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Ready for 2023

As the world moves towards an economic slowdown, Selangor has unveiled a budget to confront and hold back the headwinds of the coming year. At RM2.4 billion, it offers strategies and also hope — seeking to continue strengthening the state's standing with fiscal buffers while also developing a stronger, and more united, future generation. With it, the state administration is echoing the message that prosperity is possible through good planning and responsible governance, even in tough times.

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Unanimous vote against party hopping

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 24 approved the Selangor State Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2022 (RUU) to enable the Anti-Party Hopping Enactment to be implemented in the state.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari tabled the motion for the proposed amendment on Nov 23 and it was unanimously supported by state assemblymen during the state assembly sitting.

During the wind-up of the Bill, he said the purpose of the amendment was to ensure that the Anti-Party Hopping Enactment is in line with what had been previously decided at the Federal level in Parliament.

"This is so that there is no 'clash' with what has been decided at the Federal (Parliament) level. With this amendment, the situation (state politics) is guaranteed with the people being able to choose individuals from certain parties, and leaders need to be responsible to the people," said Amirudin.

When presenting the enactment on Nov 23, the Menteri Besar said the amendment was carried out in accordance with the Constitution (Amendment) Act (No. 3) 2022 to create a provision prohibiting members of parliament from changing parties that came into effect on Oct 5.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah approved the Bill on Aug 31 and it was gazetted as Act A1663 on Sept 6.

Meanwhile, State Legislative Assembly Speaker Ng Suee Lim said the approval of the enactment would ensure that people's representatives would be more loyal to the party and responsible for the mandate given.

"The people voted so they (the assemblymen) have to fight for the people. At the same time, the Anti-Party Hopping Enactment guarantees political stability," he told reporters at the annex of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly building here on Nov 24. - Bernama

Trade summit now of world standard: Exco

By **SULYN CHONG**

SHAH ALAM - The 2022 Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS), which ran from Oct 6 to 9 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, recorded some RM1.45 billion in potential business transactions.

State executive councillor for trade and investment Dato' Teng Chang Khim said SIBS saw a total of 906 exhibition booths from 623 companies and had the participation of 60 countries made up of exhibitors, international buyers, conference speakers, seminar participants, and visitors.

"SIBS 2022 has been elevated to an international-level trade exhibition and conference programme, and is held every year by the Selangor state government through Invest Selangor Bhd (Invest Selangor). This year, the event has attracted RM1.45 billion in potential business transactions and saw approximately 44,342 visitors, with 25 per cent public visitors and 75 per cent trade visitors," he said.

Teng was responding to Sijangkang state assemblyman Datuk Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi during the State Legislative Assembly sitting on Nov 24.

He said SIBS is a business-to-business platform made specifically for corporations with products that are ready for export. However, it is not a platform for microenterprises.

"SIBS 2022 was the largest one since 2015. It is recognised as an international event and we should not lower its standards. Microenterprises will have to increase their standards to be featured in the event.

MB: Personal data safe in Wavpay

SHAH ALAM - Personal data belonging to Bantuan Kehidupan Sejahtera Selangor (Bingkas) and Skim Insurans Am Selangor (Insan) recipients stored in the Wavpay e-wallet app is secure and protected.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the app, provided by Wavpay Systems Sdn Bhd, is regulated by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and is subject to strict customer information management policy, aside from complying with the Personal Data Protection Act 2010.

"E-money producer's database under the BNM regulation is required to comply with information technology



"Hence, I believe there should be an alternative platform for microenterprises to educate them and allow them the opportunities to be more competitive as they improve on their products so that they can be marketed internationally," Teng said.

The councillor added that the Selangor Aviation Show (SAS), which ran from Sept 8 to 10 at the Subang Sky-park RAC in Subang, was similarly successful, as it saw the participation of 123 exhibition booths from 66 companies, both domestic and international.

SAS had approximately 10,563 visitors and recorded a total RM1.174 billion in potential transactions.

Meanwhile, Teng said the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), which functions as a

comprehensive five-year development plan for the state, was drawn up based on short, medium and long-term strategies, as well as initiatives to achieve the vision of making Selangor a smart, prosperous and habitable state by 2025.

He said the plan's main thrust focuses on strengthening the economy, increasing the quality of life and social inclusion, and driving sustainability through smart and effective governance.

"The state government is also ready to tackle economic challenges by increasing GDP growth, the value of investments in priority and high complexity sectors, job opportunities, as well as the penetration rate of fixed broadband," Teng said.

security features to ensure the database is protected from being hacked.

"All the information compiled belongs to the state government as the shareholder, in addition to complying with BNM's criteria to ensure the data is safe," he said during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 23.

He was responding to a question from Bukit Melawati state assemblyman Juwairiya Zulkifli regarding the safety assurance on personal data and transactions performed on the Wavpay system by the state government.

Meanwhile, Amirudin also reminded app users to be responsible and not

share other people's personal information.

"Please ensure your gadgets are equipped with security features including personal identifications and secure passwords," he said.

Bingkas is part of Iltizam Selangor Penyayang's 44 incentives. Launched at the end of June, it is set to benefit up to 30,000 households involving a RM108 million allocation.

On Aug 1, state executive councillor for trade and investment Dato' Teng Chang Khim said Bingkas will be distributed via the Wavpay e-wallet for the ease and convenience of its recipients.

Charting the path forward

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM AND SULYN CHONG**

SHAH ALAM - With a total allocation of RM2.45 billion, the 2023 Selangor Budget will provide substantial fuel to propel the state economy in the coming year.

At its unveiling on Nov 25, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the money would be channelled into five key areas, or 'core strategies', to carry through his administration's goals for Selangor.

The strategies are to strengthen economic growth; nurture a united and compassionate society; focus on education and the development of future generations; promote sustainability and prosperity; and practise efficient and responsible governance.

Themed '#KitaSelangor: Inspiring Progress, Strengthening Unity, Fulfilling Hope', 51 per cent of the budget or RM1.25 billion has been set aside for operating expenditure, while the remaining 49 per cent, or RM1.2 billion, will be used for development expenditure.

Of the total amount allocated to operating expenditure, RM449.74 million will be prioritised for emoluments; RM561.78 million for services and supplies; RM12.69 million for asset purchases; RM185.97 million for grants and fixed payments; and RM39.83 million for miscellaneous expenses.

As for development expenditure, Amirudin said that the figure is higher than what was allocated in the previous budget, with an additional RM77 million or a 7 per cent increase. He said that RM355 million would be allotted for infrastructure; RM360 million for the social sector; RM287 million for economic development; and RM198 million for health, education and rural development.

In his speech to the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, Amirudin said the state's revenue collection reached 112.42 per cent of the expected figure of RM2.05 billion, while operation-



al expenditure was at 87.25 per cent (RM1.226 billion). Development expenditure was at 72.72 per cent (RM818.66 million).

"As of Nov 24, 2022, the state's revenue collection stood at RM2.304 billion compared to RM2.284 billion in 2021. We saw RM261.24 million in surplus for the state's finances.

"This is the third year in a row where our revenue collection has exceeded the target set early in the year," he said.

Amirudin added that for 2023, the estimated revenue is RM2 billion, of which RM753.72 million or 38 per cent will be from land revenue, RM570.51 million (29 per cent) from property tax and RM214.81 million (11 per cent) from the Federal government's allocation.

The state budget this time also sees an estimated deficit of RM450 million, which is RM227.28 million more than

the RM222.72 million deficit in last year's budget.

Compared to the year 2022, the deficit is higher due to expenditure on disaster management preparation stemming from climate change, and on fulfilling the need for sustainable development of the state.

Amirudin said the total state revenue in 2021 was RM2.284 billion, with RM627.19 million from recorded tax revenue, RM1.437 billion from non-tax revenue and RM219.89 million from non-revenue receipts.

Top GDP contributor

Selangor continues to be the largest contributor to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021, with a 24.8 per cent contribution to the national economy.

Amirudin said that the state remains ahead of the others, contributing RM343.5 billion in 2021 compared to RM327.1 billion in 2020.

"The value increased to 5.0 per cent in 2021 compared to -5.2 per cent in 2020, which had surpassed the national growth level with a record of 3.1 per cent.

"The accomplishments achieved so far are a result of the stability from strengthening aspects of governance, which produced efficient services and policies," he said.

Amirudin added that the leading contribution was from the services sector at 59.5 per cent, followed by manufacturing (31.4 per cent), and construction (5.1 per cent). As for agriculture and mining and quarrying, each contributed 1.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively.

More bonus for civil servants

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has announced a special financial incentive of two and a half months' salary, or a minimum of RM1,000, for its civil servants.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the bonus, with a total financial implication of RM37.63 million, would be paid in stages starting from December.

In May, the Selangor administration gave out a month's bonus as special financial aid for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration, bringing the total financial incentive disbursed for the year 2022 to two and a half months' salary.

"I am happy to announce the special financial aid for the state's civil servants this year, including those whose salaries are paid by the Federal gov-

ernment.

"This is a show of appreciation to the civil servants for their outstanding performance and commitment to ensuring the efficiency of the state government's services," said Amirudin during the closing of his tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on Nov 25.

Amirudin said that the civil servants will receive one month's pay on Dec 29, while the remaining half month's salary will be disbursed in February 2023, in preparation for the opening of schools in March.

He also hinted that another round of special payout will be given for next year's Hari Raya season but the amount has yet to be determined.

CEPat gets the job done fast

By **SULYN CHONG**

SHAH ALAM - The Citizen E-Payment (CEPat) digital platform has recorded over 1.9 million transactions and about 90,000 registered users as of October 2022.

State executive councillor for industry and trade Dato' Teng Chang Khim said that the mobile app was developed using an allocation amounting to RM5.9 million from Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI.

CEPat is a centralised electronic payment application for government-paid services in Selangor, such as assessment tax, licences, compounds, rental and many more.

"To date, there are 62 services offered by CEPat covering 11 Selangor state local authorities and seven mediums available for user choice," he said in response to a question by Bukit Lanjan state assemblyman Elizabeth Wong Keat Ping at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting, on Nov 29.

Wong had asked for an update on the programmes under the Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU) and the total funds allocated by the state agency.

Other initiatives run by the SSDU are as below:

C5i Smart Selangor Operations Centre (SSOC)

In December 2021, SSOC was in operation 24 hours a day for flood management. Several entities, namely the State Disaster Management Unit, the State Government's Corporate Division, the SSDU and the Selangor State Civil Defense Force (APM), were working collaboratively during the period.

The SSDU was tasked to ensure that all eight emergency lines and ICT



hardware as well as facilities at the SSOC were functioning properly, assisted the State Disaster Management Unit in answering calls from flood victims and recorded them centrally for further action by the related parties.

The centre was completed in November 2020 and is located in Dewan Jubli Perak at the Selangor State Secretariat Building.

It is equipped with an operations room with a capacity of 22 people, a meeting room, a media room, a staff lounge, hardware and equipment such as 45 units of display panels and one unit of display control software, closed-circuit cameras (CCTV), high-

speed internet services (Gigabit) and others.

It also has GenSet capability to support the operation of SSOC for up to 24 hours. The State Disaster Management Unit leads the operations at the SSOC and is assisted by the SSDU.

Intelligent Traffic Monitoring System (ITMS)

The implementation of ITMS used up RM1.3 million of the state government grant. This pilot project monitors traffic at Persiaran Kewajipan, USJ, through the use of CCTV, telecommunication network connections and the

development of road data analytics.

The digital data collection, 24-hour monitoring and data analysis can help the Subang Jaya City Council to identify and plan more effective traffic distribution methods based on the facts obtained.

Selangor Intelligent Transport System (SITS)

To date, SITS has 50,000 active users with 200,000 downloads and to enable the application, it has used a total of RM1 million from the state government grant.

SITS helps Selangor Smart Bus users identify bus routes, bus stop locations and expected bus arrivals in near real-time.

In addition, users can report incidents of dangerous driving by bus drivers and make reports in the event of personal belongings being accidentally left behind on the buses.

Intelligence Response Selangor (i-RS)

Developed using a state government fund of RM1.4 million, the system has enabled the mending of nearly 37,000 potholes since its creation in 2016.

The work is collaboratively carried out by the 12 local authorities, nine district Works Departments, the Selangor State Office and nine Selangor Land and District Offices.

The efficiency rate of the agencies in mending the potholes, which can also be monitored, has so far shown a good result of 90 per cent.

This backend system was developed to process all reports of potholes by the public that are reported through Waze.

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Applause for 5 state reps turned MPs

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Legislative Assembly has congratulated five state representatives for their victory in the recent 15th general election.

Speaker Ng Suee Lim delivered a short congratulatory message during the third meeting of the fifth term of the 14th Selangor State Legislative Assembly, which commenced on Nov 23.

"Before we begin the state assembly sitting, I would like to congratulate Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, V. Ganabatirau, Rodziah Ismail, Mohd Sany Hamzan and Dato' Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi for their win in the recent GE15," he said.

Amirudin, who is also the Sungai Tua state assemblyman, is now the newly-elected Gombak member of parliament, defeating former three-term MP Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

Other state representatives who are also now MPs include Batu Tiga state assemblyman Rodziah, who defeated former three-term MP Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin in Ampang, Kota Kemuning state assemblyman Ganabatirau who now represents Klang, Taman Templer state assemblyman Mohd Sany who won in Hulu Langat and Sijangkang state assemblyman Dr Ahmad Yunus who won in Kuala Langat.

New cabinet: A signal of reform

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

SHAH ALAM - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim unveiled a historic 28-member Unity Government Cabinet on Dec 2, one that also features for the first time the appointment of two Deputy Prime Ministers.

The Deputy Prime Ministers are Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) senior vice-president Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who is representing Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS). He is also the Plantations and Commodities Minister.

Even though Anwar's coalition, Pakatan Harapan (Harapan), was unable to form a simple parliamentary majority following the fractious 15th general election (GE15), the announcement of the first-of-its-kind multi-coalition government has brought to an end the nearly two months of caretaker rule following the dissolution of Parliament on Oct 10.

Keeping to his GE15 promise of forming a smaller cabinet, Anwar, who is also the Finance Minister, has assured that the leaner cabinet will be the start to better governance, one that avoids wastage, corruption and the abuse of power.

Anwar is also under pressure to lighten the people's burden.

"Of course, the savings may not be too significant with the current number of ministers, but it is a clear signal to the people that the unity government, together with the strength of the public service, will ensure it can be done.

"What we eventually want to see is an avoidance of wastage, and a reduction in unnecessary spending, which begins with the Prime Minister's Office itself," said Anwar after revealing his cabinet lineup at Perdana Putra on Dec 2.

The formation of the Cabinet came after Anwar was sworn in as the 10th Prime Minister to lead a unity government comprising of Harapan (which

has 82 seats), Barisan Nasional (30 seats), Gabungan Parti Sarawak (23 seats), and Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (six seats).

Anwar was sworn in before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah on Nov 24.

Meanwhile, Universiti Teknologi Mara School of Media and Information Warfare Studies' security and political analyst Dr Noor Nirwandy Mat Noordin said that the new cabinet is balanced and meets the expectations of the people.

He said the smaller cabinet shows that the government is serious about controlling expenditures and unnecessary budgets, which could help in restoring public confidence.

"This is the approach that the public is looking to see, as they want to know how the deputy prime ministers and Mohamad Sabu, who was named the Agriculture and Food Security Minister, would look into the food security issue.

"The crucial part is to address the economic issues, the rising cost of living, people-centric concerns and human security. They need to assure the public of the security of their finances and that their (personal) safety is well taken care of, assured by the Federal Constitution and the National Security policy," he told *Selangor Journal* when contacted.

Noor Nirwandy said that there are expectations of Anwar placing some sort of indicator to regulate his cabinet ministers to ensure that they carry out their tasks accordingly.

In response to Anwar taking hold of the finance portfolio, he said that it reflects Anwar's preparedness to take responsibility for the current ringgit depreciation and the country's debt and to mitigate the coming recession.

"This interpretation hopes that he can have strategic measures and look into strategic economic elements. We don't want the country to fall into an economic depression," he said.



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Empowering women as the backbone of society

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor state government has agreed to cooperate with the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and to contribute approximately RM1.6 million to the EPF i-Suri scheme, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

"The incentive will benefit a total of 26,913 people who have been registered as EPF members.

"This is to appreciate the services of women who are the backbone of families and communities. This contribution is to help the citizens of the state who are registered under the e-Kasih list," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on Nov 25.

The i-Suri scheme, under the EPF, was introduced in 2018 by the former Pakatan Harapan-led government to encourage housewives, single mothers, divorcees and widows who are registered in the national database on poverty (e-Kasih) to start saving independently for their future.

The scheme allows for the voluntary transfer of 2 per cent EPF contributions from the husband's account to the wife's and is eligible for a government contribution of RM480 per year.

Other initiatives to ensure that the welfare of women and children in Selangor is protected are as follows:

- RM336,000 to be allocated for the Single Mother Economic Development Incentive, targeting 1,000 recipients throughout the state as well as to allocate a special quota for single mothers to own a house, for example through the Rumah Selangorku programme. The state government will work with the Selangor Housing and Property Board (LPHS) to ensure property developers fulfil their corporate social responsibilities by not marginalising single mothers from owning a house.
- To continue the Asuh Pintar programme through Yayasan Warisan Anak Selangor with a total allocation of RM600,000. The initiative provides monthly fee assistance of RM100 for children aged four and below from B40 families.
- To provide a one-off RM100 incentive on nursery or kindergarten annual registration fees for children aged four and below with a total allocation of



RM500,000.

- To establish the Yayasan Insan Istimewa Selangor (Yanis) as part of the state government's commitment towards empowering children with special needs in the state, with a total allocation of RM4 million.
- To introduce the Iltizam Anak Istimewa Selangor Card (Anis Card) that will provide the cardholder access to all sorts of assistance including education fee subsidies at the Early Intervention Programme Centre and grants for the purchase of special needs equipment through the Anis Special Assistance programme; for the purchase of necessities through the Bingkas programme; health screening and treatment assistance through Iltizam Selangor Sihat and shopping vouchers as well as death benefits through the SMUE programme.
- RM1 million to be allocated to Anis Special Assistance to help special needs children purchase support equipment, medicines and supplements. In 2023, the programme will be expanded to include additional

benefits such as medical treatment at specialist hospitals.

- RM3 million to be allocated to the Skim Iltizam Anak Selangor through the Sijil Simpanan Premium Nasional (SSPM) Prime account where RM100 will be deposited into the scheme for five years. This initiative will benefit some 30,000 children in Selangor.
- To allocate RM4.6 million for the Iltizam Penjagaan & Pendidikan Awal Kanak-Kanak Selangor (Impak Selangor), which will provide benefits to nearly 4,000 nursery centres and 40,000 families across the state. Impak Selangor is an initiative that helps to improve the early childhood care system by:
 - registering home-based childcare operators on a platform that is accessible via a centralised childcare data system
 - providing training programmes to registered childcare workers
 - creating an ecosystem and better direction for the care industry in Selangor to produce more registered and trained childcare workers.

Programme to foster racial unity

SHAH ALAM - The state government will initiate the Selangor Unity Ambassador programme next year with a total allocation of RM300,000, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said Selangor is the first state in the country to introduce such a programme, which gathers individuals of different ethnicities to champion the unity agenda and act as mediators of unity in the community.

"The ambassadors will be appointed in each state constituency to ensure that the programme would reach the grassroots level.

"This programme is part of the state government's effort in ensuring that unity among Selangor citizens remains intact and everyone lives together harmoniously," he said when tabling the 2023 Selangor Budget on Nov 25.

The Menteri Besar added that another RM300,000 will be set aside for the Kita Selangor Unity Grant, which refers to a specific fund for state government agencies, associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to carry out unity-related activities and campaigns.

"The grant will ensure messages relating to unity can

be conveyed continuously to the people, thus creating a good impact on the community," he said.

Apart from that, Amirudin said some RM8 million will be channelled to non-Muslim associations that have submitted their allocation requests to the Selangor Special Committee for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Taoism (Limas).

"The purpose of the funds is to provide basic needs to non-Muslim houses of worship in terms of infrastructure and equipment upgrade so that religious classes can be carried out," he said.



RM7.9m to beef up agro sector

By SULYN CHONG

SHAH ALAM - The state government will allocate RM7.9 million to the agricultural sector, especially for food agriculture, through the Food Security Programme, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

"This year has been a challenging year in terms of the economy, not only for the state of Selangor but also the country and the whole world as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Similar challenges are felt in the agricultural sector, especially in the early stages when the movement control order was implemented in the country," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget, at the State Legislative Assembly on Nov 25.

Amirudin said the state government is focused on ensuring that food supplies in Selangor are at a safe level and on increasing the income of agropreneurs.

Sustainable agriculture practices will be implemented through five policies under the Selangor Agro Transformation Plan (PeTA):

High-value crops

- RM1.2 million is budgeted to develop reputable and experienced companies before they serve as mentors to new entrepreneurs when more land is opened for agriculture.

Modernising agricultural methods

- A total of RM2 million is allocated for the implementation of the Agricultural Revolution 4.0 concept, which will introduce new methods such as temperature and humidity control, aerial imaging and the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) to combat challenges in obtaining land. It will also counter manpower challenges resulting from an ageing population and a high dependency on foreign labour.

Agropreneur development

- An allocation of RM3 million will be used to overcome the problem of an ageing population among existing agropreneurs, and offer awareness and encouragement programmes to the younger generation on the use of modern equipment and gadgets.

Marketing upgrade

- RM1.2 million is set aside to intensify the marketing of agricultural products so that consumers can purchase these products at cheaper prices.

Agrotourism

- The agrotourism programme will receive RM500,000 to help attract tourists to Selangor and increase the income of agropreneurs.

The policies will be mobilised under nine clusters, namely Agro Prihatin, Agro Komuniti, Agro Centre of Excellence (ACE), Agropreneur Selangor, Agro Pelancongan, Agro Maju Selangor, Agro Niaga, E-Agro as well as the Smart Selangor Agro Park (SSAP) and the Smart Selangor Agro Farm (SSAF).

The policies are to be overseen by the Selangor Food Security Committee with the involvement of various departments, agencies, non-governmental organisations and various levels of society.

Meanwhile, another RM11 million is to be allocated to 14 incentive programmes that will focus on efforts to upgrade the agro-food infrastructure and use the latest technology at farms and retail outlets.

RM6m to revive domestic tourism

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has allocated RM6 million to empower the state's tourism industry, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said two tourism promotion campaigns are introduced — 'Pusing Selangor Dulu!' for the domestic market and 'Splendid Selangor, Take Me Anywhere' for the international market.

Similarly, the 2023 Selangor Global Tourism Convention mega event will be continued, based on the traders-to-customers concept, with a RM1 million allocation.

"The event will focus on the 'Travel Fair' concept, which gives tourists the opportunity to get the best discounts for tourism packages in the state.

"The mega convention is capable of raising Selangor's tourism profile to higher levels, especially on the world stage, as well as boosting the state's tourism industry," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget at the State Legislative Assembly on Nov 25.

Amirudin added that competitions would also be organised to involve the community, associations and tourism agencies, and to revive the domestic tourism sector that has been affected by the pandemic.

"Members of the public, associations or tourism agencies can obtain a grant of up to RM20,000, which is aimed at helping industry players promote Selangor more actively as a major tourist destination both in Malaysia and worldwide," he said.

Entertainment tax waived another year

SHAH ALAM - The state government has decided to extend the Entertainment Duty exemption to Dec 31 next year, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Although the sector is one of the main contributors to Selangor's tax revenue, he said the waiver will be implemented in light of the struggles faced by the industry's players, including local stage performers, live bands, and buskers.

"Therefore, we will extend the exemption of the Entertainment Duty which was first introduced this year, to Dec 31, 2023.

"In addition, the state government is also aware of the issues faced by organisers and operators of ticketed entertainment activities, who are required to pay a deposit before obtaining full permission from the local councils even if the tickets have yet to be entirely sold.

"Therefore, the state government has agreed to reduce the deposit rate to 20 per cent of the original deposit, as part of our efforts to improve the delivery of services and create ease in doing business for entertainment operators and organisers in Selangor," Amirudin said when tabling the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on Nov 25.

The state government also wishes to develop a one-stop centre online to handle the processing of entertainment taxes, licences, and venue permits.

This effort will involve the Selangor State Treasury, the State Economic Planning Unit (Upem) and all 12 local authorities.

Meanwhile, Amirudin also announced that several events celebrating the state's identity and culture are in the works with an allocation of RM1.5 million.

They include the Pertandingan Keroncong Antarabangsa Negeri Selangor (the Selangor International Keroncong Competition), the Pesta Nasi Ambeng Negeri Selangor (the Selangor Nasi Ambeng Festival) and Konsert Rentak Selangor that will feature local celebrities.

By SULYN CHONG & NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

Good health a pillar of economic strength: MB

SHAH ALAM - The state government has allocated RM65.6 million for public health and will continue the Iltizam Selangor Sihat (ISS) programme with a RM45 million allocation every year, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

"The continuation of the ISS programme will benefit 100,000 general policyholders and an estimated 150,000 registered family members.

"Each policyholder is eligible for RM500 in basic medical treatment and vaccination per year for the family category, and RM250 per year for the individual category at any panel clinic throughout the state," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 25.

Amirudin said the increase in public health spending every year, from 4.7 per cent in 2020 to 5.1 per cent in 2021, and to 5.8 per cent in 2022, will bring health dividends to the people.

"We always pay serious attention to the people's health, which is the most valuable asset to the nation. We believe healthy people are the backbone of economic strength, especially in stimulating employment and the country's productivity.

"According to the 2019 National Health and Morbidity Survey report, as many as 1.7 million Malaysians suffer from three main non-communicable diseases (NCD), namely diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol, while another 3.4 million individuals suffer from any two NCDs," he said.

As such, the Menteri Besar listed several health-related allocations:

- **A RM5 million** allocation for Bantuan Sihat Selangor (BSS), which was first introduced in 2009. The initiative provides up to RM5,000 in financial assistance to the underprivileged to cover the cost of health

treatments including kidney dialysis, eye cataract surgery, minor surgery, cancer treatment, thalassemia and assistance with medical equipment.

- **RM5 million** for its heart disease treatment scheme (Skim Rawatan Jantung Negeri Selangor), which offers free heart treatment services to qualified groups.
- **RM1 million** for the Iltizam Selangor Sihat Penjawat Awam (ISSPA) programme, which will benefit all civil servants Grade 44 and below with benefits like basic treatment and protective benefits that cover natural death and permanent disability, critical illness and funeral expenses.
- **RM1.5 million** to continue the Selangor Saring free health screening programme and RM1 million for the Selangor Cancer programme.
- **RM500,000** for the Selangor Mental Health (Sehat) programme, encompassing its promotion, early screening, the Sehat hotline, subsidies for psychiatric treatments, module development, and counsellor training.
- **RM500,000** for the Anak Selangor Anak Sihat (Asas) programme, to address the issue of child malnutrition in the state.
- **RM1 million** for the SELangkah mobile phone application, to standardise public health programmes under one digital platform.
- **RM200,000** to address the issue of period poverty, which includes awareness campaigns and providing free sanitary pads.

Upgrades for public facilities get priority

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has allocated RM28 million to continue the Selangor Penyayang Project for the year 2023.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said that under the initiative, as much as RM500,000 will be given to a state constituency to provide locals with small entrepreneurial opportunities to help them stimulate the local economy.

"However, priority will be given to projects that help to maintain and upgrade public facilities and infrastructure, including those that

Jajaja
Selangor
Penyayang

do not have an annual maintenance provision.

"In 2022, the Selangor Penyayang Project was welcomed by various people with a total of 664 projects in 56 state constituencies involving a cost of RM35 million," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget, here on Nov 25.

The state government implemented the Selangor Penyayang Project to focus on the maintenance of public infrastructure to maintain the momentum of economic recovery post Covid-19.

Selangor poised to achieve investment targets

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has recorded RM4.88 billion in investment value with 118 approved manufacturing projects from January to June this year, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

"Of the total value, as much as RM1.63 billion was derived from domestic investments while RM3.255 billion was from foreign investments.

"The economic growth recorded in the first six months of this year created approximately 4,944 potential jobs," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 25.

Although data from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority indicated rather slow growth in the second quarter of 2022, Amirudin said the state government is confident it is able to achieve its RM10 billion investment target for this year.

"Our confidence is due to new investment project proposals, and additions to existing investments that are being monitored by the state government," he said.

The following are the initiatives to boost Selangor's economic growth:

Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (Idriss)

This private investment development in the Sepang and Kuala Langat districts are driven and equipped with facilities by the state government and supported by state and Federal incentives. It covers a total area of 40,000 acres and has an estimated gross development value (GDV) of RM1 trillion, based on a conservative calculation of RM250 million per acre. To ensure development projects are implemented smoothly, a Task Force Committee will coordinate, monitor and help resolve issues that arise.

Managed Industrial Park (MIP)

A total development area of 732.4 acres has been allocated under Idriss to encourage the opening of new industrial areas with the concept of MIP, which will provide facilities that are conducive to the needs of investors.

Promotional programmes to spearhead investments

A total of RM25 million has been allocated to implement programmes to encourage investments through the Selangor government's subsidiary, Invest Selangor Bhd (Invest Selangor). Programmes such as the Trade & Investment Mission will be further strengthened, in addition to developing focus industries such as Life Sciences, Food & Beverage, Electrical & Electronics, Transport Equipment and Machinery & Equipment. Two new industries, namely Logistics Services and Digital Investments that cover Global Business Services (GBS), data centres



and creative content technology are identified as potentials in boosting Selangor as an investment destination.

Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS)



whom were trade visitors. The 2022 SIBS is the largest one since 2015 and is recognised as an event of international standard. The 2023 SIBS will take place in October next year at the same venue.

Selangor Aviation Show (SAS)

The annual SAS exhibition to promote Business Aviation and General Aviation in the state garnered a total of RM1.174 billion in potential

transactions in 2022. It attracted the participation of 66 local and foreign companies, 124 exhibition booths, and 10,563 visitors which consisted of members of the public and trade visitors. The exhibition was held on Sept 8 to 10 at the Subang SkyPark RAC in Selangor. The next exhibition is scheduled for September 2023 at the same location.

Selangor International Halal Conference (Selhac)



The state government has allocated RM700,000 for next year's instalment of the Selangor International Halal Conference (Selhac). The conference, which comprises several components including exhibitions, a halal trade forum and a business matching session, was first organised in 2021 and aims to promote as well as increase the halal industry's participation in the state. The business matching session serves to connect local and foreign halal industry players. The state government will be proposing for another element to be added to the conference, namely the Asean Halal Scientist Conference, a one-day event that would serve as a platform to gather all scientists and lab technicians involved in the industry across the region to present their research.

RM7m to revive abandoned housing projects

SHAH ALAM - The Tabung Pemulihan Projek Terbangkai (Tepat), which has approximately RM6.98 million remaining, will be used next year to revive more abandoned housing projects.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the fund's primary goal is to help buyers eventually own the houses or shop lots that were abandoned, as well as to reduce the number of such projects in Selangor.

"At present, two projects involving 274 units are being restored through this fund, in particular, for repairs to their external infrastructure as village expansion projects," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget at the State Legislative Assembly on Nov 25.

They are Taman Desa Mawar in Kuala Selangor, which costs RM6.36 million, and Kampung Koskan in Hulu Selangor, which costs RM4.65 million. Both are expected to be completed by the first quarter of next year.

The state government aims to use Tepat's remaining funds for abandoned projects that have been identified by the local authorities.

The Menteri Besar also said RM2 million has been made available to restore aban-

doned projects in areas that come under the administration of the Shah Alam City Council.

They include:

- completing the sewerage system and obtaining the building plan approval and the certificate of completion and compliance (CCC) for the Taman Nostalgia project in Section 32
- road paving, works on the Indah Water Konsortium plant, as well as building renovations for the Taman Andaman 5 project in Section 30.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said that for the Rumah Selangorku project, the state administration has 47,861 units up on offer as of July 2022.

So far, 29,822 buyers have received the keys to their houses.

Amirudin said 18,039 units are under construction while 168,069 units are still in the planning process.

"The initiative has also contributed directly to the state's economic development, where the total amount of affordable housing is estimated to be worth some RM6.36 billion," he said.

State invests in cyber security, latest tech

SHAH ALAM - The state government will allocate RM2 million to beef up cyber security in Selangor.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the funds will be channelled to the Cyber Emergency Response Team (CERT) to protect, detect and respond to any cyber attacks, in line with the Malaysian Cyber Security Strategy (MCSS) 2021-2024 action plan.

"The formation of CERT Selangor will begin with at least five designations that will be tasked to oversee the state's information, communications and technology (ICT) infrastructure as well as the security of the system and data," he said when tabling the 2023 Selangor Budget, here on Nov 25.

Amirudin added that the state government, through its Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU), will be implementing the Financial Assistance Application System (Sistem Permohonan Bantuan Kewangan) at all its 56 state representative offices.

"Being able to do it online will help to expedite the application process, and hopefully, meet the people's expectations.

"We also will be expanding the use of the Smart Selangor Digital Infrastructure by introducing the Digital ID initiative. Through this initiative, the public will be able to access all state government services using only one digital ID and will not have to create multiple user IDs," he said.

The state government has also agreed to upgrade the eSidang System, the communication system currently used at state assembly sittings.

"The technology used for the system has become obsolete and it has to be changed to align with current advancements.

"This system allows state representatives and government officials to communicate with each other without disrupting the assembly sitting," he added.

Amirudin said the state government is also in the process of upgrading the Online Tender System and it is expected to be done by the middle of next year.

This system allows eligible bidders to bid for state government projects.

"In addition, the state government will be expanding public wifi coverage to rural areas as part of our initiative to narrow the digital gap," he said.



To everything a season

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM AND JERRY CHOONG**

Christmas has always been a time of celebration, a time where people gathered to enjoy each other's company and the festivities. When the pandemic happened two years ago, big gatherings were scaled back and many Malaysian Christians instead took the time to quietly reflect.

For Pastor Kenneth Chin (*pic*), the founding senior pastor of Acts Church in Subang Jaya, this was not a bad thing. Christmas, he said, is also a time for looking back on the things that count.

The 51-year-old lawyer by training said that when Covid-19 happened, Christmas celebrations still carried on, albeit on a smaller scale at home with friends and family.

"Christmas is supposed to be a very personal and private thing, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. So it is personal, about family, and about remembering what Jesus did for us," he told *Selangor Journal*.

Given that most shopping outlets and public places were closed during Christmas throughout Covid-19, it enabled people to reflect on the true meaning of that special day, Chin said.

"In a way, Christmas has become very commercialised, which is not wrong in itself but can make people forget what it is about. Before the pandemic, people could enjoy the lights on the



Christmas trees, gifts to the children, and so on. "But when Covid-19 happened, it helped many Christians put things into perspective. When we strip back the lights and the music, it allows us to sit back and celebrate Jesus, who we believe is our saviour and has died for our sins."

Chin added that many of his parishioners had told him they enjoyed the peace and quiet Covid-19 brought, as it led them to appreciate the real meaning of Christmas.

"So in that sense, the pandemic and its restrictions did not necessarily take anything away from Christmas. But now that churches are resuming their public celebrations, inviting friends to events or having staff lunches and dinners, it is time to come together again.

"Everybody loves a festive season, even those who do not celebrate it. All races and religions enjoy exchanging gifts, so I look forward to this Christmas as a more joyous and exciting time for us all," he said.

Cast no stone

Recent happenings in the wake of the 15th general election on Nov 19 — where hate speech dominated social media and threats were made — do not trouble Chin.

"At the end of the day, Christmas is not just about gifts and giving, it is also about forgiveness. All of us are human and make mistakes, and to focus on the mistakes of other people is

not right.

"For that is what people do when they hate, they focus on the mistakes and weaknesses of others. That is what hate speech is — looking down on someone else and putting them down," he said.

Chin described his magnanimous stance as being rooted in the awareness that no one is immune from sin, not even the most righteous of persons, quoting Biblical verses to support his position.

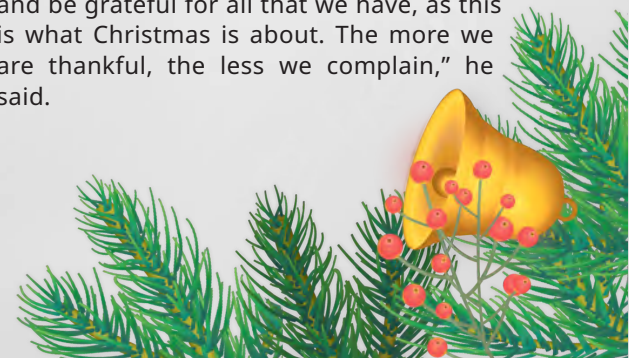
"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.' Let us celebrate each other's strengths and beauty. The Christmas season is a time of joy and hope, where we focus on each other's positives instead of the negatives.

"The less we hate one another, the more we are able to see ourselves and how we also make mistakes. We, as Malaysians, ought to concentrate on the good and minimise the bad, so that we can become better and brighter."

Not doing so, Chin said, meant it would be difficult to achieve unity, as without agreeing with one another there can never be unity.

"We have to agree even on disagreeing. And it is not just about tolerating each other, which is the bare minimum. Instead, it would be better to focus on what we can agree on to build unity, as there are so many things we can agree on as Malaysians.

"During Christmas, we ought to give thanks and be grateful for all that we have, as this is what Christmas is about. The more we are thankful, the less we complain," he said.





Suzliana (right) and assistant librarian Sharifah Nor Ashikin Syed Mohd Pital with two of the 3,000 books donated by Sultan Sharafuddin to the library, on Nov 23, and (inset) other titles personally chosen by the Sultan



victory in the Second World War, too, can be found here. History enthusiasts would be pleased to find a copy of *Winston Churchill and The Art of Leadership* and *How To Think Like Churchill* on the shelves.

There is also a biography of George V or George Frederick Ernest Albert, who ruled as the King of England from 1910 to 1936. Many other books on philosophy, psychology, languages, science, mathematics, technology, history and the arts take their turns to be read.

“His Royal Highness is particularly fond of books about leadership. He enjoys learning about other world leaders,” said Suzliana.

In fact, the books that Sultan Sharafuddin donated are so dear to his heart that he makes it a point to talk about them in detail during his visits to the library.

“His Royal Highness will take his time to explain each and every book. Even if there are 30 titles, we would hear about them all.

“It is clear he does not share a book that he has not already read himself.

His love for books is undeniable,” Suzliana said about the Selangor Ruler.

She added that Sultan Sharafuddin often asks about his books and whether they are well received by the library’s visitors.

During a book launch in 2017, he made it a point to advise everyone to

always choose the best-quality titles and to never stop learning.

“Do not just rely on social media for your reading. Much of it is gossip and sensationalised, not facts and knowledge,” he said.

Sultan Sharafuddin’s tradition of gifting books has been emulated by his children, His Highness Tengku Amir Shah and Her Highness Tengku Datin Paduka Setia Zatahah.

Some 3,000 books belonging to the Sultan’s grandchildren now line the shelves of the children’s section of the Raja Tun Uda, waiting to be picked up and treasured.



Gift of knowledge

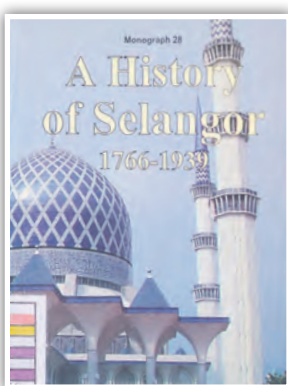
By NADIAH ZAMLUS

If books could talk, those donated by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj, to the Raja Tun Uda Library in Shah Alam, would tell us that they have served their purpose.

Over the years, students, researchers and avid readers have poured through their pages, seeking facts, wisdom and knowledge.

According to the library’s records, the books personally chosen by the Sultan were loaned to its visitors 5,404 times in 2015. Just two years later, the number of loans had doubled to 9,774.

It was only when Covid-19 kept everyone in their homes that requests for the books slowed down. In 2020, despite all odds, the



books were read 1,556 times. Last October, the number of loans climbed to 3,907, reaffirming their popularity.

At the library, His Royal Highness’ treasury is guarded well. Since 2011, no books

have been allowed to leave the premises. They cannot be brought home. Some of the volumes are limited editions, others are sourced from beyond Malaysia’s borders.

Those who understand their worth — scholars and enthusiasts — seek them out at the Raja Tun Uda.

“Many people have expressed that the Sultan’s books are hard to find elsewhere. A good number of

them are first edition prints, which are worth a lot,” said the deputy director of the library, Suzliana Abdul Hamid.

Handpicked titles

On the fourth floor of the Raja Tun Uda Library in Section 13, Shah Alam, the collection of 3,000 books is arranged on a shelf that bears the words, ‘Selected & Donated by H.R.H Sultan Idris Shah’.

Of the many genres there, biographies stand out. They tell the stories of local and foreign personalities, from much-loved figures like the late Tan Sri Dato’ SM Salim and Tan Sri P Ramlee to former Chief Secretary to the Government and statesman, the late Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.

Written works on Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, who led Britain to



Keeping Selangor's taps from running dry

SHAH ALAM - There is a significant decrease in code red emergency cases and the number of unscheduled water supply interruptions due to pollution in 2022 compared to 2020.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the data on code red cases showed improvements in terms of pollution control and mitigation works at water sources.

"Overall, the quantity of Selangor's water has improved this year. As of Aug 31, all state dam capacities are at a good level by being above the 90 per cent reserve mark, which can supply water for at least three months and last a maximum of six months without rain," he told the Selangor State Legislative Assembly during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget on Nov 25.

Amirudin also explained that under the Raw Water Security Scheme (SJAM), there is an ongoing conservation project at Sungai Gong.

"It involves improving the water quality at the river through a combination of biological approaches such as the placement of nanotechnology reagents (AquaBio Solution) to increase the diversity of diatoms in the water sources for an estimated period of one year," he said.

In addition, Amirudin said the state government has agreed for the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) to work with Syarikat Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd to develop 21 ponds and former mines as sources of water.

He said Luas has developed these source supply ponds through three phases which include an audit of the ponds at the river basins of Sungai Selangor, Sungai Klang and Sungai Langat, the building and widening of ponds, and connecting ponds to rivers.

"One of the approaches that will be implemented by Luas is Zero Discharge Policy (ZDP) and the Polluters Pay Principle (PPP).

"ZDP is a green initiative where premises recycle their emissions instead of releasing them to the environment and water resources, while PPP will enforce charges and fines against premises that release pollutants that do not comply with standards," said the Menteri Besar.

Meanwhile, Amirudin reaffirmed the state government's unyielding stance on pollution and said it takes the issue of dry taps very seriously. He also said the issue is often sensationalised by other parties as being a weakness of the government in managing the water industry.

"Selangor is working hard to achieve the target of increasing water supply reserves to 15 per cent as a long-term 'water demand planning' initiative. The water supply reserves as of Dec 31, 2021, is at a rate of approximately 13.6 per cent," he said.

Here are some other state government water supply initiatives:

- To implement the Rasau Water Supply Scheme through Air Selangor, at a total cost of RM4 billion.
- To implement the Rasau Dual-function Raw Water Supply Scheme and Flood Mitigation Project (Projek Takungan Dwi Fungsi Bagi Sumber Bekalan Air Mentah Skim Bekalan Air Rasau dan Tebatan Banjir) at a total cost of RM1.8 billion, which will be funded via a direct grant from the Federal government.
- A RM332 million allocation approved under the SJAM to assure the water treatment plants remain operational in the event water sources become polluted. For 2023, another RM100 million has been allocated for the implementation of this project.
- An allocation of RM40 million per year for the continuation of the state government's efforts in providing 20 cubic meters of free water under the Darul Ehsan Water Scheme (Sade). Starting on Oct 1, 2022, Sade has amended its eligibility conditions by raising the minimum household income limit from RM4,000 to RM5,000.
- Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd has allocated approximately RM150 million per annum for a programme that will see the replacement of between 110 and 120 km of water pipes a year. This is to ensure that the water supplied to consumers in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya through a 30,008 km piping network will not be disrupted. In 2021, a total of 1,910 incidents of burst pipes were recorded due to several factors, including the age of the pipes, rusting, excessive pressure, and factors caused by third parties.



Special focus on river basins

By **SULYN CHONG**

SHAH ALAM - Some RM16.3 million has been allocated for the development of flood mitigation projects throughout Selangor, which will be distributed according to river basins identified by the state government, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

"RM6.255 million will be allocated for the Sungai Klang river basin, RM5.67 million for the Sungai Langat river basin, and RM1.52 million for the Sungai Selangor river basin.

"The figures account for 24 per cent of the total RM68 million allocation given to the Selangor State Irrigation and Drainage Department under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP)," he said during the tabling of the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly, here on Nov 25.

For the year 2023, the department has allocated the projects under the 12MP a total of RM991 million.

"The projects under the 12MP involve six new projects, 51 projects-in-planning, 20 non-physical projects, and 26 projects which were extended from the 11MP," Amirudin said.

He added that the flood mitigation projects

— including the implementation of research at the respective river basins — would ensure the effectiveness of the state's flood management efforts.

"These projects will also be implemented synergistically with other projects under the Federal government, for more holistic effectiveness in dealing with Selangor's flood issues," said Amirudin.

The following are the projects to be implemented by the Selangor State Irrigation and Drainage Department under the 12MP, with their respective allocations:

- **RM16.1 million** for flood mitigation projects
- **RM8.5 million** for drainage system development
- **RM16.3 million** for river basin development
- **RM1.05 million** for water resource and hydrology development
- **RM13.5 million** for environmentally-friendly drainage management programmes
- **RM3.6 million** for beach development
- **RM3.7 million** for mechanical and electrical infrastructure development
- **RM1.55 million** for building infrastructure development
- **RM600,000** for departmental ICT development
- **RM2.9 million** for unexpected emergency works



State invests in incinerator tech

By NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI

SHAH ALAM - The state government has approved a total investment of RM4.5 billion to expedite the use of modern technology in addressing garbage disposal problems in Selangor.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the amount will be utilised to build a 245-acre infrastructure development project called the Selangor Green Energy Ecopark in Rawang through KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd (KDEBWM).

"We have anticipated that the existing landfills would no longer be able to accommodate the waste that will be generated in the future.

"Therefore, the waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator technology is being proposed for this project as it does not require a huge plot of land and does not affect the environment," he said when tabling the 2023 Selangor Budget in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here on Nov 25.

He said the WTE technology is also capable of producing electricity from incinerated waste, which will eventually provide a long-term solution for solid waste management.

"From the implementation of this project, it is estimated that 85 per cent of disposal leftovers at landfills could be reduced in the future.

"It would also help to lessen the dependence on landfills," he added.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said that the state government will provide



RM300,000 in funds to carry out studies for the development of the Selangor Climate Change Policy.

He said his administration takes a serious view of the climate change issue and of the extreme weather that has caused floods and landslides, in addition to new dangers like heat waves, rising sea levels, and the loss of biodiversity.

To this, the integration of short, me-

di-um and long-term plans was carried out via policies that will guide the state government and the relevant agencies.

Amirudin added the studies will be focused on actions to strengthen the state's development until 2030, by taking into account climate change.

It will include the management and conservation of the environment and of water resources, which will continue

to be implemented within the context of sustainable development, based on economic and social development, and environmental protection.

"To this, the state government has allocated RM800,000 for environmental conservation and awareness programmes. For river and beach conservation, the state government will allocate RM400,000 to that end," he said.

Solar street lights, better roads for all districts

SHAH ALAM - Selangor plans to continue with the second phase of its solar-powered street light programme through a RM3 million allocation, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Amirudin said his administration intends to introduce solar LED-based street lights in all state constituencies.

"This is in line with our endeavour to create a greener environment and practise sustainable development in Selangor," Amirudin said when tabling the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 25.

The state government is also resolved to narrow the development gap between the state's districts by expanding road networks.

"To achieve this, we have approved a RM145 million allocation to the Works Department for the implementation of road projects in 2023," Amirudin said.

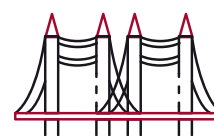
Other allocations relating to road



construction and management include:

- **RM11.8 million** for the construction of bridges and overhead pedestrian crossings in Kg Sungai Buah in Sepang, Sungai Serigala, and Laluan B44 Jalan Hulu Bernam-Sungai Besar in Hulu Selangor, as well as appointing a consultant to upgrade the Bagan Sungai Besar Bridge at Jalan Sungai Limau Dua-Jalang Panchang Bedena (B53) in Sabak Bernam, next year.
- **RM40.98 million** for the ongoing construction of new roads, including a road connecting Kampung Sri Indah A to Hospital Sungai Buloh (RM10.98 million), a road connecting Sg Kelambu to Genting Sanyen (RM13.5 million), and a road from Kampung Ulu Chuchuh to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (RM16 million).
- **RM65.3 million** to ensure that existing roads can accommodate the increasing num-

ber of vehicles and to overcome congestion on state roads, including at Simpang Tiga Jalan Rahidin near Masjid Al-Huda in Kampung Paya Jaras, Sungai Buloh (RM4.7 million); at Jalan Bukit Rimau in Klang (RM12.5 million); at Laluan B17 (Jalan Reko) (RM1.7 million); at the intersection of Jalan Kampung Bukit Dugang, Sepang (RM1.7 million); at the road to SMK Tiram Jaya in Tanjung Karang, Kuala Selangor (RM3.2 million); and at Jalan B44, Jalan Sungai Panjang from the intersection of Jalan Kuala Selangor-Telok Intan to Parit Empat Timur, Sabak Bernam (RM2.3 million).



- **RM1.5 million** to implement state road gazettement works in stages in nine Selangor districts.
- **RM2 million** to continue with existing state road gazettement in nine districts.
- **RM6.3 million** to construct new buildings and upgrade existing ones, including renovating the Selangor Palace (RM3 million).

More money for schools

By **NASUHA BADRUL HUZAINI**

SHAH ALAM - The state government has allocated RM26.5 million for the Selangor School Aid Programme next year.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the programme, which started in 2009, will be continued in 2023 and would also include applications from Sekolah Kebangsaan and Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan.

"After taking into account the annual increase in applications, the needs of the schools, as well as a large number of schools that were impacted by prior floods, the total budget for this programme had been increased," he said when tabling the 2023 Selangor Budget during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly in Shah Alam, on Nov 25.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said the Selangor State Education Standing Committee has collaborated with the Selangor State Education Department to carry out the Selangor People's Tutoring Programme (PTRS), which provides online

learning platforms to Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) candidates as well as Standard Six students.

"Based on the need to improve Selangor's overall achievement in SPM, the state government will continue working with the education department and will consider expanding the existing five core PTRS subjects to several elective subjects in 2023," he said.

Other initiatives announced by the Menteri Besar for educational purposes include:

- To continue the Selangor R&D and Innovation Expo with a total allocation of RM2 million, and collaborate with various sectors in the research, development and innovation fields.
- To allocate RM3 million for research and development grants in the field of science and technology.
- To provide RM3 million to the Higher Learning Institute Entry Reward (HPIPT),

which offers RM1,000 in assistance to any Selangor student from a low-income family who received an offer to study in a public or private university.

- To provide RM1 million to implement programmes related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and another RM500,000 for talent development programmes.

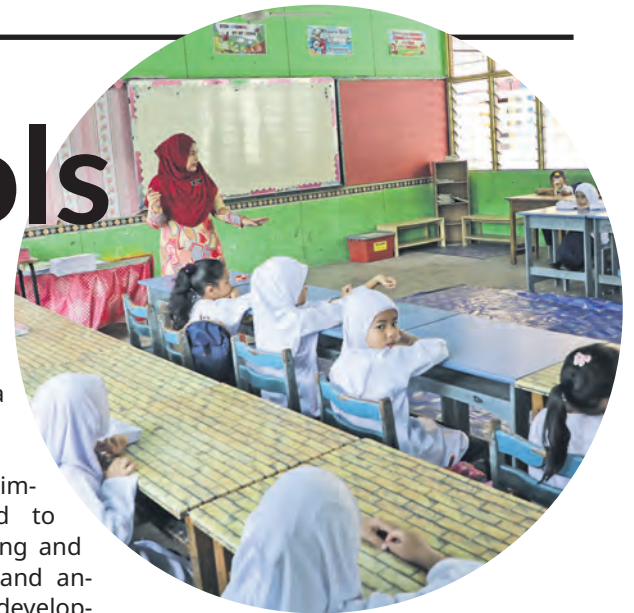
- To allocate RM15 million to the Smart Selangor Technical and Professional Skills Initiative (Iktisass) to continue its Malaysian Skills Certificate Certification (Pensijilan Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia) to tahfiz graduates and the development of the Huffaz Professional programme.

- To provide RM5 million for the empowerment and development of the Selangor International University (UIS) and Universiti Selangor (Unisel) in 2023.

- To channel RM8 million to the Selangor Scholarship Group Fund (Tabung Kumpulan Wang Biasiswa Selangor) for the implementation of five programmes under Peduli Siswa and Special Programme.

- To allocate RM2 million for human capital development.

- To continue organising the Selangor Job Fair with a total allocation of RM1.4 million, following this year's positive response.



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Better funding a win for sports

By ZAREEF MUZAMMIL

SHAH ALAM - More activities can be carried out under the sports development programme in Selangor next year with a RM7 million allocation.

Selangor National Sports Council executive director Mohamad Nizam Marjugi said the allocation, announced in the 2023 Selangor Budget on Nov 25, will be utilised for training programmes, allowances and sports equipment.

According to Mohamad

Nizam, the fund will also be utilised by 50 sports associations in the state to pay for entry fees for competitions at all levels, from local to national.

"We would like to thank the Selangor government under the leadership of Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari who has announced some allocation to help develop sports activities in the state.



"Hopefully we may discover more athletes who can compete at the highest level, especially to help Selangor improve our position in the Malaysia Games (Sukma) in the future," he said.

On Nov 25, Amirudin announced that the sports development programme in Selangor will be continued with a total allocation of RM7 million.

Empowering youths with bigger budget

SHAH ALAM - A total of RM2.83 million will be allocated for the programmes and activities related to the Selangor Local Youth Movement (PeBS) next year, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said PeBS has been formed to connect the state government with youth groups to ensure the latter has an empowering platform.

"The allocation would ensure that the sports development agenda will be carried out inclusively and progressively.

"Considering that e-sports has garnered a tremendous

response from the youth, the state government has agreed to channel RM600,000 for the programme next year to provide more opportunities for young people to be involved," he said when tabling the 2023 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly here on Nov 25.

The Menteri Besar added that projects relating to repairing sports infrastructure will receive a total budget of RM2.24 million.

The projects aim to repair damaged sports facilities and refurbish the facilities based on local needs.

World Cup 2022: Who will win the Golden Boot?

Marcus Rashford

The England striker has enjoyed a dream start to his World Cup campaign in Qatar.

Rashford's place in the squad was uncertain a few months ago due to form and fitness, but the Manchester United forward moved up the Golden Boot standings after he netted twice in England's rout of a Gareth Bale-led Wales side.

Rashford's teammates Phil Foden (Manchester City), Jack Grealish (Manchester City), Bukayo Saka (Arsenal), Raheem Sterling (Chelsea) and Jude Bellingham (Borussia Dortmund) also featured on the scoresheet during the group stage.

Cody Gakpo

The Dutch forward has managed to find the net regularly in Qatar so far, as the Netherlands progressed to the last 16 after finishing top of Group A.

The 23-year-old Gakpo has been influential in his club PSV Eindhoven's run to the knockout stages in the Europa League and is a target of transfer speculation with top European clubs said to be vying for his signature when next summer's transfer window opens.

Enner Valencia

Ecuador's all-time top scorer, nicknamed 'Superman' at home, scored the first two goals of the World Cup in their opening match against hosts Qatar at the Al Bayt stadium as the South Americans ran out winners.

Valencia added a third in a deserved 1-1 draw against the Netherlands, but will not be able to improve his tally as Ecuador failed to reach the knockout stage after losing 2-1 to Senegal to finish third in Group A.

Kylian Mbappe

France's talisman failed to find the net as Tunisia recorded a famous upset over Les Bleus in their final Group D match.

The 23-year-old scored against Australia in their opener and bagged a second-half double against Denmark as France booked their

The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar is nearing its knockout phase. One of the top awards that players compete for is the Golden Boot, given to the player with the most goals in the tournament. The number of assists by a player is considered in the case of a tie for goals scored. If multiple players are tied on both counts, the winner is decided after factoring in which player played the lowest minutes. Below is an overview of contenders in the race for top scorer in the 2022 World Cup.



knockout spot.

He could add to that as his country faces off against Poland in the last 16. Poland's all-time top scorer Robert Lewandowski will also be looking to better his count.

Lionel Messi

The Argentina great is playing in what he has said is probably his last World Cup. The 35-year-old opened his account by burying a spot-kick in a shock Group C loss to Saudi Arabia, before scoring one and assisting Enzo Fernandez in an emotionally-charged win over Mexico.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner has enjoyed a trophy-laden career at both club and

personal level but has so far failed to deliver a long-awaited World Cup for his country, something fans around the world would like to see change this time around.

Messi's arch-rival, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, will also be eyeing the Golden Boot as he became the first player to score in five World Cups after his goal against Ghana in their Group H opener.

Bruno Fernandes

Portugal's run in the World Cup in Qatar so far has been overshadowed by controversy surrounding Cristiano Ronaldo and his acrimonious departure from Manchester United.

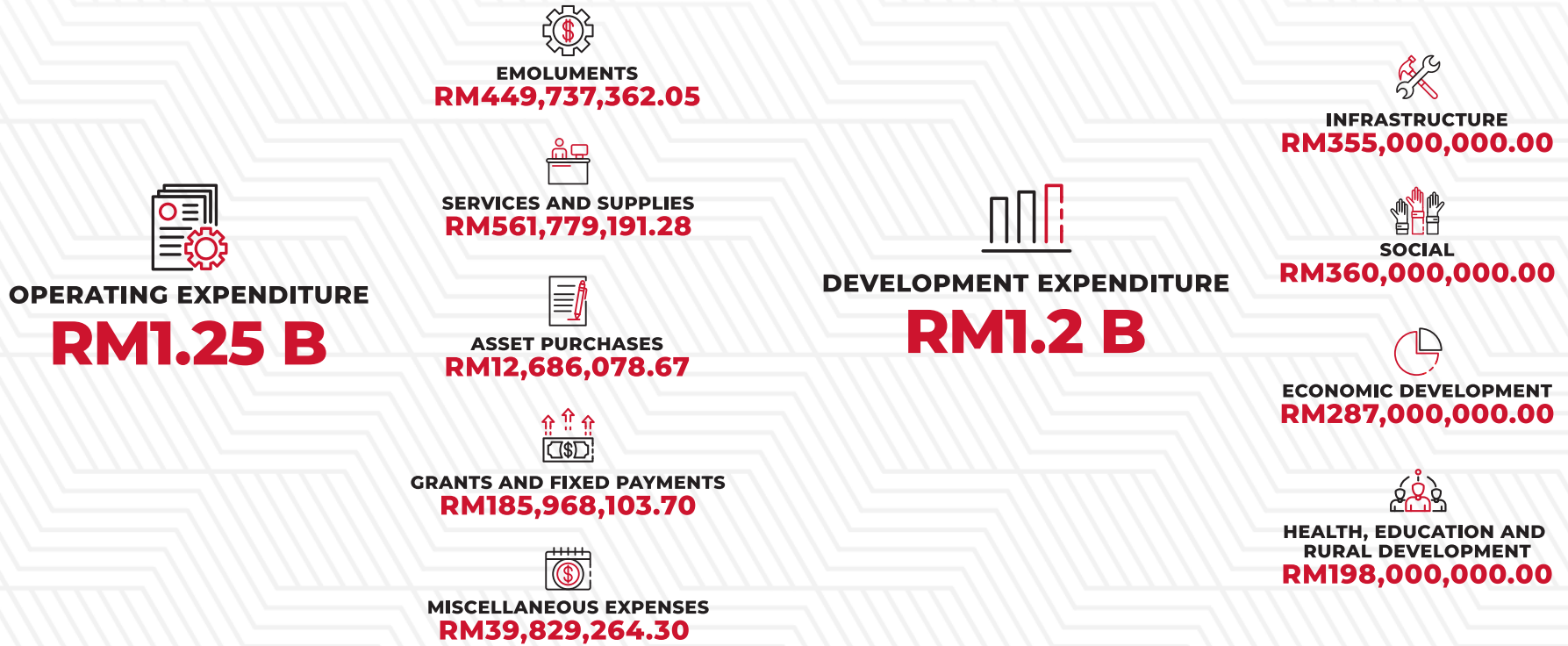
But 28-year-old Bruno Fernandes, who has long played second fiddle to his superstar teammate, stepped out of Ronaldo's shadow by scoring twice against Uruguay, after he set up two goals in Portugal's 3-2 win against Ghana. - Reuters





2023 SELANGOR BUDGET

Allocation RM2.45 BILION



STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC GROWTH

