



SELANGOR JOURNAL



Soldier on, Selangor

As the country faces another round of the movement control order, the state government has once again stepped in to alleviate the hardships faced by the people. The 'Kita Selangor Package', valued at RM73.877 million, was announced on Jan 20 and is packed with incentives for all sections of the society — from the frontline workers who have sacrificed so much for the country, to young graduates in search of a job.

A significant amount of the allocation will also go towards Covid-19 mitigating measures as the state prepares to ramp up testing and manage the upsurge in cases.

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KERAJAAN NEGERI SELANGOR
KERAJAAN NEGERI PAHANG
SATU JUTA SAHAJA
SUMBANGAN BANTUAN BANJIR NEGERI PAHANG

Don't assume we're immune, says exco

SHAH ALAM - The public is urged to cooperate with the government by adhering to the standard operating procedure (SOP) so that the chain of Covid-19 transmission can be broken.

Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the enforcement of the movement control order (MCO) for the second time was the right move.

"However, I ask the public to work together to help the government to break the chain of infection. Do not assume we are immune to the virus and cannot be infected.

"Love your life and the life of your loved ones by adhering to the SOP," Teng told *SelangorKini*.

Teng also said the state administration is ready to work with the Federal government and hopes that the situation will be under control soon.

On Jan 11, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced the implementation of three phases of the MCO for a period of 14 days starting Jan 13, for Selangor and seven other states and territories. The deadline for the order has since been extended to Feb 4.

Task force wants factories to cooperate

SHAH ALAM - Industrial and manufacturing companies are urged to take part in the Preventing and Detecting Outbreaks at Ignition Sites (POIS) programme to curb the spread of Covid-19 infections among workers.

Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) member Dr Yap Wei Aun said their participation in the programme organised by the state agency will bring a huge impact to the country's effort to contain the pandemic.

"POIS is introduced to employers throughout Selangor first because the state has a large foreign workforce.

"Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Johor are also encouraged to participate in this programme as they also have industrial areas," Dr Yap said through a statement on Jan 7.

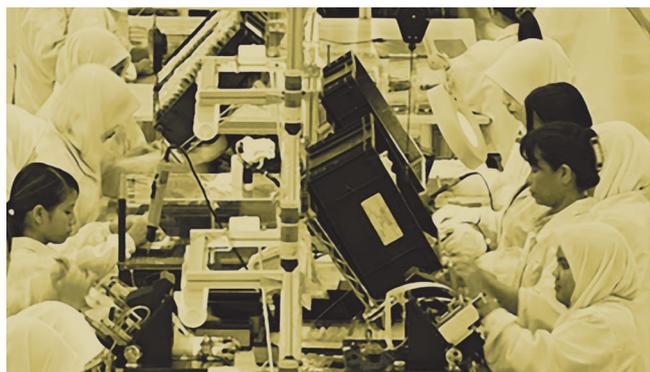
According to him, the Selangor government is actively identifying employers deemed as 'compulsory' to join the initiative.

"Any company can make use of this opportunity. However, at this early stage, we are prioritising industrial and manufacturing companies that have a high number of workers.

"Employers who wish more information on this can browse the POIS website at pois.selangkah.my as well as register," he said.

POIS, which has several components, was launched to curb and reduce cluster infections at the workplace.

It uses the SELangkah (Step In, Safely) platform and requires the active participation of employers, employees and the authorities.



Selangor's plan to buy vaccine welcomed

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government intends to purchase five million doses of Covid-19 vaccine for the people in the state, an effort most welcomed by the Federal government and the Health Ministry (MOH).

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government's intention would more or less reduce the federal government's burden in purchasing the vaccine for the people.

"During the National Security

Council (Emergency) meeting, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was made aware of Selangor's intention, which was also welcomed by the Federal government as their burden (to purchase the vaccine) will be alleviated.

"So far, only the Selangor and Sarawak governments intend to buy the vaccine for the people in their respective states," he told a virtual press conference here on Jan 18.

Amirudin said he would make a further announcement on the mat-

ter once he receives the endorsement from the MOH.

He said the state government will collaborate with the Federal government through the National Immunisation Plan to prevent overlapping in the efforts to address Covid-19 in the country.

The state government will also ensure that all target groups, especially workers, will receive the vaccine as they have important roles to play in reviving the state's economy post-Covid-19, he added. - Bernama



Amirudin (second from right) overseeing the operations at the PKRC MAEPS 2.0 during a visit on Jan 19

MAEPS now also a treatment centre

By **NADIAH ZAMLUS**

SEPANG - The Covid-19 Quarantine and Low-Risk Treatment Centre (PKRC) in Serdang is expected to reduce the load on hospitals in accommodating patients infected with the virus.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) was reopened in December last year and has 9,000 beds.

"This PKRC is growing into an integrated treatment centre for Covid-19 patients with the collabo-

ration of the Health Ministry (MOH) and the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) as well as a few other departments.

"It is now the first treatment and quarantine centre in Malaysia that provides various facilities. I also believe it will help lighten the burden faced by hospitals at the moment," Amirudin said.

The Menteri Besar spoke to members of the press after visiting the quarantine centre along with Selangor state secretary Dato' Mohd Amin Ahmad Ahya, on Jan 19.

Also present were Selangor State

Health Department director Dato' Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman, and PKRC MAEPS 2.0 director Dr Shahabuddin Ibrahim.

The centre was open from March to July last year, and again on Dec 6, to accommodate the growing number of patients.

It is now known as the PKRC MAEPS 2.0.

On Jan 24, the MAEPS integrated hospital will begin treating categories three, four and five patients to stabilise their condition before sending them to hospital for further treatment.

50,000 free swab tests for the vulnerable



SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has allocated RM6 million to enable 50,000 targeted Selangor residents to undergo Covid-19 screening during the movement control order (MCO) period in a proactive bid to combat the pandemic.

In a special address to announce the RM73.877 million Kita Selangor Package on Jan 19, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the screening programme will focus on vulnerable groups.

"It will be focused on targeted groups such as senior citizens, who are at high risk especially the elderly at old folks homes and haemodialysis centres in the state, the B40 group and students.

"The state government through the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) uses the 'Test and Isolate' concept to assist the Health Ministry in managing the pandemic," he said, adding that more detailed information on the matter will be given at a later date.

Amirudin added that the state administration has so far carried out 19,976 free swab tests in Selangor.

Since last year, the state government carried out targeted community screenings at various locations.

Selangor was the first to initiate targeted mass screenings when the first MCO was enforced last March.

Report: One million foreign workers to be inoculated

SHAH ALAM - An estimated one million foreign workers in Selangor will be vaccinated as part of the state government's support for Putrajaya's Covid-19 vaccination plan, *MalaysiaKini* reported on Jan 26.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the vaccination of foreign workers must be considered in order to achieve the herd immunity target in the state, which covers over six million people.

"Of course, we want to protect everyone because in theory to achieve herd immunity, we need to vaccinate between 65 and 70 per cent of the population.

"I was informed that after receiving the vaccine, an individual will be immune to the virus but he or she can still be a carrier. So like it or not, others (in

the community) must also be immune.

"We are using the most conservative estimate, around one million foreign workers ... They must be vaccinated as well to continue working and to remain in the community," he said.

Amirudin said it has to be taken into account that foreign workers are living within the local community and that there is a large number of factories in the state.

"So definitely, they (foreign workers) too need vaccines because they are living in-community."

The Menteri Besar added that the vaccines for registered foreign workers will not be free but that they could be offered at a subsidised price or at cost price to their employers.

Committee to decide which brand is best

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government is currently in discussion with several undisclosed Covid-19 vaccine manufacturers as the state plans to purchase five million doses of the shots for its people, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

In an interview with *MalaysiaKini*, the Selangor Menteri Besar said the state administration's vaccination plans will depend on the final outcome of the negotiations held with the different parties.

He said a special committee headed by Selangor Health, Women and Family Empowerment exco Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud, together with several members of the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19, will decide on which vaccine to buy.

"They have to decide based on cost, effectiveness and suitability. For example, the Pfizer vaccine

requires two doses, while another only requires one," Amirudin was quoted by the news portal.

"These are the issues being discussed and there are details that I must talk through with the health minister in order for us to be allowed to administer the vaccines."

Putrajaya's vaccination pro-

gramme will be implemented in phases over a period of 12 months, with the first phase expected to begin in March.

Amirudin had on Jan 18 voiced the state administration's intentions to buy the vaccine for its people and Putrajaya as well as the Health Ministry welcomed the news.



State-of-art ops room to track virus in real time

SHAH ALAM - The 24-hour Covid-19 mobile operations room will begin functioning from the Smart Selangor C5i Operation Centre (SSOC) to monitor the pandemic more effectively.

The Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU) said the control centre will provide operational support and outline what is needed to help Federal agen-

cies manage cases of outbreaks as it is equipped with a centralised monitoring system that functions in real time.

"The control centre costs RM6 million in total to build and has the ability to operate 24 hours straight with high-speed internet.

"It is also equipped with a hybrid data centre and a centralised communication

system as well as the Smart Data Platform that has the ability to analyse Big Data," the agency said in a statement on Jan 22.

The construction of the SSOC was completed in December 2020. It is housed at the Dewan Jubli Perak in the Selangor State Secretariat Building.

The centre covers five integrated func-

tions namely instructional, control, communicative, computational, collaborative and teamwork.

"The formation of the SSOC is one of 60 initiatives under the Smart Selangor programme which is led by the SSDU to propel Selangor towards becoming a liveable smart state in the Asean region by 2025," the agency said.

Set up green lane, says exco



By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

SHAH ALAM - The Federal government is urged to establish a reciprocal green lane for foreign tourists after the Covid-19 vaccine arrives in the country next month.

Selangor executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian said the move to reopen international borders must be dis-

cussed seriously without having to wait for the country to achieve zero positive cases of the disease.

"The government must discuss with countries like Singapore, Brunei or Taiwan which are showing a drop in Covid-19 cases.

"Tourists can use the special lane to enter the country and vice-versa.

"Once our citizens have been

vaccinated, they (the Federal government) must open up (the country) to foreign tourists to revive the tourism industry after almost a year of waiting," Hee said during Media Selangor's Bual Bicara talk show on Jan 4.

Hee also expressed hope that the people will receive the vaccines quickly and bring a swift end to the Covid-19 crisis.

Chef Ramsay puts PJ on culinary map

SHAH ALAM - The opening of celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay's restaurant this coming June in Petaling Jaya is set to become the latest attraction in Selangor.

Tourism Selangor general manager Azrul Shah Mohamad said the outlet will draw culinary visitors from near and far and

put Selangor on the map.

He said the state is delighted that the Michelin-star chef has chosen Selangor to open his first restaurant branch in Malaysia, and second in Southeast Asia.

"For those who love to enjoy or wish to experience the

sophisticated style of fine dining, they may want to visit this restaurant once it opens," he said when contacted.

Ramsay, 54, plans to open the restaurant chain Gordon Ramsay Bar & Grill, which will be located in Sunway Resort, offering a variety of delicacies that include Beef Wellington and Sticky Toffee Pudding.

Sunway Resort in a statement on its website announced that customers are able to make reservations from now in order to enjoy the British chef's meals come June.

Besides Malaysia, Ramsay also owns similar branches in the US, the United Kingdom, France, China and the United Arab Emirates.

His popularity soared when he was featured in the reality TV shows Hell's Kitchen (that ran from 2005), Kitchen Nightmares (from 2004 until 2014) and MasterChef US (from 2010).



Serendah's seven wells await Unesco listing

SHAH ALAM - Listing Perigi Tujuh Serendah (Seven Wells of Serendah) in Hulu Selangor as a National Heritage Site will add value to the tourism sector in Selangor.

State executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian said comprehensive data will be passed to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) for further review before the place can be gazetted.

"Although the gazetting takes time, we are still committed to raising the status of the wells," Hee said during Media Selangor's Bual Bicara talk show on Jan 4.

On Dec 13, 2020, Tourism

Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri said Perigi Tujuh Serendah is among 11 other listings in Hulu Selangor that is in the inventory of the National Heritage Department for the purpose of research.

At the same time, Hee asked local authorities to monitor and upgrade tourist spots for the comfort of the people.

"Although the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget) has provided funding for the purpose of upgrading and renovating tourism products, local authorities also need to have their own budget for maintenance so that they will not be left behind," he added.

One-stop portal for SPM, STPM candidates

SHAH ALAM - Answering techniques for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) and Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) questions are now available on the Selangor eptrs.my portal.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the content of the portal is shared and presented by experienced teachers in every subject.

"The revision process will be made easier with the sharing of tips through video recordings for answering exam questions.

"All is free. Equip yourselves with the 'Program Pecutan Akhir' (Final Acceleration Programme) on www.eptrs.my," Amirudin said on Facebook on

Jan 17.

The portal is equipped with learning sessions for Bahasa Malaysia, English, Science, Mathematics and History for SPM students, for Pengajian Am (General Studies) as well as for The Malaysian University English Test (MUET) for STPM students and was launched to help exam candidates.

Aside from using the portal to revise their lessons, students also get to participate in question-and-answer sessions with the teachers.

They will also find the special segment called 'Final Acceleration' useful as it provides tips for the students to master each subject quickly.

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Royals express love for strays

By NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD

SHAH ALAM - Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin have called on the people to not shed their responsibility in protecting stray animals, especially cats and dogs.

Both the Sultan and Tengku Permaisuri said all parties must have compassion and help to protect strays together.

"Their Highnesses are both saddened that there are some parties who inflict cruelty towards strays or do not provide them with proper care, especially during times where restricted movement is imposed," a statement issued by Istana Alam Shah read on Jan 23.

The Ruler also told all local authorities to use their good judgment when handling cases of stray animals and to not add on to the negative press surrounding the matter.

His Royal Highness also said that the Turkish government's method in managing strays should be em-

Their Highnesses hope that the people, especially those in Selangor, will practice compassion towards all strays and also champion their rights and welfare

ulated in order to prevent cases of abuse.

"Their Highnesses hope that the people, especially those in Selangor, will practice compassion towards all strays and also champion their rights and welfare," said the statement.

The Sultan and Tengku Permaisuri also reminded the people to uphold the Covid-19 standard operating procedures and to stay at home as much as possible.



State to create 10,000 jobs in three years

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has launched its very own job search website, www.selangorkerjaya.com.my to address the current unemployment crisis and pave the way for the state to become a high-income and Regional Smart State by 2025.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the service offered under the Selangor Kerjaya (Selangor Jobs) initiative will help both employers and job seekers in the job searching process.

"The website contains a lot of information. Not only that, Selangor Kerjaya also interacts directly with the public via social media websites such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and Whatsapp.

"Ten thousand job opportunities will be created to match the (number of available) skilled workforce using three methods — profiling, upskilling and job placement — within the span of three years.

"The service is free and is borne completely by the state government," said Amirudin during the virtual launch of the Selangor Kerjaya initiative on Jan 26.

He said the target for this year is to ensure that a total of 2,000

positions will be filled by high school, tertiary and vocational training graduates as well as those who have been retrenched during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Developed with an allocation of RM58 million, Amirudin said the initiative will also focus on the development of the aerospace industry to create high-skilled jobs and provide a new income stream to spur the economy.

"We are taking the approach of familiarising with the aerospace industry where 60 per cent of the income will be contributed by companies operating in the state such as GE Engine Services Sdn Bhd, Aerobus Malaysia and UMW Aerospace Sdn Bhd," he said.

"Selangor is keen to attract investors from the high-value industries to invest in the state thus we offer high-skilled jobs which will elevate the salary scale of the workforce and create a high-income society.

"Therefore, I hope all the young people out there, especially the graduates, will grab this opportunity to build a career out of it and strengthen the economy."

The Selangor Kerjaya initiative was introduced in Selangor's third economic stimulus package, themed 'Strengthening the People's Resilience, Stimulating State Prosperity', announced by Amirudin on July 13, 2020.



MB: Going virtual won't compromise on quality

SHAH ALAM - The virtual launch of Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated's (MBI) Integrity and Governance (MBI IG) system on Jan 1 is in line with the state's digitalisation agenda, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

During the officiating ceremony, Amirudin voiced his confidence that such new norms have been well accepted by the public and should also be practised by all layers of the society, especially in Selangor.

"The virtual launching ceremony today is in line with the state government's effort to implement the digitalisation agenda in our daily routines.

"This method, I am certain, does not reduce the quality of our work in providing our services to the people and the state," he said.

The Selangor government had on Jan 11 launched the MBI IG system to strengthen the state's administrative management practices. The event was broadcast live on Facebook.

New system to stem corruption

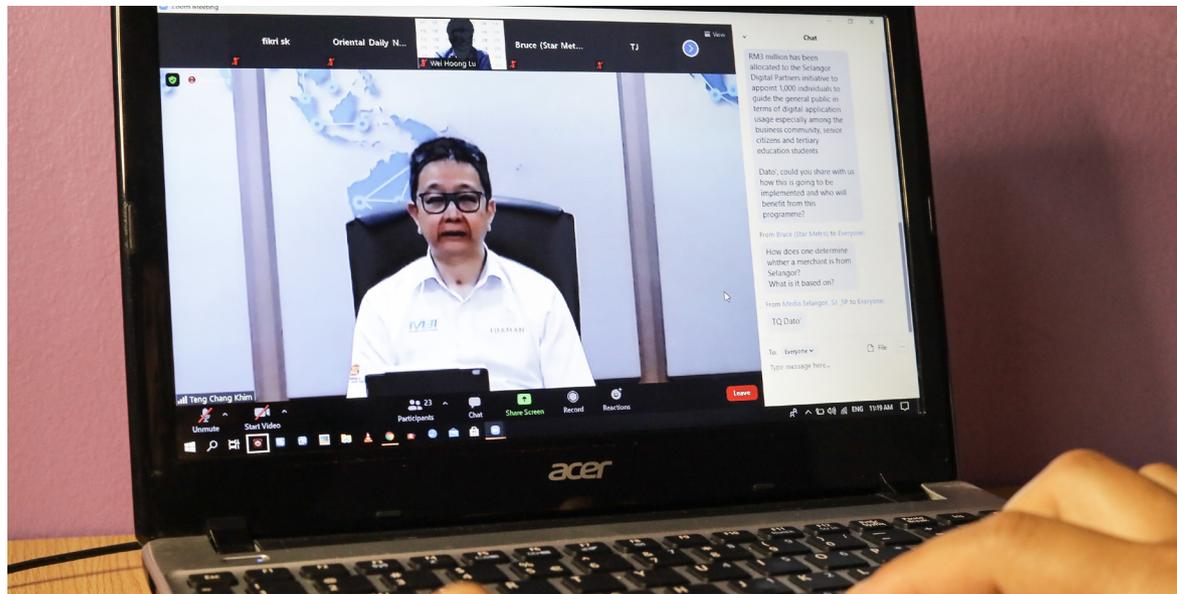
SHAH ALAM - Employees of Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI), as well as those of its subsidiary companies, are urged to make use of the MBI Integrity and Governance (MBI IG) system to strengthen corporate governance and prevent corrupt practices.

Citing the Malaysian Anti-corruption Commission's (MACC) Statistics on Corruption Offenders, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari

said a total of 22 corruption cases involving statutory bodies were reported last year as compared to 10 cases in 2019 and 17 cases in 2018.

"The statistics of arrests by MACC nationwide for the three-year period were 840 in 2020; 1,101 in 2019 and 894 in 2018. This shows an increase in the number of offenders for the statutory body category in the country, under which MBI also falls.

Manufacturing bags RM8b amid gloom



By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor recorded RM8 billion worth of investments for the manufacturing sector as of September last year, says the State Investment, Industry and Commerce and Small and Medium Enterprise Committee chairman.

Dato' Teng Chang Kim, however, said that the state has yet to obtain the recorded investments for the services industry and that it is also waiting to receive the total investments registered for the year 2020.

"As for 2021, of course, we will be facing bigger challenges compared to 2020 because (the total investments) would be dependent on our efforts last year, where we faced many restrictions.

"For example, we had no (trade) mission overseas last year, except for one visit before the MCO (movement control order) was enforced," he said during a virtual press conference after the Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales campaign announcement on Jan 18.

Also present were Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, Invest Selangor Bhd chief executive officer Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris and Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec) chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping.

Although the state administration has projected a low figure due to the challenges faced following the global Covid-19 pandemic and the enforced MCO in the country last year, Teng said

the Selangor government has put in many efforts during the first MCO period and had moved all of its major events and activities online, including talks with investors.

Last November, Amirudin had announced that the state had registered RM3.39 billion worth of investments for the manufacturing sector as of June 2020 involving 122 projects.

He said a total of RM1.83 billion were from local investments, while RM1.56 billion through foreign investments.

Amirudin said the food manufacturing industry recorded the highest amount with RM1.16 billion, followed by electrical and electronics (RM638.65 million), and beverages and tobacco (RM9 million).

Over 650 e-merchants trained by Sidec: Exco

SHAH ALAM - More than 650 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have been trained under the Selangor government's agency, in line with the state's digitalisation agenda, says state executive councillor for industry and commerce Dato' Teng Chang Kim.

Teng said the programmes for the upskilling of entrepreneurs were initiated by the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec), or previously known as the Selangor Information

Technology and E-Commerce Council (Sitec).

"We have been putting a lot of effort into the digitalisation of businesses in Selangor.

"Aside from the two Selangor e-bazaar campaigns last year where we injected RM3 million into assisting our SMEs to sell online, we have also launched Produk to assist our SMEs to digitalise the management of their workforce," he said during the virtual launch of the Selangor e-Bazar Chinese New Year campaign on Jan 26.

"We are not able to assist them (in the digitalisation of their production processes) due to financial constraints, but we are helping them to digitalise the management of their whole workforce."

Teng added that in 2020, the state government managed to help 26,000 SMEs to transition their business online.

The Selangor e-Bazar Chinese New Year campaign which will run on the Lazada and Shopee platforms will start on Feb 1 and end on March 7.

Airshow, SIBS 2021 to go on as planned

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Aviation Show, scheduled for April, will continue as planned unless there is an extension to the movement control order (MCO) or a requirement under the emergency order for people to stay home.

State executive councillor for industry and commerce Dato' Teng Chang Kim said the Selangor government has not yet made any arrangements to postpone two major events scheduled for this year, one being the airshow and the other, the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS).

"Last year we fully moved the SIBS online, including its three main components, which were held in the form of webinars and virtual expos," said Teng, referring to the Selangor International Expo (SIE), the Selangor Asean Business Conference (SABC) and the Smart City and Digital Economy Convention (SDEC).

"I believe that no other state has made such efforts like Selangor because we made earlier preparations and we will be improving on them further ... we are also waiting for approval

from the Selangor State Executive Council on the programmes that we have planned (for 2021)," said Teng during a press conference after the Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales campaign announcement held virtually on Jan 18.

Teng said the airshow, which will be held to further promote the aviation sector, is expected to launch on April 2. However, if postponed, the event will be moved to the end of the year or to 2022.

"As for SIBS, for now, we have planned to have both virtual and physical events. But if we cannot have the programme done physically in October due to the MCO or other factors, we will do it online."

The virtual version of the annual SIBS 2020 received an impressive turnout with 170,974 digital audiences.

Held from Oct 14, 2020, it was originally scheduled for four days but was extended by another three to allow the 'large crowd' to have more opportunities to create, connect and collaborate with top brands and industry players around the world.

Seldec commits to delivering hot meals daily

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Digital e-Supply Chain (Seldec) will be offering express delivery service of freshly cooked meals in the Klang Valley beginning this year.

Its business development general manager Mohd Fauzan Elham said the delivery network has been expanded following high demand and is capable of creating wider job opportunities, further empowering the digital economy sector.

He said the online portal and the Seldec Rider application are currently being upgraded to include the new component.

"We received many requests, with most of them coming from entrepreneurs who joined the Selangor Ramadan e-Bazar programme last year and are keen on managing such a business.

"Before this, customers had to order (food) a day before it is delivered, but with the new freshly-cooked food category, orders

will be delivered on the same day," he said.

Mohd Fauzan was speaking at an event where state executive councillor for entrepreneur development Rodziah Ismail presented the year's plans for entrepreneurs, at the De' Palma Hotel here on Jan 12.

Mohd Fauzan said it is possible that the number of new micro-entrepreneurs signing up for the business will increase four-fold this year from the current 800.

He said the target takes into consideration Subang Jaya City Council's commitment to bring in around 4,000 entrepreneurs as part of a pilot project for the digital economy.

Seldec, which is spearheaded by Selangor Industrial Corporation Sdn Bhd, was launched on June 24, 2020, and connects buyers and sellers directly via its portal link www.seldec.com.my/en.

e-Bazar 11.11 a huge success



By SHERILYN PANG

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales campaign has generated RM1.04 billion for the state's economy, including RM32.06 million in direct sales, says state's Menteri Besar.

Compared to the e-Bazar Raya which was held for eight weeks from May 4 last year, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the e-Bazar 11.11 showed a 274 per cent increase in direct sales.

"This improvement to the numbers shows that more

e-commerce traders have benefitted from the campaign," he said during the virtual announcement on the Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales campaign result on Jan 18.

Amirudin said the event saw the participation of 26,744 new small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) out of an overall 73,791 retailers.

"This represents a 267 per cent increase from the initial target of 10,000 new sellers," he said.

The e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales campaign, which ran from Oct 26 until Dec 15, 2020, was part

of the Selangor Economic Recovery Plan to assist SMEs impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Selangor government channelled RM2 million in the form of vouchers to consumers to spend on online sales platforms.

The campaign was jointly coordinated by Invest Selangor and Sidec, previously known as Selangor Information Technology and e-Commerce Council (Sitec), in collaboration with two of the most popular online sales platforms in Malaysia, Shopee and Lazada.

Drive to digitalise retail worked: MB

SHAH ALAM - Forty per cent of retailers on the Shopee and Lazada online shopping platforms had come on board during the state-led Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales and the e-Bazar Raya campaigns, says Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said out of the current 88,000 retailers on both Shopee and Lazada, 6,000 new retailers were recorded during the Selangor e-Bazar Raya campaign and a whopping 26,000 new retailers emerged during the Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales last year.

"This means from the 80,000 retailers on Shopee and Lazada, 40 per cent came from our e-bazaar projects. This shows that the meth-

od works and is sustainable and maybe we can continue with some adjustments or improvements in the future," he said during a virtual press conference to announce the results of the Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales Campaign on Jan 18.

Amirudin said Covid-19 has forced the state to hasten its digitalisation agenda and adjust to new norms.

"The economic impact from the Covid-19 pandemic is sure to happen, but how do we overcome it? So we took a few strategies with digitalisation as one part of it and the pandemic has forced us to hasten the process.

"I think we are doing the right thing. We can overcome any challenges brought about by the movement con-

trol order and the pandemic. The economy can still grow, with some adjustments like digitalisation."

Amirudin said the state government's current focus, through the Selangor Information Technology and e-Commerce Council (Sitec), now known as the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec), is to ensure the sustainability of online companies.

"I want to congratulate all the successful ones but we also need to measure (success) by identifying the number of businesses that are struggling so that we can help them. This is part and parcel of the state government's digitalisation efforts," he added.

'Too early to tax online businesses'

SHAH ALAM - It is still too early to tax online retailers as they are only starting to grow their business on the digital platform, says Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Speaking at a virtual press conference to announce the results of the Selangor e-Bazar 11.11 Mega Sales Campaign on Jan 18, Amirudin said the digital-transitioning process for entrepreneurs at the state level is still in its growth phase and it is imperative to ensure that the sector continues to grow.

"We are in the process of growing the business so I think it is too early for us to tax them or to obtain any shares from them now," Amirudin said in reference to the tax policy for on-

line retailers.

"It is not entirely under the state government's power or jurisdiction (to decide). We also have to deal with the Federal institution but we have to discuss how to make sure businesses in this sector continue to grow," he added.

Amirudin did not discount the state government's interest to receive income from online businesses in the future but said it is a matter that requires proper discussion.

"There is no issue yet for the tax but in future, we definitely have to discuss with relevant organisations to make sure that the state can also get some income from there. It is a long discussion that needs to be done properly."

New campaign targets 25,000 merchants

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has targeted over 25,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to take part in the Selangor e-Bazar Chinese New Year (CNY) campaign this year via the Lazada and Shopee online shopping platforms.

State executive councillor for industry and commerce Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the campaign will be held from Feb 1 until March 7.

"The campaign targets the participation of 25,000 SMEs as well as micro-businesses, including 12,500 new e-merchants which are expected to come onboard both platforms during the CNY e-bazaar campaign.

"Similar to previous rounds of the Selangor e-Bazar campaign, it is to assist SMEs and micro-businesses in Selangor to embrace digitalisation (in order) to survive in the challenging business environment caused by the Covid-19 pandemic," said Teng during the virtual launch of the campaign on Jan 26.

He said the state government will channel RM2 million in the form of discount vouchers for Shopee and Lazada's online buyers.

"The ones who actually receive the discounts are the buyers. The discount vouchers are provided by the state government

to be published on the Lazada and Shopee platforms.

"So when the buyers make purchases, they can claim these vouchers. This is aimed at encouraging people to buy online by giving them online discounts."

Teng said while it is difficult to estimate the amount of revenue for the initiative, he hopes that the state's digitalisation effort will bring in better results compared to last year.

"Last year, we succeeded in organising the Raya e-Bazar which returned with more than 26,000 new merchants on both the platforms.



When the buyers make purchases, they can claim these vouchers. This is aimed at encouraging people to buy online

TENG CHANG KHIM
State executive councillor for industry and commerce

THE state government has announced another round of aid, dubbed the 'Kita Selangor Package', to help the people manage during the movement control order (MCO) 2.0, which was enforced on Jan 13.

In a special address on Jan 20, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced initiatives totalling RM73.877 million and highlighted that RM6 million alone will be spent on Covid-19 screening for 50,000 Selangor residents.

The screening programme will focus on vulnerable groups (such as senior citizens, who are at high risk especially those at old folks homes and haemodialysis centres), people in the B40 category as well as Selangor-born students of higher learning.

Other initiatives announced for the package are as follows:



KITA SELANGOR PACKAGE

Selangor gives back

THE COVID-19 FUND

The Selangor Covid-19 Fund was reactivated on Jan 20. To kick-start the fund, Amirudin donated one month of his salary and welcomed corporations and subsidiaries of government-linked companies to contribute.



FOOD FOR FRONTLINERS

The state government will provide hot meals to all 9,822 medical officers in Selangor, as well as the 3,500 police officers and army personnel on duty at roadblocks during the MCO.

THE HOME SURVEILLANCE KIT

The state government has upgraded the SELangkah mobile application to enable Covid-19 patients to self-monitor their conditions from home via the SELangkah Home Surveillance Kit.

Patients in Category 1 and Category 2 will be placed under 'Home Isolation and Monitoring' and will receive a 'Home Care Package' where their health status will be evaluated from Day 1 to Day 10 through the SELangkah application.

The health status of the patients will be delivered online to the Operations Centre located at the Selangor State Secretariat Building and monitored in real time by a group of medical officers.

TRANSPORT FOR LOW-RISK PATIENTS

Smart Selangor buses will be mobilised to ferry patients to the Covid-19 Quarantine and Low-Risk Treatment Centre (PKRC) at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) for free. This initiative will reduce the workload of the Ministry of Health and cut down patients' waiting time for transport.



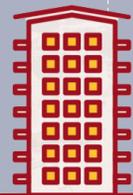
FREE CHILDCARE FOR FRONTLINERS

Temporary childcare centres (taska) will be opened at public hospitals and other locations for the children of frontline workers.

Staff at the Selangor State Health Department, hospitals and members of the police force and the army directly fighting Covid-19 can send their children to these centres for free for a duration of two months starting Jan 25. The initiative will benefit 400 families.

EXEMPTION AND DEFERMENT OF RENT

Residents of public housing projects (PPR), Council Homes and Smart Rental Scheme Homes will be exempted from one month of rental payment for January 2021. They will also receive rental deferrals for February and March 2021. Some 2,361 PPR and 450 Smart Rental Scheme tenants will benefit from this initiative, costing the government RM1.7 million and RM1 million respectively.



FREE ONLINE TUITION

Launched on Jan 8, the state's education portal ePTRS.my is a digital platform that provides online interactive learning sessions for candidates of the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) and Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) examinations.

Some RM300,000 have been spent to produce interactive videos for the subjects of Bahasa Melayu, English, Science, Mathematics and History for SPM candidates; and the Pengajian Am and Malaysian University English Test (MUET) subjects for STPM candidates.

As of Jan 19, a total of 3,755 students, including many from outside of Selangor, have signed up to use the portal.



FARMERS GET ASSISTANCE

To safeguard the agriculture community that is integral in ensuring food security, the state government will provide its 10,160 members with food baskets and fresh produce. RM300 vouchers will be given to each fisherman for the purchase of petrol; and poultry feed and farming input will be channelled to poultry and aquaculture entrepreneurs.



FOOD BASKETS

The state government will distribute food baskets packed with daily necessities and totalling RM1.3 million to taxi drivers, school bus drivers, PPR tenants, Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad Waste Management lorry drivers and the Orang Asli community.

EDUCATION LOAN WRITE-OFF

The loans of 762 Yayasan Selangor borrowers have been written off, with a total of RM7.177 million in financial implication to the state government.



EXPEDITING BUDGET INITIATIVES

Some of the initiatives introduced in the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget) will be sped up to accelerate the state's economic expansion and to help those affected by the second round of the MCO.

Digitalisation initiatives worth RM369 million via funds from the state and its subsidiaries top the list of priorities.

Other budget initiatives that will be expedited are:

- the RM10 million Yayasan Hijrah Selangor (Hijrah) initiative to assist 1,000 small F&B traders in doing business online
- the microcredit loan scheme to support all operational costs of businesses adapting to the e-commerce platform
- the RM5 million allocated to assist 1,000 micro and small sundry shops in getting the supply of goods at lower prices, and with more ease and speed via the Hijrah digital platform
- the RM10 million allocation under the Selangor Freelance initiative that will offer more than 1,000 blue-collar and skilled jobs via the gig economy
- the RM3 million allocation under the Selangor Digital Partners initiative to appoint 1,000 individuals as digital ambassadors to guide senior citizens, tertiary students and new business startups in using technology
- the RM10 million Skim Niaga Darul Ehsan (NaDI) allocation for female entrepreneurs where 3,000 participants are provided with a temporary traders licence. They will also be eligible for loans of between RM1,000 and RM3,000



the setting up and running of the Covid-19 operations room at the Smart Selangor C5i Operation Centre. The 24-hour control room is equipped with 3Gbps internet network, a hybrid data centre and integrated communication systems that provide assistance to Federal agencies to track and manage cases of Covid-19 infection.



By SHERILYN PANG

KAMPUNG Tunku is a constituency surrounded by Sea Park, Taman Universiti and Icon City in Petaling Jaya, with 48,601 voters. For old-time residents, it is known as SS1, one of the oldest neighbourhoods in town. It was there on March 2, 1966, that a housing cooperative for civil servants was established, and named Kampung Tunku Abdul Rahman. As such, the area is home to many retired government workers, former military personnel and illustrious personalities (such as the late National Laureate Usman Awang). Lim Yi Wei has served as Kampung Tunku's representative to the State Legislative Assembly since 2018.

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

Lim Yi Wei (LYW): Commerce and retail. We have four vibrant commercial centres in SS2, Sungai Way New Village, Paramount Garden and Sea Park. All of them have a wide range of old school mom-and-pop shops, old-time favourite restaurants, hip cafes, fast-food joints, electronics and stationery shops, among others.

SJ: What would you say is the main attraction of Kampung Tunku and why?

LYW: Food. The SS2 commercial square is easily accessible from the Lebuhraya Damansara-Puchong and is known for a range of F&B outlets, from coffee shops and mamaks to bubble tea and durians stalls.

Paramount Garden is also up and coming with an array of hip-concept cafes such as Awesome Canteen, Hide and Seek as well as curated dining space Chip-ta11A. In fact, in 2020 *TimeOut* named Paramount Garden as one of the coolest neighbourhoods in the world. It's a good recognition which attests to the vibrancy of the area. Also, the commercial areas definitely generate a tremendous amount of tax revenue for the state as well as job opportunities.

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

Reviving the spirit of Kampung Tunku



FROM TOP

Lim delivers a motorised wheelchair to a resident of Kampung Baru Sungai Way

A shopkeeper in Sungai Way gets a visit from Lim, who came to distribute calendars at the start of the year

LYW: As Kampung Tunku is the residence of a community of respectable retirees, safety and accessibility are important to them. Due to the low police-to-population ratio, many neighbourhoods have engaged in "gated and guarded" security schemes via their respective residents' associations (RAs). While that is a commendable effort and demands hard work, I believe the responsibility still falls largely on Polis Diraja Malaysia. In that sense, my office has worked to build bridges between the RAs, Rukun Tetangga and the police so that residents feel comfortable reaching out to our law enforcers should there be a need.

Another aspect to safety is infrastructure maintenance involving roads, the drainage system, lighting and playground equipment. The three councillors in our area always ensure that the pub-



lic infrastructures are well maintained and that Kampung Tunku remains a safe place to live, work and travel through. Whenever the city council faces budget constraints, we step in to help. For example, an exercise group in Taman Aman requested for a better stage for their instructor as the one they had was already rusty. Another exercise group in SS2 informed us about the uneven surface of a badminton court. Both projects were properly funded using the constituency's allocation.

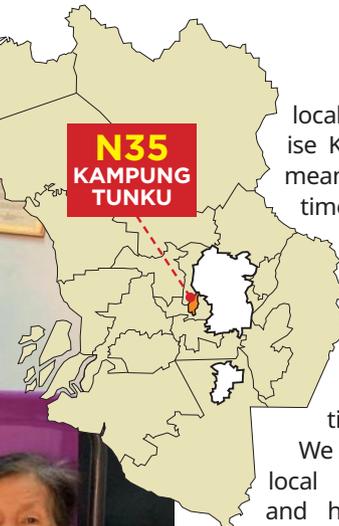
When it comes to accessibility concerns, we have successfully allocated more Persons with Disabilities parking spaces around the Paramount and Sea Park commercial areas with assistance from the Petaling Jaya City Council. We

are also assessing the feasibility of ramps at our shops' 'kaki lima' so that the elderly and wheelchair-bound can move around more easily.

Another concern is definitely water. We have been on the ground to distribute water from tankers and residents are just hoping that water cuts do not happen again. As a backbencher, I will be following this issue closely inside and outside the Dewan Negeri.

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

Apart from solving local problems and infrastructure upgrading, one of the things I set out to achieve was to build a sense of



local pride and revitalise Kampung Tunku. This meant seeking out long-time residents, finding out what makes Kampung Tunku special, and building that sense of community via programmes and initiatives.

We started highlighting local businesses, talents and history through programmes including our open houses. We also decided to build on the fact that Kampung Tunku SS1 was launched by none other than our Bapa Kemerdekaan, and therefore we wanted to model Kampung Tunku as a place of national unity and for helping each other regardless of our backgrounds. We organised an interfaith 'buka puasa' in 2019.

For our Sungai Way New Village's 70th anniversary in 2019, the village committee, Councillor Ong Yew Thai and my office charted an all-year calendar of programmes to commemorate Sungai Way's history. We also worked on dengue prevention, cleanliness and recycling initiatives which led to a cleaner environment.

We also have a hashtag #StraightOuttaKgTunku, which we print on T-shirts and face masks. The heartwarming idea received good feedback from former residents, even from those who have migrated overseas, who treasure the memories of their childhood here.

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

LYW: I always try to approach a problem from the end-user point. For example, if we have a mobile application or even a Google Form for the public to use, what would the user's experience be? Would the user find the app confusing, tedious or user-friendly?

I always study the systems and processes and ask myself how we can improve them. I can't sit still, but I think it keeps my team on their toes and motivates us to keep innovating for the wellbeing of the people and the constituency.



Old customs, new norms

By SHERILYN PANG

EVERY year, Chinese New Year is celebrated with much fanfare by the Malaysian Chinese community.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic and restricted movements, *Selangor Journal* asks a few friends of different faiths what they will be missing this year, and what they yearn most about the festival.

Housewife Aida Zahra Gan Ai May or Alice, 36, and her manager husband, Ahmed Natasha, 38, are disappointed that the celebration of the Lunar New Year will not be the same as before.

"We were anticipating the arrival of Chinese New Year. Unfortunately, we have to do it differently this year," Alice said.

Being a Muslim since 2013 has not diminished her excitement for the celebration, as her family has kept the main customs alive.

"The celebration begins on the eve of the new year where my mother would prepare a big feast for the whole family. She would make her signature dish, the Prosperity Yam Basket, among other must-have dishes such as steamed fish, stirfry leek, and 'ngoh hiang' fried meat rolls. They are halal, too," she said.

Every year, Alice and her family would travel from the Klang Valley to her father's hometown in Muar, Johor.

"On the first day of Chinese New Year, it is a Hokkien tradition to have 'mee suah', which is a symbol of longevity, for breakfast — a tradition my mother faithfully follows which I, too, will inherit.

"We have included another tradition in recent years — the BBQ party my husband started.



1. Alice (left), Ahmed (standing behind her) and their five year-old daughter Safura enjoy the Chinese New Year (CNY) festivities with the bigger family at their home in Muar, Johor last year



2. Lee (back row, fifth from left) and her colleagues are all smiles during a CNY 2020 dinner party in the Klang Valley



3. Suvicha catches up with his relatives at his aunt's house in Kedah during CNY 2017

As the BBQ expert in the family, Ahmed is in charge of marinating the meat and firing up the pit for cooking before everyone digs in.

"Typically, Chinese New Year songs will be playing in the background and everyone is happy," she reminisced.

"My relationship with my family remains as close and strong as ever and we all look forward to Chinese New Year just as we would for Hari Raya.

"This year, although there will be some adjustments to adapt to the new norm, as long as everyone stays connected, it will be a blessed and meaningful celebration," she said.

Meanwhile, 33-year-old staff nurse Evelyn Lee from Pontian, Johor, expects Chinese New Year 2021 to be uneventful due to the ban on interstate travel.

"I hope we will at least be allowed to visit our close friends and family in the same state. Other-

wise, it will be a really boring year," she said.

Lee said she mainly celebrates Christmas but maintains the Chinese New Year celebration due to its significance.

"Although I am Christian by faith, Chinese New Year is important for a Chinese. The only thing we don't do is to offer prayers to our ancestors," she explained, adding that to observe the festival without the family will be a difficult experience.

Yet, Lee said she is thankful that her parents are in good health and will be with her siblings in the Klang Valley.

Kedah-born Malaysian Siamese Suvicha, an avid Buddhist, said his family celebrates two important holidays — Chinese New Year and Songkran — for which most Siamese would take long periods of leave to return to their hometown.

"I usually return to my home-

town in Kampung Tasek, Perak, and visit my aunt since they do most of the celebrations there," said the 33-year-old senior engineer.

"It's that time of the year to catch up and 'kena' interrogate if you are not married like me, and 'kutip angpow' if you are little.

He said the family has a simple dinner and morning prayers to start the new year.

"Plus, all the offerings to the 'tokong' and fireworks. The whole village will be loud with firecrackers even though it's mostly Siamese villagers."

According to Suvicha, the Malaysian Siamese community is unknown to most people and are often confused with the Thais that originate from Thailand.

"The Siamese are Thais who are yet to attain their independence. It is a long story.

"Even orang Asli are more well known than us! So the best dis-

tingtion is the word Siamese itself," he said.

"Our Chinese New Year tradition is quite weird since most years, we ask the Indian family adownstairs at my auntie's house to cook up some curry chicken or lamb and call everyone to join us.

"We'd have homemade 'lorbak', sweet and sour deep-fried fish and veggies. Some years we just do steamboat and barbecue to change the pace."

Big parties and fancy clothes are part of the community's practices.

"We wear red and look our best to respect the day. We use the same joss sticks as the Chinese do — small ones for prayers at the altar, big ones outside the house which will only burn down after a few days.

"I really wish this pandemic would end soon and hope the vaccination process will quickly take place," he said.

Exco mulls restructure of populous villages

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

KUALA LANGAT - The Selangor government is studying the need to restructure traditional villages in the districts in the state that have a high population density.

State executive councillor for rural development and traditional villages Borhan Aman

Shah said the move to establish 'a village within a village' is to ease the administrative workload of the Village Community Management Councils (MPKK).

Borhan explained that the concept would also make it easier for residents to conduct local activities.

"Recently, we had a dialogue session on the matter in

a few districts, so I would like to identify the number of residents in the villages involved. Should there be a need, we will create another village within a village.

"However, it has to be presented at the Selangor State Executive Council for review before the Land and District Office can survey further," he

said when met by reporters after completing a food distribution programme at the Seri Jugra MPKK Community Hall on Jan 2.

Elaborating further, the Tanjung Sepat state assemblyman said that often, MPKK chairmen from villages with high residential density face difficulties in their administrative

work.

He also voiced his concerns about the inability for state programmes to reach targeted communities following the expansion of villages.

"We do not want the villages to be faced with a lack of infrastructure or facilities and, as a result, have to share community halls," he added.

Quality of services comes first

SHAH ALAM - The Kuala Selangor District Council (MDKS) has the potential to change its status to a municipal council this year, said state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han.

However, he said the local authority (PBT) must focus on improving its services to the people.

"Since last year, MDKS has been waiting to change its status to a municipality. I am confident that this year, it is possible for MDKS to change its status from district council to municipal council.

"But it needs to be reminded to not just pursue the status. Instead, their quality of services must be improved so that their aim can be achieved," Ng told *SelangorKini*.

Ng said this following an announcement by the MDKS president that the PBT is expected to get municipal council status this year.

Ng said the matter is in the final phase of gazetting and is being reviewed by the Housing and Local Government Ministry (KPKT).

In August last year, Selangor

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said that KPKT is yet to give the green light for the status change as it was still reviewing several criteria including the district's population, income and revenue.

Selangor currently has three city councils which are Shah Alam, Petaling Jaya and Subang Jaya.

It has six municipalities — Selayang, Ampang Jaya, Klang, Kajang, Kuala Langat and Sepang — and three district councils with Kuala Selangor being among them.

Plans to further reduce non-revenue water



KUALA LUMPUR - Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) has increased its capital expenditure allocation for its non-revenue water (NRW) reduction programmes this year to RM293 million from RM255 million in 2020.

Of the amount, RM170 million will be used to replace all old pipes and RM16 million to replace old and damaged meters, said its chief executive officer, Suhaimi Kamaralzaman.

In a statement on Jan 25, he said Air Selangor has successfully brought down the NRW rate to 28.6 per cent last year versus 29.7 per cent in 2019.

He said this achievement exceeded the target rate of 29.2 per cent set by the National

Water Services Commission (SPAN), despite the implementation of the movement control order to curb the Covid-19 pandemic.

In line with its success in reducing the NRW rate since 2019, Air Selangor is determined to continue to reduce the NRW rate to 25 per cent in 2025 and then to 15 per cent by 2049.

Last year, Suhaimi said Air Selangor had implemented various initiatives to reduce the NRW rate, including the introduction of the Leakage Specialist team, the Active Leakage Control Programme, the District Meter Zone Establishment and the Old Pipe Replacement Programme. - Bernama

All Smart busses to go cashless next year



SHAH ALAM - The use of the 'Scan to Ride' system through the Citizen E-Payment Platform (CEPat) will be expanded to all local authorities in Selangor.

State executive councillor for public transportation Ng Sze Han said as of now, the local authorities that have started using the system are the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) and the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj).

"We will implement this throughout the state's local councils in stages within the next three years," Ng told *SelangorKini*.

He said the public, especially users of the Smart Selangor bus, are encouraged to download the CEPat mobile application via Playstore and App-Store.

This is because the users would not be able to ride the bus if they do not scan the QR code beginning January next year (2022).

The 'Scan to Ride' system enables users to pay for bus fares via card or by scanning the QR code. The effort is in line with the state government's aim to propel Selangor towards becoming a cashless society as well as a Smart State by 2025.

MBI sets up new code of ethics

By **AFIX REDZUAN**

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI) has launched the MBI Integrity and Governance (MBI IG) system to strengthen its internal control system as well as to improve governance and ethical work practices among its employees and subsidiaries.

Its chief executive officer Norita Mohd Sidek said the system would provide a clear picture to MBI's strategic partners and stakeholders on its work ethic and culture of corporate governance.

"It is my hope that the large MBI family and its subsidiaries could come together to commit and shoulder the responsibility for the implementation of MBI IG.

"Any pledges on the implementation of this integrity and governance is a show of our declaration on strengthening corporate governance that is transparent and of high integrity," she said during the MBI IG virtual launch ceremony on Jan 11.

The event was officiated by Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Norita said that the system

contains important documents such as informant policy, conflict of interest policy, integrity pact, acceptance and gift-giving policy, code of ethics and conduct as well as anti-corruption policy.

She said the corporate body had previously set up the MBI Integrity and Governance Department, which allows the department to report directly to the independent committee at the board of director level, namely the Audit, Risk Management and Integrity Committee (Jari) in the event of an offence involving governance.

Council hopes hawkers happy to relocate

PUCHONG - The street hawkers at Jalan Taqwa, here, have been urged to accept the suggestion to move to the Puchong Permai Hawker Square, says Subang Jaya mayor Noraini Roslan.

She said the move is in line with the vision to make Subang Jaya a city that is free from street hawkers as practised in many developed countries.

"We hope the traders will wholeheartedly accept the change. The (street) stalls are mostly disorganised and too close to the roads which cause congestion.

"The new suggested location is able to place 60 traders and also offers comfort under a roofed structure and is strategically located next to the farm-

er's market (pasar tani)," she said while accompanying Sri Serdang state assemblyman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud during the handing out of assistance to the mobile traders here on Jan 17.

Dr Siti Mariah had earlier contributed 12 mobile stalls and a three-wheel motorcycle, worth RM4,800 in total, to the hawkers in the Puchong Permai area. The items are placed at the hawkers square.

On Dec 28, 2020, the Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) had demolished 36 illegal structures constructed on the reserves at Jalan Taqwa, Persiaran Puchong Permai.

MBSJ had said that the traders in the area were given time to move out of the area since 2019.



The new suggested location is able to place 60 traders and also offers comfort under a roofed structure and is strategically located next to the farmer's market

NORAINI ROSLAN
Subang Jaya mayor

An easier way to pay for parking

SHAH ALAM - The Smart Selangor Parking phone application will be the primary method for paying parking fees starting Jan 1, 2022.

State executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said this method will replace the use of parking coupons.

"This method is more efficient and convenient as it re-

duces the use of paper, and is more environmentally-friendly and easier to monitor as it includes (parking) records," he told *SelangorKini*.

He said the number one parking application in the country has recorded more than 1.4 million users since it was launched in July 2018.

Ng added that the application will be upgraded to enable

motorists to report the misuse of designated parking spaces for Persons with Disabilities.

"Members of the public only need to snap pictures of the offender as evidence and send them to the local authorities for further action," he said.

The smart parking application is used by 10 local councils including the Kuala Lumpur City Council (DBKL).

Step up road repairs, local authorities told

SHAH ALAM - All local authorities (PBTs) in the state have been instructed to monitor and check the conditions of roads in their respective areas.

State executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said the local councils are also urged to take swift action on complaints from the public on road damages.

"The state government views the issue of damaged roads seriously. The public is welcome to lodge complaints

to the PBTs.

"Road users are also advised to be careful at all times especially when it rains to avoid any untoward incidents," said Ng through a statement on Jan 5.

In October last year, while tabling the 2021 Selangor Budget, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had announced RM170 million in allocation to the Public Works Department (JKR) to expand the road network and reduce the distance between districts.

MBSJ issues temporary permits to traders



SHAH ALAM - The Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) has issued 850 temporary business permits to assist those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic last year.

Subang Jaya mayor Noraini Roslan said the move is to assist the low-income (B40) groups affected by the outbreak to regenerate their income.

"However, we have emphasised to the temporary licence holders to comply with the set conditions including not disrupting the peace of the surrounding, maintaining health and hygiene as well as safety at all times.

"We hope that the licence holders will benefit from this

opportunity by operating their businesses in compliance with the outlined standard operating procedure (SOP)," Noraini said after accompanying Seri Serdang state assemblyman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud at the assistance contribution ceremony for mobile stalls at Dataran Penjaja Puchong Permai on Jan 17.

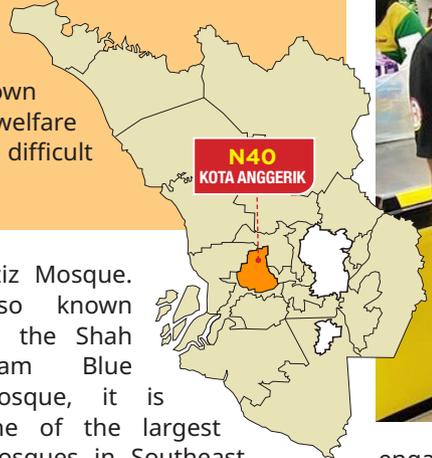
On Aug 19 last year, the state executive councillor for local authority Ng Sze Han had instructed local authorities to issue temporary licences to traders that operate at safe venues.

Ng said the move assists low-income groups to generate income and stimulate the growth of the economy.

Lending a hand in times of need

By SHERILYN PANG

Kota Anggerik is a constituency in Shah Alam that covers Setia Alam, Shah Alam Sections 1-16 and 18, Bandar Baru Klang, Bukit Bandaraya and Bukit Subang. Since 2018, Najwan Halimi has been the area's state assemblyman, representing the 52,282 registered voters there and their families. Well known for his activism, Najwan has thrown down the gauntlet to ensure that their welfare is met, especially during these difficult months of the pandemic.



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

Najwan Halimi (NH): Kota Anggerik's economy comprises government-related businesses as the state government's headquarters is based here in Shah Alam. The manufacturing and services sectors also drive the economy of the area with the manufacturing sector existing way before the city of Shah Alam was established. Most of them are found in Sections 7, 15 and 16.

In terms of Kota Anggerik's contribution to the state, Shah Alam secured RM1,501,192 in total capital investment in 2019 that led to the creation of over 3,000 jobs.

Based on the Shah Alam City Council's projection for 2021, approximately RM323 million of tax revenue and RM166 million of non-tax revenue will be gained on behalf of the state.

SJ: What is Kota Anggerik's main attraction?

NH: That would definitely be the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul

Aziz Mosque. Also known as the Shah Alam Blue Mosque, it is one of the largest mosques in Southeast Asia. The mosque has the capacity to accommodate 24,000 worshippers at any one time. Its distinguishing feature is its large blue and silver dome. The mosque was commissioned by the late Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah when he declared Shah Alam as the new capital of Selangor in the month of February, 1974. It was completed in 1988 and till today, remains the structure that anchors the city of Shah Alam.

SJ: What are the concerns raised by your constituents and how do you address them?

NH: Most of them are concerned about the services provided by the local council. Problems relating to the city's infrastructures, education as well as the setting up of small businesses are often highlighted to me. I always address them by



engaging with the local authorities and facilitating the solution process.

SJ: What are your achievements so far?

NH: From as far back as 2018, I always make sure that there is allocation for young people to start their own business. Around 10 to 15 per cent of the state government's allocation for local constituencies is used to help those whose business license application is approved.

For instance, an individual who wishes to start a burger stall would receive between RM300 and RM500 if his/her total capital is RM3,000. Although the aid amount is limited, I hope it helps to lighten the burden of these aspiring business owners.

After about two years of the initiative, we have begun to see positive results. Some of these young entrepreneurs are now

able to hire workers of their own.

Also, this year, I started an initiative for 2,000 local residents to take the Covid-19 Antigen Rapid Test Kit (RTK-Ag) screening at just RM50 each to enable them to know their health status. It is important for them to find out whether they have been infected. We bear part of the cost for them.

I also started a food bank for the B40 and M40 groups who are immensely affected by the movement control order. Basic food items like rice and flour continue to be handed out.

Other than that, students from B40 households have also been given laptops so that they can carry on with their studies online. Not everyone is so privileged to be able to afford their own laptops.

We also supply free drinking water to eight schools in Kota Anggerik, upgraded their fa-

cilities and fixed the roads in the area.

The only challenge we have is community-building. I am working on encouraging neighbourhoods to establish residents' associations so that problems within the neighbourhoods can be resolved as the residents can work together and share information with each other.

SJ: Describe your problem-solving method for the people of Kota Anggerik

NH: First, I will identify and understand the problem. Next, I will determine how it can be solved step-by-step. If it is within my jurisdiction, I will assist in solving the problem immediately. If it is beyond my jurisdiction and falls under the purview of others, I will facilitate the process, follow up and always keep track of the development of the matter until it is resolved.



FROM TOP:

Najwan meets with recipients of the Chinese New Year 'Jom Shopping!' vouchers at the Giant Hypermarket in Shah Alam, on Jan 19, 2020

When his constituents approach him for help, Najwan makes himself available as seen here, inspecting some piping issues at the PKNS flat in Section 7, Shah Alam

Najwan helps residents affected by a water cut to collect clean water at the Air Selangor service centre in Section 4, Shah Alam



Xtiv Virtual to be bigger this year

By SHEEDA FATHIL

SUNGAI BULOH - The Selangor Xtiv Virtual will continue in 2021 with a targeted participation of 300,000 people from across the country.

State executive councillor for

sports Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the decision was made following the positive response from last year's event, which recorded over 180,000 participants when it was launched in May 2020.

"This year, we want to expand

the programme to the suburban areas and help the youths in generating income through sports, especially during the movement control order period (MCO)," said Mohd Khairuddin.

The online event includes the Selangor Xtiv Virtual e-Sport, the

Selangor Xtiv Virtual Run, the Selangor Martial Art Xtiv, the Selangor Xtiv Fifa Pro Club and the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Youth Busking.

Selangor is the only state that has succeeded in organising a large-scale virtual sports competition and has received recog-

nitition from the National Sports Council for its ability to bring so many people together in the name of sport.

Last year's event attracted participants from Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, Japan, India and the United States.

Coaches evaluated monthly despite MCO

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Sports Council (MSN) will continue its monthly key performance index (KPI) assessment of its coaches in order to achieve its targets.

Its executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said the assessment exercise will ensure that coaches remain committed to carrying out their duties and responsibilities during the movement control order period.

He said the allowance of coaches and athletes is paid according to their attendance report as well as the kind of training they do, which is proposed to the MSN on a monthly basis.

"We understand that the athletes are facing uncertainty fol-

lowing the cancellation of the Malaysian Games (Sukma) 2020 and other competitions. However, performing athletes will always work hard to maintain their form at all times," he told SelangorKini on Jan 27.

Mohamad Nizam said MSN will be reevaluating some of the athletes' training programmes following the deferment of a few championships due to the high number of daily Covid-19 cases.

The Johor Sukma and Para Sukma 2020, which were scheduled to be held from March 6 to 14, were cancelled following the third wave of the pandemic.

Johor will host the Games in 2022.

Sukma athletes keep fit at home

SHAH ALAM - Selangor's Malaysia Games (Sukma) athletes are continuing to stay fit during the movement control order period by doing self-training sessions at home.

Selangor State Sports Council (MSN) executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said the coaches monitor the athletes' training sessions online from time to time to ensure their fitness level is maintained.

"Preliminary preparations were made and a virtual training programme has been given to the athletes so that they remain fit," Mohamad Nizam Marjugi told *SelangorKini*.

He said all training centres are closed and training programmes suspended until the government gives the green light.



Selangor's Sukma athletes undergoing their training routine at home during the MCO



Mohamad Nizam said that the council views the current Covid-19 situation seriously.

"The (Covid-19) cases detected at the National Sports Council are a big concern among

athletes, coaches and their parents," he said.

Previously, MSN had planned to allow athletes for certain sports to begin full-time daily training starting Jan 4.

Selangor FC gets a temporary home

SHAH ALAM - Selangor FC will play at the Petaling Jaya City Council Stadium (MBPJ) in Kelana Jaya for at least three years starting this season.

Its chief executive officer Dr Johan Kamal Hamidon said preparations are in full swing to make the stadium the official Red Giants' temporary home venue for the Malaysia League (M-League) competition while the Shah Alam Stadium is being repaired.

"For this season we are confirmed to play at the stadium for at least two or three years and have made preparations for that purpose," Dr Johan said after a cheque presentation ceremony from donors at the Selangor Football Association Training Centre on Jan 8.

Previously, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the cost of repair of the Shah Alam Stadium stands at



RM250 million.

Replacing its polycarbonate roofs and electrical wiring alone is RM30 million.

Meanwhile, Dr Johan said Selangor FC has decided to introduce to the public only its home

jersey this January, instead of all three kits as was previously decided.

"This year we launch the home jersey first followed by the away and third in the middle and end of February," he said.

Red Giants, MBSA unite to uplift football

SHAH ALAM - Selangor FC has forged strategic cooperation with the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) in an effort to strengthen football at the grassroots level in the state.

Selangor FC, in a statement, said the cooperation between the Red Giants and MBSA will see the channelling of expertise and the sharing of logistics and sports facilities.

"MBSA is one of the entities that strongly supports efforts to develop football in the state through the involvement of football teams that compete in state-level leagues as well as football academies.

"MBSA also pays a lot of attention to the development of football at the grassroots level and will give a positive impact on both parties," it said.

The strategic cooperation between the two parties was sealed at a brief ceremony held at the FAS Training Center, near here, on Jan 8, where MBSA contributed RM500,000 as sponsorship to the Selangor FC for the 2021 season.

It was witnessed by the Raja Muda of Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who is Selangor FC chairman, and Shah Alam Mayor Datuk Haris Kasim.

Meanwhile, Selangor FC chief executive officer Dr Johan Kamal Hamidon, in the same statement, expressed hope that the strategic cooperation with MBSA will lead to more contributions from other corporate entities and also bring back the glory days of the Red Giants. - Bernama



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