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Politics in transition?

A split Malay vote, fierce competition on multiple fronts and the under-representation of women are some of the factors that could shape the hazy outcome of the 15th general election. Political observers say that while the three main coalitions have made similar pledges to address the country's social and economic issues, there is still a lot of work to be done. Regardless of the outcome, will those elected into Parliament be able to sit down together and negotiate for a better Malaysia?

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State budget on Nov 25

SHAH ALAM - The 2023 Selangor Budget is scheduled to be tabled on Nov 25.

The tabling of the state budget is said to take place two days after the Selangor State Legislative Assembly session reconvenes on Nov 23, and will run for 10 days until Dec 6.

SelangorTV will be broadcasting the sitting in real time at selangortv.my. For more information, visit dewan.selangor.gov.my.

On Oct 20, the state legislative office informed that the fifth term of the 14th Selangor State Legislative Assembly, which was scheduled to take place from Oct 28 until Nov 10, was postponed to give way to the 15th general election, which will take place on Nov 19.

Meanwhile, the Jelajah Selangor Penyayang roadshow in Hulu Selangor, which was scheduled to be held in early November, will be postponed to Dec 2 and 3 to avoid clashing with polling day.

MB seeks to return people's mandate

By **AZIAN AZIZ AND NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has been announced as Pakatan Harapan's (Harapan) candidate for the Gombak parliamentary seat for the 15th general election (GE15).

The Parti Keadilan Rakyat vice-president, who is contesting for a parliamentary seat for the first time, has made five pledges to the people of Gombak should he be given the people's mandate there.

Notably, Amirudin has promised to donate his entire member of parliament salary to the Gombak Community Welfare Fund.

The Sungai Tua state assemblyman also emphasised that he is contesting not for money and position, but to defend the dignity of the constituency and bring about changes in the area.

Amirudin's five pledges, dubbed 'Deklarasi Gombak Bermaruah: 5 Tekad

Untuk 5 Tahun' ('Declaration for a Dignified Gombak: 5 Pledges for 5 Years'), are as below:

1 Ekonomi Tempatan Nadi Gombak (Gombak's Local Economy as a Prime Mover)

The promise to empower women, support e-hailing riders and encourage the use of technology in urban farming.

2 Rumah Mampu Milik Gombak (Gombak's Affordable Homes)

The promise to provide affordable housing to the people of Gombak and solutions to strata ownership.

3 Infrastruktur Mampan, Selesa, dan Berdaya Tahan (Sustainable, Comfortable, and Lasting Infrastructure)

The promise to develop pertinent infrastructure and upgrade current facilities for the convenience of the people.

4 Pendidikan dan Pekerjaan Bermaruah, Kunci Kepada Taraf Hidup Lebih Berkualiti (High-quality Education and Decent Jobs, the Keys to Better Living)

The promise to enhance the quality of education and improve job opportunities.

5 Peranan Saksama Negeri Dalam Memajukan Negara Tercinta (The State's Fair and Impartial Role in Nation-Building)

The promise to govern with fairness and equality to all, in the process of nation-building.

The Harapan candidate faces off against three-term incumbent Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, who is on the Perikatan Nasional ticket, Datuk Megat Zulkarnain Oмарdin from Barisan Nasional, Datuk Dr Aziz Jamaludin Mhd Tahir from Pejuang, and independent candidate Zulkifli Ahmad.

Good track record, clean image put Amirudin ahead

SHAH ALAM - Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) candidate Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari's performance as the Selangor Menteri Besar edges over his closest competitor, incumbent Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali from Perikatan Nasional (PN), in the race for Gombak, says a political analyst.

Taking his observation to Facebook, senior lecturer at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Mohammad Agus Yusoff (*pic*) said Amirudin's stable administration throughout the Covid-19 pandemic reflects positively

on his chances in this election.

"With his skilled administration, Selangor's economy has grown from -5.2 per cent in 2020 to 5 per cent in 2021.

"The state also recorded a revenue of RM2.065 billion, as of Oct 10, much higher than the set target of RM2.05 billion for the year," he said.

For context, Amirudin has also said that the state would likely record financial revenues of RM2.2 billion by the end of the year.

Amirudin has also managed to

launch the 'Klusterisasi Selangor' and the First Selangor Plan 2021 to 2025, which detail proper economic plans down to the district levels as a means to propel the economy of the state in a holistic manner, said Muhammad Agus.

Both policies are considered landmark documents which will guide the development of each district.

Amirudin even formed a dedicated Covid-19 task force to complement the Federal government's response to the pandemic, said the lecturer.

Dubbed the Selangor Task Force Covid-19, it has offered the people the use of the SELangkah mobile application, hastened free screening for vul-

nerable groups, and provided free insurance protection to some six million residents.

"With these achievements, even though Amirudin is young, he has achieved much. He is also of good character and a great administrator.

"He possesses a good personality, is not involved in any corruption cases and is a young leader who is well-liked by the people," he said

Amirudin will be in a five-cornered fight for the seat against Azmin, Barisan Nasional's Datuk Megat Zulkarnain Oмарdin, Pejuang's Dr Aziz Jamaludin Mhd Tahir and independent candidate Zulkifli Ahmad.



Calls for accountability following LRT debacle

SHAH ALAM - The incompetency shown following the shutdown of 16 Light Rail Train (LRT) stations under Prasarana Berhad has drawn discontent among the public.

Muslim Consumers Association of Malaysia president Datuk Nadzim Johan criticised what he described as "late excuses" by the authorities in charge, which is indicative of an uncaring attitude by the government towards the people.

"Too many were affected, those who could not do business, go to their workplaces, students who wanted to go to school or college ... all disrupted. And the responsible parties can dare to issue a statement saying they do not know the cause of the disruption of the service under their purview.

"Merely stating they do not know and ordering an investigation are not the actions of responsible leaders," said Nad-

zim in a statement on Nov 12, in which he had also urged Malaysians to exercise their rights in the 15th general election and elect candidates who can carry out their responsibilities.

The 16 stations, running along the Kelana Jaya Line, had their operations suspended from Nov 9 to Nov 15 due to a reported malfunction of the LRT's automatic train control system.

Following that, various parties have

come forward to offer their assistance to help ease commuters' daily travels, including providing more feeder buses.

The Selangor government has provided 20 Smart Selangor Buses to assist the affected commuters and cater to some of the 160 existing routes. The incumbent Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil also offered free e-hailing services from the Universiti LRT station to as far as Pasar Seni.

Insan: Auto signup for seniors

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - The Skim Insurans Am Selangor (Insan) general insurance scheme has recorded some 596,932 registrations as of Nov 8, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the number includes over 500,000 automatic registrations or online registrations done by the state government for Selangor citizens aged 70 and above who are registered with the Election Commission.

"The registered nominees can refer to their respective community service centres in a week or two or download the Wavpay app to complete several verification checks.

"And beginning today, we will continue to automatically register those aged 50 and above.

"I am confident we will reach one million registrations by next month, out of the total of six million that we expect to achieve in the first year of the scheme's launch," he said during a press conference at the Selangor State Legislative Building, here on Nov 9.

Amirudin added that the number of manual registrations has hit 50,000.

"The automatic application helps to make the overall process faster and easier, aside from attracting more participants to get the free insurance coverage provided by the state government," he said.

On Aug 30, Amirudin introduced the insurance scheme for all Selangor residents with an estimated total protection value of RM60 billion.

To qualify for protection under Insan, applicants must either be born in Selangor, have a Selangor address registered in his or her identification card, or be a voter in the state. With a value of RM10,000, the insurance will be paid out for every loss of life or permanent disability caused by accidents.

The steps to sign up for Insan:

- Download the Wavpay e-wallet via the App Store or Google Play
- Sign up for the e-wallet and fill in your personal details, including showing the front and back of your MyKad
- Click on the Insan icon on the app
- Successful registrants would be granted access to the e-certificate of the insurance scheme

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER?



YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF YOUR MYKAD IS REGISTERED IN SELANGOR

OR



YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS IS IN SELANGOR

OR



YOU ARE A VOTER IN SELANGOR

HOW TO REGISTER?

1



INSTALL THE WAVPAY E-WALLET APPLICATION REGISTER A NEW ACCOUNT

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play



2



CLICK ON THE PROGRAMME BANNER

3



FILL IN YOUR DETAILS UNTIL THE PROCESS IS COMPLETE

Customer Service Contacts

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 Line 2 +60164354199
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 Line 4 +60162534199
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Email: insanbantuan@wavpay.net
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Safety net for six million people

SUNGAI BULOH - The general insurance coverage scheme Insan — rolled out on Oct 1 — has been hailed as the best gift the Selangor government can give to the six million people residing in the state.

The free insurance that provides up to RM10,000 in coverage for deaths or permanent disabilities caused by accidents also serves to empower and help the lower income groups and people who have fallen on hard times due to Covid-19.

Muhammad Akmal Ab Razak, 34, *(pic)* said through the scheme, the most vulnerable groups are able to get compensation should anything bad happen to them.

"It is a great idea from the state government," he said.

"Even though I already have existing insurance coverage, I went ahead and applied for this scheme as it gives me even more protection and costs me nothing.

"I even told all my friends about it and now we are all Insan policyholders."

Fazlyana Mohd Fauzi, 32, *(pic)* said the scheme comes with a lot of advantages for the people.

"It compensates us in the event of a terrible loss. Even small fries like us who normally aren't able to afford insurance get covered.

"I truly hope that the state government will keep on holding out such lifelines to those in need," said the

kindergarten teacher.

Meanwhile, self-employed Jeffrey Johari, 37, said he is glad that Insan has been given to everyone residing in Selangor, regardless of their race.

"Perhaps the only thing that needs improvement is the application process," he said when met in Gombak.

Mohd Abd Aziz Mohd Yusof, 32, said although the scheme is extended to even 80-year-olds, many people in Selangor are still unaware of its existence.

"I call on the state government to use more channels to promote Insan, including talking about it on TV," he said.

Coconut water seller Ahmad Faizham

Welhendri, 25, said the scheme not only helps traders like him but also others who do not have an income.

"I have only just started this business, so having such protection really helps. There are many others who do not have permanent jobs and have no form of insurance coverage. They will benefit from this," he said.

"This scheme is open to babies as young as 30 days old. I am definitely going to sign up for my child and for my wife as well."

All residents and voters in Selangor can apply for Insan between Oct 1 this year and Sept 30 next year. Applications can be made through the Wavpay e-wallet available on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

More information on the scheme can be found at www.wavpay.net.

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM AND
EMYR MALIK**

SHAH ALAM - All three major coalitions, Pakatan Harapan (Harapan), Barisan Nasional (BN) and Perikatan Nasional (PN) have centred their manifesto on propelling the country out of the current economic doldrums caused by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to political analysts.

The coalitions have centred their main thrust on reviving the economy, providing more jobs and opportunities for youth to upskill and reskill.

Similarly, initiatives were also introduced in all three manifestos to stabilise the cost of goods and services, with an emphasis on increasing food security.

Despite the similarities, former journalist Ooi Beng Cheang said that Harapan's manifesto or action plan, dubbed 'Kita Boleh' ('We Can'), has laid out more realistic goals that are more achievable compared to the one written for the previous 2018 general polls.

Citing Harapan's announcements on the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN), tolls, education and social welfare, Ooi said that perhaps being in the Federal government for 22 months has taught the coalition that some of the pledges made for GE14 were not financially viable.

"Harapan has the right ideas and it touched on issues that I thought were relevant, like the ageing population, climate change and the gig economy.

"Of the three manifestos released (the other two being from Perikatan Nasional and Barisan Nasional), it has the most wide-ranging issues that I thought were relevant to me," he said.

As for PN, Ooi said that its manifesto is too light on details.

"I find it troubling because, as a voter, I want to know specifically how the plans will be carried out. Are they realistic? What are the conditions set? They were just icons with keywords. That, for me, is a red flag and it looks like PN put very little planning into publishing one," he said.



Rival manifestos share similar targets

Ooi said as the last coalition to unveil its manifesto, BN had the upper hand to see what was missing from the other two manifestos and had presented many ideas that were similar to Harapan's, especially on the protection of gig workers and PTPTN.

"BN has the most experience in publishing manifestos. Traditionally, BN's manifestos have always been an extension of government policies and things that have already been announced in the latest budget readings. This time around, there are no surprises here.

"Overall, all three manifestos do touch on similar topics so I take comfort in knowing that whoever wins, there will be reforms in education, the problems relating to the ageing population will be addressed, climate change will be given attention, and the plight of gig workers will be looked into.

"But again, there are many questions about their implementation. The devil is always in the details," he said.

As for senior fellow at the Nusantara

Academy for Strategic Research Azmi Hassan, BN's manifesto seems to stand out.

He said BN's GE15 manifesto has moved beyond race and religion and that the Malay-Muslim narrative is not present in the document.

Instead, he said the coalition opted for a more progressive approach by introducing a minimum monthly income of RM2,208 to households and pledged to grant citizenship for children born overseas to Malaysian mothers.

"During the campaign this time we see a lesser emphasis on race and religion by BN compared to the two previous elections.

"It is quite interesting that they did not concentrate on this particular group. BN has also pledged for a select committee to appoint the MACC (Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission) and EC (Election Commission) chief, as well as provide citizenship to babies born from Malaysian mothers outside the country," he said.

The BN manifesto also pledged to give free preschool education for all groups and free higher education for students in B40 families.

Other socioeconomic initiatives include plans to eradicate poverty and uplift marginalised communities.

Comparably, Harapan's manifesto is geared towards "rebuilding Malaysia", according to the coalition's chairman Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Harapan's Offer

Dubbed the 'Tawaran Harapan', it outlines 10 priorities such as managing the cost of living, combating corruption and strengthening democracy, empowering the youth with economic opportunities,

saving the 'lost generation' of students who fell through the system due to the pandemic, building disaster mitigation measures and enhancing protection for the people.

Its most eye-catching offer is to increase expenditure for public health to 5 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) within a single five-year term.

Other initiatives include repealing the Universities and University Colleges Act (AUKU) 1971 and the reduction of toll fares.

Singapore Institute of International Affairs senior fellow Dr Oh Ei Sun said the Harapan manifesto is equal to BN's.

"Harapan's manifesto is at least as progressive as BN's, with a focus on women's equality and environmental preservation.

"BN is synonymous with benefits and handouts with or without the manifesto. I think those missing parts, such as the omission of Malay-Muslim mentions and an East Malaysian DPM (deputy prime minister) could also be due to it being cobbled together at short notice.

"PN, not surprisingly, mooted a number of measures meant to lighten voters' burdens too," he said.

For PN, it has outlined 12 pillars and 30 approaches with 234 offers to form a caring, clean and stable government.

Similar to Harapan, PN has also suggested raising the national health budget to 5 per cent of the GDP in stages.

Another initiative proposed by PN is the establishment of a government department to cater to the welfare of the elderly.

Like its name, PN has also emphasised several key economic initiatives aimed at uplifting the poor and marginalised communities.

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Not a time for personal attacks

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - In the lead-up to any general elections, it is common practice for political parties to draw up electoral manifestos that outline their plans for the people should they win in the polls.

For the 15th General Election (GE15), Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) has come up with a 98-page manifesto titled 'Kita Boleh' ('We Can').

Barisan Nasional (BN) published its 'Perancangan Amal dan Usaha' ('A Plan for Service and Effort') or Padu with 48 pages and Perikatan Nasional (PN) with the 52-paged 'Prihatin, Bersih, Stabil' ('Caring, Clean, Stable'), or PN Best.

Former journalist Ooi Beng Cheang (*pic*) said that among the reforms the political parties propose are subsidy reforms, education reforms, tax reforms, and addressing the issue of housing.



"Harapan came close to offering targeted subsidies but held back at the last minute. Since BN is proposing Assistive Basic Income, this could be the start of subsidy reforms from which only the hardcore poor would benefit.

"Currently, blanket subsidies are given to RON95 fuel and diesel. (But) not all poor need fuel subsidies, what they do need is financial aid in other areas. The savings in fuel subsidies can be channelled to those in need," he told *Selangor Journal* recently.

While the political parties raise the issue of affordable homes, Ooi said that there should be an emphasis on solving the issue of the high cost of building materials and the root cause of construction inflation.

"The inflationary cost of homes has surpassed the stagnant salaries of many B40 and M40 families. There will

be a whole new generation who will not be able to afford their own homes. Even with rent-to-own schemes and deposit guarantee schemes, these families have stagnant incomes and may not be able to afford the repayment later on in life as their other costs of living rise eventually," he said.

Besides homes, Ooi said that there should also be tax reforms as the continuation of subsidies by the government is not sustainable.

"We need to collect more taxes. Tax reforms are always painful. It requires a government with the political will to do it. Only a strong and stable government will be able to do it.

"No candidate dares to mention the tough reforms we need to do on the campaign trail as they are unpopular. It is something we as educated voters need to pressure them to answer."

Meanwhile, Universiti Teknologi Mara School of Media and Information Warfare Studies' security and political analyst Dr Noor Nirwandy Mat Noor-

din noted that the political parties need to move away from propaganda campaigning that centres on denouncing their opponents.

He raised the concern of some six million first-time voters who are exposed to this negative style of campaigning when the parties should instead talk about what they have to offer.

"The political parties tend to focus on stereotype propaganda and character assassination to make themselves look good. This move is not healthy for our democratic system.

"More focus is needed on the economy and national security, such as the small and medium enterprises, the digital economy, and how to protect the ringgit and avoid recession.

"For example, BN's aid to households with monthly incomes of less than RM2,208 ... they need to explain how they will achieve this, and what is the mechanism. This is what people want to hear," he said.

GE15 unable to break the gender bias

SHAH ALAM - The 15th general election (GE15) is seeing a lower number of women representatives taking part, with only 127 women making up the 945 total number of candidates for parliamentary seats, or 13.4 per cent, which is less than half of 30 per cent.

The inability of the political parties in Malaysia to collectively field enough women candidates to meet the 30 per cent quota has been met with disappointment in many quarters.

However, many turns of events since the last general elections, such as the 2020 'Sheraton Move' could have contributed to this lack of representation.

Political and social media analyst Assoc Prof Dr Sara Chinnasamy said that the current political landscape impacted the ability to field more women in GE15 because, in contrast to the more straightforward two-coalition fight in the previous elections, this year's polls are witnessing three major coalitions, namely Pakatan Harapan (Harapan), Barisan Nasional (BN) and Perikatan Nasional (PN), which resulted in multi-cornered fights in many seats.

"In every general election, there is the intent to increase the quota for women representatives. However, that has not been possible in this election because the contest is no longer a two-coalition system. We now have three significant coalitions, along with various smaller parties.

"There are over 900 candidates con-

testing for parliamentary seats. This has affected the way the parties conducted their internal discussions. Negotiations would have been made to reach a consensus on who would get which seat, and on whether to place the top leadership of the parties in the hot seats. This has an indirect impact on the women representatives."

Dr Sara suggested that the current situation might just serve as a temporary precedent and that in the following elections, a new political structure would be in place with more newcomers, giving women representatives a better opportunity in Malaysian politics.

Meanwhile, the All Women's Action Society (Awam) said that Malaysian women deserve better and that the obstacles they face in the political arena must be acknowledged.

Its Information and Communication officer Jernell Tan Chia Ee said the public's mistrust in their leadership qualities, their difficulty in accessing campaign financing due to their lesser political influence, and their heightened exposure to harassment and misogyny are just a few of the difficulties they confront.

She said that research from the previous general polls demonstrated that women politicians were equally competitive as their male counterparts at the Federal level, and this is despite the obstacles they had to overcome.

"Some 90.6 per cent of women poli-

cymakers emerged from mixed-gender contests with a 50 per cent winning rate during GE14.

"Political parties are among the most important stakeholders that can determine whether the political arena is a gender-equal one for women because their political leadership decides which candidates to field.

"It was disappointing to see that the 30 per cent critical mass remains unachieved, especially when political leaders from major parties had promised to fulfil this quota in the Women Leadership Forum organised by the National Council of Women's Organisations, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and the Council of Malaysian Women Political Leaders last month," she told *Selangor Journal*.

Tan said that political parties would need to step up to fulfil this 30 per cent commitment as Malaysia's gender gap in political empowerment has been static over the last few years and is placed at the bottom 30 per cent among countries globally.

She asserted that the incoming administration should also address the issues of citizenship laws that discriminate against women, violence against women and girls, the ability of women to engage in public life, economic empowerment, as well as sexual

and reproductive rights.

On Nov 7, Parti Keadilan Rakyat's Wanita Keadilan deputy chief Juwairiya Zulkifli also voiced concern about the lack of women representation in GE15.

She said that out of all the major parties, it is Harapan that has fielded more women candidates, at 40 of the 206 seats the party is contesting.

In response to the failure to meet the 30 per cent target, Juwairiya proposed a reformation of the electoral system and the relevant laws in the future to ensure that more women candidates are nominated and elected as decision-makers.



Harapan's candidate for the Bentong parliamentary seat, Young Syefura Othman



Reforms pave way for stability

By **EMYR MALIK**

KUALA LUMPUR - The Malaysian economy fared better under the Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) administration compared to when it was led by the Perikatan Nasional (PN) and Barisan Nasional (BN) governments, even though Harapan helmed the country for only 22 months.

This is evident from several key economic indicators during Harapan's stint in Putrajaya from May 2018.

The coalition's first economic milestone was to stabilise inflation when it took over the government. It inherited from the BN government record-breaking inflation rates, as high as 3.7 per cent in 2017.

Harapan's intervention to reduce the cost of living soon saw inflation figures drop to 0.97 per cent in 2018 and then dip further to 0.7 per cent in 2019.

Economists also commended other policy measures like the abolishment of the Goods and Services Tax in 2018, and Harapan's austerity move to renegotiate several mega projects such as the East Coast Rail Link and the MRT 2 and LRT 3 projects, which saved billions in government expenditure.

Under Harapan's tenure, the country had also reevaluated its debts which had ballooned to over RM1 trillion due to unreported debt stemming from the massive 1Malaysia De-

velopment Berhad (1MDB) financial scandal.

As of June this year, 1MDB's debt stands at RM32.08 billion.

For context, the inflation rate from 2011 to 2017 was between 3.2 per cent and 3.7 per cent. A rate of two per cent is considered high.

Following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation was reduced to -1.2 per cent in 2020 due to lower domestic consumption and overall economic activity.

Under the PN administration led by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, the country underwent strict lockdown measures.

To counteract the economy from crashing, Muhyiddin announced a RM250 billion stimulus package that year.

The inflation rate then rose to 2.5 per cent in 2021 despite the gradual reopening of the economy.

Fast forward to this year, under the administration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, inflation

hit an all-time high of 4.7 per cent year on year in August and had slightly tapered off to 4.5 per cent in September.

Throughout 2022, Malaysians were battered by the rising cost of living and essential goods.

To combat this, Ismail Sabri formed 'Task Force on Jihad Against Inflation' led by Tan Sri Annuar Musa but the move has been largely criticised by the public as ineffective in stabilising market forces.

On the contrary, under Harapan, the country saw its lowest inflation rate in 11 years from 2011.

FDI climbs

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) also saw improvements under the Harapan administration.

In 2018, FDI in Malaysia recorded RM32.6 billion against RM40.4 billion in the previous year under the BN administration.

However, this was due to a drawdown in investment in the mining and quarrying sectors since 2017.

FDI had bumped back to RM31.7 billion in 2019, an increase of 3.1 per cent due to a higher injection of equity

from Japan in health activity.

This was also the effect of the Look East Policy that was revisited by then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad during his second tenure as prime minister.

In 2020, following the formation of the PN government, FDI in the country dipped to RM14.6 billion due to the repercussions of Covid-19.

The FDI then rebounded to register a higher net inflow of RM48.1 billion in 2021 following a gradual recovery in the global economy from the pandemic.

Increased reserves

Selangor remains the largest economy in Malaysia, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of RM343.5 billion recorded in 2021, which constitutes 25 per cent of the nation's overall GDP.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari had also voiced his confidence that the state will likely increase its reserves to over RM3.4 billion.

Under the Harapan administration, Amirudin launched 44 people-oriented initiatives under 'Itizam Selangor Penyayang' for 2022.

This is considerably more than the 38 programmes rolled out during Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali's tenure and the 14 programmes under the late Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim's stint as Menteri Besar.



Reserves hit record highs

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

SHAH ALAM - Ever since Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) took over Selangor at the 12th general election (GE12) in 2008, the state's financial reserves have grown by more than three-fold. This is a testament to a more efficient and transparent administration.

Fourteen years ago, when Harapan wrestled Selangor from Barisan Nasional (BN), the state had about RM400 million in savings and by the end of that year, the reserves grew to RM1.42 billion.

Fast forward to August 2022 and that figure has reached a record high of RM3.4 billion.

The period of Harapan rule in Selangor saw the stewardship of three Menteri Besar.

Under the direction of the late Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim (2008-2014), the state's reserves broke the RM3 billion mark. It dwindled to RM2.13 billion under the helm of Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali (2014-2018), following his spending deficit of RM800 million in 2018.

Under the leadership of Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari (2018 till present), Selangor's reserves rose steadily through the first two years of the

pandemic before hitting an all-time high in August this year.

Amirudin's performance has been commendable. Despite having been stung by Covid-19 and the December 2021 floods that saw the state administration fork out millions in cash aid, Selangor's coffers were not dented.

Previously, Amirudin stated that the state government had spent more than RM15 billion on its people since 2015.

It also introduced the Iltizam Selangor Penyangg programme, a rebranding of the Inisiatif Peduli Rakyat that offers almost RM600 million to support the less privileged every year.

The state administration also presented the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), which is a comprehensive five-year plan that consists of more than 202 projects valued at RM200 billion.

Some of the projects included under the plan are the Sabak Bernam Development Area (Sabda), the Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (Idriss) and development in central Selangor, which includes the areas around the Shah Alam stadium and along the Sungai Klang riverbank.



Selangor Reserves 2008-2022 Under Pakatan Harapan

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total (RM/billion)	1.42	1.32	1.58	1.94	2.61	2.91	3.20	3.26	3.05	2.83	2.13	2.14	2.44	2.80	3.40 <small>*as of Aug 2022</small>

Source: Written answers in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting, the MB's speech on Sept 4



By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

The 14th general election (GE14) in 2018 was as significant as it was historic, marking the end of Barisan Nasional's (BN) 60-year rule and the establishment of a new administration under Pakatan Harapan (Harapan).

Although Harapan led for no longer than 22 months following the betrayal of the 'Sheraton Move', this year's 15th general election (GE15) on Nov 19 paves the way for a fresh restart.

The stage is set but packed, and the competition is stiff. Compared to the 2018 polls which was a straight-up fight between the two titans BN and Harapan, the number of coalitions and alliances for this GE has increased, complicating matters.

This time around we see a strong third contender, Perikatan Nasional (PN), an alliance formed between Bersatu and PAS, and also one more challenger thrown into the ring, Bersatu's splinter party Pejuang Tanah Air (Pejuang) led by former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

By the time nomination day arrived on Nov 5, the Election Commission (EC) had registered a total of 945 candidates contesting for the 222 parliamentary seats. Some 441 candidates are also set to contest for the 117 state seats in Perak, Pahang and Perlis.

Harapan is reported to have fielded the highest number of candidates at 206, followed by BN (178), PN (149), and Pejuang (116).

This election also sees a new record number of independent candidates. Fresh faces — and a few old names — make up the 108 hopefuls who are carrying their agenda without the support of big-party machinery.

Comparatively, only 79 independents ran in the 2013 general polls and in 2018, even fewer, at 24.

With 22 parliamentary seats, Selangor recorded the highest number of candidates at 124 followed by Sabah (119), Perak (100), Johor

Vying for **victory** in a crowded fight

(96), Sarawak (92), Kedah (68), Kelantan (63), Penang (58), Pahang (55), Kuala Lumpur (52), Negeri Sembilan (35), Terengganu (33), Melaka (25), and Perlis (13), while Putrajaya and Labuan, respectively, have six candidates each.

When Undi18 and automatic voter registration were gazetted as effective on Dec 15, the EC stated that registered voters in Selangor jumped by 52.28 per cent. This translates to 1,262,774 people, bringing the total of eligible voters for GE15 in the state to 3,677,848 compared to 2,415,074 in GE14.

As a result, Selangor now has the most registered voters in any state for GE15.

Multi-cornered clashes

With such a big number of candidates going into the GE15 ring, it is no surprise that Malaysians will witness a few messy, albeit lively, multi-cornered fights.

In the Batu parliamentary seat, voters may be spoilt for choice, or discouraged, by a 10-cornered clash.

In Selangor, the Ampang seat is gearing up to be just as exciting, with nine candidates in the fray. Harapan's Batu Tiga state assemblyman Rodziah Ismail will vie for the top spot against incumbent Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin, who is defending her seat under the Parti Bangsa Malaysia (PBM) ticket.

GE15 IN NUMBERS

- Total number of parliamentary candidates: **945**
- Highest number of candidates in a party: **206 - Harapan**
- Highest number of candidates in a state: **124 - Selangor**
- Highest number of voters in a state: **3.68 million - Selangor**
- Highest multi-cornered seat: **Federal Territory's Batu parliamentary seat (10 contenders)**



AMIRUDIN VS AZMIN



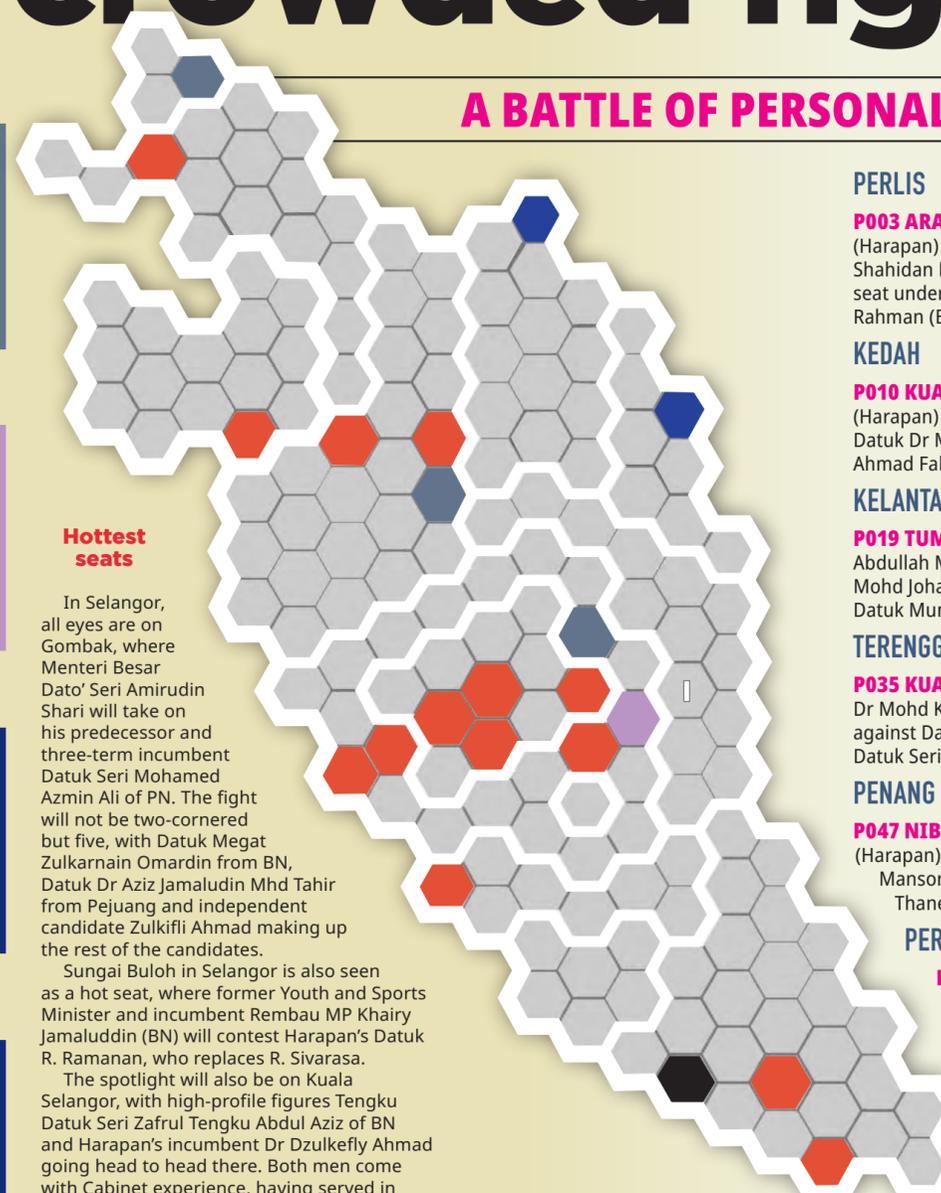
RODZIAH VS ZURAIDA



RAMANAN VS KHAIRY



DZULKEFLY VS ZAFRUL



A BATTLE OF PERSONALITIES

Hottest seats

In Selangor, all eyes are on Gombak, where Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari will take on his predecessor and three-term incumbent Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali of PN. The fight will not be two-cornered but five, with Datuk Megat Zulkarnain Oardin from BN, Datuk Dr Aziz Jamaludin Mhd Tahir from Pejuang and independent candidate Zulkifli Ahmad making up the rest of the candidates.

Sungai Buloh in Selangor is also seen as a hot seat, where former Youth and Sports Minister and incumbent Rembau MP Khairy Jamaluddin (BN) will contest Harapan's Datuk R. Ramanan, who replaces R. Sivarasa.

The spotlight will also be on Kuala Selangor, with high-profile figures Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz of BN and Harapan's incumbent Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad going head to head there. Both men come with Cabinet experience, having served in the Finance Ministry and the Health Ministry, respectively.

In Bangi, DAP's Syahredzan Johan, contesting under the Harapan ticket takes on Muhammad Nazrul Hakim Nazir (PN) and Datuk Hoh Hee Lee (BN).

Each hexagon represents the parliamentary seat in each state
All the coloured hexagons highlight the incumbents of the 22 hot seat in the Peninsula for GE15

PERLIS

P003 ARAU: Fathin Amelina Fazlie (Harapan) against incumbent Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, who is defending his seat under PN, and Datuk Rozabil Abdul Rahman (BN).

KEDAH

P010 KUALA KEDAH: Dr Azman Ismail (Harapan) against former deputy minister Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim (BN) and Dr Ahmad Fakhruddin Fakhrurazi (PN).

KELANTAN

P019 TUMPAT: Incumbent Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi (BN) to face off Wan Mohd Johari Wan Omar (Harapan) and Datuk Mumtaz Md Nawi (PAS).

TERENGGANU

P035 KUALA NERUS: Incumbent Datuk Dr Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali (BN) against Datuk Dr Alias Razak (PAS) and Datuk Seri Suhaimi Hashim (Harapan).

PENANG

P047 NIBONG TEBAL: Fadhlina Sidek (Harapan) faces off incumbent Datuk Dr Mansor Othman (PN) and Datuk Seri R. Thanenthiran (BN).

PERAK

P056 LARUT: Incumbent Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin (PN) against Zolkarnain Abidin (Harapan), and Mohd Shafiq Fhadly Mahmud (BN).

P057 PART BUNTAR: Incumbent Datuk Seri Mujahid Yusof (Harapan) battles Mohd Misbahul Munir Masduki (PN) and Imran Mohd Yusof (BN).

P063 TAMBUN: Keadilan chief Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (Harapan) faces off against incumbent Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu (PN) and Datuk Aminuddin Md Hanafiah (BN).

PAHANG

P089 BENTONG: Young Syefura Othman (Harapan) against former federal minister Tan Sri Liow Tiong Lai (BN) and incumbent Wong Tack (Independent).

KUALA LUMPUR

P119 TITIWANGSA: Khalid Samad (Harapan) against Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani (BN) and Dr Rosni Adam (PN).

P121 LEMBAH PANTAI: Incumbent Fahmi Fadzil (Harapan) against Ramlan Shahean @ Askolani (BN).

P124 BANDAR TUN RAZAK: Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (Harapan) against incumbent Datuk Kamarudin Jaffar (PN).

NEGERI SEMBILAN

P132 PORT DICKSON: Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun (Harapan) against P. Kamalanathan (BN) and Rani Kulup (Independent).

JOHOR

P146 MUAR: Incumbent Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman challenged by Mohd Helmy Abdul Latif (BN).

P151 SIMPANG RENGAM: Incumbent Dr Maszlee Malik (Harapan) against Datuk Seri Hasni Mohammad (BN).

P161 PULAI: Incumbent Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub (Harapan) faces off against Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed (BN).

	HARAPAN = Pakatan Harapan		MUDA = Malaysian United Democratic Alliance
	BN = Barisan Nasional		PBM = Parti Bangsa Malaysia
	PN = Perikatan Nasional		Independent



Picture BERNAMA

Why Malay votes matter

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

Since 2013, Malaysian politics has centred on the impact of ethnicity and geography on the allocation of seats in Parliament.

Studies have shown that urban constituencies favoured the opposition coalition, then known as Pakatan Rakyat, in the 14th general election (GE14) while the ruling party Barisan Nasional (BN) had garnered support from rural constituencies.

The political climate in Malaysia has witnessed interesting changes since the BN-led government fell in 2018 in GE14, starting with the 2020 'Sheraton Move' that resulted in the fall of the 22-month-old Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) administration.

Since then, Umno's splinter party Bersatu — which had initially been on Harapan's side — has formed a third major coalition, Perikatan Nasional (PN), and Malaysia also saw the birth of the smaller coalition Gerakan Tanah Air (GTA).

Above all else, two prime ministers

have taken over the number one job without a general election.

In this year's general polls, aside from the additional six million first-time voters due to Undi18 and automatic registration, the preference of Malay voters seem to wield a significant influence.

Ilham Centre fellow researcher Mujibu Abd Muis said that Harapan faces a hard time winning over Malay voters. He said even with Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah) being part of the coalition, the component party does not have the tenacity to take on its rivals like Umno, Bersatu and PAS where it matters most — the Malay-majority seats.

He said the cooperation with Bersatu in the 2018 general election was one of the contributing factors towards Harapan's victory.

"This problem has not been resolved by Harapan up until now. It also seems that with PN combining Bersatu and PAS, it has managed to become an alternative for the Malay voters who are not willing to vote for BN and who do not trust Harapan and DAP enough.

"This would be the challenge for Harapan and based on the previous state elections in Melaka and Johor, this is the trend where the Malay-majority seats become the deciding factor.

"Whoever is able to win the Malay-majority seats have the greater chance at forming the government. And most of the seats in the Peninsular are Malay-majority seats," he said when contacted by *Selangor Journal*.

In support of Mujibu's statement, a recent survey by the Merdeka Centre for Opinion Research from Oct 19 to 28 titled 'Malaysia's Upcoming Elections: The State of Play' found that 32 per cent of the Malay respondents

older generation or veterans aged 60 and above tend to be loyal towards parties," he said.

Meanwhile, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Isis) Malaysia senior fellow Eddin Khoo said that overall, the race narrative has shown a decline as many of the traditional political parties are out of date.

He said many of the younger candidates have not taken up the racial line or played up racial issues and have opted for a more professional and sophisticated approach in their election campaign.

"Take Khairy Jama-luddin for example, he is not only campaigning for (the) Sungai Buloh (parliamentary seat) but also for the re-

form in Umno — a reminder to the traditional parties and politicians that change is here.

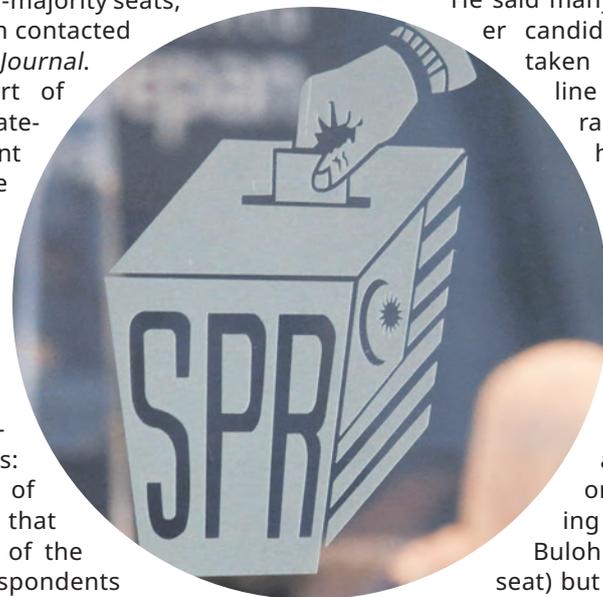
"The voters are smart in weighing the issues, so these politicians shouldn't try to fool them with the old traditions. There is a mature progression among the voters, but the only people who don't believe in the maturity of politics are the traditional politicians. The disconnect between how the voters think and how the political parties behave is very big," he said.

Khoo said that with the high possibility of a hung parliament, GE15 has called for the politicians to be flexible and fluid in creating alliances, something the country could look forward to.

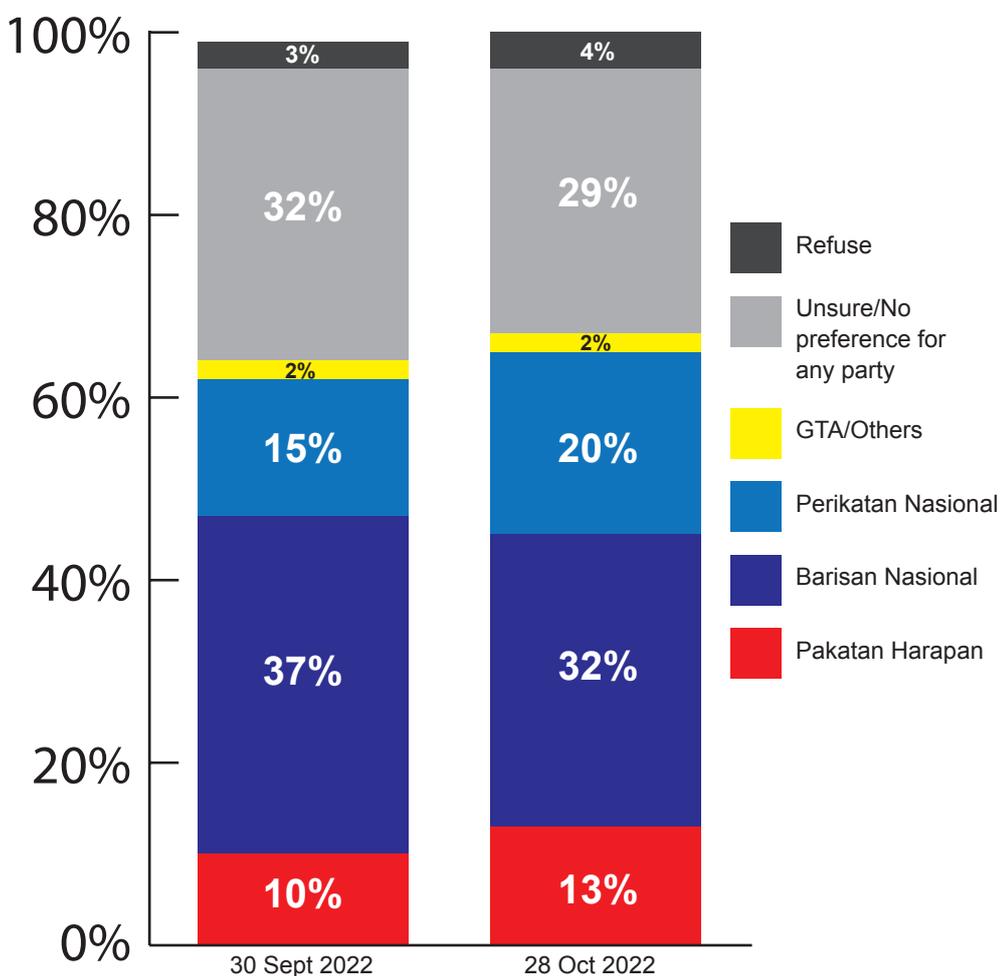
"This is a good thing for the country's democracy and a good training ground for the politicians. It shows that none of the political parties or personalities can do whatever they want and get away with it. They can no longer have that power.

"Whoever comes into power next, we have already seen Undi18 and the anti-party hopping law in place. What is next is for them to implement a political funding law because I believe that political parties should not have money.

"I commend whoever or whichever party can push this through because the 'budaya katak' (the practice of party hopping) is because of money," he said.



Malay voter preference



From Merdeka Centre's survey 'Malaysia's Upcoming Elections: The State of Play'



Are we ready to share Putrajaya?

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

From the first time Malaysians headed to the polls in 1959, in the then called Federation of Malaya, the country had been ruled by a single political coalition — the Barisan Nasional (BN) — that is, until 2018 when the giant was felled by Pakatan Harapan (Harapan).

Over the years, the Malaysian political landscape has seen tremendous changes.

Expectations are high that this year's 15th general election (GE15) will result in a hung parliament or the possibility of a mixed-coalition government as political observers predict that no single party or coalition is able to get a simple majority of 112 seats in Parliament.

Analysts are of the view that should none of the groups be able to secure a strong majority, the parties or coalitions would have to negotiate to form a mixed-coalition government.

Ilham Centre fellow researcher Mujibu Abd Muis said that if the GE15 result is hung, the narrative calls for the people to give the mandate to the side that has a stronger majority.

"If the people see there is a fracture in the alliance, it would be difficult for it to form a stable government. The question is if no coalition is able to get a simple majority, who would then be chosen to form a mixed government?"

"We would be seeing them sitting down together to negotiate this," said Mujibu, when contacted by *Selangor Journal* recently.

"It is difficult to guess which coalition is able to capture a simple majority of 112 (parliament) seats, especially in West Malaysia where the Malay votes are split. Who is going to wrestle these seats, especially the Malay (majority) seats?"

"Whereas for Sabah and Sarawak, they would be the kingmaker as both of the states are waiting to see who the winners are and join them," he said.

Political observer and writer Ruhan Shahrir pictured the outcome of GE15 to be blurry and uncertain,

especially with so many multi-cornered fights.

According to the Election Commission (EC), the 2022 polls recorded the highest number of candidates contesting for the 222 parliamentary seats at 945.

"I see it as an ambiguous situation as it would be difficult for the major components to form the new government.

"We should not discount Pejuang and GTA (Gerakan Tanah Air), not on the possibility of winning, but on pushing the agenda of their leader, which is Tun Dr Mahathir (Mohamad)," he said.

Ruhan said if a mixed government is on the cards, the structural differences between the different parties and coalitions would be the underlying factor on whether the newly formed government would be a success.

With BN and Perikatan Nasional (PN) being Malay-centric and Harapan representing a multiethnic coalition, Ruhan said there needs to be a solution on how to bridge this gap as there is a possibility of the formation of a minority government.

"If Harapan were to get the most number (of seats), would the other parties be willing to nominate (Datuk Seri) Anwar (Ibrahim) as the next prime minister, and secondly, would they, particularly BN and PN, be able to accept DAP as part of the so-called coalition to form the government? This is the question that Harapan would have to face," he said.

Citing the trends from the previous general elections, Ruhan stated that the prime minister has always been nominated by a Malay-based party, including the appointment of Dr Mahathir from the Umno splinter party Bersatu as Malaysia's seventh premier. Bersatu had won only 13 seats that year.

"If we look at the patterns in the past, the prime minister is nominated by the party only if it manages to get a simple majority. But if they are not able to do so, that is the question.

"Based on the previous GE14, even though Dr Mahathir was with Bersatu at the time, which had the least number of seats (in Harapan), the MPs still chose him as the prime minister. This time around, it is un-

certain if other parties are willing to accept Anwar (from Harapan) as the prime minister. This includes Sabah and Sarawak, which have 56 parliament seats in total. Would they be able to accept Anwar and DAP, or do they prefer PN, BN or GTA?"

"We are currently in a transitional period after 60 years. Based on the factors mentioned, we need to find a solution. Other than the possibility of a minority government, there is also a unity government. But what the mechanism would be is yet to be known as the difference is too wide between multiethnicity and pro-Malay," he said.

Ruhan added that although the voting trend of the additional six million first-time voters, as a result of Undi18 and automatic voter registration, is yet to be known, Malaysian politics have a long history and tradition of negotiation and bargaining, which is expected to take place should a hung parliament occur.

"How to resolve this ... there needs to be a change in the ways of political thinking. They would somehow find a way in order to get the power but how are they going to share it?" he said.

Meanwhile, senior lawyer Datuk Jahabardeen Mohamed Yunus said that while the sharing of power between different coalition parties might be the new norm, Malaysia should take heed of other countries such as our neighbour, Indonesia.

"Indonesia has the experience of appointing a shared government after those days of having the same government for decades. Maybe Malaysia is also moving towards that, learning to share power for the sake of the people and the country," he said.

He added that in the last two years, the people of Malaysia have grown in political maturity and that the idea of a mixed-coalition government might just work.

Jahabardeen also stated that Sabah and Sarawak have always been considered the deciding factors in the formation of a Federal government.

"It is a positive development that the ethnic people of Sabah and Sarawak are also entering the political discourse in Malaysia instead of always just the Malays, Chinese and Indians."

Making clean water a reality

By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

THE water services industry in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya had been highly inefficient in the years before Pakatan Harapan governed Selangor in 2008. The industry was owned and operated by different companies, resulting in a lack of accountability and poor management.

In the 14 years since, the state government has managed to restructure the fragmented system and create Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air

Selangor) as a single entity to extract, treat and distribute water to all its customers.

Air Selangor's 2021 Sustainability Report has shown that as of December 2021, the quality of its water that is supplied to over 8.4 million consumers in the region has reached 99.8 per cent compliance with the Ministry of Health's Drinking Water Quality Standard (DWQS).

The result emerged from 251,901 tests conducted at its water quality sampling stations.

The achievement aligns with Air Selangor's target to provide drinkable water directly from the tap by 2028.

During a webinar titled 'Air Bersih: Berbaloikah Pelarasan Tarif?' on April 21, Air Selangor chief executive officer Suhaimi Kamaralzaman said the company aims to achieve the same water quality levels as seen in Japan and Europe by 2028.

Air Selangor extracts surface water from dams and river intakes and treats it to the highest quality that meets the ministry's DWQS.

To maintain the quality of water from the WTPs to the taps of customers, frequent monitoring is conducted, and preventative measures are implemented by optimising technology solutions throughout the distribution network.

As of December 2021, Air Selangor operates a total of 1,122 active water quality sampling stations, of which 650 (57.93 per cent) are under mandatory monitoring by the ministry. Some 403 (35.92 per cent) stations are monitored by Air Selangor itself while 69 (6.15 per cent) others are jointly monitored.

State speeds up road repairs

THE state government has always prioritised problems relating to roads and have doubled up on its road maintenance efforts recently.

A total of 16,288 potholes along 4,000 kilometres of roads that fall under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (JKR) were mended last year.

As of June this year, some 11,153 potholes have been mended after receiving complaints from road users.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has been urging the public to voice their road-related complaints on Twitter using the hashtags #Infrasel #namadaerah (district name) and #namajalan (street name).

Following a complaint, state-owned maintenance company Infrasel Sdn Bhd (Infrasel) will work to resolve the problem within 24 hours.

In September, several state roads in Sabak Bernam and Hulu Selangor were repaired after complaints were made on the social media platform.

Road repairs were also carried out at Jalan Rahidin 1, Kampung Paya Jaras in Shah Alam as well as Jalan Selayang-Kepong in Gombak.

Residents of Kampung Paya Jaras Dalam also benefited from the state government's effort to repair potholes in their village. The repairs were made on Sept 20, just a day after the complaint was lodged.

According to the village's Community Management Council chairman Zolhainan Noordin, the people in the village welcome the use of social media as a platform to report infrastructural damage.

"Thank you to Infrasel for their prompt action. Many problems were resolved in a day," he said on Sept 25.

Other than using social media for routine monitoring and receiving complaints, the state government also adopted new technology through the Smart Road Assets Management System, which was launched by Amirudin on March 16.

Developed by local experts through Selgem Sdn Bhd (Selgem) in early 2021, the system uses artificial intelligence and drone technology to identify damaged roads for fixing.

"Through the system, not only can users make a report on the quality of roads, they can also report on other road accessories like street lights, traffic lights and road dividers," said Amirudin.

The state government's commitment to providing the best basic

infrastructure is aligned with its aim to make Selangor smart, habitable and prosperous by 2025.

It plans to continue to bring change to the state to benefit the people.

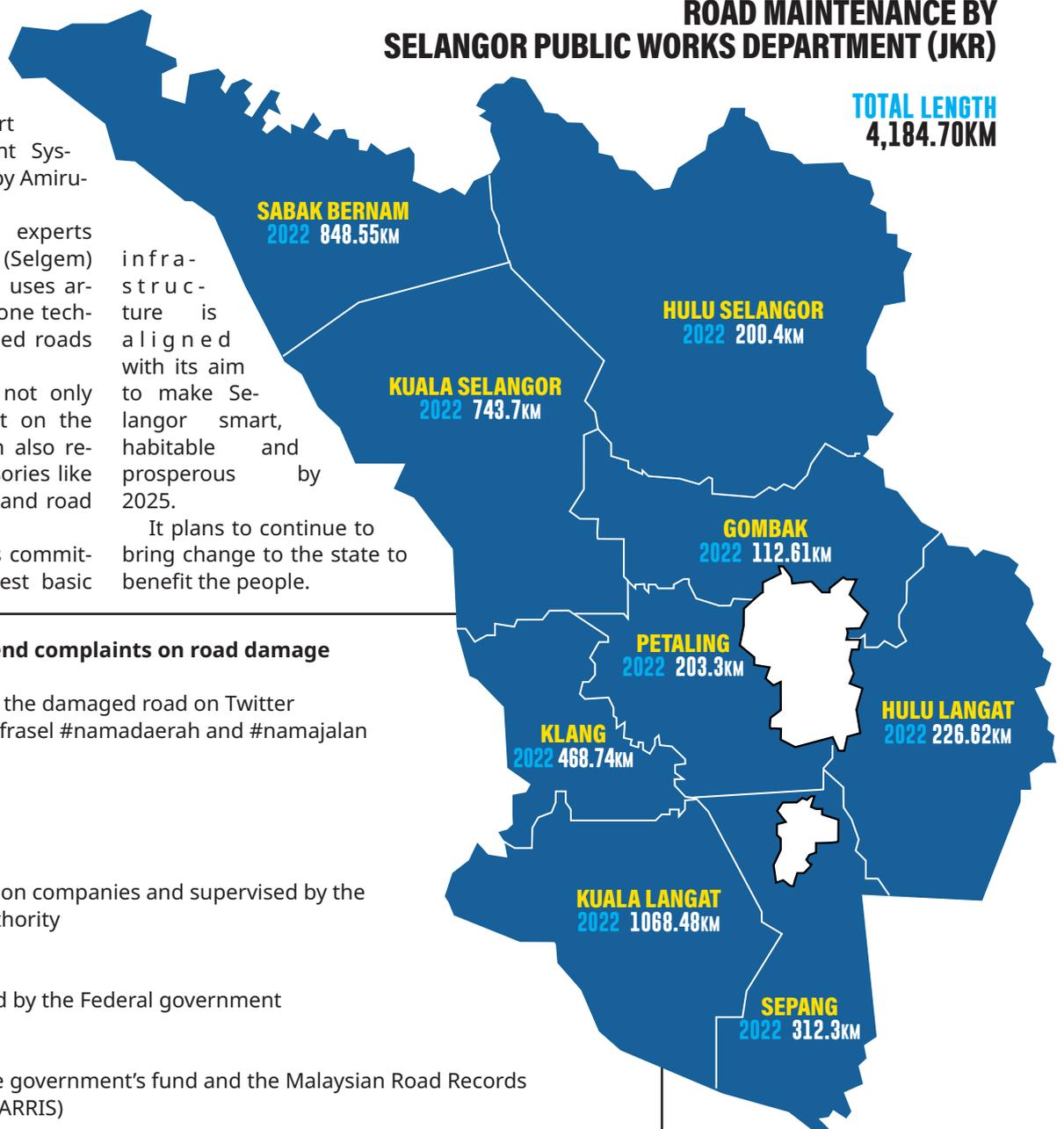
Three easy steps to send complaints on road damage

- Upload the picture of the damaged road on Twitter
- Use the hashtags #Infrasel #namadaerah and #namajalan
- Submit report

Categories of roads

- **Toll highway**
Maintained by concession companies and supervised by the Malaysian Highway Authority
- **Federal roads**
Funded and maintained by the Federal government
- **State roads**
Maintained by the state government's fund and the Malaysian Road Records Information System (MARRIS)
- **Other roads**
Roads under the purview of local councils and villages

ROAD MAINTENANCE BY SELANGOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (JKR)



Special squad's mission to end pollution



By **ALANG BENDAHARA**

On Dec 1, 2020, the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) established the Luas Special Action Squad (Skwad Pantas Luas) with allocations provided under the 2021 Selangor Budget to overcome the problem of water pollution in the state.

The squad's mission is to prevent water pollution and minimise the risks that lead to the shutting down of the state's water treatment plants (WTPs), which would cause water disruptions to consumers.

Since the formation of the squad, the number of shutdowns of WTPs or Code Red pollution incidents has dropped drastically to just two cases in 2021 and 2022 respectively, from 15 cases in 2020.

Among the squad's duties is to help other government agencies such as Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor), Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd (IWK), Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM), Selangor Disaster Management Unit (UPBN), Land and District Offices, and local councils carry out 24-hour surveillance at all the state's water resources.

Pollution offenders face legal action that includes stop-work orders, the seizure or demolition of their factories, compounds, and jail time.

The Special Action Squad's task is to mount static and mobile monitoring in sensitive areas along the river basins of Sungai Langat, Sungai Selangor and Sungai Klang. They employ high-tech Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to carry out surveillance in difficult-to-access places.

In the event of pollution, Luas will

Code Red Cases					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sungai Langat Basin	2	5	3	2	2
Sungai Selangor Basin	1	6	12	0	0
Sungai Klang Basin	0	3	0	0	0
Total	3	14	15	2	2
Code Yellow Cases					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sungai Langat Basin	0	0	11	14	17
Sungai Selangor Basin	0	0	7	7	13
Sungai Klang Basin	0	0	0	0	24
Total	0	0	18	21	54

activate either Code Yellow (pollution incident detected and overcome immediately without shutting down a WTP) or Code Red (pollution incident of raw water resources leading to the shutdown of a WTP) under the Selangor State Wa-

ter Resources Emergency Action Plan Manual.

Activated carbon, oil booms and oil pads are used at all pollution sites. Luas also has a cleaning contractor on stand-by for big-scale pollution.

World Cup tickets almost sold out

DOHA - Ticket sales for the football World Cup are approaching the three million mark ahead of the tournament kicking off in Qatar on Nov 20, FIFA president Gianni Infantino and event organisers said on Oct 17.

The top 10 purchasing countries of the 2.89 million tickets sold are Qatar, the United States, Saudi Arabia, England, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, France, Brazil and Germany, FIFA's World Cup Chief operating officer Colin Smith told a news conference in Doha.

"There is currently either low or no

availability for matches," Smith said.

Infantino, addressing the conference in a recorded video, said 240,000 hospitality packages had been sold for the month-long tournament, making it the "most successful hospitality program ever," he said.

Hospitality tickets, which allow access to luxurious stadium lounges, some with free-flowing alcoholic drinks, cost more than US\$34,300 (RM158,700) per person for semi-final matches and the final, according to FIFA's website.

Qatar, the smallest country to have hosted football's global showpiece tour-

namment, is preparing for an estimated 1.2 million visitors during the World Cup, the first to be held in a Middle Eastern country.

With most of the 31,000 or so hotel rooms in Qatar occupied by football teams, their support staff and World Cup officials, organisers are offering fans accommodation in apartments, villas, prefabricated metal cabins, desert tents and three cruise ships moored in the Doha port.

Japan will be the first team to arrive for the tournament on Nov 7, Smith said. - Reuters



PAUL POGBA (FRANCE)

Pogba injured his knee in pre-season and went under the knife in September to repair a damaged meniscus.

The 29-year-old resumed training but on Oct 31 his agent said the midfielder would not return to action for Juventus nor the world champions before the World Cup.

N'GOLO KANTE (FRANCE)

The Chelsea midfielder suffered a setback in his rehabilitation from a hamstring injury that has restricted him to two appearances this season. He will be sidelined for four months after undergoing surgery.

REECE JAMES (ENGLAND)

The 22-year-old right back injured his knee in Chelsea's Champions League clash against AC Milan in October and looks certain to miss the tournament in Qatar after being ruled out for eight weeks.

DIOGO JOTA (PORTUGAL)

The Liverpool forward will miss the tournament due to a calf injury sustained in their win over Manchester City but the Premier League club's manager Juergen Klopp said that he would not require surgery.

PEDRO NETO (PORTUGAL)

The 22-year-old Wolverhampton Wanderers winger will undergo surgery on an ankle injury sustained against West Ham United in October.

BOUBACAR KAMARA (FRANCE)

The Aston Villa midfielder suffered a knee ligament injury in September that will keep him out until after the World Cup.

The following is a list of players who have been ruled out or are doubtful for the Nov 20-Dec 18 FIFA World Cup through injury.

IN OR OUT?

ARTHUR MELO (BRAZIL)

Liverpool's on-loan midfielder picked up a muscle injury in the build-up to a Champions League clash with Rangers in October.

JESUS 'TECATITO' CORONA (MEXICO)

The Sevilla winger suffered a fracture on his left ankle while he was training with the LaLiga club in August and underwent surgery.

The 29-year-old was named in Mexico coach Gerardo Martino's preliminary 31-man squad but Sevilla boss Jorge Sampaoli said he could return to training only by December.

KYLE WALKER (ENGLAND)

The Manchester City defender had successful groin surgery in early October but the 32-year-old said he was confident he will fully recover in time to make the trip to Qatar.

BEN CHILWELL (ENGLAND)

Left-back Ben Chilwell pulled up with a hamstring injury during added time in Chelsea's Champions League win over Dinamo Zagreb. "It doesn't look positive, but it's a hamstring. We'll have to scan it and see what it is," said Blues manager Graham Potter.

PAULO DYBALA (ARGENTINA)

AS Roma coach Jose Mourinho said the Argentina forward had suffered a "very bad" injury when he tweaked a thigh muscle while converting a penalty against Lecce.

RONALD ARAUJO (URUGUAY)

The Barcelona centre-back opted for thigh surgery in late September, saying he made the choice to go under the knife to return to 100 per cent "as soon as possible".

ANGEL DI MARIA (ARGENTINA)

The Juventus winger is out until early November due to a hamstring injury which the club said would need around three weeks to heal. - Reuters

RACE AGAINST TIME
The following players are injured but fighting to get fit and be considered for selection.

ROMELU LUKAKU (BELGIUM)

Inter Milan striker Romelu Lukaku has injured his hamstring again after making a comeback after two months on the sidelines.

KALVIN PHILLIPS (ENGLAND)

The Manchester City midfielder has been sidelined due to a shoulder problem but could return before the World Cup.

SON HEUNG-MIN (SOUTH KOREA)

Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min suffered a facial fracture following an aerial clash with Chancel Mbemba during a Champions League game at Olympique de Marseille. Spurs said the forward will have surgery to stabilise the fracture.



Sweet victory after years of sweat and tears

IPOH - National men's hockey coach A. Arul Selvaraj has described the team's success in lifting the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup for the first time as a "meaningful gift" to all hockey fans in the country.

Malaysia downed South Korea 3-2 in the final at the Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium here to end their 39-year wait to clinch the coveted Cup.

Arul Selvaraj said the players, coaches and management team too, have all been waiting a long time to taste victory in the tournament.

"I wish to praise my players and everyone who has worked so hard all these while because we have been chasing this trophy for the past 39 years. The players played with so much determination and dedication.

"That's why before we began the third quarter, I told them to go all out and not to capitulate in front of thousands of our loyal supporters present tonight, and they did just that," he said after the final on Nov 10.

Malaysia began the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 round-robin campaign on a dismal note when they lost 3-0 to South Korea and drew 1-1 with Pakistan.

The Speedy Tigers, however, bounced back to notch three back-to-back wins in style — taming Egypt 4-1, trouncing South Africa 7-2 and beating Japan 4-2 — to book a place in the title showdown against South Korea.



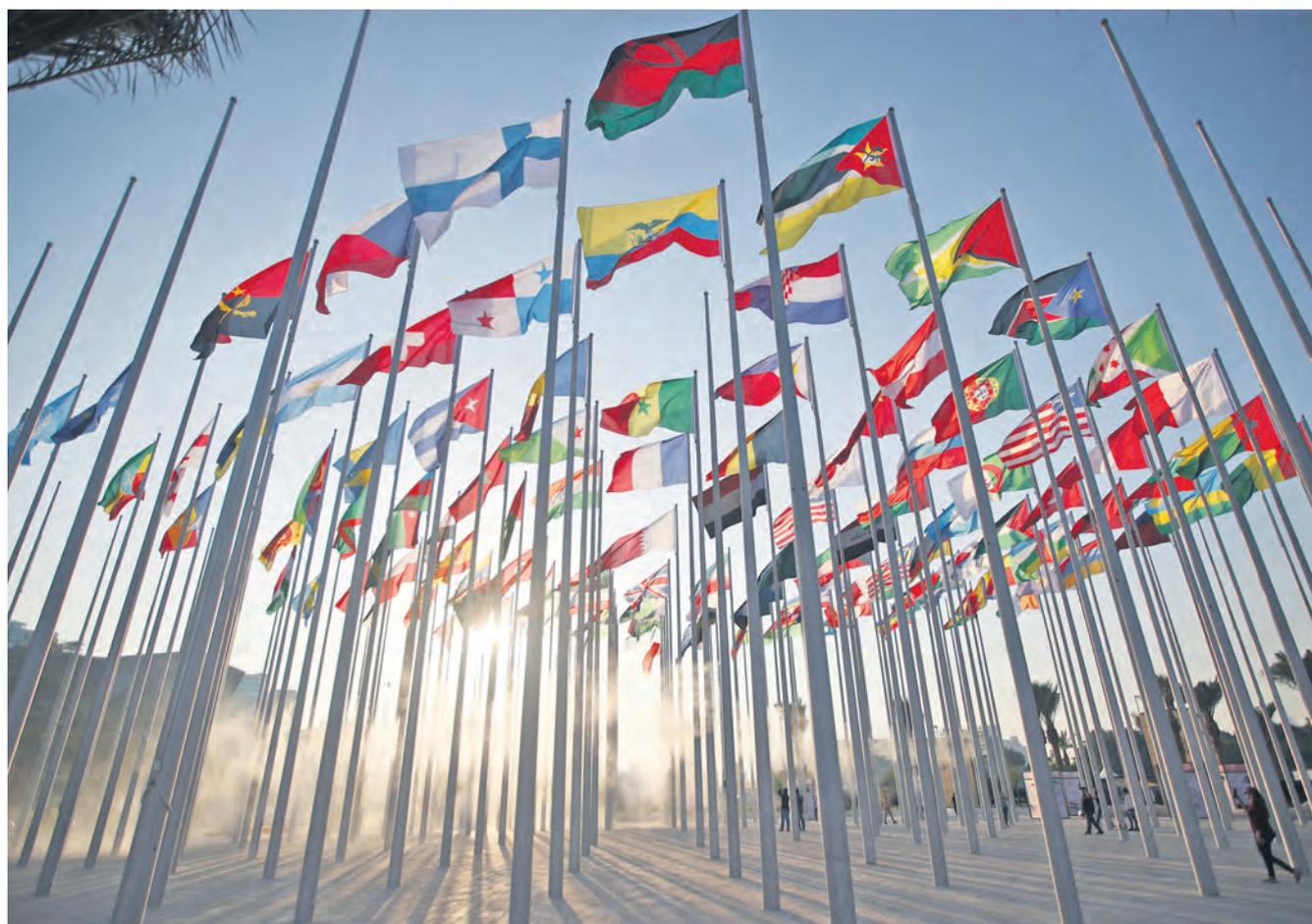
In 2014, the Speedy Tigers missed out on winning the Cup when they lost 8-3 to Australia.

The victory also saw them avenge the 2-1 defeat by South Korea that wrecked Malaysia's hopes of win-

ning the Asia Cup in May.

Malaysia's best achievement previously in the tournament, which began in 1983, was finishing as runners-up in 1985, 2007, 2009, 2013 and 2014. - Bernama

Tiny Qatar braces for onslaught of football fans



DOHA - Fans have booked accommodation in more than 90,000 rooms, tents, apartments, villas and portacabins on each of the peak days of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, organisers said, adding that at least 25,000 rooms are still available.

"The market is still open and (fans) have enough time to decide and to book," said Omar Al-Jaber, executive director of accommodations for the Supreme Committee of Delivery and Legacy (SC), organisers of the tournament that begins on Nov 20.

Omar was standing in a giant tent that will serve as one of seven dining halls for a fan village set up on a stretch of desert hemmed in by expressways south of the capital Doha.

For US\$200 (RM925) a night, fans can rent one of 6,000 brightly-painted aluminium portacabins, arranged in long, straight rows. There is a temporary supermarket, outdoor screens to watch games and astroturf to keep the dust down.

After the tournament, Qatar will donate the portacabins to "poor countries" to be used as houses, Omar added.

Qatar is expecting 1.2 million visitors during the month-long tournament, with the peak number expected between Nov 24 and 28, during the busy group stage.

On average, fans will spend seven nights in Qatar, Omar said. - Reuters

Air Selangor's 2021 Sustainability Report

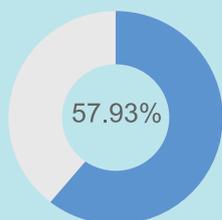
Water supplied to over consumers in Selangor

8.4 million

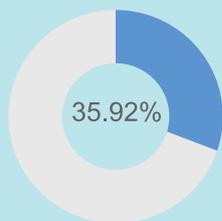
As of December 2021

reached **99.8% compliance** with the Ministry of Health's Drinking Water Quality Standard (DWQS)*

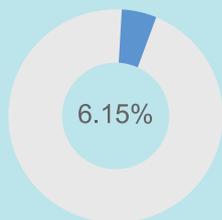
Air Selangor operates **1,122 active water quality sampling stations**



650 (57.93%) stations under mandatory monitoring by ministry



403 (35.92%) stations monitored by Air Selangor



69 (6.15%) stations jointly monitored

*Results from 251,901 tests conducted at its water quality sampling stations

