in the tourism sector and provide assistance in marketing tourism products

CREATIVE INDUSTRY

More active participation by industry players, the role of the Cultural Economy Development Agency (Cendana) and the future of e-games were among the topics highlighted.

- industry players have to be smart in consulting publishers/producers to reach a wider market
- to ensure that different rules of censorship are applied to content that have an international audience
- to streamline and channel information via Cendana, such as having open forums to increase the quality of the creative industry
- to better disseminate information on how to fund the gaming industry
- to promote video games more actively

MICROENTREPRENEURS, DIGITALISATION AND URBAN POVERTY

The focus behind this thrust is on infrastructure, funding, and administrative processing.

- to have government support for better physical infrastructure and address the lack of access to free Wi-Fi
- to increase digital knowledge among the public and youths and to promote competitiveness. Entrepreneurs must be prepared for digitalisation and become ambassadors for the B40 group
- to provide financing initiatives to microentrepreneurs in the non-traditional sectors. The state government must also work closely with financial institutions and encourage the latter to support microentrepreneurs
- to overcome legal or regulatory issues that have not been streamlined at the district and local authority levels
- to issue temporary licences to those in the gig-economy sector
- to practise better data management by creating a centralised and comprehensive data collection centre

PUBLIC HEALTH, HOUSING AND URBAN LIVEABILITY

Non-communicable diseases, nutrition, mental health, real-time data, and public accessibility were the highlights of this session.

- to provide accessible walkways and form an environment that promotes a healthy lifestyle. This is part of efforts to curb the rise in non-communicable diseases, which also includes improving the quality of air, water and affordable food
- to create awareness on the importance of a healthy diet and actively bring the information into the community, for example to People's Housing Project (PPR)
- to formulate a mental health module to increase public awareness and introduce work environments that are mental health-friendly, such as providing recreational rooms or stress-free corners
- to use the SELangkah platform for real-time data collection as health-related programmes are difficult to be executed due to outdated data
- to provide more bicycle lanes and public transportation and build cities that are friendly to people with different abilities and the elderly
- to curb urban poverty by going down to the ground

Proposals for Budget 2021

A clarion call to action

By SHERILYN PANG

The economic growth of Selangor reported by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in August showed it exceeded the national gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019.

Compared to all the other states, Selangor's GDP grew the fastest at 6.7 per cent, with the federal territory of Kuala Lumpur trailing from behind at 6 per cent.

This was due in part to the state's substantial population size and its enterprising dynamics that continue to make it the economic powerhouse of the country.

In view of its stellar economic performance, the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget) on Oct 30 is set to be an occasion that would stir major interest from Malaysians as Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari prepares to announce allocations for the nearly six million people living in the state.

Notwithstanding that, it is worth noting that Selangor has just emerged from a harrowing series of hurdles.

Not only has it got to cushion the economic impact of the US-China Trade War, but it also has to battle the deadly Covid-19 outbreak that has disrupted the country's growth plans, with the unemployment rate the worst hit since the Financial Crisis of 2018.

Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) director and economist Tan Sri Dato' Dr Ramon V Navaratnam opines that Selangor should be able to sustain itself and lessen its dependence on the fed-

eral government as it is rich with natural resources and land.

"Selangor has the capacity to lead the whole country in a bigger way. It is time for Selangor to think out of the box and follow the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). If the state follows every goal, there will be no poverty in Selangor," he said.

"What's more, it is the richest state in the whole country but why do we still have pockets of poverty?"

Referring to poverty, Ramon believes that the Sultan of Selangor and the Menteri Besar's dedication towards the state holds the key to its prosperity.

"The Menteri Besar and the Sultan should step in to ensure that we will not tolerate corruption or wastage while those who are guilty should be exposed by the top," Ramon said.

Unfortunately, Selangor is still dependent on the government to fund its development.

"Selangor is still dependent on the federal government when we shouldn't have to because we can branch out on our own and be an ideal, exemplary state for the nation," he said.

"I am proud of Selangor as the state's citizen but I am disappointed that they are not doing better. However, it can certainly do better by following these steps.

"Encourage joint ventures with businesses; go for more agricultural activities to break the poverty cycle and create more employment; introduce more competition policies based on merit regardless of race; attract more FDIs (foreign

direct investments); teach English in TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training), Science and Technology; and bring in more domestic investment via better incentives as well as having the state's people to support the influential and caring Sultan, Menteri Besar and Exco to persuade the Federal government to raise the allocation for Selangor," he listed down.

"We surely deserve more funds."

According to Ramon, Selangor must lead the way by allowing more Malaysians to be given land to do farming.

"Selangor is not short of land. As long as farmers are citizens of Malaysia, provide them with more land to harvest so that everybody can work together as one Malaysian team, one Selangor team, regardless of race and religion. They can bring in the capital and labour. They just need some land. If racism and religious bigotry persist, the Sultan can act on these people if the police don't. Make Selangor the ideal state for all other states to emulate," Ramon emphasised.

"I wish Selangor would do better to lead the way for the whole nation. Policies should be reviewed, be made more competitive and more meritocratic. Selangor citizens are collaborative, compassionate and more unifying. It can set the example for other states because Selangor Boleh."

First to rebound

Sunway University professor of economics Dr Yeah Kim Leng said in the last two years, Selangor's

economy has outperformed all the other states.

"Its GDP grew at 6.8 per cent in 2018 and 6.7 per cent in 2019, way above the national GDP growth of 4.8 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively. Its growth performance is all the more impressive given it is also the largest state economy accounting for 24.2 per cent of the national GDP in 2019," said Yeah.

The state's performance may have contracted due to the Covid-19 pandemic in tandem with the country's worst slump in 20 years, but Yeah pointed out that Selangor will lead the nation's economic recovery in the third and fourth quarter of this year as well as witness the V-shaped rebound in 2021 barring a resurgence of the coronavirus outbreak.

In echoing Ramon's call for the state's leadership to follow the UN SDGs, Yeah also urges Selangor to focus on the nation's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030.

"These goals actually centre on three pillars — growth, inclusivity and sustainability.

"The inclusive growth pillar should focus on reducing income

disparities and improving the livelihood and quality of life of the urban poor and disadvantaged groups such as single parents and the aged," he stated.

For the Selangor Budget, Yeah hopes it will complement the national stimulus packages to propel Malaysia towards further recovery.

"It is hoped that the 2021 Selangor Budget can complement the national Covid-19 stimulus packages in sustaining the country's recovery momentum especially in facing a weaker-than-expected global economy roiled by the pandemic and worsening US-China relations."

A bigger budget, he said, would help Selangor offset any softness in consumer and business spending due to the resurgence threat of the virus that may linger longer than expected through 2021.

As such, Yeah welcomes a higher allocation for social and infrastructure spending to improve the quality of life of the B40 households, especially the urban poor as the state's digital transformation efforts would be equally expected.





Fairness, above all else

By SHERILYN PANG

It was the last thing that Hasnul Baharuddin would expect to happen — to be chosen as Selangor's deputy speaker for the State Legislative Assembly. He is now second chief-in-command to Selangor Speaker Ng Suee Lim.

Hasnul, who is also the Morib state assemblyman (N53), was given the trust to lead the meeting for the first time during the second meeting of the third term of the 14th state legislative assembly sitting in July.

Coming from a pharmaceu-

tical background, Hasnul contested in the general elections in 2013 and 2018 for his constituency, previously under the PAS ticket and then subsequently for Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah).

Aside from taking on the new role especially in view of these unsettling economic times, Hasnul has a responsibility to his constituency as well.

In the Dewan Negeri, Hasnul commands the authority to decide who speaks and holds the power to discipline members who do not comply with the rules of the respected House.

"I was voted in by consensus

during a DUN proceeding. Before that, there were a few candidates but I was finally chosen by the Pakatan Harapan component members. I am touched by their trust towards me and really appreciate this opportunity," Hasnul told *Selangor Journal* in a recent interview.

Expecting challenges to abound as he began his job, Hasnul stressed on being impartial during each assembly sitting.

"In the last sitting, I had to do my job immediately upon appointment and seeing the situation now, for sure the debates in the House would be more heat-

ed.

"As a deputy speaker, I have to be fair. For example, I need to prepare the space for both the opposition and the government's side to speak and voice their opinions," he explained.

Hasnul has come on board at a time when the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget) is approaching.

With anticipation riding high for Selangor to showcase what it has achieved so far, Hasnul says the focus should be given to addressing the people's problems resulting from Covid-19.

"For the upcoming budget, the state must focus on the people's problems as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak in Malaysia. Last year, we had RM40 million allocated for youth development programmes. My concern is how we can better use this RM40 million or do we need to review the amount or use it to organise youth programmes more efficiently post Covid-19?"

"As for 'women and family' issues, we had RM67 million allocated followed by the housing segment which received RM309 million. So, I would really like to see if these budget amounts allocated last year have been fully utilised and spent in an accountable manner.

"As for public funding and

Hasnul (right) with the Selangor Speaker, Ng

healthcare-related matters, I wish to see more provision in these areas," Hasnul said.

Hasnul started out as the coordinator for the Morib constituency in 2010, overseeing the basic needs of the constituency while attached to PAS. It was during the 2013 elections that catapulted him into a political career when he became the state representative of the area.

"In approaching this role, I am deriving most of my experience from being an MP in the Dewan Rakyat throughout the years. Though I may still be fresh on this job (as deputy speaker) and am on my way towards familiarising with the rules and regulations of the House, I will carry out my job as best as I can.

"My priority is to give everyone a fair chance to speak. More importantly, I will be more focused on not crossing the boundaries of what is required of the role and only maintaining the necessary calls within my jurisdiction."

“As a deputy speaker, I have to be fair. For example, I need to prepare the space for both the opposition and the government's side to speak and voice their opinions



By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

State reps in support of heftier fines

SHAH ALAM - Selangor state representatives are in support of the proposal to increase the maximum fine to RM1 million for any parties found guilty of polluting the state's waterways to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.

Taman Templer assemblyman Mohd Sany Hamzan even suggested that the amount be increased to RM2 million as well as a mandatory jail



Mohd Sany Hamzan

sentence. "Polluting rivers is becoming more prevalent as offenders choose to take the easy way out by releasing chemicals into the waterways. They make millions of ringgit in profit but refuse to follow the Department of Environment's standard operating procedures.

"They should be severely

punished as a deterrent to others to never ever pollute the source of raw water in Selangor," he said when contacted.

On Sept 5, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari stated that the maximum fine for offenders will be increased from RM500,000

to RM1 million through an amendment to the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) Enactment 1999.

The motion will be tabled in the next State

Legislative Assembly session scheduled from October to November.

Meanwhile, Subang Jaya state assemblyman Michelle Ng Mei Sze said two elements need to be taken into account, namely setting a minimum fine of RM200,000 and a mandatory jail sentence.

"Even if the fine is increased to RM1 million, the court can set the fine at RM1, RM10 or RM10,000. So, a minimum rate should be set as a guide to determine the appropriate amount.



Michelle Ng Mei Sze



Lau Weng San

Banting assemblyman Lau Weng San considered the amendment to the enactment as relevant and said it must be sped up to prevent similar cases.

"The amendment to this enactment must not only increase the fine but

"Those who abetted (the crime), such as truck drivers and executors of the order, should also be subjected to the same punishment because their actions harm millions of people," she said.



Lim Yi Wei

must also include imprisonment because they (the offenders) can afford to pay the fine," he said.

Kampung Tunku assemblyman Lim Yi Wei also supported raising the maximum fine to RM1 million, saying the current rate is not sufficient.

"During the prosecution process, all aspects need to be taken into account and we have to make them (the offenders) feel the pain and not repeat the same offence," she said.

Your favourite reads, just a call away

SHAH ALAM - The BooksFly2U book loan service launched by the Selangor Public Library Corporation (PPAS) is able to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection in public places.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the effort is in line with the new norm

and book lovers in Selangor will not have to forego their favourite pastime because of the virus.

"PPAS has taken a proactive approach to promote the culture of reading by providing e-call book borrowing services.

"Take this opportunity by Whatsapping to 010-8491488 or

call 03-55197667 for more information. With knowledge, we are able to further develop and advance Selangor," said Amirudin on Aug 20.

The programme, launched on July 16, allows borrowers to make an order for a book by phone.

Library staff will arrange for

the books to be delivered within two days, with the cost of the delivery borne by the borrower.

The service is available every day from 9am to 5pm, except on public holidays.

Previously, the library stated that the Harry Potter fantasy series by J. K. Rowling and books

penned by renowned author Enid Blyton are among the most popular to be borrowed through BooksFly2U.

PPAS director Mastura Muhammad said so far, over 200 people have used the service, with 12-year-olds being the youngest borrowers.

Works at landslide area progressing well

SHAH ALAM - Repair works at the landslide area at Taman Kelab Ukay, Bukit Antarabangsa, is now 60 per cent complete.

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) Corporate Communications officer Norhayati Ahmad said the council is monitoring the repairs carried out by the contractors from time to time to ensure it is completed as per schedule by December.

"The installation of steel sheet piles to prevent riverbank erosion of Sungai Sering, repairs of the drains, and several other processes to

strengthen the slopes are according to schedule.

"We have reached 60 per cent in three months. We have four months to go until December to complete the remaining 40 per cent," she told *SelangorKini* when contacted on Sept 3.

On May 30, residents of seven double-storey terrace houses affected by the landslide were directed to vacate their homes for six months following the incident that was caused by soil movement due to continuous rain.

The occupants were temporarily housed at the Hotel

De Palma, Ampang for free for one week.

The Selangor government has allocated RM1,000 in financial assistance to each family for their rental for six months, while the Urban Well Being, Housing and Local Government Ministry has given a maximum of RM3,000.

Amirudin also announced a RM433,800 fund for repair works at the Sungai Sering riverbank to be carried out by the Selangor Irrigation and Drainage Department as well as for carrying out a detailed study on the area.

New attractions to draw six million visitors

SHAH ALAM - Tourism Selangor is actively promoting several new attractions in the state to achieve its target of six million visitors this year, says its general manager Azrul Shah Mohamad.

Some of the locations include Discovery Park in Dengkil, Paya Indah Discovery Wetlands in Banting, Safari Mural Art in Klang, Tamarind Square in Cyberjaya, and the Myrtle tea farm in Sekinchan.

"Other attractions include Pulau Ketam and Sungai Lima, Banghunis bamboo garden (in Sepang), Selangor Fruit Valley (in Bestari Jaya), Tanjung Sepat, Kajang Heritage Centre, Sky Mirror (in Kuala

Selangor), and the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang," he told *SelangorKini*.

"Therefore, it is appropriate to aim for six million tourists as we also have the 'Pusing Selangor Dulu' campaign, the 'Jelajah Pesona Selangor', the 'Familiarisation Trip' programme or FAM Trip, and advertisements through various platforms."

Azrul Shah said the highest number of visitors come from Kuala Lumpur, followed by Johor, Perak, Negeri Sembilan, and Kelantan.

The new target for tourist arrivals in the state was set following the Covid-19 outbreak that has affected tourism across the globe.

In appreciation of our waterways

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

SHAH ALAM - Thirty-one locations in Selangor have been chosen for the launch of the Friends of Rivers (FoR) initiative on Sept 26, in conjunction with World Rivers Day.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the pur-

pose of the initiative is to conserve and preserve the rivers in the state by the local communities, its leaders, and NGOs.

"The launch of the initiative was initially scheduled for March but has been moved to September, following the Covid-19 pandemic and the enforced movement control order.

"The small-scale event will be held simultaneously (at the different locations), adhering to the standard operating procedures, with low numbers of participants attending at one time," he told a press conference at the State Secretariat building here on Aug 18.

Amirudin is expected to launch the initiative at Sungai

Klang in Taman Melawati, Gombak, and the event will be broadcast live on social media to avoid a large gathering of people.

The programme will run from 8.30am to 10am, and will focus on gotong-royong activities at the river.

World Rivers Day is an annual global celebration of the world's

waterways, held on the fourth Sunday of September, and was initiated to increase public awareness on the many values of rivers.

International river conservationist Mark Angelo founded the event in 2005, and millions of people in over 70 countries have taken part since.

Hawkers, traders welcome offer of temporary permits

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government's restructuring programme for petty traders and hawkers, which was introduced in mid-August, has received an overwhelming response.

All local authorities in Selangor have been urged to ease the process for traders to receive their temporary business permits and licences, which the state administration set at 500 this year. They will be valid until Dec 31 unless there is a breach of regulation, upon which they will be revoked.

The following are some of the distribution of temporary business permits issued by the local authorities:

- Shah Alam City Council: 180 recipients, with a RM90 charge imposed for the temporary licence and the requirement to renew it every three months
- Klang Municipal Council: 95 recipients, with 35 receiving theirs on Aug 19 and the remaining 60 on Sept 8



The petty traders and hawkers in Klang show their temporary permits, which they received on Sept 8

- Kuala Langat Municipal Council: 58 out of 97 applications have been approved, with 31 pending and eight rejected for not meeting the terms
- Kajang Municipal Council: 150 permits were given to unlicensed hawkers and traders under the jurisdiction of the local council
- Subang Jaya Municipal Council: 503 hawkers and traders have been issued permits since June on the council's initiative to help them get back on their feet after the movement control order.

Councils urged to buy own bodycams

SHAH ALAM - Local authorities in Selangor are urged to use their own budget to purchase body-worn cameras as the devices are sold at affordable prices.

State Local Government, Public Transportation and New Village Development Committee chairman Ng Sze Han said, therefore, there should not be an issue of insufficient allocations to buy the devices.

"The cost of the body-worn cameras does not reach RM1,000 per unit, depending on the brand of the devices. Therefore there should be no issue of not being able to afford it.

"Not all of the enforcement officers are required to be equipped with the device when on duty. It should at least be worn by the head of the team. However, if two or three officers are equipped with the device, it would be better," he recently told *SelangorKini*.

Ng said the state government had not set the minimum quali-

ty of the device as it depends on the local councils.

"The local authorities have welcomed the use of the body-worn cameras as it can be used as evidence should any untoward incidents occur, such as provocation between the enforcement officers and the public.

"It would also ensure that the officers are able to carry out their duties according to the standard operating procedure. It offers protection to all parties involved," he said.

On June 22, Ng had said that the local authorities will be given until the end of the year to equip their enforcement officers with body-worn cameras.

To date, five local authorities — Petaling Jaya City Council, Subang Jaya Municipal Council, Ampang Jaya Municipal Council, Selayang Municipal Council, and Klang Municipal Council — have begun using the device.



Non-revenue water at record low

SHAH ALAM - Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) has reduced the non-revenue water (NRW) average to 29.6 per cent in 2019, a decrease of 2 per cent compared to the 31.6 per cent recorded in 2018.

In its Performance Report 2019, Air Selangor said the achievement is significantly bet-

ter than the previous year's target of 30.6 per cent.

"Air Selangor continued a positive trajectory of reducing the NRW average to 29.6 per cent in 2019. A record low in the history of the water supply and distribution industry in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

"This was achieved through in-

tensive planning and the continuous implementation of several internal initiatives since 2017."

The annual report, which was published on Aug 4, stated that some of the internal initiatives include efforts to reduce cases of burst pipes, installing sensors on main pipes, and replacing old and damaged meters and pipes.

"Based on this record, Air Selangor is confident that the ongoing initiatives and programmes to reduce NRW rates will continue to succeed every year, with a target of 1 per cent reduction in the NRW rates annually," said the company.

It has also assigned a dedicated team to carry out the initia-

tives, including leak inspectors and specialists, district metering zone teams, trunk main leak inspection teams, as well as NRW engineers and managers.

Air Selangor has also replaced a total of 164,283 units of aged meters and 154,556 units of faulty meters under its yearly meter replacement programme.

‘Let’s do more for Morib’

By SHERILYN PANG

Morib, located at the southern part of Selangor, is famously known for its beaches and natural beauty. The constituency (N53) is helmed by Hasnul Baharuddin, who oversees the welfare of over 90,000 people and the 35,000 registered voters there.

A pharmaceutical graduate from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Hasnul, who was recently elected as the deputy speaker of Selangor’s State Legislative Assembly, speaks to *Selangor Journal* on his hopes to see the tourism sector in his constituency improve further and to upgrade Morib’s infrastructure to keep it viable and attractive for visitors.



SJ: What is the main industry in your constituency?

Agriculture is Morib’s main economy. We have oil palm plantations and fertigation and vegetable farming, among others. Our economic activities revolve around tourism, giving our local entrepreneurs a great opportunity to do business. There are many small and medium-sized enterprises in the food-processing line, with some owning homestays and running food-stall businesses to take advantage of our tourist spot status.



It would be good if we can initiate some public-private partnerships to further develop Morib’s tourism

SJ: What are some of the main attractions in Morib?

Morib has a decent spread of areas for tourism activities. Aside from Pantai Morib, there are Jugra, Carey Island and Pantai Kelanang, just to name a few. So even though we may not be as popular as Port Dickson or Melaka, the potential for our tourism activity to grow is immense. That’s why I would like to suggest to the state government to develop Morib further. For example, we can reclaim land to facili-

tate the growth of our tourism sector. We currently depend on the support of the private sector, but if we can initiate some public-private partnerships to further develop Morib’s tourism, that would be good.

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

At present, the concern lies with Selangor’s water issue. Pre-



viously our state Budget allocated RM2.333 million but for 2021, I hope there can be more to ensure the wellbeing of the people and to guarantee that they remain happy with our services. I would also like to reiterate my hopes for the tourism sector in Morib, to see more aggressive infrastructure development. This is so that we can attract more investors. Not to forget, we have many fishermen here and if the state government can assist in building an aquaculture research and fish-farming centre here, it would benefit them greatly.

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

I have managed to improve the basic amenities for the residents here, such as mending the roads

in their housing areas and also the interstate linked roads. The fact that the local authorities have annual allocations dedicated to road and drainage system maintenance ensures that they will always be in good condition. And in April and May during the movement control order at the peak of the Covid-19 outbreak, I helped to distribute aid to more than 2,000 families in my area using funds provided by the state government.

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

My problem-solving methods include close engagement with all kinds of non-government organisations at the grassroots level. My target is to reach out to the people in the villages and pay close attention to their problems. I make it a point to

FROM TOP

Hasnul takes part in a goyong-royong event to refurbish an old folks’ home

Bukit Jugra in Kuala Langat offers tourists the chance to do paragliding

Hasnul meets with the locals to discuss the improvements made to the water piping system

strengthen my ties with the local authorities and state bodies at the mid-tier and district levels so that solving grassroots problems becomes easier. I keep myself at a good position where I am able to make recommendations and obtain approvals for the people.

Notification on Change of Address



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e-Sports can spur the economy, says MB

By ALIFF FIKRI

SHAH ALAM - Selangor is capable of building a creative economy by developing a new ecosystem through e-Sports, which has gained a following.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the game is not just popular among children but covers a large market scope.

"It has an entire ecosystem of its own, from space creation to the creativity of character creation," he said in his summary remarks during the 2021 Selangor Budget Dialogue on Sept 7.

Amirudin cited local gamer Wan Hazmer Wan Abd Halim, 40, who managed to create his own video game that caught international attention.

He said the game raked in high revenue even on the first day of its launch.

"It seems like the game can be a promotional platform (for Selangor). Imagine our cyber creator featuring Sekinchan paddy



fields, Sunway Lagoon or even Batu Caves as its background while playing a game of Street Fighter," he pointed out, in reference to the game created by Takashi Nishiyama and Hiroshi Matsumoto and produced by a Japanese company, Capcom, in

August 1987.

"The game actually has its own origins and can pave the way for new economic creation."

Last month, Hazmer launched a video game titled 'No Straight Road' via his own company, Metronomik.

State extends help to former athletes

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has created the 'Program Ceria Atlet Selangor 2020', a fund that seeks to help former athletes, both able-bodied and disabled, who are facing hardships.

Selangor Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said

the initiative is a way of showing appreciation to the former athletes who have brought glory to the country and the state.

"We are collaborating with the National Athletes Welfare Foundation (Yakeb) to locate these former athletes and those who have been selected will receive aid amounting to RM5,000, de-

pending on their needs.

"Yakeb has received about 250 applications and selection will be made based on appraisals by the State Economic Planning Unit and the foundation," he told a press conference after the launch of the fund on Sept 3.

Mohd Khairuddin added that aside from providing monetary assistance, other forms of help like repairing damaged homes and providing home furnishings will also be rendered.

Among the criteria for the selection are whether or not the athletes are Selangor-born, have represented the state at the national level, and have a fixed income.

He said that so far, 850 current and former Selangor-born athletes have joined Yakeb, making it the biggest group of athletes registered with the foundation.

He also said that for now, some RM195,350 has been allocated for the fund but that he plans to include it in next year's state budget allocation. - Bernama



Hamidin presents a gift to the Selangor Ruler when he was granted an audience at the Istana Bukit Kayangan on Sept 2

Sultan grants audience to FAM president

KUALA LUMPUR - The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj, granted an audience to Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) president Datuk Hamidin Mohd Amin at Istana Bukit Kayangan, Shah Alam, on Sept 2.

Hamidin took the opportunity to discuss current football issues, including the privatisation process of turning FAs (football associations) into FCs (football clubs), according to a statement issued by FAM.

"Other topics discussed included the progress of the F:30 Roadmap as well as the plan to build a new FAM head-

quarters and a state-of-the-art national training centre in Putrajaya," the statement added.

Hamidin also touched on the impact Covid-19 has had on the industry as well as the national squad's preparations ahead of the 2022 World Cup/2023 Asian Cup qualifiers and the grassroots development programmes in Selangor, which are in line with the FAM SupaRimau Charter.

Also present were Malaysian Football League (MFL) chief executive officer Datuk Ab Ghani Hassan and FAM secretary-general Stuart Ramalingam. - Bernama

Reminder to stick to SOPs

SHAH ALAM - Sports associations and athletes are required to continue adhering to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) that have been set for training sessions throughout the extension period of the recovery movement control order (RMCO).

Selangor State Sports Council (MSN) executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said all sporting events are allowed to be held without spectators but international-level events are still banned.

"To ensure the safety of all sports enthusiasts are advised to comply with the SOPs and must be alert to the current developments of Covid-19," he said when contacted by *SelangorKini*.

Previously, the Youth and Sports Ministry had laid out sev-

eral SOPs for sporting events, including the requirement to scan QR codes and conduct health screenings before entering a building, wearing protective face masks, and keeping a safe social distance of between one to three metres for static sports and three to five metres for dynamic sports.

Training centres are also allowed to operate to strict schedules and must be disinfected accordingly. Saunas and jacuzzis, however, are still barred.

On Aug 28, the Federal government had announced the extension of the RMCO until Dec 31. Enforcement action during the RMCO period is gazetted under Act 342 (the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988).

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The state government has called for the people to share their views for the upcoming Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget).

THE BUDGET WILL FOCUS ON FIVE MAIN THRUSTS:



THRUST 1

AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND AGRO-TOURISM

- I. Focus on the development and sustainability of the agricultural, tourism and agro-tourism sectors
- II. Ensuring the wellbeing of the workers in these sectors, and how the sectors will impact on the environment



THRUST 2

PUBLIC HEALTH, HOUSING AND URBAN LIVEABILITY

- I. Provide quality health facilities to the people of Selangor
- II. Increase the quality of life for the people at focused areas



THRUST 3

MICROENTREPRENEURS, DIGITALISATION AND URBAN POVERTY

- I. Spearhead economic growth by empowering microentrepreneurs and businesses online
- II. Generate income opportunities
- III. Resolve urban poverty issues by empowering the asnaf (tithe recipients)



THRUST 4

WEALTH CREATION

- I. Create new pockets of economy for the benefit of all
- II. Expand economic potentials and increase competitive business enterprises in Selangor



THRUST 5

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

- I. Focus on the livelihood and sustainability of Selangor's creative industry
- II. Foster creative professionals to reach an international level of exposure

Submit your ideas and suggestions to:

www.amirudinshari.com/selangor2021