

Getting startups started up

7

Preparing our youths for tomorrow

11

Bukit Melawati has much more to give

14



Top cop talks crime, SOPs and integrity

13



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SELANGOR JOURNAL

EYE ON THE GOAL



The soaring number of Covid-19 infections in Selangor has not put a damper on the state's resolve to fight. On the contrary, the administration has continuously introduced new and better ideas and initiatives.

With several rounds of relief packages already rolled out and its self-funded vaccination programme Selvax proceeding as planned, Selangor is now focused on protecting the very foundation of its success: its industries. It wants to get vaccination at all its factories up to speed, and has introduced Selvax Industry to get the job done.

It has also introduced Selvax Community to inoculate pockets of its people who have missed out on the jab.

The state had by the end of July surpassed its vaccination target of 135,000 when it managed to administer 150,000 doses on July 30 and 31. This has given the administration the assurance that it would be able to get 50 per cent of the population fully inoculated by the end of August.

These measures, together with the SELangkah app and the Preventing and Detecting Outbreaks at Ignition Sites (POIS) programme, are testament to Selangor's tireless efforts to reign in the virus.

MORE ON
PAGES **2&3**

POIS, Selvax keeping the industries safe



by **ALANG BENDAHARA**

SHAH ALAM - Two Selangor government initiatives to curb Covid-19 at workplaces have benefitted the industrial sector and the state's economy.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said they are the Preventing and Detecting Outbreaks at Ignition Sites (POIS) and the Selangor Vaccination Programme (Selvax) initiatives for the industrial sector (Selvax Industry).

"Both programmes are created specifically to benefit the state's economy.

"It is part of the effort by the Selangor government to use the power under its authority to minimise the spread of Covid-19 in workplaces," he said in a statement on Aug 3.

Amirudin said POIS is a structured screening system for factories and workplaces that have the potential to create Covid-19 clusters.

Companies play an important role in implementing this screening initiative in collaboration with the Selangor

State Health Department (JKNS), Selangor Corporation Sdn Bhd, the local councils and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM).

Meanwhile, he said the Selvax Industry programme, which has been allocated two million doses of vaccines for a million workers, is vital for creating herd immunity among Selangor's workforce.

Employers can purchase the vaccines for their employees provided that the employees will not be charged for the job.

Apart from this, the state government has also initiated the Selvax Community programme that is said to benefit 250,000 individuals in the state who have yet to receive their vaccination appointments. A total of 500,000 doses has been set aside for this.

Amirudin said despite facing limitations in its power, Selangor has persevered to strike a balance between health and livelihood for the greater good of its citizens.

Efforts to expedite cremations and burials

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has procured two cremators to speed up the cremation process for the bodies of non-Muslim Covid-19 victims in the state.

In an interview with Bernama on July 19, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said at the time, only one out of the three cremators under the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) could be used for cremation services for Covid-19 cases.

He said the additional two cremators is part of the administration's efforts to

expedite all cremations in a cost-effective manner. He said the cremation process will be executed with the help of non-governmental organisations.

Meanwhile, under the recently announced Centralised Management of Covid-19 Victims' Remains initiative on July 17, Amirudin said burials and cremations are expected to be carried out three times a day.

"We will arrange for the cremation services to be carried out in the morn-

ing, afternoon and evening in an effort to lessen the number of bodies at Selangor's hospital mortuaries," he said.

The centralised funeral arrangement initiative, which was implemented following discussion with the Selangor Islamic Religious Department and other agencies, is aimed at reducing the time taken to manage the deceased and ease congestion at the Shah Alam Hospital, the Sungai Buloh Hospital and the Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital

in Klang.

Two cemeteries — the Section 21 Muslim Cemetery in Shah Alam and the Selat Klang Muslim Cemetery in Port Klang — have been dedicated as the burial site for Muslims while the burials of non-Muslims will be referred to the local authorities.

Amirudin added that his administration will work with the Foreign Ministry on the funeral management of foreigners.

Klang CAC moved to Port Klang

SHAH ALAM - The Covid-19 Assessment Centre (CAC) for the Klang district at the Klang Sports Hall in Taman Sri Andalas has ceased operations from July 29 and moved to the Port Klang Multipurpose Hall beginning July 30.

"The Port Klang Multipurpose Hall has been chosen as the new Klang district CAC based on its location which is far from residential areas. This will reduce traffic congestion and facilitate the staff and patients at the CAC," according to a statement by the Klang District Health Office (PKD) on July 28.

The PKD also thanked the local res-

idents as well as the government and non-government agencies that have assisted in the running of the CAC at the Klang Sports Hall.

The media had previously reported that the Klang Sports Hall was not a suitable venue as a CAC as it was too close to the residents' houses as well as the main entrance and exit route of the area.

On July 13, Selangor Health director Datuk Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman said the Klang district CAC would be moved within two weeks as the Selangor State Health Department has identified a more suitable location. - Bernama

OKU community seeks welfare

SHAH ALAM - A total of 7,300 applications were received by the Yayasan Warisan Anak Selangor (Yawas) as of July 31 for the RM500 incentive allocated for persons with disabilities (OKU).

Yawas general manager Gan Pei Nei said some 100 applications have been approved and the incentives have been sent out.

"Unfortunately, some of the application forms are not properly completed as they were not verified by a credible party," she said on Aug 2.

Gan said the applicants can re-submit their forms by Aug 9.

"Our initial target was to get around 1,200 applications. However, with so many people affected by Covid-19, we received an overwhelming response," she said.

The one-off incentive for members of the OKU community is to help cover for their loss of income. The RM600,000 overall package was announced by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on June 9.



Use SELangkah for home-quarantine, says doc

SHAH ALAM - The SELangkah (Step In, Safely) system that was introduced by the Selangor government received recognition from the deputy director-general of Health (Public Health) Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong.

Dr Chong, who is also the Greater Klang Valley Special Task Force commander, has acknowledged the importance of the SELangkah assessment feature in helping with the fight against Covid-19.

In a press statement issued on July 24, Dr Chong said the app will need to be used by all asymptomatic patients undergoing self-isolation.

"All positive cases who are asymptomatic will be asked to un-

dergo home isolation for 10 days and report themselves using digital home assessment tools such as MySejahtera, e-Covid or the SELangkah Home Assessment tool," the statement read.

Dr Chong said the use of SELangkah is one of the task force's strategies for mitigating the Covid-19 surge in the Klang Valley.

He said asymptomatic close contacts of positive cases will be strongly encouraged to obtain a rapid Covid-19 test kit and self-isolate.

"Following the self-test and home isolation policy, total case numbers may appear lower as they will no longer capture asymptomatic contacts," he said.

Much-needed funds for SMEs

SHAH ALAM - As of July 30, Selangor Advance has approved funds amounting to RM472 million for small- and medium-enterprises (SMEs) in the state, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said some 925 companies have applied for the financing scheme.

"The financing will help to ensure the continuity of a company's cash flow, giving some assurance to its employees and their wellbeing.

"To know more about how the initiative can be of help to smooth out the cash flow process

of your business and strengthen your rolling capital, visit www.selangoradvance.com.my for more further information," he said on Facebook on Aug 6.

Selangor Advance was introduced on June 22, 2020, as an easy and flexible financing scheme for SMEs, especially contractors and service providers, to ease them through the challenging Covid-19 business landscape.

On June 9, the financing scheme received RM200 million in additional funds from the Kita Selangor Package 2.0.



A vaccinator holds up an empty syringe after administering the Covid-19 vaccine for the Selvax Community programme at the De Palma Hotel, Shah Alam, on Aug 4

Vaccination rate surpasses target

by **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor's daily vaccination rate has surpassed its July target of delivering 135,000 doses of vaccines a day, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said 159,000 vaccine doses were administered in the state on July 30 while 152,000 doses of the vaccines were delivered on July 31 under the National Covid-19 Im-

munisation Programme (PICK).

"Alhamdulillah (praise be to God) we end the month of July with vaccination success in Selangor as the daily rate continues to rise.

"On July 30 and 31, 159,000 and 152,000 doses of vaccines were recorded in a day (respectively), which had exceeded the July target of 135,000 daily doses," he said in a statement on Aug 1.

Amirudin said the figure does not include the shots delivered

through the Selangor Vaccination Programme (Selvax), which has recorded 15,000 doses daily.

"This figure will continue to climb. Thank you to all the health and security officers who remain committed to delivering this service," he added.

Meanwhile, on Aug 3 Amirudin said that the state is aiming for 50 per cent of its population to have received two doses of the vaccine by the end of August.

Dr Dzul: MOH did too little, too late

SHAH ALAM - There was anger at the special parliamentary sitting on July 27 when Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad stood up to address the House.

The chairman of the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC) expressed grave concern over the escalating number of Covid-19 deaths and slammed the Federal government over its mishandling of the pandemic and the inaccurate information it has perpetuated.

Dr Dzulkefly said it is wrong for the Ministry of Health (MOH) to highlight Selangor as the state with the highest daily figures when he has emphasised many times before the correlation between the population density of a place and its infectivity rate.

"If Selangor has 68 cases, it is equivalent to one case reported in Labuan. If there are 100 cases in Labuan, it equals 6,800 infections in Selangor. Therefore,

the population density and ratio should be taken into account.

"Do not simply announce in the daily press conferences that Selangor has the highest (daily cases) when a nationwide screening should be done to achieve an accurate matrix," the former Health Minister told the Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Dzulkefly also lambasted Putrajaya over its initial unwillingness to use the antigen rapid test kits (RTK-Ag) for quick testing results, preferring instead to use the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (rt-PCR) method that takes between three and five days for confirmation.

"The name of the game is speed," he said.

"In the current situation, there should

be cheap, immediate and high-frequency testing. The rt-PCR is a clinical test while RTK-Ag is an epidemiological test for pandemic management ... But it took

you so long to understand this," he addressed the Health Ministry, visibly upset.

Highlighting that this fumble to act quickly has cost many lives, Dr Dzulkefly then told the House: "People ask, when will the number of cases in Selangor come down? I tell them that they won't."

"This is because we have already seen the positivity rate going upwards from 10, 13, 15, 17, to, at one time, even 19 (per cent).

"We are not ashamed that the numbers are high, but we are ashamed when there are cases of deaths, and especially when people are brought in dead ... dead

on arrival."

Dr Dzulkefly also clarified that the Selangor government's move to carry out mass screenings in the state is based on the recommendations made by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The WHO's FTTIS (Find, Test, Trace, Isolate and Support) method of combating the virus was paired with Selangor's initiative to use Artificial Intelligence to identify Covid-19 hotspots before the targeted mass screenings were held.

During that time, the MOH had only focused on the testing of close contacts, Dr Dzulkefly quipped.

"We did targeted screenings before a cluster was detected and were able to identify areas with more than 20 per cent of infectivity rate.

"If we had not taken this move, the outbreak would have triggered more cases," he said.



Free data for 70,000 people

SHAH ALAM - A total of 70,000 people from several targeted groups in Selangor, including students, small traders and single mothers, are expected to benefit from the Selangor Internet Data programme, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said all state executive councillors, state representatives, and constituency coordinators will work together to ensure all targeted recipients register for the programme.

"We understand that during these challenging times, not everyone can afford to pay for their internet data.

"Therefore, as a start, we will provide 200 free SIM cards to each constituency in Selangor, and those who require the assistance can liaise with their respective service centres to apply," he said in a special announcement broadcast live on Facebook on Aug 4.

The free SIM cards come with a monthly internet data quota borne entirely by the Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) for 12 months.

A total of RM17.5 million is allocated for the internet data initiative which is among the 25 initiatives under the Kita Selangor 2.0 Package announced in June.

He also announced that the state government would continue to empower the Selangor People's Tuition Programme (PTRS) and the students who have participated in the programme. Eligible Yayasan Selangor borrowers will also be given free SIM cards to ensure their online learning process continuity.

Amirudin added that each state executive councillor had been assigned to help a specific targeted group in their respective portfolios.

State assembly to reconvene on Aug 23

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Legislative Assembly is scheduled to reconvene for nine days from Aug 23, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said the First Meeting of the 14th State Assembly had obtained the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj, who has agreed to officiate the sitting on Aug 23.

"The sitting is not a special session but it will follow the usual format involving the Questions and Answers and debate sessions.

"It will be conducted according to strict standard operating procedures and will be focusing on the efforts carried out by the state government in tackling the Covid-19 outbreak," Amirudin said in a statement on July 9.

He said feedback and suggestions from state representatives will also be shared during the sitting in accordance with the legislative role as a check and balance system to the executive role.

"The state government appreciates the consent of His Majesty and His Royal Highness Sultan Selangor who is always concerned about the freedom of democratic practice in the state," the statement read.

The session will start from Aug 24 to Aug 27; and continue on Aug 30; Sept 1 to Sept 3; and on Sept 6.



Not within our power to close factories: Exco

SHAH ALAM - Permission to allow the manufacturing sector to operate during the enhanced movement control order (EMCO) lies under the Federal government's jurisdiction, says Ng Sze Han.

The state executive councillor for local government said local councils in the state do not have the power to authorise the closure of factories despite the amendment made to Section 2 (1) of the Emergency Ordinance

2021 on March 3.

He said the amendment only extends the powers given to the officers in the monitoring of compliance of the standard operating procedures (SOP) to include statutory bodies and local councils, but they cannot authorise the shutting down of factories.

"The amendment was made to allow health officers under local councils to help with SOP monitoring for compliance. The

power (to close factories) is still under the purview of the Federal government," said Ng in a statement on July 14.

Citing the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act (Act 342), Ng said the Federal government gazetted the existing legislation to manage health matters concerning the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

He said although Section 107(2) of the Local Government Act 1976 (Act 171) may seem to allow discretionary powers to local authorities to revoke operating licences of factories, Ng said action can only be taken within the parameters of the licences at the time they were issued, rather than arbitrarily or without basis.

"Since March 18, 2020, the SOPs we have been ordered to comply with were enforced through Act 342. This includes the enforcement of the movement control order and the enhanced movement control order implemented in most parts of Selangor.

"(Act 171) does not include the act of local councils to order the shutter of factories.

"The local councils in Selangor are transparently and responsibly performing their duties within the parameters of the law and the doctrine of 'the rule of law' and 'fair and equitable treatment' under Act 342," he added.

Councils given reminder on body cams

SHAH ALAM - Three local councils in Selangor have been urged to use body cameras as a safety measure for their enforcement officers.



State executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han (*pic*) said the local councils in discussion are the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj), Kuala Langat Municipal Council (MPKL) and Sabak Bernam District Council (MDSB).

"I call upon the said local councils to immediately complete the procurement process and hopefully,

by year-end, all enforcement officers in the 12 local councils will be able to start using body cameras.

"Aside from the safety aspect, the use of this equipment is very important as it can provide proof should there be any physical assaults or disputes happening while the officers are on duty," Ng said when contacted by *SelangorKini*.

Ng said the cost for the equipment is less than RM1,000 per unit, and therefore there is no issue with affordability.

He said as of now there are 276 body cameras owned by nine local councils.

On June 22 last year, Ng said all local councils were given time until year-end to implement the use of body cameras.

This move was made following an incident where an enforcement officer was hit by a woman on Feb 6, 2020, after her car was towed in Bandar Baru Sungai Buloh in Seksyen U20.

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Virtual assessments to ease overcrowding at CACs

SHAH ALAM - The Greater Klang Valley Special Task Force (GKV STF) has activated the Virtual Covid-19 Assessment Centres (CACs) to better manage the overwhelming situation at existing CACs following a surge in Covid-19 cases.

Taskforce chief Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong (*pic*) said the Virtual CACs are set up to cater to positive Covid-19 cases that are asymptomatic or experience mild symptoms.

He said those who are close contacts of Covid-19 patients are also no longer required to undergo screening unless symptomatic and must self-isolate at home.

"All Covid-19 patients in the Greater Klang Valley who are experiencing mild or no symptoms are requested to not visit the CAC and to undergo home isolation and do remote surveillance instead.

"Following reports that CACs in the Greater Klang Valley are overwhelmed due

to the current surge of Covid-19 positive cases, the task force has activated Virtual CACs to ensure an efficient management response," he said in a statement on July 26.

Dr Chong said the implementation of new recommendations and the Virtual CACs would ease the crowd at physical CACs, improve patient waiting time, and ensure early monitoring of the positive cases.

"The Virtual CAC is part of the eCovid19 system responsible for monitoring patient conditions which enable easy and quick referrals for patients experiencing worsening symptoms to the nearest CAC or hospital.

"Furthermore, this innovative pathway saves a critical amount of time in identifying and reporting new Covid-19 positive

cases," said Dr Chong, adding that the new management guidelines would take effect immediately.

According to Dr Chong, asymptomatic Covid-19 patients or those with mild symptoms are required to take the following steps:

- Immediately self-isolate at home;
- Download the MySejahtera application to report the Covid-19 positive test result and receive the Digital Home Surveillance Order (HSO). The digital HSO also serves as a reminder that they are still legally under the HSO although they do not wear a pink tag;
- Complete the Home Assessment Tool (HAT) found in the MySejahtera application on a daily basis;
- The patient's self-assessments will be

monitored through the Virtual CAC Management Module within the eCovid19 system. They will be contacted by the CAC Call Centre should the need arise;

- Patients who are required to visit the nearest CAC for a clinical assessment will be notified via the My Sejahtera application or call centre;

- Patients in need of assistance may reach the CAC Call Centre at 03-7723 9299 (open 8am to 9pm daily) or the CPRC Hotline at 03-7723 9300 (open 8am to 12am daily);

- In the event of worsening symptoms, patients should seek immediate care at the nearest hospital instead of waiting for a call from Virtual CAC.

The CACs were established to assess and risk-stratify patients for isolation at home, at Covid-19 Quarantine and Low-Risk Treatment Centres (PKRC) or receive hospital care.



M40 group offered rebates for internet use

SHAH ALAM - People in Selangor who are in the middle-income (M40) group have been called to not miss the chance to sign up for the Skim Internet Selangor M40 (SISM40), which offers a yearly rebate of between RM120 to RM360.

The scheme's manager, Muhammad Ismail, said to date, more than 100 individuals have applied for the rebate. The registration period is open from July 1 to Dec 31.

"Those who are earning a monthly salary of between RM4,500 and RM10,000, such as lawyers and doctors, can apply for the scheme.

"During the pandemic, many people are required to work from home and their children are also undergoing home-based learning (PdPR), so we encourage them to sign up for SISM40," he said when contacted by *SelangorKini*.

For further information about SISM40

under Pakej Kita Selangor 2.0 or to register for the scheme, visit www.sism40.com.my.

The SISM40, introduced on June 30 by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, is an initiative under Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI, in partnership with Telekom Malaysia (TM).

Through the scheme, the middle-income group can enjoy a discount of between RM10 and RM30 for 12 months through any of the eight Unifi packages offered by TM.

Amirudin had said that the collaboration with TM is to help Selangor residents adapt to the digital era.

He had also announced the Selangor Internet Data initiative, which aims to benefit 70,000 targeted individuals including students, single mothers, taxi drivers, senior citizens and individuals earning side incomes.

public to be present for their scheduled vaccine appointments.

"The vaccine has now become an essential especially for those aged 18 and above. Therefore we decided to offer the transportation rebate to all individuals who are eligible to be vaccinated.

"A total of RM1 million will be allocated for this initiative. Each individual will enjoy

Vaccination booking counters open across Klang Valley

SHAH ALAM - Industrial companies that have yet to vaccinate their employees are welcomed to register for the Selangor Vaccination Programme (Selvax) for the industrial sector (Selvax Industry) at 17 customer service counters that are now open in the Klang Valley.

In a statement issued on July 23, the Selvax Industry Committee said the opening of the booking counters is to achieve its aim to vaccinate 1,000,000 workers in the state.

"The opening of these customer service counters are for companies that have not or have already made reservations, and to facilitate companies/industries/employers by assisting in the areas of registration, payment and the booking of vaccination slots.

"We welcome companies/industries/employers to register and subsequently

vaccinate their employees," said the joint statement issued by state executive councillor for industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim and state executive councillor for entrepreneur development Rodziah Ismail.

On June 30, the state government launched the Selvax Community and Selvax Industry to expedite the vaccination process for the people in the state.

A total of 1.25 million people in Selangor will benefit from the programme which focuses on the low-income group, senior citizens and industrial workers.

The state government is providing two million doses of vaccines under Selvax Industry to curb the outbreak of Covid-19 at workplaces due to the high number of positive cases detected.

For further information, contact 1-800-22-6600 or visit vax.selangkah.my.

All Grab rides to PPVs can now be claimed

SHAH ALAM - The RM20 transportation rebate that can be redeemed when using Grab's e-hailing service to vaccination centres (PPVs) is now open to all age groups in Selangor, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

In a virtual press conference on Facebook on July 6, Amirudin said the move was made to facilitate and encourage the

a RM20 rebate (RM10 for one way) if they use GrabCar to go to the PPV," he said.

As of Aug 1, the Selangor government has approved a total of 8,239 applications for the rebate, spending a total of RM68,400 on the programme.

Applications for the rebate are open from June 20 for rides to all PPVs in the state and Kuala Lumpur between July 1

and Sept 30.

Visit ratbepengangkutangrabvaksin.borangmbiselangor.com to apply.

On June 9, the rebate was announced under the Kita Selangor Package 2.0, and initially offered to the people of Selangor aged 50 years and above.

Some 50,000 individuals are expected to benefit from it.

280 SMEs get matching grants

SHAH ALAM - The state government has approved RM1.2 million in funds for 280 small- and medium-enterprises (SMEs) through the Selangor SME Digitalisation Matching Grant.

Selangor executive councillor for industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the grant is part of efforts to help SMEs in the state digitalise their business.

He said for the first batch of applications which opened from April to June, the grant's special evaluation committee has approved 280 out of the 492 hopefuls.

"The number of applications we received is on track with our target to reach 1,000 SMEs this year," Teng said on July 6.

The grant was launched by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on April 12. A total of RM5 million is allocated for the programme and it is expected to benefit 1,000 small traders with a total assistance of between RM1,000 and RM5,000 each.

Covid-19 has made more people poorer

KUALA LUMPUR - The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on household income and made more people poorer, according to a study conducted by the Department of Statistics.

The Covid-19 impact study on household income in Malaysia for 2020 revealed that the number of poor households increased to 639,800 in 2020, up from 405,400 in 2019.

The findings of the study are contained in the Household Income Estimates and Incidence of Poverty Report, Malaysia, 2020 which the department released on Aug 6.

Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said in a statement that the incidence of absolute poverty also increased, from 5.6 per cent in 2019 to 8.4 per cent in 2020 and that the incidence of hardcore poverty is estimated to have increased from 0.4 per cent (2019) involving 27,200 households to 1.0 per cent involving 78,000 households.

He said the pandemic had also affected the structure of household groups, with 20 per cent of households from the M40 group with income between RM4,850 and RM10,959 having moved to the B40 group.

"Households in the T20 group were also affected by the Covid-19 pandemic where 12.8 per cent of this group has shifted to the M40 group," he said.

Mohd Uzir said the mean of monthly household gross income decreased by negative 10.3 per cent to record RM7,089 as compared to RM7,901 in 2019 and added that the decline was contributed by households or individuals who experienced loss or reduction of income, particularly those with the status of employee and self-employed.

The Federal Territory of Putrajaya registered the lowest reduction in monthly household income and remained to record the highest mean and median of monthly household gross income as compared to other territories and states with RM12,322 and RM9,743, respectively. - Bernama

Selangor lowers FDI target due to pandemic

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has set a lower foreign direct investment (FDI) target of between RM12 billion and RM13 billion this year compared to the past three years of between RM17 billion and RM18 billion due to the global impact of Covid-19.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said until April this year, the state recorded an FDI value of about RM9 billion despite the more challenging economic situation now than that of the previous year.

"Our target of RM12 billion to RM13 billion is not too ambitious due to the increasing Covid-19 cases

again this year.

"Our operations are only moving at the rate of 20 to 30 per cent and there are not many things we can do to expand the target," he told Bernama.

However, Amirudin said following the implementation of Operation Surge Capacity to ensure that the adult population in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor receive at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine by Aug 1, he expects the state's economic landscape to gradually recover.

"We don't want to be too ambitious but I think by the end of August or the beginning of September the

economic landscape will improve in Selangor."

In the meantime, he said through the implementation of the Selangor Advance initiative under the Kita Selangor 2.0 Package, the programme has so far benefitted more than 300 companies involving 50,000 employees.

"Through Selangor Advance, the 50,000 employees can continue with their jobs as the funds will be able to help businesses to have sufficient resources to ensure the viability and survival of their businesses," he said. - Bernama



State executive councillor for industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim at the virtual launch of the Selangor Accelerator Programme 2021, on July 27

E-commerce an economic lifeline, says MB

By **SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government's venture into e-commerce is the right move for the state's economic recovery, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said almost 90 per cent of the country's economic activities had been stunted due to the many versions of movement control order imposed to contain Covid-19 since March last year.

"This disrupted the economic growth of the country, but we still have a chance through the e-commerce sector, which is under the state's in-

vestment portfolio, such as the Ramadan e-bazaar that has received an overwhelming response.

"It is not just the entrepreneurs who have benefited from e-commerce; the growers and farmers who supplied the raw goods and fresh produce made a profit as well," said Amirudin during Bernama TV's 'Ruang Bicara' programme that was broadcast live on Facebook on July 7.

He said the people should take up the state government's offers to help bring their trade over to the digital platform even though the business ecosystem has not fully recovered.

"This is part of our administration's vision to transform Selangor into a smart state. Because of Covid-19, the future has arrived early for us."

Since last year, Selangor has collaborated with e-commerce platforms Shopee and Lazada and has held four e-commerce campaigns that recorded RM144.7 million in direct sales and RM2.95 billion in a ripple effect to the state economy.

The Selangor Raya e-Bazaar and the 11.11 e-Bazaar were held in 2020, while the Chinese New Year e-Bazaar and another Raya e-Bazaar took place this year.

Getting startups up to speed

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

SHAH ALAM - The fourth Selangor Accelerator Programme (SAP) 2021, which began on July 28, offers the top five winners a chance to win a cash prize pool worth RM50,000 and other additional perks.

The winners are selected from the 30 early-stage startup participants of the programme.

Selangor executive councillor for industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim (*pic*) said the three-month programme that ends on Sept 5 aims to prepare the companies to become investment-ready businesses.

"Of these top 30 startups, only the top 10 will be chosen to walk away with additional perks while the top five will be rewarded a cash prize pool worth RM50,000 and many more.

"The top five startups will also get the chance to obtain investments from RHL Ventures, Agrobank and The Hive," he said during the virtual launch of the fourth cohort of the SAP 2021 on July 27.

Teng said the SAP, organised by Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec), is part of a series of digitalisation programmes that

the state government has successfully organised.

"SAP has been growing progressively, and it is our pride to organise this programme for the last three years. This year, we recorded the highest number of applications with 165 companies compared to over 90 companies previously registered. However, like the previous SAPs, only 30 startups are chosen each year," he said.



Teng said SAP helps startups overcome various challenges such as the ability to get funding to build up the marketing and sales of the products, poor management, lack of necessary guidance, and being able to get out of their comfort zone.

"Through the SAP, startups can learn and polish their skills comprehensively and use the knowledge they have gained to overcome any challenges they may be facing for better growth of their company," he said.

This year's SAP focuses on five central pillars: Agritech, Fintech, Greentech, e-Commerce and Smart City Solutions (Proptech, Mobility & Logistics).

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the

programme would be conducted wholly online, where participants would get their dashboard for all the courses, webinars and mentoring sessions.

SAP 2021 is supported by strategic partner RHL Ventures, Agrobank and The Hive Southeast Asia, one of the eight foreign venture capitalists and local partners of the Penjana Nasional Fund (PNF) matching programme.

Also, Affin Bank Berhad has become the first commercial bank and primary sponsor of SAP 2021.

Meanwhile, the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec) is among two government-owned agencies in the country offering accelerator programmes to prepare early-stage startups to become investment-ready businesses.

Its chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping said this is done through the SAP, entering its fourth year.

"In the startup ecosystem in Malaysia, there are only two government agencies providing this accelerated programme: Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC)

and Sidec. We have been doing this for the past four years, and it is free with no charges to the participants," he said during the launch.

Yong said SAP was set up to provide digital solutions for Selangor and its people as part of its digitalisation agenda.

"SAP is part of Sidec's focus to address Selangor's very own problem statements and the need for solutions to provide the best facilities and assistance to the rakyat of Selangor.

"Hence, we are providing launchpads or beta testing facilities through several state subsidiaries. This will be a perfect avenue for these high potential startups to get their solution tested by real users in real environments, which is essential to prove their concept," he said.

He said since its inception, SAP has proven to be as or more successful than other startup accelerator programmes that several private firms also organise.

"Previous cohorts of the SAP had 90 startups nurtured, with 43 per cent of them receiving funding, which is considered a high success rate for startups, compared to the 10-20 per cent rate in the community," he said.



By AFIX REDZUAN

'Step In, Safely', popularly known as the SELangkah system, has finally received recognition for playing a role in helping with home quarantines.

The brainchild of the Selangor government, introduced months earlier than the Federal's MySejahtera, has been highlighted by the deputy director-general of Health Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong as one of the tools Covid-19 patients can use to monitor their condition while isolating at home.

"For asymptomatic Covid-19 patients who have been ordered to undergo home quarantine for 10 days, they would be able to report on their situation online by utilising the self-assessment kit available on MySejahtera, e-Covid or SELangkah," Dr Chong said on July 24.

The statement was immediately welcomed by the state government and cleared the air on the Federal's seeming indifference towards SELangkah. It, too, has given recognition to the proactive measures tirelessly being rolled out by Selangor in fighting the coronavirus.



VACCINATION BEGINS

The Selangor Vaccination Programme (Selvax), involving the procurement of 2.5 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, has also been recently accepted into the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK).

Efforts by the Selangor administration to buy its own vaccines had begun earlier in the year in an earnest effort to complement the national inoculation plan and get the shots into the arms of 80 per cent or 6.5 million people in the highly industrial state.

In achieving its goal to vaccinate at least some of its own population, Selangor has gained a certain amount of control over the direction of its Covid-19 fight plan, though only what is within its powers.

On Aug 3, the Selvax initiative also began allowing walk-ins for several of its selected vaccination centres (PPVs), in line with Putrajaya's decision on Aug 2 to speed up the inoculation process for the Klang Valley.

The state administration had, since April 2020, taken its own proactive steps to fight the Covid-19 scourge. It organised and pulled off mass community screening operations, targeting high-risk locations such as low-cost flats and homes for the elderly. Up until June, more than 120,000 individuals in hotspot areas have been screened.

Such screenings, and the SELangkah app, manifested from the carefully thought out ideas of the team behind the Selangor Task Force for Covid-19 (STFC), which was formed on March 10, 2020, a week before the first movement control order (MCO) was first announced.

HELP PACKAGES

As Covid-19 spread and quickly shuttered businesses and severed incomes, Selangor knew it had to take swift action for its people. Economic stimulus packages, in the millions,

were rolled out to help the big and the small — from factory owners to single mothers and students.

Aptly named 'Selangor Cares', the packages that were announced on March 20 and April 1 last year, totalling RM127.8 million and RM272.5 million respectively, kept thousands of lives afloat.

The first stimulus package included a RM200 incentive for each frontline worker, a one-off RM500 cash aid to small-scale traders, and an additional RM30,000 allocation for state representatives.

The state injected more into the second round of help. Some RM1.5 million was allocated for the families of frontliners, RM1.8 million for the families of Covid-19 patients, and RM2.48 million for village heads to distribute to their respective communities.

The state's recovery plan of RM55.8 billion in economic value was tabled on July 13 last year, followed by the Kita Selangor Package amounting to RM73.8 million which was announced on Jan 20 this year.

Then on June 9, the state government revealed the Kita Selangor Package 2.0 with a total allocation of RM551.56 million to benefit 1.6 million people in the state. It consists of three strategies covering 25 programmes.

Some of the initiatives tabled in the package include death benefit aid to the next of kin of Covid-19 victims, an internet scheme for the middle 40 (M40) group, and the third phase of free mass screenings.

In an interview published in the *Kita Selangor* magazine, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari talked about two essential factors that were taken into account when his team sat down to draw up all the ways in which to help the people.

"The two main measures by the STFC are the contact tracing system and the mass screening operations. Based on their target, the State government was able to go a step ahead of the Federal government in several areas, such as SELangkah, which was STFC's idea," he said.

MORE THAN A TRACING APP



Right from the start SELangkah was well received by the general public. From as early as May 31 last year, a total of 10,714,879 scans were already recorded at 43,414 premises. The records even showed that some of the scans were made at locations outside of Selangor.

Soon, however, the Federal government gazetted for the mandatory use of MySejahtera at all premises, forcing many people to switch to a system they were unfamiliar with. SELangkah then upped its game. It introduced new features that went beyond contact tracing.

In February this year, SELangkah's users were welcomed with a new option in their phone that allowed for the scanning of the MySejahtera QR code. It also went a step further to allow signing in using GPS location.

Users were also given the ability to review their scanning history and read updated announcements on the Covid-19 outbreak.

Among its other more outstanding features is its ability to provide its users with the results of their Covid-19 tests done at any of the state's community screenings. It also

facilitated the people in the state to register for their vaccination under Selvax.

Other added features allow for the payment of utility bills and any compounds issued by state government agencies. Information on the state government's welfare initiatives is also included.

KEEPING FACTORIES IN CHECK

The STFC, which is headed by former Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, had introduced the Preventing Outbreaks at Ignition Sites (POIS) programme, which calls for strict adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) at workplaces, particularly the manufacturing sector.

More than 1,500 factories have implemented the use of POIS to contain the virus.



Using POIS to contain the spread of Covid-19 in factories from as early as Jan 29 meant that the industrial sector could keep on working. The economy was handed a lifeline. It was only a-month-and-a-half later on March 18 that the Federal government's Safe@Work initiative rolled out.

Going one step further, the Selangor government had on June 9 announced the Kita Selangor 2.0 Package and formed the Special Committee on Health Control Compliance for Industries to oversee stricter adherence to the rules and the vaccination process of factory workers.

The committee is chaired by Dato' Dr Khalid Ibrahim, the former director of the state Health Department, and has 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 as its members.



SelVAX Industry



SelVAX Community

With the setting up of POIS and the special committee, the state government bravely moved forward with the Selvax Industry initiative, allowing employers to purchase Covid-19 vaccines from the Selangor administration and have them delivered for free. A total of two million vaccine doses were allocated for the programme.

Not forgetting the people, the state introduced Selvax Community with some 500,000 doses of vaccines set aside for senior citizens and recipients of the state's welfare initiative, Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat (IPR).

A total of RM1.25 million was also set aside under the Kita Selangor 2.0 package to provide monitoring kits to those who have tested positive and are undergoing quarantine at home. Each kit comes with a KN95 mask, a thermometer, an oximeter, a saliva-based test kit and medication.

ENCOURAGING NUMBERS

Although a subsidiary of the Selangor government manages Selvax, those who received their vaccines under Selvax would have their details streamlined with the Health Ministry's (MOH) database and be awarded a digital certificate from the MOH as proof of vaccination.

By the end of July, Selangor had already surpassed its initial target of administering 135,000 doses of the vaccine, with over 150,000 jabs given on July 30 and 31. By Aug 2, a total of 207,368 doses had been administered, aiding the Federal government to accelerate its immunisation drive.

As of Aug 3, 30 per cent or 1.42 million people who have registered for the vaccines in Selangor have completed two doses of their Covid-19 vaccination, some done under the Federal's PICK programme, and some done under Selvax.

In short, the Selangor administration has remained committed in its battle with the virus, formulating programmes, initiatives and new ideas to help the MOH and the Federal government.

It is fighting with a handicap in the areas of jurisdiction, funding, and workforce, which relies heavily on the Federal administration's Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342).

But it will not remain idle and will continue charging ahead with the best plans it can make to protect its people.

State's plans in full swing

By ALANG BENDAHARA

LONG before Malaysia gained its independence or 'Merdeka', there was a place that was of great importance to the Malay peninsula. It was a place that had been conferred the status of capital for the state of Selangor. It was a place called Kuala Lumpur.

The history of KL, as it is now fondly known, is as rich as the valley on which it sits, the Klang River Valley. It's story began when the land was handed over to a member of the Selangor royal family, Raja Abdullah Raja Jaafar in the 1850s by the third Sultan of Selangor, Almarhum Sultan Muhammad Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Ibrahim, via a 'watikah' (letter of authority).

A 'watikah' was also issued by the fourth Sultan of Selangor, Almarhum Sultan Abdul Samad ibni Almarhum Tengku Panglima Besar Abdullah, in 1864.

When the mining colony began to bloom into a city, KL officially became the administrative capital of Selangor on March 1880, and in 1881, Raja Muda Laut ibni Almarhum Sultan Muhammad Shah was appointed as the Penghulu Kuala Lumpur.

As KL's population grew, the Kuala Lumpur Sanitary Board was established in 1890, along with several schools — Se-

A place called Kuala Lumpur

kolah Raja Selangor in December 1890 and Sekolah Victoria (fully funded by the Selangor state government) in 1893.

Soon, job opportunities attracted more Malays to the city, and the Malay Agricultural Settlement pioneer programme (now known as Kampung Baru) was established in 1897.

In the late 19th century when the Federation Treaty was signed on June 12, 1895, KL again changed its status, this time to become the capital of the Federated Malay States.

To fit its standing as a capital, the iconic Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad was commissioned to be built to house the government offices of the colonial administration. Known then as simply the Government Offices, the Moorish-style building was officially opened by the British resident Sir Frank Swettenham in April 1897.

In July 1903, the second Durbar or

Majlis Raja-Raja (Council of Rulers of the Federated States) meeting was held in the Federal capital of KL.

KL also housed the Kelab Sultan Suleiman, a club for the Malay elites that was formed in 1909, with its original building commissioned in the same year on a piece of land in Kampung Baru gifted by Sultan Alauddin Suleiman Shah.

The rise of nationalism

After World War II (Sept 1, 1939 – Sept 2, 1945), whispers of independence spread, and several locations in KL were used as the meeting grounds of the elites and nationalists.

On May 11, 1946, the Persatuan Melayu Selangor held the Kongres Melayu Se-Malaya at the Kelab Sultan Suleiman, Kuala Lumpur.

When the British government's attempt at the Malayan Union failed, several historical events took place in KL.

On Jan 21, 1948, the signing of the

Federation of Malaya agreement by the Malay rulers was held at the King's House (the southern building of the present Carcosa Seri Negara) in KL. Later at the same location the federation agreement was made into the Constitution of the Federation of Malaya and officially declared on Feb 1, 1948.

The Federation of Malaya, which comprised the nine Malay states and the Straits Settlements of Penang and Malacca, was inaugurated on Feb 1, 1948 to replace the Malayan Union.

The Federation of Malaya Legislative Council held its first meeting in the Dewan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, KL, on Feb 18, 1948.

The first Conference of Rulers meeting was held on Feb 18, 1948, in Dewan Majlis Perundangan Persekutuan, KL

where it was attended by the rulers of all nine Malay states.

On May 26, 1950, the Federation of Malaya flag was flown for the first time at the Istana Selangor in KL.

When it became clear that Independence would be won, KL was chosen as the place to declare to the world the birth of a new nation.

The first unofficial declaration of independence was made by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, the Federation of Malaya's Prime Minister, at the stroke of midnight on Aug 30, 1957 at Padang Kelab Selangor (now Dataran Merdeka, KL).

When the clock at the tower of the Selangor Secretariat Building struck 12, the 'Union Jack' was lowered and Tunku's patriotic cries of 'Merdeka!' rang out into the balmy night.

The next day on Aug 31, Tunku made the official declaration of independence at Stadium Merdeka in KL, at 9.30am, witnessed by the Malay rulers, 20,000 citizens and dignitaries from 30 Commonwealth nations.

After Independence, the 44th Conference of Rulers was held at Istana Negara, KL, on Aug 31, 1957.

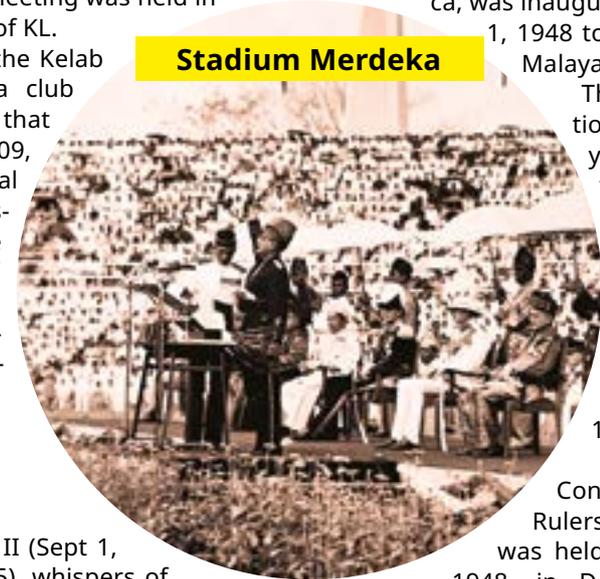
In 1963, KL was the natural choice of the Federal government to be the capital of the newly-formed Malaysia.

On Feb 1, 1972, KL was officially separated from its mother state of Selangor and rebirthed to stand on its own as the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, existing as such to this day.

Source: Muhammad Adha Abd Jalil @ Ku Alam, chief editor of the online history portal Wangsa Mahkhota Selangor.



Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad



Stadium Merdeka



Kelab Sultan Suleiman



Shaping the leaders of tomorrow

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

EVERY year, the world celebrates International Youth Day on Aug 12 with the purpose of creating an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues.

This year, the theme chosen for the occasion is 'Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health'.

Even though much of the world has been crippled by the Covid-19 pandemic, young people from all corners of the globe will still try to stand up and be heard.

Under the leadership of state executive councillor for youth and sports Mohd Khairuddin Othman, the Selangor government has planned two main programmes to mark the day.

In an interview with *Selangor Journal* recently, Mohd Khairuddin said the two programmes are Selangor Youth Skills (SYS) and Selangor Volunteer (Serve).

"For SYS, the programme will be launched virtually on Aug 20 with an objective to develop useful skills among the younger generation in the state.

"Participation is open to youths from all academic levels including traditional institutions of higher learning, technical and vocational schools and also government schools.

"The participants will be competing in 10 different skill categories which we have set, such as animation creation; hackathon; fashion technology; furniture making; terrarium design; architecture modelling; graphic technology; short film and video making; social media marketing and song composition.

"As for the Serve programme, it will also be launched virtually on Aug 21. The programme is in line with the state government's initiative to support volunteerism in Selangor.

"The main objective of this platform is to help the community and the state government during crisis and emergency situations. We expect to recruit 3,000 volunteers from 56 constituencies by year-end.

Money to be made

Apart from the two programmes, Mohd Khairuddin said the state government through his portfolio has allocated various incentives for young people.

"For this year alone, we have channelled RM30,000 in financial aid to 58 volunteers under Malaysia Vaccine Support Volunteers (MyVac) who contracted Covid-19. We also handed over a one-off financial assistance amounting to RM127,000 to Selangor Youth Moves (PeBS).

"Furthermore, we've allocated a total prize of RM400,000 to the Selangor Xtiv Virtual programme and we hope it can be of help to ease the winners' financial burdens," said Khairuddin.

Games and benefits

Khairuddin, who is also the Paya Jaras state representative, was eager to talk

about the two ongoing programmes tailored for the youth that have been receiving an overwhelming response — the Selangor Xtiv e-Sports (SXE) and Roda Darul Ehsan (RiDE).

"SXE is the main virtual programme under the larger Selangor Xtiv Virtual Games that was initiated for the first time last year.

"At the beginning, the programme was organised to encourage active participation during the movement control order (MCO) period, but due to the massive response, we decided to run the event again this year.

"The e-sport programme has eight phases commencing from March until the end of this year. There are five major games lined up for the competition such as PUBG Mobile; Mobile Legends: Bang Bang; Call of Duty Mobile; FIFA Pro Club 2021 and Pro Evolution Soccer 2021.

"As of July 7, the programme has recorded over 140,470 participants," he said.

Meanwhile, for RiDE, Khairuddin said the initiative allows eligible recipients to enjoy a few benefits such as a RM500 subsidy for all p-hailing riders (transportation of goods) and RM70 worth of pro-

tection from Social Security Organisation (Socso).

"Starting from Aug 1, 2020, the youth in Selangor from age 17 to 30 can apply for the initiative via the Selangor Sports Council's official website. So far, we have received a total of 6,389 registrations," he said.

Opportunities to grow

All young people have the potential to lead a nation, and therefore their roles and opinions need to be heard and highlighted.

To this, Mohd Khairuddin said the state government has rebranded a few initiatives for the local youths.

"Recently, we amended an initiative previously known as Local Youths Moves (PeBT). It is now known as PeBS. Prior to this, PeBT was an entity under the purview of the local authorities. After the rebranding exercise, PeBS is now under the jurisdiction of the Selangor Sports Council," he said.

All youth programmes in the constituency will be guided by 10 core areas as set out by PeBS. They are the areas of education and training; social welfare and volunteerism; the arts and culture; the youth and their pursuits; religion and spirituality; leadership and organisation; health and wellbeing; internationalisation; entrepreneurship and employment; as well as information technology and communication.

"As of now, a total of 280 young individuals have participated in the programme from all 56 state constituencies," he added.



Smarter ways to manage waste

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

KDEB Waste Management (KDEBWM), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) (MBI), was established in 2016 with the objective to manage domestic waste collection as well as to carry out public cleansing services in Selangor.

When talking about waste management services, the idea of digitalisation does not readily come to one's mind. This is due to the fact that the public is still not familiar with how such services can be carried out in a modern approach.

Yet, as early as July 2016, KDEBWM had already managed to launch, against many odds, a mobile application (app) known as iClean Selangor.

Its managing director, Ramli Mohd Tahir, said the iClean Selangor app was developed to facilitate Selangor residents in submitting complaints about waste collection and public cleansing to KDEBWM.

He said the idea was to make it easier for people to lodge their complaints.

"The (app) user is required to take photos as evidence before they can lodge a complaint, for instance, about uncollected garbage at their house. The complaint will then be forwarded to the Centralised Command Centre (CCC), and the photos will be automatically geotagged with their location.

"The CCC will inform the ground supervisors to check on each complaint. The app also allows the user to track the status of their complaints in real time.

"I can assure that all complaints are resolved within four hours they are sent," he said in a virtual interview with *Selangor Journal* recently.

As of now, the number of users for the app stands at 37,325, and Ramli said KDEBWM is targeting to hit 70,000 users by the end of this year.

He strongly believes that by utilising smart solutions and technology, KDEBWM has ensured better quality of their services and has empowered residents to play a part in keeping the state clean.

"The introduction of such innovation and smart technologies is also part of the Smart Selangor initiative," he said.

Moving forward, Ramli said the app has been upgraded with an additional new function called 'iClear'.

"iClear' functions as a Smart Waste Operation Progress Tracker for KDEBWM and our subcontractors. It was designed to increase work efficiency and to monitor the progress of the work carried out," he said.

Achievements and awards

If we were to gauge KDEBWM's achievement from when it was established five years ago, many people would agree that the company has made amazing progress in such a short period.

To this, Ramli said with a fleet strength of more than 1,000 state-of-the-art vehicles, 1,100 subcontractors and a 10,000-strong crew, KDEBWM has emerged as the largest waste management company in Malaysia in terms of tonnage of waste collection, at 7,000 metric tonnes daily.

"We have received multiple national and international recognition and awards.

"Among the achievements include being awarded by the Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific Good Practice Award 2020

for the 'Smart Waste Solutions Company of the Year' category for three consecutive years," he said.

Apart from that, KDEBWM has also been recognised by the International Business Review, where the company was awarded the IBR 2020 Award under the category of Corporate Excellence in the Utilities Sector.

"KDEBWM is also accredited with International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certification with the latest versions of standards 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 for quality and environmental management for all our branch operations.

"This achievement and recognition clearly show that we have successfully managed solid waste collection and public cleansing works in Selangor for the past five years."

Minor setbacks

According to Ramli, when the first movement control order was enforced in March last year, waste collection and public cleansing were carried out as usual according to the schedule set by the local authorities.

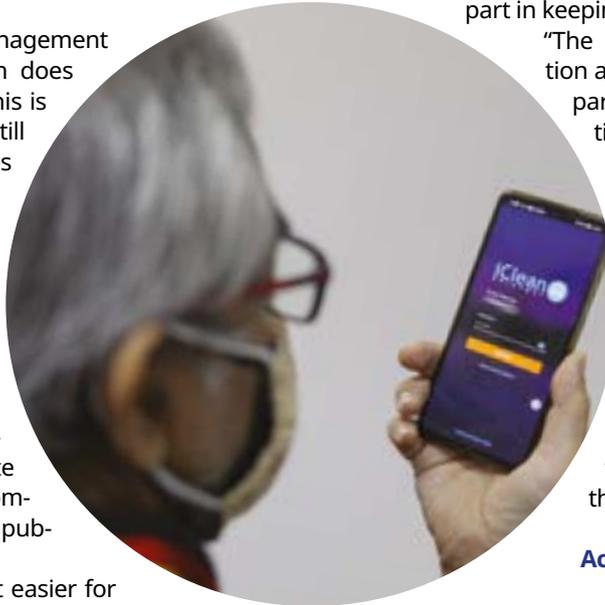
"Until now, we have never stopped working despite the many directives issued by the government relating to movement control. Our workers are on the ground 365 days a year, always ready to give their best service to the people of Selangor.

"However, I admit that there are challenges ahead relating to areas that are under the enhanced movement control order.

"Apart from ensuring that all standard operating procedures are met, our supervisors and crew sometimes have difficulty in conducting collection and cleaning, and they face health risks too."

Ramli also appealed to the public to be more aware of KDEBWM's operations and schedule.

"I humbly ask for your cooperation not to obstruct the road and to park your cars properly. This is to ensure that our lorries can pass through and can make their rounds to collect your waste," he added.



No room for rogues, says top cop

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

SELANGOR is ranked number two in the Department of Statistics Malaysia's crime index for 2019. Standing at 304.3 crimes per 100,000 of its population, the state is second only to Kuala Lumpur, which registered a ratio of 592.3 crimes per 100,000 of its people.

Based on statistics by the Selangor police, the top five crimes in the state between January and July 2021 are theft (29.8 per cent), housebreaking (18.3 per cent), theft of motor vehicles (17.4 per cent), gang robbery (8.8 per cent) and roadside robbery (7.6 per cent).

Although the numbers look discouraging, newly appointed Selangor Chief of Police (CPO) Datuk Arjunaidi Mohamed is confident of his officers' ability to maintain order in the state.

"As we know, Selangor is not only a developed and highly populated state but is also unique. When we talk about Selangor, we are talking about Malaysia as a whole. The people in Selangor come from all over the country with different cultural backgrounds, so Selangor is 'truly Malaysia'.

"This creates a very challenging situation for any CPO. We must be at the top of our game, not just for security issues but also for our service delivery, professionalism and integrity," he said during an online interview with *Selangor Journal*.

As deputy CPO, Arjunaidi was appointed as acting Selangor CPO on Dec 14, 2020 when CPO Datuk Noor Azam



Jamaludin retired. On April 12, 2021, Arjunaidi was promoted to CPO with the rank of Commissioner of Police.

"Although Selangor contributes to one of the highest crime rates (in the country), it is due to the state being the most populated in Malaysia. The ratio is still meager compared to other countries in the world.

"Selangor is still a safe state not only for its residents but also for the tourists and anyone who works and lives here."

Going it together

Arjunaidi said with almost 14,000 officers in the force, Selangor also has a more significant number of crime busters compared to other states.

But with Covid-19 halting expansion plans for all government agencies, Arjunaidi is working on ways to optimise the force's existing workforce, resources and logistics.

"During the pandemic, the police need to act more systematically so that crime prevention and compliance with the standard operating procedure (SOP) can move simultaneously.

"In Selangor, we have monitoring teams to ensure SOP compliance, and the same teams also carry out crime-prevention tasks. The same goes for the roadblock teams — they not only look out for SOP adherence but also for criminal conduct."

Arjunaidi said the Selangor police would continue its good working relationship with the community and the authorities in the state.



In the near future, we need more than CCTVs. We would like to have more digital collaboration with other agencies, such as data sharing. It would be better if all of us can develop a smart city together

"I like to use the term 'we' because both the police and the people have to play their part. The police cannot combat crime alone. We have to work together as a community because crime itself starts at home."

He added that since 2011, the Selangor police have collaborated with the state government in using closed-circuit-television (CCTV) cameras to monitor criminal activities.

"CCTVs not only help to reduce crime but also assist in the process of investigation and enable us to work faster. It also saves on manpower as surveillance

can be done for a wider area.

"In the near future, we need more than CCTVs. We would like to have more digital collaboration with other agencies, such as data sharing. It would be better if all of us can develop a smart city together," he said.

A few black sheep

Arjunaidi admitted that there is also a need to combat crime from inside the force, as there are a few black sheep among the men in blue.

"Of course, with a large number of officers in Selangor, there will be a handful who flout the law. The Selangor police will not compromise on any illegal acts by members of its force. I have issued a strong warning that whoever commits an offence will be dealt with by the provisions of the law," he said.

He added that Selangor would also use several approaches to maintain the quality of its officers and personnel.

They will increase their supervising system, provide more on-the-job training sessions whether face-to-face or online, give counselling sessions through its BAKA (Bahagian Agama dan Kaunseling) department and carry out continuous monitoring via the Department of Integrity and Standards Compliance.

"So if you ask me about cases committed by the police, for me, even though the number is still minimal, I take the matter very seriously and will keep on working to reduce the number of problematic officers in the state," he said.



I like to use the term 'we' because both the police and the people have to play their part. The police cannot combat crime alone. We have to work together as a community because crime itself starts at home

Unlocking the potential of Bukit Melawati

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

BUKIT Melawati is a constituency in the Kuala Selangor district with over 27,000 registered voters. The area is well known for its historical sites, which have enticed both local and foreign tourists keen to learn about the past. Located approximately 51 kilometres from Shah Alam, Bukit Melawati can be easily accessed via highways and federal roads. Since being elected as its state assemblyman in 2018, Juwairiya Zulkifli has worked hard to ensure that the concerns of the 150,000 constituents are heard and adequately addressed.



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

Juwairiya Zulkifli (JZ): There are three main industries in Bukit Melawati, namely tourism and heritage, hotels and small- and medium-enterprises (SMEs).

SJ: What is the main attraction in Bukit Melawati?

JZ: Bukit Melawati houses various touristy places. They include the Tanjong Keramat Fort, the Kuala Selangor District Historical Museum, and the Sky Mirror. The Tanjong Keramat Fort, also known as Bukit Belanda, is located on a low hill close to the mouth of the Selangor River. It was originally built by Sultan Ibrahim, the second Sultan of Selangor, who reigned from 1782-1826.

As for the museum, it provides information on the development of the town and its surrounding area, its role as a trading centre for

the collection and export of tin and how Kuala Selangor had once been the capital of Selangor. Meanwhile, one of the most famous attractions in Selangor, the Sky Mirror, sits in the middle of the Straits of Melaka. It is a hidden sandbank roughly about the size of 100 football fields and emerges at low tide as a 'mirror' reflecting the sky. Tourists rush to take selfies there, while nature lovers get to enjoy the teeming marine life at the sandbank, such as the soft corals and scurrying crabs.

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

JZ: The main concerns in my constituency are the lack of job opportunities and low income. There are three main income groups here — the self-employed, those on monthly wages, and workers on daily allowances. The

Juwairiya helps members of the public to register for the Selvax Community programme at Dewan MDKS in Bandar Baru, Kuala Selangor, on Aug 1



self-employed are usually the owners of restaurants, hardware shops and car workshops. Many among them are not locals, and they come to Bukit Melawati solely to run a business. Others are farmers and fishermen.

The business owners create some job opportunities for the people here to earn a monthly wage. And then there are the civil servants such as the teachers and the government officers. Interestingly, many of those relying on a daily income are young people. Usually, they work in restaurants, in the palm oil industry, as lorry drivers and movers, and cleaners, to name a few.

In our endeavour to overcome unemployment issues, Bukit Melawati had organised the Selangor Kerjaya programme with the help of the state administration to expose job seekers here to new op-

portunities. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the programme was postponed twice before it was finally held at the end of 2020 under strict standard operating procedures.

Apart from that, we have also proposed for investors to explore Kuala Selangor since a few tourist spots here have the potential to boost the local economy.

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

JZ: I'll begin with managing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic from the start of the outbreak in March 2020 until now. We have undergone several movement restriction directives, and many people have been affected by the lockdown. My task is to ensure that my constituents are well taken care of during this crucial period.

A free Covid-19 community screening drive had been carried out here, and food baskets were delivered to those who had to undergo home quarantine. Another food basket programme was also initiated, focusing on essential items such as milk and diapers for families with young children. Each time such aid was prepared, we ensured that they reached the recipients in the fastest time possible.

Also, when we realised the difficulties students from low-income families face, we provided them with tablets and laptops to help them with home-based learning.

Other than what I've mentioned, various forms of assistance for infrastructure, education and health continue to be channelled out through our public welfare programmes.

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

JZ: I believe that communication is a truly important element in yielding fruitful discussion. Hence I prefer to discuss problems face-to-face. Since the 14th general election, I've visited my constituency every week without fail.

During my visits, I would take time to listen to the people about their problems and difficulties. The matter would then be escalated to the relevant departments or agencies. My priority is always to assist as best I can.



Distribution of aid programme for the residents at Kampung Tanjong Siam



Juwairiya meets with two families living near Kuil Batu 7 Kampung Asahan, whose homes were damaged by a storm

RM2.4m to repair courts and playgrounds

By AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) will focus on repairing about 50 children's playgrounds and sports courts with an allocation of RM2.4 million this year.

MSNS executive director Mohd Nizam Marjugi said the state government has approved the funding so that the people can have better facilities and equipment for their sports and recreational activities.

He said upgrades will be carried out on football fields, futsal courts, sepak takraw courts, basketball courts and children's playgrounds in every state constituency.

"We hope to complete 50 repair works this year, but it de-

pends on the conditions set by the movement control orders," he said.

Mohd Nizam said he hopes the federal government will give permission to MSNS to carry out projects under its watch, similar to work that is being allowed under the jurisdiction of the local authority.

"Right now, no repair works can be done because no permission has been given. They are not deemed as essential services.

"But these projects need to be allowed because some of the structures are dilapidated and can pose a danger to residents. For example, there is a futsal court fencing that is in a state of near collapse. If not repaired, it will be dangerous for anyone to use it," he said.

E-sports the catalyst for smart agenda

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2021 e-sports challenge has attracted some 160,000 participants as of July 2021, says Mohd Khairuddin Othman.

The state executive councillor for sports said that the figure represents 35 per cent of its target of 450,000 overall entries for the year.

"We are excited to have received an overwhelming response from the younger generation.

"We are confident that the programme and the record (number of participants) would make Selangor be a leader in, and also become the only state in Malaysia to have successfully organised, such

an event.

"This can also act as a catalyst for Selangor's digitalisation agenda," he said in a statement on July 28.

Mohd Kahiruddin added that this proves that Selangor is able to adapt to the current revolution of the Internet of Things (IoT), an accomplishment given that we are in the midst of a pandemic.

The Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2021 offers seven competitions from March to December with a total prize pool of RM411,680.



The challenges include the Selangor XTIV Virtual E-Sports, the Selangor XTIV Virtual Marathon, the Selangor XTIV Virtual Martial Arts, the Selangor XTIV Virtual Youth Busking, the Selangor XTIV Virtual Jump Rope and the Selangor XTIV Virtual Chess.

A new addition, the Selangor XTIV Virtual Ride, had opened for registration on July 28.

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

Smashing show as doubles pair win first medal

TOKYO - The wait is finally over.

National men's doubles shuttlers Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik bagged the bronze for Malaysia's first medal at the Tokyo Olympics after more than a week since the Games officially opened on July 23.

Chia and Soh took 52 minutes to edge out Indonesians Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan in a nail-biting 17-21, 21-17, 21-14 match at the Musashino Forest Sport Plaza, here, on July 31.

The first game was closely fought as both pairs battled neck-and-neck before Chia and Soh took an 11-9 lead at the interval.

When the game resumed, the Indonesians produced a more aggressive play to regain their lead at 12-9 and maintained domination until a 21-17 win.

In the second game, Chia and Soh started well to take a 5-3 lead before mistakes began creeping into their game to allow their opponents an 11-7 lead at the interval.

Chia and Soh, to their credit, did not give up and managed to level the score at 12-12.

From that moment on, they never

trailed the Indonesians as they continued their fine display to romp home 21-17 and brought the game into a winner-takes-all decider.

In the rubber game, the young Malaysian pair, with an extra spring in their steps, never trailed the Indonesians from the moment they went 1-0 up.

After leading 11-7 at the interval, they allowed the Indonesians just seven more points before sealing a 21-14 win courtesy of a smash by Chia.

Overcome by emotions, Chia and Soh sank to their knees and shouted out in triumph before lying flat on the court trying to comprehend what they had just achieved.

The pair also shed tears of joy as they got off the court.

Surely they were not the only ones who were overjoyed.

Across the seas, there wasn't a dry eye in the house as Malaysians, glued to their television screens, welcomed the nation's first medal. - Bernama

'We support Federal's programmes'

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government remains open to any ideas for programmes implemented by the Federal government especially those involving sports, such as the National Sports Vision (VSN) 2030.

State Youth, Sports Development and Human Resource Development Committee chairman Mohd Khairuddin Othman said VSN 2030 is currently putting together ideas, aspirations, needs and hopes on sports development in the country from stakeholders and the people.

"The state government practises an open attitude in providing support to, and cooperation on, Federal government programmes, especially those involving sports.

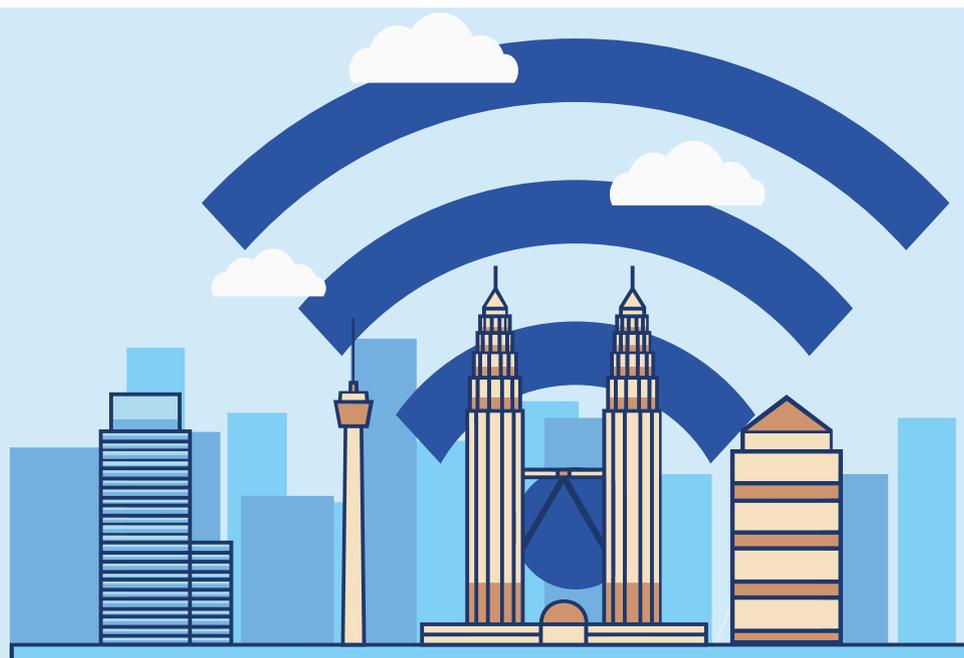
"The state government, together with all agencies and sports associations such as the Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS), the Selangor Local Youth Movement (PeBS), Selangor athletes and the people of Selangor, in general, will certainly give new thoughts and ideas towards the creation of the VSN 2030 document (blueprint) later," he said in a statement issued on Aug 5.

VSN 2030 was launched by the Youth and Sports Ministry on April 7 to ensure that the development of sports in the country is on the right track for the next 10 years.

Malaysians can give input through face-to-face and virtual engagement sessions, group discussions, and the VSN2030 Canvas website, regardless of their cultural or economic backgrounds.



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