



# SELANGOR JOURNAL



# Get set, do



**WHEN** the country announced the reopening of its borders on April 1, it was a long sigh of relief for Selangor. The pandemic lockdown had brought the travel industry to its knees. Now, the state wants to make up for lost time.

On April 14, Tourism Selangor launched the Go Selangor mobile app for travellers, a one-stop platform offering the most exciting places to visit, the best hotel deals, and the finest restaurants. After two long years the industry is back up and running, and ready to welcome visitors.

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Pictures via Tourism Selangor's Facebook

# Youths earn MB's praise

By MUSTAKIM RAMLI

**SHAH ALAM** - Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has acknowledged that youths played an important role in helping Selangor recover after the December floods last year.

He said Selangor appreciates the efforts of many youths who actively volunteered to help with the post-flood clean-up, allowing the state to more quickly return to normalcy.

"No fewer than 50,000 volunteers took part in the clean-up, with 60 per cent of that number being young peo-

ple who were quick to respond to the call and devoted a month of their time to the cause.

"Many victims of the floods were able to overcome their trauma and move on, which was in large part due to the contributions of these youths," he said.

Amirudin was speaking at a break of fast event with youths at the Menteri Besar's official residence on April 14.

He added that the commitment shown by these youths is proof that the younger generation is ready to face any challenges ahead.



## Grassroots leaders valued

**SHAH ALAM** - Grassroots leaders play an important role as their performance is the yardstick by which people gauge the state government's success, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said community leaders who carry out their duties well can help a government get reelected.

"As grassroots leaders, we have to ensure that the stability and prosperity in our areas are maintained. In the wake of the December floods and the Covid-19 crisis, this cannot be more important.

"In times of crises, leaders have to ensure that the people still have

confidence in them. How do we do that? We need to show strong leadership qualities and ensure that the situation remains calm," Amirudin said during the Breaking of Fast with Community Leaders event at the Selangor State Secretariat Building, here on April 15.

Amirudin added that it is only through the proper handling of trying times that a government can gain the people's trust.

Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was present at the event, which celebrated 700 community leaders, including heads of villages and council members.



Amirudin (in white) with participants of an iftar ceremony at Dewan Sri Siantan, Gombak, on April 17 — Picture by AHMAD ZAKKI JILAN

## Empowerment programmes to start after Aidilfitri

**GOMBAK** - The Iltizam Selangor Penyangg (ISP) programme to help the people through several state initiatives will be implemented after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the assistance covering various schemes was based on efforts to empower the people so that they no longer need to rely on the state government.

"In 2008, we helped the people by sharing the state's wealth. In 2013 we helped by giving what the people requested.

"In 2018 until now we changed the programme. We want to empower the people through each programme," he said at the Iftar Perdana ceremony with the leadership of the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Gombak branch at Dewan Seri Siantan here on April 17.

Amirudin said through ISP, more

citizens would receive benefits. Among them are the Bantuan Kehidupan Sejahtera Selangor (Bingkas) initiative which replaced Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor (KISS).

"Instead of RM200, they (the families) will receive RM300 every month after this Hari Raya. We also extended the health screening to cover men for the detection of colon cancer.

"The Tunas (kindergarten assistance) programme is now turned into ANiS (Anak Istimewa Selangor). Today we can see the Bella (abuse) case happening. Through ANiS, we monitor the welfare homes and train the caregivers to prevent similar cases from recurring," he said.

Previously, Amirudin had said that the rebranding of the Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat to Iltizam Selangor Penyangg was in line with the improvement of several programmes to develop a caring culture among Selangor citizens.

## Nearly 60,000 parking coupons converted into digital credit

**SHAH ALAM** - Some 57,518 scratch-and-display parking coupons have been converted to e-coupons involving nearly RM40,000 in transactions as of April 18, said state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han.

He said users facing problems in using the digital parking system via

the Smart Selangor Parking (SSP) app should refer to legitimate e-coupon agents.

"The local authorities in urban areas have been changing many of these scratch-and-display parking coupons. Any users having digital parking problems should refer to legitimate e-cou-

pon agents.

"The agents will help you to purchase e-coupons. After paying they will enter your vehicle number. So this makes it easier," Ng told *SelangorKini*.

Starting on April 1, all parking payments in Selangor must be made via the SSP app.

As such, the public is encouraged to download the app from the Google Playstore, AppStore or the Huawei Store.

Those who were using scratch-and-display parking coupons are required to register as SSP users to transfer the remaining value of these coupons into credit.

# Tourism: Time to hit reset

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor has never been coy about its tech dream of becoming Asean's Smart State by 2025, nor has it been slow in digitising this ambition in all its policies, strategies and initiatives.

This is evident in its latest digital solution to revive the pandemic-hit tourism sector that had previously contributed significantly to the state's economy. As Malaysia reopens its borders to international travellers, Selangor too, is calling to tourists to come back.

The newly launched Go Selangor mobile application is the latest proof of the state's continuous commitment and optimism to revive the tourism sector.

"This is the only (state tourism) application available in Malaysia," state executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian told reporters after launching the app and witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tourism Selangor and Malaysia-based travel tech firm Tourplus on April 14.

Through the app, travellers can purchase tickets for activities or tours, and make bookings for hotels, chalets, homestays, transportation and others.

The partnership aims to use the app to help local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to digitise their business by joining as 'merchants' (operators/traders) to entice domestic and international travellers to explore the interesting places in Selangor.

"Compared with other travel apps, Go Selangor's merchant fee of RM300 per year is way cheaper," said Tourism Selangor chief executive officer Azrul Shah Mohamad, who added that it will help the travel industry transform to Tourism 4.0 and tourism digitalisation through the use of technology.

So far more than 300 merchants have registered

on the application and the number is expected to increase to 100,000 by the end of this year.

The Go Selangor app can be downloaded on the Google Play Store from April 22 and on Apple's App Store from May onwards.

Throughout the pandemic, Selangor has financially supported its tourism industry players.

On June 9, 2021, Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced an allocation of RM2.55 million for the sustainability of the industry through the Kita Selangor Package 2.0.

The initiative includes grant assistance amounting to RM1 million, tourism vouchers, a tourism digitalisation training programme and cash aid to 16 tourism associations.

On Nov 19, 2020, a total of 553 tourism industry players in the state comprising tour guides, homestay operators and community hosts received a one-off incentive totalling RM1,000 each. The state also offered 10,000 tourism subsidy vouchers worth RM200 each to the public to encourage more spending.

On Feb 2, 2021, Amirudin announced that entertainment duties would be exempted for theme parks' entrance fees from March 18 to Dec 31, 2021, involving an estimated financial impact of RM26.35 million.

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

On April 8, Amirudin announced an exemption on entertainment duty rates for stage show entrance fees (ticketing) effective from Jan 1 until Dec 31.

Selangor used to be the most-visited state in Malaysia in 2019, and with all of the initiatives in place to promote its tourism, experts believe it will emerge stronger and better post-Covid-19.



## Structural, slope repairs cost RM40m

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government has allocated more than RM40 million to repair damage caused by natural disasters at several areas in the state, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said that the funds include RM25 million for structural works at Pangsapuri Indah Ria, here, which had sunk and cracked following the major floods last year.

He said another RM14 million has been allocated for slope repair works by the Selayang Municipal Council.

"As for the Taman Bukit Permai landslide incident (in Ampang), a total of RM1.6 million will be disbursed inclusive of RM138,000 in aid to the victims.

"Another RM1.4 million will be used for slope repair works at Pangsapuri Intan,

Bukit Permai, and Ampang. This issue will continue to remain a focus," he said on Facebook on April 11.

State executive councillor for infrastructure Izhah Hashim had on March 11 stated that the Selangor government had identified more than 150 high-risk slopes that could trigger landslides, especially around Gombak, Ampang and Hulu Langat.

On March 10, four victims perished and one was injured in the landslide at Taman Bukit Permai 2, Ampang. The incident had affected 15 houses, with two buried by the rubble.

Last year, the residents of Pangsapuri Indah Ria in Batu Tiga were temporarily evacuated on Dec 19 following some structural failures detected at the car park complex next to it.

## Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve now protected land

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government has gazetted the 486.07-hectare Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve as a Selangor Permanent Forest Reserve.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the size of the area includes the Busut Baru Orang Asli village at 42.05 hectares and the raw water pipeline alignment for the Sungai Rasau Water Treatment Plant at 8.58 hectares.

"The state government has instructed the Selangor Land and Mines Department as well as the Selangor Forestry Department to gazette the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve immediately," he said.

Amirudin was speaking during the Rapat Rahmah Ramadan event at the Dewan Jubli Perak on April 8.

The Menteri Besar added that the decision was made through the State Executive Council Meeting on April 6.

In February, the state government targeted 33.3 per cent of Selangor's land mass to receive permanent forest reserve status by 2030.

State executive councillor for the environment and green technology Hee Loy Sian said for the time being, permanent forest reserves account for approximately 32.5 per cent of the state's total size.



Hee (centre), Tourplus Technology Sdn Bhd CEO Rickson Goh and Tourism Selangor's CEO Azrul Shah Mohamad give the thumbs up after the signing of the MoU for the Go Selangor app, at i-CITY in Shah Alam, on April 14 — Picture by FIKRI YUSOF

# Foreign tourists are back, says exco

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

**SHAH ALAM** - The number of international tourist arrivals to Selangor has been on the rise since Malaysia transitioned to the endemic phase early in April, said state executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian.

Hee said hotels and tourism centres in the state have come back to life and this has restored the industry that had been severely affected by Covid-19.

"Although I do not have the data yet, I believe the number of tourists is increasing following the reopening of the country's borders. We hope more tourists will come to Selangor seeing as it is the entry point for international tourists via the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (in Sepang).

"It would be difficult to achieve the same number of tourists as before the pandemic as there are some countries that remain closed, but we want it to be better than how it was in 2020," Hee said.

The councillor was speaking at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of the Go Selangor app between Tourism Selangor and Tourplus Technology at i-City, here, on April 14.

He also thanked the government for making it easier for international tourists to visit Malaysia without having to undergo quarantine.

"Tourists only have to do a quick antigen (RTK-Ag) test 24 hours before boarding a plane. This is a good move to encourage tourists to come to Malaysia, particularly Selangor," he added.

## Go Selangor app a one-stop for tourists

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government via Tourism Selangor has launched the Go Selangor app to provide visitors full access to the state's tourism products and to boost the economy.

State Tourism, Environment, Green Technology and Orang Asli Affairs Committee chairman Hee Loy Sian said the launch of Selangor's official tourism app is in line with his team's efforts to digitalise the tourism industry.

He said the app serves as a 'one-stop centre' for various operators and traders to encourage tourists to explore Selangor.

"The app is very easy to use and through it, we can purchase tickets and make bookings for hotels, chalets, homestays, transportation and others. This is the only (state tourism) app available in Malaysia," he told reporters after launching the app and witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Tourism Selangor and Tourplus at Red Carpet 2@i-City in Shah Alam here on April 14.

So far, more than 300 merchants have registered on the app and Hee's team is targeting 100,000 registrations by year end.

For those interested, no charges will be imposed for the first year of joining the app. Subsequently, RM300 will be charged each year.

The Go Selangor app can be downloaded on the Google Play Store from April 14 and on iOS from May onwards. - Bernama

## Bigger job fair slated for June

**SHAH ALAM** - Up to 30,000 employment offers will be made available through the Selangor Mega Job Carnival that will take place at the MBSA Convention Centre on June 11 and 12 this year.

Last year, the programme travelled to Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor, Kuala Kubu Bharu, Hulu Langat and Petaling, offering over 25,000 employment opportunities and helping 715 individuals get jobs, said state executive councillor for human capital development Mohd Khairuddin Othman.

This time around, 150 employers including those in the aviation, cosmetics, automotive, information technology, manufacturing, education, design and finance sectors have agreed to join.

"The carnival will be offering jobs in the aviation and cosmetics fields. They were not part of the fair last year.

"The employers in those fields have expressed interest in joining the programme as those sectors are in dire need of manpower post-pandemic," Mohd Khairuddin told *Selangor-Kini* on April 6.

## State waives entertainment tax for a year

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government has agreed to an exemption on entertainment duty rates for stage show entrance fees (ticketing) effective from Jan 1 until Dec 31.

However, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the exemption is not applicable to shows involving international artistes.

"The state government also wishes to inform that for the time being there are no entertainment duty charges on busking activities.

"The entertainment duty charge for (non-ticketing) live bands has also been given a year's exemption from Jan 1 until Dec

31," he said.

Amirudin was speaking at the Rapat Rahmah Ramadan event at the Dewan Jubli Perak on April 8.

He added that the decision was made by the State Executive Council Meeting on April 6.

During the State Legislative Assembly session on March 18, the decision on whether Selangor would reduce or provide an exemption on entertainment taxes for the year was left for April 1.

At the time, Amirudin said the matter needed more fine tuning and data.

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# Klang River primed as new source of water supply

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**KLANG** - Satisfied with the progress of the Klang River's rejuvenation projects, the state government has announced several new initiatives to further improve its Water Quality Index (WQI).

State executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izham Hashim said the move is to ensure that as one of Selangor's three main rivers, the Klang River's WQI can complement the upcoming Sungai Rasau Water Treatment Plant's (WTP) operation.

"The Sungai Rasau WTP will use water from the Klang River. Previously the river's WQI was Class 5 which is toxic. But now for 48 per cent of the year it is Class 3 and above, which is very good. We want to increase it to 70 per cent within the next two years or

90 per cent within the next five.

"The first phase of the WTP's construction is ongoing and we hope to complete it by 2025. Before that we need to ensure that the river's quality improves to reduce the amount of treatment required and the associated costs," he said during a visit to The Ocean Cleanup's Interceptor 005 at the Klang River on April 4.

Izham said each phase of the Sungai Rasau WTP would be able to process 700 million litres a day (MLD) for consumers in areas within Klang.

He said under Phase One (2016 - 2022) of the Klang River's rejuvenation plan, the target is to reduce the volume of waste extracted from the river by 40 per cent. At the end of 2021, a reduction of 38 per cent was achieved.

However, to increase the figure further, Izham said local councils located

along the Klang River have also been instructed to install log booms at tributaries in their areas, and must start doing so in three months.

"The councils include the Shah Alam City Council, the Subang Jaya City Council, the Petaling Jaya City Council and the Klang Municipal Council. They will build it on their own but with help from us concerning the specifications of the log booms and how to do it," he said.

Izham said the current garbage collection from the seven log booms and two interceptors along the Klang River stands at 800 metric tonnes (MT), down from 1,500 previously. With more log booms planned, the authorities are targeting a further reduction to 500 MT per month.

Izham added that the state government will also start dredging the Klang River to increase its capacity which is

estimated to cost between RM500 million and RM700 million and is expected to commence in three months.

He said in the third quarter of this year, the state government will also start implementing the 'zero discharge' and 'polluters pay principle' policies in industrial areas to reduce the number of polluters.

Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB), a subsidiary of the state government, has been given the mandate to lead the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) project, including cleaning and conservation efforts in the Klang River as well as other sustainable developments in the surrounding area.

Once considered as one of the world's dirtiest rivers, the Klang River has undergone a huge transformation, with most of its waste removed since 2016.

## State hands over RM135,000 to landslide victims

**AMPANG** - A total of 91 families who were affected by a landslide at Taman Bukit Permai 1 and 2 have received cash donations amounting to RM135,000.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said out of the total allocation, RM100,000 was contributed by Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI while the remaining RM35,000 was from the State Disaster Fund.

Amirudin said the contribution, approved at the State Executive Council Meeting, was channelled to the families of those who had died or got injured in the incident as well as to those whose homes were affected.

"For the victims who perished in the incident, their next-of-kin would receive RM10,000 while for injured residents and those whose homes were damaged, they would receive RM5,000.

"Residents in 70 homes which were ordered to be vacated would receive consolation cash of RM500.

"The state government hopes that this donation can help reduce the victims' burden," Amirudin said when delivering his speech during the donation handover programme at the Dewan Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya in Cheras Baru, here, on April 16.

At the same event, the landslide victims also received donations from Yayasan Pembangunan Ekonomi Malaysia (YaPEIM) amounting to RM26,400 and the Selangor Zakat Board (LZS) totalling RM20,000.

On March 11, the landslide at Taman Bukit Permai 2, Ampang, claimed four lives and injured one person. It also caused damage to 15 homes and 10 vehicles.



Slat (second from left) explains the workings of the Interceptor 005 to a group of local representatives at the Klang River, on April 4 — Picture by HAFIZ OTHMAN

## More trash collectors for our rivers

**KLANG** - The success of Interceptor 002 and the recently-commissioned Interceptor 005 floating trash collectors in cleaning up the Klang River has prompted its sponsor The Ocean Cleanup to install more of its solutions in Malaysia to halt and extract riverine plastic before it reaches the ocean.

The Dutch foundation's founder and chief executive officer Boyan Slat said they aim to make Klang River a model for river care in Asia.

"There is a strong focus to make a change in river care here in Selangor and it aligns with The Ocean Cleanup's aims to tackle 1,000 rivers around the world, to stem 80 per cent of river plastic pollution from flowing into the ocean.

"We hope to amplify this support over the next three years with a number of initiatives in the region, including in Bangkok, Thailand and in Johor, and perhaps in the northern states of Malaysia.

"So Malaysia will get to see more Interceptors deployed here," he said during a visit to Interceptor 005 on the Klang River here on April 4.

Slat said the placement of the Interceptor 005 on the Klang River in October 2021 follows the success of the Interceptor 002, which has been complementing Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd's (LLSB) seven log booms along a 56km stretch of the river under the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) project since 2019.

LLSB, a subsidiary of the Selangor government, has been given the mandate to lead the SMG project, including cleaning and conservation efforts in the Klang River as well as other sustainable development in the surrounding area.

He added that the Interceptor 005, which is the first in the third-generation Interceptor series, was fully assembled at its facility in Port Klang.

# Tax revenue up from 2021

By **MUSTAKIM RAMLI**

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor has collected RM760 million in taxes as of March, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said the amount recorded is RM100 million more than the registered figure in the same period last year.

"As of March, our revenue collection has surpassed the amount recorded in March 2021 by over RM100 million.

"If we are able to maintain a good momentum, I believe that we would be able to give the best to the people through the various programmes that

we implement," said Amirudin during the Rapat Rahmah Ramadan event at the Dewan Jubli Perak auditorium here on April 8.

In a press conference after the event, Amirudin said that the RM760 million amounts to 37.09 per cent of the RM2.05 billion target for the year.

During the tabling of the 2022 Selangor Budget on Nov 26 last year, Amirudin said that the projected revenue comprise 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).



## SIBS 2022 a stepping stone to Asean market

**GEORGE TOWN** - The Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) 2022 will be playing an imperative role in assisting exporters and manufacturers in restarting their businesses and penetrating regional markets, said Invest Selangor.

Its chief executive officer, Datuk Hasan Azhari Idris said the summit, to be held from Oct 6 to 9 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, is relevant now more than ever considering the current economic challenges.

"SIBS can be the key global trading hub initiative by Selangor to assist not only exporters and manufacturers from Selangor but also from other states and regional players to restart their business in the region.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all entrepreneurs from the northern region of Malaysia to take the opportunity and participate in SIBS 2022," he told Bernama in an interview in conjunction with the summit's roadshow here recently.

He also said SIBS provides networking opportunities for all participants across multiple sectors to meet and collaborate, using Selangor as the gateway to Asean.

Hasan Azhari added that the summit provides the most conducive investment and business environment for Malaysia as a whole and for Selangor, specifically.

Participants could use SIBS as a platform to network with potential customers and business partners from the region as Invest Selangor, the investment arm of the Selangor government, would invite and host foreign buyers to attend the summit as well as pre-arrange one-on-one business

meetings, he explained.

"Participants will get the opportunity to meet potential partners across multiple industries throughout various programmes during the four-day event," he said.

This year, the summit would comprise various exhibitions, namely the Selangor International Expo (F&B) 2022; the Selangor International Expo (Medic) 2022; the Selangor Industrial Park Expo 2022; the Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy 2022; and the Selangor R&D and Innovation Expo 2022.

SIBS 2022 would also include the Selangor Asean Business Conference as well as parallel events such as the Selangor International Culinary Festival 2022; the Selangor International Healthcare Conference 2022; and the Selangor International Halal Conference 2022.

Although the economic downturn has plagued the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hasan Azhari said the 2021 edition of the summit successfully assembled a total of 494 physical exhibition booths and 623 virtual exhibition booths.

"A total of 30 buyers from four countries registered and participated in the business matching sessions held physically while 164 buyers from 31 countries registered and participated in the business matching sessions virtually.

"In total, SIBS 2021 recorded RM217.6 million potential negotiated sales, nearly reaching SIBS 2019's sales record of RM247 million," he noted.

For more information and participation in the summit, follow Invest Selangor's social media account @selangor-summit or visit [www.selangorsummit.com](http://www.selangorsummit.com). - Bernama



## Time to tap into global halal industry, says exco

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government is set on finding five halal products companies in the state that have the potential to penetrate the international market this year.

State executive councillor for halal industry Mohd Zawawi Ahmad Mughni said to date, they have identified only one company that has sufficient capital and production capacity to meet the demands of the halal industry.

"The state government is identifying companies that have the potential to become key players in the industry. We are also collaborating with the Federal government in organising expos in foreign countries.

"We recommend that those who are qualified should join," he said.

Mohd Zawawi was speaking at the Selangor Halal Industry Development Aspiration dialogue with small and medium entrepreneurs and an Iftar event at the Selangor State Secretariat Building, here, on April 15.

On March 4, the state government organised the Selangor International Halal Conference (Selhac) as a platform for the exhibitors to introduce their unique products to the public.

A total of 100 exhibitors from 40 companies participated in the three-day event that focused on six clusters — food, pharmaceutical products, beauty, tourism, fashion and halal ingredients.

It recorded business transactions of RM37.73 million, exceeding its initial target of RM20 million.

# Helping traders up their game

By SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL

**SUBANG JAYA** - The state government will continue its efforts to help small traders be competitive with the launch of the Selangor Platform (Plats) 3.0.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said Plats 3.0 is aiming to get 10,000 traders on board this year.

He said the implementation of the virtual platform makes it easier for traders to register their business online.

"Plats 3.0 is being continued to help traders transform their business, not to compete with other services. Its effectiveness is clear as it began with 163 traders but today has over 7,000 registered micro entrepreneurs.

"The programme is not seasonal but runs throughout the year with Rakan Digital Selangor (RDS) helping traders to familiarise with the e-trade platforms," Amirudin said.

The Menteri Besar was speaking after officiating Plats 3.0 at

the Bandar Kinrara 5 Ramadan bazaar in Puchong, which was also attended by state executive councillor for entrepreneurs Rodziah Ismail, state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han and state executive councillor for caring government V. Ganabatirau.

Permodalan Negeri Selangor Berhad (PNSB) chief executive officer Raja Ahmad Shahrir Iskandar Raja Salim and Subang Jaya mayor Datuk Johary Anuar were also in attendance.

Plats 3.0 has been made possible by Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI, with the help of partner PNSB.

The state's 12 local authorities will also be involved in helping to expedite the participation of traders and entrepreneurs.

The platform was introduced during Ramadan two years ago to complete the Selangor Digitalisation Agenda ecosystem by bringing traders on board a shared site to sell their goods online.



Amirudin launches Plats 3.0 at the Bandar Kinrara 5 Ramadan bazaar in Puchong on April 8



## State's halal fair exceeds expectations

**GOMBAK** - The Selangor International Halal Conference (Selhac) organised by the state government has become a platform for local entrepreneurs to introduce their services to the public.

State executive councillor for halal industries Mohd Zawawi Ahmad Mughni said the inaugural three-day event that was held on March 4 has also helped the community to un-

derstand more about halal products.

"I am confident that this effort will boost the halal market in Selangor. I am also confident that many parties will commit to creating more awareness on this industry," he said while officiating the 2022 Halal Talk Forum at the International Islamic University here on April 2.

Selhac, organised in collaboration with Halal Interna-

tional Selangor (HIS), featured three components: forums, expos, and business matching. It recorded business transactions that exceeded its target of RM37.73 million.

The event held at the Shah Alam Convention Centre featured 100 exhibitors from 40 companies and focused on six clusters — food, pharmacy, beauty, tourism, fashion and halal ingredients.

## PKNS to build, rent out factory space

**KUALA SELANGOR** - The Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) plans to build two low-cost factories next year to help boost the state's economy and provide opportunities to small and medium industries (SMIs) in the state's rural areas.

PKNS chief executive officer Datuk Mahmud Abas said a four-storey factory spanning over 2.02 hectares would be built in Klang, and another in Kota Puteri, and both would be capable of accommodating about 200 SMI entrepreneurs and companies each.

Mahmud said the two factories costing up to RM15 million would be offered for renting to SMI entrepreneurs at reasonable rates when completed.

He said the low-cost multi-storey factory approach has never been implemented before and it is, among others, to fulfil the agency's social responsibility to help rural SMI entrepreneurs who are operating from home.

"Most of these entrepre-

neurs, who operate from home, are involved in the product manufacturing process.

"These factories will enable the entrepreneurs to have a more comfortable place to operate from, and we will also provide expertise on the use of machines and product packaging, as well as loans," he told a press conference at the reopening of De Palma Eco Resort here, on March 29.

Mahmud, meanwhile, also expressed PKNS's intention to build 1,000 affordable homes every year to target the B40 group.

He said as a start, some 600 units will be developed this year in several locations including Antara Gapi and Sierra Alam.

"We plan to build 500 to 600 affordable units every year until we reach the 1,000 units threshold. In fact, we will hold a ceremony to hand over the keys for 800 affordable homes in Cyberjaya in May," he added. - Bernama

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

The state government has regazetted some 1,203 acres of the Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (KLNFR) to date, after taking into account the need to dedicate 93 acres of land to the Orang Asli at their Busut Baru settlement and 21 acres to the piping alignment of the Sungai Rasau raw water treatment plant.

State executive councillor for the environment Hee Loy Sian said the state government has always prioritised the public's interest and has listened to the plight of the people, especially the Orang Asli community.

Hee said in a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*, the decision to regazette KLNFR was made at the most recent State Executive Council Meeting and the authorities are currently in the process of issuing a public notice on the matter.

"The Selangor Forestry Department is preparing to issue the public notice soon, hopefully in a month or two, and only then will the process of regazette be fully completed. Before this, the state government was faced with several challenges such as the re-measuring process as we needed to ensure that we could fulfil all the requirements needed for future development projects, including for the aboriginal settlement and the piping alignment project that I mentioned earlier," he said.

Last year, the state government agreed to cancel plans to develop the KLNFR and chose to regazette the area after taking into account the public's objections



as well as the need to protect the Orang Asli community.

In 2019, due to the rapid development of the areas surrounding the KLNFR that included the Saujana Putra housing project, the Elite highway and the Gamuda Cove, the state government had planned a mixed development project there.

The process to change the land's status for development was made in accordance with Section 11(b) Enactment (Adoption) National Forestry Act 1985, which allows the state to degazette the forest reserve should the area pose a higher economic value.

#### Flood control

So, why was the degazette of KLNFR, in particular, so contentious? Why were non-governmental organisations, or more specifically, environmental groups, so fiercely against the decision? After all, it is a known fact that the forest is mainly made up of peat swamp land that is acidic and infertile.

Hee said peat swamps are often misunderstood to be of little use to the environment.

"One of the positive features of the KLNFR — and few people know this — is that being a peat

swamp, it has the ability to absorb underground water. The land acts as a sponge to suck up excess rain water and this helps greatly in preventing flooding in nearby areas like Banting and Tanjung Dua Belas," he said.

"Apart from that, this forest is the habitat of many flora and fauna species that are unique to their environment. There are numerous types of small mammals living in the forest, like civet cats and squirrels. This explains why the degazette plan received objections from many parties.

"And as a caring government, we took into consideration every opinion. We listened to the people's voices, hence the decision to regazette the area was made."

#### Replacement policy

Hee said the state government is very concerned about the size of forest reserves in Selangor.

"Ever since we took over the state administration, the size of forest reserves in Selangor has never decreased. In fact, they have got bigger as we have a policy that we adopted years ago.

"For each forest reserve that needs to be developed, we must find a replacement forest — either of the same size or bigger — to be gazetted. Selangor is the only state in Malaysia that implements this policy; there is no other state that goes the extra mile like what we have been doing to protect the forest.

"To date, the current size of forest reserves in Selangor stands at 32.5 per cent and we are aiming to increase the number to 33.3 per cent within 10 years, which is equivalent to one-third of the total forest size in the state. We are moving in that direction now," he said.

Hee added that as an advanced state, it is nearly impossible to avoid developments in Selangor, especially in the next 10 to 20 years.

"There are three types of development that



“For each forest reserve that needs to be developed, we must find a replacement forest — either of the same size or bigger — to be gazetted. Selangor is the only state in Malaysia that implements this policy

Hee Loy Sian

must be continued for the sake of the people's wellbeing, namely the construction of new highways, the development of power transmission towers which allows the supply of electricity in Selangor as well as the construction of new piping alignments.

"If we were to carry out all of these projects in the future, we would have to find suitable land and this might lead to another forest reserve degazette. However, rest assured that the state government will gazette another forest in replacement," he said.



Volunteers plant mangrove saplings in Sungai Sepang Besar, Pantai Pasir Putih, Sepang, during a tree-planting campaign organised by the Sepang Municipal Council on Feb 27

#### 100 million trees

The councillor for the environment said Selangor has also taken part in the 100 Million Tree-Planting Campaign that was led by the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry as part of the Greening Malaysia programme.

Hee said the state government is collaborating with the relevant government agencies, especially the local councils, as the bodies play an important role in tree-planting.

"Trees help to improve the air quality in Selangor, and will play a vital role in helping us achieve our target of 45 per cent of carbon emissions by 2023, as what has been set in the low carbon city framework.

"We are aiming to record zero carbon emissions by 2050 and I am proud to say that we are currently on track to achieving that target. To ensure that we can meet this target we will have to plant as many trees as possible.

"The goal is to get 100 million trees planted in 10 years, so the state government through its agencies are working hard to plant 10 million trees a year," he said, adding that they include garden trees, forest reserve trees and mangrove trees.

#### Price to pay

Hee also highlighted that the state government is still intent on imposing a moratorium on logging activities for 25 years.

"Since 2010, we have suspended logging activities in Selangor and it will last until 2035. The Selangor government has to pay a compensation of RM90 million to three companies that were given logging licences by the previous state administration because they were not allowed to continue the activity after we made the ruling.

"That is the price we have to pay in our effort to preserve our forests and to retain the size of our forest reserves to always be over 32 per cent," he concluded.

A Selangor Forestry Department ranger points to the demarcated boundary of the North Kuala Langat Forest Reserve on Feb 26

# A homegrown success story

By ALANG BENDAHARA

**D**ISRUPTING the marketplace by digitising farmers, fishermen as well as micro and small entrepreneurs to eliminate the middleman, thus enabling producers to gain more profit by selling directly to buyers, was the whole idea behind the Selangor Digital e-Supply Chain (Seldec).

In this digitalisation story series, *Selangor Journal* spoke with Selangor Industrial Corporation (SIC) Sdn Bhd general manager Md Fauzan Elham, who is also Seldec's Business Development manager, on its history and evolution.

Seldec, a complete business ecosystem that enables the public to obtain fresh produce directly from rural areas, was first announced by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on Oct 3, 2019, and launched on June 24, 2020, during the time of the movement control order.

In less than two years Seldec has shown impressive progress, taking on board over 1,000 traders, offering more than 10,000 products, and employing over 100 riders who have delivered over 20,000 parcels to its over 7,000 registered customers.

The platform also intends to sign up 10,000 traders by 2027.

In a gist, it has become a brand that is associated with fresh produce in the Klang Valley, supplying to supermarkets, hypermarkets, big restaurant chains, as well as food processing factories.

## Local identity

"When we first started, we discovered that unlike Indonesia's Tokopedia or Bukalapak, the existing online marketplace in the country was foreign-based and not homegrown. So we needed to learn everything to create a truly Malaysian-grown and state-owned online marketplace," said Md Fauzan.

He said initially there were five state entities involved in the setting up of Seldec but it was later refined to only one, which is SIC, which comes under the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS).

In less than a year, the team who had to work from home during the lockdown managed to come up with a working online marketplace platform with a portal seldec.com.my as well as a mobile application that offers buyers eight categories — fresh goods (poultry, sea-



food and vegetables), frozen foods, processed foods, fashion, home and living, healthcare, cosmetics and services.

## Growing pains

Working with small and micro entrepreneurs from rural areas has proved challenging. The team at Seldec often has to manage the initial reluctance of the entrepreneurs to migrate their business online.

Many of the entrepreneurs share a common fear of having to upload photos of their products and having to navigate a digital platform. Some leave Seldec altogether once they are able to find employment

of social restrictions and the economy reopening, there is now less demand for delivery services.

It also has to compete with other e-hailing operators for sales volumes and ridership numbers.

"Despite them all, we have no plan to close down. Instead, we will change our strategy a little bit," Md Fauzan said.

## Solutions

On Sept 30, 2021, Seldec 1.0 (seldec.com.my) was upgraded to Seldec 2.0 and took on a new portal address, seldec.my.

"After a year of operation, we realised that Seldec 1.0 was not strong enough as it was a standalone system. We needed it to do more. Eventually, we decided to turn it into a super app that is able to bring third-party businesses onto its platform.

"And so we brought on board PKNS Real Estate Sdn Bhd's Bazar Lokal (bazarlokal.seldec.my) and pharmaceutical product seller SupaStore (supastore.seldec.my) and made them our flagship stores," Md Fauzan said.

Several companies have now shown an interest to join Seldec as partners as it is costly for any company to set up its own marketplace. Moreover, Seldec's

joining fees are cheap and it provides help in operating the business.

## Big dreams

Md Fauzan said Seldec remains committed to training entrepreneurs through its ongoing partnership with several state agencies, halal product authorities and local councils. However, it needs to monetise itself if it wants to go the distance.

Currently, the company is in talks with authorities in Penang and Kelantan who are looking for an online marketplace for their thousands of entrepreneurs who need a platform to sell their products nationwide.

Seldec also plans to continue its Dapur Seldec programme, a hot food delivery service that started in Ramadan during the early months of lockdown. Having worked closely with many local councils to operate physical food stalls for the programme, Seldec is now seeking to engage with a third party who has the manpower and ability to help operate this side business.

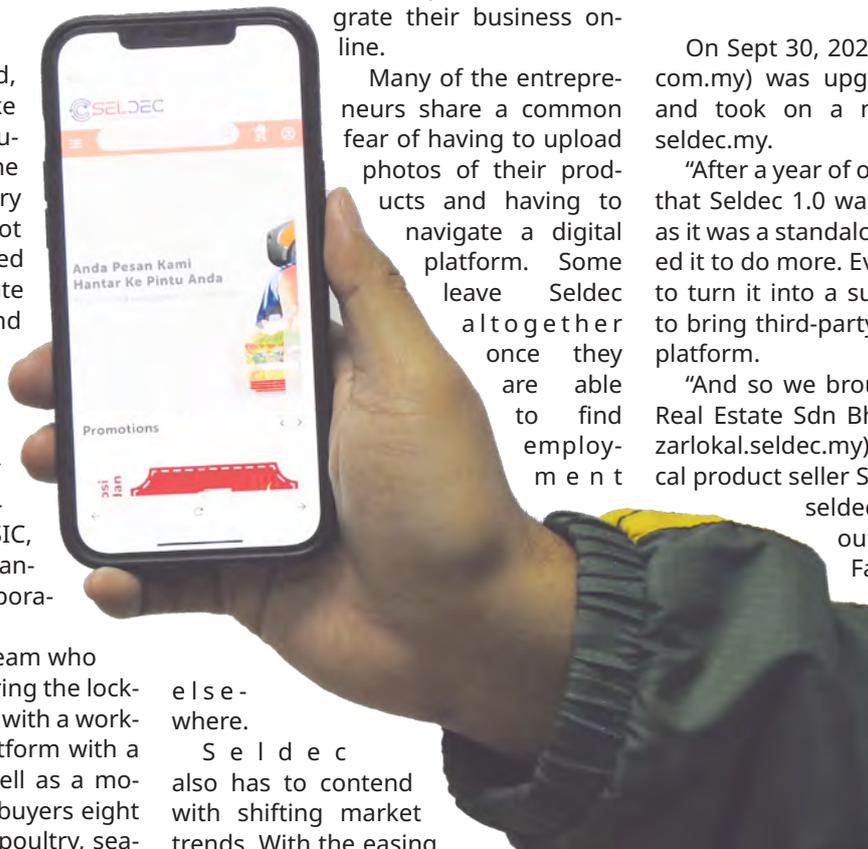
So what does the future hold for the company?

Md Fauzan said that as online marketplaces will take around three to five years to become profitable, Seldec's ultimate goal is to go really big.

"We want to be a super app in Malaysia and we think it is possible. We already have a web portal, an app, a payment gateway and riders as well as a logistics hub," he said.

else-  
where.

Seldec also has to contend with shifting market trends. With the easing





Picture by Selangor Mufti Department

# All eyes on the moon

By ALANG BENDAHARA

**E**ACH year, more than a billion Muslims around the world start a much-awaited month of fasting at the first sight of the Ramadan crescent moon.

In conjunction with the holy month and the upcoming Syawal this year, *Selangor Journal* met with Selangor Mufti Dato' Anhar Opir to discuss the tradition and science of moon sightings — a practice that is essential to determining the key dates of the Islamic Hijri calendar.

Unlike the Gregorian calendar, a new month in the 12-month Hijri calendar is determined by the lunar cycle, and goes on for 29 or 30 days, commencing with the birth of a new moon.

Anhar said moon sightings have been used to ascertain the dates for Ramadan and Syawal in Malaysia since Oct 7, 1972.

"Although there are no records of when moon sightings began in Selangor, the practice is believed to have started around the same time as when it began in Malaysia, in the early 1970s at Bukit Malawati," he said.

Initially it was conducted at three locations in the state which are Bukit Malawati in Kuala Selangor, Pulau Angsa off the coast of Kuala Selangor and Bukit Jugra in Kuala Langat.

The locations were chosen for their high elevation and for their position facing west and towards the sea, which meant having a direct view of the horizon as well as where the sun and moon set. The hill locations also guaranteed less light pollution and no buildings or



clouds to obstruct the view.

"However, the Pulau Angsa site was later closed in 2012 due to its high cost of maintenance. It was replaced by the Selangor Observatory in Sabak Bernam, which began operations in 2010 and was officiated by the Sultan of Selangor in 2012 to turn it into a centre for Islamic astronomy in the state," he said.

Anhar added that the Selangor Observatory enables moon sighting activities to be conducted every month, which are essential in making precise calculations for the Hijri calendar.

"This is important as the sighting process is part of the *fardhu kifayah* requirement which must be done by the ruler for all months of the Hijri calendar and

not just for Ramadan and Syawal," he said.

Currently, Malaysia carries out moon sightings at 29 locations throughout the country, including the three in Selangor that cover the northern, middle and southern parts of the state.

The sightings are supervised at all three sites by senior officers from the Selangor Mufti Department and conducted with the Selangor Mapping and Survey Department using equipment such as theodolites, telescopes and binoculars, which are the standard tools for the job.

The basic equipment costs between RM10,000 and RM50,000 but the Selangor Observatory has even more expensive instruments in the form of three

telescopes, including one for observing the sun within its dome.

"There are no plans to build more sighting sites in Selangor but the Selangor Observatory will be upgraded soon to the tune of RM1.57 million to construct an additional building for researchers and visitors," Anhar said.

Although there are new high-tech methods for moon sighting like telescopes linked to charged-coupled device video cameras to detect the light from the new moon, as well radio telescopes that can determine the exact location of the new moon, Anhar said these techniques need to be verified first by the Islamic law of Syarak.

Selangor, along with other states in the country, adopts both the *rukayah* and *hisab* methods in determining the start and end of Ramadan, as well as the start of Syawal.

*Rukayah*, meaning to sight the moon using the naked eye after sunset, is a sunnah practice recommended by the Prophet Muhammad. *Hisab*, on the other hand, is the use of astronomical or scientific calculations to determine the arrival of the new moon.

When applied together, this combination of science and sightings is known as *imkannur rukyah* and leaves no room for error.

"Based on our calculations, there is a possibility that a new moon can be sighted with the eye this year," Anhar said.

When that happens, a new month of officially commences and Muslims will herald the arrival of Syawal and begin the joyous celebration of Aidilfitri.

# State plays job matchmaker



By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

**S**ELANGOR has emerged as the state with the second-lowest unemployment rate (at 2.9 per cent) after Putrajaya, faring better than other states in the country in the fourth quarter of 2021, according to data from the Malaysian Statistics Department.

This performance is worthy of praise as Selangor managed to bring down the unemployment rate from 4.4 per cent in the second quarter of last year despite the despairing job market that was overwhelmed by Covid-19.

In conjunction with the Labour Day celebrations this year, *Selangor Journal* reached out to state executive councillor for youth and human capital development Mohd Khairuddin Othman to discuss the state government's initiatives to provide more jobs to the people.

Mohd Khairuddin said although several factors have contributed to the drop in the unemployment rate, it is undeniable that the efforts of the state government in organising job fairs has helped significantly.

He said the Jelajah Selangor Bekerja programme, the Smart Selangor Technical and Professional Skills Initiative (Iktisass) and the Roda Darul Ehsan (RiDE) initiative were vigorously promoted to ensure that the people could reap the rewards and improve on their

quality of life.

"These programmes kept evolving to accommodate the constantly-changing Covid-19 rules, but they were consistent in prioritising the needs of the job seekers.

"Hybrid interviews involving both physical and virtual meetings became a new norm when the National Security Council recommended careful measures.

"Moving forward, the state government will keep providing more employment opportunities through strategic partnerships with industry players in order to meet the needs of the current job market," he said.

## 30,000 jobs

Mohd Khairuddin said that the Selangor government is planning to organise the Selangor Mega Job Fair 2022 Carnival on June 11 and 12 at the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) Convention Centre.

"Some 150 employers from various sectors will be participating, and approximately 30,000 jobs will go on offer.

The participating sectors include food & beverage; automotive; information technology; wholesale and retail; administration and services; professional and technical; electrical and mechanical; finance and takaful; manufacturing; education; aviation and cosmetics.

"As we transition to the endemic phase, this carnival will be organised on a larger scale and will be open to all Selangor citizens, specifically the youths. They are encouraged to attend the interview sessions according to their qualifications and career interests," he said.

Last year the state government also organised the Jelajah Selangor Bekerja 2021 at several locations in Selangor, including Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor, Kuala Kubu Bharu, Hulu Langat and Petaling, offering over 25,000 employment opportunities.

## Career matching

Another initiative to help increase job opportunities for youths in Selangor is the Iktisass programme, which aims to provide technical skills and professional training to Malaysian Certificate of Education leavers, school dropouts, and special needs students.

"Last year, we organised the SELatih Sure - Selatih Strategic Upskilling Reskilling programme in collaboration with the Selangor Human Resources Development Centre (SHRDC) which helps to provide a skilled workforce in Selangor to meet the needs of the industry.

"Another employment opportunity programme that we conducted was Selangor Kerjaya, an initiative by Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI to drive the people's economy through appropriate and effective career matching.

"The state-led effort also aimed at those who lost their jobs or source of income during the movement control order imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19," Mohd Khairuddin said.

Registered applicants had to undergo a profile evaluation and a career matching session subject to the job that was advertised. After that, the employer made a selection before the job placement session. Successful candidates were given the chance to undergo professional training and access to online learning for 12 months.





# Selangor turns on the charm

By ALANG BENDAHARA

ON April 1, Malaysia transitioned to the much-awaited endemic phase of Covid-19, marking the event with the reopening of its borders. As airports brace for the influx of foreign visitors, what does this hold for Selangor?

Tourism Selangor chief executive officer Azrul Shah Mohamad, in an interview with *Selangor Journal*, said the state is already ready with its post-pandemic visitor plan.

According to the latest United Nations World Tourism Organisation Panel of Experts, 64 per cent of its members said that they expect global international arrivals to return to 2019 levels only in 2024 or later.

Yet, at the height of the pandemic in 2021, Selangor was already attracting a remarkable 3,187,018 tourists to the state, with 77 per cent of them being domestic tourists and the rest coming from outside of Malaysia.

From the pool of international tourists, 26 per cent came from China, 8 per cent from Singapore, 7 per cent from Japan, 6 per cent from Indonesia and another 6 per cent from India. Most visited for health and wellness purposes under the umbrella of medical tourism, and also to conduct business as commercial travel was not permitted last year.

"This came as no surprise as Selangor has 46 world-class hospitals that are recognised by the Malaysia Healthcare Tourism Council (MHTC) under the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH)," said Azrul Shah.

"Also, Selangor's unique selling point is its accessibility and connectivity as it is strategically located with advanced transportation. It also offers varied tourism segmentation, from eco- and agro-tourism to theme parks, sports tourism, experiential tourism, cultural and heritage tourism, and shopping and retail. Selangor has it all," he said.

## 'Makan-makan'

It comes as no surprise that domestic tourism has seen a surge as social restrictions ease across the country. Similar to other states, staycations have proven to be the most popular tourism activity in Selangor, with local councils' data showing high occupancy rates during weekends.

Capitalising on this and on the idea of the hungry traveller, Tourism Selangor has introduced Deliciously Selangor: The Ultimate Selangor Food Directory that can be found online in multiple languages for easy access.

The guide aims to create memorable gastronomic experiences for people on 'makan-makan' or food hunting trips by offering an extensive list of cafes and restaurants to choose from.

Tourism Selangor hopes that by introducing "a unique journey of tastes" — be it enjoying rambutans fresh off a tree at a fruit farm, feasting on crabs in Kuala Selangor or tucking into a plate of satay Kajang — visitors will come back for more.

On other domestic plans, Azrul said Tourism Selangor will strengthen its Pusing Selangor Dulu campaign by embarking on the Jelajah Pusing Selangor Dulu 2022 promotional tour to three states — Kedah,

Johor and Sabah — which have shown tremendous tourist arrival potential.

Meanwhile, to attract international tourists, he said efforts to promote the state through the Splendid Selangor campaign will continue, as will the use of the Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Consumers (B2C) approaches that have covered almost 40 countries around the globe.

"In the first quarter of this year, Tourism Selangor had participated in tourism and trade expos such as FITUR 2022 and Expo 2020 Dubai, and our upcoming participation will be at the Seatrade Cruise Global 2022 in Miami, Florida in late April and at the World Travel Market in London in November," he said.

## Marketing tools

In acknowledging the importance of digitalisation, Tourism Selangor has recently launched its own travel app Go Selangor to provide tourists full access to the state's tourism products. The app also

serves as a one-stop centre for merchants like travel operators and food traders to point tourists to the most interesting locations in Selangor.

Tourism Selangor is also utilising the creative talents of the team behind the popular Cyberjaya-based animated series *BoBoiBoy* to promote the state.

"A video featuring BoBoiBoy and his superfriends visiting popular destinations in Selangor will be released after Hari Raya Aidilfitri this year in multiple languages to attract local and international travellers as the animation has been featured on the Disney Channel," said Azrul.

## Prepared

Based on feedback from international travel agents, Azrul is confident that the recovery of Selangor's tourism sector is underway as tourists from China and the Middle East are raring to come and visit.

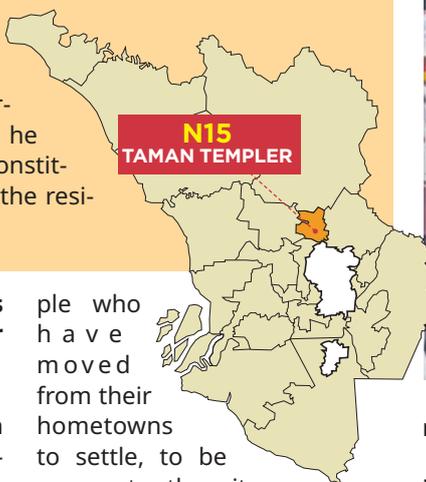
"They can't wait to do their 'revenge travel'. So we are confident once everything is settled they will come again and we are prepared to accept them," he said.



# A true voice of the people

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

**T**aman Templer is a state constituency under the Selangor parliamentary district with nearly 50,000 registered voters. Located close to the capital of Kuala Lumpur, the place has been represented by Mohd Sany Hamzan since the last General Election in 2018. Mohd Sany is known for his jovial and approachable demeanour, and yet is firm when the situation calls for it, making him one of the more outstanding assemblymen at Selangor State Legislative Assembly sittings. In a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*, he speaks candidly about his constituency and the concerns of the residents of Taman Templer.



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

**Mohd Sany (MS):** In Taman Templer, the most famous industry is tourism as this area houses several tourist attractions including the highest flyover in the country, the Rawang Bypass, which connects Taman Templer with the Rawang area. For those who are interested in recreational activities such as hiking, Taman Templer is also known for its Commonwealth Forest Park Falls and Kanching Eco Forest Park.

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

**MS:** I would say that being located just a few minutes away from Kuala Lumpur is a huge plus point for Taman Templer. Undeniably, this area has been the preferred choice for people who have moved from their hometowns to settle, to be nearer to the city centre.

Half of the residents in Taman Templer live in high-density areas like Kampung Selayang Baru and Kampung Selayang Indah. In fact, we are seeing more housing developments sprouting up in Taman Templer in order to cater to the growing number of residents.

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

**MS:** Ever since I was elected as the state representative, the main concern in this area has always been flash floods. The floods happen due to the narrow tributary of Sungai Udang.

At every Selangor State Legislative Assembly session, I make sure that this issue is addressed and answered by the state executive councillor. Since Taman Templer cannot avoid the flash floods, I am pushing the state government as well as the Federal government to expedite the land ownership transfer process for the purpose of widening the Sungai Udang road. If the road can be widened, God willing, maybe the flood problem can be resolved, especially for Kampung Selayang Baru.

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

**MS:** To me, whenever I manage to resolve any issues in my constituency, I regard that as an achievement. I am representing the people, hence whenever I receive any complaints, I will make sure to monitor the issue and help to raise them to a higher level.

However, I must admit that my capabilities are limited when, for example, a road expansion requires a budget of RM60 million but I am only given an allocation of RM800,000 a year. Nonetheless, I do my part which is to bring the voice of the people to the state assembly. I want to ensure that their voices are heard.

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

**MS:** For every complaint I receive, I will ensure that it is attended to within 24 hours. I think it is important to get to the root of each problem. For example, road issues — I will need to check which party the road belongs to. It could be under the authority of the Works Department (JKR) (Federal), JKR Selangor, or the local councils.

Once I have figured out the owner of the road, I will liaise with their department officers and hold a meeting with them. We will discuss and find a way to solve the problem. If the matter cannot be resolved, I will forward it to the district level or state level. If we are stuck at a dead end, I will go all out to bring the issue to the Federal level. It is my duty to try all avenues.



# State hopes to send 800-strong contingent to Sukma

By **SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL**

**SHAH ALAM** - Up to 800 Selangor athletes are expected to participate in 31 types of sports in the Malaysian Games (Sukma) 2022 which will be held in Kuala Lumpur from Sept 29 to Oct 8.

Selangor State Sports Council (MSN) executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said the actual number of athletes will depend on the Sukma Technical Committee's census, which will only be

known after Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"Among the conditions of participation is that each type of sport competed must have the involvement of at least eight states. If the participation numbers are insufficient then that sport will be dropped.

"For the time being, they are conducting the census and will finalise the number of athletes based on the type of sports that will be held," he told *Selangorkini*.

Mohamad Nizam added that the performance of the state's athletes will be evaluated based on their performance in previous Sukma games or on their past records, as there have not been any tournaments held in the past two years.

"For now the athletes are undergoing training as usual, after Tarawih prayers and on the weekends," he said.



Selangor is aiming for third place in Sukma 2022 and hopes to win at least 60 gold medals.

This edition of the games, known as Sukma XX, MSN 2022, will take place in venues around the Klang Valley.

It was given the go-ahead by the Cabinet on Feb 23 after having been postponed for two years following the Covid-19 pandemic.

## No mountain too high for MBSA employee



**The Menteri Besar gives Rina words of encouragement during the meet-up — Picture by HAFIZ OTHMAN**

**SHAH ALAM** - A Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) employee is aiming to become the first woman in the state to conquer Mount Everest.

Selangor native Rina Jordana Adnan, 42, said the mission will be carried out with nine other participants in the spirit of unity.

"That is my hope (to climb Everest). As a child of Selangor, I wish to contribute something to the state. When I reach the peak, I want to see our flag flying high.

"So far, three Malaysian women from Pahang and Terengganu have succeeded in scaling the peak of the world's tallest mountain," she said.

On April 13, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari handed the state flag to Rina, who is MBSA's assistant youth and sports officer, to raise her spirits.

During the handover at the Selangor State Secretariat Building, Amirudin also inquired about Rina's preparation to climb the roughly 8,800-meter mountain.

Rina, a former national-level Pencak silat martial artist, said as the climbing session will coincide with Hari Raya Aidilfitri, she intends to bring along a traditional attire to wear at the foot of the mountain.

"There will be a photo session there

to commemorate the event. Although I will be celebrating Aidilfitri differently this year I hope everything will run smoothly," she said.

Rina's fellow climbers are hearing-impaired climber Muhammad Hawari Hashim, 31 and three VAT 69 commandoes, Kanang Anak Usin, 42; Pragash Murugesu, 32; and Mohammad Hanif Che Ahmad, 28.

The other climbers are Azim Afif Ishak, 33; Ayu Wanirah Nahrudin, 29; Ahmad Murshid Maktar, 35; Jack Oh Jin Heng, 37; and Malaysia Civil Defence Department director Lieutenant Colonel (PA) Awang Askandar Ampuan Yaacob, 54.

## Grassroots League kicks off in July

**SHAH ALAM** - The Grassroots League in Selangor is expected to start in July on a circuit basis by targeting primary and secondary school students aged under 15.

Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said focus will be given to five types of sports, which are sepak takraw, badminton, basketball, volleyball and netball.

According to Mohamad Nizam, the students' participation will be through the District Sports Council once the government allows sports activities to be carried out in schools.

"When we mention 'grassroots league', we are actually talking about students. Therefore, we also need to work with the Selangor State Education Department.

"God willing, we will organise the league to our best ability according to the latest standard operating procedures. This league may take place as a circuit starting in July followed by September and December," he told *Selangorkini*.

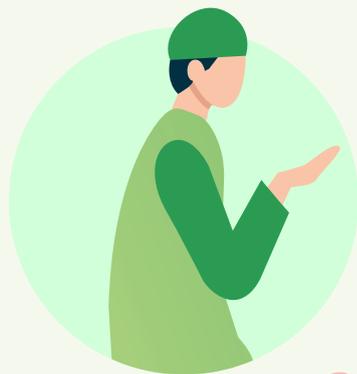
He also said MSNS will ensure that all existing sports facilities are in good shape so that the programme can run as scheduled.

"With a few months left before it is held, we will need to make the best preparations, especially since this league is new," he said.

The 2022 Selangor Budget allocated RM1 million for the Grassroots League in the hope that it will bring up the quality of sports in the state.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government is constantly following the progress of the amateur leagues in all the districts in Selangor.

# Practices Recommended for the First Day of Aidilfitri



## Recite the Takbir Raya

Starting after sunset on the last day of Ramadan and before the Aidilfitri prayers

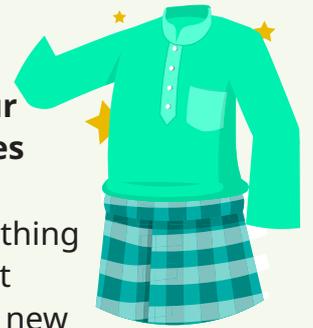


## Take a bath

Between midnight and before the start of the Aidilfitri prayers

## Put on your best clothes

Wear something nice but not necessarily new



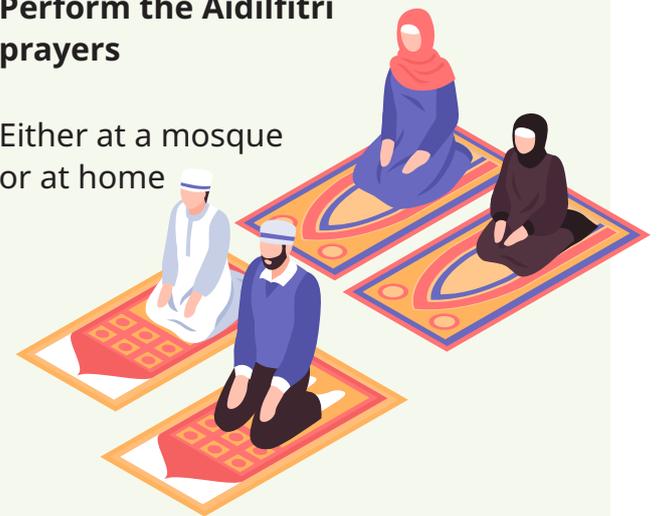
## Put on perfume

For adults and children, no matter if they go for Aidilfitri prayers or not



## Perform the Aidilfitri prayers

Either at a mosque or at home



## Take a meal

Before performing the Aidilfitri prayers



## Wish others

Say 'Selamat Hari Raya, Maaf Zahir dan Batin' to one another

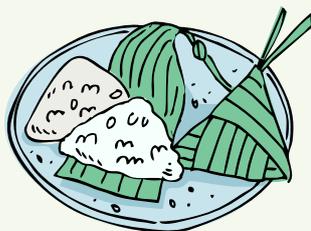


\* Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim)  
Ministry of Health (MOH)

## Healthy Eating Guide



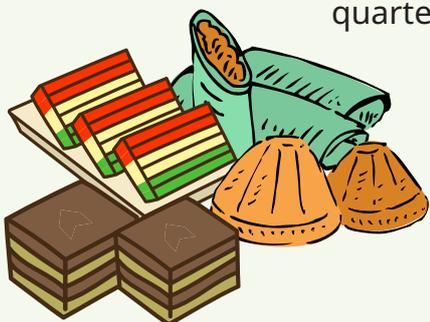
Eat small portions and adhere to the 'quarter-quarter-half' plate rule



Go for low-calorie and less-fatty foods, like fruits and ketupat

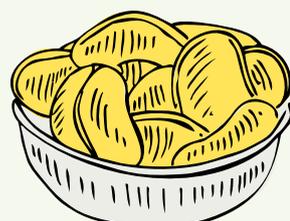


Eat foods high in fiber, like sayur lodeh, to avoid constipation

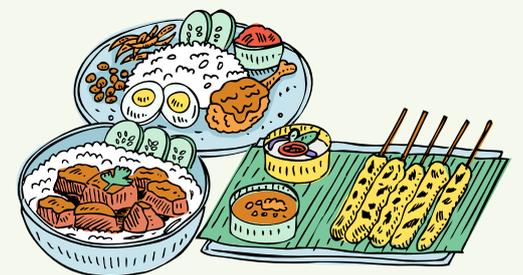


Limit consumption of rich, sweet foods like dodol

Limit consumption of foods high in salt like banana chips



Drink plain water instead of soda/sweet drinks



Don't go visiting on an empty stomach, which could trigger you to overeat