

Megaprojects,
mega dreams

5

These feet are
made for walking

11

Remembering
a day in 1963

12

A unique airshow
gears up

8&9



FREE | SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION | www.selangorjournal.my

SELANGOR JOURNAL

Gift of 'life'

IN celebration of the country's 65th year of independence, Selangor has rolled out new initiatives to protect and prosper its people. On top of the list is the Insurans Hayat Selangor (Insan), a general insurance scheme offering coverage to almost everyone — from month-old babies to the elderly at 80. Some six million residents will stand to benefit, with an estimated total protection value of RM60 billion.

MORE ON PAGES
3&13



Network of ponds, lakes for flood control

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government plans to utilise 98 ponds and lakes in the state to create a connecting system to the Sungai Klang to manage floodwater.

State executive councillor for infrastructure Izham Hashim said the Selangor Water Management Board (Luas) has, as of now, authorised 21 ponds for the initial stage of connecting work.

"There are 98 ponds and lakes in total, which we will gradually connect to the river system and use them to manage flood waters and during droughts.

"In the event of a severe downpour, a pool will prevent rainwater from entering the river and it will also be available for use in the event of a drought," he said at a press conference to convey the state government's plan to overcome flooding, at the Selangor State Secretariat Building, here on Aug 23.

According to Izham, the combined capacity of all the ponds is 34 million cubic metres, which is sufficient to meet the demand in the event of a drought.

"These pools alone can supply up to 2,000 million litres of water per day for a period of one month. This does not include existing dams.

"The 98 ponds and lakes are new, meaning they have existed for a long time but have never been utilised."

Meanwhile, Izham said that Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) had been tasked to raise RM700 million for the Sungai Klang deepening project.

He said the project also involves strengthening the river banks along a 56-kilometre stretch from Kuala Lumpur to Klang.

The project will begin as early as January next year.

"This project is crucial because water from Kuala Lumpur flows into the Sungai Klang during times of heavy rain, and if the riverbed is not deepened, it will result in an overflow," he said.

According to Izham, the project will take three years to complete and could increase the river's capacity by 30 to 50 per cent.

"We are aware that the parties in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur are acting similarly, and if we don't take action, the river's water will surely overflow," he said.

LLSB, a company wholly owned by the Selangor Menteri Besar (Incorporated) or MBI, was appointed by the state government on June 1, 2018, to implement development, conservation, and cleanup projects as part of the Selangor Maritime Gateway initiative.



Turkish presence will lift aero sector: MB

By **NAEEM RAFFI**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government is confident of expanding its aerospace industry through its collaboration with Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) following the interest shown by the company in investing in the state.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said his administration is committed to simplifying the process of investment for TAI in order to cement its commitment here.

"TAI, which has set up its operations in Cyberjaya, has been identified as one of the potential investors in the Selangor International Aero Park (SAP), which is listed as one of the game changers in the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

"Their previous participation in the inaugural Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) in 2021 has resulted in the likelihood for a greater collaboration between both parties," he said on Aug 24.

During the Selangor government delegation's recent trip to Türkiye, Amirudin said he visited TAI's facility there and witnessed the company's capability as a major player in the



Amirudin is briefed on the facilities at Turkish Aerospace Industries during a recent visit — Picture courtesy of Amirudin Shari's Facebook

world's aerospace industry.

He said his visit follows the visit by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah to the company recently.

The development of the SAP aerospace hub is part of the RS-1, which was tabled in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on July 27.

Last year, the state government

organised the SAS at Skypark Regional Aviation Centre (Skypark RAC Subang), which provided local and international players in the business aviation sector a chance to do networking as well as provide exposure to the public on business aircraft.

The second edition of the SAS is scheduled for Sept 8 to 10 with the aim of generating RM700 million in potential transaction value.

Forest land not part of plan

BENTONG - The draft for the Genting Highlands-Hulu Selangor Special Area Plan that was launched on Aug 23 will involve the development of 400 acres of land along the Selangor-Pahang border.

However, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the plan will not involve forest reserves, water catchment areas and risky slopes.

He said the plan can potentially generate gains for Selangor's tourism sector with the planned construction of hotels and shopping malls.

"The state government has always prioritised environmental sustainability in green and water catchment areas. All these aspects have been taken into account, and we will also listen to the views of stakeholders and other parties of interest.

"The special area plan is in line with the state government's wish to enhance its existing tourism assets and tourist attractions. This draft

is necessary to create sustainable, smart and investor-friendly district development," Amirudin said at the officiation of the publicity and public participation programme for the Genting Highlands-Hulu Selangor Special Area Draft Plan, at the Geo Resort and Hotel, here, Pahang on Aug 23.

The ceremony was also attended by state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han, state executive councillor for tourism Hee Loy Sian and Hulu Selangor Municipal Council (MPHS) president Mohd Hasri Nor Mohd.

The Menteri Besar also said that members of the public will have the opportunity to review the entire Genting Highlands-Hulu Selangor Special Area Draft Plan until Sept 15, and that all parties of interest, stakeholders and associations should give their input.

"These parties, including residents and landowners, can submit

suggestions, objections or share development methods so we can review the matter.

"All suggestions and objections will be raised to the committee, which includes state executive councillor for local government (Ng) and state executive councillor for tourism (Hee). The review of all proposals might commence in either October or November," he said.

The report can be viewed at the lobby of the Hulu Selangor Municipal Council (MPHS) headquarters or at PLANMalaysia Selangor's office at Bangunan Darul Ehsan in Shah Alam.

The draft plan aims to increase the development potential of the land around Genting Highlands, which falls under the Hulu Selangor district.

The document will serve as a guideline for the implementation of sustainable development, in order to prevent negative environmental impact.

Reserves highest since 2008

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - Selangor has recorded RM3.4 billion in state reserves as of August, which is the highest since 2008, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said that despite the state administration's numerous welfare and economic programmes for its people over the past 14 years, Selangor has continued to build up its reserves.

"Many had thought that Selangor would go bankrupt and the state would not progress if we continued to spend like this (on the people).

"But I would like to state that as of August 2022, the Selangor state reserves are recorded at RM3.4 billion, which is the highest record since 2008," said Amirudin during the Ambang Merdeka event, which was also broadcast live on SelangorTV.

The event, to celebrate the 65th National Day and held at Dataran Kemerdekaan, here on Aug 30, saw several announcements made by the Menteri Besar, including the Insurans Hayat Selangor (Insan) general insurance scheme for all Selangor residents with an estimated total protection value of RM60 billion.



READ MORE ON PAGE 13

New round of roadshows in late September

SHAH ALAM - The second phase of the Jelajah Selangor Penyayang (JSP) roadshow will resume at the end of September and run until mid-October.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the roadshow to promote the state government's initiatives will take place in the districts of Klang, Sabak Bernam, Sepang and Hulu Selangor,

with focus on the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) and explaining the 2023 Selangor Budget to the people.

"The 2023 budget is expected to be presented in October or November," Amirudin said after officiating the closing ceremony of the Bulan Falak Selangor 2022 programme organised by the Selangor Mufti Department at De Palma

Hotel, here on Aug 29.

JSP started on June 19 in Taman Kosas Ampang Jaya, Ampang, followed by Dataran Pantai Morib, Kuala Langat, and Stadium Utama Kuala Selangor, Kuala Selangor.

The roadshow was also held at MBPJ Dataran Boulevard, Petaling Jaya, and Padang Awam Batu Caves, Gombak.

A rebranding of the Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat, JSP was made possible with a RM600 million allocation so that the Selangor people can benefit from the state government's initiatives.

The roadshow will also feature the Selangor Saring free health screening programme that is expected to benefit up to 5,000 people.

A recognition at long last

SHAH ALAM - The daughter of the late composer, Saiful Bahri Elyas, has expressed gratitude to the state government for ending her family's 29-year-long wait for recognition by awarding them a RM1 million home.

Qus Nafiah Saiful Bahri said the efforts to obtain recognition for her father's works, which include composing the melody for the state anthem *Duli Yang Maha Mulia*, started with her late mother, Norani Ahmad.

In 1992, she met various parties including the Selangor Menteri Besar at that time (Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib) but was unsuccessful. Noraini passed away in 1999.

"After that, my siblings and I continued to meet other Menteris Besar (after Muhammad) but their responses were also disappointing. Only now, with the current Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, have we finally obtained the

recognition we sought.

"We were touched by his speech that night (Aug 30) when he mentioned the many contributions made by our late father that included composing the Selangor state anthem," Qus Nafiah said when contacted on Sept 1.

On Aug 30, Amirudin presented the state's recognition award to Qus Nafiah and her four siblings during the state-level National Day celebrations at Dataran Kemerdekaan, here.

Saiful Bahri, who also wrote the lyrics to the national anthem *Negaraku* and composed the Melaka state anthem, died on Dec 26, 1976, at the age of 52.

The state anthem, composed and arranged by Saiful Bahri, was made official on March 8, 1967, after it was approved by the Selangor Royal Council and the then-Sultan of Selangor Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, to replace the state's first anthem titled *Cantik Manis*.

Earlier tabling of Budget likely

AMPANG JAYA - The tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget, which is scheduled for Nov 25, may be held earlier, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said they are considering the matter following Putrajaya's decision to bring forward the tabling of the Supply (Budget) Bill 2023 in the Dewan Rakyat to Oct 7.

"Our (planned) date is Nov 25. Maybe we can bring it forward to early November or the end of October. We will announce it later," he said when met at the Gombak-level Hari Belia Selangor celebration at the Melawati Mall here, on Aug 27.

Amirudin was replying to a question on whether Selangor intends to follow the Federal government's action in bringing forward the 2023 Budget.

On Aug 26, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tu-

anku Jaafar stated that the 2023 Budget will be presented three weeks earlier than scheduled.

Meanwhile, Amirudin has also invited the people of Selangor to share their ideas for the upcoming Budget.

In a post on Facebook on Aug 19, Amirudin said the public can post their suggestions on the Menteri Besar's official website www.amirudinshari.com/selangor2023.

"The Selangor government has always listened to the ideas and opinions of the people when drafting the Budget.

"The town hall session is a customary practice that has always been an avenue for the people to speak," the post read.

The online survey that started on July 25 is aimed at making the budget more inclusive and relevant for all parties.

RS-1 a model for others, says economist

SHAH ALAM - The First Selangor Plan (RS-1) gives the state government a clear direction on where it wants to take its economy, says Senior Fellow and Director of the Economic Studies Programme (Southeast Asia) at the Jeffrey Cheah Institute, Sunway University, Dr Yeah Kim Leng.



He said the plan will allow for more concentrated and streamlined efforts to meet the nation's digitalisation and green growth goals as Selangor is one of the most industrialised states in the country.

"Most importantly, the state's plan is aligned with the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP). Given its dominant role in the national economy, Selangor's ability to meet its development targets will be crucial for the country to realise the 12MP goals and objectives.

"The five-year plan is comprehensive, holistic and realistic. It could serve as a model for other states.

"The people of Selangor can look forward to participating in or benefitting from the various planned programmes, activities and projects," he said when contacted by *Selangor Journal*.

Elaborating further on the state's goal to achieve a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 6.5 per cent to 7.0 per cent annually, Yeah said Selangor had achieved a highly commendable pre-pandemic GDP growth of 6.4 per cent per annum between 2015 and 2019.

"The state contributed 24.2 per cent to the country's GDP, far exceeding Kuala Lumpur's 16.4 per cent and Johor's 9.4 per cent.

"Therefore, the 6.5 per cent to 7.0 per cent target is appropriate but challenging because the bigger the state economy is, the harder it will be able to expand at the same rate as the other states growing from a smaller base," he added.

Yeah said the state's annual target of RM25 billion to RM35 billion of approved investment in leading and sophisticated sectors is less than 10 per cent of Selangor's GDP.

"A robust investment will range between 20 to 25 per cent of GDP. If the target amount only counts investment in leading and sophisticated sectors, then it is appropriate and consistent with the targeted GDP growth.

"A high investment rate indicates expansion in production capacity, employment, technological upgrading and income."



Picture by Bernama

Megaprojects to spearhead progress

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - When the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) was unveiled by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari on July 27, two projects — the Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (Idriss) and the Selangor International Aero Park (SAP) — were highlighted as game-changers that would transform the economic potential of the state.

State executive councillor for investment, industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim said these projects are crucial as they will determine whether or not Selangor can achieve the target to increase its contribution to 30 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

A total of 40,000 acres of land have been identified for Idriss, of which some 32,000 acres are located in Pulau Indah and the remaining, in the Sepang and Kuala Langat districts.

As for the SAP, Teng said the state aims to integrate the aerospace industry on 2,000 acres of land in Sepang.

"The Idriss project, which is estimated to be worth RM1 trillion, will comprise various components including industries, tourism, logistics, housing, mixed development, a port as well as facilities for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE)," Teng said on Aug 29.

"We will also be announcing the incentives for the project probably in two more weeks as the matter has yet to be approved by the State Executive Council Meeting.

"Once they are announced, I believe the incentives would be attractive to investors and they may want to consider putting their money in the area."

Teng added that there are many projects anticipated to take place through Idriss and more updates will be announced from time to time.

"As of now, several investors have already submitted their planning permission. We also received encouraging feedback from local companies that are keen to explore the project and I believe foreign investors will soon follow suit," he said.

Meanwhile, the exco said Selangor currently holds a 63 per cent stake in Malaysia's aerospace industry and that it wishes to raise that figure.

"For the SAP, we need to assemble all the existing and new industry players in one area. Currently, the aerospace industry is scattered across Serendah, Subang and Sepang. In Serendah, UMW Aerospace Sdn Bhd has been assigned to produce fan cases for Rolls Royce aircraft engines while in Subang, the main activities there include aircraft maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) as well as equipment manufacturing. As for Sepang, it is more focused on airline services.

"The state government prefers to have the industry running systematically in one location and most importantly, we can also offer other services that are related to the aerospace industry, including education and training," he said.

Teng added that there is no such integrated aerospace park in the country or region. By having the SAP in Selangor, the state will be able to woo many new investors.

Teng also commented briefly on the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) project and its impact on the state's economy.

"The project would drive the real estate market along the river, especially after the infrastructures there have been upgraded.

"The SMG will help the state government to focus on providing better facilities and create an environmentally-friendly enclave.

"Once we have achieved this, the place will become the latest attraction for both locals and tourists," he said.

ADVISOR: Editorial Advisory Board

GROUP EDITOR: Fathi Aris Omar

EDITOR: Ida Nadirah Ibrahim

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR: Alang Bendahara

SUB EDITOR: Nur Anis Audrey Ong

JOURNALIST: Nasuha Badrul Huzaini

MARKETING & ADVERTISING:

Nadhrh Azlan nadhrh@mediaselangor.com

Syahir Khadri syahir@mediaselangor.com

PHOTOGRAPHER: Zakki Jilan, Hafiz Othman, Raheemie Arifin & Fikri Yusof

GRAPHIC & LAYOUT: Graphics Department MSSB

‘Yes’ from across the divide

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

SHAH ALAM - The First Selangor Plan (RS-1) that was tabled on July 27 has received positive feedback from both government and opposition representatives, says Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the state representatives are confident in the Selangor government’s capability in implementing the detailed five-year plan for the benefit of the people and the state.

“This proves our accountability in offering something (to the people) based on accurate facts, figures and data,” he said during the *Bicara Bernama* TV talk show on Aug 5.

However, Amirudin said there were several concerns raised by the opposition representatives.

“That is normal. The opposition has raised the possibility of the failure to achieve (the plan) and the ability to implement it, in addition to whether the projections given were realistic, pragmatic or not.

“However, on average, most of them gave feedback that RS-1 is an example of what a government should do — which is, to offer (benefits) to its people and not just mention it in bombastic or propagandistic statements,” he said.

Amirudin said that the RS-1 is not just a development plan for Selangor but also a catalyst for the country’s economic growth, with Selangor being the largest contributor to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP), totalling a quarter of Malaysia’s revenue.

Amirudin expressed his optimism

that the plan would be able to assist the Federal government in formulating the 2023 Budget, which will be tabled soon.

“We (the state and Federal governments) must have the right mindset and thinking — trying to fail each other is not an option at all. Because if Selangor floundered, the country’s economy would be severely impacted.

“Therefore, failure is not an option for any state administration. Instead, we need to focus on expanding our effectiveness to achieve success.”

Amirudin is also encouraged that the relationship between the state and Federal governments has significantly improved, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic.

“In the last two-and-a-half years, we have formed a closer relationship and the situation has made it easier for officers from both governments to share their ideas. We have got rid of our political differences, of who is better, and are now focused on resolving the issues brought about by the pandemic and its economic impact,” he said.

To ensure the success of the plan, the state government has set aside funds amounting to RM7 billion while RM80 billion has been pledged by the private sector. The remaining RM140 billion needed to realise the RS-1 will come from the Federal government as outlined under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

Meanwhile, Amirudin dismissed allegations that the RS-1 is aimed at winning votes in the 15th General Election (GE15).

He explained that the plan was actu-



ally scheduled for tabling at the end of 2020 but had to be postponed due to Covid-19.

The RS-1 is a continuation of initiatives and programmes inspired by previous state leaders, he added.

“I continued the work of former menteris besar on several projects including the redevelopment of Sungai Klang, which is now called the Selangor Maritime Gateway project, and the aspirations for Selangor to achieve smart city status by 2025.

“This (RS-1) is not Amirudin Shari’s dream but is a continuation of what had been suggested. It is an honest

document that lets people know where the state government is heading in the next five years.

“So this will be (the responsibility of) whoever replaces (as the menteri besar). God willing, after the mandate given to us that will end next year, we would have begun building a solid platform for the comprehensive development of the state,” he said.

The RS-1, which was tabled on July 27, has a total cost of RM212.44 billion with RM92.44 billion set aside for state-level development initiatives, including incentives that will ensure the welfare of the people.

Special committee to oversee 5-year plan

KLANG - The Selangor government has formed a number of special committees to ensure the smooth running of all the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) programmes, says Dato’ Teng Chang Khim.

The state executive councillor for investment, industry and trade said some of the committees concerned with projects connected to sustainability and welfare have begun operating in the past few months.

“As for the committees that haven’t started yet, they might need the private sector’s engagement or further details.

“We will do roadshows and seminars to give further explanation on the RS-1,” he told *Selangorkini*.

Teng said that the committees are spearheaded by Selangor State Secretary Dato’ Haris Kasim and some state executive councillors related to the initiatives.

Renewed respect for armed forces after movie’s premier

SHAH ALAM - *Air Force The Movie: Selagi Bernyawa* has brought attention to the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

State executive councillor for investment, industry and trade Dato’ Teng Chang Khim said the movie’s message is clear and has sparked the spirit of patriotism among viewers.

“I was fixed to the screen as every scene was perfectly portrayed, and beamed with pride knowing that our forces sacrifice so much for the sake of our nation’s safety,” he said, after attending the movie’s meet-and-greet session at TGV Cinemas in Central i-City, here on Aug 1.

Also in attendance was Invest Selangor Berhad chief executive officer Dato’ Hasan Azhari Idris and Multimedia Entertainment Sdn Bhd managing director Datuk Steven Lim Boon Siong.

Organised by Invest Selangor, nearly 150 media

practitioners and exhibitors of the Selangor Aviation Show 2022 attended the session.

The military action film is a joint production by Multimedia Entertainment, Golden Screen Cinemas, Astro, FX Hammer Films and SixFun Media.

Directed by Zulkarnain Azhar and Frank See, *Air Force The Movie: Selagi Bernyawa* stars Aiman Hakim Ridza, Nas-T, Datuk Adi Putra, Jack Tan, Pablo Amirul, Johan Arrif As’ari, Luqman Hafidz and Carmen Soo.

It tells the story of a Special Air Force team fighting for survival in a fictional terrorist-controlled country Namburi as they await rescue by the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

Within six days of its premiere, the movie recorded RM13 million in total ticket sales and is reportedly set to screen internationally in Korea, Japan and Taiwan.



Sultan Sharafuddin puts his signature on a plaque as Mead looks on, during the launch of the hotel in Finance Avenue i-City, Shah Alam on Aug 11 — Picture by HAFIZ OTHMAN

DoubleTree opens in i-City

SHAH ALAM - The opening of the new DoubleTree by Hilton Shah Alam was officiated by the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj on Aug 11.

His Royal Highness and the Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin were met by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari and Hilton (Southeast Asia) senior operation director Jamie Mead upon their arrival at the hotel in i-City.

Sultan Sharafuddin was feted to a variety of cultural performances and three montage videos featuring i-City, DoubleTree by Hilton Shah Alam and Hilton's properties.

According to Mead, the 21-storey hotel consists of 300 luxurious suites equipped with digital locks and a panoramic view of i-City.

He said the hotel also provides 12 multipurpose meeting rooms, an infinity pool, a swimming pool, a bar, a spa, a gymnasium, eateries including Makan Kitchen and Tosca, as well as a grand ballroom.

"I am happy to say that we have vastly expanded with 13 operational properties in Malaysia, with the latest one being the DoubleTree by Hilton Shah Alam.

"Therefore, we welcome guests to the hotel and promise to give our best services for their satisfaction," Mead said in his speech.

Since it was first established in Malaysia over a decade ago, the DoubleTree by Hilton brand continues to expand with six hotels under its portfolio, namely in Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya Lakeside, Johor Bahru, Melaka, Penang and now Shah Alam.

Mead said the brand has succeeded in establishing the six hotels despite facing numerous challenges over the years.

"Hilton has been present in Malaysia since 1973 while the DoubleTree by Hilton was introduced in 2010. I am proud that as of now, we have 13 operational properties under the Hilton brand.

"Even though the world faces uncertainties, we as a brand will continue to expand and provide the best services to people globally, regardless of who they are and where they come from," Mead said in his speech during the launch.

Mead added that the Hilton brand is committed to implementing sustainable development goals and during the construction of each hotel, the aim was to reduce carbon emissions by 50 per cent.

"We want to provide the best environment for our guests. Therefore, it is naturally our duty to help protect this planet too," he said.

MICE vital for tourism

SHAH ALAM - The meetings, incentives, conferencing and exhibitions (MICE) sector is said to be one of the key elements in driving Selangor's tourism industry, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Commenting on the recent official opening of DoubleTree by Hilton in i-City, here, the Menteri Besar told *NST Property* in a report on Aug 19 that the launch of the hotel is timely, given the growth of the MICE industry in the state.

He said that as more investors are drawn to Selangor, they would need a reputable, well-known hotel to accommodate them. In order for Selangor to advance, it needs five-star business hotels owned by reputable international companies.

al companies.

"i-City is a good and vibrant regional development. It is capable of luring both investors and tourists.

"The Selangor state government hopes to collaborate with i-Berhad to draw more investors and tourists to the capital city. I hope i-City will become one of our components and assets for development in Selangor," he was quoted by *NST Property*.

On Aug 11, the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj officiated the opening of i-Berhad's DoubleTree by Hilton.

A component of i-City Finance Avenue, DoubleTree by Hilton opened its doors to the public on July 27.

Geopark status will spur economy

SHAH ALAM - The process to determine if Selangor qualifies for geopark status is expected to be completed early next year, said state executive councillor for tourism and the environment Hee Loy Sian.

He said the decision will be made during the National Geopark Main Committee Meeting which will convene in December, after visits were made to the site between Aug 15 and 18.

"Overall, I am confident that Selangor stands a good chance at obtaining the Gombak-Hulu Langat (GHL) Geopark status," Hee said when contacted on Aug 22.

The councillor added that the 112,955-hectare location will become Malaysia's seventh geopark, following in the steps of Jerai, Kinta Valley and Delta Sarawak, should it qualify

for the status.

In November 2020, the GHL Management Body was established to collect information, prepare data, promote the geopark, and identify relevant agencies to establish cooperation.

Selangor's efforts to obtain the geopark status started in 2019, as at the time the Quartz Ridge in Gombak was still considered not sufficiently mature for any status recognition by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

Meanwhile, on Aug 16, Hee stated that the effort to obtain geopark status aligns with the goals under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), whereby the state government aims to make Selangor a 'Smart, Liveable and Prosperous' state by 2025.

"The RS-1 comprises four main strategies namely strengthening the

economy, improving social inclusivity and the people's wellbeing, driving sustainability and good governance.

"The implementation of the GHL Geopark is in line with all the aforementioned aspects and it is impactful in complementing the plan, particularly for the tourism sector," he said.

Hee was speaking at the officiation of the GHL Geopark National Evaluation Session at the Grand Barakah Hotel.

He added that the GHL Geopark will also have a positive spillover effect on Selangor, in line with the RS-1.

"The Selangor State Tourism Master Plan 2021-2026 is expected to double the tourist arrivals, increase tourism receipts and revenue, boost local economies and create more job opportunities, especially in the tourism sector."

E-merchants vie for top spot

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - The seventh edition of the Top E-Commerce Merchant (Top ECM) Awards returns this year with a total of 228 merchants shortlisted.

The event, organised by the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec), is offering RM60,000 in cash prizes and other attractive rewards.

The shortlisted merchants will be judged in three categories, namely the Online Sales Contest (50 per cent), the Livestream Contest (25 per cent) and their Business Potential (25 per cent).

Sidec chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping said the award aims to reward the most successful and innovative home-grown e-commerce merchants while allowing them to shine and benefit from the many opportunities available to them.

"The intention of holding the Top ECM is to recognise resourceful merchants able to effectively harness the capabilities of notable e-commerce platforms in marketing their products and services online.

"It is imperative they create an online presence as vendors to thrive. In 2016, only 60 e-commerce merchants participated in the inaugural awards.

"In comparison, 2021 saw an increase to 181 merchants and RM47 million in total sales. This exponential growth indicates the e-commerce industry is flourishing, and Sidec is here to recognise these outstanding achievements after recording a total sale of RM123 million over the past six years," he said.

Yong was speaking at Top ECM's launching ceremony, held at the Selangor Digital Creative Centre in Section 7 on Aug 23, which was also attended by the state executive councillor for in-

vestment, industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim.

He added that Sidec is committed to playing a crucial role in building a burgeoning digital economy, by nurturing businesses in this new holistic ecosystem.

"This is in line with the Selangor government's vision of becoming a liveable 'Smart State' in the Asean region by 2025," Yong said.

This year sees three award categories, including the Malaysia Top E-Commerce Merchant Award, the Selangor E-Commerce Merchant Award, and the Affin Bank Special Awards (Rising Star and AffinGem Women Trailblazer Awards).

The Rising Star Award is a special category where three winners are chosen based on their company's business potential. They must be in operation for less than three years, and must be

shortlisted in the top 40 of the main category to be selected.

The AffinGem Women Trailblazer Awards is a new subcategory introduced to support and foster female entrepreneurship, recognising strong women entrepreneurs who have succeeded in the industry.

Yong said for this year, the Top ECM Awards is also adding a new element, the Livestream Festival where participating merchants at the 7th Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention (SDEC), a side event at the 2022 Selangor International Business Summit, will have a chance to promote their products or services in live stream studios within the exhibition area.

"The live stream will be broadcast through social media platforms from Oct 6 to 9, live from SDEC 2022 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre," he said.

Sidec keen to nurture small businesses

SHAH ALAM - Registrations for the Top E-Commerce Merchant (Top ECM) Awards for 2022 have recorded an increase of 107 per cent from last year, with 440 submissions compared to 213 in 2021.

State executive councillor for investment, industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim said the encouraging response from the participants indirectly indicates that more merchants are taking the opportunity to improve their sales and their brand presence.

"Two years ago, when Covid-19 hit the world, we witnessed many sectors struggling to sustain their business, and having to rapidly transition their operations from offline to online.

"However, on the brighter side, we then saw how people began to adapt to the new norm and eventually managed to resuscitate their business with the support of, and the numerous initiatives carried out by, the state government.

"Selangor's e-commerce merchants have grown rapidly year after year, particularly during the pandemic, and I am pleased that many merchants are taking advantage of all available opportunities to level up their businesses and come back stronger," he said in his speech when officiating the launching ceremony of the Top ECM Awards 2022 here on Aug 23.

Also in attendance was Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec) chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping.



Teng (centre) and Yong (in red tie) pose with the sponsors and judges of the competition at the Selangor Digital Creative Centre in Shah Alam on Aug 23 — Picture courtesy of Sidec

Organised by Sidec, the Top ECM Awards 2022 is offering RM60,000 in cash prizes and other attractive rewards.

Meanwhile, Teng said the awards have been getting the attention of not just merchants operating in Selangor but also those from other states.

"The Top ECM Awards 2022 helps to recognise the recipients' efforts in ensuring that they give the best quality of their products or services. The state government through Sidec has implemented various programmes to continuously nurture e-commerce merchants in the

state, Top ECM being one of them.

"Also, Sidec has always endeavoured to continue uplifting and supporting small and medium-sized businesses in moving towards digitalisation while simultaneously contributing to the growth of Selangor's economy," he added.

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

Aviation was one of the most badly-affected industries when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world three years ago due to flying restrictions and travel bans imposed the world over. In Malaysia, several airline companies had their management restructured and laid off their manpower, leaving thousands of highly trained and talented people jobless.

Bleak situations, however, tend to come with silver linings. As current trends show, businesses have sprung back up, many stronger than before having had the benefit of time to re-learn and re-strategise.

The multi-billion ringgit aviation industry too, has bounced back and with a likelihood of soaring, as people, tired of being placed under lockdowns, start to venture out into the world again.

On the state level, the Selangor government is slated to host the second edition of its air show — the Selangor Aviation Show 2022 (SAS 2022) — from Sept 8 to 10 to further strengthen the aviation industry in the country.

Selangor Journal speaks to state executive councillor for investment, industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim about the upcoming air show.

Big returns

The second instalment of the event that will be held at the SkyPark Regional Aviation Centre (SkyPark RAC Subang) aims to secure a total of RM700 million worth of transactions.

Teng said that this target is a whopping jump from the RM100 million in transactions recorded last year.

"In fact, as of now, even though the event has yet to start, we have already achieved RM500 million worth of transactions from the industry players.

"In addition to that, 11 Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) have been scheduled to be inked during the three-day event, which would contribute to our target of the transaction value as well," he said in a recent interview at his office.



COME fly with us



Take to the skies

As the only business aviation show in the region, SAS 2022 has come back bolder than last year, taking over 38,000 square metres of exhibition space that spans two hangars at the SkyPark RAC Subang.

Organised by Invest Selangor Berhad, the event aims to attract at least 8,000 visitors. Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah is scheduled to launch the event, and Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari will be in attendance.

Teng said seven countries have already confirmed their participation and 65 booths and four pavilions have been fully taken up by 39 local and international companies.

"The tarmac sections within the SkyPark RAC area will showcase around 26 static displays of aircraft and helicopters, including luxury private planes. Among the participating aircraft are Falcon 8X, Cessna Citation, Bombardier, Boeing, Hawker, Airbus and Piaggio Avanti.

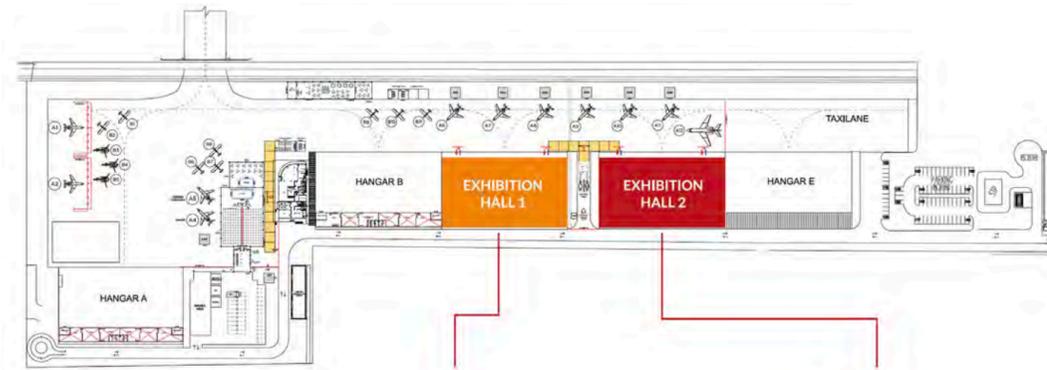
"I am confident that the event will be more lively and exciting this year as we also provide an opportunity for visitors to go onboard the light aircrafts and helicopters. The pilot will take them for sightseeing around the Shah Alam air space.

Though this is a paid activity, the fee is affordable. "For those who want to enjoy such an experience, they are welcome to visit SAS 2022," he said, adding that there will also be activities planned for children.

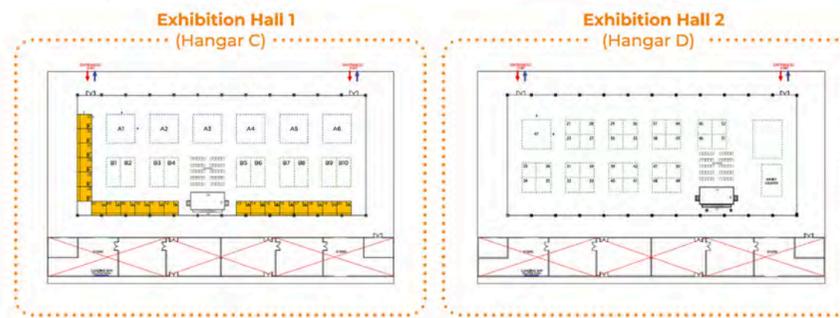
Firsthand look

According to Teng, 40 seminar sessions will also take place throughout the three-day event and they will be held concurrently in three venues in the area.

"The seminars will focus on three aspects — aviation-related products and services, education and training, as well as how to be an aviation entrepreneur.



The venue plan shows an impressive use of floor space that includes two hangars, event and exhibition halls and static displays of aircraft



"For the youth group, they should take advantage of this event to get firsthand insights if they want to look for career opportunities in the aviation industry or with the Royal Malaysian Air Force," Teng added.

The air show was first held in November last year, with the event managing to attract up to RM100 million in investments. The event also saw 12 MOUs signed between the aerospace industry's subsectors.



Selangor's airshow grows in confidence

By ALANG BENDAHARA

AS last-minute preparations are being made for the second round of the Selangor Aviation Show (SAS), Selangor Journal interviewed its organiser Invest Selangor (Invest Selangor) Sdn Bhd's chief executive officer Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris on what we can expect from the event.

Hasan promised that SAS 2022 will be bigger and bolder compared to its inaugural inception last year.

"The theme for this year's SAS is 'The One and Only Business Aviation Show in the Region', clearly highlighting the fact that there is no other dedicated business aviation show in the region, other than the SAS," he told us.

Last year's SAS 2021 saw the participation of 47 exhibitors from six countries, namely Brazil, Turkey, France, Switzerland, the United States and Malaysia. It also recorded a total of 4,987 visitors over the three-day event, close to achieving its 5,000-visitor target.

Buoyed by that success, Hasan said this year, they will aim for at least 3,000 more visitors.

As of Aug 12, Invest Selangor has secured the participation of 52 companies that make up 17 returning exhibitors and 35 new ones.

Some of the international exhibitors include Dassault Aviation (France), Embraer (Brazil), as well as Singaporean firms Precision Aviation Group and Asia Security Technologies.

Like no other

Even though some may argue about the need for the state to hold an aviation show when Malaysia already has the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) show while down south there is the

Singapore Airshow, Hasan is confident that SAS can hold its own against the others.

"SAS is different as it focuses more on business aviation (BA) and general aviation (GA), from supply chain activities to manufacturing, MRO (maintenance, repair and operations), services, cargo and multipurpose usage. LIMA is more for the defence industry while the Singapore Airshow is more for the commercial segment."

Hasan added that the idea for SAS came about as there was no dedicated event to connect the BA/GA community in Malaysia or the region.

"So we created SAS to serve that purpose. We are starting it small, as this event will be developed continuously to become a major one, and therefore support from the industry players is much needed," he said.

Plus the fact that with more than 63 per cent of Malaysia's aerospace economy located in Selangor, it made perfect sense for the state government to increase its hold on the sector.

Positive vibes

Hasan said SAS has achieved its aim to be the ideal networking event to bridge industry players and the relevant business community to explore growth possibilities.

"SAS has opened up a new channel of promotion and networking for the business aviation subsector. It created positive vibes for the overall industry that was hit hard.

"It also gave more focus on Subang as one of the aerospace and aviation growth areas in Malaysia. The players operating in Subang were very happy and supportive of the state government's support and decision to promote Subang as the destination for business and general aviation activities," he said.

SAS has also opened up many potential collaborations not just within the industry but also across sectors such as agriculture, logistics, surveillance, tourism, recreation and lifestyle.

"Through SAS, the other industries are able to meet business and general aviation players to look at how they can work collaboratively across the sectors."



Speed is everything at Kusel

By ALANG BENDAHARA

IT has been nearly a-year-and-a-half since Selangor Utility Corridor (Kusel) started its operation that is aimed at speeding up, as well as easing, the process of applying and issuing permits for utility works in the state.

As part of the digitalisation series, *Selangor Journal (SJ)* interviewed Kusel managing director Khairul Azmi Misran (*pic*) on what the state-owned company does and its services that benefit the people.

Khairul said Kusel's establishment was approved by the State Executive Council Meeting in October 2020, to become a subsidiary of the Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI with the mandate to manage and supervise Selangor's utility infrastructure development.

"Following that Kusel was established in December 2020 and started to receive applications from April 2021," he told *SJ* in a written reply.

Functions

Khairul said Kusel acts as a one-stop-agency which accepts and manages utility permit applications in Selangor pertaining to five categories, which are water, electricity, sewage, energy and telecommunication.

Prior to its establishment, utility providers had to directly apply for permits from the Approving Authorities (PBM).

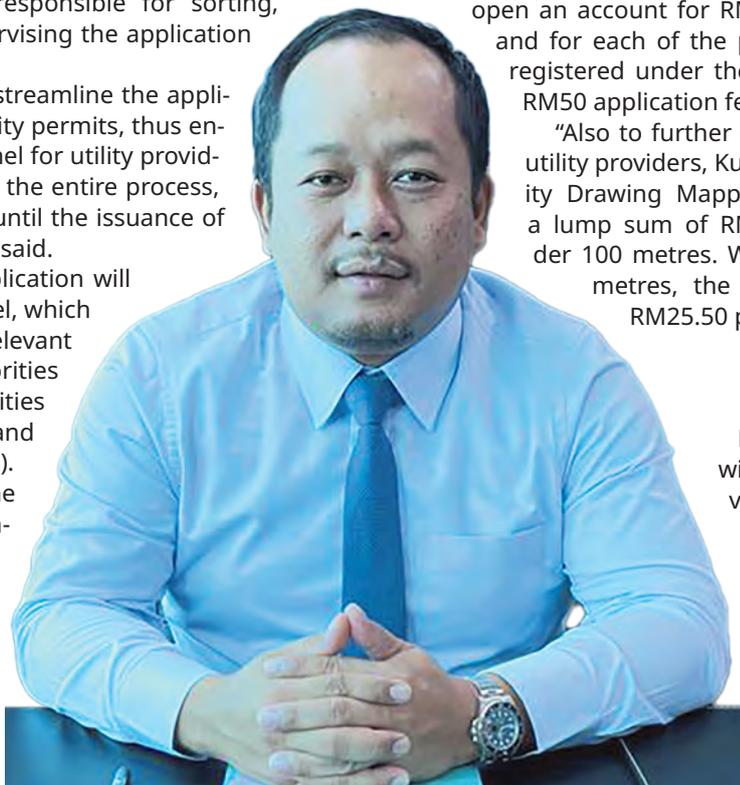
He said through its official application site, saat.kusel.my, Kusel is responsible for sorting, managing, and supervising the application process throughout.

"Kusel's role is to streamline the application process of utility permits, thus ensuring a single channel for utility providers in going through the entire process, from the beginning until the issuance of the said permits," he said.

He added the application will only go through Kusel, which will then liaise with relevant approving authorities such as State Authorities (PBN), local councils and Road Authorities (PBJ).

Khairul said the agency has managed to expedite the whole process and offer a shortened and promised period for each of the steps involved in the application.

"For instance,



Kusel workers use a range of hi-tech equipment — the Leica DS-2000, pipe cable locator RD8100 and the MALA EL Pro WideRange — to locate underground utilities

previously it took a long time to attain dates for site visits prior to Kusel, and now a date for a site visit can be obtained only within seven working days, following a pre-application," he said.

Fees

Khairul said even though it is a state agency, Kusel still needs to generate revenue with minimal fees imposed, in order to ensure its operation remains smooth in years to come.

"A utility provider needs to open an account for RM50, and for each of the projects registered under the account, a RM50 application fee will be imposed.

"Also to further ease up the process for utility providers, Kusel will produce the Utility Drawing Mapping (UDM) which costs a lump sum of RM2,500 for projects under 100 metres. While for more than 100 metres, the UDM is chargeable at RM25.50 per metre," he said.

Benefits

Khairul said the public will also receive benefits via Kusel's Traffic Management Plan (TMP).

He said TMP comprises proper planning and execution of construction works involving utility infrastructure development in the state.

"With a well-



Picture by Kusel

planned and executed TMP, road accident risks due to utility infrastructure works may be minimised.

"On top of that, with the existence of a guideline on the usage of proper traffic safety equipment, the traffic at the area where construction works are in progress may be managed more effectively," he said.

Success

Khairul said although Selangor is not the first state to establish a utility corridor agency, Kusel has done well since its inception because as of August this year, it has received a total of 739 applications.

"Out of the 739 applications received since April last year, more than 60 per cent pertain to telecommunication installation works.

He said this is due to Selangor's position as a major hub for connectivity and as the telecommunication industry is rapidly enhancing, it led to an increased demand for utility installation permits.

The future

Khairul said even though Kusel has just started, its astounding operation so far will ensure that it continues to spread its wings.

"We expect the number of applications to increase significantly next year," he said.

He added that they will also officially launch Kusel's official application site, saat.kusel.my, in the near future.

Reimagining urban mobility

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

Selangor has emerged as among the earliest states in Malaysia to implement car-free days through its local councils, the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) and the Hulu Selangor Municipal Council (MPHS).

The events, which encourage drivers to give up their cars and explore other modes of transport for a day, was first organised by MBSA in Shah Alam on Jan 22, 2017, followed by MPHS on Aug 25, 2018.

In conjunction with World Car-Free Day which is celebrated on Sept 22 every year, *Selangor Journal* speaks with state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han to learn more about the initiative.

Gaining ground

Ng said the idea of car-free days has managed to gain traction as the number of local councils involved with the initiative has increased over the years.

"As of now, 10 out of 12 local councils in Selangor have organised it. The two local councils that have yet to come on board are the Kuala Langat Municipal Council (MPKL) and the Sabak Bernam District Council (MDSB).

"I believe that MPKL will soon hold this event and we will continue to encourage MDSB to do the same, given that Sabak Bernam is famous for its picturesque landscapes.

"Through the several instalments of car-free days in the state this year, we have managed to draw over 10,000 participants in total. The frequency of the event varies as some local councils hold it twice a month while others, only once.

"As for the cost to organise such an event, it can range from RM5,000 to RM60,000 depending on its scale," he said, adding that local councils are encouraged to implement car-free days in as many locations as possible.

Carbon emissions check

Ng said it has been inspiring to see members of the public lend their support to this idea. What's even more encouraging is that the higher the number of participants the better the success rate of the state's plan to go green.

He said the car-free day concept is very much aligned with the state government's aim to create a community that is keen to protect the environment.

"This is a very meaningful and good programme as it encourages people to walk. We have to create a walkable community as it will convince people to try other methods of transport, for example, to use public transport and reduce their



Shah Alam mayor Dato' Zamani Ahmad Mansor flags off the cyclists participating in the city's Car-Free Day on Aug 14

— Picture by **REMY ARIFIN**

reliance on private cars.

"Apart from that, this initiative will also contribute towards reducing carbon emissions in the state when more people opt to use e-scooters, e-bikes or just walk.

"We want to let them realise that walking can be fun and this initiative is the perfect means to achieve our objectives," he said.

With car-free days ongoing for four years, Ng said the state government is now working on how to quantify carbon emission reduction in the state.

"We are working with a consultant to create a formula on this. We anticipate that the figure should be announced by next year because we need to have a standardised format to be circulated to all local councils.

"At this moment, PLANMalaysia Selangor and the state government are still working on the format and I believe when it is finalised, it will be easier to quantify what we have achieved (in terms of carbon emissions reduction) over the years," he added.

Eco-friendly options

Ng said aside from the Car-Free day initiative, the state government has been actively promoting environmentally-friendly types of transport, such as electric vehicles (EV).

"To convince more people to use EVs, we have to install more electric car chargers. We are now in discussions with sev-

eral companies to install more chargers in busy areas. In the 2022 Selangor Budget, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced that the state aims to install 10,000 EV charging stations across the state by 2025, with the first 1,000 stations expected to be ready this year.

"However, this might be a bit difficult to achieve because it is like the chicken and egg issue. But rest assured, we are heading towards that outcome and it won't be too long before we achieve our target," he said.

Ng said that the state government is also in the process of installing solar panels on the Selangor State Secretariat Building in Shah Alam and on district and land offices in Selangor.

"We also encourage our local councils to approach solar panel suppliers to see whether there is a way to install solar panels on their council buildings as well.

"On top of that, the state government's upcoming Selangor Maritime Gateway project aims to improve the water quality of Sungai Klang. In future, we plan to have a water taxi service at the river which can be another mode of transport for the people," he said.

Walking the talk

When asked how the state government plans to address the last mile issue of the people's accessibility to public transport, Ng said he has instructed the local councils to pay close attention to

walkways.

"One of the purposes of having Car-Free day is to encourage people to walk. Therefore, we need to improve our walkways as this would indirectly help to address the last mile concern of access to car-free options.

"We understand that the public wants to have safe and comfortable walkways, that is why we have encouraged the local councils to focus on the matter. Good walkways will help to connect people from residential and commercial areas to train and bus stations," he added.

Ng also said the state government has been exploring van-on-demand services to cater to an increasing need.

"Having a smaller vehicle like a van or a coaster bus would help in tackling the challenge to provide public transport to every doorstep as they are more efficient compared to normal bus services and more economical than e-hailing cars.

"With the advancement of technology, we could collaborate with private providers and users will be able to make bookings for the service easily. I believe such initiatives would help to improve the overall efficiency of our public transport system.

"I am glad to say that we have found a solution and currently the Menteri Besar is working on the proposal. I will leave it to him to make the announcement. This is going to be something very exciting," he concluded.



By AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK

Safety at risk

THE Merdeka Square (Padang Merdeka) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, marks the historic event of Sept 16, 1963, when the late Chief Minister Donald Stephens declared the formation of the Federation of Malaysia.

But for Sabahan George Laim Jusit, the place holds special meaning as it was there that he witnessed his late father, Sargeant Jusit Rantai (*pic*), raise the Malaysian flag on that momentous day.

Each time George Laim passes by the historical site, he is filled with pride recalling the moment when Jusit became the first person to replace the Union Jack with the Malaysian flag, now known as the Jalur Gemilang, and in so doing, marking the birth of a nation free from the clutches of colonialism.

The 1963 event left such an imprint on Jusit that after his retirement in 1976, he continued the flag-raising tradition with his family at their home in Sook, Keningau.

Although Jusit passed away in 2010, George Laim said the tradition is kept alive by his family as they are proud of their father's sense of duty and patriotism.

Jusit's raising of the flag may seem like a small act to some but it symbolises the hopes of a new nation and marks the start of a new chapter in Malaysia's history.

Going back in time, George Laim, who was 11 at the time, said that he had feared for his father's safety that day due to tensions with Indonesia over the formation of Malaysia.

"Bapa (father) had advised Ibu (mother, Norah Siambing) to look after the children in case anything were to happen to him. He said he had received information that the enemy would target the person responsible for raising the Malaysian flag at the event.

"Though he was worried, it did not break his spirits and he continued with what was entrusted to him," said George Laim to *SelangorKini*.

Now aged 70, George Laim described the moment — which was also observed by the then Deputy Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussin, former Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Donald Stephen and Sabah's founding father Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun — as thrilling.

His father donned a white military coat paired with a red headgear and sash, as seen in the photo above, during the event.

Although he was only able to witness his father pulling the rope on the flagpole from afar, George Laim prayed that no harm would befall Jusit, who was 33 at the time.

The moment the Malaysian flag reached the top of the flagpole, George

A man, a flag and the birth of a nation

Laim was flooded with a sense of relief.

"I was grateful that nothing bad had happened and Bapa was able to execute his duties smoothly," he said.

Chosen few

Courageous and brave were said to be the qualities that got Jusit shortlisted with 99 other police personnel for taking part in the event, said George Laim in reminiscing the selection process.

He said his father was selected for being brave enough to speak his mind about the need for the British to hand over North Borneo (Sabah) to the local people.

George Laim said although the task of raising the flag seems like an easy one, his father did not take it lightly.

"He practised for over a month. When he was done at the station, he would come back and continue practising at home because he wanted to make sure everything went as planned."

A part of history

Jusit's role in the formation of Malaysia went beyond hoisting the national flag.

George Laim said that his father, who was a police officer of Murut ethnicity,

had also helped to gather feedback from the rural villagers in Keningau on whether they, together with the people of North Borneo, supported the proposal to create a Federation of Malaysia.

The survey, now famously known as the Cobbold Commission, suggested a nation that would consist of Malaya, Brunei, Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak.

Jusit's English-language education from St Mary School in Sandakan made him eloquent in the language. Importantly, he was also the adopted son of Agnes Newton Keith, an American writer known for her three autobiographical accounts of life in North Borneo before, during, and after World War II.

"Bapa had explained to those in the rural villages about the formation of Malaysia in the Murut language so that they would understand better," said George Laim.

Today, Malaysia Day is proudly celebrated on Sept 16 each year to commemorate the coming together of Malaya, North Borneo (which was renamed Sabah), Sarawak, and Singapore into a single state on that pivotal day in 1963.

Singapore, however, would be expelled from the federation just less than two years later, on Aug 9 in 1965.

Safety nets of help and hope



By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM
AND JERRY CHOONG**

In the last two years when Covid-19 was at its peak, social activities and mass gatherings were shelved as efforts to curb its spread were put in place.

The multiple movement restrictions that were imposed saw a muted National Day celebration on the eve of Aug 31 last year and during the morning parade.

This year, however, Malaysians are once again able to show their patriotic spirit through mass celebrations that were held across the country.

In Shah Alam alone, a crowd of more than 10,000 people had gathered for the Ambang Merdeka event to usher in the 65th National Day at Dataran Kemerdekaan in Shah Alam.

Shouts of 'Merdeka!' were heard at the stroke of midnight, raising the spirits of those present who were already buoyed by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari's speech earlier in the night.

In his speech, Amirudin introduced new initiatives that would aid and prosper the people living, and making a living, in the state.

Insurance for all

Among the perks announced was Selangor's move to protect its people through a general insurance scheme, the Insurans Hayat Selangor (Insan).

In light of the recent trauma many ex-

perienced from Covid-19 and the massive floods and landslides in the state, Insan will offer lifetime coverage for everyone from month-old babies to 80-year-olds.

Amirudin said to qualify for protection under Insan, the recipient must either be born in Selangor or be a voter in the state.

With a value of RM10,000, the insurance will be paid out for every loss of life caused by accidents and for people who suffer permanent disabilities.

"With this, the Insan lifetime insurance protection scheme can guarantee a dignified life filled with self-worth for all Selangor residents," he said.

Amirudin stated that up to six million Selangor residents will be offered the general insurance scheme, with an estimated total protection value of RM60 billion.

Registration for Insan will be opened on Oct 1, 2022.

Much-needed discounts

The Selangor government has allocated an additional RM10 million in funds for its Jualan Ehsan Rakyat, a food intervention programme introduced to alleviate the people's burden due to the rising cost of daily necessities.

The Selangor Agricultural Development Corporation (PKPS) initiative focuses on six essential items, namely chicken, beef, fish, chicken eggs, rice and cooking oil, which are discounted at 30 per cent from the market price.

The Jualan Ehsan Rakyat programme

will continue to be held until the end of the year across the state.

Recognising heroes

As a gesture of appreciation and honour, the state government has awarded the family of the late composer Saiful Bahri Elyas, who wrote several of Malaysia's most prominent patriotic songs, a house provided by the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS).

The largely unknown Saiful wrote the lyrics for the national anthem *Negaraku*, composed the patriotic song *Malaysia Berjaya*, and penned the melody for the Selangor state anthem *Duli Yang Maha Mulia*.

"Saiful has since passed, but still has living heirs. Thus, Selangor will be the first state to donate a house worth RM1 million by PKNS to his family, as a gesture of appreciation.

"This is also to honour the individual who provided shared values for us all through the songs he composed or formulated melodies for, as everybody stands for the national and state anthems," Amirudin said.

Saiful, born on Sept 19, 1924, was also the composer of Melaka's state anthem *Melaka Maju Jaya*.

In the same vein, Amirudin announced that the state government will fulfil a promise made to the 1995 Selangor state football team and award a house valued at RM250,000 to each of its players and members of the training and support teams.

"This is for our modern-day heroes who serve as symbols of unity in Selangor. The promise made 27 years ago could not be fulfilled by the previous leaders, but the state government today, in Selangor's name, will do so," he said.

Following their victory in November 1995 in the Malaysia Cup that year, the state government at the time promised a reward of 0.4 hectares of land for each player and team official.

The team had won the Malaysia Cup, the Malaysia Super League, and the Malaysia FA Cup.

Free water for more

From October, the household income threshold for recipients of the Darul Ehsan Water Scheme (Skim Air Darul Ehsan) has been increased from RM4,000 to RM5,000 and below.

Amirudin said at present, close to 300,000 people in the state qualify for 20 cubic metres of free water per household.

He said an additional allocation of over RM30 million has been set aside to that effect.

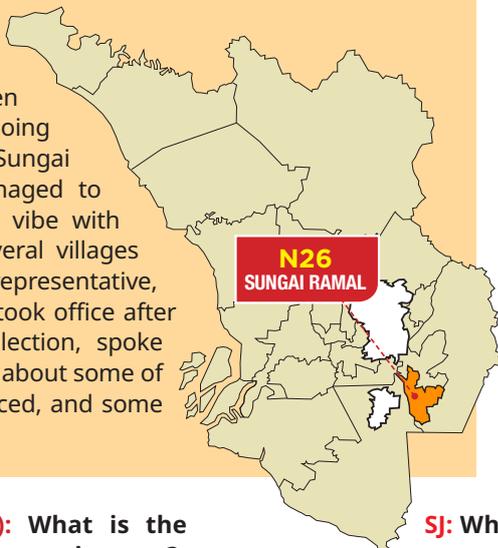
To qualify, an applicant must be a Malaysian citizen and a Selangor resident. Their residence must possess an individual-type metre, and they will only be eligible to apply for the scheme via a single account.

Online applications can be made at www.airselangor.com/residential/skim-air-darul-ehsan/.

A village's tussle with progress

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

SUNGAI Ramal is located in the Bandar Baru Bangi parliamentary district and is home to over 400,000 people. Strategically located near Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, it has become one of the preferred places for new families to settle down. Even though it is undergoing rapid urbanisation, Sungai Ramal has still managed to retain its traditional vibe with the existence of several villages in the area. Its state representative, Mazwan Johar, who took office after the 2018 general election, spoke with *Selangor Journal* about some of the challenges he faced, and some achievements too.



Mazwan takes a ride along the Selangor Smart Bus routes that service his constituency

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

Mazwan Johar (MJ): The main industry in Sungai Ramal is electronics as the area houses a few factories from Japan such as Hitachi and Panasonic. This constituency is also well known for its pharmaceutical and modest clothing industries.

SJ: What is the main attraction in Sungai Ramal?

MJ: People mostly come here for the food. Given that Sungai Ramal is located near Kajang, many outsiders visit this area to eat satay. On top of that, many visitors from Singapore and Brunei often come here for shopping because a number of well-known modest clothing brands have opened up stores in Bangi Sentral, making it among the go-to places in Sungai Ramal.

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

MJ: Due to its proximity to Putrajaya, Sungai Ramal has seen rapid growth over the years. Currently, there are six villages within the perimeter of the constituency and the villagers have raised their concerns that many of the small village roads are now being used by outsiders as shortcuts, causing congestion. These roads have lower specifications as they were not designed to accommodate a high number of vehicles. Therefore, the roads need to be widened.

However, the widening of roads comes under the purview of the district office and unfortunately they did not have any allocation for it. It is therefore the best outcome that recently the management of all village roads was

handed over to the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj). This was where I came in — to help the people to resolve this problem.

Initially, MPKj refused to take over the ownership of the roads in Kampung Sg Ramal Dalam as the village did not meet one of the preconditions set by the council — which was, to have new residential development take place there. Eventually, after various discussions with us, the council acquiesced for the benefit of the people.

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

MJ: Since 2018, I have managed to resolve numerous 'long-overdue' issues, including a drainage problem which had caused frequent flooding in the Seksyen 4 Tambahan area since the 1990s. The very first ques-

tion I received from the people there was, "Can you resolve this matter?". Thank God, after many discussions with MPKj and the Works Department (JKR), we managed to find a solution. The problem was fixed after we received an allocation from the state government.

Apart from that, when Pakatan Harapan was ruling the Federal government, we could get access to schools and I utilised my state representative's fund to help repair toilets, canteens and buy new tables and chairs for students.

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

MJ: Whenever there are issues or complaints raised by the constituents, I will assign my officer to do an initial investigation into the actual problem. After that, we will sit down and decide on which agencies to ask for help. As an example, if we have a problem with a particular road, we have to first identify if the road belongs to the property developer, or to MPKj or JKR. Once we know who the owner is, I will conduct a meeting with them. From there, we will analyse the cause of the problem and ask why it cannot be resolved as quickly as possible. If it is due to a financial constraint, I will utilise the state representative's annual grant for road improvement works which totals RM3 million.

So far, my constituents have no problem communicating with me as I am always contactable by phone, WhatsApp and other social media platforms including Facebook. Most importantly, they can always come to my office if they have urgent matters to discuss.



Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Jalan Tiga, Hulu Langat receives a donation of a smart TV



Happy recipients of Skim Mesra Usia Emas hold up their voucher at the Sungai Ramal service centre in Kajang

MSNS banks on medal hopefuls

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) is confident of winning more than 40 gold medals at the 20th Malaysia Games (Sukma).

Its executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said the target was set based on the 50 gold medals that its athletes brought home from the previous Sukma.

"The state government's aim is for only 40 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze. But we wanted more so we made



an assessment to see which athlete can contribute to the medal tally," he said during the closing ceremony of the Selangor Contingent Camp for Sukma 2022 at the Grand

Dorsett, here on Aug 30.

A total of 180 athletes will represent the state in 445 events across 31 sports in this year's installation, which will run from Sept 16 to 24.

State to reward all winners

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government will reward its athletes who excelled in the recent SEA and Commonwealth Games in early September.

Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said the allocation for the rewards has been approved and the council is currently waiting for the right time to hold the event.

"We initially planned to hold the ceremony tomorrow (Aug 17) but the Raja Muda of Selangor and the Menteri Besar are unavailable due to work

engagements overseas.

"So the event has been postponed to early September during the flag handover ceremony to Selangor's contingent for the 2022 Malaysia Games (Sukma)," he told *SelangorKini*.

On May 15, the state government announced that it is considering giving rewards to Selangor athletes who shine at the 31st SEA Games.

State executive councillor for youth and sports development Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the form of incentives would be further discussed with Menteri Besar

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

"We already have the proposal (for the rewards) and will wait for them (the athletes) to return first.

"Selangor has always appreciated its athletes, such as the rewards given to the Sukma winners and God willing for the SEA Games (athletes) as well," he said.

On Aug 9, MSNS said it would reward local-born M Thinaah and Choong Javen, for winning two golds and a silver respectively, in badminton and table tennis at the Commonwealth Games.



Sentosa fetes Thinaah for bringing home gold

By **MUSTAKIM RAMLI**

KLANG - Badminton player and gold medalist M Thinaah was presented with a special donation from the Sentosa community service centre for her success at the recent 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the United Kingdom.

The fiscal incentive was presented by state assemblyman Dr G Gunarajah at her residence in Bandar Bukit Tinggi on Aug 11.

Gunarajah said the contribution is a gesture of appreciation and to celebrate the success of the Sentosa native in bringing fame to Malaysia on the world stage.

"We take pride in a person from Selangor, who is also a native of Sentosa, winning gold in the Commonwealth Games. This sets an example for other youths to strive toward bringing glory to the country's name.

"On the state constituency level, we strongly encourage

youths at school to be active in sports. Parental support is also crucial in producing future athletes," Gunarajah told *SelangorKini*.

When asked if the state government also awarded incentives to Thinaah, the assemblyman said he would personally bring up the matter with Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

"I am certain the state government will have good tidings to be delivered by the Menteri Besar himself or through the state executive councillor for sports development (Mohd Khairuddin Othman) later," Gunarajah said.

Thinaah and partner Pearly Tan jointly contributed to the gold medal after defeating the home team in the final round of the women's doubles badminton event at the Games on Aug 8.

The world number 11 pair beat Chloe Birch and Lauren Smith 21 - 5, 21 - 8 in under 30 minutes.



YOUTH CHAMPS...

Selangor FC emerged as the winner in the 2022 Youth Cup (U-19) finals, beating Sri Pahang FC in front of a hostile crowd at the Temerloh Town Council Stadium in Temerloh, Pahang on Aug 26. The two sides shared the spoils in the 1-1 match — with Muhammad Amirul Haziq netting a free kick in the 67th minute — leading to the Selangor side winning on aggregate via a 1-0 score on home soil on Aug 20.

— Picture by Football Association Malaysia

Aero plans take flight

The Selangor government is committed to supporting the growth of the aerospace industry.

The First Selangor Plan (RS-1), covering the years 2021 to 2025, aims to transform the state to become Asia Pacific's top investment destination for business aviation.

Seven projects and initiatives have been drawn up to realise this goal. They are:



The Selangor International Aero Park (SAP)

Listed as a game changer in RS-1, this joint venture between MBI Selangor and Selati (Selangor Aviation Technology and Innovation Sdn Bhd) will develop the first aerospace park in Sepang



The Selangor Drone Centre of Excellence (SDCOE)

A drone centre to be set up in Bestari Jaya



The Bernam River Airfield

A small airport to be built in Bernam for private and small aircraft



The Selangor Skills Framework Platform

An online data-centric platform with job descriptions and information on career directions and competency skills, for easy access by companies



The first centre for drones and the first 'Airwaze-friendly' state in Malaysia

Selangor to become the first drone centre to adopt 'Drone Airwaze', which connects Selangor and KL



The Selangor Aviation Show

An annual air show to promote the Selangor aerospace industry



Apprenticeship 4.0: World-call Engineering Workforce and Aerospace Training for SMEs

Selangor's pioneer programme in the aerospace industry, collaborating with a leading original equipment manufacturer (OEM)

