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# SELANGOR JOURNAL



6<sup>TH</sup> SELANGOR  
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
SUMMIT 2022

## Trade show to go big



SELANGOR is anticipating to host its largest international trade exhibition yet this coming October, and aims to see RM350 million in potential negotiated sales stemming from the event. The sixth edition of the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) 2022, to be held in hybrid mode like last year, seeks to attract at least 30,000 visitors and the participation of 850 booths. Last year, the event exceeded its target with 15,000 visitors, earning a spot in the Malaysia Book of Records as the first state to have hosted the largest business event of the year. As of mid-May this year, Invest Selangor Bhd has received a 40 per cent participation commitment. With various plans in place to attract more investors, the state administration is confident it can exceed its investment target after achieving an estimated overall investment of RM7.5 billion in the first quarter of the year.

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# People's welfare tops agenda

By NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD

**SHAH ALAM** - The state administration has designed a plan — dubbed the First Selangor Plan — to champion the people's socioeconomic agenda, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said it is crucial to formulate a five-year comprehensive plan based on the state government's experience in handling the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected many sectors.

"The pandemic had forced us to rethink and relook at the economic gap and its effect on the less fortunate group.

"God willing, the First Selangor Plan will be tabled during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly in July," he said during the launch of Gagasan #kitase-muaKEADILAN here on May 6.

Amirudin said various welfare programmes are actively being carried out, including the newly-introduced Bantuan Keluarga Sejahtera Selangor

(Bingkas), which provides a monthly RM300 assistance.

He also said that the Iltizam Selangor Sihat initiative and the state's health screening programme, Saringan Selangor Sihat, will help the people by offering free health checks.

"The Jelajah Iltizam Selangor Penyayang programme will start in June. I will be meeting the people of Selangor across the districts, launch new programmes and provide assistance to the

recipients," he said.

On Nov 26 last year, Amirudin had announced the state administration's intention to launch the five-year development plan (2022-2026) during the tabling of the 2022 Selangor Budget.

Amirudin said that the plan would focus on post-pandemic economic recovery to ensure that the state remains on the right track and strengthen its position as the centre of economic growth in Malaysia.

## One more round of discounts: MB

**SHAH ALAM** - The Ehsan Food Prices Intervention Programme launched in February to reduce the expenses of the people has recorded total sales of more than RM3.7 million.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said of that figure, almost RM3 million are sales from the Jualan Prihatin Rakyat initiative held throughout the 56 constituencies in the state.

Another initiative under the Ehsan umbrella, the three-day Jualan Prihatin Mega held right before Hari Raya Aidilfitri, generated RM763,000 in sales.

Both events were organised and managed by the Selangor Agriculture Development Corporation (PKPS).

"From the month of February until the onset of Hari Raya Aidilfitri in May, high-quality chicken and beef, fish, oil, eggs and vegetables were sold to the people at discounted prices.

"Not only did this help to reduce the people's spending, it brought them festive joy. It was the state government's determination and commitment that made this happen for the people," Amirudin wrote in his Facebook account on May 27.

Through the Jualan Prihatin Rakyat, fresh whole chickens were sold at RM12 each, grade B eggs were RM10 a tray, fresh meat was RM35 a kilogramme and frozen mackerel fish, RM8 a kilogramme.

As a temporary measure to ease the current chicken glut, the state plans to have another round of sales, slated to begin on June 1 until right before the Aidiladha celebrations, to further help the people.

State executive councillor for agriculture and the agro-based industry Izham Hashim guaranteed that the chickens will be priced lower than what is sold at the markets. He also hoped that this would ease the burden brought about by the rising cost of goods.



## Grain corn project to stem imports

**SHAH ALAM** - The grain corn planting project in Kuala Langat Selatan, Kuala Langat near here and in Gemas, Negeri Sembilan, has the potential to reduce livestock feed imports by between two and three per cent.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the joint venture project between Selangor Agricultural Development Corporation (PKPS) and Menteri Besar Negeri Sembilan (Incorporated) or MBINS, which costs RM3 million, will begin after clean-up work is completed in the third quarter of this year.

"The project on 283.2 hectares (700 acres) of land is a sign of commitment to a comprehensive solution to the soaring chicken feed prices due to dependence on livestock feed imports.

"Based on references from the United States, this crop can produce three times a year, with each round taking 100 days," said Amirudin at a press conference after the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between PKPS and MBINS for the grain corn planting project through the Food

Security Initiative programme.

Amirudin said the project is a creative and innovative attempt by both parties.

"I believe we are presenting a (new) model (grain corn planting project). If successful, maybe we can combine it with others because the challenge is in the expertise to cultivate the grain corn.

"Of course, it requires certain soil types and supervision. So this business model is a creative and innovative experiment," he said.

The MoU was signed by PKPS group chief executive officer Dr Mohamad Khairil Mohamad Razi and Negeri Sembilan state financial officer and MBINS managing director Datuk Mohd Khidir Majid, and witnessed by Amirudin and Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun.

Also present at the event were Selangor Infrastructure and Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-based Industry Committee chairman Izham Hashim and Negeri Sembilan Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Action Committee chairman Datuk

Bakri Sawir.

Meanwhile, Mohamad Khairil said that a total of 5,490 tonnes of grain corn can be produced annually when the corn planting project is completed and that the crop harvested could be marketed to local livestock industry players.

He said the cooperation is proof of both states' commitment to stabilising the price of chicken feed and reducing dependence on imported grain corn.

"It is also part of the long-term planning of the Selangor and Negeri Sembilan governments under the Ehsan Food Prices Intervention Programme framework," he added.

Based on the current market price of the crop at RM1,950 per tonne, Mohd Khidir from MBINS said that the project would generate a revenue of RM10.7 million a year.

"It is hoped that this project can be utilised in strategic planning related to food security and price control of poultry feed," he said in a speech at the MoU signing ceremony.



# Business summit will be our biggest: Exco

By ALANG BENDAHARA

**SHAH ALAM** - The sixth edition of the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) 2022, which will be held from Oct 6 to 9 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, is set to become the biggest business summit organised by the state so far.

State executive councillor for trade and investment Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the event, organised by Invest Selangor Berhad, aims for RM350 million in potential negotiated sales and at least 30,000 visitors to turn up. The organisers also hope to have the participation of at least 850 booths.

"SIBS 2021 recorded RM217.6 million in potential negotiated sales, while the pre-Covid-19 SIBS 2019's sales recorded RM247 million. This year, we are looking to achieve RM350 million in potential negotiated sales, which will be the biggest so far," he told reporters during a press conference on SIBS 2022 at the Invest Selangor Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house on May 12.

Teng said this year's summit will still

be held in hybrid mode, but the focus will be on the physical event.

He added that Invest Selangor has received a 40 per cent participation commitment from the 850 booths they have targeted so far.

"Out of the 850 booths, we expect 20 per cent to be from international companies and investors. This is due to the reopening of the country's borders, so we expect there will be more foreign investors coming in," Teng said.

The summit's highlights include the 7th Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention (SDEC) 2022, which will feature mayors from cities in the Asean region.

"The mayors will share their knowledge and ideas on managing their cities and discuss the concept of smart cities and innovations. This aligns with Selangor's aspiration to become an Asean Smart State by 2025."

Teng said SDEC would also gather industry leaders, academicians, small-and-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and players from the public and private sectors, who will delve into the

mechanics of existing and future smart cities along with digital economy frameworks and solutions.

Also in attendance at the press conference was Invest Selangor Berhad's chief executive officer Datuk Hasan Azhari Idris.

This year, the summit will comprise various exhibitions, namely the 8th Selangor International Expo (F&B) 2022, the 2nd Selangor International Expo (Medic) 2022, the 2nd Selangor Industrial Park Expo 2022, the 7th Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy 2022, as well as the 3rd Selangor R&D and Innovation Expo 2022.

SIBS 2022 will also include the Selangor Asean Business Conference and parallel events, including the Selangor International Culinary Festival 2022, the Selangor International Healthcare Conference 2022 and the Selangor International Halal Conference 2022.

For more information on the summit or interest in participating, follow Invest Selangor on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram or visit [www.selangorsummit.com](http://www.selangorsummit.com).

## Our success lies in our diversity: MB

**KUALA LANGAT** - Development in Selangor continues to remain balanced and covers all aspects despite the state's vigorous investment activities.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state has organised various programmes on health, culture and religion to help the community.

"This is the kind of balance that we want to create in the state because, despite our business investments and efforts on economic development, we continue to explore various platforms such as e-commerce to help the people overcome their financial burdens.

"We have also expanded programmes such as the state's health screening programme, Saringan Selangor Sihat, and carried out welfare programmes for religious and cultural institutions," he said.

Amirudin was speaking during his opening speech at the state-level Wesak Day celebration at Fo Guang Shan Dong Zen Temple in Jenjarom, Kuala Langat, here on May 14.

He added that Selangor has also maintained its focus on the existing economic subsectors and even introduced new ones like e-commerce, rail systems and the aerospace industry.

"In fact, I am proud that the cultural and religious aspects have become an attraction for (tourists in) Selangor.

"For example, Selangor isn't just famous for its economic development and infrastructure but also for three religious monuments, which are the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Mosque or the Blue Mosque, Batu Caves and the Fo Guang Shan Dong Zen Temple," he said.

## Selangor poised to meet revenue target

**KUALA LANGAT** - The state government has recorded RM1 billion in revenue in the first quarter of this year, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Based on the current performance, Amirudin said he is confident that Selangor would be able to hit its revenue target of RM2.05 billion this year.

The Menteri Besar expressed his

appreciation for the efforts and sacrifices of all civil servants, as well as members of the community, who have worked hard to develop the state.

"Hopefully, the relationship between the government and the people will become closer. Every allocation and policy made by us will be channelled back to the people," he said when delivering his speech during the

state-level Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house programme at Jugra Stadium, here on May 19.

Last year, the Selangor government managed to collect RM2.23 billion in revenue, surpassing the initial target of RM2.2 billion.

However, this year's target was lowered to RM2.05 billion due to the prolonged repercussions of Covid-19.

## Selangor mulls total plastic bag ban

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government has proposed to fully abolish the use of plastic bags in all business premises in Selangor by 2025, according to state executive councillor for the environment Hee Loy Sian.

However, he said the initiative will depend on whether there are other more viable options than the plastic bag.

"We recommended abolishing plastic bag usage by 2025 and replacing them with other suitable types of carrier bags — be they recyclable bags or paper bags."

"We also encourage the local authorities to always organise plastic bag and environmental awareness campaigns for the people," Hee told *SelangorKini*.

The councillor added that people are encouraged to use eco-friendly bags when shopping since they can save a lot from the 20 sen per bag surcharge.

On Sept 27 last year, Hee announced that the 20 sen surcharge may increase should the campaign, which has been in effect since 2017, fail to meet its goal.

He said the annual amount collected from the sale of plastic bags will be reviewed before any policy changes are made.

## Temporary licences for traders till year end

**SUBANG JAYA** - The Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) will continue to issue temporary business licences to small traders until the end of the year.

Its mayor, Dato' Johary Anuar, said the move is to help those whose businesses were hit by the pandemic recover during the transition to the endemic phase.

"Our focus is to ensure that the socioeconomic status (of the traders) under the purview of MBSJ goes up."

"In support of the local traders, we will facilitate by issuing the licences. They can approach us so we can help to identify the locations where they can operate their stalls," he said.

Speaking to reporters after a Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house at the MBSJ headquarters here on May 13, Johary expressed his confidence that the economy of the local traders would be able to improve.

"We are now in transition to an endemic phase. As a local council, we will help to raise the financial status of the local traders."

"We are aware that in the past two years a lot of businesses have been affected. However, we foresee that the economy in the Subang Jaya area will grow successfully," he said.

On Feb 21, state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said that the state government had issued more than 10,000 temporary licences to traders affected by Covid-19.

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## Positive feedback on parking app

By **MUSTAKIM RAMLI**

**SUBANG JAYA** - The Selangor government has received a positive response for implementing the digital parking payment system across the state.

State executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said after a month of its enforcement, all parties have welcomed the Smart Selangor Parking (SSP) payment method and prefer it over scratch-and-display parking coupons.

"Initially, we received about one per cent of complaints. However, we handled all the complaints well. All unused scratch-and-display parking coupons that were purchased earlier were allowed to be converted into e-coupons."

"The use of e-coupons has eased the process. We were informed that over 57,000 old coupons have been converted into e-coupons with a total transaction of nearly RM40,000," he said when met after attending the Puchong Community Art Festival 2022 at Wawasan Puchong Recreational Park here on May 8.

All local authorities in Selangor fully migrated to the e-coupon system on April 1.

To use SSP, the public can download the app from Google Playstore, Apple AppStore or the Huawei Store.

Those who were using scratch-and-display parking coupons need to register as SSP users in order to transfer the remaining value of the coupons into credit.



## New, stricter guidelines on recycling plastics

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government has moved to ban the import of plastic waste for recovery or final disposal by all factories in Selangor that conduct plastic recycling.

State executive councillor for tourism and the environment Hee Loy Sian said the move is a commitment to the state's environmental protection measures.

"The state government endeavours to promote sustainable development by balancing economic growth and environmental protection, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals."

"The problem of plastic pollution resulting from uncontrolled waste management must be handled holistically by all parties. We are very serious about resolving this issue as it brings harm to the environment and to public health," he said in a statement on May 19.

To this end, the 11th State Executive Council Meeting (MMKN) for 2022 which convened on April 20 and verified by the 12th meeting on May 11 has approved five guidelines for the recycling sector in Selangor.

They are:

- to disallow the import of plastic waste for recycling
- to discontinue the issuance of licences to facilities that trade in plastic waste
- to carry out reviews every five years on recycling facilities that seek licence renewals
- to allow existing factories with legitimate business licences to operate, subject to their Environmental Impact Assessment and other council laws, and
- for the Department of Environment and local councils to carry out more stringent inspections on recycling facilities to ensure adherence to existing laws.

Meanwhile, Hee said MMKN has rejected the licence renewal application of Jingye Manufacturing, a company that processes recycled plastics in Sepang. MMKN has also cut the electricity supply of the facility.

The decision was made after complaints by nearby residents led to the discovery of traces of plastic waste in some areas surrounding the facility.

## Job fair to feature top companies

**SHAH ALAM** - Over 20,000 jobs will be offered through the Selangor Mega Job Fair this year, which will take place on June 11 and 12 at the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) Convention Centre.

State executive councillor for young generation development Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the programme involves the participation of over 100 companies in the services, manufacturing, electronics and management sectors.

"We take a serious view of the unemployment rate in Selangor, which stands at 3.2 per cent for the first half of the year. Therefore, this programme is held to ensure that this figure is lowered."

"This time it will be held on a larger scale after two years of being conducted in a hybrid manner due to the Covid-19 standard operating procedures," he said.

Mohd Khairuddin was speaking at the fair's launch, which also saw the launch of [selangorjobportal.com.my](http://selangorjobportal.com.my) by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari at the University of Selangor's main campus on May 12.

Top companies like Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor, Daikin Malaysia Sdn Bhd, DHL Express, DRB Hicom Berhad, Giant Malaysia and Malayan Banking Berhad will be among the participants.

Others include Media Prima Digital, Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Sdn Bhd (Proton), Prasarana Malaysia Berhad, Shopee Malaysia, Sport Direct MST Sdn Bhd and Toyota Auto Body Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

The councillor called upon youths to take advantage of the two-day fair and encouraged them to pre-register via the portal.

He added that a series of visits will also be made to several tertiary education institutions to promote the fair.

"We believe that the programme will attract the interest of many job seekers. As such we will ensure they keep safe by wearing face masks and using hand sanitiser," Mohd Khairuddin said.



Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari hands duit raya to children at the state-level Hari Raya open house held in Hulu Selangor on May 15. With him is chief executive officer of Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) Norita Mohd Sidek

## State cares for welfare of non-Muslims: Exco

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government has disbursed almost RM70 million in allocation to non-Islamic bodies in the state from 2009 until this year, says Dato' Teng Chang Khim.

The Special Committee for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Taoism (Limas) chairman said that the allocation was used for repairing religious houses, carrying out religious activities and as special assistance for festivals observed by the non-Muslim communities.

"The allocation by the state government is channelled based on needs and not according to the state constituencies. A total of RM69,494,990 has been allocated by the state administration to the non-Islamic associations in the state from 2009 until 2022."

"Every year, the state government, through the Limas committee, would also

celebrate the religious festivals observed by the non-Muslim communities, such as Wesak Day, Deepavali, and Christmas."

"The contributions and celebration of festivals is a show of appreciation by the state government as an acknowledgement of the help and donations by the non-Islamic religious bodies, which has kept the harmony in the state," said Teng in his speech during the state-level Wesak Day celebration at the Fo Guang Shan Dong Zen Temple in Jenjarom, Kuala Langat, on May 14.

Teng said that the allocation had been disbursed based on the number of primary religious houses in Selangor, where the population data of the believers were obtained from the Department of Statistics Malaysia.

"Based on the data at hand, the percentage of distributions to Buddhist, Taoist and other religious associations totals 60.47 per cent, Hindu associations

at 28.75 per cent, Christian associations at 9.42 per cent and 1.36 per cent for the Sikh associations.

"The Selangor government had also added an allocation of RM1 million in 2021 into the existing annual allocation, totalling RM7 million. In 2022, a total of RM 6.3 million has been allocated," he said.

Meanwhile, Teng said the state administration had also channelled an annual contribution of RM250 to each young Buddhist who attends a Sunday Dharma School that is managed by a Buddhist association in Selangor.

"The state administration acknowledges the need for the Buddhist community to conduct religious classes for their youths. Therefore, for the past few years until today, the state government has disbursed an allocation of RM250 yearly to each young Buddhist attending Sunday Dharma School," he said.

## One-stop site to ease applications

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor Special Committee for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Taoism (Limas) has launched the online Selangor Limas Financial Support System on March 1 to facilitate the application for financial aid by non-Islamic religious associations in the state.

Its chairman, Dato' Teng Chang Khim, said that the non-Islamic bodies in Selangor have been informed of the digital system and as of April 6, 330 applications have been submitted.

"The reason why we developed the

system is to make it easy for non-Islamic associations to apply for financial support by doing it online. Registered bodies no longer need to come to the office at the Selangor State Secretariat building or personally meet with any Limas committee members to hand over the application form."

"A series of discussions have been held to ensure that the system would be developed and give an impact to the delivery of service to the users."

"Aligned with our aspirations, the state government has agreed to develop

the Selangor Limas Financial Support System to ease the application process for aid to the registered religious associations in Selangor," said Teng in his speech during the state-level Wesak Day celebration at the Fo Guang Shan Dong Zen Temple in Jenjarom, Kuala Langat, on May 14.

Teng said the idea to develop the online system was brought forth by the Local Authorities Section under the state Economic Planning Unit (UPEN) in early June 2019 and funded by the state government.

He said work to develop the system began in early 2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic began.

Representatives of the religious associations can visit [limas.selangor.gov.my](http://limas.selangor.gov.my) and register as users. To apply for assistance, they would only be required to submit the complete application form and provide the supporting documents through the system.

All applications will be reviewed and approved by a team of Limas committee members. The status of the applications can then be checked through the system.



## RM960m in deals inked in Dubai

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government's delegation managed to record a potential investment value of RM960.7 million, surpassing its initial target of RM500 million during the Selangor Week at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Selangor Week, which ran from March 6 to 12, also recorded 158 business matchings and 92 potential business collaborations involving large and important sectors.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said Invest Selangor was appointed as the coordinator of Selangor Week, joined by 16 other related agencies which were tasked to explore economic opportunities in the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries as well as European countries.

"Throughout Selangor Week's promotion, we received a lot of feedback from business people and international investors who expressed their interest in Selangor."

"This achievement shows the investors and

entrepreneurs' confidence in the administration and the state government," he said in a Facebook post on May 20.

On March 18, state executive councillor for investment Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the Selangor Week at Expo 2020 Dubai succeeded in attracting the attention of business people and international investors who met with delegation members to express interest in expanding their investments and businesses in the state.

The sectors include warehousing, management consulting services, financial consulting services, communications and multimedia, transportation, logistics and mobility, education, oil and gas, property management, entrepreneurship, human resources management, agriculture technology, telecommunications and health.

Teng said Selangor Week also recorded 68,518 visitors to the Malaysia Pavilion, the highest number so far.

## SSDU, The Hive sign MoU to create tech startups

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government and The Hive Southeast Asia (THSEA) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch a collaboration for THSEA to share its co-creation methodologies to develop Smart Selangor's digital initiatives.

The MoU was signed by the state-owned company Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU) managing director Dr Fahmi Ngah and THSEA managing partner Dato' Syed Haizam Jamalullail during The Hive's Annual Summit 2022 held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Palo Alto, USA, on May 16.

Fahmi said the collaboration is a result of continuous efforts to develop the Se-

langor Smart State initiative.

"By collaborating with global and industrial partners, we hope to bring over the best practices and technologies from the Silicon Valley to develop more AI (Artificial Intelligence) based technology startups in Selangor, hence, realising a more sustainable smart economy ecosystem for the Selangor state," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Syed Haizam said this collaboration signifies their acknowledgement of SSDU's capabilities as the programme manager for its state's Smart Selangor programme.

"(The programme) provided the talent

qualities of Selangor's local startups and opportunities to enhance the startup ecosystems not only in Selangor and Malaysia but also to the wider Southeast Asian region," he said.

The signing of the MoU was witnessed by Selangor state executive councillor for investment and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim, Invest Selangor Bhd chief executive officer Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris, Selangor Deputy State Secretary (Development) Dr Nor Fuad Abdul Hamid, Penjana Kapital Sdn Bhd chief investment officer Taufiq Iskandar and The Hive LLC founder and managing director TM Ravi.

THSEA is a third addition to The Hive

LLC which is based in Silicon Valley, USA, after the establishment of The Hive Brazil and The Hive India.

THSEA said it will utilise The Hive LLC Silicon Valley's trusted co-creation process, venture studio models and its seed capital funds which are also matched by Malaysia's Dana Penjana Nasional, to provide startup launchpads in Selangor, which will be co-created under the Selangor Smart State programme through SSDU and its other state entities.

The Hive LLC is a fund and co-creation studio that collaborates with entrepreneurs and corporations to create and launch AI-based startups.

## PKNS bounces back, seeks higher profit

By SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government is aiming for the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) to achieve over RM300 million in profits this year, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the estimation was made after the restructuring of investment and corporate elements by the state-owned company, in addition to positive developments in the construction sector.

"In 2020, PKNS recorded RM500 million in losses but last year we recorded over RM40 million in profits. This means its business strength still remains. This profit indicates the short-term and long-term plan is working well, with the economic growth this year also better with a more robust financial flow."

"The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a part of the account position recording negative values in 2020 due to the declining value. But PKNS managed to record profit, itself an indication of its business strength," he said.

Amirudin was speaking at the Jalinan Aidilfitri event organised by PKNS at the Shah Alam Convention Centre on May 19.

He added that the 50-year old organisation must rise up again by reorganising and focusing on current changes.

"PKNS needs to stand up and be confident of itself at its highest and lowest points, alongside competitors who are as capable as they are."

"This is the challenge, to remove yourself from the comfort zone and to ensure that PKNS' achievements are not only limited to the housing and construction sector but also endeavouring to explore other opportunities," Amirudin said.



# Investors still keen on Selangor

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

**SHAH ALAM** - Investors have continued to show confidence towards the state government's business ecosystem despite the challenges faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said this was proven when Selangor managed to record the highest approved investment value of RM7.5 billion last year for the manufacturing sector, which had created 14,393 job opportunities for the people.

"With the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic slowdown and lack of overseas promotional missions due to the closure of international borders, the record indicates strong confidence among investors in the state's business ecosystem."

"Since 2017, nearly 84,000 jobs have been created in the manufacturing sector. The high-impact investment remains our top priority."

"Apart from creating quality employment opportunities, this development is also a testament to the stability and right policies implemented by the state government," he said on Facebook on May 12.

On April 13, Invest Selangor Bhd had said Selangor had retained its position as the top destination for manufac-



uring projects, registering 247 investment projects in 2021.

Citing the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida) data, the state investment arm stated that Selangor received a total of RM7.5 billion of investment in the manufacturing sector in 2021, contributed mainly by Domestic Direct Investment (DDI), with an invest-

ment value of RM6.1 billion.

For the first quarter of 2022, state executive councillor for trade and investment Dato' Teng Chang Khim said Selangor has already received multiple interests from investors.

"We do not yet have the results from Mida for the first quarter but based on the letter of no objection issued by In-

vest Selangor Berhad for Q1 it is estimated to be around RM7.5 billion," Teng told a press conference on SIBS 2022 held during Invest Selangor's Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house on May 12.

Teng is confident that if Selangor receives the same number of investment interest every quarter of the year, it can achieve more than its investment target.

## New health focus for startup programme

**SHAH ALAM** - The fifth installation of the Selangor Accelerator Programme (SAP) will feature a new vertical element, HealthTech, said the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec).

The new element will be added to existing verticals, namely Agritech, Green-tech, Smart City, and Fin-tech.

Sidec chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping said all early-stage tech startups are welcome to participate in the yearly programme.

"Themed 'Net Zero, Sustainability & Circular Economy', Sidec hopes to welcome a new batch of companies with new and variational solutions that can take this chance to pitch their business models and obtain funds from credible investors in the nation."

"Since 2018, SAP has nurtured 120 startups with

a record of about 34 per cent SAP alumni who have managed to raise funds to elevate their business performance successfully.

"The introduction of HealthTech as a new vertical in this year's SAP is due to the pandemic that has pushed health technology into a greater, more crucial role in the Malaysian healthcare industry and globally," he said in a statement on May 10.

SAP is supported by the state government, with Affin Bank Berhad as its main sponsor and long-time collaborator in providing a platform for startups to pursue new knowledge and boost entrepreneurial potential.

The programme is also carried out in collaboration with The Hive Southeast Asia and Agrobank as strategic partners.

SAP is an intensive and structured three-month programme that will benefit tech startups in Selangor through excellent guidance from well-versed mentors in the community and comprehen-

sive workshops that can lead them to an investment-ready level.

Yong said the programme also aims to develop and empower the startup ecosystem, especially in Selangor, and provide needed support and guidance to get matching funding based on the needs and background of the respective startup companies.

"The emergence of tech-based health services has indeed transformed the way people approach their healthcare needs," he said.

The official registration starts on May 10 and Sidec also welcomes the participation of other startup companies that have innovative and creative solutions they want to kickstart.

The programme this year will be conducted in a hybrid mode (online and onsite) with a programme module consisting of 11 workshops, three pitching clinics, five office-hour mentoring sessions, one closed-door semi-final and the final demo day.

Those interested are encouraged to submit an application before the closing date on June 13.

Thirty shortlisted startup companies will tentatively start their programmes from June 30 to Sept 9.

For more information, visit [www.sidec.com.my/sap2022](http://www.sidec.com.my/sap2022).



**T**HE Selangor government, since 2008, has continuously focused on people-centric programmes and policies, emphasising on welfare and ways to uplift the economy.

The state government's efforts in taking care of the people's welfare started with the People-based Economic Programme or Merakyatkan Ekonomi Selangor (MES) in 2008 with only seven initiatives. The programme was later renamed Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat (IPR or People-Caring Initiatives) in 2015.

Since then, the state administration has launched more than 40 programmes under both MES and IPR, which include cash incentives for Selangor-born babies, women, and the elderly, a subsidised water scheme, health benefits, and many more.

In the 2022 Selangor Budget tabled on Nov 26 last year, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had revealed a RM305.19 million allocation for the newly repackaged social welfare programme, Iltizam Selangor Penyayang (ISP), which champions the standards outlined in the state's Sustainable Development Goals and new norms.

The allocation was included under the second strategy out of the five core strategies of the RM2.343 billion state budget,

which is 'to grow a caring society and ensure the people's wellbeing'.

To ensure that the initiatives under the ISP, which is a continuation of the MES and IPR, spread far and wide to the people of Selangor, the state administration will hold a statewide tour called the Jelajah Iltizam Selangor Penyayang carnival in five districts in June and July.

Starting in Hulu Langat at Padang Taman Kosas, Ampang, on June 11, the programmes will be set up at Dataran Pantai Morib, Kuala Langat, on June 25; Stadium Utama Kuala Selangor, Kuala Selangor, on July 2; Padang Timur, Petaling Jaya, on July 16; and Padang Awam Batu Caves, Gombak, on July 31.

Various activities and programmes like traditional performances, games and martial arts shows have been planned.

Amirudin had said on May 18 that the carnival will also include the Selangor Saring programme, which is a free health screening effort by the state government that runs from May 22 until Sept 4.

The following are the initiatives offered to millions of Selangor people under the ISP, with some to be featured during the tour.



## WELFARE

### BANTUAN KEHIDUPAN SEJAHTERA SELANGOR (BINGKAS)

Bantuan Keluarga Sejahtera Selangor (Bingkas), which is an upgrade of the Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor (Kiss) and KISS Ibu Tunggal (Kiss-IT) initiatives, provides a RM300 monthly cash aid to 30,000 eligible families.

### WANITA BERDAYA SELANGOR

The state-owned company Wanita Berdaya Selangor Sdn Bhd has been assigned to implement empowerment programmes and equip women with knowledge to generate their own income and was granted RM5.03 million in funds to execute the task.

### CARING GOVERNMENT AGENDA

The state has allocated RM65.25 million to carry out several welfare programmes.

### POVERTY ERADICATION

RM2 million for the Poverty Eradication Blueprint Assistance Programme, where each applicant will receive RM10,000.

### LEGAL AID

RM1 million for the B40 group to receive legal aid, with help from the Selangor Bar Council and the Selangor Legal Aid Centre, as a means to uphold justice to all. Some of its

# Reinforcing the social safety net

focus areas include domestic abuse, unfair dismissal from work, and others.

### HEALTH

#### SELANGOR SARING

RM3.4 million is allocated for free health screening of several types of diseases, including mammograms and cervical, colorectal and prostate screenings, eye checks and blood and urine tests.

#### SELANGOR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME (SEHAT)

RM1 million to support mental health issues via Sehat, which was recently integrated into the SELangkah mobile app.

#### ILTIZAM SELANGOR SIHAT

This replaces the Peduli Sihat Insurance Programme (Skim Insurance Peduli Sihat) and has been given RM46 million to benefit 90,000 recipients, with priority to be given to individuals with chronic illnesses.

#### 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.

### FAMILY

#### 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.

#### 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 a 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.

### HOUSING

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVE

The Rumah Idaman project under Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI offers homes at a minimum of 1,000 sqft that are sold at not more than RM250,000, equipped with various facilities such as air-conditioning units, kitchen cabinets, and wardrobes.

#### ILTIZAM PENEROKA BANDAR (COMMITMENT TO URBAN SETTLERS)

RM10.77 million will be channelled 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.

#### PROGRAM BINA BARU DAN BAIKPULIH RUMAH KERAJAAN PRIHATIN (BUILDING AND RESTORING THE HOMES OF THE B40 GROUP)

RM1.2 million to help the B40 group build or repair homes.

#### BUILDING ORANG ASLI HOMES

RM1.5 million to build, repair and upgrade the homes in Orang Asli villages.

### EDUCATION

#### LIFELONG LEARNING UNDER WBS

RM200,000 is dedicated to PWB's Lifelong Learning Programme which will provide scholarships to selected women for continuing their studies at Open University Malaysia (OUM).

#### ILTIZAM MAHASISWA SELANGOR

To 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)

A RM1 million allocation to acquire used digital devices from corporations to be loaned to underprivileged students.

#### SELANGOR PEOPLE'S TUTORING PROGRAMME OR PROGRAM TUISYEN RAKYAT SELANGOR (PTRS)

To receive RM7 million to upgrade its learning portal ePTRS.my

#### ILTIZAM PENDIDIKAN FARDHU AIN (KAFA-i)

RM5 million in funds to help 14,000 students from B40 families pay a one-off RM30 fee.

#### EMPOWERING SELANGOR'S HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

RM5 million in allocation, with RM3 million going to Unisel to provide internet data for students.

### UPGRADING SCHOOLS

The state government has allocated RM26.5 million to primary and secondary schools in Selangor to upgrade their facilities. RM24 million was distributed in December last year to help 637 schools, with approximately RM9.3 million given to religious primary schools, RM9 million to Chinese vernacular schools, and RM4.5 million to Tamil vernacular schools.

### FREE INTERNET

RM17.5 million is allocated for the Selangor Internet Data programme set to benefit 70,000 people from several targeted groups including students, small traders and single mothers. The initiative provides 200 free sim cards to each constituency in the state.

## YOUTH AND SPORTS

### DEVELOPING YOUTH AND SPORTS

RM14.49 million in allocation for youth and sports under the 2022 Selangor Budget, and 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 10 years.

### SELANGOR YOUTH MOVEMENT (PEBS)

RM2.8 million provisions for the machinery to carry out programmes and activities as well as to implement policies related to their development at the grassroots level.

### E-SPORTS

A RM1.2 million allocation to focus on e-sports development programmes and the organising of tours to the various state districts.

### RODA DARUL EHSAN (RIDE)

The Selangor p-hailing initiative, which was launched last year to encourage youths to participate in the food delivery industry, received a boost with a RM2 million allocation.

### SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRING AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

RM4 million is allocated for the projects, compared to the RM2.196 million allocation for the same purpose under the 2021 Selangor Budget.

### GRASSROOTS LEAGUE

The state government has allocated RM1 million for the implementation of the Grassroots League to further invigorate sports activities, particularly among youths, and in line with the desire to develop sports at the grassroots level.



# No trader left behind

By ALANG BENDAHARA

**P**LATS, or Selangor Platform, started in Ramadan 2020 when hawkers and small grocers were greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, felt that the digitalisation of these merchants was the best approach to providing them assistance.

It has now become part of the Selangor Digitalisation Agenda ecosystem, connecting thousands of microentrepreneurs through a single digital platform. In this digitalisation story series, *Selangor Journal* spoke with Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) (MBI) Digitalisation Department head Kamarul Nizam Kassim to know more about Plats.

## Target

Kamarul Nizam said Plats is important as it is proof that the state has always practised inclusiveness in its policy-making and initiatives.

He said providing small entrepreneurs with a platform such as Plats and educating them on the usefulness of digital tools in this era of business digitalisation is a great first step towards helping them grow their trade for the long term.



Kamarul Nizam said since Plats 3.0 was launched on April 8 this year, about 1,111 merchants have come on board and MBI is confident in achieving its 2022 target of getting 10,000 merchants.

## Great response

Plats 1.0 was introduced during Ramadan month in 2020, as a short-term initiative that helped 133 hawkers whose income was affected during the movement control order.

They digitalised their business and provided their customers with the option to order food online.

On April 11, 2020, Plats 2.0 was launched as the state government decided to turn it into a long-term initiative with the aim of digitalising more



hawkers and small grocers.

Rakan Digital Selangor (RDS) ambassadors were introduced to help the merchants create a social media presence through platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, assisted by the Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ), the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) and the Shah Alam City Council (MSA).

The merchants received state initiatives such as Data Internet Selangor-subsidised SIM cards as well as Yayasan Hijrah Selangor microloans. A digital platform was also created at [www.platselangor.com](http://www.platselangor.com).

"All these efforts lead to a resounding success as the initial target of digitalising 2,000 merchants ended up with an overwhelming response of 7,741," he said.

## Statistics

Kamarul Nizam said out of the 7,741 merchants digitalised under Plats 2.0, 7,097 are from the food and beverage sector while 644 are grocers.

"Some 47 per cent of the merchants are aged between 30 and 40, while 22 per cent are aged 18 to 29 and another 22 per cent are aged 41 to 55. Only nine per cent are aged above 56."

"About 70 per cent of them are from the B40 lower-income group.

Now 6,818 merchants have a social media account to promote their business and move forward," he said.

## Unique business

Kamarul Nizam said Plats is one of the only online platforms that focus on helping hawkers and small grocers, who are often neglected by the private sector as their prices and volume are not attractive enough to invest in.

These merchants also need as much support as they can get as usually, their food and product prices become more expensive when they sell online.

"Considering all the aspects involved in this initiative, we believe we are the only ones offering this comprehensive approach to aiding the hawkers and small grocers," he said.

## Moving forward

Kamarul Nizam said in the future, they plan to find more ways to sell online such as introducing integrated delivery and payment options with other platforms, and may even plan for an app so that the public can get greater access to these merchants.

"We might even open up to offer the state's capabilities to other market segments of microentrepreneurs and test the possibility of collaborating with the private sector as we want the merchants to benefit from all sectors of the economy," he said.



# The task of feeding a state

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

**F**OOD security is fast becoming a concern in Malaysia as more and more consumers begin to feel the pinch from food price fluctuations.

As defined by the United Nation's Committee on World Food Security, food security means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

In the Global Food Security Index last year that measured food affordability, quality and safety, Malaysia ranked 39th out of 113 countries in the world. We stood in second place in Southeast Asia after Singapore.

Around the world a host of factors contribute to food scarcity, including climate change and a growing global population.

These issues need to be addressed otherwise it will not only be the supply chains that will be disrupted but our lives as well.

## Big responsibility

*Selangor Journal* recently spoke with the Selangor Agriculture Development Corporation (PKPS) chief executive officer, Dr Mohamad Khairil Mohamad Razi, about the agency's role in addressing food security.

Mohamad Khairil said PKPS is responsible for developing the plantation and agro-based industries to enhance

the socioeconomic development of Selangor while conducting commercial projects for the benefit of the people.

"Food security aspects have always been the main focus for PKPS whereby we were mandated with the responsibility to develop the plantation and agro-based industries.

"PKPS is focused more on the yields of fresh produce such as chicken, where we have our own poultry farm in Kuala Selangor and oil palm plantations. Aside from that, PKPS also owns vegetable and fruit farms in the Selangor Fruit Valley, and we also market daily necessities like rice, cooking oil and sugar under our own brand name, Ehsan.

"As you can see, we play a proactive role by representing the state government in addressing the state's food needs. Our job is to ensure that Selangor's food supply chain is never disrupted," he said when contacted recently.

## Cheaper options

The ongoing struggles brought by Covid-19 to the people of Selangor, including rising food prices, meant that at some point the state government had to step in with a plan.

This plan manifested in the form of the Ehsan Food Prices Intervention Programme, or more popularly known as the Jualan Prihatin Rakyat, on Feb 28.

Its objective was simple — PKPS would sell fresh meats, poultry, fish and eggs at discounted prices at 64 locations around Selangor to make these food items accessible to the lower income groups.

Fresh whole chickens were sold at RM12 each, grade B eggs were RM10 a tray, fresh meat and bones were RM35 a kilogramme and frozen fish, RM8 a kilogramme. The programme was a success.

"It recorded total sales of RM854,269 with RM263,555.92 in total discounts as of April 17," Mohamad Khairil said.

In fact the demand was so good that from April 28 to 30, the programme was expanded and rebranded as the Jualan Mega Prihatin Carnival to offer the people cheaper options in preparation for the upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations.

People thronged to Tanjung Sepat, Batang Kali, Kampung Pandan, Pandan Jaya, Batu Caves, Stadium Shah Alam and Stadium Mini Sabak Bernam to make last-minute buys for their Raya cookouts. The accumulated sales from these locations totalled RM272,750.70.

"This initiative benefits approximately 700 to 1000 people at any given location. In total, the programme has benefited around 50,000 people since its launch," Mohamad Khairil said.

Riding on this momentum, state executive councillor for agriculture Izham Hashim said the Selangor government has decided to again sell chickens under the Ehsan Food Prices Intervention Programme in June.

He said the programme will run until Hari Raya Aidiladha in July to act as a short-term solution to the current shortage of chicken in the country.

"We will increase the number of chickens that will be sold from 4,000 a day to 10,000 a day, to cover the supply

shortage.

"The Selangor government understands the struggles faced by the people, therefore the chickens will be sold at cheaper than market price at 67 locations in the state.

"We hope by doing so, we will help consumers who are burdened with the escalating prices of food items," Izham said at a press conference recently.

He added that the initiative will also involve cooperation from Koperasi Waraga Hijrah Selangor Berhad (Kohijrah) and the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama).

## Reducing imports

The successful partnership between the state government and PKPS on food security projects extends further. Both parties recently agreed to tie up with the Negeri Sembilan state government to develop a grain corn cultivation project.

PKPS, on behalf of the state government, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Menteri Besar Negeri Sembilan (Incorporated) to develop 700 acres of land to plant grain corn as poultry feed.

"The land to be developed for poultry feed involves 300 acres in Kuala Langat Selatan and 400 acres in Gemas, Negeri Sembilan," Mohamad Khairil said.

Should the project be another success story, it will greatly reduce the need for imports in the future, encourage self-sustenance and ensure that our local poultry farmers get better prices for the grain they buy.

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

**P**REVENTION is better than cure. This is what drives the Selangor administration's mission to provide health screenings to the people through Selangor Saring.

The programme, which kicked off on May 22 in Ijok, Kuala Selangor, offers various types of checks at no cost to the people and allows them — especially those who are underprivileged — to better manage their own health and to receive early treatment if found to be ill.

Selgate Healthcare Sdn Bhd, which has the experience of running the Selangor Vaccination (Selvax) Programme, has been trusted to carry out Selangor Saring in all 56 state constituencies.

During the tabling of the 2022 state budget last year, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had announced a RM3.4 million allocation for the initiative. He said the state aims to reach 39,000 people, particularly those in high-risk groups, and offer them physical examinations, screenings for four types of cancers (colorectal, prostate, cervical, and breast), and do blood and urine tests.

#### Awareness

Just a week after registration was opened on May 16 via the SELangkah app, State Public Health, Unity, Women and Family Development Committee chairman Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said that 4,177 people had already pre-registered through the app.

The participants will undergo their screenings at the set time and location given on the app.

"We hope that more people in Selangor aged 18 years and above would grab this opportunity, because health awareness is important."

"When we have this awareness, we would be more conscious of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and would be able to take preventive measures," she said during a media briefing session on



## Health care for all

the initiative on May 24.

The two-hour briefing session was also attended by Selangor Public Health Advisory Council committee member Dr Mohammad Farhan Rusli.

Dr Siti Mariah said the state administration wants more people to update their medical records so that the information would be readily available when they have to pay a visit to the doctor.

#### Tracing NCDs

A total of 115,928 slots for eight types of health screenings will be provided under the Selangor Saring programme.

Of that figure, 31,000 slots have been allocated for physical checks, and blood and urine tests; 12,400 slots for eye exam-

inations; 1,680 for cervical and breast cancers; 5,936 for faecal occult blood tests and 1,232 for prostate cancer.

"The programme is for both healthy people and those who are ill because we think there are still many people who do not remember when they had last undergone a health screening."

"Therefore, we help them detect any illnesses early and hope they can get treatment before the disease becomes chronic. Prevention is better than cure," Dr Siti Mariah said, adding that the programme, held from May 22 until Sept 4, would benefit between 500 and 1,000 individuals in each state constituency.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohammad Farhan said individuals who have been diagnosed with chronic illnesses through the programme would be immediately referred to a specialist hospital.

He said participants would be informed of their test results via the SELangkah app within 48 hours and that the state government would bear the full cost of confirming the diagnosis.

"What is unique about this programme is that the laboratory tests will be carried out by Selcare Diagnostics Sdn Bhd while Selangkah Venture Sdn Bhd will operate the systems and data owned by Selgate Corporation Sdn Bhd."

"If a person is tested positive for a disease, they will be referred to one of our partner hospitals at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM) or the

Mammogram Centre," he said, adding that the patient can then make an appointment with a specialist there.

#### Beyond screening

Aside from health screenings, Selangor Saring also offers the services of the Selangor Community Health Volunteers (SUKA).

The SUKA volunteers will help to ensure that the programme runs smoothly and provide rides to hospitals for patients who do not have their own vehicles.

"This programme is not just about the health screenings. It is to ensure that people who have been diagnosed with a disease can get the necessary help," said Dr Mohammad Farhan.

#### Digital support

The public is given two options to get more information on Selangor Saring — they can either contact customer service in the SELangkah app, which links directly to the Telegram messaging app, or engage with the Selangor Saring Telegram chatbot via the link [t.me/SELANGKAHMY\\_bot](https://t.me/SELANGKAHMY_bot).

To register, an updated version of the SELangkah app is needed.

The service is extended to all Malaysian citizens, a registered voter in Selangor and born in Selangor or a person who has resided in Selangor for more than 10 years.

For more information visit [selangorsaring.selangkah.my](http://selangorsaring.selangkah.my), or contact the Selcare hotline at 1-800-22-6600 or the Selangor Community Health Volunteers website at [drsitimariah.com/talian-suka](http://drsitimariah.com/talian-suka).



# Perks of investing in Selangor



By ALANG BENDAHARA

**I**NVEST Selangor Bhd has never known to rest on its laurels. The agency, created to draw investors to Selangor and help them set up business here, has been credited with attracting billions of ringgit to the state over the years.

During the long months of lockdown, the agency refused to stay idle. Instead, it focused on building virtual relationships and supporting local employment growth.

The hard work is paying off. As Malaysia eases its pandemic restrictions, Invest Selangor is rekindling business ties and reminding investors of Selangor's relevance in this part of the world.

In a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*, the agency's chief executive officer, Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris, outlined Invest's Selangor's plans for the state to remain the country's top investment destination and the business hub of Asean, as well as its strategies to achieve this year's RM8 billion investment target.

## Promoting Selangor

Hasan Azhari revealed five significant steps that would be taken this year. The first is to focus on promoting the state to potential investors.

Taking advantage of the reopening of borders, Invest Selangor will be hosting trade missions and business exhibitions in the country and abroad. In order to reach a wider group of investors, the agency's engagements will

be conducted in both physical and virtual forms.

"We have identified the countries and investors we want to court, and Selangor will present to them its value propositions and offers of assistance if they are keen," he said.

## Focus on manufacturing

Second on the list is to strengthen the state's core industries.

Based on the Selangor Industrial Master Plan Study commissioned by Invest Selangor and assisted by Monash University in 2016, the state's five most important manufacturing clusters — electrical and electronics (E&E); life sciences; machinery; food and beverage; and transport equipment — act as catalysts to accelerate economic growth and sustainability by creating employment opportunities and encouraging technological transfers into the state.

From 2017 to 2021, the industries in these clusters had attracted approved investments worth RM22.9 billion, making up 34 per cent of the total approved investment in that time span. From that figure, RM10.6 billion (46 per cent) were domestic direct investment (DDI) and RM12.3 billion (54 per cent) were foreign direct investment (FDI) involving 586 projects that created 33,121 jobs.

Hasan Azhari said the five clusters will be further strengthened by continued talks with industry players to iron out potential stumbling blocks and to attract high-impact investments with new, advanced technologies.

## Eye on e-commerce

It is undeniable that Covid-19 has accelerated the growth of the digital economy. Many businesses joined the digital marketplace to make up for the shortfall in their traditional sources of revenue. Invest Selangor, said Hasan Azhari, aims to fully exploit these fast-growing businesses.

Another positive implication of the pandemic is advancements in logistics due to the rise of e-commerce.

"We will engage with industry players and associations on how we can assist in growing this industry," said Hasan Azhari. This would likely include strategies for delivery companies to get goods out faster and at a lower cost.

"Also, we will work with the Digital Investment Office formed by the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority to attract more digital investments into the state."

## Incentives for industries

On Nov 17 last year, the Selangor government introduced the 'The Managed Industrial Park Standard Guidelines' to address issues that newly relocated factories often face.

These guidelines act as a non-fiscal incentive for companies to set up in Selangor, and more specifically, at the Selangor Golden Triangle development project in Sepang and Kuala Langat, said Hasan Azhari.

The state's managed industrial parks are equipped with excellent amenities

like high-speed fibre-optic broadband and are guarded enclaves with a dedicated in-house maintenance team.

Aside from this, the state will also implement the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan 2020-2030 and the Selangor Biotechnology Action Plan 2021-2030 to develop key segments in their respective industries.

## Strong performance

Selangor's five-year performance (2017-2021) has seen it attract approved investments worth RM67.5 billion, of which RM31.2 billion are DDI, and RM36.4 billion are FDI involving 1,329 projects that created 83,934 jobs.

"FDI contributed more than half (54 per cent) to the total investment approved over the last five years, indicating great confidence of foreign investors to Selangor as an investment destination," said Hasan Azhari.

In 2021 alone, Selangor attracted approved investments worth RM7.5 billion, of which RM6.1 billion are DDI, and RM1.5 billion are FDI involving 247 projects that created 14,393 jobs.

"Last year had seen a major hiccup in total investment, but Selangor continued to receive the highest number of manufacturing projects and create the highest employment opportunities in Malaysia," he said.

Hasan Azhari said as the economy starts to reopen and the pandemic containment measures relax, he is confident that both FDI and DDI in the state are expected to improve this year.

# Standing the test of time

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

**S**eri Kembangan's history goes back to the days before the formation of Malaysia. Established in 1950 as the Serdang New Village, the place was home to mining workers and rubber tappers. The Seri Kembangan that we know of today is home to over 150,000 people of various races and approximately 43,000 registered voters. It is known for its street food such as nasi lemak, asam laksa, char kway teow, rojak and cendol, to name a few. *Selangor Journal* reached out to Ean Yong Hian Wah, its representative since 2008, to talk more about the constituency.



**Yong with the newly-launched Kampung Baru Seri Kembangan Village Council's anti-crime patrol squad on April 30**



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

**Ean Yong (EY):** Seri Kembangan is known for its small- and medium-sized industries encompassing printing companies, food processing factories, service industries, and shoe and design industries.

**SJ: What is the main attraction in Seri Kembangan?**

**EY:** The main attraction in my constituency is the Seri Kembangan New Village, which is also one of the most significant new villages in Malaysia. Established in 1949, this area has become the talk of the town, especially when it comes to food. It is famous for its variety of Hakka food. Often, people — be it locals or outsiders — would visit the area to fulfil their food cravings.

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

**EY:** Most of the complaints I received from Seri Kembangan residents are

mainly about the infrastructure, such as road and drainage system issues, especially surrounding the new village area. Since the new village has been around for over 70 years, many issues require attention from the local authorities. Apart from that, the constituents also complain about the traffic condition. In Seri Kembangan, we only have one main road called Jalan Besar which connects to Balakong and Puchong. The traffic is heavy during the day, especially in the mornings. To resolve this problem, I have approached the local council. However, the main road falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal government and the Works Department.

Based on our discussions, the main road issue requires a huge allocation, up to hundreds of millions of ringgit, which explains why the project is still pending. From my side and from the

state government's side, we have tried to help within our means by temporarily converting half of Jalan Besar into a one-way loop from the previous two-way routes. This move has greatly helped alleviate traffic congestion in the town, even though it is still not enough to resolve the problem.

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

**EY:** Throughout my long stint of 14 years as the state assemblyman for Seri Kembangan, I have succeeded in making this town a better place. Aside from introducing the one-way loop system in the town centre, I also set up a new market called Pasar Rakyat to replace the old Seri Kembangan New Village morning market in 2010. The morning market was closed due to congestion in the area. Apart from that, I also played a part in relocating the old night market,

which previously stretched along Jalan Besar. The traffic caused by the market was a nuisance and made the residents upset. So we relocated it to Pusat Perdagangan Seri Kembangan.

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

**EY:** Always listen to the people whenever they raise their concerns and analyse the problems as soon as I am able. I have been using this method since 2008. I also ensure that the residents can directly come and express their concerns to me without much hassle. I give them my phone number and always make myself available should they want to communicate with me. Besides that, I also join several WhatsApp groups, specifically with resident associations, and any issues or complaints raised via those platforms will be attended to as soon as possible.



**FROM LEFT**

**Residents of Taman Sungai Besi Indah apply for a free water scheme on May 21 as Yong looks on**

**The Sri Kembangan rep presents a laptop to Year 6 pupil Ravina for her online studies**

**HANOI** - After 16 days of intense competition that began on May 6, Malaysia ended the 31st South East Asian (SEA) Games in sixth place with 39 gold, 45 silver and 90 bronze medals, surpassing the target of 36-45-90.

All athletes and coaches should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication as they strove to achieve the medal goal under the guidance of chef-de-mission Datuk Nur Azmi Ahmad. Their road to the Games was not an easy journey and was filled with various challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

The national sports associations, the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM), the National Sports Council (NSC), the National Sports Institute (NSI), the Youth and Sports Ministry (KBS) and all parties involved in the planning and preparation of athletes to the biennial Games deserve due credit for ensuring that the country was able to compete in the Games for the first time since the sports world was affected by the pandemic from March 2020.

The sports that shone brightest at the Games include diving, which took home eight gold, three silver and a bronze; athletics (5-3-8); karate (4-0-6); cycling (2-3-3); artistic gymnastics (2-1-2); rhythmic gymnastics (2-1-0); golf (2-1-1); shooting (2-2-0); wushu (2-1-2); badminton (1-2-1) and taekwondo (1-1-3).

A SEA Games record was set by Nurul Syasya Nadiah Mohd Arifin in the women's 10m air pistol event, while eight national records were broken in athletics (women's discus, men's 4x100m, heptathlon); swimming (1,500m women's freestyle, 50m men's freestyle, 4X200m men's freestyle); and weightlifting (men's 50kg and 73kg).

Unfortunately, Malaysia's showing at the Games was not a great achievement as this was the second time Malaysia failed to finish among the top five countries in overall standings in the entire history of the Games since it began in 1959. The only other time Malaysia ranked out of the top five was in 1983 in Singapore.

Vietnam, as expected, emerged overall champions with a haul of 205-125-

# Triumphs, tears: How we fared in Hanoi



116 medals, winning 39.05 per cent of the 525 gold medals contested, followed by Thailand 15.54 per cent (92-103-136), Indonesia 13.14 per cent (69-91-81), the Philippines 9.90 per cent (52-70-104) and Singapore 8.95 per cent (47-46-73).

Malaysia's 39 gold medals only amount to 7.43 per cent of gold medals contested, and has indicated that Malaysia is no longer a sports powerhouse in South East Asia, as its performance in core sports has declined and could no longer be depended upon to deliver gold medals.

Malaysia's core sports failed to live up to their gold medal expectations, with sports such as swimming able to only secure one out of 40 gold medals contested, athletics (five out of 47 gold contested), shooting (2/22), taekwondo (1/19), archery (2/10), canoeing (0-19), fencing (0/12) and weightlifting (0-14).

Nur Azmi said from the 36 gold medal target, only 11 sports achieved their targets, while six sports failed, as he summed up the national contingent's performance at the Games.

Swimming was supposed to contribute two gold but could only deliver one, archery (2/3), silat (2/3), pétanque (0/2), e-sports (0/1) and bowling (0/1).

We would have achieved the target last Monday (May 16) if we were on track.

"But since we failed to achieve our targets, we were forced to rely on bonus golds from eight sports — golf, karate, wushu, taekwondo, shooting, cycling and gymnastics. Still, congratulations to all athletes, who have been through so much with the Covid-19 pandemic, and their parents who allowed them to train and compete during Ramadan and the Hari Raya celebrations," he said.

## Youth power

Although several senior and experienced athletes failed to deliver this time around, the selection of young athletes, many of them making their debut in Hanoi was a positive development that bears the promise of a bright future for the country in the upcoming SEA Games.

Out of 584 athletes representing the country this time, 367 were making their SEA Games debut, and 39 per cent (142 athletes) managed to secure a medal for the country, for a combined total of 15 gold, 21 silver and 44 bronze.

Out of the 119 athletes aged 21 and below, 68 per cent (81 athletes) secured a podium finish, winning a combined nine gold, 17 silver and 34

bronze medals, while 51 per cent of the 221 women contributed 14 gold, 16 silver and 34 bronze.

NSC director-general Datuk Ahmad Shapawi Ismail said the performance of junior athletes such as swimmer Khiew Hoe Yean, 21, (1 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze); karateka H. Sureya Sankar, 20, (2 gold); and 15-year-old fencer Kamalanathan Kaerlan Vinod (1 silver) are worthy of praise.

"Athletes who debuted at the Games, including women's pole vaulter Nor Sarah Adi (gold) and diver Ong Ker Ying (1 gold, 1 silver) also shone. We will begin preparation work as soon as we return home as the next edition will be held in less than a year in Cambodia."

"Medal-winning athletes in Vietnam will also be given priority to begin training programmes as soon as they come back. We will also step up efforts to strengthen reserve programmes at state levels, improve the quality of the Malaysia Games (Sukma) and review the development aspects for 19 types of core sports," he added.

Meanwhile, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu instructed the NSC and all national sports associations to review the involvement of senior athletes and those who failed to produce satisfactory results, as well as to strengthen core sports.

"If we have to make the tough decision of dropping them, that's what we will do because what's necessary after this is to channel allocation based on merits of achievement and no longer on past reputation that does not give a clear picture of the current strength of a certain sport."

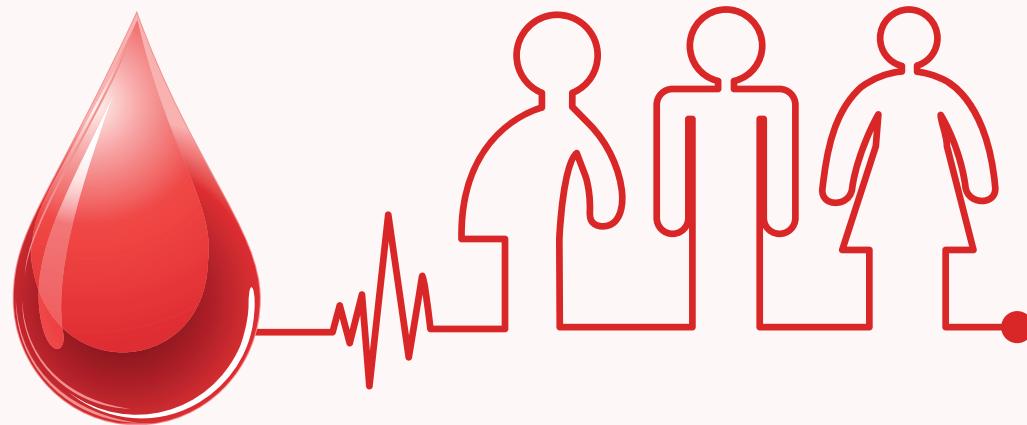
"Don't be complacent because we exceeded our set target this time around. The 32nd edition in Cambodia will take place in less than a year, so all preparations must begin now. Let's rally around the junior athletes who proved themselves this time around and create a platform for them to shine," he said.

Ahmad Faizal also did not want any party to claim that he was blaming athletes or national sports associations but said his views should be seen as a way to increase the performance of the national contingent in upcoming sports tournaments.

"I am very proud of the achievement of all athletes, but what we want to do is to elevate ourselves to become better, no one competes for the fun of being last," he added.

The closing ceremony of the Hanoi SEA Games took place on May 23. - Bernama





# DONATE AND GIVE LIFE!

**World Blood Donor Day** takes place on **June 14** each year and the theme for 2022 is 'Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives'.

## The day was created to:



- raise global awareness on the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion
- highlight the critical contribution that voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems, and
- expand support for national blood transfusion services, blood donor organisations and other non-governmental organisations in strengthening blood donor programmes.

The National Blood Centre (PDN) has regularly called on the public to help top up the country's supply in the blood bank. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a drop in blood collection nationwide.

## Here are some of the do's and don'ts if you plan to donate blood

### DO's



Bring your ID and fill up the donation form



Keep hydrated before and after



Have plenty to eat three hours before



Get a good night's sleep the night before

### DON'Ts



Don't rush right after. Enjoy the refreshments offered and relax for some 15 minutes



Do not get up if experiencing any symptoms like lightheadedness, nausea, and dizziness



Stay away from alcoholic drinks for at least 24 hours



Restrain from strenuous exercising or extreme physical activities for 24 hours



Eat regular meals — you'll need your energy

Source: World Health Organisation (WHO), MyHealth