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SELANGOR JOURNAL

Roadmap to resilience

Selangor has delivered a solid plan for 2022 after an unprecedented year that saw the pandemic pummel almost every aspect of the economy. Its 2022 Selangor Budget, was tabled on Nov 26 and takes bold steps to revive businesses, improve on healthcare

and introduce new technologies that will attest to the state's determination to survive and thrive, post Covid-19. Themed 'Kita Selangor: Staying Resilient, Uplifting Lives', it outlines five core strategies to map the road ahead.

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Economic revival tops agenda

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor administration has allocated a substantial RM416.15 million in its 2022 budget to boost the state economy that has been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Nov 26, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state's plans for economic revival come under the first of five core strategies outlined in the budget, which focuses on spurring a high-impact economy and building a better delivery system.

He said the prolonged closure of many economic sectors during the series of movement control orders has stunted the state's economic development.

"Therefore, the state government had formulated several initiatives to revive and

strengthen the economy post-Covid-19 by focusing on high-impact programmes that would have a positive effect on the state's economic sectors," Amirudin told the Selangor State Legislative Assembly.

One such programme is 'Ease of Doing Business', an initiative started last year that will ensure that land development approvals take a shorter time. Amirudin said the process that usually takes between 270 days and one year will be reduced by almost half.

The State Land and Mines Office (PTGS) will also strengthen the implementation of Smartbox PTGS, Amirudin said. The state will give an incentive of a 100 per cent waiver on the RM500 development charges for the construction of affordable homes. The waiver will be from Jan 1, 2022, until Dec 31, 2023.



Bigger share for trade, air shows

SHAH ALAM - The state government has allocated RM15 million to Invest Selangor Berhad to organise the Selangor International Business Summit 2022 (SIBS 2022).

The SIBS 2021, which was held from Nov 18 to 21, was given a RM11 million allocation.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the summit, in its seventh edition next year, will expand its Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention (SDEC) component to include the Asean Smart City Conference.

He added that since its inception in 2015, SIBS has become a renowned brand among businesses and industry players in the region, with cumulative transactions of up to RM642.69 million.

Aside from the regional summit, the next

edition of the Selangor Aviation Show, SAS 2022, has also received an expanded budget.

Amirudin said a total of RM5 million has been dedicated to organising the air show. The maiden event, held from Nov 25 to 27, had spent RM2 million from the previous state budget.

The state administration will also build up its aerospace ecosystem to spur the industry by establishing several aviation centres.

Plans are underway to set up Selangor Aviation and Technology Innovation Sdn Bhd (Selati), the Selati_Universiti Selangor (Unisel) Centre of Excellence, the Selati-Unisel School of Aviation and the Selangor Skills Framework and Career Pathway for the aerospace industry.

Strategy 1: To spur high-impact economy, build better delivery system



SELANGOR INDUSTRIAL BROADBAND (JALIN)

RM6 million in funds will be channelled to Smartsel, the state's telecommunication infrastructure provider and existing telecommunication companies to provide broadband to high-tech industrial areas

RM5 million will be used to develop a workers' quarters complex by Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS), which will house 60,000 workers.

The complex will be a self-contained community equipped with laundrettes, eateries and sundry shops



WORKERS' QUARTERS COMPLEX



SELANGOR STATE RAIL INDUSTRY COUNCIL

A Selangor State Rail Industry Council will be set up to strengthen the rail industry, bringing together 50 companies and a 8,000-strong workforce

The Selangor International Aero Park in Sepang will be developed to attract companies from the aerospace sector



SELANGOR INTERNATIONAL AERO PARK



SABAK BERNAM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A development project is planned for Sabak Bernam that will include a 450-acre seafood and agro-food centre. It involves investments of around RM500 million from the government and the private sector. There will also be a chicken processing facility in Sekindi with an allocation of RM15 million; a palm oil factory in Jelutong Jati with an allocation of RM50 million; and a 36-acre logistics and trade centre in Air Manis with an investment value of RM500 million

The sustainable development of Sungai Klang will see 2,000 new units of affordable homes and 1,400 non-fixed priced homes with an estimated gross development value (GDV) of RM1 billion



SUNGAI KLANG SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



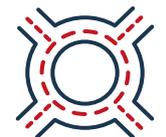
TOURISM INDUSTRY

RM114.6 million will be used to boost the tourism industry from 2021 to 2025



SELANGOR DIGITAL SCHOOL (SDS)

The setting up of the Selangor Digital School (SDS) to offer digital and technology courses to fulfil market needs



ROAD PROJECTS

RM138.13 million will go to the Selangor Public Works Department for road projects to close the state's development divide:

- RM44 million for building new roads in Gombak, Sepang and Kuala Langat

- RM8.23 million to construct bridges and overpasses, RM65.4 million to improve existing roads, and RM2 million to gazette roads in the state in stages

- RM4.98 million for various other building projects in the state



RM120 million in loans to be given to entrepreneurs under Hijrah Selangor

Selangor unveils RM2.343b comprehensive budget

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has announced a RM2.343 billion budget for the year 2022 (#Selangor2022), in a detailed plan to mitigate the economic impact of Covid-19 and build a society that has easy access to health-care and technological advancements.

The allocation will be disbursed to the people through five core strategies.

The strategies are to spur a high-impact economy and build a better delivery system; to grow a caring society and ensure the people's wellbeing; to strengthen Selangor's public health-care system; to create a green environment and practise sustainable development; and to optimise smart technology and digitalisation.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said 52 per cent of the budget or RM1.22 billion has been allocated for operating expenditure, while

RM1.123 billion or 48 per cent of the total amount is set for development expenditure.

Of the total amount allocated to operating expenditure, RM446.73 million will be prioritised for emoluments; RM530.81 million for services and supplies; RM11.79 million for asset purchases; RM191.14 million for grants and fixed payments; and RM39.53 million for miscellaneous expenses.

The budget also sees an estimated deficit of RM222.72 million, which is RM99.72 million more than the RM123 million deficit in last year's budget.

"The deficit this year is higher compared to the year 2021 because part of the allocation is provided for substantive development to strengthen the economic drive post-Covid-19 to build a test-resistant state in various areas," he said when tabling the budget, themed 'Kita Selangor: Staying Resilient, Uplifting Lives', at the Selangor Legislative

Assembly on Nov 26.

Amirudin said for 2022, the projected revenue is RM2.05 billion comprising land revenue at RM906.33 million or 44.21 per cent, property tax at RM549.3 million (26.79 per cent) and allocation from the Federal government at RM189.81 million (9.26 per cent).

Target met

Amirudin said Selangor's revenue for the year has amounted to RM2.1 billion (as of Nov 26) or 95.47 per cent of the estimated RM2.2 billion for 2021.

The Selangor Menteri Besar said based on the estimation, tax revenue recorded a collection of RM605.57 million (90.57 per cent), non-tax revenue RM1.276 billion (97.34 per cent) while non-revenue receipts totalled RM218.84 million (99.23 per cent).

As for the state's financial position, Amirudin said that operational expen-

diture for the state has reached almost 82 per cent of spending.

"The financial positioning of the Selangor government as of Nov 23 is as follows: operational expenditure has reached 81.91 per cent of spending or equivalent to RM999.32 million, whereas infrastructure development spending has reached 59.49 per cent or RM656.23 million."

According to Amirudin, the state's reserve via the state government's Consolidated Fund, as of Nov 23, recorded an amount of RM3.117 billion, which comprised of RM938.36 million in the Consolidated Revenue Account and Consolidated Trust Account, totalling RM2.179 billion.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said the total state revenue in 2020 was at RM2.257 billion, with recorded tax revenue of RM619.31 million, RM1,360.49 million for non-tax revenue and RM277.85 million for non-revenue.

RM316m keeps digital dream alive

SHAH ALAM - The drive to realise the Smart Selangor agenda and digitalisation plan continues with RM316 million allocated for that purpose under the 2022 Selangor Budget's fifth strategy - to optimise smart technology and digitalisation - said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said this is necessary to achieve Selangor's vision to become a superior Smart State by 2025.

"The Smart Selangor agenda and the digitalisation plan initiated early on by the state government resulted in the state's ability to react quickly and efficiently to the recent challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are now at the forefront, by launching digital-based initiatives such as SELangkah, Plats, and e-bazaars, that provide direct benefits to the people," Amirudin said while tabling the budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 26.

He said the state's e-bazaar initiatives had helped approximately 211,928 e-commerce entrepreneurs achieve RM100.5 million in sales and generate RM1.57 billion in a ripple effect for the state economy.

Meanwhile, according to the Smart Selangor Delivery Unit's (SSDU) latest report, 60 per cent of the state's digital initiatives have been carried out.

"We can be proud that the integrated control centre or Smart Selangor C5i Center has been completed and is fully operational at the Dewan Jubli Perak.

"The Smart Selangor Operation Centre is also the heart that connects the data from the Disaster Management Unit, the Royal Malaysia Police, the Irrigation and Drainage Department, the Environment Department, local authorities and other agencies," he said.

Strategy 5: To optimise smart technology, digitalisation



The Selangor e-wallet



A special purpose vehicle (SPV) — Syarikat Selangor E-Wallet Sdn Bhd — has been set up to introduce an app linking all the state's financial and social initiatives, as well as services. The e-wallet will be launched in early 2022

The Go Selangor app



The state government will focus on its plan to digitalise the tourism industry with the Go Selangor application, which will become the official tourism app for the state

Selangor Advance



SELANGOR ADVANCE

A RM300 million loan has been channelled into the programme, including allocations from the state government, subsidiaries, and local councils to help small- and medium-enterprises (SMEs) restore their cash flow and ensure the sustainability of the economy



Rakan Digital
Selangor



PLATFORM SELANGOR

Platform Selangor and Digital Partner

RM6 million has been allocated under Permodalan Negeri Selangor Berhad to support a digital directory for entrepreneurs to sell their goods

Rancangan Selangor Satu (RS-1)

A five-year development plan (2022 to 2026) to focus on efforts to expedite post-pandemic economic recovery. The plan will be launched in the first quarter of next year

Selangor Cybersecurity Unit

RM1 million will be allocated to beef up cybersecurity for the state government



Selangor State Data Exchange (SELGDX)

RM2 million will be used to set up an integrated data-sharing platform by 2023



Data Raya Selangor

Selangor will pump RM2 million into efforts to collect and manage big data



Smart CCTV

RM5 million will be used to install 200 CCTV cameras around the state under the Smart Selangor initiative

Nearly 10,000 lives lost to virus



By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

SHAH ALAM - Covid-19 has taken the lives of 9,617 people in Selangor since the pandemic began.

State executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said in 2020, 66 deaths were recorded while this year saw 9,551 deaths up until November.

She was responding to a query from Kuala Kubu Bharu assemblyman Lee Kee Hiong that was read out by Banting assemblyman Lau Weng San during the State Legislative Assembly sitting here on Dec 1.

"Out of the 9,551 deaths recorded until November 2021, 7,833 were Malaysian citizens consisting of 4,696 Malays, 1,800 Chinese, 1,285 Indians and 52 of other races. So, the highest number of deaths from Covid-19 this year come from the Malays, followed by the Chinese and the Indians.

"The remaining 1,718 deaths were

non-Malaysian citizens," Dr Siti Mariah said.

She also gave numbers on the morbidity rate of those who had been vaccinated with two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, based on records from the Selangor State Health Department in 2021.

"From the time vaccination began in June, until Sept 30, approximately 775 out of the 8,515 deaths (or 9.1 per cent) were people who had been fully vaccinated," Dr Siti Mariah said.

She also gave the number of deaths involving fully-vaccinated individuals with comorbidities.

"As of Nov 24 this year, 1,234 fully-vaccinated individuals have died from Covid-19, of which 759 or 62 per cent had comorbidities, while 475 or 38 per cent were healthy.

"Out of the 759 deaths involving fully-vaccinated individuals who were comorbid, 741 or 98 per cent were senior citizens," Dr Siti Mariah said.



Civil servants can be fired if not vaxxed: Exco

SHAH ALAM - More than 4.7 million of the 5.1 million residents in Selangor aged 12 and above have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, said state executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud.

She said this includes 4.3 million doses for those aged 18 and above, while 495,447 doses have been administered to those aged 12 to 17.

The vaccination process for adolescents is still underway and involves the State Education Department, the District Education Departments, and NGOs.

"The estimated number of unvaccinated individuals stand at 348,890, of which 275,237 are aged 18 and above, while the remaining 73,653 are aged 12 to 17," Dr Siti Mariah said on Nov 29.

She was responding to a query by Bukit Lanjan assemblyman Elizabeth Wong in the Selangor State

Legislative Assembly on Nov 29, on the number of Selangor residents aged 12 and above who remain unvaccinated.

Dr Siti Mariah added that starting Nov 1, all department heads in the civil service can instruct their subordinates to get vaccinated and to present their Covid-19 Digital Vaccination Certificate as proof.

"Any civil servant who fails to obey their department head's instruction can face disciplinary action, including termination of service. If the official in question cannot complete their dosage on health grounds, the department head can instruct them to undergo a health examination.

"Based on the Human Resources Information Management System 2.0, the number of civil servants in Selangor stands at 22,314, of which 132 individuals or 0.59 per cent have yet to be vaccinated," she said.



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Future is bright for electric vehicles

SHAH ALAM - Two local authorities in Selangor are identifying suitable locations to install electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

Referring to the Shah Alam City Council and the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council, state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said the selection of suitable places is being done together with the EV private industry.

"For the time being, we have received several recommendations, but we welcome more suggestions so that Selangor can become the pioneer for EV station projects in Malaysia," he said when met outside the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 30.

Ng said the state government is aiming to

install 1,000 chargers at parking lots owned by local authorities by next year, and 10,000 by 2025.

He added that the initiative must be carried out immediately to ensure Selangor continues to pave the way in reducing carbon pollution.

"EV stations are becoming more popular abroad. Not just for cars but for other vehicles including vans, buses, trucks, and garbage trucks," Ng said.

During the tabling of the 2022 Selangor Budget on Nov 26, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced the project to install EV charging stations in the state, with an investment value of RM10 million.

More investments this year: MB

By **SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor's investment performance this year remains encouraging, ranking higher than 2020 despite the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said from January to June last year, the state government recorded an investment value of RM3.39 billion from both domestic and foreign investment.

"However in 2021, even with six or seven months of the movement control order, we received RM4.64 billion in investments during the same time period, of which RM4.06 was domestic investment, while RM576 million was from foreign investment.

"Foreign investment in 2020 and this year show a major difference, caused by the impact of closed borders which had an immediate effect on investment performance. Additionally, 122 projects have been maintained for 2020 and

this year," said Amirudin.

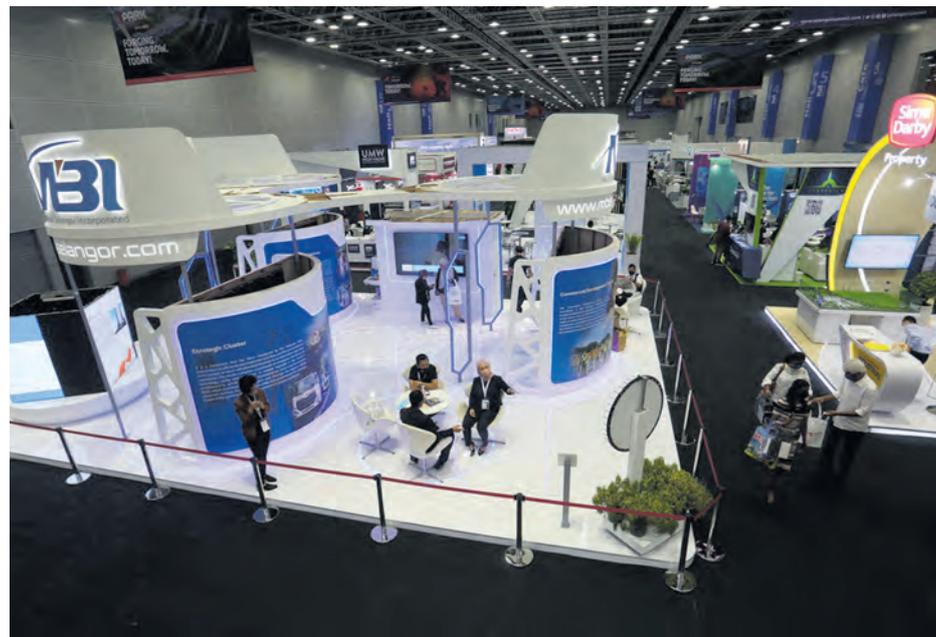
He added that job opportunities stood at 5,001 last year while this year they stand at 9,179.

Amirudin was responding to Kota Anggerik assemblyman Mohd Najwan Halimi's query on the impact of Covid-19 on the state's investment performance, during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 29.

He also answered an additional question by Sijangkang assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Yunus Hairi concerning the higher premium in Selangor compared to other states. Amirudin said the state government is constantly expediting and updating the matter rather than lowering the premium, as it disturbs the cycle and the market's expansion.

Amirudin added that the higher premium should be an accepted fact, since the value of land not just in Selangor but the whole Klang Valley is higher compared to other states and areas.

"Several companies that chose



states in the north and east coast due to cheaper costs were eventually forced to fork out more due to the transportation costs.

"What should be the focus of the state government is not the value of the premium, but the value of the performance and delivery," he said.

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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH ALHAJ
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ
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AND ALL ITS DEPENDENCIES

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In Conjunction With His Royal Highness's 76th Birthday
On 11th December 2021

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INVEST
SELANGOR
THE GOLDEN STATE OF MALAYSIA



SIBS 2021: Selangor welcomes the world

By **ALANG BENDAHARA** and
NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

THE Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) has become bigger and better than its previous instalments despite the hiccups it faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recording over 25,000 visitors over a four-day period since its launch on Nov 18, the regional trade conference received recognition from Malaysia's Book of Records, who names Selangor as the

state that hosted the largest business event this year.

State Investment, Industry and Trade, Small and Medium Industries Committee chairman Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the achievement is an impetus for Selangor to move forward and strengthen its position as the next Asean gateway and to achieve its vision as a global trading hub.

The fifth edition of the state government-backed conference and exhibition brought together brands and industry players from around the world, he said.

"SIBS has grown by leaps and bounds since it was first held in 2015. The international summit is still the best platform for key business players, investors and decision-makers from various industries to connect, collaborate and create limitless opportunities.

"I am happy to report that this year, SIBS presents the widest reach ever. Besides a total live exhibition space of more than 13,000 sqm, and 500 booths and an anticipated physical crowd of 10,000 trade visitors, we are featuring SIBS digitally and are hopeful to cover (the event) as widely as possible," Teng said during his speech delivered at the opening ceremony.

The physical event, held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, featured 472 booths inclusive of local and foreign exhibitors, while the virtual show that ran simultaneously via www.selangor-businesshub.my showcased close to 800 booths. The virtual trade show will run for a period of 12 months.

A total of RM11 million was allocated for the entire hybrid-style event.

On Nov 30, Teng told the Selangor State Legislative Assembly that the annual summit has recorded RM1.13 billion in negotiated transaction value since it first began in 2015.

Throughout the period, SIBS has provided a total of 2,951 booths for small and medium-entrepreneurs and recorded a cumulative 95,451 visitors from Malaysia and abroad.

The stage is set

With 'Selangor the Gateway to Asean' chosen as the theme this year, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari urged foreign investors to take advantage of the state's position as Malaysia's economic powerhouse that is primed for tapping into Asean markets.

He said as a major networking avenue, SIBS 2021 is poised to help these businesses seek out the opportunities available to them.

"It is time for economic recovery and reinvention, not just for Selangor but for all our friends in Asean and the world.

"The chance to connect business to new opportunities is undoubtedly important amidst a highly challenging economic environment today.

"SIBS 2021 will continue its role as one of the Asean region's premier business summits, where local and international industry players can convene to explore the great potential of the Asean market," he said during his speech



at the opening ceremony.

Amirudin said with Selangor's well-established value chains within numerous industries, its structured of-line and online connectivity and the excellent support provided by the state government, the stage is already set for investors to make it their global business hub.

He added that the state offers foreign investors numerous advantages to penetrate the Asean and international markets.

Loyal trading partner

At the 11th Malaysia-China Entrepreneurs Conference (MCEC 2021), Amirudin revealed that China has remained as one of the top investors in Selangor since 2015, with over RM6 billion in investments in the approved manufacturing sector.

Aside from being Malaysia's largest trading partner, China is also essential to the state in foreign direct investments, said the Menteri Besar.

"A large number of businesses and manufacturers are based in Selangor, and there is a huge potential and room for improvement for Selangor-China relations," he said.

Amirudin added that the time has also come for Selangor to accelerate its smart state plan and become the provider of the best infrastructure and operating systems in Southeast Asia.

"The state had planned for Selangor to be the region's first smart state in 2016, and that idea has helped Selangor adapt to the pressing needs of Covid-19 through digitalisation," he said.

Growth in e-commerce

SIBS 2021 is today a multi-event summit featuring the likes of the 7th Selangor International Expo (Food and



The chance to connect business to new opportunities is undoubtedly important amidst a highly challenging economic environment today

Amirudin Shari
Selangor Menteri Besar

Beverage) 2021, the 5th Selangor Asean Business Conference (SABC), the 6th Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention (SDEC), and the Selangor International Expo.

The sixth edition of the Malaysia Top E-Commerce Merchant Awards (Top ECM) 2021 has this year broken its previous record in the number of participants and the gross merchandise value (GMV) it generated.

"Both record-breaking figures demonstrate the strong growth of e-commerce in Malaysia, of between 30 to 40 per cent for the past year," Teng said in his welcome speech on Nov 20.

During the opening ceremony of the SDEC, Teng also highlighted that 181 of 213 merchants had qualified to participate in an e-commerce competition that was the only one of its kind in Malaysia, organised by the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec).

"We are expecting accumulated sales, totalling RM40 million in GMV, during the campaign."

The competition featured four award categories: the Top E-Commerce Merchant Awards, Online 100 & Brands 100 Merchant Awards, the Selangor E-Bazaar Merchant Awards, and the Affin Bank Rising Star Awards.

Last year's competition saw 162 submissions, with 123 shortlisted.

At the same event, Amirudin revealed that approximately 34 per cent of 120 startups have received funding under the Selangor Accelerator Programme (SAP).

He said out of the total, 26 companies that excelled in the Pitch@Selangor series one to four and SAP's Demo Day have had the opportunity to join Sidec in its visits abroad, which included trips to Beijing, Hangzhou, Jakarta, and the Silicon Valley, to pitch to venture capitals and foreign startups in those cities.

The fifth edition of SIBS features the following events:

- **The 7th Selangor International Expo (Food and Beverage) 2021**
Showcases the latest products, technological advancements and updates in the Food & Beverage industry with participation from Indonesia, The Philippines, Vietnam, India, Tajikistan, Taiwan, The Netherlands and Australia.
- **The 5th Selangor Asean Business Conference (SABC)**
Gathers key economic leaders from the region, including government delegations, high-profile industry players, trade associations, business chambers and international investors to discuss the next trends in business and society.
- **The 6th Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention (SDEC)**
Brings together cities, government representatives, start-ups, mid- to large-sized organisations, and associations from countries around the globe with the vision to spark conversations and ideas regarding the digital transformation rapidly taking place around the world.
- **The 2nd Selangor Research and Design and Innovation Expo**
Paves a way for participants to showcase their latest inventions and ideas to investors, manufacturers, and marketers in the Asean region and beyond.
- **The Selangor International Expo (Medic)**
Focuses on Selangor's robust Life Science Core Cluster, which has become a central aspect of daily life.
- **The Selangor Industrial Park Expo (Spark)**
A platform for local and international players, potential investors and stakeholders to seek opportunities and gain more insights into the state's initiatives and its industrial parks and industry ecosystem.
- **The Selangor International Culinary Festival**
A second edition featuring the World Chefs' Endorsed Culinary Competition — SICF2021 Culinary Challenge and Gastronomic Master Class, the Malaysia Chefs' Forum and two new components, Malaysia Chefs' Village and SICF TV.
- **The Malaysian-China Entrepreneurs Conference**
Features highlights on trade and investment, logistics and transportation, comprehensive healthcare and cultural tourism, and entrepreneurship and digital transformation.





A small, bold move forward



Their good response has encouraged us to do better. Next year, we are aiming to gather 10 countries including new participants from Spain, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom and China

Teng Chang Khim
State executive councillor
for trade and investment

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

It is without a doubt that Covid-19 has caused massive disruptions for the aerospace industry the world over. As the pandemic continues, many players are reeling from the impact, and taking time to respond, recover and hopefully, thrive again.

For Selangor, that hope to regrow and expand has never waned.

Despite looming uncertainties, the state government decided that the time was ripe to host an air show and jumpstart the industry.

The Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) 2021 took place from Nov 25 to 27.

The event proved to be a success and recorded 3,875 visitors by its final day of running.

State executive councillor for trade and investment Dato' Teng Chang Khim said Selangor's first aviation show had received encouraging feedback from both local and international exhibitors even though it was considered a small-scale event.



He said in terms of its arrangement, several exhibitors have described the show as already of international standard.

"Their good response has encouraged us to do better. Next year, we are aiming to gather 10 countries including new participants from Spain, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom and China," Teng said after the show's closing ceremony at the Skypark Regional Aviation Centre, Subang, on Nov 27.

The Selangor administration had invested RM2 million in the event, and has announced an increased allocation of RM5 million to the organiser for a second installation next year.

"The state government's support to increase the (SAS) allocation from RM2 million to RM5 million is a boost to the organisers, so of course we will be hosting a bigger event next year," Teng said.

"We will provide more aircraft and booths so that complete information on the aerospace and aviation ecosystem can be conveyed to the public."

Teng added that with hopes of the pandemic recovering in the coming year, the state government has set higher targets as a personal challenge for an even bigger show, and will

keep working closely with the Federal government to develop the industry.

Agreements inked

A total of 12 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) were signed or committed in deals between local and international industry players throughout the event, with the highest value agreement at RM100 million.

Teng said the state government believes that with more participation from international aerospace and aviation industry players, the event can be propelled to a much wider audience.

"We are deeply honoured to be the host and witness history being made here at the show. The industry was hit hard by the pandemic and we knew it would take a while for industry players to get back up to cruising speed amidst all the headwinds.

"In view of the above achievements, we feel that there are still a lot of upsides and positives to explore within the industry.

"With the support from the business and general aviation community especially here at Subang Airport and in greater Selangor, we hope to truly realise the ambition of making Selangor the Asean Business and General Aviation Hub in the coming future," he said.

Coming back stronger

The SAS 2021 may have wrapped up, but the state administration is already planning to host a bolder event in 2022, with the increased allocation already approved.

Teng said the additional RM3 million will go towards planning a larger-scale exhibition and slated it for Sept 8 to 11 next year in Subang.

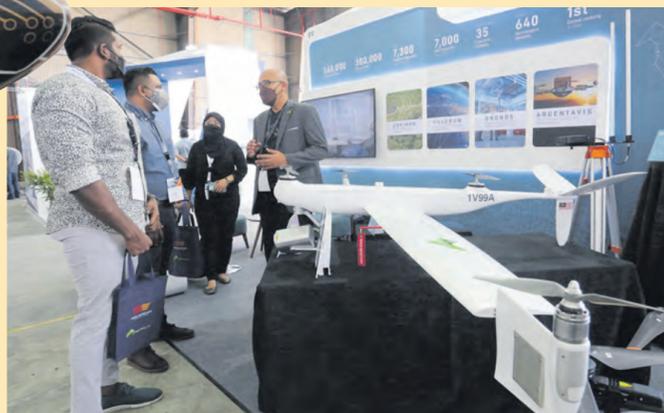
"The aviation show will certainly become a staple event for the state's aerospace industry.

"This is our first aviation show, and we have had many challenges in bringing this event live and in-person, primarily due to pandemic restrictions. However, we are very much encouraged by your support and feedback during the three-day event," said Teng in his closing speech.

Themed 'Selangor, the Asean Business and General Aviation Hub', SAS 2021 was hosted by the Selangor government through Invest Selangor Berhad.

The show received the support of the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) and the Selangor Darul Ehsan Aerospace Industry Coordination Office (S-Daico).

A total of 43 local and international aerospace and aviation companies from Turkey, Brazil and the United States displayed their aircraft, including new-age drones, on the tarmac or at the exhibition booths at the venue.

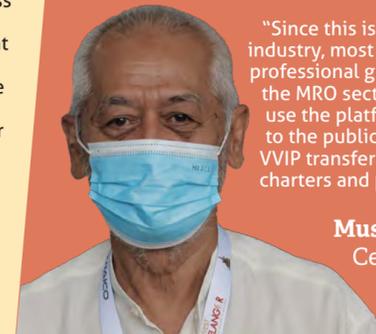


"The aviation show helps the Brazilian multinational aerospace manufacturer broaden its industry scope. We are looking for ways and means to partner with other industry players in the region, thus contributing to the growth of Embraer in Asia Pacific. We are excited to participate in SAS 2021, and aside from coming down to show Embraer aircraft, we also want to engage with the Malaysian people and to hold various discussions with the government for our future plans. As of now, Embraer is based in Singapore, but we also look forward to setting up an office here. With Malaysia being one of the biggest maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) centres, I am very sure that Embraer will participate in the aviation show again."



Augustine Tai
Embraer Services and Support
(Asia Pacific) director

"Since this is an event related to the aviation industry, most of the attendees are the professional groups from either the airlines or the MRO sectors. It gives us the opportunity to use the platform to better promote our services to the public, including tours, corporate and VVIP transfers, private helicopter charters, cargo charters and private jet charters."



Musa Hasan
Cempaka Helicopters
operations flight manager

"We are aiming to expand our business by tapping into a bigger market in the industry. Our portfolio currently consists of government agencies, including the Royal Malaysia Police, the Fire and Rescue Department, and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency. By participating in SAS 2021, we hope to expand our client's portfolio and to promote our services in MRO, technical consultancy, part sales, aviation design and after-sales support.

We hope the aviation show can be a stepping stone for us to be noticed not just by the industry players but also by the public."

Azizol Mokhtar
Galaxy Aerospace Sdn Bhd
administrative
controller





Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, plant saplings during the 'Plant a Tree in the City' Programme in Selangor in 2019.

A step in the green direction

By AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK

The Sultan of Selangor has always advocated for environmental sustainability as a means to ensure the wellbeing of the people.

Due to Selangor's status as the most developed and most populated state, His Royal Highness Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj makes it a point to emphasise the need for the people to have a balanced lifestyle, one that not only takes from but gives back to the environment.

In Selangor, each and every pollution incident will be talked about as they have the potential to impact the lives of millions.

One incident of pollution at a main water treatment plant would disrupt not just the lives of residents in Selangor but that of consumers across the Klang Valley, who get their water supply from Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor).

The Sultan's concern over the issue of water pollution was evident when he gave consent to amend the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) Enactment on Oct 8, last year during the State Legislative Assembly.

The amended law now includes mandatory imprisonment and a maximum penalty of RM1 million for polluters.

The swift action of the Sultan had se-

cured the state's water resources and helped to ensure its long-term ability to supply water to all its customers.

His Royal Highness' efforts did not stop there. He has remained supportive of all the state government's water treatment and preservation projects, including the administration's decision to channel a substantial allocation to restore one of the state's water treatment systems.

From time to time, Sultan Sharafuddin would advise the people to use water prudently as part of the state government's green initiatives.

Long-term goals

Forest conservation has also become a top priority for the Selangor Sultan. His Royal Highness always supports any government or private programmes relating to tree planting.

During the opening ceremony of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Aug 23, the Sultan suggested for the state government to beef up the economy as a preparation to face potential environmental risks such as climate change or natural disasters.

Sultan Sharafuddin suggested that the green agenda should be championed by creating the best and most modern ecosystem to attract green technology investment that is resilient to climate change.

This would also provide new jobs to the people in the state.

His vision and long-term goals prove that he is a leader who moves with the times and one who is committed to science.

With this, Selangor is guaranteed to be able to enjoy the fruits of its progress and simultaneously protect the environment for its future generations.

Forest conservation

The green agenda suggestion from the Selangor ruler is supported by the state government, which prioritises environmental sustainability in each development under its jurisdiction.

This was proven when Selangor became the only state in Malaysia to conduct a public inquiry into plans to degazette a permanent forest reserve.

With a public inquiry taking place, the state government will have to take into account the views of various stakeholders and experts before removing the reserve status of a protected forest.

A thorough investigation would be carried out and a proper legal process would follow, allowing only the best decisions to be made if ever degazetement of a piece of land takes place.

The state government upholds this vital process, even if it means it is exposed to criticism along the way.

This approach has pleased Sultan Sharafuddin. It shows the state government's true commitment under the leadership of Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari to protect the state's natural resources and proves that its green agenda is not just rhetoric.

The state administration had also decided to maintain the size of all its forest reserves at nothing less than 30 per cent of the overall size of the state.

On Nov 11, Amirudin announced that the state's forest reserve now stands at 31.51 per cent or over 250,000 hectares of Selangor's overall landmass, after plans to degazette the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve fell through in September.

Selangor is expected to have another three permanent forest reserves totalling 581.48 hectares soon to protect natural habitats, vital water resources and humidity control.

The selected areas are the Sungai Panjang Forest Reserve in Sabak Bernam; Ampang Pechah in Hulu Selangor and Bukit Broga in Hulu Langat.

This would assist Selangor in achieving its 32 per cent target of forest reserve gazetement by 2025.

Sultan Sharafuddin's determination to protect the state's natural resources and habitats is a torch that will hopefully be passed on to future generations for the betterment of Selangor.

The Sultan's unwavering fight

By AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK

ISSUES relating to Covid-19 have always been a great concern to the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj. His Royal Highness often finds a need to remind the Selangor people to not let their guard down and keep the virus in check.

Not many of us know that the Sultan keeps a tab on the number of Covid-19 cases in Selangor every day. According to Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, the fate of those who have contracted the virus has been foremost on the ruler's mind ever since the pandemic began early last year.

It saddens His Royal Highness whenever his subjects lose a precious family member. He grieves whenever a child is orphaned by the virus. He constantly highlights the sacrifice and dedication shown by the state's frontline workers. And he is also attentive to the enormous economic and social challenges faced by the people.

It is therefore not a surprise that Sultan Sharafuddin's compassionate nature has touched the hearts of many. He has never once wavered in his role as the ruler of Selangor, and in providing his ideas to help the state administration better tackle Covid-19. The majority of his decrees this year were focused on efforts to combat the virus scourge.

Pro vaccines

The Sultan's commitment in managing the virus has led him to repeatedly highlight to the people the importance of getting inoculated.

He stressed that the efforts of both the state and Federal governments to introduce the Selangor Vaccination Programme (Selvax) and the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) align with the religious demand of protecting the whole society.

His Royal Highness' concern over the matter was highlighted when he urged the Special Committee On Covid-19 Vaccine Supply (JKJAV) to expedite the vaccination process and increase the number of doses allocated to Selangor citizens.

His decree was issued after it was made known on June 1 that Selangor — with the highest population density in the country — had only received some 615,210 doses of the vaccines, contrary to the 2.9 million doses claimed by Federal sources.

He voiced that the ratio of vaccines to the state's population of over five million was greatly disproportionate. Prior-



Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin gets an audience with Sultan Sharafuddin at Istana Bukit Kayangan, Shah Alam, on Oct 18 to update His Royal Highness on the latest Covid-19 developments. - Picture by The Selangor Royal Office

ity, he said, must be given to Selangor as it is the largest contributor to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

His displeasure turned the tables on Selangor's vaccine waiting game. The state ended up being the fastest in inoculating its population, with the help of some 2.5 million Sinovac doses procured by its Selvax programme.

As a result, Selangor moved into Phase Four of the National Recovery Plan on Oct 15, allowing it more flexibility to begin its economic recovery process.

Proactive measures

Selangor citizens are fortunate that the Sultan's sense of commitment is mirrored by the state government under the helm of Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Since last year, Amirudin's administration has been proactively implementing plans to reign in the disease.

The state's Covid-19 mass screening programme has been one of the most beneficial efforts in helping to curb new outbreaks. No other state has implemented such a programme, instead, relying entirely on the Federal administration for help and direction.

The RM20 million mass screening effort carried out under the Covid-19 Mitigation Phase had managed to identify

177,823 individuals who had come into close contact with the disease, allowing them to isolate from the wider community and avoid the creation of clusters.

The state government had also recently intensified the vaccination process by launching separate programmes for industrial workers, members of the community who were left out of the first vaccination drive, and adolescents.

Such aggressive action by the Selangor government has received praise from His Royal Highness.

Walking the talk

The Sultan is a man who practises what he preaches. Because of the nature of the virus, he is careful to limit his social activities and chooses to stay at home whenever he is not required to attend formal functions. When he is out, His Royal Highness never fails to mask up and observe physical distancing.

This is why he often reminds the people to observe the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and stay vigilant.

He said the increased number of Covid-19 cases in Selangor soon after the Federal government reopened several sectors in May showed that the people were getting too complacent and failed to abide by the rules, apart

from the lack of enforcement by the local authorities.

Sultan Sharafuddin also criticised several political leaders and celebrities who abused their position and violated the enhanced movement control order by participating in activities that were disallowed by the Health Ministry and the National Security Council.

A caring nature

When the Covid-19 vaccine had just reached Malaysia's shores and supply was scarce, Sultan Sharafuddin made the news when he insisted that he would be inoculated only after all the frontline workers had received their shots.

Such a rare display of unselfishness among leaders is uncommon, and it is what makes the Sultan stand out.

To him, doctors, nurses, hospital staff, security personnel, teachers and members of the police force and the army should be given priority as they face a higher infection risk.

Sultan Sharafuddin loves his people dearly and wants the deadly virus to be eradicated in the golden state, and for Selangor to start focusing on the recovery process.

May the state be able to bounce back and revive its economy, and create prosperity for all its citizens.

A budget for the people

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor's post-pandemic budget was always primed to be people-centric, one that would focus on welfare and nurse the social and economic wounds inflicted by Covid-19.

On Nov 26, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari tabled carefully crafted plans for 2022 that promised to deliver RM2.343 billion through five core strategies — with the second strategy being 'to grow a caring society and ensure the people's wellbeing'.

Among the most urgent is a RM1.25 million alloca-

tion for the 2,500 children in Selangor who have been orphaned by the coronavirus. Amirudin announced that each child will receive RM500 in cash aid.

In addition, the state government will coordinate with the Welfare Department, the Selangor State Health Department and other agencies to support these children in estate management, childcare and emotional health assistance.

The budget also gave focus to women. A total of RM5.03 million has been assigned to state-owned company Wanita Berdaya Selangor Sdn Bhd to implement empowerment programmes and equip women with knowledge to generate their own in-

come.

The cash aid will also go towards mobilising Pusat Wanita Berdaya (PWB) in all 56 state constituencies, with RM200,000 dedicated to PWB's Lifelong Learning Programme which will provide scholarships to selected women for continuing their studies at Open University Malaysia (OUM).

In addition, Selangor is addressing the rising number of abuse cases in the state by providing RM200,000 to enhance the domestic violence hotline SELamat. Part of the monies will also be used to strengthen ties with women's shelters and assist them in their work.

Strategy 2: To grow a caring society, ensure people's wellbeing

Iltizam Selangor Penyayang (ISP)



RM305.19 million has been approved for this newly repackaged social welfare programme that champions the standards outlined in the state's Sustainable Development Goals.

Bantuan Kehidupan Sejahtera Selangor (Bingkas)



Bingkas is an upgrade of Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor (Kiss) and KISS Ibu Tunggal (Kiss-IT). It will begin operating in February 2022 to provide RM300 a month to 30,000 eligible families.

Skim Mesra Usia Emas (SMUE)



RM27.5 million will be disbursed in the form of RM100 to each recipient on their birthday. Heirs to the recipients will also receive RM500 as death benefit payment. Some 402,000 individuals stand to benefit.

Iltizam Anak Selangor



A RM3 million fund will be set up for newborns who register under the National Education Savings Scheme Prime account. RM100 will be deposited annually for a duration of five years.

Incentives to construct affordable homes



Developers can now build Type E (Special) homes

known as Rumah Selangorku Harapan and Rumah Idaman MBI.

Iltizam Peneroka Bandar (Commitment to urban settlers)



RM10.77 million will be channeled to Tabung Amanah Rumah Mampu Milik (Affordable Homes Trust Fund) for its S2-Own Scheme for four years starting from 2021.

Insurans Pangsapuri Kos Rendah Negeri Selangor (Insurance scheme for low-cost apartments in Selangor)



RM1.5 million will go towards providing insurance for 238,403 homes.

Selangor Special Needs Children (Anis)



RM3 million will be used to set up the Anis Academy and enhance the Early Intervention Programme Centre and the Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme. RM1 million will also be used to provide work-related training to OKU aged 18 and above.

Caring government agenda



A total of RM65.25 million has been allocated to carry out welfare programmes. This includes:

- RM1.2 million to help the B40 group build or repair homes.
- RM2 million for the Poverty Eradication Blueprint

Assistance Programme, where each applicant will receive RM10,000.

- RM1 million for the B40 group to receive legal aid, with help from the Selangor Bar Council and the Selangor Legal Aid Centre.
- RM1.5 million to build, repair and upgrade the homes in Orang Asli villages.

Education



- Iltizam Mahasiswa Selangor will give new undergraduates from low-income families RM1,000 each, totalling RM3 million.
- Selangor Basic Technology Loan Scheme or Skim Pinjaman Teknologi Asas Selangor (Sepintas) will receive RM1 million to acquire used digital devices from corporations to be loaned to needy students.
- Selangor People's Tutoring Programme or Program Tuisyen Rakyat Selangor (PTRS) will receive RM7 million to upgrade its learning portal ePTRS.my
- Iltizam Pendidikan Fardhu Ain (Kafai) will receive RM5 million to help 14,000 students from B40 families pay a one-off RM30 fee.
- Selangor's higher learning institutions will receive RM5 million, with RM3 million going to Unisel to provide internet data for students.

Promoting unity and inter-religious appreciation



- RM400,000 for the Selangor Unity and Integration Council to run its advocacy programmes.
- RM1 million to establish the Universiti Selangor (Unisel) Siddiq Fadzil Chair to promote harmony and moderation, in honour of the late Dato' Dr Siddiq Fadzil.
- For the construction of three mosques, Masjid Kota Damansara 2 in Petaling, Masjid Al-Ehsan Kampung Tok Muda in Klang and Masjid Kampung Sungai Serai 13 in Hulu Langat.
- RM3 to upgrade and build Sekolah Rendah Agama
- RM1.2 million to diversify cultural programmes in Selangor.
- RM33.4 million to purchase the former Bank Negara complex to house the new Shah Alam Modern & Contemporary Arts (Sama) gallery.

State fortifies healthcare with RM65m

By ALANG BENDAHARA

SHAH ALAM - The state government remains committed to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, dedicating RM65 million to improving public health under the 2022 Selangor Budget.

Under the third strategy of the state budget – to strengthen Selangor's public healthcare system – Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said this is an increase of RM8.5 million from last year's budget of RM56.5 million.

He said this would ensure the continuation of the initiatives that were started this year and highlight the state's guarantee to protect the lives and livelihoods of the people.

"The public health management agenda has always been a priority for us," said Amirudin.

"A comprehensive, affordable and effective public health management system based on digitalisation technology is central to the wellbeing of the people and the economic viability of Selangor."

The Menteri Besar said the previous public health system was not ready to deal with a crisis of such scale. Citing the Ministry of Health's data from April, he said over 80 per cent of Covid-19 deaths in Malaysia were people who suffered from comorbidities.

Another issue that will receive focus is mental health, where the state government has pledged RM1 million to support, among others, the Selangor Mental Health Programme (Sehat) which was recently integrated into the SELangkah mobile app.

Strategy 3: To strengthen the public healthcare system

The Selangor Public Health Advisory Council



support system for patients and create awareness programmes.

The council acts as the state's think tank and will design public health policies that complement the efforts of the Health Ministry.

Iltizam Selangor Sihat



This replaces the Skim Insurance Peduli Sihat and has been given RM46 million to benefit 90,000 recipients.

Heart treatment scheme



A RM5 million allocation will offer free heart treatment to eligible recipients.

Tuberculosis treatment



RM800,000 will go to the Tibi Treatment Incentive programme, with 1,000 patients expected to benefit.

Covid-19 management



RM500,000 will be set aside to manage future outbreaks, improve on the

Cancer screening (CanSEL)



RM1 million will be used to fund mammograms and cervical, colorectal and prostate screenings.

Free health screening (Saring Selangor)



RM1.5 million will help 5,000 recipients receive medical checkups.

Slim Selangor



RM300,000 will be used to educate the public on healthy lifestyle choices.

Sihat Selangor assistance



RM5 million will be allocated to 4,000 patients with thalassemia, cancer, and other chronic illnesses. The programme also continues to fund cataract and minor surgeries.

Dengue prevention and control



RM5 million will be used to control outbreaks, explore the use of drones to monitor outbreak zones and develop an app to map dengue hotspots.

Selangor Community Health Volunteers (Suka)



RM1.5 million is allocated for a programme to be run by volunteers to create health awareness among the public.

Anak Selangor Anak Sihat



RM1 million to provide nutritious food to 700 children for 10 months.

Eye checks



RM200,000 will be used for school children to undergo eye checks, following an increase in screen time for online classes.

Good time to go green

Strategy 4: To create a green environment, practise sustainable development

Cleaner water



Efforts to improve the water quality at the Sungai Selangor, Sungai Langat and Sungai Klang river basins have shown a positive outcome with fewer reports of pollution.

Developing green neighbourhoods



RM600,000 will be used to install green technology products and develop green neighbourhoods in the state.

Drainage system development



RM9.2 million will be used to improve drainage at identified locations around the state.

Managing the main river basins



15.6 million to better manage river basins.

Environmentally-friendly drainage management



RM1.5 million allocated under the 12th Malaysia Plan for better drainage system.

Tree planting



RM800,000 will be dedicated to the 100 Million Tree Planting Campaign, launched on Jan 5.

Restoration of degraded forests



RM10 million will be used for this purpose, with focus on Kuala Langat.

Consumer awareness programme



RM880,000 will go towards creating awareness on the use of plastics.

KDEB recycling centres



One facility in Klang and another in Subang Jaya will receive funds for their daily operations.

Selangor Smart Agropark



A food security hub in Sabak Bernam, kicking off early next year.

SHAH ALAM - Selangor will see some 10,000 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations installed throughout the state by 2025, with the first 1,000 stations expected to be ready in 2022.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the collaboration between the Selangor government and private parties involved an investment value of RM10 million.

The allocation is included in the 2022 Selangor Budget under the fourth core strategy — to create a green environment and practise sustainable development — which saw a total funding of RM190.73 million.

To further promote the use of EV, the state government plans to provide some incentives to the businesses that have invested in EV infrastructure projects.

"The incentives include a reduction of business fees and assessment tax, and the waiver of parking fees in 2022," said Amirudin when tabling the budget on Nov 26.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) will be developing phase two of the Labohan Dagang water treatment plant (WTP) and the Sungai Rasau WTP, which is expected to increase 15 per cent of its water reserve margin by 2030.

Some RM100 million will be used to implement the projects.

Amirudin also said that due to the conservation efforts taking place at the Telok Kapas landfill area, Sungai Klang can be an alternative source of raw water. The construction of a log boom and the cleanup of floating waste using the Interceptor 002 garbage patch machine have greatly contributed to the improved quality of water at the river.



A merry, hybrid Christmas

Virtual carolling to connect homes and hearts

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

Two years have passed since carols filled the air and streets at Christmas, as strict pandemic rules forced the singing synonymous with the celebration to go online in 2020.

Yet this year, despite the lifting and relaxation of most restrictions, carolling — which usually takes place from house to house before Christmas day and services at churches — will only happen in hybrid form.

In conjunction with the upcoming celebrations, Selangor Journal spoke with several pastors and church officials on what to expect this year.

Last year, when no activities or gatherings were allowed during Christmas, the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur's Catholic Research Centre came up with the 'Catholics At Home Podcast' idea to bring the spirit of Christmas carolling online via Facebook and Youtube, straight to everyone's homes.

"Given that the celebration of Christmas is still restricted but not as how it was last year, we wanted to keep the same spirit of bringing joy to the homes of many people who have in the past looked forward to carollers visiting their homes.

"Since we cannot go to their home physically, we thought we could do this virtually and try to recreate the spirit of Christmas carolling for everyone," said the centre's director, Reverend Father Dr Clarence Devadass.

He said carolling is something all Christians look forward to as it brings fond memories to them.

"That is what we aspire to share with people in our show this year by creating a Christmas cheer in homes through music.

"Our two-hour long show will be called 'O Holy Night — A Christmas Special' and it is on Dec 22 at 8pm. Through our music and song, we want to bring the atmosphere of the holy night of Christmas to homes.

Father Clarence said last year the team which consisted of volunteers did it on a smaller scale and garnered more than 2,000 viewers during its live stream and later hit more than 9,000 views.

"We know others are doing different initiatives, but we are planning to make ours unique. Last year our project was to bring together Malaysia's largest Catholic virtual choir and we succeeded in putting together nearly 500 people in a virtual choir. This year we are planning something unique too," he said without letting out the surprise.

He did, however, say that families can request and dedicate songs to their loved ones for that event, especially to those they will not meet this Christmas.

"There are many people who are confined to their homes, especially the elderly. We want to reach out to them and many others whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic — to put a 'small' Christmas smile on their faces and we hope we can do that."

Father Clarence added that for carolling this year, they will be joined by some talented local artistes like Mayabayu from Sabah, Brendan De Cruz, Russell Curtis, Pete Kallang from Sarawak, Juwita Suwito, Joy Victor and Daniel Soliano Guerzo.

Viewers can watch the carolling on the 'Catholics At Home' Facebook and YouTube channel.

Time for family

Meanwhile, Church of the Divine Mercy Parish Priest Reverend Father Gerard Theraviam expects that there will be more excitement in their Christmas services in Shah Alam this time around.

"Last year wasn't so good as we couldn't even have the Christmas services and everything was online.

"As far as the church is concerned there is more excitement this year as there is the possibility for family members to meet and be together on Christmas, just like during Hari Raya.

"Also, they can go outstation to visit families and be reunited as Christmas is a family occasion."

Father Gerard said this year, there will be some carolling but they will not be going from house to house. Instead, carolling will only be done before the church's Christmas service which will be held at one-third capacity in accordance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs).

"However, the church services will be carried out in hybrid form, phys-

ically and aired live on the church website and its social media account," he said.

In accordance with the SOPs, the church will also advise those who come for the service to not mingle after it ends.

"This will dampen their spirit a bit and also affect the sense of community," he said.

He also voiced his hope that the new Covid-19 variant Omicron will not force the closure of the Christmas service.

Time for joy

According to Wesley Methodist Church's Reverend Gaurri Maniam, their Christmas service in Klang will also be done in a hybrid manner.

"However it will be a watered-down version of what we usually do during the pre-pandemic days.

"We will not be able to hold dramas and skits," she said.

Yet Reverend Gaurri is confident that all who come for their service will have their hearts filled with joy.

"For us, this service is a way for us to worship God, which is the main purpose for us to come to the church. So I am sure they will make room in their hearts to fill it with joy and happiness during the Christmas service," she said.

She also advised those who want to attend to register early at their website as there are limited seats available due to the SOPs.



By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

A win for sports as sector gets RM14m

SHAH ALAM - The RM14.49 million allocation for youth and sports under the 2022 Selangor Budget (#Selangor2022) highlights the state government's commitment to the sector's progress.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the allocation ensures the agenda to develop youth and sports will continue, such as the provision of RM2.8 million to the Selangor Youth Movement (PeBS) to carry out programmes and activities.

"The allocation dignifies PeBS' standing as the driving agent in developing youth, as well as the machinery to implement policies related to their development at the grassroots level.

"The state government has also improved the existing Selangor Youth Policy 2014 by formulating the Selangor Youth Policy 2020, which will serve to provide guidance and direction on developing the younger generation for the coming decade," he said during the budget's tabling at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here on Nov 26.

Amirudin added that the state government also seeks to maintain Selangor's dominance in the field of e-sports in Malaysia, with a RM1.2 million allocation.



SELANGOR YOUTH MOVEMENT (PeBS)



E-SPORTS



GRASSROOTS LEAGUE



RODA DARUL EHSAN (RIDE)



SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRING AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

"In line with current developments, the focus will be on e-sports development programmes and the organising of tours to the various state districts," he said.

Selangor's p-hailing initiative Roda Darul Ehsan (RiDE) that was launched last year to encourage youths to partic-

ipate in the food delivery industry will similarly receive a boost with a RM2 million allocation.

The Menteri Besar said that to date, RiDE has received 8,143 applicants. Of this figure, 3,227 individuals have benefited from the initiative.

Similarly, RM4 million will be allocat-

ed to the repairing and construction of sports infrastructure in the state, compared to the RM2.196 million allocation for the same purpose under the 2021 Selangor Budget.

"This will go to repairing damaged sports infrastructure, as well as the construction of new sports infrastructure in every state constituency at RM100,000 each," Amirudin said.

Amirudin also announced that a Grassroots League will be established next year, as the state government has taken note of the vigorous proliferation of amateur leagues in Selangor's districts.

"To further invigorate sports activities, particularly among youths, and in line with the desire to develop sports at the grassroots level, the state government has agreed to allocate RM1 million for the implementation of the Grassroots League," he said.



Daulat Tuanku

MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY BLESS OUR SULTAN

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH ALHAJ
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ**

D.K., D.M.N., D.K.(Terengganu), D.K.(Kelantan), D.K.(Perak), D.K.(Perlis), D.K.(Negeri Sembilan), D.K.(Kedah), D.K.(Johor), D.K.(Pahang), S.P.M.S., S.S.I.S., S.P.M.J.

**SULTAN AND RULER OF THE STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN
AND ALL ITS DEPENDENCIES**

Heartiest Salutations And Congratulations
In Conjunction With His Royal Highness's 76th Birthday
On 11th December 2021

WITH UTMOST SINCERITY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MANAGEMENT
AND STAFF



MediaSelangor



NO ONE LEFT BEHIND



The 2022 Selangor Budget (#Selangor2022) was formulated to strengthen the economy and protect the people, ensuring that all sectors are covered.

The following are some of the initiatives outlined.

ENTREPRENEURS



Ease of Doing Business



A maximum of RM5,000 in matching grants



Digital courses offered via Selangor Digital School



RM15m for the Selangor International Business Summit 2021



A maximum of RM30,000 cash aid for micro-entrepreneurs

MOTHERS & CHILDREN



RM500 cash aid to 2,500 children orphaned by Covid-19



RM5.03 million for women empowerment programmes



RM200,00 to tackle domestic abuse cases



RM1 million for the B40 group to receive legal aid



RM100 deposited annually into SSPN to 30,000 newborns

PUBLIC HEALTH



RM 5 million for free heart treatments



RM1.5 million to help 5,000 recipients undergo medical checkups



RM800,000 to benefit 1,000 tuberculosis patients



RM200,000 for free eye checks for school children



RM1 million for mental health support

A GREENER STATE



RM100 million for better water supply



RM10 million investment value to install 10,000 electric vehicle charging stations



RM10 million to restore degraded forests



RM15.6 million to manage main river basins



RM9.2 million for drainage system development

GOING DIGITAL



RM5 million to install 200 CCTVs in the state



Selangor e-wallet offering access to state's financial and social initiatives



SELANGOR ADVANCE

RM300 million loan channelled into Selangor Advance to help SMEs



Go Selangor app to become official tourism app



RM1 million to beef up cybersecurity