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# SELANGOR JOURNAL

## WE ARE READY

SELANGOR'S very own vaccination programme takes off on July 1, setting into motion the outcome of months of negotiations and planning by the state government. A aptly named the Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme, it will be backed by RM200 million in funds and will complement the national-level immunisation plan PICK in speeding up herd immunity for the country.

The programme will see a collaboration between the state administration

and other relevant agencies to ensure a smooth rollout of the vaccines.

The state has also launched the Kita Selangor 2.0 stimulus package, injecting fresh funds into free community testing, self-assessment kits for those under home quarantine and setting up a special committee to oversee health compliance in the industrial sector.

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By ALANG BENDAHARA

**SHAH ALAM** - The 2021 Selangor Raya e-Bazaar campaign generated RM954 million in a ripple effect for the state economy, including RM65 million in direct sales.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said this marked a 139 per cent increase in ripple effect and a 163 per cent increase in direct sales compared to the state government's initial target.

He said that many e-commerce traders have benefitted from the campaign held from April 14 to May 29.

"The campaign recorded participation from 22,049 new small and medium-enterprises (SMEs) out of the total number of sellers.

"This is a 76 per cent increase from the initial target for sellers,"

# Raya e-bazaar generates close to RM1b

he said during a virtual address to announce the result of the campaign on June 23.

Amirudin said the state has held four e-bazaar campaigns, starting from the 2020 Raya e-bazaar during movement control order (MCO) 1.0, followed by the 11.11 Mega Sales e-bazaar, the 2021 CNY e-bazaar and this year's 2021 Raya e-bazaar.

"The state government has invested a total of RM7 million in all four e-bazaar campaigns, which in return have generated RM2.95 billion in a ripple effect

for the state economy, including RM144.7 million in direct sales.

"In total, 294,119 sellers, including 74,837 new sellers, have benefitted from all four e-bazaar campaigns," he said.

Amirudin said the e-bazaar initiative enabled the state's economy to stay active while creating an alternative platform for local traders to survive during the movement restrictions imposed due to Covid-19.

"It was the only way to ensure the survival of the SMEs when they had to close their physical

shops to break the chain of infection"

Amirudin said online selling is a crucial step in the digitalisation process that will expand the logistics industry, the gig economy, digital marketing, and popularise fintech technology.

Later in a virtual press conference, the menteri besar said the state government has yet to decide on whether to continue the e-bazaar campaigns next year.

"It depends on the MCO implementation as well as other factors, but if there is demand

and need, we will organise another one or two with our e-platform partners, maybe during the year-end sale.

"But if the e-bazaar campaigns are held next year, the ripple effect and direct sales will be more significant as the sellers and buyers are ready compared to when we first started.

"The selling will become sustainable and may even expand from just covering the Klang Valley to the whole of Malaysia and beyond the borders, if allowed," he said.



## Sidec TV brings e-commerce lessons to you

**SHAH ALAM** - Newly launched Sidec TV will benefit entrepreneurs who want to venture into e-commerce but are too tied up with work to attend classes.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the platform, introduced by Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec), aims to attract those who want to join or start an online business.

"The platform offers videos from hundreds of Sidec's e-commerce classes from the time they started in 2015," he said during the launch of Sidec TV at a virtual press conference on June 23.

Amirudin said a collaboration with Media Selangor was formed to promote Sidec TV to have the videos publicised.

"We hope that more digitalisation efforts in the state would be intensified to ensure no one is left behind in the country's fast-moving digital economy," he said.

Meanwhile, Sidec chief executive officer

Yong Kai Ping (*pic*) said new entrepreneurs who face time constraints are encouraged to join the e-commerce classes.

"To serve this group, we decided to collect all the recordings from hundreds of classes we have organised for public viewing," he said.

Yong said the launch of Sidec TV with Media Selangor as its partner showed that the digitalisation process in Selangor requires collaboration with the media.

Media Selangor Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Mohamed Fareed Mohamed Ashaaree said Sidec TV reflects the state government's efforts to help entrepreneurs and online merchants.

"Media Selangor is honoured and proud to be Sidec's strategic partner in this initiative and to play an essential role to benefit the people in Selangor, especially those who want to venture into entrepreneurship," he said.

For more knowledge on e-commerce visit [www.sidec.com.my/sidectv](http://www.sidec.com.my/sidectv).

## RM500,000 in matching grants approved

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government has approved 350 applications and close to RM500,000 for the Selangor SME Digitalisation Matching Grant.

The initiative aims to help small and medium-enterprises (SMEs) in the state to go digital.

Selangor Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim (*pic*) said the initiative had attracted more than 500 applications.

"Although registration for the first group ended last week, SMEs can still register in August for the next round," he said during a virtual press conference on the Selangor Raya e-bazaar campaign and launch of Sidec TV on June 23.

Teng said Selangor's seriousness in digitalising SMEs is evident in programmes organised by the Selangor Information Technology & Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec), including Sidec TV and the latest Selangor e-bazaar campaign.

He said the state administration is proud that many new sellers have ventured into e-commerce through the state's latest campaigns.

"We can see how traditional

businesses chose to go online via the Selangor Raya e-bazaar campaign during the movement control order (MCO) and made profits.

"This success showed how e-commerce became the main platform for SMEs' survival by ensuring the economy stays open while the people stay at home," he said.

Teng added that various restrictions imposed during the MCO had forced the Selangor government to come up with the low touch economy solution.

"Now we are proud to see that Selangor's digitalisation has borne fruit. SMEs are advised to continue digitalising their businesses to generate higher profits, thus helping to strengthen the state government's economy," he said.

The matching grant worth RM5 million that aims to benefit at least 1,000 businesses was launched by Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on April 12.

A 50 per cent matching grant or a maximum of RM5,000 is allocated to each SME to subscribe to one of the chosen digital service providers.

Applications for the grant began on April 15 until May 15 but was extended to June 15 following the enforced MCO in the state.



## Mobile units to visit homebound patients

**SHAH ALAM** - The state will set up its own mobile vaccination units under the Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (SCVP) to help vaccinate homebound chronic patients who are too frail to go to a vaccination centre.

State executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said the initiative would increase the number of Covid-19 vaccine recipients and help achieve herd immunity among the people.

"I understand that the Health Ministry (MOH) also has a team like this but their number is not many and they also face a high workload," she said on June 11.

## Selangor Advance can help struggling SMEs

**SHAH ALAM** - Small- and medium-enterprises (SME) in Selangor affected by Covid-19 are urged to benefit from the financing scheme offered by the state government via Selangor Advance to improve their cash flow.

State executive councillor for investment Dato' Teng Chang Khim said he hopes to see the initiative help the SME sector in improving efficiency during these challenging times.

"Selangor Advance is an innovative programme and Selangor has become the most productive state in helping the SMEs even though we are not rich in reserves.

"We are using the limited resources we have as best we can to help the business sector, especially the SMEs," he told *SelangorKini* when con-

## Satisfactory turnouts

**SABAK BERNAM** - The last round of the free Covid-19 community screening programme in Sekinchan and Sungai Air Tawar that ended on June 10 saw the number of participants exceeding what was initially registered.

Selcare Clinic manager Mohd Noor Md Nasir said although the number of attendees is not as high as in other urban locations, it is considered satisfactory for rural areas.

Dr Siti Mariah announced this during Media Selangor's Bual Bicara talk show titled 'Best Way to Speed Up Immunisation Process in Selangor' broadcast live on Facebook.

According to her, the unvaccinated B40 group is among the state's target for the SCVP, and that the recipients will be selected from those listed in the Skim Peduli Sihat, Skim Mesra Usia Emas and Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor.

"Besides that, we will also target the state government's frontline workers such as village heads and community service centre staff," she said.

tacted on June 14.

Teng said the Federal government should emulate the state's efforts by introducing a similar initiative to boost the competitiveness of SMEs.

Selangor Advance was introduced on June 22, 2020, as a financing scheme to SMEs, especially contractors and service providers, to help them face the post-Covid-19 economic challenges.

On June 9, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced a RM200 million additional fund for the financing scheme.

The allocation is included in the Kita Selangor Package 2.0 which is worth RM551.56 million and themed 'Bersama-sama Menuju Kejayaan' (Together, Towards Success).

"A total of 461 individuals attended the Sekinchan state constituency screening as of 12 noon, exceeding the pre-registration number of 280 individuals, while in the Sungai Air Tawar state constituency, a total of 130 individuals came, exceeding the pre-registration number of 85 individuals.

"Most of the participants are senior citizens and we are satisfied with the cooperation of the rural folks," he said.

# All set and raring to go

**SHAH ALAM** - Selgate Healthcare Sdn Bhd (Selgate) will kick-start the Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (SCVP) by launching more than 20 vaccination centres (PPVs) on June 28.

In a statement, Selgate said the PPVs will be located at Tropicana Garden Mall, Petaling Jaya; Evo Mall, Bangi; Kompleks PKNS, Kelana Jaya; De Palma Hotel, Shah Alam and Aurora Mall, Bukit Jalil.

"In our efforts to support the Covid-19 National Immunisation Programme (PICK), Selgate will work hand-in-hand with the state government to achieve the target of getting Malaysians vaccinated.

"The main emphasis is to kick-start the state's vaccination programme simultaneously at the (said) locations," the statement read.

PPVs will also be opened at the following community halls:

- Dewan Seri Siantan, Jalan Sungai Tua, Taman Selayang, Batu Caves

- Dewan Dato' Ahmad Sazali, Jalan Ampang Bukit Belacan, Kampung Melayu Ampang

- Dewan Sri Cempaka, Persiaran Saujana Impian, Saujana Impian, Kajang

- Dewan Komuniti Serin, Cyberjaya

- Dewan Banting Baru, 53, Jalan BB 5/2, Taman Banting Baru, Banting

- Dewan Majlis Daerah Kuala Selangor, Dewan Orang Ramai Bestari Jaya, Taman Seri Indah, Bestari Jaya

Several Selcare clinics at the following locations will also be designated as PPVs:

- Sentosa, Klang

- Puchong

- Putrajaya

- USJ Sentral, Subang Jaya

- Seksyen 13, Shah Alam

- Jaya One, Petaling Jaya

- Skypark, Subang

- KLO Station (Stesen Keretapi Lama), Kuala Lumpur

- UBN Tower, Kuala Lumpur

- Hap Seng Tower, Kuala Lumpur

- Olympia Tower, Kuala Lumpur

- Rohas Perkasa, Kuala Lumpur

- Worldwide Tower, Kuala Lumpur

According to the statement, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari will be visiting several of the PPVs on the following dates:

- Sungai Tua Community Hall, Selayang (June 28)

- Tropicana Garden's Mall (June 30)

- Aurora Mall, Bukit Jalil (July 2)

- Evo Mall, Bangi (July 5)

- Kompleks PKNS, Kelana Jaya (July 7)

- De Palma Hotel, Shah Alam (July 9)

## State-funded shots to protect 2.5m people

By **NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD**

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (SCVP) which kick-starts on June 28 will benefit 2.5 million people in the state, including those in the manufacturing and industrial sectors, says Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud.

The state executive councillor for public health said 500,000 complete doses of the vaccine will be given to members of the public who have yet to receive an appointment date despite having registered a long time ago on the MySejahtera application.

She said the rest will be given to the frontliners of the state

government administration, especially employees of state agencies and teachers.

"The vaccines are also offered to small traders and e-hailing workers because they are the driving force behind the state's economy.

"Factory owners who buy the vaccines from the Selangor government are reminded to give them for free to their employees. Many are willing to buy instead of having to stop operations," she said during Studio Birumuda's virtual forum titled 'PH Report Card: Fighting Covid-19' which was broadcast live on Facebook on June 24.

Dr Siti Mariah explained that

applications for the immunisation programme via Selgate Healthcare Sdn Bhd (Selgate) have been encouraging, reaching more than four million so far.

SCVP is implemented on a large scale to complement the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK), starting with the opening of more than 20 vaccination centres (PPVs) throughout Selangor on June 28.

On June 15, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines by the Selangor government is expected to help the state reach its daily vaccination target, which could reach 165,000 individuals a day starting August.

The Menteri Besar said the strategy is to ensure that 80 per cent of the state's population is inoculated by September.

He added that other strategies include increasing the number of volunteers at the vaccination centres (PPV) and opening more PPVs.

The state's Kita Selangor 2.0 Package was unveiled on June 9 with an allocation of RM200 million reserved for the SCVP.



# Testing kits for patients at home

By **MUSTAKIM RAMLI**

**GOMBAK** - The Selangor government has allocated RM1.25 million for home assessment kits that are provided to Covid-19 patients undergoing self-quarantine.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said each kit is estimated to cost RM200 and comes with N95 face masks, a thermometer, an oximeter, a saliva test kit and medicines.

"If one household has five people who are tested positive, for example, we will provide one oximeter for all but each person will receive their own medication," he said when met after a visit to the community screening programme at Dewan Beringin in Taman Seri Gombak, here on June 20.

Amirudin said the state government is

prepared to increase the number of kits depending on current developments to ensure that those who are undergoing home quarantine would be able to assess their health conditions at home.

"They can contact the PKD (district health office) if their condition worsens. Some cases were found to be asymptomatic ... therefore they would be provided a guideline on self-care during quarantine," he added.

The Home Assessment Tool initiative was announced in the Kita Selangor Package 2.0 and was introduced to mitigate the increasing number of people who are 'brought in dead' (BID).

The kits, as well as food baskets provided by the state administration, are distributed by the state's community service centres.



All patients self-isolating at home will receive N95 face masks, a thermometer, an oximeter, a user guide and medicines as shown here

## Private clinics start training to administer vaccines

**KUALA LUMPUR** - ProtectHealth Corporation Sdn Bhd (ProtectHealth) will be registering and training 16 clinics owned by Selgate Healthcare Sdn Bhd (Selgate) as well as more than 1,200 Selgate panel clinics to get them on board the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme.

According to a joint statement by ProtectHealth and Selgate, ProtectHealth had started providing the training from June 23.

The training involves the immunisation programme policy, the vaccination model, informa-

tion technology and system requirements, vaccine cold-chain management, vaccine shot handling, side effects management and vaccination management monitoring, among others.

"The registration process and training series will be handled by ProtectHealth as it involves private medical practitioners under Selgate in Selangor and those under the General Practitioners Vaccination Centre (PPVGP) model. The mega PPV and industry PPV are also hand-

led by ProtectHealth.

"This strategic collaboration will enable the transfer of knowledge to Selgate to start the Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (SCVP) using vaccines bought directly from Pharmaniaga Berhad," said the statement.

According to the statement, the data on vaccine recipients will be coordinated through MySejahtera to ensure that no one is left behind. This will also ensure complete and accurate data reporting at the national level.

ProtectHealth is a non-profit subsidiary of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and was given the mandate to register, provide training, monitor quality, analyse and report as well as handle payment to all private general practitioners involved in the immunisation programme.

ProtectHealth also trains non-governmental organisations for the programme.

Selgate is a subsidiary of the Selangor government which was given the mandate to implement the SCVP as a supporting measure to the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme. - Bernama

## Shift from mass screening to mass vaccination

**SHAH ALAM** - The daily Covid-19 cases in Selangor have been steadily hovering around the 1,500 mark, prompting the state government to introduce several initiatives in hopes of lowering the figure.

The initiatives include free testing that has since been done on more than 100,000 individuals and providing home assessment kits to Covid-19 patients.

While the mass screening programmes are done based on guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) which is to find, test, trace, isolate and support Covid-19 patients, occupational safety, emergency and public health expert Dr Hanafiah Bashirun opined that it is better to focus more on mass vaccination rather than mass screenings.

"The number of cases in Selangor is mainly from manufacturing clusters, hence the state government should focus on getting the factory workers and those who live nearby the area vaccinated first.

"If we are to rely on the National Covid-19 Immunisation Program (PICK) alone, the progress will be quite slow.

"In my opinion, it is best to follow the Yang Di-pertuan Agong's suggestion to stop any bureaucracy in procuring the vaccine or maybe, we can also encourage procurements from private entities so that the state will have

more vaccine stocks in their inventory.

"By having this, we can ramp up the process of getting more people vaccinated and this will help bring down the daily cases," said Dr Hanafiah to *Selangor Journal*.

He said the mass screening initiatives are not entirely accurate as sometimes such tests can trigger false-negative results.

"In addition, those who are screened are not immune to the virus and they can be infected at any time even if they were tested negative during the screenings.

"That is why it is better to focus on combining the workforce to speed up vaccination than continue doing the mass screenings," he said.

When asked about the home assessment kit, Dr Hanafiah said from his observation, overall, the kit is quite complete. However, the usage of pulse oximeters needs to be clearly understood.

"The device is not used regularly, so we have to educate the Covid-19 patient who received the kit to be fully aware of the oxygen level shown on the device.

"And if possible, provide them with a monitoring card where they can record their body temperature and oxygen level at a certain time and they can send the data to any specific centres involved with Covid-19 cases. This is better than just waiting for further action," he concluded.

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## 'Wakil rakyat' who quarantined with the people

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**SHAH ALAM** - Despite being able to request to go to a hospital after he tested positive for Covid-19 on May 18, Taman Medan state assemblyman Syamsul Firdaus Mohamed Supri followed the doctor's advice and went to a quarantine centre.

Syamsul, along with his wife, their two children and his mother-in-law, had fallen ill during the Raya celebrations. Upon receiving their positive test results, they went to the Stadium Melawati Covid-19 Assessment Centre (CAC) on May 20.

"My mother-in-law was sent to the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) in Kuala Lumpur, my wife and our children were placed under home quarantine, while I was asked to go to the Covid-19 Integrated Quarantine and Treatment Centre (PKRC) 2.0 at the Malaysia Agro Exposi-

tion Park Serdang (MAEPS)," he said when contacted on June 22.

At that point, Syamsul, who is fondly addressed as 'Ustaz' (religious teacher) by his constituents, had been fully vaccinated after receiving his second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on March 31. His first dose was on March 10.

"I was 'redha' (wholehearted acceptance of a difficult situation) with the order (to go to the quarantine centre) as I wanted to feel what others have gone through.

"Also, the hospital beds were full, and I felt bad for those who needed them more. It was better to give those beds to people who were more ill. My condition was not that serious," said Syamsul, who got admitted to the PKRC at MAEPS on May 21.

He described his nine days and eight nights at MAEPS as enlightening as he got the chance to be with diverse

groups of people.

"This was a chance for me to go through the real thing, to know how the people feel, to know the situation from the inside, and take this information out to make it the voice of the people," he said.

"I met more than 100 voters from Taman Medan there, all of whom were shocked when they greeted me, asking why I was there instead of at a hospital."

Syamsul said the situation at MAEPS was tolerable, although it was not very comfortable.

The people's representative even volunteered as a crew, handing out meal packages to patients and organising a special prayer session during the moon's eclipse.

He said he is grateful for this experience and even more thankful that all his family members have fully recovered from Covid-19.



**Syamsul Firdaus (left) has a tea break with other Covid-19 patients at the PKRC in Serdang — Picture via FACEBOOK**

## Four million the magic number

**SHAH ALAM** - At least four million people in Selangor would have to receive the Covid-19 vaccine in order for its population to reach herd immunity, says state executive councillor for public health.

Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud (*pic*) said the figure cited is about 80 per cent of the 6.5 million population in the state.

"This does not include children aged 18 years and below who are yet not eligible to receive the vaccine shot.

"Therefore, if we are able to reach the 80 per cent target, we would be able to protect the remaining 20 per cent that cannot be vaccinated and break the chain of infection," she said on an online forum titled 'Ask Anything: Which is the Best Vaccine' broadcast live on Face-

book on June 8.

Also present were Selangor Task Force Operation (STFO) director Dr Muhammad Farhan Rusli and Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) committee member Dato' Dr Khalid Ibrahim.

Meanwhile, Dr Siti Mariah said Selangor's plans to purchase the Covid-19 vaccine for its people are not intended to cut the queue of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK).

She said purchasing the vaccine would speed up the process to have the people in Selangor inoculated and at the same time assist the Federal government in executing PICK.

On Jan 18, the state administration had approved a RM100 million allocation to procure the vaccine for its people.



## Gearing up to jab children too

**SABAK BERNAM** - Selangor's decision to buy Covid-19 vaccines is not about wanting to be one step ahead of any party but about planning for the future wellbeing of its people.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the effort is aimed at speeding up herd immunity in the state following the alarming increase in Covid-19 cases.

"The group currently receiving the vaccine are those aged 18 and above but many children are also infected, although they cannot be vaccinated yet.

"When children can finally be vaccinated, do we then wait again for vaccines to arrive? I think it is best to be prepared for the children's future," he said after visiting the free Covid-19 community screening

at Dewan Seri Sekinchan here on June 10.

Amirudin said after negotiations with the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) concluded on June 1, the first batch of vaccines is expected to arrive by the end of June.

The programme will prioritise senior citizens and those working in the services and manufacturing sectors.

The state government is also planning to inoculate those who will soon be turning 18 but are currently not allowed to receive the shot.

On June 9, Amirudin said the Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (SCVP) is expected to begin in July to complement the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) in accelerating efforts to achieve

herd immunity among the state's population.

He said the state government, together with the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) and the Health Ministry (MOH), will discuss the plan and adjust the vaccine recipient data in line with the national programme.

He also said the implementation of the SCVP will not burden the public health system as there are at least 1,000 certified private doctors to administer the shots.

The state government has announced an allocation of RM200 million for the SCVP under the Kita Selangor 2.0 stimulus package. It includes a rebate worth RM20, in collaboration with Grab, for anyone hailing a ride to the vaccination centre.

## Career fair may go virtual at later date

**SHAH ALAM** - This year's 'Jelajah Selangor Bekerja' (Selangor Jobs Exploration) programme scheduled to start in July will be postponed to a new date following the enforcement of the movement control order (MCO) 3.0.

State executive councillor for youth development Mohd Khairuddin Othman said based on earlier plans, the career fair

was scheduled to visit every district in Selangor to offer employment opportunities to job seekers.

"We offer jobs at all levels from entry level to professional. We are now thinking of holding virtual career fairs during the recovery MCO and we target to get between 3,000 to 5,000 participants," he told *SelangorKini*.

Mohd Khairuddin said his team is now working to establish ties with various sectors to ensure that more individuals are given job opportunities.

"Employers who participated in last year's career fairs have agreed to renew their cooperation. So we hope more individuals affected by Covid-19 can get assistance," he said.

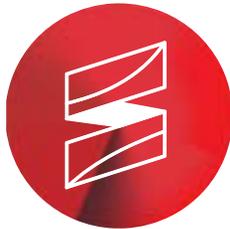
Last year, 'Jelajah Selangor Bekerja' was held at five locations, starting in Kuala Selangor and then moving on to Gombak, Sungai Buloh, Hulu Langat, and Shah Alam.

Job vacancies included for the position of lecturer, Quran tutor, accountant, sales manager, call centre operator and tractor driver, to name a few.

# Rescue package for the economy

**SHAH ALAM** - Under the second strategy of the Kita Selangor Package 2.0, the state government has identified seven initiatives to help industries as well as ensuring the sustainability of the economic sectors and entrepreneurs in the state.

During the announcement of the stimulus package on June 8, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the efforts include:



## ■ Selangor Advance

A RM200 million additional fund allocated to the cash financing scheme to

help small- and medium-enterprises



## ■ Food security programme

RM10 million allocated as working capital and for the setting up of several permanent outlets to maintain the food chain

## ■ Agro Prihatin programme

RM1.5 million allocated to purchase agricultural products in situations of over-supply and resell them to the public at a 50 per cent discounted price

## ■ Yield improvement programme

RM1.93 million in funds to help farmers and livestock breeders in yielding high returns through several efforts, including providing pest control and rice seeds



## ■ Hijrah Selangor loan

RM80 million allocated as startup capital for 8,000 new entrepreneurs, focusing on people who have lost their job or face a reduced income following the enforced movement control order



## ■ Plats Selangor

The scheme is extended to hawkers and retailers to learn the basics of digitalisation, and to get financial assistance and entrepreneurship training

## ■ Financial assistance to tourism sector

RM2.55 million allocated for the state's tourism industry, which includes grants to assist tourism activities, tourism vouchers 2.0 and a one-off cash aid to the Selangor Tourism Association



## Industrial workers our main concern, says MB

By **MUSTAKIM RAMLI**

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government will focus its vaccination drive on industrial workers to prevent a potential collapse of the economic sector.

Its Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the sector has to be given priority as it is the main contributor to the state.

"An industry that collapses will not just impact the employers but the workers too. Many will lose their jobs," he said on June 15 after attending the state's Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Task Force meeting with the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin at the Selangor State Secretariat building.

The menteri besar added that the state would increase the efforts carried out by the International Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti) to vaccinate the workers in Selangor.

Electronic components manufacturing company Texas Instruments Malaysia Sdn Bhd in Ampang was the first factory in Selangor to receive the Covid-19 vaccine for its workers on June 16.

Khairy said the initiative to get industrial workers jabbed is part of Phase 4 of the national vaccination plan, which will be further expanded to the manufacturing and construction sectors in the state in July.

Amirudin said he believes that the Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (SCVP) will help to reduce the Federal's burden in getting the vaccines rolled out.

"At this point, several states such as Johor, Penang and Negeri Sembilan see a consistent rise in the number of cases in their industrial areas.

"We believe there is a strong justification for us to add priority groups (to the SCVP), in this case, factory workers, as industries form the backbone of the country," he said.

## Startups get a headstart

**SHAH ALAM** - Malaysian startups may now register for the fourth Selangor Accelerator Programme (SAP), which focuses on opportunities created under the new norms such as agrotech, fintech, Green-tech, e-commerce and Smart City Solutions (Proptech, Mobility and Logistics).

In a statement on June 14, the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec) said the SAP is a structured three-month programme that aims to prepare 30 early-stage startups to become investment-ready businesses.

"Winners this year stand a chance to win from a cash prize pool of RM50,000," it said, adding that registration is open until

July 14, 2021.

Sidec said participants will be guided by well-versed mentors in the community, learn through comprehensive workshops and gain the necessary industry-related exposure.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme will be conducted wholly online, where participants will get their own dashboard for all the courses, webinars and mentoring sessions.

The programme will be held from July 28 to Sept 5.

Those who are interested may visit [www.sidec.com.my/sap2021](http://www.sidec.com.my/sap2021) to register. - Bernama

## Cash rebate for a ride to your PPV

**SHAH ALAM** - Registration for a RM20 transportation rebate when using Garb's e-hailing service to a vaccination centre (PPV) has opened on June 20 via Selangor Platform (Plats).

The rebate period will be from July 1 to Sept 30.

Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) head Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor said priority will be given to the people of Selangor aged 50 years and above.

He said the state agency is anticipating that 50,000 individuals will benefit from the initiative that was announced by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari through the Kita Selangor Package 2.0 on June 9.

"There are 34 PPVs in Selangor and we are offering a transport rebate of RM10 for a one-way trip. The move is

part of efforts to encourage the public to get themselves vaccinated.

"They should not be saying that transportation or money is an issue as we have now provided this avenue in order that they receive their shots," he said when met after a wheelchair giveaway ceremony in Section 13, here on June 14.

Ahmad Azri said MBI will also be collaborating with community service centres, council members and village heads to speed up the registration process.

"We are targeting about 1,000 rebates that will be redeemed daily until we reach the 50,000 mark. If there is a need to increase the number, then we will work on that," he said.

There are also plans to offer the rebate to those aged below 50, which will be announced at a later date.

# Aviation show moved to November



**SHAH ALAM** - Invest Selangor Berhad (Invest Selangor) has announced the re-scheduling of the Selangor Aviation Show (SAS 2021) following the current Covid-19 situation in the country.

The Selangor government, through Invest Selangor with its dedicated aerospace division Selangor Darul Ehsan Aerospace Industry Coordination Office (SDaico), was initially scheduled to host the inaugural event themed 'Selangor the Asean Business & General Aviation Hub' from Aug 12 to 14. It will now run from Nov 25 to 27.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari in a statement on June 22 said that the postponement of SAS 2021 is a precautionary effort to ensure that the event

will be a safe one for all participants.

The announcement was made during the Virtual Selangor Aerospace Council Meeting earlier the same day.

The SAS 2021, which is scheduled to be held at the Subang Skypark, is expected to draw at least 5,000 visitors and 30 exhibitors from local and international companies and will create a potential business ecosystem and investment opportunities in both domestic and global stages.

It will feature a static aircraft display, a forum, an education open day and an exposition.

Those interested to join the first-ever aviation show can sign up at [selangoraviationshow.com](http://selangoraviationshow.com).

## Subsidies to inject life into travel industry

**SHAH ALAM** - Tourism industry operators in the state are given a RM1 million financial assistance grant to revive the sector, which has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, says state executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian.

He said incentive in the form of reimbursable financial assistance is given to tourism operators who carry out promotional activities to attract more visitors.

"The amount can be claimed from a single entry or implementation, which is 50 per cent of the total actual expenditure or according to the maximum eligibility, whichever is lower," he said in a statement on June 10.

Hee said other initiatives to boost the tourism sector include:

### 1. The Selangor tourism voucher 2.0

- 20,000 units of vouchers (RM50 per unit of voucher) offered through an allocation of RM1 million
- Distribution of vouchers via e-wallets and e-vouchers

### 2. The Selangor tourism digitalisation learning and training programme

- Almost RM300,000 has been allocated to organise the online digitalisation and business training programme
- A collaboration between Tourism Selangor and Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec)

### 3. A one-off cash incentive to 16 tourism associations in Selangor

- Each association receives RM15,000 to implement tourism activities or programmes

On June 9, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced an allocation of RM2.55 million to keep the tourism industry afloat.

This assistance is part of the RM551.56 million allocated in the Kita Selangor 2.0 Package which will benefit some 1.6 million people in the state affected by the movement control order (MCO).

On Nov 19 last year, 553 tourism industry players in the state comprising tour guides, homestay operators and community hosts received a one-off incentive totalling RM1,000 each.

The assistance was part of the Selangor Economic Recovery Package announced by Amirudin on July 13 last year.

On Feb 2 this year, Amirudin announced that the entrance fees of theme parks in the state would be exempt from entertainment tax from March 18 2020 to the end of 2021, with an estimated financial impact of RM26.35 million.

He also stated that the entertainment tax rate will be reduced from 25 per cent to 5 per cent over a duration of five years starting from Jan 1, 2022, to Dec 31, 2026, with a total revenue impact of RM21.04 million a year.

## Traders get job security through Plats

**SHAH ALAM** - The state's e-commerce platform, Platform Selangor (Plats) 2.0, provides opportunities for hawkers and retailers to sell food and beverage during the pandemic.

Organised by the Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI, the virtual platform helps to drive the state's economy during the movement control order (MCO).

The initiative is a collaboration between Permodalan Negeri Selangor Berhad and Yayasan Hijrah Selangor, both subsidiaries of the state government, as well as Grab Express.

Through Plats 2.0, hawkers and retailers learn the basics of digitalisation, get funding assistance as well as entrepreneurship training.

Those who want to participate can start by registering at the website [www.platsselangor.com](http://www.platsselangor.com) and provide their business details.

Merchants and retailers will then be asked to upload their store's photos and menus for their Plats 2.0 registration to be processed.

As for the customers, they would simply be required to access the website, select the store to order food from and make payment via e-wallet or their online bank account.

Meals can either be picked up in person (takeaway) or delivered using the Grab Express delivery service.

Last month, MBI chief operating officer Soffan Affendi Aminudin said Plats is an initiative to change the fortunes of 75 per cent of its 22,000 participating hawkers through e-commerce channels so that they can open their own food outlets.



He said the group is divided into four categories, namely those earning less than RM100 a day; those earning more than RM100 a day; those who own a physical shop or stall; and those who own a chain of shops.

"We are aiming for those in categories one and two to move their business up to categories three and four. The economic impact becomes bigger if we train them to be on the right platform (Plats).

"They (from category one and two) are from the low-income group (B40) and elevating them to the middle-income group (M40) will be a great success for the state," he said.

Plats 2.0 was introduced to complete the Selangor Digitalisation Agenda ecosystem by moving entrepreneurs over to the digital platform.

On April 11, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the programme, introduced during Ramadan last year, will be continued throughout the year to help traders generate an income.

The Kita Selangor 2.0 package totalling RM551.56 million will touch the lives of many people across the state, especially those who have taken a direct hit from the pandemic. Students, entrepreneurs, single mothers and those in the disabled community all stand to benefit from its wide range of assistance. Journalist AFIX REDZUAN uncovers the details.



## The Kita Selangor 2.0 Package

### PEOPLE FIRST

#### Testing

- Aims to test 100,000 individuals in the third phase of community screening
- To adopt the World Health Organisation (WHO) model to find, test, trace, isolate and support (FTTIS) silent carriers of the virus
- Focus given to high-risk areas and industries

#### Patients

- Families of the deceased to receive a death benefit payment of RM1,000 from a total pool of RM1.5 million
- Community service centres to provide home-monitoring kits to those tested positive. Each kit will come with N95 masks, a thermometer, an oximeter, a saliva-based test kit and medication
- District health officers to monitor the condition of patients self-isolating at home via the SELangkah mobile application
- Free meals will be provided



### FACTORY WORKERS

- A Special Committee on Health Control Compliance for Industries has been created to oversee adherence to rules and vaccination at factories
- It is chaired by Dato' Dr Khalid Ibrahim, former director of the state Health Department, and has among its members Bangi MP and former International Trade and Industry deputy minister Dr Ong Kian Ming and Selangor Task Force Operations (STFO) director Dr Mohammad Farhan Rusli

### VACCINE ROLLOUT

- The Selangor Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (SCVP) serves to complement the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme
- Negotiations with the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) finalised on June 1; state to get vaccines by end of June
- Priority given to inoculating the elderly, factory workers
- Efforts also being made to inoculate children over 13 years and include them in the SCVP list
- The Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) will work with the Ministry of Health to streamline the data on those who have been vaccinated
- Expedite vaccination to ensure the elderly, the lower income group (B40) and teachers are protected
- The SCVP has the participation of 1,000 private clinics

via the Peduli Sihat programme and will not burden the state's health system

#### Transportation rebate

- From July 1 a RM20 rebate is offered to those who hail a Grab ride to the vaccination centre (PPV)
- Some 50,000 people to benefit from this allocation that totals RM1 million
- Community service centres to arrange transport for those living far from the PPV or those without access to public transport

### THE LOW INCOME GROUP

#### Food baskets

- Drivers of school vans and buses, taxis and commercial busses, single mothers, the disabled, Covid-19 patients, and those who have lost their income to receive aid of essential food items
- Expenditure for this capped at RM100,000 for all 56 state representatives, including those from the Opposition
- RM30,000 disbursed to Pakatan Harapan parliamentarians in the state
- A total of RM3.28 million (after an increase of RM50,000) set aside for this purpose



#### Rent deferment

- Rent deferments for month of July for 2,632 low-cost (PPR) housing and 477 Smart Rental Scheme housing tenants, at a cost of RM900,000 to the government

#### Internet data

- Subsidised SIM cards with limitless data to benefit 70,000 students, small entrepreneurs, single mothers, taxi drivers, the elderly and part-time workers

### MIDDLE INCOME GROUP

- The Selangor Internet Scheme for the Middle Income Group (M40) called the SISM40 created

- From July 1, eight types of data subsidies to be offered via three packages: Family Package, Singles Package and Basic Package
- Users get between RM10 and RM30 worth of subsidies a year
- A Selangor government-Telekom Malaysia (TM) initiative

### STUDENTS

#### Deferment of student loans

- Tertiary-level students allowed to defer loan payment by 12 months (from six months) after completing their studies

- Application forms can be downloaded from the Selangor State Scholarship Fund portal
- Offered to students who completed their studies in 2021
- To benefit 1,300 students

#### Smart Selangor Free Tuition Programme (PTRS)

- Printed educational materials to be distributed to students unable to do online learning
- To target 50,000 students sitting for exams this year

#### The EPTRS.MY portal

- Created for the 20,000 Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) candidates this year
- An initiative under the Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) totalling RM500,000

#### Kindergartens

- A one-off payment of RM450 to be made to kindergarten operators and RM150 to teachers, totalling RM500,000
- The initiative will benefit 1,018 operators and 10,197 teachers

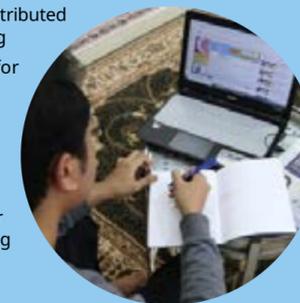
#### Deferment of scholarship loans

- Some 286 Yayasan Selangor students graduating in 2021 can defer their scholarship loans to January 2022
- Government to relook criteria for loan repayment for 2,088 former students

- Comes at a cost of RM1 million

#### Assisting tertiary-level students

- To provide meals and basic necessities to undergraduates living on campus in universities around Selangor
- To benefit 7,500 students
- The allocation totals RM1.5 million



### THE DISABLED

- Individuals with disabilities will receive a one-off aid package of RM500
- RM600,000 allocated for this initiative

### WOMEN

- A domestic violence helpline has been set up by the Institut Wanita Berdaya (IWB) and NGOs
- Trained workers will respond to the calls and provide care and assistance

### SMALL BUSINESSES

#### Loan moratorium for Hijrah traders

- Yayasan Hijrah Selangor participants offered a one-and-a-half month loan moratorium

- Will benefit 40,000 small businesses, at a total cost of RM11.35 million

#### Selangor Advance

- To assist 300 small and medium businesses with cash flow
- Has helped to keep afloat almost 25,000 businesses since 2020
- Additional RM200 million in funds from government agencies, local councils and government-linked companies
- Offers tender support letters, performance bonds, work insurance, term loans, letters of undertaking, letters of credit, revolving credit, industrial hire purchase and factoring

#### Hijrah Selangor loans

- RM80 million to be disbursed to 8,000 entrepreneurs as start-up capital
- As aid to those who have lost their job or have a reduced income
- To seek entrepreneurs in need of help in each constituency

#### Selangor Plats

- Serves as an economic driver for small- and medium-businesses, especially traders and store owners
- Application is free via [www.platselangor.com](http://www.platselangor.com)
- Participants will receive free training on how to set up and manage an online business
- A Selangor government-Grab initiative



### FARMERS & BREEDERS

#### Ensuring food security

- To create 1,000 agropreneurs in five years who are adept at production, marketing and logistics
- Some 30 agropreneurs given land in Bukit Changgang, Banting, in pilot project
- Strategic partnership with Agro Bank to provide RM10 million to farmers as working capital
- To set up fixed and mobile sales outlets to complete the value chain

#### Agro Prihatin Programme

- To set measures to avoid oversupply of fresh produce and dumping
- The Selangor Agricultural Development Corporation to buy up farmers' produce and resell at 50 percent discount should there be a glut
- To benefit more than 200 breeders, farmers and fishermen

#### Increasing yield

- To provide farmers with pest control measures and products
- To offer rice farmers seeds for the MR219 variety
- To come up with new production methods
- To help fishermen create artificial reefs and install trawlers off the coast of Sabak Bernam

# Lifeline for victims of abuse

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

**AWARE** of the hardships and struggles that many women in troubled marriages go through during the movement control order, the Selangor state government has taken the initiative to establish a hotline for them to lodge reports about domestic violence.

The initiative should be lauded as it helps the women in seeking assistance through proper channels.

Independent feminist organisation All Women's Action Society (Awam) said the number of domestic violence cases has been increasing since the pandemic started, with more people requiring support.

"With movement restrictions, both abuser and survivor are trapped in the same space, making it more difficult for survivors to call or get out of the house for help.

"The hotline would provide survivors with the support they need, and it can be used as a reference point to refer cases to respective agencies," Awam told *Selangor Journal* recently.

The hotline is one of the initiatives under the Kita Selangor 2.0 stimulus package carried out by Institut Wanita Berdaya together with other related agencies and non-government organisations.

Awam commented that the pandemic has also affected relationships.

"A lack of personal space and

increased stress due to unemployment and financial challenges are part of the contributing factors which led to the increase in domestic violence cases.

"Nevertheless, it is important to note that the main causes of domestic violence are patriarchy, and power and privilege, whereby the spouse is socialised to believe that they are entitled to be in control," said Awam.

The organisation shares a few steps to empower women and help them get out of an abusive relationship, including providing funds for domestic violence survivors to stand on their own two feet.

"These funds can be used to get accommodation, food supplies, basic needs, for their chil-

dren's education as well as to cover any legal action that needs to be taken.

"These aside, the state government may want to consider providing them with a business start-up fund. This is to encourage them to be more financially independent rather than relying on welfare funds.

"In addition, the current laws must be enforced effectively, and the police must also be equipped with proper training on how to handle domestic violence cases," said Awam.

Meanwhile, Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) case manager, Manissha Kaur, said establishing a specific hotline for domestic violence survivors would hugely benefit them as they would have

a contact to reach out to for immediate assistance and support.

"In my opinion, the hotline should be able to advise them on their rights and options in a given situation.

"Survivors should not be turned away from reporting by people saying it's a family matter and should instead be assisted to get out of the situation. Medical help should be offered as well as a safe place for shelter.

"Survivors need to be empowered. Not only should they be given counselling to deal with the trauma they have been through, but also be provided with knowledge on how to be financially independent in order to support themselves and their children in moving forward," she said.

## Time to protect our small traders, say groups

**SELANGOR** has been recording a high number of Covid-19 cases since the coronavirus was first detected in the country last January.

The trend of spikes in daily cases, as well as death rate, has continued for over a year and the state administration has taken up efforts to prevent further spread of the infection within the community, including mass screening operations that were first introduced in March last year during the first movement control order.

However, with the arrival of Covid-19 vaccines in the country, new strategies can now be drawn up.

Malay Chamber of Commerce Selangor president Mohd Azli Md Yusof is calling for a special vaccination programme specifically for small traders in the state.

Small traders, he said, are among the groups that need to operate their business on a daily basis, leaving them exposed to the virus that is already in the community.

"They are particularly vulnerable to the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Apart from that, we hope that small traders will be given the flexibility to operate their business in specific locations that are set by the local council.

"In reality, we received lots of complaints regarding the strug-

gles and hardship they are facing due to the MCO 3.0.

"We have to bear in mind that this group is not operating their business to gain a huge profit, they just want to survive for their families. We hope the local council will be able to provide flexibility by granting them permit exemptions and exemptions from any extra charges," he said.

Mohd Azli also explained that other problems faced by small traders include the unpredictable MCO period; limited business hours; too much bureaucracy when applying for the provided initiatives; poor standard operating procedure (SOP) enforcement as well as slow execution from government agencies which led to disruption of work.

"With a limited allocation, we are aware that it will not be easy for them to prove their eligibility for the initiatives.

"Hence we hope that the distribution will take the current factors of the applicants into consideration as well," Mohd Azli said.

Meanwhile, SME Association of Malaysia national vice-president, Chin Chee Seong told *Selangor Journal* that the initiatives outlined in the Kita Selangor Package 2.0 are indeed good and he hopes that other states



will follow suit.

However, Chin said there are certain areas that need to be improved, for instance, the initiatives should not overlap with what the federal government has already done.

"We already have packages such as Perneraka 3.0 and the special grant from Prihatin and the state government should try something different from what the Federal government has done.

"They should concentrate on

doing other things. In general, what the small- and medium-entrepreneurs (SME) need now is for the economy to be back to normal as soon as possible.

"Do something that can help to expedite the mission. Use the allocation money to get more people vaccinated. For instance, those foreign workers working in restaurants, central kitchens or in the manufacturing industry, should get vaccinated the soonest," Chin said.

He added that the govern-

ment must really emphasise the importance of the vaccination programme.

"Looking at the plan now, everything will depend on the vaccination rate. Given the current vaccination rate, sad to say, the economy won't recover this year. However, if the government manages to ramp up the number of people getting vaccinated, we might see the economy recover in October.

"That is the best case, I would say," he concluded.



Amirudin scans the SELangkah QR code during a visit to the Selangor e-kitchen located at Padang Awam Batu Caves in Gombak, on May 8, 2020

# SELangkah moves beyond contact tracing

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**BARELY** a year old, the state-developed contact-tracing application (app) SELangkah (Step In, Safely) continues to innovate, adding more practical functions for its users.

In line with its creator's mantra of 'Senang buat semua' or 'Easy for all', what started as a mobile app employing a simple QR-code technology has evolved into a full-fledged Covid-19 app with a few business functions thrown in.

When SELangkah was introduced on May 5, 2020, it was the country's first contact-tracing app designed to monitor human movement and their location.

Since its first day of operation during the first MCO, the app has been fully compliant with the Personal Data Protection Act 2010.

However, its widespread adoption by the Selangor people and businesses was stunted after Putrajaya made it mandatory on Aug 3 last year for all business

premises to use the MySejahtera app instead.

On its first anniversary this year, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari unveiled a newly enhanced SELangkah that enables the dual scanning of both the SELangkah and MySejahtera QR codes.

It was also upgraded to include Global Positioning System (GPS) entry registration, a scan history, a community screening portal, SELangkah Biz, and SELangkah ID.

Previously the application only offered the function of tracking affected premises, exposure risk review, visitor trends and visitor logs.

Also introduced was a commercial feature, known as SELangkah Biz, that enables traders to receive cashless payments from any e-wallet platforms.

Early this year, Selangkah Ventures Sdn Bhd (SVSB) said the SELangkah app will also be enhanced with SELangkah Wallet and SELangkah Pay features. This



SELangkah Wallet not only allows cashless transactions via the e-wallet but also channels welfare assistance by the state government

provides its users with a one-stop solution for all their digital needs in the new normal.

SELangkah Pay allows users to make easy payments of utility bills, taxes and summonses via a single platform.

SELangkah Wallet, on the oth-

er hand, not only allows cashless transactions via the e-wallet but also channels welfare assistance by the state government to the people.

The SELangkah payment platform was made possible by its collaboration with financial technology company KiplePay.

The app allows merchants to monitor their overall sales through transaction records, allowing for daily tracking.

SELangkah Biz is currently only available on the Google Play Store, while plans are afoot to have it available on the Apple App Store soon.

The SELangkah app is the outcome of efforts by the Selangor government and Selangkah Ventures Sdn Bhd (SVSB) to help businesses digitalise within a pandemic-struck economy.

SVSB is a company formed by Artificial Intelligence in Medical Epidemiology (AIME) Sdn Bhd, the developer of the SELangkah app.

Together with Selgate Corpo-

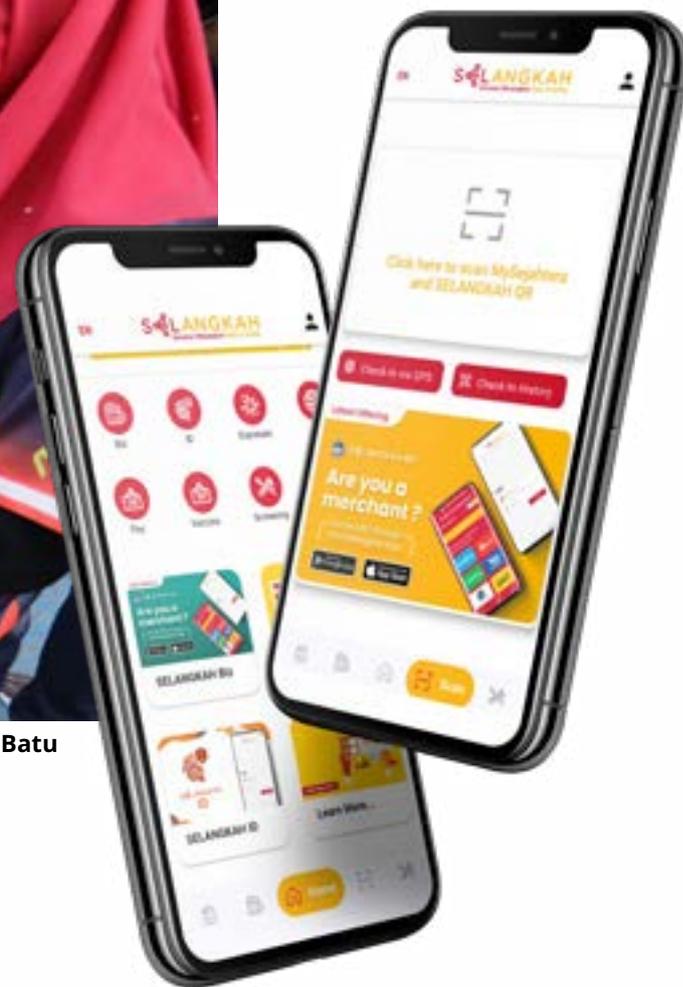
ration, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Selangor State Development Corp (PKNS), they were tasked to build a full ecosystem to beat Covid-19 while improving the daily tasks of SELangkah users.

In its latest update, SELangkah through Twitter and Facebook announced new functions such as 'Camera on Load' (for those who wish for the app's multi-scanner to open straight away upon access) and a profile photo option for 'Bubble'.

'Bubble' works for group check-ins involving family members, friends and colleagues.

Currently, SELangkah is used as a primary pre-registration tool for people in Selangor and foreign workers who wish to undergo the free Covid-19 community screenings organised by the state.

SELangkah is available for download to smartphones via Apple's App Store or Google's Play Store.



# Free ads for hard times

**SHAH ALAM** - Media Selangor Sdn Bhd (Media Selangor) has launched the 'Bantu Niaga' campaign to assist entrepreneurs in the state badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic by offering free advertising space.

The initiative, which kicked off on June 20, aims to help businesses in reaching more customers and at the same time support the state government's digitalisation agenda.

The advertisements will be

published on all Media Selangor online platforms including the *SelangorKini* website for higher reach.

To participate, the business must be a small- or medium-sized enterprise located

in Selangor, have a social media account and is experiencing difficulty brought about by Covid-19.

Those interested can apply by filling up the online form available at [selangorkini.my/](http://selangorkini.my/)

bantuniaga. Shortlisted candidates will be individually contacted.

For further inquiries, send an email to [marketing@mediaselangor.com](mailto:marketing@mediaselangor.com) or WhatsApp 010-552 4856.

## MBI helps 3,000 families

**SHAH ALAM** - Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI has allocated RM150,000 to help those affected by the extension of the movement control order (MCO) by another two weeks.

Corporate Social Responsibility head Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor said the aid will be in the form of vouchers worth RM50 for grocery items and it is expected to benefit 3,000 families.

"Noting that MCO will be continued for another two weeks, we have taken the proactive measure to distribute the vouchers and MBI will work together with

KK Mart for this programme," he told *SelangorKini*.

Ahmad Azri said that the list of recipients will be distributed by council members as they are more able to identify those eligible for the initiative.

"We target 50 vouchers for each council member, therefore we will approach 60 council members to distribute them to the locals," he said.

On June 11, Senior Minister (Defense) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced that MCO 3.0 will be extended by two more weeks until June 28.

## All geared up to serve

**SHAH ALAM** - Subang Jaya assemblyman Michelle Ng Mei Sze is providing free transportation for the elderly and people with disabilities (OKUs) to vaccination centres (PPV) around Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

She said the initiative, which started end of May, targets the less fortunate to ensure they do not miss their appointments to get vaccinated.

"They need to make a reservation for this service two days before the date of the vaccination appointment after receiving the notification through the My-

Sejahtera application.

"The drivers will pick up the individuals at their respective homes to be sent to PPVs around Selangor and Kuala Lumpur besides managing the vaccination process until it is completed," she said when contacted on June 2.

Ng said a total of 15 drivers aged between 20 and 55 have registered voluntarily and all of them have been issued with an inter-district approval letter.

Those who want to get the service can contact the USJ 2 Rukun Tetangga chairman Har at 012-2731336.



**HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOUR BUSINESS?**

Get advertising space for **FREE** on Media Selangor's platforms.

For Further Information Visit

[selangorkini.my/bantuniaga](http://selangorkini.my/bantuniaga)

\*Terms and conditions apply



[selangorkini.my/bantuniaga](http://selangorkini.my/bantuniaga)

# New mayor has big plans for Shah Alam

By **AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK**

**SHAH ALAM** - Dato' Zamani Ahmad Mansor was sworn in as Shah Alam's ninth mayor at Wisma MBSA (Shah Alam City Council) here on June 15.

He was appointed on June 14, replacing former mayor Dato' Haris Kasim who took the position of State Financial Officer in March.

The swearing-in ceremony was conducted in accordance with standard operating procedures.

Speaking after the ceremony, Zamani said he will be focus-

ing on six thrusts to ensure that the best services are given to the people under the administration of the MBSA.

The six thrusts are strengthening municipal services; strengthening finance by increasing collection; strengthening infrastructure development; reaching out to stakeholders and communities under the new norms; culti-

vating information technology and empowering human resources.

"With extensive experience in the field of management and administration, Zamani Ahmad's appointment as mayor is expected to drive the MBSA towards being an excellent local authority not only in

Selangor and Malaysia but also on the international stage," the MBSA said in a statement.

Also present at the swearing-in ceremony were deputy mayor Mohd Rashidi Ruslan and representatives of the MBSA council.

Zamani holds a Master of Science (Management) degree from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), a Bachelor of Science (Management) (Hons) degree from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and a Diploma of Science (Management) from the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan).



## Zamani's 25 years of experience in the civil service

1996	Served in the Land and Cooperative Development Ministry
1997	Assistant secretary in the Transport Ministry
2001	Assistant director of the Selangor Road Transport Department (RTD)
2003	Assistant director (National Service Division) in the Defence Ministry
2004	Chief assistant director in the National Security Division
2007	Chief assistant director of the National Security Council
2008	Served in the Public Service Department
2009	Served in the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (Mampu)
2013	Divisional secretary in the Selangor State Secretary's Office
2015	Secretary of Kajang Municipal Council
2018	Selangor Deputy State Secretary (Management)
14 June 2021	Appointed as Shah Alam mayor

## Mental health services at a discount

**SHAH ALAM** - The Bukit Gasing community service centre is offering mental health services to the people in the constituency with an affordable fee of RM50 per session.

State assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran said the initiative, in collaboration with non-governmental organisation (NGO) Relate Mental Health, is to address mental health issues following the implementation of the full movement control order (MCO) from June 1.

"Usually, the service is rated at RM300 per session but we have subsidised the amount to encourage those who are facing mental health issues to seek professional psychological support.

"I hope those who are affected (face psychological distress) would take up this opportunity



and would not feel embarrassed to come forward," he told *SelangorKini* on June 7.

Rajiv added that 50 slots of

therapy sessions are currently open and those interested can register via forms.gle/HXNaBp-1mQs7TYLYq6.

## Tourism board calls for the best pitches

**SHAH ALAM** - Tourism Selangor is offering RM150,000 worth of project grants through a pitching competition for the state's domestic tourism recovery plan.

Its general manager Azrul Shah Mohamad said the competition, which starts from June 14 to July 31, aims to attract at least 50 pitches from members of the public, industry players, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), associations, institutions of higher learning, registered tourist guides and Selangor community hosts.

"Our target in organising this competition is to foster domestic tourism in Selangor via effective approaches based on the new norms or through initiatives geared towards bracing the global pandemic.

"The pitch should also fo-

cus on one of these three categories, namely 'Creative and Innovative Tourism', 'Sustainable Tourism' or 'Tourism Digitalisation'.

"Winners will also get the opportunity to present their projects at the 2021 Tourism Selangor Global Convention which will be organised in November," he said in a statement on June 15.

For more information on the competition, rules and regulations, and the submission form, log on to Tourism Selangor's official website at [www.selangor.travel](http://www.selangor.travel).

Those interested can also send an email to [industrial@tourismselangor.my](mailto:industrial@tourismselangor.my) or contact Tourism Selangor officer Mohd Izzul Izzat at 016-2076972 or Ng Yik Thim at 011-63668098.



## Travel voucher dates extended

**SHAH ALAM** - The expiry date for the 'Nak Bercuti? Pusing Selangor Dulu!' tourism vouchers has been extended until the end of the year following the extension of the movement control order, says Tourism Selangor.

Its Corporate Communications manager Ahmad Nazri Dashriq said the extended date will be communicated to the voucher holders.

The original expiry date for the vouchers was June 31.

"The tourism industry players who are involved should be informing their customers of the extension.

"They are aware of the extension as it has been stated in the terms and conditions," he told *SelangorKini*.

Ahmad Nazri added that

all of the 10,000 vouchers had been redeemed in a span of three months after it was introduced on Jan 8.

The Selangor government had on Dec 17 last year launched the Tourism Voucher Subsidy Redemption programme, where RM200 vouchers were given to the people for spending at selected places of interest.

The vouchers were redeemed via the Touch 'n Go e-Wallet and Lazada platforms and can be used at participating hotels, homestays and theme parks.

The move was introduced last July through the Selangor Cares economic stimulus package to resuscitate the tourism industry.

# Breaking the cycle of urban poverty

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**T**aman Medan (N33) is home to 100,000 people, many of whom are from the B40 low-income group. Most of them live in cramped houses of not more than 60,000 square kilometres in size, in areas that no longer have any space for new development. Since becoming elected

as its state assemblyman, Syamsul Firdaus Mohamed Supri, a first-term representative, has worked hard to alleviate the people from their urban poor trap, engaging with various government agencies to help its 48,000 voters.

Using his years of knowledge working as a special assistant to a state assemblyman, 48-year-old Syamsul is no stranger to deal-

ing with people's woes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the enforcement of the movement control order (MCO), Taman Medan's B40 group is now at 70 to 75 per cent of its total population compared to 50 to 55 per cent previously. Although his challenges are innumerable, Syamsul remains confident that he can help them get the assistance they need.



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

**Syamsul Firdaus Mohamed Supri (SFMS):** Most of them are small enterprises, small-time traders and residents who operate food stalls or small shops — this is the primary industry in Taman Medan. As it is a densely populated area, not many factories are located here. What you can see are a lot of hawker stalls.

**SJ:** What is the main attraction in Taman Medan?

**SFMS:** With the many hawker stalls here, residents from surrounding areas come to Taman Medan looking for food or exotic fruits such as durian and Malay delicacies. Every night before the MCO, the food stalls will be packed with people. Also, people come here to look for small shops selling bric-a-brac, or tailors and small boutiques.

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

**SFMS:** A lot of the residents are the urban poor. Some senior citizens used to work in the private sector but now have no income and are dependent on their children, who are also not so well off.

Also, there is a problem with the very dense population. We have situations where two families live in the same house, as in, grown children who get married still live with their parents due to financial constraints in getting their own places.

I work with relevant agencies such as the Selangor Zakat Board, the Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations to help ease their financial woes. But we make sure that they are not just receiving. We also provide the means for them to get out of their situation, like the saying: "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." So to do this, we work with relevant state agencies to provide them with new skills such as entrepreneurship to find other means of getting an income.

As for the houses that are too



**Syamsul Firdaus hands out basic necessities to residents in PJS4 (top left) and PJS2D.**

**The people's representative sorts out rice rations for distribution in Desa Perangsang PJS 3 in Taman Medan**

cramped, those with two or three families living under the same roof, we try to help the breadwinners get better incomes so that they can move out and stay in their own homes.

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

**SFMS:** I am glad to have achieved several goals in my three years as the state assemblyman of Taman Medan. We successfully implemented several schemes under the state government, such as Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat (IPR) and have the highest number of people receiving assistance compared to other

state constituencies.

Many kinds of assistance and benefits from the Selangor government for the B40 group have been efficiently implemented and distributed to the people.

Incentive such as the Skim Mesra Usia Emas (SMUE), Peduli Sihat Selangor and Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor (Kiss) were all carried out successfully.

In the future, we will enhance these programmes to get more people to receive assistance.

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

**SMFS:** I use the community a lot when

trying to solve problems. I engage with representatives from residents such as the Residents' Association, Residents Representative Council, Joint Management Council, Rukun Tetangga, and places of worship. I also rope in help from the business associations here.

Alhamdulillah (praise be to Allah), they have welcomed my efforts, and I have received their total cooperation. With their help, I've collected information about more people and am now better able to help.

This approach has proven to work, and we managed to implement all our planned programmes and reached our targets.



A victorious Syarifuddin holds up his trophy at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya on June 13 — Picture by CEV MOTORCYCLE

# Homegrown Damok now among giants

By AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK

**SHAH ALAM** - The road to victory for professional rider Syarifuddin Azman in the FIM CEV Moto3 Junior World Championship in Catalunya, Spain, started years ago at the Public Racing Circuit (Litar Lumba Rakyat) in Kuala Selangor, where he first honed his talent.

His father, Azman Amir, 47, said his son, also known as 'Damok', had trained at the circuit built by the state government from the age of 15.

Azman and Syarifuddin travelled almost every day from their home in Taman Perdana, Puchong, to the circuit, some 170 km away.

Azman said when his son wanted to embark on professional training sessions at the circuit, he had to put his reservations aside and meet with several coaches, including Asmawi Maskor, as he believed

in Syarifuddin's talent.

"There, Damok learned the ropes of riding a motorcycle properly. It was not easy to master the circuit, yet he succeeded due to the coach's guidance.

"The circuit is suitable for riders to master techniques and test their physical endurance. We appreciate the efforts of the state government in providing such facilities," he said when contacted on June 14.

Azman said his family is very proud of the international success achieved by Syarifuddin. The 20-year-old is the second of six siblings.

"We will continue to support Damok to continue his fight in motorsports," he said.

On June 13, Puchong-born Syarifuddin created history and brought glory to Malaysia when he stood on the podium after beating the other riders, including those from the host country.

Syarifuddin, who started from the 10th block, completed the race with a time of 29 minutes and 32.553 seconds, followed by the host country's David Munoz Rodriguez in second place and Jose Antonio Rueda Ruiz, in third.

## Online marathon event to promote vaccine outreach

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor Xtiv Virtual Marathon 2021 is offering a 10 per cent discount on the registration fee for participants who have received their Covid-19 vaccination or have registered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme in an effort to create more awareness on the importance of vaccination.

Selangor Youth, Sports and Human Capital Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said as of June 16, almost 1,000 entries have been received and that the number is expected to increase until the registration deadline on July 14.

Apart from sponsoring T-shirts, certificates and medals, the state government believes the programme will also help the public to adopt a healthy lifestyle and create awareness on the importance of Selangor reaching herd immunity.

"According to data from the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee's Special Committee (JK-JAV), until June 13, the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered in Malaysia is 4,490,270 and this figure is expected to increase if there is



good cooperation from all parties, including through state government programmes," he said in a statement on June 17.

Those wishing to participate can visit [www.irun.my/collections/xtiv-virtual-run/products/-new-irun-selangor-xtivvirtual-marathon-2](http://www.irun.my/collections/xtiv-virtual-run/products/-new-irun-selangor-xtivvirtual-marathon-2). - Bernama

## Xtiv Virtual right on the mark: Exco

**SHAH ALAM** - The current craze for online video games like PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) and Mobile Legends: Bang Bang has resulted in a surge of participants for the Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2021 e-sports challenge.

State executive councillor for sports Mohd Khairuddin Othman said from the time the competition was open for participation in March until mid-June, some 99,020 people had registered to play.

This figure makes up more than 95 per cent of the 103,859 individuals registered for the overall competition, which boasts six other categories.

"The phenomenon among young people has made it the main choice. Even if we do not offer these games they are trending now.

"Therefore we are confident that the number of participants in this category will continue to increase, especially with the enforcement of the MCO (movement control order) that has limited people's movement," he told

*SelangorKini.*

Aside from PUBG and Mobile Legends: Bang Bang, the e-sport category includes Call of Duty Mobile, Pro Evolution Soccer 2021 and FIFA Pro Club.

Mohd Khairuddin said his team is confident that the overall virtual competition will eventually surpass the target of 450,000 participants.

So far, other categories such as the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Marathon has recorded 3,009 participants and the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Chess, some 1,038 participants. The remaining entries are for the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Marathon and the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Martial Arts.

The Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2021 offers a total prize pool of RM411,680.

Last year, the games received an unexpected response with 250,631 entries and 18 million views on social media platforms.

"The positive development this year shows that the Selangor government is again on the right track," Mohd Khairuddin added.

# THE SELANGOR COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME FLOWCHART

## For The People

