

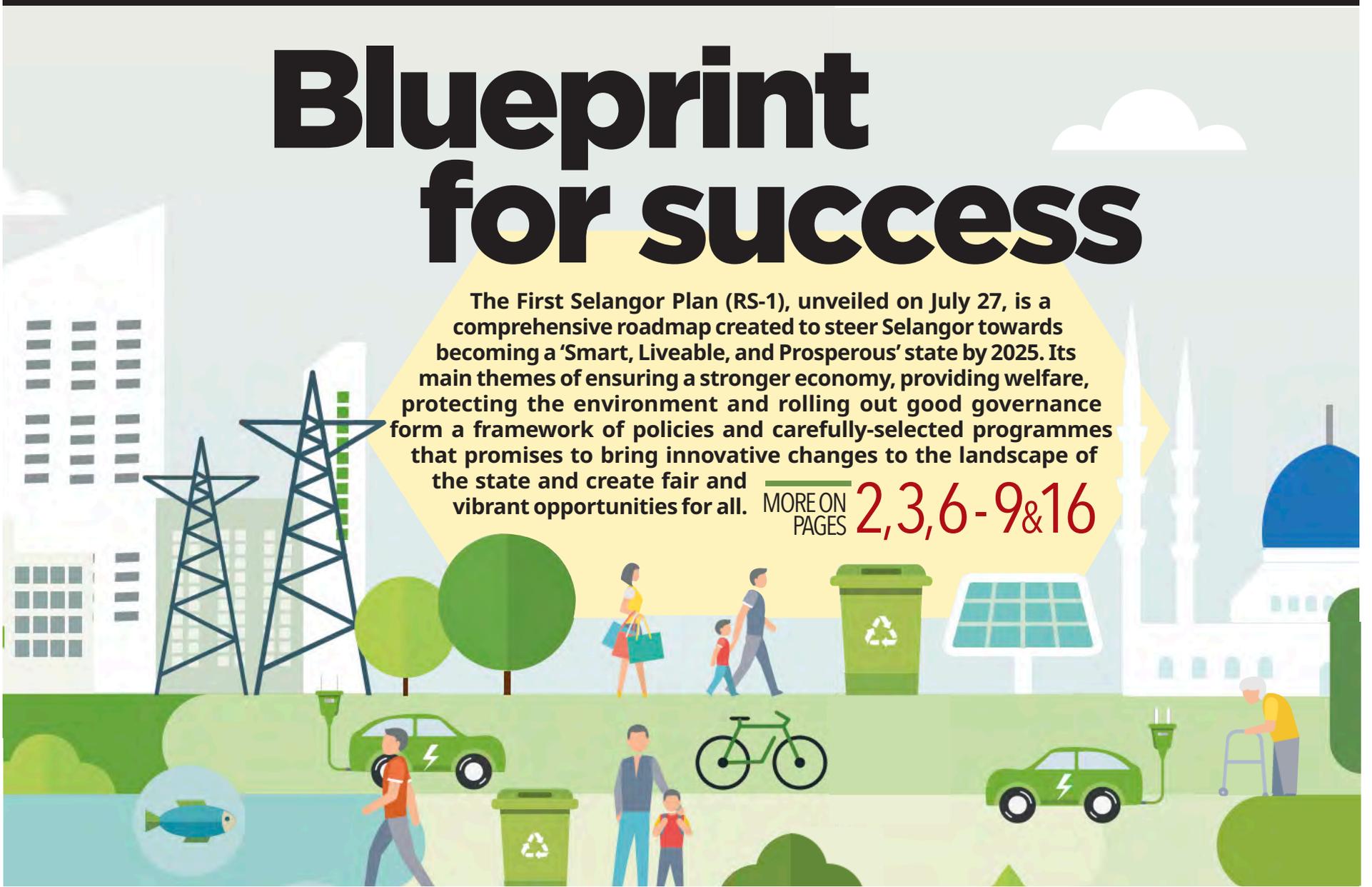


# SELANGOR JOURNAL

## Blueprint for success

The First Selangor Plan (RS-1), unveiled on July 27, is a comprehensive roadmap created to steer Selangor towards becoming a 'Smart, Liveable, and Prosperous' state by 2025. Its main themes of ensuring a stronger economy, providing welfare, protecting the environment and rolling out good governance form a framework of policies and carefully-selected programmes that promises to bring innovative changes to the landscape of the state and create fair and vibrant opportunities for all.

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## Art gallery to spark tourist interest

**SHAH ALAM** - The state government has launched the Selangor State Tourism Master Plan 2021–2026 to revitalise the tourism industry.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said one of the projects that have been identified as a catalyst to grow the local tourism industry is the Shah Alam Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery

(Sama) that comes under the Selangor Tourism Cluster.

He said Selangor has many tourist attractions that are capable of strengthening the sector.

"I believe many tourists, domestic and international, will visit the gallery to view the amazing works of the Malaysian and Southeast Asian artists,"

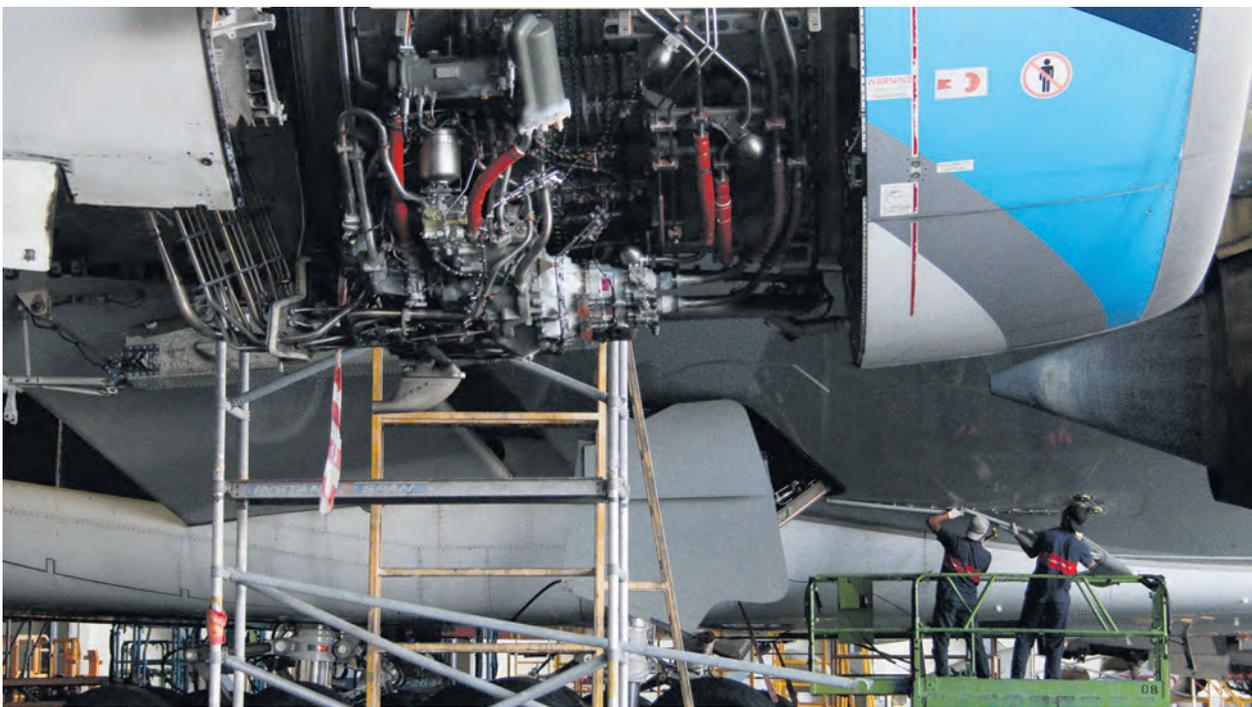
Amirudin said during the tabling of the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on July 27.

He added that the tourism sector was badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with a 72 per cent decline in tourist activity in 2020.

"The pandemic has greatly impacted

the income and job opportunities of the people related to the tourism sector," Amirudin said.

On June 16, state executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian said approximately RM6 million has been allocated to promote the state's tourism both in the country and overseas, with focus given to ecotourism and agrotourism.



## Aerospace, maritime projects in spotlight

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**SHAH ALAM** - The First Selangor Plan (RS-1) will focus on developing both the aerospace industry and the Klang River and its embankments in separate projects that will bring job opportunities and investments to the state.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said Malaysia's comprehensive aerospace ecosystem and Selangor's strategic location have made the state ideal as a hub for the industry.

"It is estimated that 63 per cent of the 240 aerospace companies and aerospace-related companies in Malaysia are based in Selangor, thus making the state an aerospace hub.

"In line with the aim outlined in the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan 2020–2030, the Selangor In-

ternational Aero Park (SAP) project has been identified as a catalyst to ensure both Selangor and Malaysia become an aerospace hub in the regional and international arena," he said while tabling RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here, on July 27.

On May 18, 2020, Amirudin said the main scope of the aerospace industry is maintenance, repairs, manufacturing, integration systems, engineering, design and training.

By 2030, aerospace manufacturing activity in Malaysia is estimated to generate RM21.2 billion in revenue, repairs and maintenance RM20.4 billion, and engineering and design RM13.6 billion.

The Menteri Besar also said the state will be launching the Economic Development Zone Selangor Maritime Gateway (EDZ SMG) at the

Klang River and the areas of land surrounding it to propel the river's revival and unlock its investment potential.

"The EDZ SMG will act as an economic development corridor involving 27,960 hectares of land along the river with an estimated investment of RM2.2 billion," he said.

Previously, Amirudin had said that SMG is expected to rake in over RM1 billion in investments by 2030.

Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), has been appointed by the administration to manage SMG.

Four key pillars — river cleaning, river connectivity, river development and rehabilitation — have been identified as key drivers in the SMG project.

## New economic zones for rural Selangor

**SHAH ALAM** - The rural areas in the northern and southern parts of Selangor will be turned into new economic zones under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the Sabak Bernam Development Area (Sabda) and the Integrated Development Region In South Selangor (Idriss) will be transformed under the Regional Development Plan (Clusterisation).

"To ensure an equal distribution of economic activities in Selangor, the RS-1 has identified several regions in the state that will be developed," he said during the tabling of the five-year plan at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here, on July 27.

Amirudin added this is part of the nine focus sectors under RS-1's economic theme.

"Idriss is an integrated private investment development in Sepang and Kuala Langat. It will be driven and complemented by facilities from the Selangor government.

"It will be supported by incentives from both the state and Federal government, with a gross development value (GDV) of RM1 trillion, involving some 40,000 acres of land," he said.

The Menteri Besar said Selangor remains committed to developing its agriculture sector which will be done through Sabda, stimulating economic growth in the Sabak Bernam district.

"Selangor has given its commitment to the agriculture sector with a RM26.4 million allocation under the 2022 Selangor Budget that includes initiatives to produce high-value products through the use of the Internet of Things (IoT) and other technologies. The Selangor Accelerator Programme also focuses on the development of the agrotechnology industry in line with the national aspiration.

"Thus, RS-1 will implement Sabda which aims to stimulate economic growth in the Sabak Bernam district. The RM1.9 billion investment to develop Sabak Bernam, involving an area of 1,317 hectares, is expected to generate an estimated revenue of RM248 million a year from economic core activities and create 3,600 job opportunities," he said.

Amirudin said Selangor's agriculture sector has grown at a rate of three per cent annually from 2015 to 2020, even throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the gross domestic product (GDP) for Selangor's agriculture has registered a marginal increase to RM4.72 billion in 2020, compared to RM4.71 billion in 2019.

# Strategies for the future

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government made history when it tabled the state's comprehensive First Selangor Plan (RS-1) during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting on July 27.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said that the RS-1 outlines 14 macro indicators as overall achievement indicators for the plan, to ensure that the initiatives executed may be evaluated for their performance.

The plan contains four strategic themes, five policy catalysts and 262 initiatives that include 20 game-changer projects.

The four strategic themes, which help to frame the plan, will focus on strengthening the economy; ensuring social inclusivity and the people's well-being; driving environmental sustainability; and providing good and effective governance.

Amirudin said the main targets to be achieved by 2025 are state gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.5 to 7.0 per cent per year, approved investments for main and sophisticated sectors amounting to between RM25 billion and RM35 billion a year, and employment opportunities for between 3.5 and 3.8 million people, equivalent to about 97 per cent of the total labour force in Selangor.

"The state government is committed to contributing 30 per cent of the country's GDP by 2025 and at the same time create a 'golden balance' between economic growth and raising the standard of living for its people.

"This would close the socioeconomic gap in Selangor and provide the people with a good quality of life, particularly in areas that are experiencing rapid urbanisation," he told the state assembly sitting.

In unveiling the five-year plan, the



Menteri Besar said to accomplish its goal, the administration would face challenges that include the availability of affordable housing and the efficient delivery of public services based on the concept of a livable state.

The following are the 14 macro indicators that the state aims to achieve by 2025 and are outlined in the RS-1:

- To achieve a GDP growth rate of 6.5 to 7.0 per cent annually
- To target RM25 million to RM35 billion in approved investments for leading and sophisticated sectors each year
- To reach a fixed broadband penetration rate of 70 per cent for every 100 premises
- To provide employment opportunities to between 3.5 and 3.8 million individuals, or around 97 per cent of the state's labour force
- To target a median household income of around RM 9,290 a month
- To reduce the percentage of absolute poverty to 0.7 per cent
- To reduce the percentage of relative poverty to 11 per cent
- To achieve an 8.0 scale on the Family Wellbeing Index score
- To lower the GDP-based greenhouse gas emission intensity by 35 per cent based on the emission intensity in 2005

- To ensure daily supply of clean water
- To increase the waste recycling rate to 15 per cent
- To target a 100 per cent completion rate for high-impact RS-1 projects based on current progress
- To vie for national-level top 10 ratings for all local authorities
- To ensure the digitalisation of end-to-end government services reaches 85 per cent

The RS-1, which is the framework for mobilising state policy for a five-year period, involves projects and initiatives worth a total of RM212.44 billion.

**READ MORE ON PAGES 6 - 9**

## Multifaceted project to rake in billions

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor will strengthen its logistics sector by developing a game-changer project dubbed Carey Selangor, which will see the development of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on Carey Island.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said that the economy would receive a contribution of over RM40.2 billion in gross value by 2060 and RM4.71 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2045, which would result in the creation of 115,000 job opportunities.

"The project would be a comprehen-

sive development that includes logistics, ports, industrial and commercial areas, and recreation facilities.

"The project intends to stimulate and improve Selangor's maritime economic ecosystem, enhance land usage for industrial development, and boost connectivity to assist both domestic and international trade in the long run," he said during the tabling of the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on July 27.

Amirudin said that Carey Selangor will cover 6,000 hectares and concen-

trate on three key industries, including manufacturing, ports and logistics and distribution hub.

"Malaysia's logistics sector annually adds roughly 3.5 per cent to the country's GDP. Due to a rise in e-commerce operations, postal and courier services also managed to achieve the highest growth in GDP when the pandemic hit.

"As a result, Selangor recorded 220,930 people employed in the logistics and storage industry in 2020," he said.

According to Amirudin, the RS-1 has

identified nine sectors that would help to strengthen Selangor's position as a centre of economic development and a crucial destination for strategic investment in Malaysia and the Asian region. These sectors were chosen based on their current contribution to the GDP, market growth potential, and future demands.

He said that the sectors have the potential to increase Selangor's influence as an economic powerhouse in Malaysia while also creating high-calibre employment opportunities for the state.

## Enough sugarcane but not poultry

**SHAH ALAM** - Sugarcane and starfruit are the only fresh produce in Selangor that recorded more than 100 per cent self-sufficiency levels (SSL) at 211.8 per cent and 107.7 per cent respectively.

State executive councillor for agricultural modernisation and agro-based industry Izham Hashim said that the SSL of food supply in the state is still low, especially when it comes to protein-based foods like fresh meat and lamb, where it is currently below five per cent.

He said given the present SSL indication, Selangor's local food supply can only last a year if the state government does not import food from other countries.

"Currently, sugarcane and starfruit are the only fresh produce in Selangor that recorded more than 100 per cent SSL, while poultry goods are at 64.73 per cent and eggs at 44.91 per cent.

"Paddy harvest in the state generates 33 per cent in SSL. In terms of vegetables, the SSL for mustard leaf is 56.4 per cent, cucumber at 26.7 per cent, chillies at 9.1 per cent, and ginger at a mere 3.8 per cent," he said when responding to a question from Bukit Melawati state assemblyman Juwairiya Zulkifli on food security during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting, here on July 25.

Izham said that the state government has implemented the Selangor Agro Transformation Plan (PeTA) in order to carry out the National Food Security Policy Action Plan 2021-2025.

"PeTA comprises five main policies, namely High-Value Products, Agriculture Modernisation, Complete Supply Chain, Agropreneur Development and Agro Tourism.

"The objectives include boosting food security in the state through expanding agricultural productivity, the food sector's contribution to Selangor's gross domestic product, and opportunities for the youths in generating income," he said.



## Satellite tracks illegal dumpsters

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government has collaborated with the Malaysian Space Agency (Mysa) to use satellite data as part of its efforts to stop illegal waste dumping in the state, says state executive councillor for infrastructure and public amenities Izham Hashim.

Through the collaboration, he said a satellite operated by Mysa will gather information on all areas in Selangor and identify the locations most likely to be used as illegal dump sites.

"Local authorities in the area will review the data provided by the agency and conduct checks. They would act quickly if they find an illegal dump site," he said when answering a supplementary question from Banting state assemblyman Lau Weng San on the use of advanced technology to combat illegal dumping during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting, here on July 26.

Meanwhile, in response to a question from Subang Jaya state assemblyman Michelle Ng Mei Sze on the issuance of compounds by the Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ), Izham said en-

forcement measures must be carried out in accordance with legal standards that are fair and supported by substantial evidence.

"In this case, photographs, videos or recordings of conversations with witnesses to the incidents are among the evidence that can be used in court.

"The evidence must clearly show that the offenders carried out illegal waste dumping activities under the provisions of the Refuse Collection, Removal and Disposal (Subang Jaya Municipal Council) By-Laws 2007," he said.

Izham also stated that based on records by MBSJ, from January 2021 to the present, a total of 1,153 compound notices have been issued

to violators for illegal dumping of waste.

He said out of the total, some 1,139 compound notices were issued under the provisions of prohibition of littering in public places (By-Law 4), while the remaining 14 compound notices were under the provision of disposal of industrial waste and trade waste (By-Law 12).

"In relation to that, three of the six cases that were moved to the prosecution stage have already been found guilty in court, while the other three are still awaiting mention," he said.



## State seeks land for farming

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor government plans to gazette 2,000 acres of state land for agricultural purposes each year to address Malaysia's food security concerns.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said state agencies and state government-owned companies (GLCs) have been instructed to identify land that can be gazetted as farms.

"The new state agriculture policy, the Selangor Agro Transformation Plan (PeTA) was introduced to properly develop the agriculture sector by focusing on farming capable of bringing higher returns with modern methods.

"The State Executive Council Meeting has instructed for state land to be identified and gazetted for agriculture activities. The state target is to convert 2,000 acres of land for agriculture every year and we are actively identifying more land for this purpose," he said.

Amirudin was responding to a query from Seri Kembangan state assemblyman Ean Yong Hian Wah on the development of idle state land for agriculture, during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting here on July 26.

He said GLCs including Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI, the Selangor Agriculture Development Corporation (PKPS),

the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) and Yayasan Selangor have submitted the list of land that has been identified to the Macro Section Farming Modernisation Unit under the state's Economic Planning Unit (UPEN).

Amirudin added that MBI and PKPS will soon develop 781 acres of land owned by MBI in Batu Arang, Rawang, in Gombak, for modern farming.

"Both companies have agreed to collaborate in implementing a high-technology agriculture project which will be supervised by state executive councillor for agricultural modernisation and agro-based industry Izham Hashim," he said.

The Menteri Besar said Selangor has even looked beyond its borders for land that is suitable for farming, the latest being its grain corn plantation in Gemas, Negeri Sembilan, which has the potential to reduce livestock feed imports by two to three per cent.

Amirudin said the state government through PKPS as the lead agency for the project will also give permits to companies with the right expertise and capital to develop gazetted state land for modern farming.

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# 10,000 EV chargers for Selangor

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor will install 10,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout the state to encourage the use of EVs.

State executive councillor for the environment, climate change and green technology Hee Loy Sian said this will promote the use of EVs and help reduce carbon emissions.

"This is part of Selangor's plan to assist Malaysia in reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to cut carbon emissions by 45 per cent in 2030," said Hee in response to a supplementary question from Bukit Gasing state assemblyman R Rajiv at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on July 25.

Earlier, in his answer to a question from Bandar Utama state assemblyman Jamaliah Jamaluddin on the state's commitment to assist Malaysia achieve net zero carbon emissions by

2050, Hee outlined three key focus areas for the state to cut carbon emissions by 45 per cent in 2030.

"Selangor is currently concentrating on three main programmes recommended by the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry (KeTSA), which are energy efficiency (EE), renewable energy (RE) and solid waste management.

"The industrial and commercial sectors will make more efforts to improve energy efficiency through the use of EE equipment and clean production techniques. By 2030, more energy will be generated from renewable sources (RE) including biomass, mini hydro, solar energy and biogas," he said.

Hee said various policies and strategies have been developed to achieve

the state's agenda to build a low-carbon city and assure environmental sustainability.

"Among the initiatives that Selangor has put into action include the installation of solar panels in state government buildings, including at local councils' facilities such as food courts, schools and public halls, encouraging the development of large-scale solar (LSS) on water and land, waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities, encouraging the use of EVs, tree planting programmes and maintaining 30 per cent of the state's land as permanent forest reserves and expanding that figure in the coming years," he said.

Meanwhile, Hee also disclosed the carbon emissions readings recorded by seven local councils in Selangor un-

der the Low Carbon Cities Framework (LCCF) initiative.

He said the highest record of carbon emission was by Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) with a total figure of 3,496,000 tonnes, followed by Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) with 2,400,637 tonnes

"Shah Alam City Council's carbon emissions are 749,758.49 tonnes, Kajang Municipal Council's are 244,035.03 tonnes, Sepang Municipal Council's are 20,231.16 tonnes, Kuala Langat Municipal Council's are 816,347.72 tonnes and Hulu Selangor Municipal Council's are 3,767.17 tonnes," he said.

According to Hee, the state government will also ensure that every local council in the state joins the LCCF initiative.

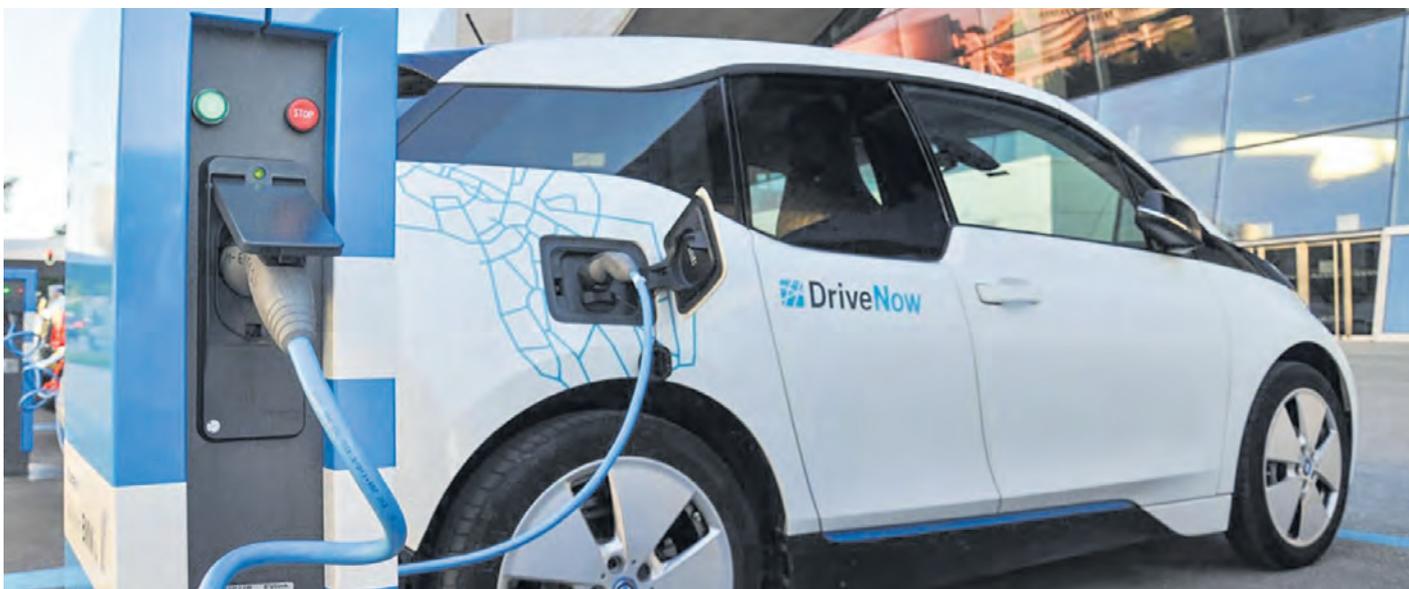
He stated that Selangor is open to the idea of implementing carbon credit trading at the state level through the use of the domestic platform developed by Bursa Malaysia.

"The state government is willing to work with the Environment and Water Ministry (Kasa) and Bursa Malaysia to establish Malaysia's carbon credit market, especially in Selangor," he said.

On Oct 29, 2021, the Finance Ministry revealed the proposals aimed to create a sustainable economy in the 2022 Budget.

One of the proposals was the launch of the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM), a platform for trading carbon credits between green asset owners and other organisations making the transition to low-carbon practices.

Each business is only allowed to produce a certain amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) and low carbon emitters can sell their extra credits to businesses that exceed the cap.



## 1.6% cancer samples return positive

**SHAH ALAM** - A total of 25 samples or 1.6 per cent from 1,528 cancer screening tests that were taken during the Selangor Saring programme have tested positive.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said that as of July 17, colorectal cancer is the highest type of cancer detected through the screenings at 5.19 per cent, while the lowest is cervical cancer at 1.07 per cent.

"In addition, a total of 7,422 blood and urine samples taken from 27 constituencies have been analysed," he said when answering a question from Permatang state assemblyman Rozana Zainal Abidin on the Selangor Sar-

ing programme, during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting on July 25.

The initiative, which began on May 22 offers prostate, ocular, cervical and breast cancer screenings, as well as occult or colorectal faecal blood testing.

The state government has allocated RM3.4 million for Selangor Saring which will benefit 39,000 residents, especially individuals with a history of hereditary diseases, obese individuals, and those leading unhealthy lifestyles.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said although the screenings were conducted on a

large scale, participants, especially women, need not worry about privacy.

"Selcare Management Sdn Bhd has set up their cubicle tents to be fully covered, to ensure that tests like pap smear can be carried out privately.

"Although the tests are not done at healthcare premises, be rest assured that participants' privacy is guaranteed," he said in response to an additional question from Sijangkang state assemblyman Ahmad Yunus Hairi on privacy during the programme.

When asked by Rawang state assemblyman Chua Wei Kiat on who bears the cost for further treatment for the participants if diseases are de-

tected, Amirudin said Selangor Saring mainly serves as a platform for health screenings although some additional forms of assistance are available.

"This is an early step to prevent the people from spending more money if they discover their diseases at a later stage.

"A large portion of the treatment costs are borne by the patients themselves, but the state government provides various assistance programmes for critical illnesses including heart and kidney diseases. From these initiatives, the state government helps to absorb around 50 to 70 per cent of the total treatment costs," he said.

# A RM212b 5-year plan



increasing welfare measures through public-private partnerships.

"Our plan is more comprehensive, aiming to complete the direction of Selangor's development," said Amirudin at a press conference after the tabling of the RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on July 27.

## Economic growth the driver of change

Despite Covid-19 setting back Selangor's economic trajectory in the last two years, the state has remained a heavyweight at the national level, contributing 72.1 per cent to Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020.

Driven largely by its services and manufacturing industries, these sectors combined have contributed to more than 90 per cent of the state's GDP.

More recently, the state administration has also given increased attention to the development of the agriculture industry, to reduce its reliance on imports and address the pressing issue of food security.

The RS-1 serves to 'strengthen the economy' further — prioritising it as the first of four strategic themes to propel the state forward.

Efforts will be made to entice foreign businesses, notably established corporations but also unicorn companies, to set up bases in the state and help it prosper.

Nine sectors have been chosen to ignite the economy for the coming five years. They are ports and logistics; tourism; the digital economy; aerospace; automotive; electrical and electronics; mechanical and engineering; the halal industry; and life sciences and agrotechnology.

The RS-1 has also identified the huge economic potential of undeveloped land in the state, with three mega projects slated to take place at the Sabak Bernam Development Area, the Integrated Development Region in Southern Selangor and the Selangor Maritime Gateway Economic Development Zone, which involves development in Sabak Bernam, Kuala Langat, Sepang and along the Klang River.

The projects will not only transform the landscape of these locations but create much-needed jobs for the people in the state.

**T**HE First Selangor Plan (RS-1) has outlined 14 macro indicators to create a 'golden balance' between economic growth and raising the standard of living for its people.

The plan, which features four strategic themes, five policy catalysts and 262 initiatives via 20 game-changer projects, aims to address the current challenges faced by the state without having to rely more on Putrajaya.

The projects and initiatives that act as the framework for the five-year plan are worth RM212.44 billion in total.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said of that amount, RM92.44 billion are for development projects at the state level with allocations coming from the state government, subsidiaries, and private funding.

He said for state-level development, an allocation of RM7.16 billion will come from state government coffers while RM34.26 billion for development projects (allocated) will be funded by state government subsidiaries. The rest of the expenditure, at RM51.02 billion, will come from private financing.

Also included are infrastructure projects at the Federal level, like the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL), the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and the High-Speed Rail Transit (MRT), which together total more than RM120 billion.

Amirudin noted that the RS-1 contrasts with the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP), which places a greater emphasis on infrastructure, as the state's plan is more focused on

## Equal opportunities for all

**SELANGOR's** strength has always been its people. From the ones born here to those who arrive from all corners of the country, the state's inhabitants share a common goal of wanting prosperity and better lives for themselves and their families.

The main strategy of the second theme of the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) — ensuring social inclusivity and the people's wellbeing — aims to create chances for everyone to generate an income, encourage targeted aid for the urban and rural poor, and ensure that technology is used to support community inclusion.

The RS-1 includes six focus areas, 21 strategies and 72 projects, programs and initiatives that will propel income generation, enhance social welfare systems, provide the people with affordable housing, good public healthcare and education, and give more access and opportunities to youths, the elderly and people with disabilities.



## More perks for working mums

**SPECIAL** incentives under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) will be given to companies that set up childcare centres in their office premises, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the initiative will help ease the difficulties and challenges faced by working mothers, especially when it comes to childcare.

"The move (to set up childcare centres) will be initiated by state government agencies and subsidiaries.

"Apart from that, we will also expand existing initiatives including the Asuh Pintar Cash Assistance programme (RM1,200 a year for child care) and the Tunas Cash Assistance programme (RM300 a year for pre-school fees)," Amirudin said when tabling RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on July 27.

He added that the state

government will make it compulsory for local councils in Selangor to provide a childcare centre and a nursing room on their premises.

"This effort will help to retain more women in the labour force and encourage them to return to work, thus contributing to the target of 75 per cent female participation in the labour market by 2025.

"Additionally, the development of women entrepreneurs will also be strengthened by increasing their access to financing and skills training.

"RS-1 will focus on advocating for public and private employers to provide a more flexible working environment, including working from home or a hybrid working mode, to accommodate the needs of the female labour force," Amirudin said.



# Focus on health for young and old

**THE** state government seeks to expand the scope of Iltizam Selangor Sihat (ISS) and increase the number of recipients for the programme.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the move, under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), will empower the health sector in Selangor.

"ISS is a health insurance scheme for low-income groups to help reduce their healthcare cost burdens when getting treatment at private health-

care centres.

"This scheme offers RM500 in protection per year for family category policyholders, and RM200 per year for single individual category policyholders.

"By expanding the protection scope and increasing the number of participants, we are confident this programme will be of help to those in need," he said when tabling RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on July 27.

ISS offers the people of Selangor up to RM500 in financial help for basic medical care, including outpatient costs and vaccinations.

Amirudin added that apart from health protection, the state government will also focus on the aspect of food nutrition, especially for children.

"In the previous Budget tabling, we set up the Anak Selangor Anak Sihat (Asas) programme for children from low-income families as part of

the effort to reduce the prevalence of stunted growth and malnutrition among them.

"Under RS-1, we will broaden the programme to curb the problem of malnutrition among children. In doing so, we expect this will have a long-term positive impact by reducing the number of patients for diseases caused by malnutrition," he added.

On June 28, Selangor's public health advisers said the state government will distrib-

ute nutritional food packs to about 720 eligible children via the Asas programme.

Dr Mohammad Farhan Rusli said the packs will be distributed for five consecutive months to children aged one to six.

The Asas food packs will provide recipients with full cream milk powder, cracker biscuits, cereals and multi-vitamins to help calcium absorption and strengthen their bones.

## Tackling poverty, housing issues

**THE** First Selangor Plan (RS-1) will focus on social welfare, the eradication of poverty and affordable housing to improve the people's quality of life.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said Selangor aims to reduce poverty rates across the board over the next five years.

"Selangor had the second-highest Consumers Price Index (CPI) in the country in 2020 and registered the third-highest inflation rate in 2019. This indicates living costs are on the rise in the state.

"The main driver to help Selangor citizens overcome inflation and rising living costs is Bantuan Kehidupan Sejahtera Selangor (Bingkas), a financial aid programme that reduces the burden of these costs on low-income families by channelling RM300 each month to eligible households," he said when tabling of the RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, on July 27.

Amirudin said under RS-1 the state will focus on promoting entrepreneurship skills to people in the lower income bracket so they may have an alternative source of income. Training will be provided under the Hijrah Selangor scheme that also offers micro-credit financing between RM1,000 and RM100,000, with repayment set between six months and three years.

The 2022 Selangor Budget allocated RM120 million for the purpose and for creating new schemes under Hijrah.

The new schemes include i-Bisnes, Zero to Hero, Niaga Darul Ehsan (NaDI),

Go Digital, i-Lestari, i-Agro and i-Bermusim, all of which are aimed at empowering entrepreneurs in the state.

The Menteri Besar said RS-1 will also focus on increasing home ownership and creating safe urban spaces in Selangor.

"RS-1 will focus on enhancing urban safety by increasing surveillance to monitor crime, using smart technology and conducting crime awareness campaigns," he said.

The five-year plan will address three issues plaguing affordable homes, which are the mismatching of houses on offer and in demand, finding the right location for the homes and the difficulty in obtaining loans.

"Selangor will address this by increasing the construction of Rumah Idaman and Rumah Selangorku Harapan, which have received encouraging responses.

"To solve the financing issue, the state is actively pursuing cooperation with financial institutions, especially banks, to create a special financing system for Selangor's people to own homes," he said.

On July 13, Amirudin said the state government has constructed a total of 130,545 affordable housing units to provide Selangor residents with the chance to own their own homes.

He said of this figure, 78,132 were built for Rumah Selangorku Idaman through 31 projects while 52,413 were built for Rumah Selangorku Harapan through 45 projects.

## Empowering the elderly, OKU

**THE** state government will introduce a senior citizen-friendly policy that will be implemented on the local council level under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said under this policy, councils will provide facilities for the elderly like special elevators, special paths and special rooms when drawing up construction plans for offices and housing.

"Selangor will have an estimated 1.3 million persons over 65 years of age by 2040. Therefore, RS-1 will prepare the state for this transition, aiming for better physical and mental health for the elderly.

"The existing Jom Shopping Skim Mesra Usia Emas (SMUE) and the Selangor Saring programmes which focus on elderly health and welfare will also be expanded," he said when tabling the RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here, on July 27.

The SMUE was introduced over a decade ago for the benefit of Selangor's elderly residents, with members qualifying for shopping vouchers and death benefits.

A total of RM27.5 million has been

allocated under the 2022 Selangor Budget for the continuation of the programme this year.

Amirudin added that apart from senior citizens the state will also focus on youths and persons with disabilities (OKU).

"Generally, they are Selangor's future assets, hence our continued focus on their roles and responsibilities.

"Under RS-1, the wellbeing and marketability of youth groups in Selangor will be improved as part of our efforts in tackling unemployment in the state.

"As for the OKU, RS-1 will provide employment and income-generating opportunities with more attention given to OKU youths for their transition from welfare centres to Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and the Independent Living Centre (ILC)," he said.

On March 2, state executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said the Selangor government is setting up the ILC to help the OKU find employment after finishing school.

She said RM1 million has been allocated for the pilot project, which will be implemented soon, to benefit special needs people aged 18 and above.

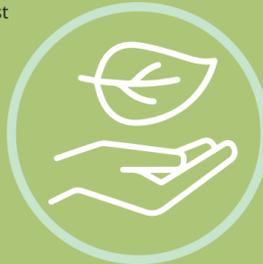


## Driving the green transition

THE environment continues to provide the most challenges and risks for the state as natural disasters stemming from climate change and cases of river pollution leading to water cuts disrupt the lives and livelihoods of the people.

In addressing these issues, the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) will zero in on 'environmental sustainability' and identify crucial areas for change, such as creating and providing smarter and more sustainable infrastructure.

There are five focus areas, 14 main strategies and 38 projects, programmes and initiatives that have been identified under this theme. The focus areas are resilience and disaster management, water management, working towards a low carbon state, waste management and biodiversity and natural resources.



## New focus on disaster readiness

THE state government through the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) has outlined several improvements in dealing with climate change issues in Selangor.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said this includes setting up the Disaster Management Action Plan.

"The plan emphasises disaster management preparedness, response and recovery, focusing on governance and effective communication.

"We have also identified flood mitigation infrastructure projects, including widening rivers as well as building and upgrading river and pond reservoirs," he said during the tabling of RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here on July 27.

Amirudin added that RS-1 includes the enhancement of the Smart Selangor Operation Centre (SSOC) which is capable of sending early disaster warning signals by 2025.

"Flood and landslide incidents frequently occur in Selangor due to human development and extreme weather patterns.

"Climate change also increases disaster risks. Natural disasters will impact the supply chain, thus affecting Selangor's economy in general," he said.

The end of last year saw torrential rain from Dec 17 to 19, which resulted in double the rainfall compared to the previous high of 180 millimetres and led to severe flooding in several locations throughout Selangor.

On Dec 21, the state government announced a RM100 million fund under the Selangor Bangkit programme following the floods.

In addition to infrastructure restoration, the fund also covers cash assistance of RM10,000 to the families of those who perished in the floods and RM1,000 to the heads of families to restore their homes.

## Strategies for better water management

THE First Selangor Plan (RS-1) aims to reduce non-revenue water (NRW) and focus more on water management.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said Selangor has the highest water consumption per capita in Malaysia, with 230 litres per capita per day (LCD), which is 45 per cent more than the United Nations' recommended threshold of 165 LCD.

"Air Selangor (Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd) expected the current NRW of 27.93 per cent to be reduced to 25 per cent by 2025.

"This is possible as 556.14 km of pipes (from a total of 30,008 km) have been replaced as of Dec 31, 2021," he said during the tabling of RS-1 at the Selangor

State Legislative Assembly here, on July 27.

Amirudin said RS-1 also outlines three main strategies as well as nine projects, programmes and initiatives in its focus on water management.

He added that the main catalyst is the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) which will focus on efforts to clean and rejuvenate the Klang River.

"The SMG project uses multiple methods including water quality monitoring systems, log booms and the Interceptor river cleaning machines.

"Other identified methods are the Integrated Water Management System and the Sungai Rasau water treatment plant," Amirudin said.

# Target for zero carbon emissions by 2050

SELANGOR remains committed to achieving zero carbon emissions in its urban areas and municipalities by 2050 under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

To achieve the goal, he said the detection of greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors will be carried out using the carbon reporting mechanisms for industries.

"The state government also will develop a framework for greenhouse gas calculations to enable better low-carbon planning on the domestic level.

"With these initiatives, we can improve the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increase our resilience to climate risks and enhance biodiversity protection," Amirudin said when tabling RS-1 during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here, on July 27.

He added that currently Selangor

still records positive (existing) carbon emissions, with sectors like energy, transportation and construction being the main contributors in the state.

"I believe we have the potential to be a low-carbon state by focusing on improving these sectors through innovative ways," Amirudin said.

Meanwhile, the Menteri Besar said the state government and local councils play important roles in preserving Selangor's environment and biodiversity.

"Under RS-1, we have outlined three strategies and nine projects that will increase biodiversity sustainability and natural resources in the state.

"We will also continue to focus on environmental sustainability, as well as improve social wellbeing through the development of green infrastructure and conserving natural resources. We are very committed to being a low carbon state in the future," he said.



The third anniversary celebrations for Shah Alam's Car-Free Day at Dataran Kemerdekaan in Section 14, Shah Alam

## FIRST SELANGOR PLAN

### A Smart, Liveable & Prosperous State

**Strengthening the economy**

**Ensuring social inclusivity and the people's wellbeing**

**Driving environmental sustainability**

**Providing good and effective governance**

**262** Projects and initiatives

**5** Policy catalysts

**20** Game-changer projects

## Scientific data to improve crisis management



Amirudin launches the SelGDX platform during the First Selangor Plan Pre-Launch Symposium at the Shah Alam City Council Convention Centre on July 7

THE state government has set up the Risk Management Committee under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) as part of its effort to improve its crisis management capabilities, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the committee will be using scientific data to manage natural disaster relief in the state.

"Climate change and an excess of rainfall in Selangor require us to take proactive measures, including assessing potential risks," he said when tabling RS-1 at the Selangor State

Legislative Assembly, here on July 27.

On another matter, Amirudin said the state government's digital service transformation programme will help Selangor achieve smart status by 2025.

"Several initiatives including SELangkah, the Citizen E-Payment Platform (CEPat) and Bantuan Kehidupan Sejahtera Selangor (Bingkas) have proven their success in ensuring seamless services through digital transformation.

"To further expand the digitalisation

## Game-changing solutions for solid waste

SELANGOR will use the latest innovations to solve the issue of mounting solid waste under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

As Malaysia's most populated state, Selangor also generates the most solid waste, scheduled waste and clinical waste.

"On average, Selangor generates 7,220 tonnes of solid waste daily, or 22 per cent of the solid waste produced in Malaysia. The state is now moving toward integrated waste management to reduce the amount of garbage sent to landfills.

"Thus, RS-1 has outlined two strategies as well as five projects, programmes and initiatives.

"Of these, three are game changers — the development of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), the Integrated Solid Waste Management Centre (ISWMC) and the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plants," he said during the tabling of RS-1 at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here, on July 27.

Amirudin added that when built, the WTE plants will be able to convert an estimated 4,700 tonnes of solid waste to

provide more than 90 megawatts (MW) of electricity daily, which will reduce the amount of solid waste generated in Selangor by 67 per cent.

"The use of technological innovation solutions including the WTE plants, biogas filtration and many more can turn waste into precious energy.

"The use of renewable energy will reduce dependency on sanitary landfills and increase the recycling rate," he said.

Recently, Worldwide Holdings Bhd chief executive officer Datin Paduka Norazlina Zakaria said Selangor's landfills will only be able to last for another four years, based on the current rate of waste generated.

She said its subsidiary KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd will begin constructing three WTE plants next year, with two in the Jeram sanitary landfill and another at the Tanjung Dua Belas sanitary landfill. They are expected to be completed as early as 2025.

Norazlina added that upon completion, Selangor will have the biggest WTE facilities in the country.

## Delivering efficient and effective governance

THE state administration will continue to focus on being a data-driven, transparent, and visionary government in the wake of the uncertainties surrounding the post-pandemic landscape.

With the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) mobilising state policies for a period of five years (from 2021-2025), a revision of the definition of 'smart governance' is essential to bring fresh ideas to the table like diversifying the sources of public funding and accelerating the delivery of local council services by means of the latest technology.

There are five focus areas, 12 main strategies and 51 projects, programmes and initiatives under this theme. The five focus areas — together forming the acronym SMART — are the strategic alignment of goals and policies, managing performance and accountability, having an agile public workforce, revenue sustainability and technological transformation.

initiative, we will implement the Selangor Government Data Exchange (SelGDX) as an integrated data sharing platform across state government agencies and the public sector," he added.

The SelGDX system, to be set up with the help of Telekom Malaysia, will not just speed up the process of retrieving information from different agencies but will also shorten the time needed for individuals to obtain important documents from specific government departments.

By ALANG BENDAHARA

**N**EXT month the Citizen E-Payment (CEPat) digital platform will celebrate its third anniversary. To learn more about the service, which has been defined as a centralised electronic payment platform for Selangor government payment services, *Selangor Journal* interviewed Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU) Strategic Planning director Mazlan Mahadi.

Mazlan said CEPat, which was introduced on Aug 21, 2019, and uses cloud-based technology to ensure it is easily accessible to users, has 85,000 users as of July 2022.

"With an enhanced and improved version of the platform set to be launched by the end of this year, we have set the target to get 500,000 users for the service," he said in a written reply to our query.

Mazlan said the idea for CEPat came during the 2016–2017 period, at a Smart Selangor lab with local councils and government agencies organised by SSDU where many participants gave feedback that they wanted the state government to set up a single digital window for the public to access their services as they already have their own mobile app and web pages. During a citizen engagement event later, many people again asked for a 'one stop platform' to deal with state government services.

That led SSDU to come up with the CEPat mobile app, which links citizens to the local councils, enabling them to pay for assessment tax, compounds as well as parking summonses, licences, utility bills and prepaid card top-ups. It is also equipped with the Scan to Ride feature for Smart Selangor Bus users.

#### Faster and paperless

Mazlan said the key component of Selangor becoming a Smart State by 2025 is its citizens' ability to access public services digitally, which enables government services to be conducted in a faster, paperless and more cost-effective way.

"As such, the development of CEPat is the main enabler in this ambition and one of the ways to lead all the local councils and Selangor citizens towards the Smart State plan. Via CEPat, the local councils can access any data from any government department in Selangor in real-time.

To achieve that, however, Selangor needs to educate its local councils on smart governance in using the CEPat platform.

#### Settling bills

Mazlan said the introduction of CEPat, which took



## CEPat helps to speed up smart governance

place almost half a year before Covid-19 hit, has tremendously helped the local authorities in its revenue collection.

"Back in early 2020 when we were dealing with Covid-19, CEPat helped most of the citizens and business owners to settle their payments to the local authorities as well as the state govern-

ment. The local councils also gave us a very good response because this application helped them get collections during the lockdown," he said.

He added that currently, nine local councils have adopted CEPat pay and rental assessment, while others are in the process of doing so.

#### Cashless bus ride

Since Jan 16, 2021, the use of the Scan to Ride feature on CEPat has been made mandatory for all rides on Smart Selangor buses.

"As of April 1 this year, as the country transitioned into the endemic phase, there has been an increase in the number of transactions by 100 per cent. This is because more citizens are going back to using public transportation as their daily routine to avoid being stuck in traffic," he said.

#### Future of CEPat

Mazlan said the SSDU has new plans for CEPat, which will be unveiled by the

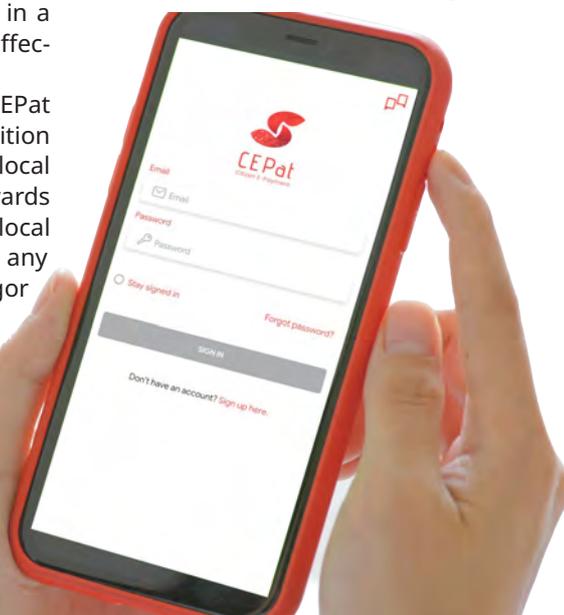
Menteri Besar before the end of the year, probably in October.

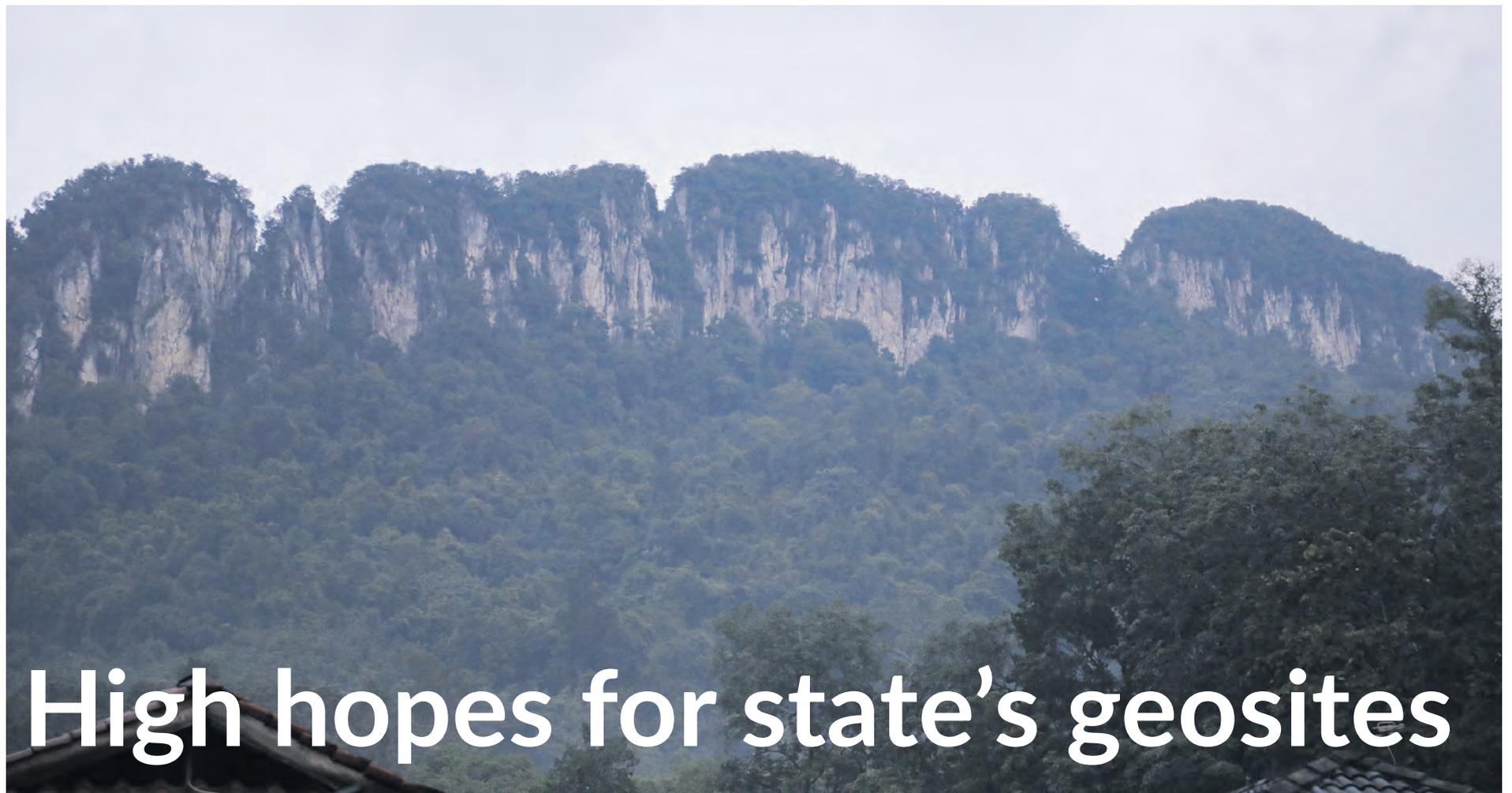
"All I can say is that we're planning to integrate all other government services to make things easier for Selangor citizens, as well as business owners and government officials. We will add a feature called Selangor Digital ID," he said.

Mazlan also said they may extend their services to other states who have voiced an interest in emulating CEPat.

"We are also collaborating with other e-wallet players in Malaysia for additional payment options for our users. We already have the Tier 1 e-wallet players like Grab, Boost, WeChat pay or AliPay and we are going to include all other Tier 2 wallets.

To get more people to use CEPat, SSDU will organise a roadshow and engage with people in Selangor to get feedback on its service, as well as participate in state events such as the Selangor Penyayang Roadshow, which recently awarded a dedicated user of CEPat with a motorcycle in the Smart Selangor Citizen contest.





# High hopes for state's geosites

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

**T**HE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) has defined a geopark as a single, unified geographical area where sites and landscapes of international significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

A geopark also provides a platform based on geological heritage to promote sustainable development in local communities as well as in the education, tourism and agri-food sectors.

Considering the significant impact of a geopark on sustainable development, Selangor is striving to ensure its effort to obtain national geopark recognition for the Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark (GHL Geopark) achieves success.

Spanning across 112,955 hectares of land, the GHL Geopark covers large parts of the Gombak and Hulu Langat districts. It is under the purview of three local councils, namely the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council, the Selayang Municipal Council and the Kajang Municipal Council. The area comprises 31 geosites, six bioparks and 11 heritage and cultural sites.

## 'Ninety per cent ready'

In an interview with state executive councillor for tourism and environment Hee Loy Sian, he said the process to obtain national recognition began in

2019 and is still ongoing, involving four phases.

"The first phase was the evaluation of the specific area, whether it fits to be deemed as a geopark. We then progressed to the second phase where the state government formed the scientific and promotional committee to raise awareness on the issue.

"Currently, we are at the third phase, where an evaluation process is due to be carried out to see if the geopark can be recognised at the national level.

"The last phase is to get international recognition as one of Unesco's global geoparks in 2025," he said when met at his office recently.

Hee went on to elaborate that from July 12 to 15, the GHL Geopark Management Body had conducted a mock run of its presentation for the actual evaluation, which is scheduled to take place from Aug 15 to 18.

The presentation involved all committee members of the geopark as well as strategic partners and members of the geo community.

"Based on the mock run, we are 90 per cent ready for the evaluation day and improvements will be made accordingly within three weeks. I am confident that we will be fully prepared by the time the evaluation is carried out," he said.

## From the ice age

Currently, there are six national geoparks in Malaysia — the Jerai National Geopark, the Kinta Valley Na-

tional Geopark, the Kinabalu National Geopark, the Mersing National Geopark, the Labuan National Geopark and the Sarawak Delta National Geopark.

All of them are overseen by the National Geopark Committee that comes under the purview of the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry.

Hee said the state government aims to make the GHL Geopark the seventh national geopark in the country and the first in Selangor.

Commenting on the worth of the site, he said: "The geopark's features hold a significant geological value that must be protected. The area is dominated by granite rocks that are between 200 and 220 million years old and the rocks found in Batu Caves are estimated to be between 350 and 500 million years old from the Late Pleistocene period that is part of what we know as the ice age."

"Furthermore, one of the geosites included in the GHL Geopark, Batu Arang, is the oldest coal mine in the country. These are among the reasons why we must protect this area.

"The effort would also strengthen the state government's commitment to conserving the environment for the sake of future generations, thus achieving its Sustainable Development Goals," he added.

## Spillover benefits

Aside from benefiting the state of Selangor, a national-level recognition would also bring gains to the communi-

ties living in the area.

"For the state government, we could leverage the national status to attract sustainable and green investment to the area. This will help to create a new geo-tourism branding that will provide jobs to the locals," Hee said.

"In turn, this allows for an improvement to nature tourism that will benefit Klang Valley folks as well as visitors from elsewhere. As the soon-to-be first national geopark in Selangor, the GHL Geopark will boost the area's identity as well as Selangor's on a global level."

## Conservation role

Once the GHL Geopark receives national recognition, the Selangor government plans to double up on its promotional and awareness programmes on the geosites.

Plans are also in place to upgrade the infrastructure surrounding the geosites and improve on their accessibility to meet international standards.

"We also want to organise conservation programmes with our geopartners that will protect the geosites.

"The state government will formulate a geopark management plan for each geosite to ensure that any development surrounding the area will not affect the site's integrity in the future and also provide guidance to the local councils to oversee any such development," he said.

# Selangor reaches out

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

**T**HE state government has shown its commitment to ensuring the wellbeing of the people in Selangor through its *Iltizam Selangor Penyayang* (ISP) initiative.

With a RM350 million allocation, replacing the *Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat* programme, it allows more people to receive monetary aid and other benefits.

The first Selangor Penyayang roadshow (JSP) was launched on June 19 in Taman Kosas Ampang, followed by the second instalment at Dataran Pantai Morib in Kuala Langat on June 25.

The roadshow continued at Stadium Utama Kuala Selangor on July 2 and Laman MBPJ (Petaling Jaya City Centre) on July 24.

The first phase of ISP will conclude with its fifth roadshow in Padang Awam Batu Caves, Gombak on July 31.

## Health first

The ISP roadshow in the Kuala Selangor district, which ran from 8am until 5.30pm on July 2, attracted nearly 5,000 visitors.

The event was packed with fun-filled activities such as an aerobics workout, traditional sports, a colouring contest and *Mobile Legends* and *Fifa* e-sports competitions. The crowd was also entertained by singers Wani Hasrita and Mr X Buskers.

Officiated by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, the event's main focus was the health initiatives provided by the state government under ISP.

Amirudin said RM67 million has been allocated to implement 10 programmes which are the *Iltizam Selangor Sihat* (ISS), the Heart Treatment scheme, the Selangor Health Aid (BSS) and the Selangor Saring screening programme.

Also included are the Selangor Cancer (CanSEL) screening, Selangor Child Nutrition (Asas), Selangor Mental Sihat (Sehat), tuberculosis treatment, eye examinations as well as the Women Health Scheme.



"We will, from time to time, improve on the people's health programmes, particularly the *Peduli Sihat* initiative. We are considering adding more insurance coverage if needed.

"The quality of health in Selangor is improving. In 2008, the life expectancy was only 68 to 69 years but in 2019, as people became more health conscious, it increased to 75 years," he said at a media conference during the roadshow.

On June 25 in Kuala Langat, Amirudin said among ISP's benefits is Selangor Saring, which provides an avenue for the people to check their health and detect chronic diseases in the early stages.

"This year, we made enhancements to the Selangor Saring programme so that the people can not just check their health but also detect problems early.

"The state government is caring and wants its citizens to stay healthy and protected. Not only do we want to manage their health problems but also to ensure that they are always healthy," he said.

## Drawing a crowd

The fourth ISP roadshow held in Dataran Boulevard Laman MBPJ drew over 5,000 visitors who took part in activities like aerobics,

face painting, traditional sports and a bridal make-up competition. There was also a clown show for children.

Over 40 booths were set up at the event to sell a variety of things and to display exhibits by KDEB Waste Management, Roda Darul Ehsan, Smart Selangor Bus, *Iltizam Anak Istimewa Selangor* and the Selangor Housing and Property Board (LPHS).

The event also highlighted 12 state initiatives that focus on the wellbeing of the family and community, which include *Bantuan Kehidupan Sejahtera Keluarga* (Bingkas), *Skim Air Darul Ehsan*, *Jom Shopping* festive vouchers, *Roda Darul Ehsan*, the Selangor Legal Aid Fund and *Skim Mesra Usia Emas* (SMUE).

Other initiatives are *Iltizam Anak Istimewa Selangor*, *Iltizam Anak Selangor*, *Independent Living Support Centre* (ILSC), exemptions on assessment tax and trader's business permit fees as well as the *Smart Selangor Bus*.

Amirudin said there are 44 programmes, 12 of which involve the development of family and the community.

## More to come

The Menteri Besar has said that the state government will conclude the first phase of the ISP roadshow at Gombak on July 31, with the event focusing on education.

He said the second phase of the programme will introduce new and improved initiatives to the people.

"The programme would tour the districts of Klang, Sabak Bernam, Sepang and Hulu Selangor and will focus on welfare, family, housing, health and education.

"The second phase of the programme is a continuation of the current Selangor Penyayang roadshow," he said, adding that the roadshow will provide more information on both the ISP initiative and state's five-year *First Selangor Plan* (RS-1).



By ALANG BENDAHARA

**N**EGARAKU — an anthem we know by heart and one that we sing with pride. Most of us have heard the story of its origin but how many of us know about the man who penned its lyrics, the prolific talent Saiful Bahri Elyas?

Saiful Bahri was also the composer of the Selangor state anthem *Duli Yang Maha Mulia* and Melaka's *Melaka Maju Jaya*.

He too, was the genius behind the patriotic hits that have shaped us as a nation, songs like *Malaysia Berjaya*, *Perajurit Tanah Air* (or *Inilah Barisan Kita*), *Samudra Raya*, *Gagah Perkasa* and *Muhibbah*.

In conjunction with Malaysia's 65th National Day celebration, *Selangor Journal* interviewed his daughter, Qus Nafiah, to learn more about the maestro who rightfully deserves a place in history and our hearts.

### His life

Saiful Bahri was born in Payakumbuh in Sumatra, Indonesia, on Sept 19, 1924, and died in Tokyo, Japan, on Nov 26, 1976, at the age of 52.

His body was flown back to Jakarta, Indonesia, at the request of his first wife R Suratmi and buried at Tanah Kusir, Kebayoran Lama in Jakarta.

Saiful Bahri had two wives in Malaysia, Che Jah Mamat from Kelantan and Noraini Ahmad from Setapak in Kuala Lumpur. When he died, Noraini was just 28 and had five children, including Qus Nafiah. Noraini passed away on Dec 21, 1999.

"From what we gathered from our late mother, our late father had served in the military during his time in Indonesia, likely at the rank of general and likely too, as a member of the military band, as we remember that he was buried in full military honours," said Qus Nafiah.

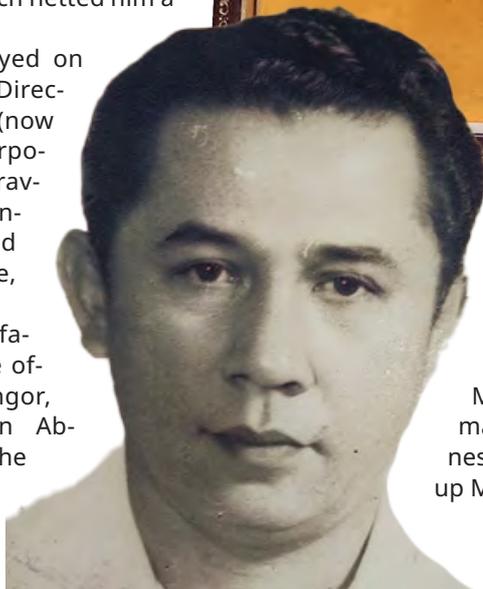
### Malaysian journey

Before making Malaysia his second home, Saiful Bahri was a well-known musician and conductor in the Orkes Studio Djakarta (The Jakarta Studio Orchestra) in Indonesia.

"He came to Malaysia months before the country's independence in 1957 at the invitation of the country's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman to join a contest to write the lyrics for the national anthem and his masterpiece was selected as the winner, which netted him a RM1,000 cash reward.

"Afterwards, he was employed on a contract basis as the Music Director of Filem Negara Malaysia (now National Film Development Corporation Malaysia or Finas) and travelled a lot throughout the country. That was when he met and married his second wife here, my mother," Qus Nafiah said.

She said in 1966, her late father received a letter from the office of the late Sultan of Selangor, Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, to write the state anthem and received the medal Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Selangor for his service.



# The forgotten legacy of Saiful Bahri



### A patriot

Despite gaining a considerable amount of fame and success in Malaysia at the time, Saiful Bahri remained loyal to his birth country Indonesia and politely refused offers to take up Malaysian nationality.

"Even to his death he was still an Indonesian citizen, yet he was given a Malaysian passport which he used

In 1966, Saiful Bahri received a letter from the office of the late Sultan of Selangor, Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, to write the state anthem and received the medal Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Selangor for his service

to travel overseas while he worked with Filem Negara Malaysia," his daughter said.

Perhaps it is this reason, she added, that many people decided to not recognise her late father's contributions, thinking that he was an outsider.

"He worked with Filem Negara Malaysia on a contract basis and never received a pension or Employee Provident Fund benefits," she said.

### Bittersweet memories

Each time during school assemblies, Qus Nafiah recalled, she and her siblings would feel sad whenever *Negaraku* and other patriotic songs that their father wrote were played.

"Nobody believed me when I said the national anthem was written by my father. Even his grandchildren did not believe it, because he was not famous."

She said this was what motivated her late mother to pursue getting some sort of recognition or royalty payment for some of the songs that Saiful Bahri had written.

Aside from his anthems and patriotic compositions, many of his commercial songs made it to the radio in the early days, like *Semalam Di Malaysia*, *Jangan Ditanya Kemana Aku Pergi*, *Semalam Di Bukit Tinggi*, *Gunung Jerai*, *Hariati*, *Pulau Langkawi* and *Lima Tahun Ku Cari*.

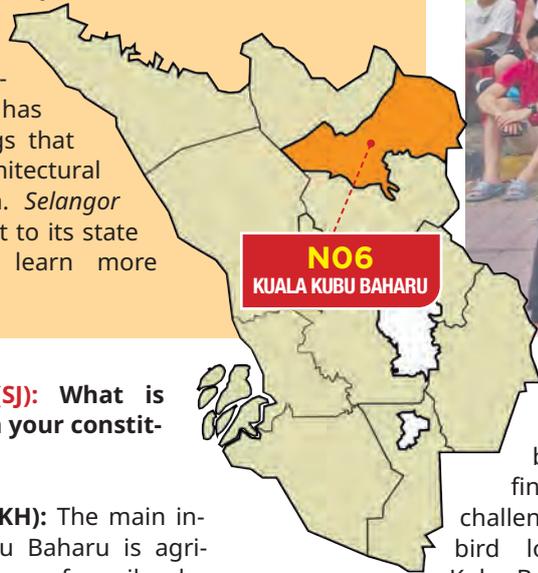
"How can outsiders like Jackie Chan and Shah Rukh Khan receive titles when their contributions to the country are not as great as our late father's?"

"Every year, leading to National Day, many people would seek us to learn more about the man who wrote the *Negaraku* lyrics. There are many other songs that he wrote in his service to Malaysia. This is why he should be remembered and honoured as a man who contributed a lot to the country that he lived in since its independence," she said.

# Nurturing an old soul

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

**K**UALA Kubu Baharu (KKB) is located in the northeast of Selangor, approximately 21 kilometres from Tanjung Malim in Perak and 66 kilometres from the Kuala Lumpur city centre. Represented by Lee Kee Hiong since 2013, the constituency is home to over 60,000 residents. Given its long history that dates back to pre-independence days, Kuala Kubu Baharu has many old buildings that feature the architectural styles of that era. *Selangor Journal* reaches out to its state assemblyman to learn more about the district.



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

**Lee Kee Hiong (LKH):** The main industry in Kuala Kubu Baharu is agriculture where we have a few oil palm estates. We also focus on vegetable farming in Ulu Yam where most of the farmers supply their produce to the Selayang wholesale wet market.

**SJ:** What is the main attraction in Kuala Kubu Baharu?

**LKH:** Undeniably, we are very famous for our ecotourism activities as Kuala Kubu Baharu has many attractive recreational places such as the KKB Paragliding Park, which is operated by Cloud Bass, Chiling Waterfalls and panoramic hill views. Since the acronym for Kuala Kubu Baharu is KKB, it also stands for 'Kiri Kanan Bukit' or a place surrounded by hills.

On weekends, many cyclists come

for their weekly ride because they find the routes challenging. For bird lovers, Kuala Kubu Baharu is a haven, especially in April, where the Hulu Selangor Municipal Council would organise the Wings of KKB programme to promote bird-watching activities. The programme is put on hold due to Covid-19 but hopefully, it can resume next year. Also, many people miss the fact that one-third of Fraser Hill belongs to Selangor and it falls under the Kuala Kubu Baharu constituency.

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

**LKH:** Most of the constituents are elders and they are not used to technology. Their children live separately and only visit during the weekends or school

holidays. Therefore, my office has become their go-to place to seek help or information regarding any assistance programmes provided by both the Federal government and the state government. My staff will help them to fill up forms, register for vaccination via their mobile phones and so on. Whenever we chat, they are also concerned about how they can increase their income because what they earn now is not sufficient to bear the continuously rising living costs. Some of them suggested more sustainable development in this area as another means to generate an income.

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

**LKH:** I have been representing the people in Kuala Kubu Baharu for two terms now and throughout this time, I have helped to solve several flood issues and also ensured that the roads here are well maintained. I have also actively promoted this district to both local and

international tourists. I have organised various tourism-related events such as the International Art Festival, published a book on bird photography and initiated the Street Basketball Challenge for the youths. I fully support the development of youth in Kuala Kubu Baharu.

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

**LKH:** I emphasise teamwork because I cannot do everything alone. I need a strong team and I am glad that I have established a very good team to help me with a wide range of issues. Even though I was not born here, I truly dedicate myself to the development of this area and the wellbeing of its people. The constituents can reach me easily via social media or by phone. I frequently check and read my email, Whatsapp chats, and direct messages on Facebook so there should not be a problem in contacting me should the people have something urgent to discuss.



# Futureproof and tech driven

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

**SHAH ALAM** - The new Shah Alam Sports Complex will see a futureproof Shah Alam Stadium equipped with cutting-edge technology, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said it is time for the Shah Alam Stadium and its surrounding areas to be

given a new lease of life.

"The redevelopment project will build a futureproof stadium and sports facilities.

"It will incorporate new technology and the latest building features that are both sustainable and environmentally friendly," he said during the tabling of the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) at the Sel-

angor State Legislative Assembly sitting here, on July 27.

Amirudin gave assurance that the state government has taken steps to secure the project's success given its sentimental value to Selangor FC supporters.

"Among the factors to ensure the success of the project is the developer's

track record in completing stadium and sporting facilities, and the cooperation and coordination between respective parties to ensure Selangor's aspirations are met.

"The project's gross development value (GDV) is targeted to be between RM8 and RM13 billion," he said.

## High repair cost unavoidable, says MB

**SHAH ALAM** - Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has clarified that the RM787 million expenditure for the Shah Alam Stadium is the estimated cost for the repairs of the existing structure and its facilities rather than the construction of a new stadium.

He said the task of raising the stadium platform by 1.5 metres to stop recurrent flooding and the replacement of the electrical wiring system is included in the high cost.

Other expenses would be to replace the old roof structure and fix the football field and piping system.

"That amount is not only for the cost for the Shah Alam Stadium but also involves the Malawati Indoor Stadium, which is located in the same area," Amirudin said on July 18.

The Menteri Besar also said he is personally invested in the Shah Alam Stadium as the stadium holds many fond memories for the Selangor football team while he was serving as the state executive councillor for sports.

"This issue is close to my heart and it also holds the memories of the Selangor football team winning the last Malaysia Cup."

Amirudin said he also understands the grievances and frustrations of the people and football fans over the sta-

dium's condition but added that much damage was done by major floods that happened in 2006, 2015, and 2021.

Amirudin added that since 2013, the state government had spent RM56 million repairing the stadium's roof, changing rooms, electrical wiring and water drainage.

"The cost of new materials has increased the expenses for maintenance. The stadium and its facilities would likely cost a total of RM787 million to refurbish. This is based on the latest thorough study conducted last year," he said.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said the redevelopment of the Shah Alam Sports Complex based on green and eco-friendly technology will not involve any state government funds.

He said the decision was made after taking into account the exorbitant repair costs and the difficulties faced.

On July 15, the Selangor government handed over a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd (MRCB), giving it six months to submit a detailed proposal on the

redevelopment plan, which is expected sometime in early 2023. The repair works will kick off next year and are expected to complete in 2026.

MRCB was appointed after a rigorous selection exercise, which saw 15 other companies take part, including international-linked and other public-listed companies.

The decision for its development plan was decided following long and thorough deliberation that began in 2013.

Amirudin had said that the refurbished Shah Alam Stadium will be inspired by the Ajax Amsterdam Stadium, and be able to seat a capacity of about 60,000 to 70,000 spectators.

Shah Alam Stadium was built for RM400 million and was inaugurated on July 16, 1994.

## Exco places hopes on future stars



**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor FC football club is granting contracts to highly talented young players to strengthen the quality of their team.

State executive councillor for sports development Mohd Khairuddin Othman said with an average age of 25, the Red Giants lineup is also the youngest to compete in this season's Super League.

"The development of the Selangor players over the next two to three years will serve as the foundation for this team's ability to compete more fiercely against Super League, FA Cup, and Malaysia Cup contenders.

"This group of players is also intended to replace the current main players of the Harimau Malaya team in the next two or three years.

"Through long-term contract management, young Selangor players should be able to replace older national players," Khairuddin said in response to a question by Sabak state assemblyman Ahmad Mustain Othman on the state's football development efforts during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting on July 25.



The current state of the Shah Alam Stadium and (top) the Ajax Amsterdam Stadium

# 14 MACRO INDICATORS of the FIRST SELANGOR PLAN (RS-1)



The following macro indicators will be used to measure the performance of RS-1 in 2025:



**GDP growth rate**  
**6.5 - 7.0% a year**



**Investments for main sectors**  
**RM25b - RM35b a year**



**Broadband penetration rate**  
**70% for every 100 premises**



**Total job creation**  
**for 3.5 - 3.8 million people**



**Median household income**  
**RM9,290 a month**



**Lowering absolute poverty**  
**to 0.7%**



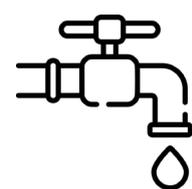
**Lowering relative poverty**  
**to 11%**



**Family Wellbeing Index score**  
**at 8.0 scale**



**Lowering greenhouse gas emissions**  
**by 35%**



**Clean water supply**  
**daily**



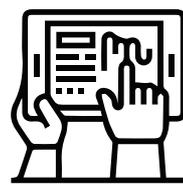
**Increasing waste recycling rate**  
**by 15%**



**Completion rate for high-impact projects**  
**at 100%**



**National-level local council ratings**  
**at top 10 placings**



**Digitalisation of government services**  
**at 85%**

