



SELANGOR JOURNAL

Back to life

The people of Selangor are venturing out of their homes — back to work, to school, to the parks and for shopping — five long months after a series of lockdowns since May. While many are excited and relieved that the Klang Valley has shifted into Phase 3 of the National Recovery Plan, there are others who feel resistant to return to their pre-pandemic lifestyles, for good reason.

Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, while applauding the consistent drop in the number of infections, has urged the people to remain cautious. "As we shift to the endemic phase, please do not — even for once — be complacent," he reminded the people. However, he welcomed those who have completed their vaccine shots to go out and explore Selangor again. "Let us take this opportunity to visit the various tourist attractions and revive the state's economy together," he said.

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Wrong to call Selangor a corruption hub: MB

By SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has recorded a drop in corruption-related arrests and charges in the past five years, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said that based on the numbers recorded by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Selangor cannot be considered the highest as only 43 arrests were made as of this August, compared to 79 in 2016.

"If we look at it from (the standpoint of) these numbers, it is not Selangor but states in East Malaysia which have recorded the highest numbers. In fact, based on the percentage of residents, the density, and economic rapidity, this percentage clearly indicates that Selangor is not a hub of corruption.

"Perhaps sensational news and the like gave rise to this perception. Nonetheless, the state government always encourages better arrests and inves-

tigations of corruption perpetrators should they be found guilty, as there is a need to be fair and a chance provided to defend oneself," Amirudin said during the live broadcast of the discussion 'Is Selangor A Hub of Corruption?' on Sept 30.

His view was supported by Selangor MACC director Datuk Alias Salim who was also present.

Alias said the statistics, from 2016 to August this year, indicated that only 267 of 2,616 civil servants arrested by MACC were in Selangor.

"Of the 267 arrested, one was from top management, 77 individuals were from management level and were professionals, while 189 were from the rank-and-file.

"To me, this means Selangor cannot be described as a hub of corruption since we have neighbouring states as well as the Klang Valley, which is a fo-

cus of investors," Alias said.

He also broke down the list of complaints by state, with the highest coming from Sabah with 306, followed by Selangor with 267, Perak with 265, Sarawak with 262, Pahang with 203, and Johor with 201.



"Every complaint received is not necessarily related to corruption, but may also include the administrative aspects of enforcement agencies who delay in conducting investigations of their own, and subsequently handed over to MACC.

"The number received indicates that societal awareness in reporting corruption activities, aside from the prevention programmes carried out, has been met with much cooperation by the state government administration in ensuring civil servants have high integrity," Alias said.

Teens too, can get rebates for PPV rides

AMPANG - The RM20 transportation rebate for rides to vaccination centres across the state will be extended to teenagers aged 12 to 17 years old.

Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI, Corporate Social Responsibility head Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor said the application window for the rebate is now open, and can be used from Oct 1 to Nov 30.

He said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has agreed to expand the initiative to vaccine recipients aged 12 to 17, as well as to extend the programme's duration.

"For parents who have already made claims for the rebate, they can reapply on behalf of their children," Ahmad said after handing over a donation of RM50,000 to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals (SPCA) Selangor on Sept 23.

He added that approximately 14,000 people have benefitted from the initiative from the time the Kita Selangor Package 2.0 was announced in June.

"Out of the total, some 10,000 individuals have redeemed the rebate. For this initiative MBI has spent RM100,000 from the total RM1 million allocated for the programme," Ahmad said.

Previously the transportation rebate programme was only open to individuals in Selangor aged 50 and above.

Subsequently in July Amirudin announced that the rebate would be offered to all Selangor citizens regardless of their age.



Ahmad Azri presents a gift of money to XPCD vocalist Mohd Ali Ismail during a visit to Kampung Rantau Panjang, Klang on Sept 15 — Picture by AHMAD ZAKKI JILAN/ SELANGORKINI

MBI commits RM30m to CSR programmes

AMPANG - A RM30 million allocation has been set aside by the Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI, for various assistance programmes throughout 2021.

MBI's Corporate Social Responsibility head Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor said as of September, nearly RM20 million has been spent on programmes like the Selangor Internet Data and the Selangor People's Tutoring Programme, as well as on transportation rebates for members of the public to catch a Grab

ride to vaccination centres.

"For the remaining months of 2021, we will carry out the Back To School programme apart from the Deepavali and Christmas donation programme.

"We do not only focus on food baskets and people-oriented programmes, but also cover environmental, animal rights and religious matters," he said after handing over a RM50,000 donation to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals (SPCA) Selangor, on Sept 23.

Previously, MBI had also assisted several parties including former athletes and celebrities who were facing hardships.

Among them were singer Ali XPCD, comedian Hamid Gurkha, former state football player Azhar Sharif and guitarist Kid.

MBI is also set to provide assistance to legendary singer Datuk Jeffrydin.

As for food baskets, it spent RM800,000 from January to July this year to provide necessities to groups who have been affected by Covid-19.

SELangkah's digi cert now a valid document

SHAH ALAM - SELangkah's digital vaccination certificate can now be used by fully-vaccinated individuals as confirmation of their status when checking in to public places.

Selangor Public Health, Unity, Women and Family Development Committee chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said the Federal government's acceptance of SELangkah's digital certificate alongside MySejahtera's is an affirmation of the state's efforts in fighting the pandemic.

"The state government sees the decision to allow the use of SELangkah's vaccination certificate as a form of recognition of the initiative implemented by Selangor to complement the Federal government's efforts to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Therefore, Selangor citizens who have not yet received a digital vaccination certificate on MySejahtera can now use

the vaccination certificate in the SELangkah application as a confirmation document for their daily activities," she said in a statement on Sept 10.



On Sept 8, the Selangor government requested the Covid-19 Immunisation Task Force (CITF) to allow vaccine recipients under the Selvax programme to temporarily use their SELangkah digital vaccination certificates.

According to state executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud, SELangkah has sent the records of 159,919 Selvax recipients to MySejahtera but 3,632 individuals have yet to receive their MySejahtera digital certificates.

On Sept 9, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin announced that individuals who have been vaccinated through Selvax can use the SELangkah digital certificate until they receive the one from MySejahtera.

New phase and better days

SHAH ALAM - After almost two years of Zoom meetings, Google Classroom lessons and a lot of online shopping, the people of Selangor were greeted with promising news by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob on Sept 29 that the Klang Valley would open fully for business again on Oct 1.

The pandemic that has rewritten the rules for all of us and taken the lives of too many loved ones has finally been reigned in — with the help of vaccines.

The state's vaccination programmes Selvax Industry, Selvax Community and Selvax mobile, which had gone into full swing in the months of August and September, made the extra effort to reach out to the homeless, to foreign workers living in the fringes of the city, and anyone else who was left out of the national inoculation drive.

In August, the Selangor government spent RM1.25 million to distribute 60,000 Home Assessment Tool (HAT) kits to the families of those who had caught the virus, in the hope that with self-testing, fewer people would succumb so quickly to the virus.

As early as Sept 9, these efforts began to bear fruit. Selangor Health Department director Datuk Dr Sha'ari Ngadiman said the Covid-19 cases in the state were expected to continue to decline, and would reach the minimum level referred to as the endemic level by mid or late October.

On the same day, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin also gave a good prognosis of the situation in the Klang Valley, calling for a future of new norms involving continuous masking, regular testing for the virus and self-isolating at

home when necessary, while life goes on.

Khairy said the approach of accepting Covid-19 as endemic should not be viewed as an admission of defeat, but as an adaptation move.

On Sept 27, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said although the number of cases is seeing a downward trend, the wearing of face masks in public, social distancing, and self-hygiene must always be upheld.

"We cannot be complacent and careless. Continue to observe the SOPs even if cases drop," Amirudin posted on Twitter.

On Sept 28, the Menteri Besar was more upbeat, making a call to the people to come out and explore the state and visit all the tourist attractions that Selangor has to offer.

"Hopefully, as Selangor enters the

next phase of the NRC (National Recovery Plan) and with the majority of its adult population vaccinated, let us take this opportunity to explore various tourist attractions both near and far.

"The tourism industry can recover with the support of the people of Selangor, so let us revive the state's economy together by exploring the tourist attractions in Selangor Darul Ehsan," he said.

The state's tourism industry had been one of the worst hit sectors and the government had spent millions of ringgit to prop it up.

More good news was in store for Selangor when on Sept 28, NRC chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced that interstate travel is expected to be allowed for the whole of Malaysia from mid-October, likely bringing even more tourists into the state.

Test kit initiative emulated

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government's initiative to provide self-test kits to Covid-19 patients has been emulated by the Federal government, says the Menteri Besar.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the recent announcement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob to roll out the free kits has proved the state government's efforts in tackling Covid-19 work.

"The Selangor government welcomes this announcement. In July, through the Kita Selangor Package 2.0, the state government started to provide a Health Assessment Kit to close contacts and Covid-19 positive families.

"The kit contains an oximeter and a face mask. Recently, the state government also announced the provision of free self-test kits to 60,000 individuals in Selangor," he said via Facebook on Sept 19.

Also on Sept 19, Ismail Sabri announced the Covid-19 Care Package (PPC) which is expected to benefit about 3.6 million B40 households and prepare them for the endemic phase of the virus.

The Prime Minister said the PPC aid, made through an allocation of more than RM471.6 million, will include four reusable face masks and four Covid-19 self-test kits, among other items, for each household.

On Aug 12, Amirudin said the Selangor government distributed 60,000 free Covid-19 self-test kits to the families of victims who tested positive for Covid-19.

He said the kits were distributed through the Community Service Centres and the Coordinating Offices of each state constituency.

The kits were first distributed on Sept 3 to the Bandar Utama, Seri Setia, Kota Damansara, Taman Templer and Subang Jaya state constituencies, with each receiving 1,000 units each.

We've pulled through but stay vigilant: MB

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari expressed his gratitude for the decline of Covid-19 cases in the state, based on the number of beds used at hospitals and the admission figures of Intensive Care Units (ICU).

However, he reminds the people to remain cautious and to continue with the new norms of wearing face masks, observing physical distance and practicing self-hygiene.

"Alhamdulillah (praise be to God), the situation in Selangor is getting better. The number of cases, bed usage capacity and ICU admissions has

decreased. We must not be careless.

"Continue with the new norm practices of wearing a face mask and observe physical distancing and self-hygiene," he said on Facebook.

Meanwhile in a voice recording made during the Selangor State Assembly, Amirudin issued a stern reminder to the people in the state to continue adhering to the standard operating procedures (SOP) to ensure that the state's success is not in vain.

"Again, my warning, do not be too happy. Yes, we see a light at the end of the tunnel, but we also have to learn a lesson from other states.

"If we do not continue practising the new norms, such as wearing the face mask, washing hands, and still consider this as a pandemic instead of an endemic, it (the success) will be ruined," he said.

On Sept 29, the Prime Minister announced that Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya will move into Phase Three of the National Recovery Plan, starting Oct 1.

Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the phase shift was made after taking into account the current risk assessment by the Health Ministry and the National Security Council.

More travel vouchers for the people

SHAH ALAM - The state government will be offering 10,000 tourism vouchers to the people of Selangor to stimulate the travel sector as the state shifts into Phase 3 of the National Recovery Plan (NRP) on Oct 1.

State executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian said RM1 million has been allocated for the Selangor Tourism Voucher 2.0 initiative and the vouchers, worth RM200 each, can be used from October onwards.

"We will launch it either this month or next month. Hopefully, the voucher can be used this year because there are only three months left to 2021," he said on Sept 9.

Hee was speaking at a ceremony to hand over cash aid to 17 tourism associations in Selangor which was held virtually through Tourism Selangor's Facebook.



He said the previous Selangor Tourism Voucher 1.0 initiative allocated RM2 million in vouchers to the people. They were worth RM200 each and given out in January through Lazada and

Touch 'n Go's e-wallets.

The 10,000 vouchers can be redeemed at hotel premises, licensed homestays and theme parks in Selangor.

Different roles of Luas and Air Selangor

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) and the Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) are two different entities that manage water resources for consumers in the Klang Valley.

In a short video prepared by Luas, the state government agency educated the public on the separate functions and roles of the two entities.

"Luas is a statutory body under the state government which is responsible for managing raw water resources including surface water such as rivers and ponds, groundwater and three nautical miles of coastal water from land to sea.

"Its function is to manage water resources in terms of quality, to comply with the suggested raw water quality standard, and to ensure the quantity is sufficient for supply to the treat-

ment plants.

"Meanwhile Air Selangor, formerly known as Syabas, is a state government subsidiary which processes raw water into treated water and supplies it to consumers in Selangor, Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur," according to the two-minute video.

Luas's roles:

- Managing water resources (raw water) in terms of quality and quantity
- Managing licensing and abstraction charges for the water source
- Managing licensing and charges for the release or entry of pollutants into water sources
- Managing approval for water resources conversion activities
- Managing licencing and navigation charges for inland water routes

- Managing licencing and diversion charges for water usage by electric generators

Air Selangor's roles:

- Conducting raw water treatment at water treatment plants
- Supplying treated water to consumers
- Managing payment of water bills
- Managing water supply interruptions for consumers
- Conducting repair work on broken or leaking pipes
- Managing registration and change of account holder's names for water metres

Members of the public can reach out to Luas to report any suspicious activities which may lead to incidents of water pollution.

Travel groups get much-needed aid

SHAH ALAM - The state government channelled a one-off cash aid incentive totalling RM255,000 to 17 tourism associations in Selangor on Sept 9.

State executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian said each association received RM15,000 as an incentive to revive the tourism industry in Selangor.

"Hopefully, this incentive will help and provide an opportunity for tourism associations to continue to provide support to their members," he said.

Hee was speaking at a virtual handing-over ceremony to the associations' representatives that was broadcast live on Tourism Selangor's Facebook.

He hoped the assistance will help to ensure the continuity of the industry and further support the state's 'Pusing Selangor Dulu' domestic tourism campaign.

On June 9, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced an allocation of RM2.55 million through the Kita Selangor Package 2.0 to help keep the tourism industry afloat.

It includes RM1 million in financial assistance grants, RM1 million in Selangor tourism 2.0 vouchers, RM300,000 for digitalisation learning and training programmes and RM255,000 in a one-off cash incentive to 17 tourism associations.

Tourism Selangor goes Tik Tok

SHAH ALAM - Tourism Selangor has chosen the Tik Tok mobile application as a medium to promote tourism destinations in the state.

Its Corporate Communication manager Ahmad Nazri Tashriq Rahmat said Tik Tok is efficient and better able to boost Selangor's tourism sector in the short term.

"The promotion covers tourism, accommodation and local foods to attract visitors.

"Since a week ago, we received a lot of questions from the public on tourism destinations across the state, especially on the best places to go for picnics," he told

SelangorKini on Sept 7.

Meanwhile, commenting on the distribution of the RM50 Selangor tourism vouchers 2.0, Ahmad Nazri said the initiative depends on the progress of the National Recovery Plan (NRP).

"Last year, the RM200 vouchers could only benefit 10,000 individuals but this time around, the RM50 vouchers will be able to benefit 20,000 individuals," he said.

On July 16, a total of 20,000 Selangor tourism vouchers 2.0 were offered by the state government and they can be redeemed as early as October once Covid-19 cases take a dip.

Big job ahead for Coldplay's Interceptor

By **NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD**

SHAH ALAM - The garbage patch machine known as Interceptor 005 donated by the British rock band, Coldplay, will start operating in early October.

State executive councillor for infrastructure Ir Izham Hashim said the Interceptor 005 will be the second machine to be utilised for the cleanup of Sungai Klang and it is in the final phase of construction.

It will be the second Interceptor to be deployed to Malaysia after the first one, Interceptor 002, was received in August 2019 and placed in Sungai Klang.

"Based on our records, the cleanup works at Sungai Klang using the (first machine) Interceptor 002 have started to show results as the water quality now stands at level three and four compared to level seven and eight previously," he said on Facebook on Sept 23.

Earlier, Izham officiated the World River Day 2021 celebration in Selangor at Taman Pengkalan Batu, near Sungai Klang, and witnessed the Interceptor 002 at work.

In addition, he released young catfish into the river with the hope of boosting the ecosystem.

Also present were Drainage and Irrigation Department Director Datuk Ir Gapar Asan, Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) managing director Syai-ful Azmen Nordin and Berjaya Land chief executive officer Syed Ali Sahul Hameed.

The cleanup effort using Interceptor 202 was the motivation of The Ocean Cleanup, a nonprofit environmental organisation based in the Netherlands.

In March, Coldplay had announced its inten-



tion to collaborate with The Ocean Cleanup in an effort to rehabilitate polluted rivers around the globe, including in Malaysia.

According to state government-owned company LLSB, the cleanup of Sungai Klang began in 2016 and was intensified in 2018 through the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) project.

Interceptor 002 complements the six rubbish traps placed along 56 kilometers of Sungai Klang between Midvalley Megamall and Pelabuhan Klang, which collect 900 metric tonnes of rubbish every month.

The SMG initiative, which aims to transform the Klang River into a maritime economic zone for the state, is expected to rake in more than RM1 billion in investments by 2030.

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State's ECRL plan derails

By AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK

SHAH ALAM - The Federal government should respect Selangor's stance to build the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) on the southern alignment of the state, as opposed to the northern alignment, in order to prevent incidents of pollution to the state's water resources.

State executive councillor for the environment Hee Loy Sian said the public display of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Gombak-Serendah-Port Klang route project, which began from Sept 22 and runs until Oct 19, has indicat-

ed that Putrajaya will not budge from its proposal for the link to cut through the northern course of the state.

He said the state government is set on the southern alignment (through Hulu Langat, Sepang and West Port) because of the minimal impact it will make on the environment.

If built on the northern zone, the ECRL will pass through important water catchment areas along Sungai Selangor.

"Should there be any pollution incident, the Sungai Selangor Water Treatment Plant's Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3, and the plant in Rantau Panjang, will receive a

stop work order, cutting off water supply to as many as 70 per cent of account holders in the Klang Valley.

"The social impact will also be felt by the traditional villages and the Orang Asli communities who will have to relocate to other areas," Hee told *SelangorKini*.

The exco stressed that if the federal government remains adamant in its decision, the state government may not provide assistance in the land acquisition process.

He also urged the public to take full advantage of the EIA ECRL project's public display of the Gombak-Serendah-Port

Klang route, and to submit objections if they have any.

The EIA report can be obtained at bit.ly/ECRLC2EIA and the public can post their comments to bit.ly/ECRLC2_EIAFEEDBACK.

The documents are also displayed at these locations: the Environmental Department (JAS) in Putrajaya; the Land Public Transport Agency at Menara Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali, Kuala Lumpur; Wisma Sunwaymas, Shah Alam; the Selangor Municipal Council; the Kuala Selangor Municipal Council; the Klang Municipal Council and the Hulu Langat District Council.

Exco urges public to submit objections

SHAH ALAM - The people of Selangor should rightfully raise their concerns on the Federal government's proposal to build the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) on the northern alignment of the state, cutting through Gombak, Serendah and Port Klang.

The state government has long held on to its choice of the southern alignment (Hulu Langat-Sepang-Westport) for economic and environmental reasons.

Earlier this year, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the decision would open more new economic areas, apart from avoiding disruptions to water catchment areas around the Selangor River Basin and land acquisition issues.

The state will also have to relocate people from their homes should the northern

alignment be chosen as the building site.

He said the old route (in the north) was rejected a long time ago and that the state has already completed all its research on the southern alignment.

On June 8, state executive councillor for the environment Hee Loy Sian said if the Federal government remains insistent on the northern alignment, it would put Selangor's vital water source under threat.

The exco added that the people will only have to imagine the impact such a mega project like the ECRL would bring if it were to cut through the Sungai Selangor and Sungai Langat dams.

Hee cited the example of an incident of pollution at the Ampang Water Treatment Plant, which was caused by the East Klang Valley Expressway (EKVE) project, and how the small project was able to bring much damage to the treatment plant.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Gombak-Serendah-Port Klang route will be publicly displayed from Sept 21 to Oct 19.

The public can also view the EIA documents and give their opinion at the link listed below:

www.doe.gov.my/portalv1/info-hebah-an/pengumuman-teks/laporan-penilaian-kesan-kepada-alam-sekeliling-eia-bagi

east-coast-rail-link-ecrl-seksyen-c2-gombak-serendah-port-klang/330278

Based on the original alignment, the ECRL will pass through Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang before entering Selangor from the north via Gombak and head to Serendah and Port Klang.

During the Pakatan Harapan administration from 2018 to 2020, the alignment was changed so that it would not pass through Bentong and Gombak, to avoid having to construct a 17.8-kilometre tunnel through the Quartz Ridge.

Instead, the route would head south through Mentakab to Kuala Klawang in Negeri Sembilan, before entering Selangor via Hulu Langat, and then to Putrajaya Sentral, and finally to Port Klang (Westports).



Seniors, the disabled get RM10m in benefits

SHAH ALAM - More than RM10 million has been channelled by the state government to senior citizens and disabled persons through Skim Mesra Usia Emas (SMUE) since the start of the year.

Yayasan Warisan Anak Selangor (Yawas) general manager Gan Pei Nei said the amount included approximately RM9,963,200 for the Jom Shopping initiative and RM734,000 for death benefit claims.

"Over 100,000 individuals have since received benefits from these two programmes. A total of 99,632 senior citizens

and the disabled received RM100 Jom Shopping vouchers on their birthday month.

"Meanwhile, 1,468 heirs of elderly and disabled Covid-19 victims received RM500 through death benefits," she told *SelangorKini* on Sept 21.

The state government has prepared a RM20 million fund for the Jom Shopping SMUE programme and RM7.5 million for the heirs registered with Yawas.

The public can browse the e-mesra.yawas.my portal to apply for assistance from the scheme.

Dry taps for 998 areas on Oct 13

SHAH ALAM - Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) will be carrying out upgrading and maintenance works on critical assets that require a three-day shutdown of the Sungai Selangor Phase 1 Water Treatment Plant (SSP1 WTP), starting on Oct 13.

In a statement, it said the scheduled water supply disruption will begin at 9am on that day, with water to be restored in stages at 5pm the following day.

Air Selangor said water supply is expected to be fully restored by 9pm on Oct 16.

"This will cause a scheduled water supply disruption in 998 areas encompassing the Petaling, Klang/Shah Alam, Gombak, Kuala Lumpur, Hulu Selangor, Kuala Langat and Kuala Selangor regions," it said.

The agency will be mobilising

105 water tankers to the affected areas, with priority given to hospitals, dialysis centres and funerals. It will also provide 18 public water taps from Oct 14 to 16 for customers in need of water supply during the period.

"As for commercial customers, four local water filling stations will be made available for them to purchase water and collect it using their own tankers.

"They can make payment for the water purchase at all 10 of our Air Selangor Customer Service Counters."

Air Selangor also advised its customers in the affected areas to store sufficient amounts of water and to use it prudently.

"These works were previously scheduled for 2019 and then for 2020, but were postponed due to water pollution incidents that had caused a large-scale unscheduled disruption," it said, adding the upcoming disruption has been approved by the National Water Service Commission (Span).

A complete list of the affected areas and the locations of the public water taps and local water filling stations can be obtained at henti-tugas.airselangor.com.

Customers can check for updates on the Air Selangor mobile application, its website www.airselangor.com and its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.



PKNS's property sales pick up

KUALA LUMPUR - Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) exceeded its sales target by 158 per cent, netting RM37.8 million in sales that involved 68 property units in its PKNS PLUS Must Buy campaign which was held on Aug 28 and 29.

Among the most popular projects with buyers were Puteri Elaisha in Kota Puteri and Sijangkang and Selangorku apartments in Cyberjaya.

Chief operating officer Suhaimi Kasdon said based on the property buying trends this year, PKNS expects the demand for property to continue rising.

"The success of this campaign was due to the detailed tactical planning from the sales unit, apart from the various offers and incentives given to PKNS customers," he said. "The sales and marketing strategy, in terms of product, price, and location, had proven to be effective."

Suhaimi said the other contributing



factors of the successful campaign were the low overnight policy rate (OPR), stamp duty exemption, and discounts of up to 20 per cent.

PKNS PLUS Must Buy was a property sales campaign for the public to own PKNS property with rebates and exclusive discounts for buyers during the promotion period.

In line with modern trends, PKNS said the online experience is an important marketing medium for its property sales as it has made it easier for buyers to access information on PKNS property.

The campaign was done in hybrid mode, both digitally and in person, with online sales done through PKNS X Line and Media Sosial PKNS Property. - Bernama

Rumah Selangorku makes home ownership a reality

By **SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL**

KUALA SELANGOR - Selangor has approved 341 affordable housing development projects involving 204,871 units as of Aug 31, says state executive councillor for housing Rodziah Ismail.

She said of that number, 23,379 units involving 68 projects have been completed and the keys handed over to the owners.

"Meanwhile, a total of 19,495 units, from 57 projects currently under construction, will be ready for occupancy from the end of this year until 2023.

"Through the implementation of the Rumah Selangorku policy, the state government has successfully helped 42,874 buyers, especially first-time home buyers and young couples, to switch from renting to owning their own homes."

Rodziah was speaking after the hand-over ceremony of keys to Rumah Selangorku Taman Alam Suria buyers in

Kuala Selangor on Sept 10.

Meanwhile, she advised developers whose construction is delayed due to the movement control order (MCO),



to immediately hold discussions with the local authorities (PBT) to get an extension of the construction period.

"For example, if the project needs to be completed within 36 months but delayed due to the MCO restric-

tions, the developer can discuss with the PBT on the need for a new timeline because this matter is under the purview of the local authorities," she said.

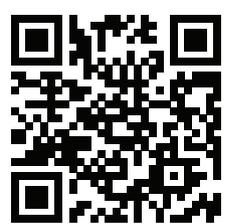
The Rumah Selangorku policy focuses on improving aspects of ownership, planning and implementation to benefit developers, policy implementers and homeowners.

Rumah Selangorku homes are sold at between RM42,000 and RM250,000 and priority is given to buyers from the low-income group.

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Startups win RM10,000 each after presenting perfect pitch

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - Five startups from various industries have been selected as the top five winners in the 4th Selangor Accelerator Programme 2021 (SAP 2021) and have successfully secured the cumulative cash prize of RM50,000.

The five companies, eMLab, GFI Fintech, NexMind AI, Boss Boleh and Farmy had successfully pitched their business to representatives from renowned venture capitalists, corporations and government agencies on Sept 12.

Apart from their respective RM10,000 cash prize, the companies will also be given investment opportunities with SAP 2021's strategic partners such as RHL Ventures, AgroBank and The Hive South East Asia.

Selangor Information Technology & Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec) chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping said the demo day symbolised the culmination of a three-month training period, mentorship and learning programme for the 30 participants.

"All the companies are so competitive



and skillful that the judges had a tough time in narrowing down the best startups to qualify for the demo day.

"For the other 10 participants who did not get through, I hope that they will continue to strive towards developing more solutions to help the industry, especially during these tough times.

"I also hope that all the selected startups will make good use of the knowledge and advice that were given to them throughout this three-month programme.

"With the increasing number of registrations for SAP 2021, I am thrilled to see that many startups are taking this

opportunity to showcase their ideas and solutions to be adopted by the respective agencies," he said in a statement on Sept 12.

The programme was officiated by the state executive councillor for industry and trade, Dato' Teng Chang Khim.

In his speech, Teng said businesses related to fintech, agritech and e-commerce have been booming following the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It has been the state's focus to recover the economy through digitalisation and the adoption of technology in business operations.

"I also believe that the participants of SAP 2021 will be playing their part in assisting the national economic recovery through these various initiatives that the government has set out.

"It is the government's responsibility to provide the necessary platforms and initiatives to help the growth of the digital economy and I am proud to say that Sidec has been making great efforts to help the state government in ensuring that the digital ecosystem is sustainable and beneficial to Selangorians," he said.

Project grants for best tourism ideas

SHAH ALAM - Tourism Selangor has announced 20 winners for the Selangor's 2021 Tourism Recovery Plan Pitch Competition in a virtual ceremony on Sept 24.

The competition offered cumulative project grants worth RM150,000 and out of the total, 10 main winners received RM10,000 grants each while the remaining 10 winners walked away with RM5,000 worth of project grants.

Its general manager, Azrul Shah Mohamad, said the winners will also stand a chance to present their projects during the Tourism Selangor Global Convention 2021, which is scheduled to take place on Nov 29 and 30, subject to the Covid-19 standard operating procedures.

"The competition was organised with the vision to foster Selangor's tourism industry, as well to become the platform for the state's industry players to express their creative and innovative ideas towards the recovery of Selangor's tourism industry post Covid-19.

"On behalf of Tourism Selangor, I encourage members of the public to share their in-

novative ideas with us in the best interest of the industry," he said during the ceremony.

The competition ran from June 14 to July 14 and received a total of 101 proposals. Out of the total, 34 proposals focused on 'creative and innovative tourism' as well as 'sustainable tourism' while the remaining proposals focused on 'tourism digitalisation'.

Forty proposals were pitched by students of local universities, 35 from private organisations, 16 from tourism-based companies and the rest were from non-governmental organisations and local authorities.



The RM10,000-grant winners

1. Egg Cracking Team - '2021 Egg Cracking Project - Restart'
2. FLA Plasma - 'Kreatif & Inovasi Pelancongan Sukan Memanah Tradisional & Berkuda'
3. Hikers Training & Consultant - 'Kayak di Bagan Lalang Sepang'
4. Kelab Seni Kelajuan Malaysia - 'AOSCC Kustom Hotwheels 2021'
5. KOSAS Travel - 'Transformasi Komuniti Pelancongan Sungai Besar'
6. Persatuan Benih Hijau - 'Smile (Sky Mirror Is Life Education)'
7. SELCHA - 'Pengurusan Risiko Bencana dalam Pengurusan Pelancongan Setempat'
8. Sunflower Holidays - 'Sovikraf Selangor'
9. SustainableX - 'Kajang on Board - A Family Vacation Board Game Project'
10. Youth of Balakong - 'Pelancongan Perindustrian Balakong'

The RM5,000-grant winners

1. Asian Overland Services Tours - 'Enhancing Sustainable Practices of Selangor Homestay Operators and Delivering a Truly Kampung Experience: In collaboration with Kg Sungei Sireh Homestay'
2. Cycledios - 'Revive Selangor's Domestic Tourism with "Digitalisation Tourism"'
3. Da Men Mall - 'Wonders of Kampung Food'
4. Discover Kuala Langat - 'Responsible Tourism Post Covid-19: Peranan Ilmu Dalam Penghayatan Kelestarian Hutan Bakau (dari sampah jadi khazanah/ from trash to treasure)'
5. Explorers of Selangor Tourism - 'Creativity & Innovative Sustainable Tourism'
6. Hunt Without Boundaries - 'Explore Selangor Virtually'
7. Let's Bike - 'Savour Slow Pace, Stay Longer, Spend Local: Cycling as a Driver for Sustainable Tourism'
8. Photo Creator Magazine - 'Go Green Photography Exhibition'
9. The GM Clan 2 - 'Datang Klang, Pasti Girang!'
10. U2 Travel Group - 'Hidden Jewels of Malaysia: Moving Towards Sustainable Tourism'

The sky's the limit for Selangor's aviation plans

BENEATH the calm exterior of Dato' Teng Chang Khim is a man brimming with purpose.

After two years of helping Selangor battle its coronavirus-induced economic slump, the exco for industry and trade is now eager to get business activities back into gear. For months now, Teng has been nurturing the perfect way to do so — for the state to hold its first-ever aviation show, the Selangor Aviation Show 2021 (SAS 2021).

"The time is ripe for waking the aviation industry up," says Teng. "An airshow will be the best and fastest way to rebound from the downcycle. We have to shake off the pessimism that has engulfed the industry, exit from our survival mode and show that there is life after Covid-19, especially in the area of business aviation."

By business aviation, Teng means business travel by propeller planes, smaller jets and helicopters. Efforts are also being made by the state to grow the general aviation industry and to seize opportunities to invest in the manufacturing and sale of drones.

It all makes perfect sense.

More than 62 per cent of all aerospace- and aviation-related industries are located in and around Selangor. This is partly due to the activity and buzz created by the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport (formerly the Subang International Airport or Subang Airport) which houses big players like Airbus Helicopters, Execujet Malaysia, Systematic Aviation Services, Westar Aviation, Sapura Aero and Asia Jets Partners Malaysia.

To date, there are also 16 major manufacturers of business aviation aircraft residing in Selangor: Airbus, Boeing, Dassault Aviation, Gulfstream, Piaggio and Bombardier are all examples of how the state has enough credible industry players to make the aviation show a success, even with scaled-down international participation.

Exhibitions, networking and more

If Teng has his way, come pandemic rain or shine, the aviation show would go on. Scheduled for Nov 25 to 27 this year, the stage has already been set at the SkyPark Regional Aviation Centre Subang, the venue for the event. The theme, too, has been chosen — 'Asean as the Business and General Aviation Hub'. It conveys Selangor's intention to lead the region in the aerospace and



aviation industry.

It also promises to be different from both LIMA and the Singapore Airshow.

"In addition to an exhibition and the displays of 13 aircraft models, SAS 2021 will also provide a space for networking sessions and talks for trade visitors to attend," explained Teng. Topics for the sessions range from Safety, Security and Sustainability to Aviation Policies, Regulations and Finance. There will also be a session on Experimental Aircraft and Drones, touted as a crowd puller.

"We are targeting 5,000 visitors," Teng added. "Closer to the day of the event, proper standard operating procedures will, of course, be put in place."

Teng may be the exco in charge but it has taken many bigwigs to put a show of this scale together. Organiser Invest Selangor Berhad has been tirelessly working through its division, the Selangor Darul Ehsan Aerospace Industry Coordination Office or S-Daico, to execute plans and promote the event. Help has also come in from the Ministry of In-

ternational Trade and Industry, the National Aerospace Industry Coordinating Office (Naico), Systematic Aviation Services Sdn Bhd, ATS Turbine Services Sdn Bhd and the Aerodyne Group.

Subang leads the way

So what plans does Selangor have beyond the airshow, if investing in the aerospace and aviation industry is where it is headed?

"We would like to elevate Subang Airport's status to attract the top-tier operators to locate their bases here. We want it to be the business aviation and general aviation hub in Asean," Teng was quick to answer.

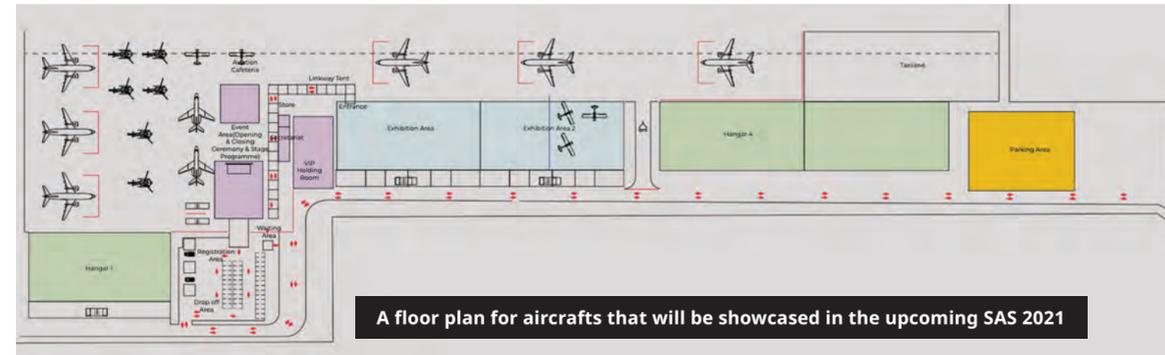
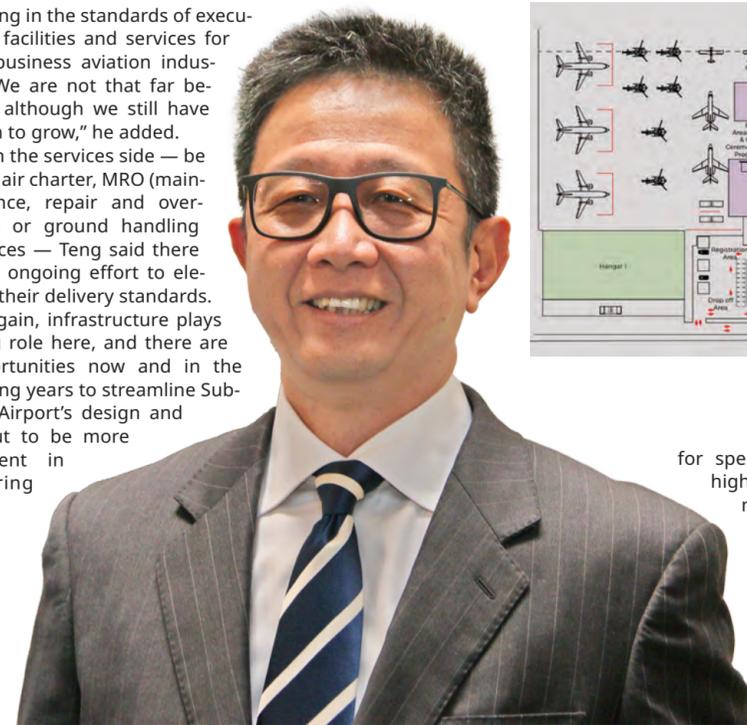
"How do we do that? First and foremost, we are working hard to achieve international accreditations and certifications to increase the standards and quality of the airport's services. The Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia is also going to introduce new and specific regulations for all the operators there.

"There is no question that regionally, Singapore and Hong Kong are

leading in the standards of execution, facilities and services for the business aviation industry. We are not that far behind although we still have room to grow," he added.

On the services side — be it for air charter, MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) or ground handling services — Teng said there is an ongoing effort to elevate their delivery standards.

"Again, infrastructure plays a big role here, and there are opportunities now and in the coming years to streamline Subang Airport's design and layout to be more efficient in catering



for specific travellers, such as high net-worth travellers like medical tourists, and for the transportation of high valuables.

"In the context of the Asean region, the differentiator that makes airports successful is the infrastructure. It is the most capital-intensive element.

"We also need to differentiate the development of Subang as an aviation hub against the other existing and well-developed hub in Selangor, which is the KLIA. Subang needs to play to its strengths and purpose," said Teng.

Springing into action

To support the aerospace industry's development and growth, the

Selangor Aerospace Action Plan 2020-2030 was formulated and published in October 2019 after extensive consultation with industry stakeholders and relevant Federal government agencies and ministries.

The Selangor Aerospace Action Plan 2020-2030 is also aligned to the objectives of the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030.

It focuses on the core industry sub-sectors that need to be priori-

“ We have to shake off the pessimism that has engulfed the industry, exit from our survival mode and show that there is life after Covid-19, especially in the area of business aviation



tised and developed in the coming decade, namely:

- MRO activities for aircraft
- the aerospace manufacturing industry
- systems integration, and engineering and design (including research and development), and
- aerospace training and education.

Is Selangor ready?

"We are as ready as we'll ever be," says Teng. "At the height of the pandemic in 2020, the aviation sector was one of the hardest-hit industries worldwide. Everything came to a standstill. In a way, we had time to regroup our plans and reorganise."

"The time has finally come to test out Selangor's ability as business aviation and general aviation ecosystem. The SAS 2021 will create the needed hype to draw in investors. From there, we will keep working until we see investments come our way."



Towards a sporting nation

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

This year, the country will be celebrating National Sports Day (NSD) on Oct 9 with a slightly different approach due to Covid-19. The annual event will be celebrated virtually throughout the country with the use of the latest technology.

NSD was introduced in 2015 with the aim of making Malaysia a sporting nation. It also serves the government's objective to not only promote a sports culture but to also emphasise on joint participation in sports activities, regardless of a person's age, race and religion.

Sports is one of the sectors that is most affected by the pandemic. For months, sports facilities, stadiums and gyms were shut and major tournaments were postponed or cancelled. The emotional impact this left on our athletes is difficult to measure.

In an interview with *Selangor Journal*, the Selangor National Sports Council (MSN Selangor) executive director, Mohamad Nizam Marjugi, said many athletes were not able to maintain their training due to the restrictions imposed during the movement control order (MCO).

"Alternatively, the coaches had set up physical programmes for the athletes to perform at home. During the MCO, there were no tournaments conducted, so the coaches were unable to measure the ath-

letes' level of performance.

"However, as of now, the sports sector has been given permission by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS) to return to physical training. It is a huge relief for the coaches and athletes since they only managed to train and coach from their respective homes previously. However, MSN Selangor has reminded them to always comply with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) during training," he said.

Back on track

Nizam added that Covid-19 has dampened the sports sector for far too long and since the country is moving towards the endemic phase, MSN Selangor is ready to bounce back.

"Our development programmes, especially Bakat and the Pelapis Programme, will now run as usual as KBS has already issued SOPs for the training program. On our end, there will be slight changes due to the safety of the athletes because our underage athletes have not yet been vaccinated. However, other programs such as seminars and workshops are still ongoing as they are run via online platforms," he explained.

Commenting further on the NSD, Nizam said the celebration is regarded as a special day to highlight to the community the idea and benefits of getting active.

"It is not only for promoting sports ac-

tivities in the state, but also to educate and to spread information about the benefits of engaging in sports.

"NSD is important to cultivate awareness of sports activities. Generally, involvement in sports activities helps to reduce a person's health problems as well. Stress, depression, obesity and anxiety can all be better managed when one is active," he said.

Hybrid style celebration

The state executive councillor for youth and sports, Mohd Khairuddin Othman, said there will be a celebration at the state level that will be held in hybrid mode, in conjunction with the main celebration.

During the programme, the state government will launch several events that will require the participation of the people, such as Fit Mental, paragliding, fun walk and aerobics.

"The theme for the NSD celebration will also be revealed on that day in Bukit Jugra," he told *Selangor Journal*.

When asked about the future of sports development in the state, post pandemic, Khairuddin said:



"We are aware that the country is now in the midst of shifting to the endemic phase of Covid-19. As of now, we are slowly returning to normalcy as many sectors have opened for the

sake of the economy. The easing of restrictions for those who are fully vaccinated is finally happening. Many sports that involve physical contact such as football, takraw, badminton and cycling are now allowed.

"We must return to normalcy as quickly as possible. This is important as it is our athletes' dream to participate in Sukan Malaysia (Sukma) next year," he said.

2022 goals

Khairuddin said it is important for the sports sector to receive a fair allocation from the state government in Budget 2022.

"The budget will be used to prepare for the athletes' expenditures to participate in Sukma. Aside from that, we will also focus on the development of sports and more effective training programmes for the athletes. This is to ensure that Selangor will achieve its target to be the Sukma champion.

Time to talk about mental health

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

ACCORDING to the 2019 National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS 2019), a total of 2.3 per cent of Malaysia's adult population suffer from depression.

Since early 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic and the movement control orders that came with it have caused emotional distress to many, following sudden changes in the work environment, the loss of jobs and incomes, and fears for safety.

In conjunction with World Mental Health Day 2021 which falls on Oct 10, *Selangor Journal* spoke with two experts in the field of psychology on the need to raise more awareness on the topic.

DESPITE periodic efforts made by the authorities and various parties to raise awareness on mental health issues in Malaysia, society still finds it hard to accept people with mental illness.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Forensic Science Programme Psychologist & Criminologist Assoc Prof Dr Geshina Ayu Mat Saat said there are so many myths associated with people with mental health conditions.

"Perceptions based on these myths make it harder for people with mental health conditions to be included in the community and some neighbourhoods tend to stigmatise those with such conditions, whereas in actual fact they can contribute positively to society," she said.

Dr Geshina added that the portrayal of people with mental health problems on social media and the entertainment industry have made such perceptions and attitudes worse.

"There have been movements and agenda to vilainize people with mental health conditions (these are actually crimes) and they should be stopped. Many mental health sufferers can do no harm and are better citizens compared to their more able counterparts," she said.

She said more needs to be done beyond raising awareness and the reporting of limited statistics.

"It starts with a better understanding of what mental health issues are and are not. This is followed by demystifying myths and replacing them with truths and realities; as well as having in place sufficient health practitioners and affordable services for those in need."

Meanwhile Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Psychology and Human Well Being Research Centre Senior Lecturer Dr Suzana Mohd Hoesni agrees that more efforts to educate society on mental health awareness should be conducted.

"It should be encouraged and there is a need to educate society that it is okay to get help and it is a normal process, as anyone is susceptible to having mental health issues," she said.

Neither deadly nor permanent

Dr Geshina said mental distress is not necessarily chronic, as it can be temporary, mild, episodic, or long-term; and not all spheres of life are equally affected.

Thus more focus should be given to the provision of timely services, evidence-based effective treatments, victim support networking and groups, social integration and acceptance into the workforce.

"Every person experiencing mental health challenges is different. With adequate treatment, people with mental health concerns can have fulfilling lives and contribute towards nation-building," she said.

Mobilising support

While laudable, current efforts are not enough to mobilise support for mental health issues in the country.

"There are not enough experts, stemming from not enough people taking an interest to pursue clinical psychology or psychiatry as a career. One needs perseverance and commitment of at least eight years to be qualified.

"The World Health Organisation predicts sharp increases in the number of people in need of mental health services within the next decade. Unfortunately, the ratio between expert and patient continues to widen," said Dr Geshina.

However, Dr Geshina said many science students are also deterred from committing to the field when they find out that a psychologist's income does not correlate to the sheer volume of work and dedication needed.

Dr Suzana added that there is a need to increase the awareness of the complexities and ailments of the human brain to all, starting from preschoolers to senior citizens.

"Mental illness may be inherited or develop over time due to stresses in life (or trauma), and being able to identify symptoms early helps the person in need," said Dr Geshina.

Getting treated

The WHO set this year's theme as 'Mental Health Care for All: Let's Make it A Reality'. Its message is clear: getting treatment is a difficult process for many patients.

Dr Geshina said it is not a matter of not having access to psychologists but a matter of not having enough affordable access.

"Appointments need to be made months in advance because of the lack of professionals. Bear in mind each session is between 30 to 50 minutes.

"How many clients can a professional reasonably see in a day? Never mind the essential

administrative part of each session. If one government hospital has only two mental health professionals, you can calculate the queue," she said.

Parting advice

According to Dr Suzana, the key to having good mental health lies in oneself.

"Mental health is an important matter and should be given attention by all individuals from all walks of life and ages.

"It starts from psychological management like stress management. Effective stress management can curb mental problems from worsening to the level of excessive anxiety that makes a person prone to depression. One of the best ways to care for your mental health is to self care.

Dr Geshina advised people to never be afraid of mental health issues in order to help those suffering from it.

"Don't be afraid of it, don't be judgmental, replace myths with truths. Get educated about the diverse range of concerns related to mental health. Get self-empowered to monitor yourself and those under your care so you can seek help as needed."





Behold, the country's smartest parking app

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

INTRODUCED in July 2018, the Smart Selangor Parking (SSP) app has become one of the most successful mobile applications to come out from the Smart Selangor Delivery Unit stable, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI. In this latest series on digitalisation, *Selangor Journal* speaks with SSDU managing director Dr Fahmi Ngah to find out what makes SSP a truly smart app.

He said the idea began when Selangor wanted data on how many parking spaces are needed in the cities and towns in the state, as part of its planning for the future.

"We discovered we cannot get that data from the local authorities, as most have given out the rights to their parking space to the concessionaires who do not collect the data or have a proper method to compile it," he said.

He said this lack of data made it difficult for the state to know the parking demands and planning for future land allocation for parking areas.

"Selangor's population is around 6.4 million. If one-third of that figure are working people, there are 2.1 million people who own a car or two and maybe a motorcycle.

"So we need to get data on their parking to find out how much land should be allocated for parking areas."

Big data

Since it was introduced, SSP has received tremendous support and achieved 1.5 million users.

"That number gave us a lot of useful data that the state can use for planning. For instance, we now know that a certain local authority in the Klang Valley has

more parking demand than it has parking bays to offer. This same local council has issued one of the highest numbers of parking summonses in Selangor," he said.

Dr Fahmi said local councils know now which of their areas have the highest numbers of parking users. This type of information is useful for town or city planners to create more parking areas.

He said if Selangor had never embarked on digitalisation and does not rely on private companies, it would never be able to get the valuable big data on parking.

Also, the app's paperless feature has made it so environmentally friendly that state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said SSP has helped to save 634,994 kilogrammes of paper which otherwise would have been used for printing parking coupons.

Challenges

Similar to how Covid-19 had brought the country to a near-halt, the developer of the SSP app is facing a stumbling block in its quest to move forward.

"The SSP app was on the run to become the most popular government-created app in the country," said Dr Fahmi, but added that they face challenges in getting the app to be accepted by parking concessionaires.

"There are only two or three local authorities that operate their own parking, most give out concessions for it.

"But fortunately we managed to get most of the concessionaires to agree to join our parking model and hopefully next year we will get more."

Like no other

Ng has announced that the SSP cashless payment method will replace the use of parking coupons on Dec 31, 2021.

Thus, starting from Jan 1 next year, payment for parking at all 10 local councils needs to be made via the app.

But visitors and non-residents of Selangor can still pay for their parking through e-parking agents who provide parking credit services to ensure that the public, in general, will have an alternative method to pay.

"The measure is mainly to ensure that small traders will continue to have the opportunity to generate some income by selling parking credits to the public. These agents will help visitors pay for parking using their own mobile phones," said Ng.

Dr Fahmi hopes that starting next year more data can be collected with more people downloading the app and becoming its users.

"People need to realise that SSP is not a normal parking app. Using this state-developed app will help the Selangor government achieve its target of becoming a Smart State in Asean by 2025.

"It is a truly smart app as we gather the big data from it and use it to provide a better service to the people, the road users. In a sense it is not just a parking app like the others out there, it is a 'parking planning app'," he said.

SSP also features the option to pay for parking compounds via scan-and-pay, for off-street parking at private parking lots as well as to transfer credit to other SSP users.



The traditional method of paying for a parking space in the towns and cities of Malaysia, or in most places around the world, either requires the use of coins at a parking meter or coupons, both of which are no longer convenient.

Alternatively, drivers can choose to park at parking lots or bays operated by concessionaires who sign deals with local authorities (PBT) to lease a plot of land for the purpose.

Why does a state want to come out with a parking app?

Dr Fahmi said SSDU was tasked to make Selangor the smart state in the region by 2025, per the blueprint that was set in 2016. It focuses on four domains — Smart Government, Smart Economy, Smart Community and Smart Digital Infrastructure.

A promise to being green

Every successful city in the world has experienced the tug between urbanisation and environmental conservation. Few governments get it right and none will tell you it is easy.

At a time where Selangor is establishing itself as one of Asia's leading smart states, it has made the brave move to commit itself to being green.

For a state that is at the crux of urbanisation, protecting Mother Nature requires more than vision and rhetoric. It demands for legislation to be in place, and a good dose of political will.

The '30 per cent' rule

Under Section 11 of the Selangor National Forestry Act (Adoption) (Amendment) Enactment 1985, the state can degazette permanent forest reserves should an area be needed for economic development. However, Section 12 of the same Act dictates that any degazetted land must always be replaced with almost similar or better areas in terms of size and ecology.

This is not an easy requirement to meet.

Hee Loy Sian, the state exco for the environment and indigenous affairs, confirmed this in an interview recently. "The law ensures that there will always be at least 30 per cent of forest land that is protected. Any proposals to degazette a forest reserve will need to go through a thorough review process by the Public Investigation Committee in accordance with the Public Inquiry (Selangor) Rules 2014," he said.

This sentiment is echoed by Selangor Forestry Department director Datuk Ahmad Fadzil Abdul Majid.

"It takes a long time to degazette a piece of forest land. Many conditions are imposed, including the need to get proper feedback and objections from the public and from experts in the field. For the new owners of the land, the wait can take years."

On Aug 23, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj said the Selangor government's decision to keep at least 30 per cent of forest land as reserves is the right move. His Royal Highness also pointed out that in actual fact, the state has a total of 250,000 hectares or 31.47 per cent of land that is gazetted.

"The decision by the state government to keep the size of forest reserves at no less than 30 per cent is timely as we are moving towards the green agenda approach," Sultan Sharafuddin said during his royal address at the opening of the 14th Selangor



State Legislative Assembly.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari intends to go the extra mile. In February, he announced that his administration aims to increase the total area of forest reserves in the state to 32 per cent by 2025.

Hurtful accusations

As a state that continues to drive its economy forward, Selangor realises that it alone cannot address all the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation, and relies on its citizens, the private sector, and non-government organisations (NGOs) to report matters of concern.

However, this makes it an easy target for overzealous environmentalists.

Not every accusation hurled at the government has been done in fairness. In an age where 'reports' can be posted on social

media by just about anyone without prior investigations taking place, the state has often had to fight fires while dodging inaccuracies.

On Sept 23, a housing development project near the Bukit Cherakah Forest Reserve

and Shah Alam Community Forest came under the scrutiny of several NGOs and members of the public. Claims were made online that the project was being developed on reserve land, and that the state had allowed it.

Upon investigating the matter, Hee told reporters: "Based on checks, it was found that the area for the development project is located outside the permanent forest reserve. The land was degazetted by the previous state government in 2006 through PW1443, for the purpose of ownership. Therefore, we no longer have jurisdiction over it."

Then, on Sept 24, a news report published by Bernama surfaced, alleging that Sungai Batang Kali was being polluted by a red tilapia fish rearing farm located in the downstream portion of the river, and that its waters were now murky and smelt strongly of the effluents discharged from the farm.

Hee was quick to respond, saying that an investigation by The Selangor Water

Management Authority (Luas) found that the farm is registered with the Department of Fisheries and that it has been operating for 10 years without flouting any laws.

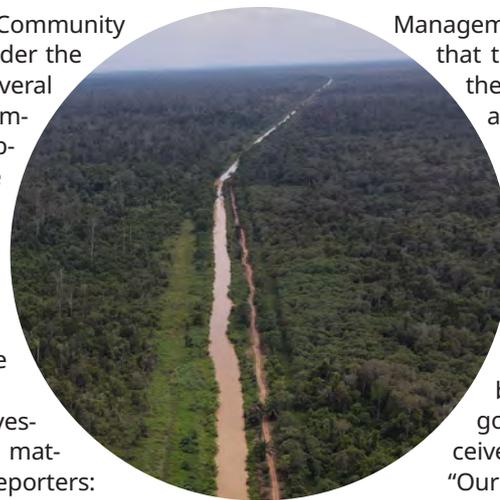
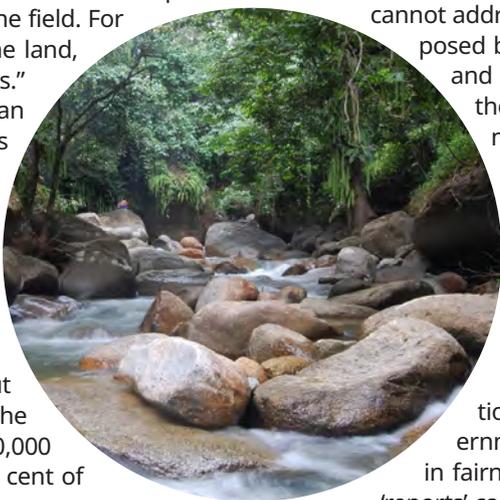
He also said that water quality sampling and license compliance monitoring are carried out by Luas on a regular basis, and had the allegations been true, the Selangor government would have received a complaint by now.

"Our government is serious in addressing every pollution issue and immediate measures will be taken to ensure our water resources are protected," he promised.

A long-term commitment

The Selangor government takes public criticism as part and parcel of its job in managing the country's most populous and industrial state. The state is in a phase of unprecedented urbanisation and the stakes are high. Yet it maintains a deep commitment to its long-term environmental goals.

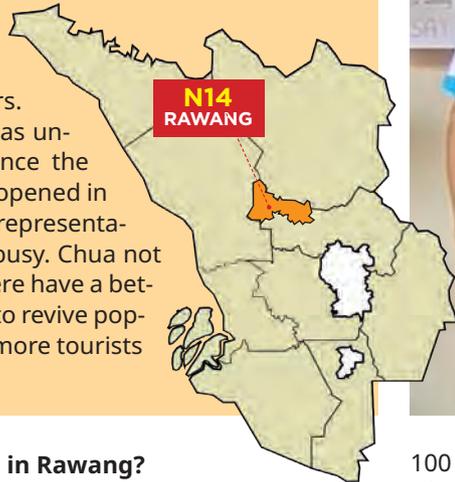
As the saying goes, it takes a village to save a forest. It also takes a dedicated government to see such an effort through.



Looking back and moving forward

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

Rawang is a town rich in history. Its founding can be traced back to the early 19th century, when it was opened up in 1825 for tin mining. It was also here in 1894 that the first electric generator was installed by the British to support the mining industry, making it the first place in the whole country to have electric street lights. Today, Rawang is home to over 200,000 people, 50,000 of whom are voters. The subdistrict under Gombak has undergone tremendous growth since the PLUS North-South Highway was opened in the mid 1990s, keeping its state representative, 31-year-old Chua Wei Kiat, busy. Chua not only wants to help the people there have a better quality of life, but also hopes to revive popular spots in town to encourage more tourists to visit.



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

Chua Wei Kiat (CWK): As acknowledged by many people, Rawang has become one of the preferred locations in the Klang Valley for people to settle in, given its easy access to Kuala Lumpur and for people coming from the northern states. Due to this, one of the main industries in Rawang is property development. Undeniably, many development projects have been mushrooming in the area, offering various housing and commercial units. Apart from that, we are strong in the food industry, the metalworks industry, and boast many small and medium sized enterprises as well.

SJ: What is the main attraction

in Rawang?

CWK: There are three main attractions in Rawang — Rawang Old Town, the Rawang Bypass and Batu Arang Heritage Town. Rawang Old Town was founded in 1825 and was the first place in the country to be powered by electricity. It is a place with many heritage temples and historical buildings. Many people also visit Rawang Old Town for its traditional food, which is delicious.

As for the Rawang Bypass, the 10-km highway was opened to traffic in 2017 and features an elevated viaduct with a 58.2-metre pillar that is the tallest of its kind in Malaysia. The highway is surrounded by the lush greenery of mountain forest, making it popular among hikers.

Meanwhile, Batu Arang Heritage Town has a history of over

100 years old, hence its name. Historical relics such as heritage tunnels and buildings can still be seen there. The place is also a hotspot for visiting cyclists.

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

CWK: Due to the growing population and rapid development, many concerns have been raised by the constituents but I'll just concentrate on two here — infrastructure and land title issues. Rawang folks are facing massive traffic congestion and as the state representative, I have voiced the need to upgrade or widen the roads for smoother traffic flow to the state and federal governments.

That aside, there are several 'sick projects' started by the Pub-

lic Works Department that were not completed due to underperforming contractors. To resolve this, I have filed complaints regarding the contractors' performance to the related department agencies. As a result, many have been terminated and replaced.

As for the land title issues, they are backlog cases from the previous Barisan Nasional administration. There are currently hundreds of land titles waiting to be approved in Sungai Terentang, Batu Arang. Some titles have been issued, like for Great Year Capital Industrial Park, while others are still in progress.

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

CWK: In my almost four-year stint as the state representative

of Rawang, among my biggest achievements include solving the flood problem by upgrading the flood retention pond and widening some of the roads and the drainage system. I've also been committed to promoting Rawang and Batu Arang as tourism sites. My projects have helped to create new opportunities for the people in this historical township and boost the economy here. I have also worked to get the Smart Selangor free bus service here for better transport coverage for the people.

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

CWK: I always prefer to go to the ground and work closely with the community as this method has helped me to better understand the people's problems and concerns. I also work closely with non-governmental organisations and volunteers as I know that my involvement with them will open up more opportunities for them to help.

As the Rawang representative, I am the people's medium, the people's voice, to channel problems to the government and to the related agencies. This is why I must stay proactive on issues. By doing so, many problems can be solved or at least we can start to see progress. I am also careful to channel my problems to the right people or department so that they can be attended to more efficiently.



New challenges to pep up Xtiv Virtual

SHAH ALAM - The state government will introduce several online games in the 2021 Selangor Xtiv Virtual 2021 tournament.

State executive councillor for sports Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the games that will be introduced this month are Jump Rope, Freestyle Football and Bicycle Ride.

"The existing challenges have been well received but we want to introduce new games in order to increase people's participation.

"As of Sept 7, we have received a total of 218,887 entries

for the seven games we have and this is close to 50 per cent of our target of 450,000 participants," he told *SelangorKini*.

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

It features PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, Mobile Legends Bang Bang, Call of Duty Mobile, Pro Evolution Soccer 2021, FIFA Pro Club and the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Ride, among others.

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



Sports leaders play a vital role: Raja Muda

By **SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL**

SHAH ALAM - The Raja Muda of Selangor has urged sports leaders to play their roles well to ensure the success of all types of sports.

Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah said the role of a leader is important to discover new talents who can make the country proud.

"During the process of finding a champion, we have to be aware of the importance of a grassroots leader, and then only the boss of an organisation or company," he said during a dialogue session titled 'Selangor Youths Have A SAY: The National Sports Vision Town-hall' recently.

Selangor Youth Community (SAY) organised the dialogue session in conjunction with a virtual tour of the National Sports Vision Canvas 2030 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in collaboration with the VSN2030 Secretariat, the Selangor Football Club and the Selangor Football



Association.

Tengku Amir Shah who is also the SAY founder said the development of sports is facing three main challenges, namely the community's access to good facilities, political interference and the ability to hold sustainable programmes.

"Apart from a lack of facilities, the divide between professional athletes and members of the

community also becomes a challenge in sports development.

"Political interference also should be rejected as it is not needed in sports. Instead, we should emphasise on the athletes and on administrative management.

"As for the third challenge, the current programme we have did not receive the full support of corporate agencies," he said.

E-sports to help revive tourism sector

SHAH ALAM - Tourism Selangor has partnered with ESports Selangor Association (ESport Selangor) to incorporate e-sports into tourism activities as an addition to the state's various tourism segmentations.

Both parties signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) virtually on Aug 30. Tourism Selangor was represented by its general manager Azrul Shah Mohamad and Esport Selangor by its president Abdul Razak Mohd Yusof.

Azrul Shah said the MoU marked another milestone for Tourism Selangor in penetrating the niche tourism segmentation which has garnered a huge fan base.

"Selangor has always been advanced in many aspects, and this collaboration is a catalyst towards establishing Selangor as the 'first state of e-sports' in the country.

"Since the demand from the e-sport community has been steadily increasing over the years, Tourism Selangor is optimistic about the vast potential of e-sports to boost the tourism sec-



Abdul Razak and Azrul Shah hold up their signed copies of the MoU that marks a milestone for Tourism Selangor in penetrating the e-sports market

tor in the state," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Abdul Razak said the MoU also marks the association's first official collaboration to incorporate e-sports into tourism.

"With the establishment of the ES-

ports Selangor National Arena in Shah Alam as Southeast Asia's biggest e-sports hub, it will contribute to the tourism industry in Selangor in terms of future national and international tournaments and events," he said.

Nurturing talent for online games

SHAH ALAM - The state government will kick-start an e-sports training programme to grow more talent to compete in Sukan Malaysia (Sukma) and in the international arena.

State exco for youth development Mohd Khairuddin Othman said plans are underway for selected players to start training with a few experienced trainers in October.

"The training involves building up the players' academic knowledge, their individual talents and also their physical abilities. We will work with trainers from UiTM (Universiti Teknologi Mara), APU (Asia Pacific University) and Kolej Komuniti," he said when contacted by *Selangorkini*.

On Aug 24, Mohd Khairuddin said Selangor wants to promote more activities on social media and e-sports, being the latest sporting trend, is one way of doing it.

"Among the e-sports programmes that we have planned this year are the Fifa Piala Budak Kampung (Fifa Village Champ), the Selangor Xtiv Virtual e-Sports dan the Selangor Xtiv Virtual Run.

"Other activities are the Selangor Virtual Martial Arts, the Pro Club Super League, the Selangor Xtiv Video Challenge and the Selangor FIFA Pro Club League 2020," he said.

PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION

Parents/Guardians

Has your child received an appointment date?

Ensure that your child follows the guide below:

Before vaccination

- > Get enough rest and sleep
- > Take a meal
- > Be in good health
- > If unwell, seek medical advice from a doctor

During vaccination

- > Wear proper and loose-fitting clothes
- > Wear a face mask
- > Bring MyKad or identification documents

After vaccination

- > Tell someone if feeling unwell or uncomfortable
- > Continue to follow existing standard operating procedures
- > Do not exercise or do strenuous activities within a week of vaccination

