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# SELANGOR JOURNAL

# A shot of hope

**W**ith the arrival of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine in Malaysia on Feb 21, Selangor is making plans to ensure that all its citizens will have equal access to the immunisation programme. Aside from the doses provided by the Federal government, the state administration will see through its plan to buy between two and five million shots of the vaccine for the people of Selangor. Should the plan come through, they will arrive in May or June.

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Leading by example, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari gets his first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, administered by a health officer from the Petaling Health District Office on Feb 25. This kickstarts the state-level National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme — Picture by BERNAMA



# Exco: Serious pollution incidents averted

By NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD

**SHAH ALAM** - The implementation of several strategic measures introduced under the Raw Water Security Scheme (SJAM) has prevented river pollution incidents that could lead to the closure of water treatment plants (WTPs).

Among the measures taken include 24-hour surveillance of the rivers as well as the use of a nanotechnology-based product called aquaritin to clean the rivers naturally.

State executive councillor for infrastructure Izham Hashim said the actions taken have proven to be effective as the nine cases of water pollution that were detected in January and February were successfully resolved.

"Four measures were undertaken through SJAM, which include early treatment (of polluted water) at water treatment ponds, monitoring and surveillance, the construction of infrastructure at Sungai Selangor and the enforcement of the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) (Amendment) Enactment 2020.

"Now we are in the process of implementing all the other measures. Once they are fully executed, we are confident



Selangor Department of Environment workers collect samples from the Kajang side of Sungai Langat on Feb 3 after chemicals were illegally dumped into its waters

that we would be able to resolve the water supply disruption issue," he told *SelangorKini* on Feb 16.

On Sunday, state executive councillor for environment Hee Loy Sian said since January, Luas has successfully dealt with nine incidents of pollution that had the potential to cause water supply disruption.

The first case of river pollution this

year was detected on Jan 15 when chemical waste was disposed into Sungai Cinchang.

The latest incident was reported on Feb 14, involving metal smelting activity near Sungai Semenyih.

Aside from the gazettelement of the Luas Enactment, the Selangor government had introduced the SJAM last December with a RM200 million budget.

## Assistance for special needs children

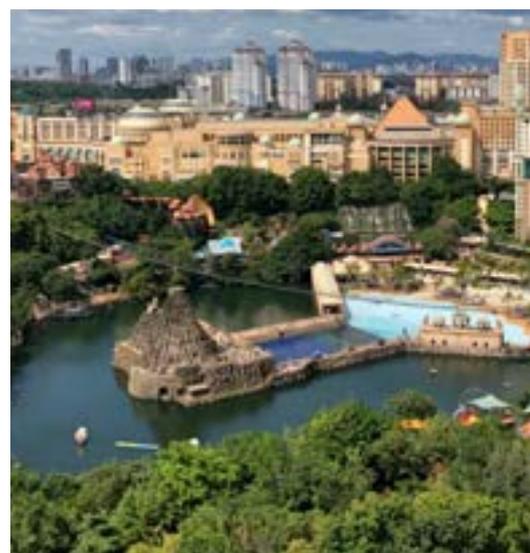
**SHAH ALAM** - Parents of children with special needs (OKU) under the age of 18 are encouraged to apply for the Bantuan Khas Anak Istimewa Selangor (Anis) scheme, which offers benefits of up to RM5,000 for each family.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said registration for the scheme opened on Feb 15.

"Especially for Selangor citizens, each family can receive four types of aid which include food and additional needs, purchase or repair of equipment, medicine and special education.

"The state government has allocated RM3.25 million in the 2021 Selangor Budget for the implementation of the OKU empowerment programme. Register now at [www.anis.yawas.my](http://www.anis.yawas.my)," he said on Facebook.

Applicants can register and check on their status via the website. Assistance will be channelled after the application is approved.



## Tax waiver to keep theme parks afloat

**SHAH ALAM** - Entertainment duty exemptions for the entrance fees of theme parks from March 2020 to December this year will go a long way in helping park owners sustain their business till after the movement control order (MCO) period.

Tourism Selangor general manager Azrul Shah Mohamad said since the enforcement of the MCO, theme park operators have been facing a crisis as they have not been allowed to open their business.

"When this initiative was announced, they breathed a sigh of relief as it pro-

vided them with a glimmer of hope to continue their operation. We now wish they will conduct promotions to attract visitors," he told *SelangorKini*.

Azrul Shah said although the sector is again allowed to operate, theme parks still face problems as they are bound by strict standard operating procedures and will be expecting low visitor turnouts.

"Therefore Tourism Selangor will intensify all efforts (to help the sector) by promoting the 'Pusing Selangor Dulu' (Explore Selangor First) campaign, issuing vouchers, and introducing ways to enjoy tourism products in the new

norm," he said.

On Feb 2, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced the tax exemption in an effort to save the sector. The move has an estimated financial impact of RM26.35 million.

He said the state administration had also agreed to reduce the entertainment tax rate from 25 per cent to 5 per cent for the entrance fees to all theme parks in the state over a duration of five years starting from Jan 1, 2022, to Dec 31, 2026, with an estimated total of RM21.04 million in financial impact a year over the five-year period.

## 'State has set benchmark for good governance'

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor has set a good example in its administration that should be emulated by other states.

Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said 10 committees have been set up to provide an extensive checks

and balances system within the government.

"The people can see the role played by their state assemblymen even though the (Federal) government's supporters are so critical and vocal.

"Thus, this is an advantage over other states and the lesson that can be

learnt is that we have the right conditions to get better revenue-sharing allocations from the Federal," said Teng.

He said this during a webinar series on Zoom titled 'Income Tax Revenue for States Too: Can Malaysia Learn from Indonesia?' on Feb 9.

The webinar, organised by Wisdom

Foundation, was moderated by its executive chairman Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau and joined by panellists Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (Ideas) chief executive officer Tricia Yeoh and its Public Finance Unit manager Sri Murniati.

## Still set on buying

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor will still continue its efforts to acquire its own supply of Covid-19 vaccines despite receiving the first batch of the Pfizer-BioNTech doses from the Federal government on Feb 25.

Although the state government is grateful to have received the vaccines, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said his administration will still work towards buying more doses to ensure that as many people in the state as possible are vaccinated.

"This is to complement the Federal government's effort by providing enough doses for the people of Selangor, especially those who are at high-risk and the workers in sectors that are the heart of the state's economy.

"May Allah bless our noble cause and may Selangor be free from the Covid-19 pandemic and other deadly diseases," said Amirudin in a statement on Feb 25.

Earlier, Amirudin and 41 others had received their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine at the Shah Alam Hospital, here, and are scheduled to be vaccinated with the second dose on March 18.

On Feb 22, Amirudin announced that the Selangor government is expected to receive between two and five million doses of Covid-19 vaccine by May or June.

He said the vaccine is crucial in speeding up the process of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

Selangor has received 78,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine in the first phase of the immunisation programme where a total of 66,690 frontline workers will be getting their shots.

The first batch of Covid-19 vaccines arrived in Malaysian on Feb 21. A total of 312,390 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were flown in from a Belgian factory.



# MB gets first jab as inoculations begin

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari received the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on Feb 25, kick-starting the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme at the state level.

During the event, Amirudin was with 42 others — including state executive councillors and members of the Selangor Security Special Committee — to receive the vaccine administered by 12 vaccinators.

In a statement on Feb 25, Amirudin said a total of 66,690 frontline workers will receive the Covid-19 vaccine in the first phase of the vaccination programme in Selangor.

"Alhamdulillah (Praise be to God) the launching of the state-level National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme went well.

"Thank you to the Health Ministry, the Selangor State Health Department and health workers, especially the staff at the Petaling District Health Office," the statement read.

Amirudin was vaccinated at the Shah Alam Hospital Auditorium, here, at 1.40pm.

Also receiving their first dose of the vaccine were Deputy Minister of Health I Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali; State Public Health, Unity, Women Empowerment and Family Committee chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud; State Secretary Datuk Nor Azmie Diron; State Legal Adviser Dato' Salim Soib @ Hamid; and Selangor State Health Department director Datuk Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman.

The state executive councillors were next to receive their shots.

The programme, which was launched by Dr Noor Azmi during the



**The much-awaited Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccines arrive at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Feb 21**

handover ceremony of the Covid-19 vaccines to Selangor, was broadcast live by Media Selangor on its social media platform and website.

Speaking to reporters after, Amirudin said that the first batch of recipients of the vaccine is scheduled to be inoculated with the second dose on March 18.

Amirudin, who did not experience any side-effects from the jab, also urged the public to get themselves vaccinated and to not worry.

"Alhamdulillah (God willing), so far I do not feel anything (out of the ordinary). A total of 42 people received the first dose of the vaccine today (Feb 25) and we have passed the monitoring period (after receiving the shots).

"I believe this (vaccine) is well tested and hope this will be enough proof for the people," he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Siti Mariah in her

welcoming speech said 33 per cent of Malaysia's Covid-19 cases were detected in Selangor.

"With the vaccine that arrived in the country on Feb 21 and the handover of the vaccine to the people of Selangor, it will help to control the spread of Covid-19 in the state.

"The state government welcomes the Vaccine Handover Plan for Selangor and will continue to work with the Selangor State Health Department to ensure that the people remain safe from the virus," she said.

The national Covid-19 vaccination programme kicked-off Feb 24 when Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin received the first dose of the vaccine at the Putrajaya Health Office in Presint 11, Putrajaya.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah was next to be vaccinated at the event that was televised live nationwide.

## Time to rebuild our health system

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government will be focusing on strengthening the public health and social support systems of the state this year, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

This is to prepare for any eventuality should another outbreak happen sometime in the future.

"Public health is an area that can be strengthened and organised so that when a pandemic occurs, our system can support and withstand the impacts that come from it. This will be our focus

for the year 2021," said Amirudin during a virtual forum titled 'Post-pandemic economy: Where is the direction?' on Feb 22.

Amirudin said that there is currently a lack of experts in the public health departments of local authorities in Selangor.

"I regret the fact that out of all the local authorities in the state I am leading, we have only about four to five public health departments that are led by qualified officers with backgrounds in public health education. Even before the

pandemic, casualties resulting from dry cough and dengue were already high enough.

"So these are among the basics that I feel we must go back to for review so that public health and our systems are able to support an outbreak," he said.

Amirudin was responding to National Journalism Laureate Tan Sri Johan Jaafar's question on the state government's post-pandemic economic plans during the programme broadcast on Facebook on Feb 23.

Johan, who is also a member of the Board of Directors for Media Selangor, moderated the live forum which also featured prominent economist Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram and former chairman of Khazanah Research Institute Dr Nungsari Ahmad Radhi.

The state administration, through the Belanjawan Selangor 2021 (2021 Selangor Budget), had increased the allocation for public health spending by 23 per cent to RM56.5 million compared to last year's RM46 million.



## 'Workplace programme can half infection rate'

**SHAH ALAM** - The Covid-19 infectivity rate within the manufacturing sector is expected to go down by 50 per cent if employers initiate the Preventing and Detecting Outbreaks at Ignition Sites (POIS) programme.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the system set up by the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) is able to identify positive cases while ensuring that work at factories is not halted.

"Currently, 70 to 80 per cent of transmissions in Selangor are from industrial areas. If factories can follow this programme, I am sure workplace infections can be reduced.

"POIS has been developed to manage Covid-19 infections systematically. It is not about us coming to shut down your operations when an outbreak occurs," he said.

Amirudin was met by reporters after launching the POIS programme at the Nestle factory in Section 15 here on Feb 22.

Also present were state executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud and Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd chief executive officer Juan Aranols.

Amirudin said although the

state administration has yet to make it compulsory for all employers to register with the programme, it is ready to review the suitability of this measure.

"It involves several requirements such as licencing and operational permissions. So for the time being, it is based on volunteering although we may align or merge it with existing measures."

On Jan 6, STFC launched the POIS programme in an effort to curb and reduce workplace clusters.

Registered employers are required to set up a committee consisting of small groups of members with different functions to identify high-risk areas and activities.

The committee must draft an emergency action plan, reduce external contacts and ensure compliance with the standard operating procedures.

Other than that, the SELangkah (Step In, Safely) mobile application will be used to record workers' movements within the workplace for contact tracing and to make calculations on the risk of healthy workers contracting the virus from their teammates.

# A better SELangkah to empower users

**SELANGOR'S** contact-tracing mobile application, SELangkah (Step In, Safely), has been further enhanced to provide its users with the latest information on Covid-19 and ways to navigate their lives under new norms.

The updated version now has these features:

- Dual-system scanning capability — To enable the scanning of both the SELangkah and MySejahtera QR codes when entering business premises
- GPS (Global Positioning System) check-in option — This offers an alternative and convenient way of checking in without



- A scan history — Provides records of check-in dates and time, and the locations visited
- A bulletin board — Provides up-to-date Covid-19 news and reports from the state government

- A Covid-19 community screening portal — Provides pre-registration function for community screening, self-monitoring of health status and direct access to the user's Covid-19 test results

Launched on Feb 9 by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, the SELangkah application will also include some integrated features such as:

- RSVP — 'Register & Sign Up for Your Vaccine Pack' to receive the Covid-19 vaccine

- SELangkah Biz — Allows cashless commercial transactions via existing e-wallets in the market
- SELangkah Wallet — SELangkah's own e-Wallet function
- SELangkah Pay — Enables users to settle bills, permits, taxes and summonses to the state government and local authorities

The following are some existing features that remain in the enhanced version:

- Maps of premises affected by Covid-19
- Checks on exposure risk
- Visitors' trend to a location
- Visitor log

SELangkah currently has 7.2 million unique users and over 200,000 registered premises using its system.

For more information log on to: [Selangkah.my](http://Selangkah.my)

## STFC gets nod of appreciation

By **KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN**

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government has been greatly facilitated by the efficiency of the Selangor Task Force on Covid-19 (STFC) in its fight against the virus.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the agency has already mapped out long-term measures that include contact tracing and large-scale screenings, and has consistently emphasised the need for compliance with the standard operating procedure.

"Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (STFC chairman) had from the beginning placed the community as the base on which to formulate measures or procedures," he said in an interview for the special edition of *Kita Selangor: Gempur Covid-19* magazine.

The magazine, published by the Menteri Besar's Office, recounts the trials and triumphs of



Selangor's almost year-long management of the virus.

Its 64 pages highlight important events, key personalities and examples of successful programmes that were implemented.

Copies will be made available at the service centres of state assemblymen, health centres and government departments.

## Free community screenings from Feb 17

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government will be holding a series of Covid-19 community screenings in several places in the state starting with densely populated areas like Shah Alam and Klang.

In a statement on Feb 16, the press secretary to the Selangor Menteri Besar said the first series of the screening operation

starts on Feb 17.

Each session will be from 9am to 4pm and will be carried out for free.

"The public are urged to register online at [screening.selangkah.my](http://screening.selangkah.my) to ensure the smooth operations of the initiative.

"Screening operations in other localities will be held in the

following series and (the people) will be informed from time to time," the statement read, adding that the initiative is part of the state's move to complement the Federal government's efforts in battling Covid-19.

Residents at where the screenings are held are encouraged to go and get tested.

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## Tengku Permaisuri gives to the less fortunate

**SHAH ALAM** - Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin has donated daily necessities to the asnaf (eligible zakat recipients) in Selangor.

The Selangor Royal Office in a statement informed that Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin also presented contributions to the less fortunate in several areas in the state.

"The contribution was handed over to the secretary of the Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) Angkasapuri Sports and Recreational Club, Salawati Abd Rashid.

"The donation will be distributed through the club's welfare assistance programme," said the statement posted on the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page on Feb 17.

A brief ceremony to present the contribution was held at the Istana Bukit Kayangan in Shah Alam.



## Cap test kit price, Federal told

**SHAH ALAM** - The Federal government is urged to set a price ceiling on Covid-19 test kits in tandem with the implementation of the Emergency Ordinance announced on Jan 12.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the proposal can be executed with the scope of power the government now has so that the test kit can be made affordable for public use.

"I have already voiced this to the National Security Council (NSC) and maybe (it) can be subsidised.

"Only when this is done that the Emergency declared by the (Federal) government is justified," said Amirudin during a live discourse hosted by Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Facebook on Feb 4.

Also featured in the one-hour virtual talk titled 'Covid-19 Discussion: Preparation by States' were Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun and Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

Amirudin also suggested for the Federal government to collaborate with private hospitals to take in Covid-19 patients in need of critical care.

"This is to reduce the burden at government hospitals and the collaboration would enable both sides to share existing facilities.

"The government has to act quickly and definitely we, from the state governments, will be ready to give our assistance because fighting Covid-19 requires everyone's efforts," he said.

## Budget review on the cards

By **KHAIRUL AZRAN HUSSIN**

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government is ready to review its 2021 budget allocation to balance it with the current needs brought about by Covid-19.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the move will take into account the expected impact from the movement control order since March last year, which will be seen in the first quarter of this year.

"All states actually need to look back at their budget when facing the challenges of Covid-19. Local industries also need to be developed to show their capabilities," he said.

Speaking at an online forum titled 'Post-pandemic economy: Where is the direction?' held virtually on Feb 23, Amirudin said the state government is focused on empowering the local industries to withstand the effects of the pandemic.

"We also created Selangor Cluster (Gugusan Selangor) in each district to ensure that the state continues to move forward and stay balanced on all matters."

Selangor created nine economic clusters to match the capabilities of each of its districts. They cover high technology, the aerospace and automotive industries, maritime, services, ecotourism, aquaculture, urban economic agriculture and education.

## Food baskets for five groups

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government will be distributing food baskets to five groups affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in stages starting February, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Selangor Menteri Besar said the initiative will benefit 6,233 taxi drivers (including local taxis, airport taxis and limousines, and rental vehicles), 1,601 bus drivers, 8,432 Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad Waste Management truck drivers, 6,000 Orang Asal head of households and 2,361 tenants of the People's Housing Project (PPR).

He said the state government will also disburse RM50 to 3,004 residents in the Lembah Subang 1 PPR even though the

housing project is under the purview of the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

"The distribution of the basic necessities may not be much, but we hope that it would ease the burden of those affected by the movement control order (MCO)," said Amirudin during a press conference at the Menteri Besar's residence on Feb 18.

On the same day Amirudin received RM4.35 million in contributions for the Selangor Food Basket Aid Fund during a handover ceremony in collaboration with Bingkisan Mesra Sdn Bhd (BMSB), Perumahan & Hartanah Selangor Sdn Bhd (PHSSB) and the Yayasan Food Bank Malaysia (YBFM).

The food baskets consist of

either dry food or cooked food and will be distributed by several state departments, agencies and subsidiaries such as the Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI), the Selangor Housing and Property Board (LPHS), and Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Berhad Waste Management, with the help of the state representatives' community service centres.

The entire effort will be coordinated by the Urban Welfare and Housing Committee.

On Jan 20, the state government announced a total allocation of RM1.3 million to execute the food basket initiative.

The initiative is part of the Kita Selangor Package that has a total allocation of RM73.877 million.

# A demand for skills

By SHERILYN PANG

**SHAH ALAM** - There is a huge demand for advanced skills in the country and that fact must not be dismissed, says Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He also said the aerospace industry is a potentially rewarding sector to invest in.

Amirudin was highlighting the need to invest in a high-skilled workforce and move low-skilled workers up the high-skill value chain during a virtual forum to discuss Selangor's post-pandemic economic plans titled 'Post-pandemic economy: Where is the direction?' on Feb 23.

"The demand for high-skilled labour is huge. Let's take the aerospace industry as an example. The demand for this sector is very high but what the (labour) market has been offering to companies has not been able to fulfil their needs as we have all along been producing only low-end technical abilities in the market and this is a real situation that has been happening.

"This is an area that we should indeed

be investing in, whether it is at the Federal or state-level administration."

Amirudin said the Selangor government has invested to set up a framework for this particular purpose.

Drawing reference from policies overseas that ensure a clear framework for talent management in their high-skilled sectors, Amirudin said programmes are in place to emulate such efforts.

"During our visit to Germany to learn about their technical and vocational training programmes, I realised that (we) have been working in silos all this while. In their country, they have a very clear framework of where their labour force would be channelled. Whereas in (our country), the ministry involved in this technical and vocational training already has exceeded seven to eight ministers ..." he said.

"Education for this high-skilled expertise can be at the Federal level. Even though the ecosystem is yet to be fully established, with the Selangor gov-



ernment's investment of about RM50 to RM60 million in this area, God willing, it can be materialised. Had it not been for the Covid-19 pandemic ...."

"This can be turned into one of our (state) modules or assets in the coming budget or an additional budget that we may announce in time," he added.

## Give financial power back to Selangor: Exco

**SHAH ALAM** - The Federal government has to implement fiscal decentralisation to ensure that the revenue gained from all the states is distributed back fairly.

Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said compared to Indonesia, Malaysia should have fared better but yet, in reality, the country is far behind in terms of allocating its revenue fairly to each of its states.

"Selangor contributed 24.2 per cent to the national GDP (Gross Domestic Product) due to our high productivity ... in 2020, Malaysia's revenue was RM227.3 billion, so around RM55 billion of it came from Selangor.

"Yet under the Federal Constitution, the Selangor government is allocated only RM75 million ... another RM746 million is given through the MARRIS (Malaysian

Road Record Information System) and RM1.64 billion is allocated for development in the state. So all of this amounts to around RM2.4 billion which was the total cost of the Selangor Budget in 2020.

"This amount (RM2.4 billion) is just 4 per cent out of what Selangor had contributed to the country. So is this fair?" said Teng during a webinar series on Zoom on Feb 9 titled 'Income Tax Revenue for States Too: Can Malaysia Learn from Indonesia?'

The webinar organised by Wisdom Foundation was moderated by its executive chairman Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau and joined by panellists Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (Ideas) chief executive officer Tricia Yeoh



and its Public Finance Unit manager Sri Murniati.

Teng said Selangor's population stands at around 6.2 million compared to Malaysia's total population of 32 million, which means that 20 per cent of the country's population are residing in the state.

"Yet in terms of income tax and corporate tax, 100 per cent of it goes to the Federal government. Each year, Selangor contributes RM1.1 billion of stamp duties with a 2 per cent tax from the total cost of land transaction to the Federal government.

"Imagine the land is in Selangor, yet the state only gets a few hundred ringgit and the rest goes to the Federal, so again we cannot see the fairness in this."

Teng said that during the pandemic many of the state's workforce, enforcement and assets were used, so the state's revenue should have been allocated back to Selangor so that they can manage the pandemic more efficiently.

"Also, in Selangor, we have set aside a lot of lands to build schools. However, the Federal government could not develop them and gave excuses that they do not have adequate allocation for it.

"So if the Federal government with all the contribution given by Selangor cannot provide this, let the state administration handle education and health, return the authority including the financial power back to the state so that we can better

manage it effectively."

Teng added that even for cases of pollution that occurred in the state, the Department of Environment (DOE), which is under the Federal government, does not have the funding to do the cleanup and in the end, the Selangor government had to do it.

"So it makes sense for Selangor to get a higher percentage of revenue from the high contribution the state has given to the country, this is fairer as the state has more capability to administer and manage," he said.

In his conclusion, Teng urged the powers-that-be in the Federal government to change their mindset and embark on a paradigm shift from thinking that only they have the capacity to administer because the state government still lacks the skills.

"This Federal mindset is still rooted in the 1950s during the time when Malaysia has just gained its independence when there are not many highly educated people with the skills to administer. So during that time, the Constitution in all states was drafted so that the administration such as the State Secretary, State Financial Officer and State Legal Officer need to come from the Federal.

"But nowadays we have so many highly educated and highly skilled people in the state administration. So this needs to be changed, so it is fair for powers including financial power to be given back to the state who really does all the work in serving the people," he added.



# NO QUICK FIXES FOR COVID-19

BY AFIX REDZUAN

**A**s a densely populated state, Selangor often tops the list of daily Covid-19 cases in the country. However, the state government has actively formulated and implemented several plans to curb the outbreak.

In a brief interview with *SelangorKini*, state executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud talks about solutions, for now, and the near future.

## Short- and long-term plans

The short-term plan of the state government is to identify Covid-19 hotspots using artificial intelligence and risk mapping. This allows the state administration to execute targeted community screenings and effectively segregate those who are positive for the virus, thus placing the outbreak under control.

For the long term the Selangor government is focusing on empowering public health activities via the Preventing and Detecting Outbreaks

at Ignition Sites (POIS) programme. We would like to engage with factories. When they willingly follow the POIS programme, the spread of the disease at worksites will be greatly halted. Importantly, POIS also focuses on economic recovery.

Focus will also be given to the state's immunisation programme. It goes in tandem with the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme. We want to ensure that all industries in the state as well as the more vulnerable and low-income (B40) groups have access to the shots.

## What caused the third wave?

As clarified by Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, the spike in cases that were detected in late January and early February were due to the weakness in case reporting and the verification system of the Health Ministry.

Further studies on the trend found that 75 per cent of the cases involved workplaces and industrial areas.

The public has to also understand that the high number of cases reported is due to the active screening operations held in the state. The good thing about this is, with such tests, we can then effectively separate the positive cases from the community. If a low number of infections is reported, this would give a false sense of security.

As for trends of transmission within the community, the figures are sporadic. This reflects a weakness in the system to detect close contacts of positive individuals.

The people in Selangor are urged to use the SELangkah application to help the government effectively identify close contacts.

## An inclusive plan

It is often on our minds to not accidentally exclude any groups of people when we come up with solu-

**“We want to ensure that all industries in the state as well as the more vulnerable and low-income groups have access to the shots”**

tions and strategies. The Peduli Sihat programme was created with that in mind. It reaches out to the B40 group, to single mothers and also those who have lost their sources of income.

Also, under Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI), a total of RM1 million was allocated to set up childcare centres for our frontline workers when they are on duty. Additional nurseries too, will be set up according to current needs.

All in all, via the government's Selangor Prihatin (Selangor Cares) economic stimulus package as well as the recently announced Kita Selangor package, the administration has allocated a total RM73.87 million for health programmes for all groups of people residing and working in the state. We try our best to leave no one behind.



Ever mindful of the need for social distancing, Dr Siti Mariah loads boxes of sanitisation kits into the car of a childcare centre representative during a drive-through initiative at the Sultan Idris Shah building in Shah Alam on Feb 23



FOR a year now, Selangor has been hit relentlessly by Covid-19, and harder than any other state in the country. With a population of 6.7 million, this comes as no surprise. Yet, the state has grown in its resilience and determination to overcome the challenges it faces.

Its blueprint to combat the virus has been praised as organised and thorough. Aid was disbursed to the people swiftly and in many forms. In this feature, journalist **NAZLI IBRAHIM** lists the efforts of the state government in providing the best for the people, amid these hard times.

# THE GOOD FIGHT

## THE SELANGOR TASK FORCE FOR COVID-19

- Created on March 10, 2020
- Tasked to monitor Covid-19 and provide the people with knowledge of the virus
- Helmed by former Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and a team of experts and officers from the state health department

## SELangkah (STEP IN, SAFELY)

- The first-of-its-kind mobile phone application, introduced on May 4, 2020, for contact tracing
- It has since become an integrated tool for providing information on high-risk areas, test results and the user's vaccination plan

## VACCINATION

- The state plans to buy some two to five million doses of the vaccine without the help of middlemen
- The types of vaccine chosen will depend on their cost and efficacy
- They will be provided to the citizens of Selangor and all foreign workers in the state at no charge

## COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

- Started on April 1, 2020 after the state provided an allocation of RM1.35 million
- An additional RM6 million in funds was channeled via the Kita Selangor package for this purpose
- Focused on testing the residents of old folks homes, haemodialysis patients, people in the lower income (B40) group and tertiary students
- 10,000 free tests carried out as of January
- 50,000 tests targeted for 2021
- Effective in identifying asymptomatic cases

## SCREENING OF SABAH RETURNEES

- Provided free screening from Oct 4 to 11 last year for individuals returning from Sabah after the state elections
- Involved 16 Selcare clinics across the state

## COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRES (CAC)

- Three stadiums, four community halls and 12 community clinics in the state have been transformed into Covid-19 assessment centres
- Patients are categorised by severity to determine

subsequent management

- Those showing minor symptoms will be selected for home quarantine and monitored daily by health teams

## THE PREVENTION OF OUTBREAKS AT IGNITION SITES (POIS) PROGRAMME

- A voluntary programme to routinely screen factory workers to prevent new clusters
- Receives backing from the state health office (JKNS), Selgate Corporation Sdn Bhd and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers
- Workplaces found to have kept their positive cases hidden will receive disciplinary action
- Participating factories will elect their own committee members to identify Covid-19 risks
- Factories will draft their own contingency plan and enforce adherence to SOP
- Workers encouraged to isolate from the general public
- SELangkah is used to monitor workers' movements

## INCENTIVES FOR FRONTLINERS

- Some 6,000 frontline workers received a one-off RM200 payment as a show of appreciation from the government for their efforts
- A total of RM1.2 million allocated for the initiative

- All frontline workers will also receive free meals while on duty

## THE FRONTLINER CHILDCARE INITIATIVE

- Some 12 childcare centres have been set up for the children of frontline workers at selected locations with a RM700,000 grant from Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI)
- This will ease their childcare problems when they report for duty
- The initiative is supported by the Persatuan Cakna Anak Malaysia and will be available for two months starting January 2021
- To date, 500 frontline workers have used the service

## FREE MEALS FOR FRONTLINERS

- MBI has allocated RM3 million to hand out hot meals to frontline workers on duty
- The meals are for lunches and dinners
- Recipients include hospital staff and members of the police force and army

## SPECIAL CASH AID FOR PATIENTS

- A RM1.8 million effort to help people in Selangor

who have contracted the virus

- Each recipient to get RM1,000 after showing proof of illness

## FREE FACE MASKS FOR SCHOOLS

- A million units of face masks have been distributed to teachers and school children in the state from August 2020

## THE COVID-19 OPS ROOM

- Located at the Selangor State Secretariat Building in Shah Alam, the RM6 million operations centre functions on high-speed internet and is capable of managing Big Data
- Monitors the spread of the virus in Real Time, 24 hours a day
- Provides assistance and operational support to Federal agencies

## MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION

- RM1 million was allocated by the state government to provide psychiatric treatment, therapy and counselling to people who were struggling with depression or other mental illnesses during the long periods of stay-at-home order
- Live counselling sessions by healthcare professionals were also conducted via social media platforms like Facebook

The initiative ran from April to June last year

## SMART BUSES PUT TO GOOD USE

- The state has set aside five Smart buses to ferry Covid-19 patients from their homes to the quarantine centre at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS), cutting down waiting time for transport
- The initiative started on Jan 23
- From Feb 9, patients from the CAC in Stadium Malawati have also been transported by the busses to hospitals
- Some 4,300 have benefitted from this service at a cost of RM250,000

## SELangkah's HOME QUARANTINE KIT

- Announced during the unveiling of the Kita Selangor Package, the home quarantine kit allows patients with minor symptoms to self-isolate at home while checking in with a healthcare team every day
- Calls can be made directly to the healthcare team 24 hours a day
- The kit is provided by Selgate Corporation Sdn Bhd, a company under the Selangor State Development Corporation

# Giving women a space to thrive



Attendees of the International Women's Day 2020 celebrations smile and hold up flowers at the Shah Alam Convention Centre on March 8 last year



By SHERILYN PANG



INTERNATIONAL Women's Day (IWD) falls on March 8 every year. It is a day to mark the global call to action to accelerate women's equality and to champion their social, economic, cultural and political achievements.

The United Nations' Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) announced the IWD 2021 theme as 'Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a Covid-19 World'. Without a doubt, the pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequalities as women face greater risks of infection and death, a loss of livelihood, and increased violence.

In Malaysia, the national gender equality level has deteriorated to 70.9 per cent as shown in the latest statistics released by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) in December 2020, with political empowerment having the lowest score.

In addressing the concern, state executive councillor for women empowerment and family Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said the Selangor government has allocated RM71.3 million to oversee and spend on the welfare and development of women in

the state this year.

For a start, she said entities spearheading women's development will be introduced under the Selangor Women Development Committee during the state-level Women's Day celebration on March 8.

"We will officiate entities to oversee women's development under the Selangor Women Development Committee during the pre-launch of the Ekspo Hasil Suri Selangor (HaSSel) Hybrid 2021," said Dr Siti Mariah in a recent email interview with *Selangor Journal*.

HaSSel is an expo that showcases products made by housewives in Selangor.

The state's approach to women's welfare is heavily guided by the Selangor Women's Policy and Action Plan 2017-2020. The policy outlines specific steps and action to create a more inclusive society for women.

Its goals include promoting gender sensitivity, uplifting women's socio-economic status, accelerating women's representation and decision-making in public and political life, improving women's health and ensuring that women can be free from violence and fear, as well as have their talents appreciated by society, among others.

"We are the first state in Malaysia to

implement a gender mainstreaming (GM) initiative in line with the Selangor Women's Policy. We are promoting a gender-sensitive development framework," she said.

The GM initiative works to assess implications for women and men at all stages and levels of policies, programmes and project implementations.

Dr Siti Mariah said GM is currently executed within the portfolios of the State Housing and Urban Wellbeing, and Entrepreneur Development; the Public Health, Unity, Women Empowerment and Family; and the Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development.

"Hence, 'Capacity Building and Gender Audit' will be carried out accordingly and a 'Gender Action Plan' (GAP) will be the outcome for each respective agency to institutionalise as part of the state's administrative system.

"GM ensures that the implementation of projects, programmes and activities will be based on the gender lens so as to ensure inclusivity for all communities in Selangor," she explained.

Dr Siti Mariah said the state is also translating its commitment to empowering women via various initiatives such as the Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor (KISS) initiative, the establishment of the Selangor Women's Empowerment Institute (IWB) and Women's Empowerment Centres (PWB) that were set up in all 56 state constituencies.

"On top of that, we have a target to push for 30 per cent of women at decision-making levels within the administration in five to 10 years' time. One of the actively running programmes is called the Women Leadership Academy (AKW) and it has been running since 2019 to achieve this purpose," she said.

The academy, she said, runs mentoring sessions where participants work with selected female MPs and state representa-



tives to build their leadership skills.

"So far, 200 participants have enrolled in the academy," said Dr Siti Mariah.

### Creating opportunities

State Housing and Urban Wellbeing, and Entrepreneur Development executive councillor Rodziah Ismail said while the de jure and the de facto situation still shows a gap that needs to be narrowed down, the state government is focused on improving women's quality of life.

"We are definitely working on higher female participation in all sectors. Pres-

ently, there are 20 per cent of females in the state executive councils, 23 per cent are people's representatives in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly and 27 per cent are local councillors.

"In the entrepreneurship sector, Selangor nears the nation's 55 per cent female workforce participation while women-owned businesses constitute 20 per cent of the total small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Selangor, which tantamounts to 20,000 female entrepreneurs out of the estimated total of 100,000 entrepreneurs or companies in Selangor," she told *Selangor Journal*.

As Selangor gears towards its smart state ambition by 2025, key denominators towards achieving gender equality in all aspects will be the efficiency and effectiveness of state policies.

Rodziah, who is passionate about the exemplary establishment of a women-friendly city by the Subang Jaya City Council (MPSJ), said apart from building the strength and independence of women through economic-centric policies and programmes such as Niaga Darul Ehsan (NaDI) that enables female breadwinners to set up small businesses and the KISS initiative for low-income families of married women or single mothers, the state also establishes the Institut Wanita Berdaya (IWB), a think-tank, that drafts new and monitors existing policies to champion women's rights and gender causes.

"The IWB runs internal courses for state civil servants to understand gender issues and outcomes, justice and equality," she explains, adding that she is build-

ing a suitable environment for the progress of women by reducing poverty and increasing access to housing.

"My team and the Selangor Property and Housing Board (LPHS) are also preparing a new policy for affordable housing in Selangor. That policy is an improvement from the current Selangorku House Policy 2.0 (RSKU 2.0) where I am analysing all aspects related to women's needs. It is slated to be launched in the second quarter of this year.

"Meanwhile, a suitable environment for female entrepreneurs means providing an adequate ecosystem for them to succeed and thrive. For the past three years, we focused our efforts on the food and beverage (F&B) segment because a majority of them run F&B micro-businesses.

"I have also begun looking into (female participation in) the arts and handcraft spaces and am collaborating with other departments, agencies, non-governmental organisations as well as the Federal government to close any gaps or loopholes to provide a better future for our women especially in entrepreneurship," Rodziah said.

She added that despite the financial constraints for entrepreneur development, the state administration's ambitions for the women of Selangor will not be deterred.

"It is my aim to achieve that 30 per cent quota for women leadership in all levels of the state's public and private sectors and for any form of harassment or violence towards women to be eliminated," she added.



# Fishing village gets a makeover



Ng Sze Han (centre) with local villagers after visiting and launching the new look of Kampung Bagan Hailam, Port Klang, on Feb 17

By SHEEDA FATHIL

**PORT KLANG** - The beautification works at Kampung Bagan Hailam through the Breathe New Life project has the potential to turn the water village into a new tourist destination.

State executive councillor for new village development Ng Sze Han said the villagers' initiative to create a clean and harmonious environment through the two-year project should be commended.

"Kampung Bagan Hailam is very strategic and has the potential to develop as a popular destination for seafood lovers.

"I commend the villagers' commitment to adorn the area

with various types of decorations and to not throw rubbish into the sea like before," he said after a visit to the village on Feb 17.

Ng said the construction of a recycling centre and a mini-library in the area is very interesting and hopes that other new villages will do the same.

"The locals also repainted unused 18-litre paint buckets and turned them into rubbish bins that are supplied to the houses in the area. I hope this idea will be followed by others too."

In 2019, Kampung Bagan Hailam, with a population of 500 residents, became the pioneer water village to be refurbished under the Breathe New Life programme in Selangor.

## Subang Jaya SPM takers get online help

**SHAH ALAM** - Subang Jaya candidates of the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) 2020 are being sponsored to enrol in online classes as part of their preparation for the examinations that started on Feb 22.

Subang Jaya state representative Michelle Ng Mei Sze said a total of 150 students will attend 20 online sessions with ex-

perienced educators.

"This is a move to help the SPM 2020 candidates since the teaching and learning process in schools this year has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We know that the outbreak has left an impact. Therefore those who were sponsored stand a chance to revise their

lessons in their own time," she told *SelangorKini* on Feb 14.

Ng said the programme is held in collaboration with the on-demand video tutoring application AskBee.

The Education Ministry had earlier postponed the 2020 SPM examination to Feb 22 this year. It will run till the end of March.

## Reps urged to do more screening

**SHAH ALAM** - All Selangor state representatives are urged to organise subsidised Covid-19 screening operations in their respective constituencies to curb the spread of the infection within the community.

Selangor Backbenchers Club chairman Elizabeth Wong said

the initiative will encourage people living in high-risk areas and those who cannot afford to pay for tests themselves to undergo screening.

"This matter was discussed during a meeting between state assemblymen and state executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud last week.

"We know the cost of the Covid-19 test is quite high, so an offer as low as RM50 is hoped to encourage people to do the screening," said Wong, who is also Bukit Lanjan assemblyman, to *SelangorKini* on Feb 8.

She also urged the Federal government to share the latest data from time to time, to facilitate the representatives' work and to ensure the effectiveness of the screening programme.

On Feb 6, three Pakatan Harapan (PH) parliament and state representatives — including Wong, Sungai Buloh MP Siv- arasa Rasiah and Petaling Jaya MP Maria Chin Abdullah — had offered Covid-19 screenings priced at RM50 each.

Other state representatives who have held similar initiatives are Kota Anggerik assemblyman Mohd Najwan Halimi, Kampung Tunku assemblyman Lim Yi Wei, Subang Jaya assemblyman Michelle Ng, Bukit Gasing assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran and Rawang assemblyman Chua Wei Kiat.



Jamaliah speaks to the media after the replanting of Tembusu trees in SS20/10 on Feb 10

## Bandar Utama goes green

**PETALING JAYA** - A total of RM109,000 has been allocated to Bandar Utama constituents for environmental sustainability programmes.

Its state assemblyman Jamaliah Jamaluddin said the contribution was distributed to 23 resident bodies consisting of Rukun Tetangga Areas (KRT), Residents Associations (RA) and Joint Management Bodies (JMB).

"The initiative through the Bandar Utama Green Grant Programme started in January and will be closely monitored to ensure that the project is truly

implemented.

"Among the projects that have been carried out include the creation of community gardens, recycling, composting and the use of solar energy," she told *SelangorKini* after inspecting the replanting of Tembusu trees at Jalan SS20/10 here.

The event was also attended by Petaling Jaya City Councillor Loyis Uding.

To date, a total of 40 new trees have been planted in the Bandar Utama constituency to replace damaged trees that may pose a risk to the public.





The part of Sungai Klang near the Tun Sambanthan monorail station in Kuala Lumpur, on Oct 31, 2014

# Air Selangor sets out to allay fears

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

**SHAH ALAM** - The people of Selangor do not need to worry about the water quality of Sungai Klang as one of the new sources of water supply.

Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) said water from the river will go through a biological pretreatment process using the riverbank water storage (Taps) method.

The agency said raw water is stored using the downstream pond at the edge of the river.

"All kinds of dirt from the river will settle at the base of the pond and the cleaner water will be channelled to the water treatment plants (WTPs) for treatment before it reaches consumers," Air Selangor said on Facebook.

It further explained that Taps is also an alternative method to address water supply problems in the event of pollution and ensure that WTPs are still operational within a span of 28 days.

Previously the state executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izham Hashim

said the Selangor government is confident that its aim to turn Sungai Klang into a water supply source is feasible following improved water quality levels.

Izham said the river-cleaning and conservation programme through the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG), which started in 2016, managed to bring back the ecosystem of the area.

The SMG project is a state government initiative that focuses on the rejuvenation of Sungai Klang through cleaning, conservation and development.

## New treatment plant at Sungai Klang

**SHAH ALAM** - Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) plans to build a new water treatment plant (WTP) downstream of Sungai Klang.

The water operator informed that the construction of the WTP will provide additional water supply to consumers in the future.



"The water abstraction from Sungai Klang is actually aimed at optimising the use of raw water resources downstream without it being wasted into the sea.

"It is in line with the latest trend by global water operators who also abstract raw water from downstream and then treat

it biologically at the detention pond before treating it again at the nearby WTP," the agency said on Facebook.

The statement was made following doubts from many social media users over the use of Sungai Klang as a new water source for the future and the quality of its water.

Meanwhile, when contacted, a spokesperson for Air Selangor said further development related to the matter will be announced soon.

## Markets good at SOP

**SHAH ALAM** - Both traders and visitors of morning and night markets (pasar pagi, pasar malam) in Selangor are found to have complied with the standard operating procedure (SOP) that has been set.

State executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said that the operations at the markets have run smoothly and no issues have been raised.

"Experience from the previous movement control or-

der has helped the local authorities to take the necessary measures and this time around, the situation is satisfactory," Ng told *SelangorKini* on Feb 14.

Morning markets in the state began operating under new norms on Jan 18, trading from 6am to 12pm, while night markets have been operating from 4pm to 10pm since Feb 5.

The SOP and regulations of the markets are set by the local councils.



Visitors at the farmers' market in Section 13 Shah Alam can be seen wearing face masks and practising social distancing on Jan 31. Many stalls also displayed Covid-19 related notices and reminders

## Reward for reporting on dumping

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor Municipal Council (MPS) is offering a RM350 cash reward to any individual who reports illegal dumping activities in areas under its jurisdiction.

Its president Sham-sul Shahril Badliza Mohd Noor said the decision was made to help the local authority combat this irresponsible activity.

"To encourage the community to become the eyes and ears of the local authority, individuals who report illegal

dumping activities to MPS will be rewarded.

"But provided that the information they give will lead to the arrest of the culprits," he said in a statement on Feb 10.

For more information, the public can contact the MPS Enforcement and Security Department at 03-61266009 and 03-61266038.

Last year, a total of 22 illegal dumping sites were successfully detected by MPS and 57 compounds were issued.



# New ideas for an old town

By SHERILYN PANG

**B**ukit Gasing covers a land area of approximately 11 square kilometres from PJ Sections 1 to 19, excluding Sections 3 and 4. It is home to more than 80,000 people, half of whom are senior citizens, and has a registered voter count of 44,000. Nestled in the heart of Bukit Gasing is PJ Old Town, a much-loved township built during the British era of the 1950s and developed as an independent satellite city to Kuala Lumpur. The oldest part of town has kept its charm amidst the newer bustle of city life, and two-term state assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran has devoted himself to providing the best and most innovative solutions to the people there.



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

Rajiv Rishyakaran (RR): Bukit Gasing is a mature township with a fair amount of office and commercial buildings compared to most other constituencies in Selangor. What's more interesting is the fact that due to its historical background, Bukit Gasing is a place where one can find traditional businesses, from food to hardware shops, run by senior residents. These bustling commercial areas contribute greatly to the state government's revenue.

More than 15 years ago, it used to boast a substantial amount of industrial activities. However, these industries started relocating to other constituencies due to the appreciation of the land value. In turn, more people from the corporate and office sectors started moving in.

**SJ:** What is the main attraction in Bukit Gasing?

RR: We are blessed with the Bukit Gasing Forest Reserve that

offers a natural environment to the township. We have large parks for sports and recreational purposes such as Taman Jaya and Padang Astaka. People love the parks. Altogether, there are 40 neighbourhood parks within the 11sq km area. At the same time, the potential of the place actually attracts many companies to set up their headquarters and offices here, thus contributing to the thriving atmosphere.

And most certainly, we are the centre of good food, with lots of options for traditional cooking to keep people coming back. Being the oldest part of PJ, one can find almost anything under our roof, so it is a merge of the old and the new.

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

RR: Right now, the main prob-



The Bukit Gasing representative checks on some pipe replacement work taking place in Section 2, Petaling Jaya, on Feb 25



Rajiv poses with KDEBWM workers at the Bistari Flats in Petaling Jaya after observing them at work on Feb 24



lem in everyone's mind is the economy. How are we going to bounce back from this Covid-19 pandemic? Potholes, drainage issues, or broken equipment are not exclusive to Bukit Gasing, but thankfully, we have less of them compared to many other parts of Malaysia. Our residents are demanding about getting things done the right way so they would highlight these issues instantly.

**SJ:** What are your achievements so far in your constituency?

RR: Bukit Gasing is an affluent township with residents who set a high standard for the services they expect from the local govern-

ment. As such, they concern themselves with transnational issues like climate change, which is why I had launched this campaign called the '100 Youth Ambassadors Climate Action' to spread awareness about the problem. We are recruiting ambassadors, young and old, to join us and promote green and sustainable practices to the public to fight climate change.

Ultimately, the pandemic is still the biggest problem now and we are focused on helping people get through it by ensuring that the welfare of the people is not neglected. We contribute food aid and facilitate the transition to distance learning for students.

We also organised a laptop donation drive to help underprivileged students own laptops. Thankfully, many people responded to our call and came forward to donate their used devices which are still in good condition to fulfil the needs of these students. And we are assisting people to obtain business licenses so that they can run a side business

to survive in these times.

We are also the first in the country to bring down the price of the Covid-19 test kits to enable more people, especially from the B40 group, access to testing. Our RM70 for the Antigen Rapid Test Kit (RTK-Ag) initiative was unprecedented. We managed to pull it off and now, more state constituencies are following suit.

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

RR: When problems arise, we consult closely with the relevant government departments. It is imperative to figure out practical solutions for the government to cope with the issues as well. I would discuss the solutions with the departments concerned and try to accomplish what the people expect of us. Some problems take a long time to solve, while some only require one or two phone calls, depending on the circumstances of the cases and the ability of the relevant department to solve them.

In terms of funding for solutions, many things can be achieved by making the right arrangements and planning. We don't always have to spend the government's (allocated) funds to achieve an objective. Most of the time, there are other ways to achieve our goals. I am happy when I can solve problems and help bring positive change for the betterment of the people. That is the fulfilling part of this job. Bukit Gasing may not be perfect, but we have been relatively peaceful.

# Xtiv Virtual back with more games, prizes

By NADIAH ZAMLUS

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2021 competition will begin this March, offering accumulated prizes worth RM411,680.

State executive councillor for youth and sports development Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the multi-category competition hopes to attract 450,000 participants and is expected to run until December.

It was planned for this year following the success of the Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2020 that attracted 250,632 participants and 18 million views on social media platforms.

"Participants will be able to choose from seven categories of

games including three new ones, the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Chess, the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Ride and the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Jump Rope Challenge.

"The four games that will be continued from last year are the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Esports, the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Marathon, the Selangor Martial Arts Xtiv Virtual and the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Youth Busking," he said in a statement on Feb 22.

Mohd Khairuddin said the programme is an initiative of the Selangor government to encourage the people, especially the youth, to remain active during the country's stay-home orders.

For more information on Xtiv Virtual, visit [www.facebook.com/selangorxtiv2020/](http://www.facebook.com/selangorxtiv2020/).



## First training session kicks off

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor FC started its training session for the 2021 Malaysian League (M-League) season on Feb 15 after fulfilling the conditions set by the Malaysian Football League (MFL).

Its chief executive officer Dr Johan Kamal Hamidon said its players and officials were sent for Covid-19 screening tests on Feb 13 and a sanitisation process was held at the training ground here.

"Aside from that, the Sel-

angor team had also quarantined its players at their respective homes, unlike other teams where their players are placed at centralised camps.

"Therefore, all players need to know their responsibilities and abide by the standard operating procedure (SOP) as we do not want problems to arise in the future," he told *SelangorKini*.

As an additional precautionary measure, Dr Johan said players and officials must undergo

weekly screening.

On Feb 9, Senior Minister (Security) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced that the M-League, Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) and Sepak Takraw League (STL) teams are allowed to begin training.

Ismail Sabri said players must be quarantined at a camp or residence set by their respective teams and would not be allowed to go out or socialise with outsiders.

## Ministry urged to decide on Sukma age limit

**SHAH ALAM** - The Youth and Sports Ministry (KBS) is urged to hasten its decision on athletes who have passed the age limit to compete in the 2022 Sukan Malaysia (Sukma) in Johor.

Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) executive chairman Mohamad Nizam Marjuki said they are still waiting for the decision from the highest committee to determine which athletes are eligible to represent the state at the biennial games.

"We have yet to receive the ruling (age limit). It is learnt that the committee's board had a meeting last December but the matter was not decided.

"So we urge them to make a decision and immediately inform us so that we can prepare the athletes," he said when contacted on Feb 15.

Mohamad Nizam said the eligibility requirement is important to give justice to the athletes who have been preparing for two years before the pan-

demical hit the country.

"We understand the current situation, even though it (Sukma) can be organised, not necessarily next year will be safe. Also for a year, they (athletes) had to undergo irregular and out-of-the-norm training.

"Thus, to get maximum performance results is quite impossible considering the lack of training and preparations such as fitness, physical and skills," he said.

The 2020 Sukma and Para Sukma in Johor were scheduled to be held in July and August but were cancelled when the Covid-19 pandemic entered its third wave.

Johor was again offered to host the 2022 edition as the state is 99 per cent ready in the areas of planning, management and games facilities.

The age limit for participation for Sukma games is below 21 years, yet there are sporting events like gymnastics that set the age limit even lower, at 15.

# One step ahead with SELangkah

Selangkah has gone beyond contact tracing. Try out our new features, created to keep you even safer.



We are now able to scan both the Selangkah and MySejahtera QR Codes



Check-in to a place by way of location tagging



**SELANGKAH SCREENING**

An integration of functions, with vital information on contact tracing, state-funded testing, diagnosis, and monitoring all in one place



**SELANGKAH ID**

A single sign-on system for Selangor residents



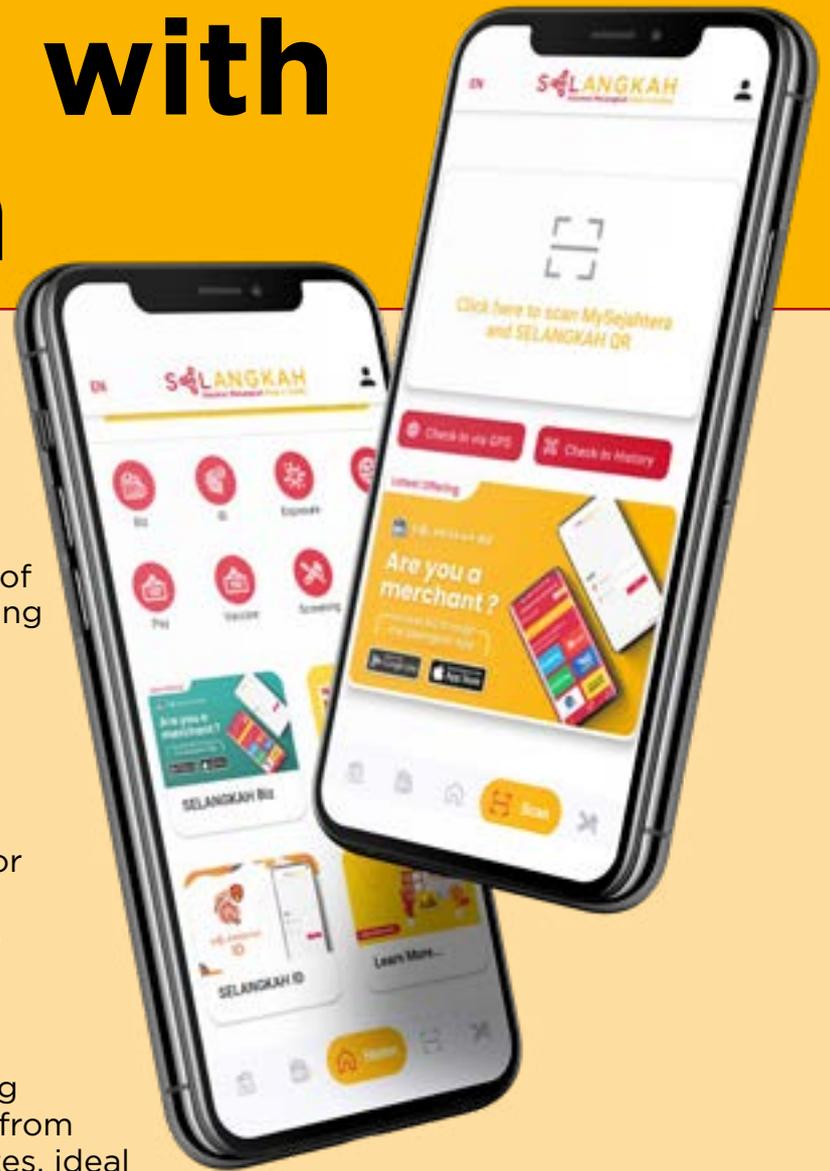
**SELANGOR TASK FORCE COVID-19**

Be informed of the latest announcements



**POIS**  
PREVENTION OF OUTBREAKS AT IGNITION SITES

Preventing & Detecting outbreaks from Ignition Sites, ideal for the workplace



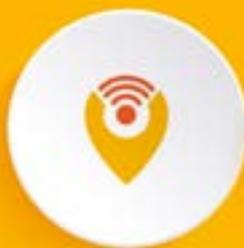
Four of our original features remain unchanged. You will still have access to:



**EXPOSURE RISK**



**VISITOR LIST**



**AFFECTED PREMISES**



**SELANGKAH BIZ**

Future integrated features



**RSVP (coming soon)**

Register and sign up to receive the Covid-19 vaccine



**SELANGKAH BIZ**

Cashless solutions for small-time businesses



**SELANGKAH WALLET**

SELangkah's own e-Wallet function



**SELANGKAH PAY**

Allows payments of bills, permits, taxes and summonses to state agencies

Join us in the fight against the virus!