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SELANGOR JOURNAL



New markets beckon

In tandem with its goal to achieve economic success, the Selangor government aspires to put promising Malaysian technology startups on the global map. The recent Pitch Malaysia: USA Series by Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec) has successfully brought nine local soonicorn companies to the US to help improve their visibility to various venture capitalists. The state government also networked with the Malaysian diaspora in Washington and Silicon Valley, and participated in industrial visits.

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Hospital gets royal rebrand



Dr Amin Sah presents a model of the much-anticipated Cardiology Centre to Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin on May 8 - Picture by MOHD YUSNI ARIFFIN

SERDANG - Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj on May 8 officiated a ceremony to rename Hospital Serdang, which is now known as Hospital Sultan Idris Shah Serdang.

In his speech, the Ruler thanked the government for naming the hospital after him.

"Indeed, the health and welfare of the people are important to me and will always be close to my heart," he said at the ceremony held at the auditorium of the hospital near here.

The event was also attended by Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa, health director-general Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan and Hospital Serdang director Dr Amin Sah Ahmad were also in attendance.

Hospital Serdang, which began operations in May 2005, is a major specialist hospital and the National Tertiary Cardiac Referral Centre for the central region and for complex heart cases nationwide.

Sultan Sharafuddin said that the much-anticipated Cardiology Centre of the hospital will make it easier for the people, especially those in Selangor, to get the best treatment.

"I hope that with the establishment of

this Cardiology Centre, we will be able to improve the delivery of health services and reduce the waiting period for heart patients in Selangor.

"I was informed that Hospital Sultan Idris Shah Serdang has also forged a strategic collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Hospital. It is hoped that this collaboration can be extended to other specialist facilities and services," he said.

His Royal Highness also urged the government to diversify funding sources for people's healthcare by focusing on the development of a national health insurance programme.

"At the same time, the government should take care of the welfare of doctors and health workers because it is a noble job and they should be given due recognition. Do not politicise the issue as it could ultimately be detrimental to all parties.

"The management of the new hospital must also have an efficient system and ensure that scheduled maintenance is carried out. Every damaged infrastructure and equipment must be upgraded and repaired in order to improve the public's access to healthcare," said Sultan Sharafuddin. - Bernama

New Subang Jaya mayor has wealth of experience

By NORRASYIDAH ARSHAD

SUBANG JAYA - Newly-appointed Subang Jaya Mayor Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim (*pic*) is determined to maintain Subang Jaya City Council's (MBSJ) momentum of excellence, which it has gradually accomplished over the years.

The former Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) president has vowed to improve MBSJ's quality of service for the city's residents.

"MBSJ is on the right track. So we will focus more on issues, and practise dealing with problems before residents can file complaints.

"I feel that the challenge of handling a city and its residents is roughly the same as that of a township. What is important though, is us providing good services to the citizens," he said during a press conference on May 3.

Earlier, the 56-year-old Mohd

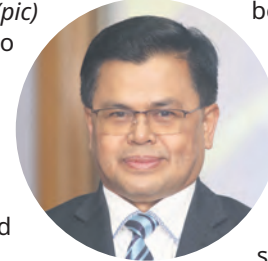
Fauzi took his oath of office and signed the letter of appointment before his deputy Mohd Zulkurnain Che Ali, with MBSJ council members serving as witnesses.

He succeeds Datuk Johary Anuar, who was appointed as the Selangor State Government (Development) Deputy Secretary in January.

Aside from MPAJ, he also served as Sepang Municipal Council president from 2019 to 2020.

With a diploma in Public Management from Intan, a bachelor's degree in Sciences (Honours) from Universiti Sains Malaysia, and a master's degree in Land Resource Management from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM), Mohd Fauzi brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge.

The Terengganu native also once served as the chief assistant secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Corporate Division.



MPAJ mulls one-stop centre for derelict vehicles

AMPANG JAYA - The Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) is carrying out a study to introduce a one-stop centre to manage the disposal of derelict vehicles.

Its newly appointed president, Dr Ani Ahmad, said the new idea needed analysis, particularly in terms of its implementation, such as compliance with legislation.

"Prior to this, the local authority only disposed of seized vehicles. The service MPAJ wants to provide this time is for public members looking to dispose of their derelict vehicles, but do not know where and how to.

"If implemented, we would be able to help the public dispose of their vehicles at a set fee, while simultaneously serving as another revenue stream for the council," she said.

Dr Ani was speaking to the press after her oath-taking ceremony as MPAJ's ninth president, at Menara MPAJ on May 8.

The council is also looking to commercialise electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) collection services.

For now, MPAJ is focusing on diversifying its revenue collection as well as assessment tax collection.

She said this is because the percentage of main land use in Ampang Jaya now consists of residential areas at 19.11 per cent, commercial land areas at 3.08 per cent, and forest reserves at 53.06 per cent.

"A closer inspection indicates that some 'hot' areas have now become 'somewhat cool', with a drop in economic value and decreased revenues. Meanwhile, the population's expectations of MPAJ remain high, which we must balance out evenly in light of the plateauing revenues.

"In relation to several strategies to increase revenue, it has become necessary to plan and implement them properly, so as to gain the support of Ampang Jaya's residents when it comes to increasing the council's revenue, as when that happens we will be able to offer better services for all," Dr Ani said.

She also called upon all MPAJ employees to continue cultivating teamwork, being honest and sincere, and practise integrity in every task.

Pitching for global success

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - The state government has successfully brought nine promising Malaysian tech startups to participate in investment and pitching events in the United States (US).

Following the success of the third installation of the Pitch Malaysia: USA Series by Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec), which was led by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, the state government will soon announce the achievements secured by the startups that participated in the event.

"For example, one of the immediate successes achieved in the second series last year was when one of the participants, Nextmind AI, managed to increase its visibility by participating in the SelectUSA Investment Summit and raised enough funds to open a new branch office in New York soon.

"The four-in-one programme consists of industrial visits, such as to the George Washington University's Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, pitching sessions with at least 15 VCs (venture capitalists), and networking with the Malaysian diaspora in Washington and the Silicon Valley," said Sidec chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping when contacted.

Yong said to participate in the 2023 SelectUSA Investment Summit held in Maryland from May 1 to May 4, the startups had to undergo several levels of the selection process, which included screening by the US Department of Commerce.

"There are several criteria that must be met. On our side, this includes being



Yong (left) and the Malaysian candidates visit the AWS Startup Loft in San Francisco — Picture via Facebook/Sidec

able to raise a funding of US\$500,000 and generating at least US\$1 million in revenue in the last 12 months.

"These startups are the ones that have potential growth, so that is why they were selected. And aside from us, they are also screened by the US Department of Commerce to qualify in the SelectUSA summit, along with almost 4,000 other startups," he said.

Yong added that the third series had focused on pitching events and introducing the Malaysian startups to various VCs. He said plans are already underway for another series to take place in June next year, where the focus would be on the global trend in startups, namely in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and biotechnology or Net-Zero.

"We not only brought our startups, which are the soonicorns that have the

potential to become unicorn companies but also the ecosystem players, which are our local VCs to meet with the global VCs," said Yong.

Apart from the global summit, he said the participating startups also took part in a pitching event held for the very first time at the Malaysian Embassy in Washington.

"It was a full house with 110 participants attending, including 30 startup founders from Singapore and Taiwan as well as Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade in the Department of Commerce Diane Farrell and Malaysia's ambassador to the US Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz.

"This is the first time we held our own pitching event at the Malaysian Embassy, which gave the startups chances to pitch before their innovative companies," he said.

Apart from participating in pitching

events in Washington and Maryland, the Malaysian tech startups also travelled to Silicon Valley for an opportunity to meet with several VCs and foreign startups who have established themselves in the US.

Meanwhile, the state government via the Selangor Technical and Development Center (STDC) will forge a strategic partnership with 3D product design multinational corporation Dassault Systems in the city of Boston in the US.

Amirudin on May 8 said this is part of the efforts to foster ties with other industry players for the benefit of Selangor's citizens.

During the visit, Amirudin said he also met with university students from Selangor in the city of Los Angeles, California, and the Malaysian community in San Francisco.

High revenues indicative of the people's trust

KLANG - The state's revenue collection, presently at RM893.11 million, has managed to reach 45 per cent of its RM2.05 billion target set for this year, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the amount is encouraging, as it was collected within the first three months of the year.

"This is also indicative of the confidence the people, and the Selangor business community, have in this 15-year-old

administration as we head towards the state elections.

"Yet we ought not to rest on our laurels, and I hope the confidence evinced by the performance of the state revenue collection will also be translated (into support) in the coming weeks and months, InsyaAllah," Amirudin said when speaking to the guests of the Jelajah Kita Selangor Aidilfitri programme at the Taman Sri Kerayong field in Klang on April 30.

The Menteri Besar added that in the wake of the encouraging revenue collection, the state government announced Insentif Khas Aidilfitri Kita Selangor 2023.

"This incentive not only provides a month's salary to state government civil servants, but also to Federal civil servants including teachers, the police, and others who serve in Selangor.

"This is the first time it has been carried out in Selangor Darul Ehsan, and

is motivated by the successful performance of the state government's revenue collection in the first three months of this year," he said.

The open house was also attended by the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj and the Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, with over 10,000 guests. The food served was jointly prepared by the residents of several nearby villages.

MBI plays key role in state's economic agenda

PETALING JAYA - State-owned investment arm Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI is one of the agencies which plays a pivotal role in ensuring the success of Selangor's agenda, as formulated in the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Its Corporate Services Division head

Daud Abd Rahman said the five-year plan focuses on four cores.

"The first core is economic strengthening, which is led by MBI. One of our main roles is to further augment Selangor's status as the heart of economic growth.

"MBI also plays a role in ensuring

that the state is the main destination for quality investment in Malaysia and across the Asian region. The focus is on nine main sectors, including aerospace and the digital economy," he said.

Daud was speaking at MBI's Hari Raya Aidilfitri event with media prac-

tioners and was joined by MBI subsidiaries including Media Selangor, KDEB Waste Management, Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd, and Tourism Selangor, on May 10.

The RS-1's 2021-2025 proposal, worth RM212.44 billion, was approved on Aug 2 last year.

New way to send money abroad

SHAH ALAM - Wavpay Fintech Holding Sdn Bhd (Wavpay) and Sunway Money Sdn Bhd (Sunway Money) have formed a joint venture to develop a system for international money transfers.

Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the partnership would see Sunway Money functioning as the service provider through an e-wallet application operated by the state-owned company, Wavpay.

"Both parties will be working together to push forward the financial technology industry and open up new potential for digitalisation.

"This initiative is also in line with the state government's efforts to promote and grow the digital economy," said the Menteri Besar on April 10 after witnessing the signing of the agreement between Wavpay and Sunway Money at the Selangor State Secretariat Building, here.

In comparison to regular banking, transactions using the system could be conducted 24 hours a day, with recipients receiving their money within less than five minutes.

Each transaction also only has a RM1 charge compared to the higher rates levied by other banks.

"From information released by the Department of Statistics, we know that there are 2.41 million foreigners employed in Malaysia. This system is expected to benefit them and also advance the (United Nations) Sustainable Development Goals," he said.

Meanwhile, Wavpay chief executive officer Brahma Shakthi said he is confident the system has a huge market opportunity among foreign workers.

"We will begin by introducing it in factories at the start of May," he said, adding that foreign students and entrepreneurs with business ties overseas will be encouraged to use it too.



Special guests Anwar and Wan Azizah at the screening of his biopic at Dadi Cinema, Pavilion on May 8 — Picture by Bernama

Events that sparked 'reformasi' now a movie

SHAH ALAM - The sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from his Deputy Prime Minister position 25 years ago fueled the embers of reform and brought about unprecedented changes to the political landscape of Malaysia that is felt until today.

Most Malaysians are no stranger to Anwar's rousing call of 'Lawan tetap lawan! Lawan sampai menang!' ('Fight on! Fight unto victory!'). However, the younger generation may not know the entire story of his political and personal struggles that began on Sept 20 in the year 1998.

A biopic has now been made to bring to the big screen Anwar's 23-year political odyssey. Directed by Indonesian Viva Westi and starring Malaysian Farid Kamil Zahari in the titular role, *Anwar: The Untold Story* premiered at Dadi Cinema, Pavilion, on May 8 with Anwar himself and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, attending.

Anwar was clearly moved after the movie ended, but when asked to share his views, he said, "I find it hard to comment as there are episodes that I have tried hard to forget because of the hurt and sadness. Azizah has gone through a lot, as have my children and friends".

However, as reported by Bernama, he praised the film as being smart and good, as it was difficult to condense the events

of 23 years into 90 minutes.

The Prime Minister and Parti Keadilan Rakyat president also said that although the overall dialogue and storyline were not 100 per cent accurate, the issues depicted in the film are based on true events.

Anwar added that he hopes to have a chance to listen to *Menjaga Cintamu*, a song sung by Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza Taruddin for the film's soundtrack, as the cinema was unable to play it during the screening due to technical issues.

Meanwhile, Dr Wan Azizah expressed her appreciation for the film, and hopes that it will address the negative perceptions cast upon Anwar all this while.

Actor and poet Pyanhabib Rahman, who was also in the audience, told reporters that he was greatly affected by many scenes, especially the ones depicting Anwar being beaten up by then-chief of police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor.

The incident, resulting in Anwar getting a black eye, sparked widespread anger and has since been burned into the psyche of many as a symbol of the politician's grit and resistance to the abuse of power.

Anwar: The Untold Story, which cost RM10 million to make, will be screened at cinemas across the country from May 18.

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MBI spends roughly RM20m a year on aid

SEPANG - Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporation), or MBI, has invested more than RM20 million annually to safeguard the wellbeing of the people.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the funds were mainly used to address issues that required immediate attention and assistance.

"(Selangor) is a wealthy state. It is bustling with activity and has a large population. When a disaster strikes, a lot of people will be affected.

"Therefore, we must strive to be a state that can withstand obstacles and challenges," he said when delivering his speech at a ceremony to hand over aid to 36 victims of a storm in Sepang, at De-

wan Komuniti Pulau Meranti here, on April 29.

Amirudin said the state is always prepared to support the people, particularly in the event of an emergency.

"Without a doubt, if (a disaster) strikes in Selangor, the state government would work with the locals to cushion the impact.

"We would not allow the people to deal with things on their own and will try to make sure that everyone, especially those who require immediate help, would be supported."

On April 8, more than 20 locations in Kampung Pulau Meranti, Taman Putra Perdana and Pangsapuri Angsana here were hit by a storm.

Free pneumococcal shots for haj

SHAH ALAM - The state government, through its Public Health Standing Committee, will continue its Selangor Vaccination Programme (Selvax) by offering 1,500 free shots of pneumococcal vaccine for haj pilgrims in the state.

State executive councillor for public health Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud said the move aims to protect and prevent pilgrims from getting lung infections while carrying out the haj.

"A total of 1,500 vaccine doses will be given to Selangor pilgrims who will attend the Haji Perdana Course tomorrow (May 7) at Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah," she said in a statement on May 6.

Dr Siti Mariah said pre-registration is available starting May 6 through the SELangkah app.

"For pilgrims unable to register online, a registration desk will also be set up (from May 7) at the mosque. Pilgrims staying outside Shah Alam are strongly advised to get vaccinated on the stipulated date.

"Those living in Shah Alam or nearby areas can get the free pneumococcal vaccine between 9am to 5pm from May 8 to June 15 at Klinik Selcare Universiti Selangor," she said.

For more information, please contact the Selcare hotline at 1-800-22-6600.



On April 27, Dr Siti Mariah said that the Selvax initiative will soon be offering 20,000 doses of Covid-19 and 10,000 doses of pneumococcal vaccines to senior citizens for free in conjunction with World Immunisation Week, which was celebrated from April 24 to 30.

She said the state government has allocated RM1.5 million for the initiative in collaboration with Selcare Clinics and the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (PBSM).

Dr Siti Mariah said since 2021, the state government has allocated more than RM1 million to provide thousands

of doses of vaccines for free to the people of Selangor through the Selvax initiative.

On June 30, 2021, the state government launched the Selvax Community and Selvax Industry programmes to expedite the vaccination process for the people in the state during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 1.25 million people in Selangor benefitted from the programme, which focuses on the low-income group, senior citizens and industrial workers.

The move to set up the Selvax programme aligned with the Federal government's National Covid-19 Immunisation Initiative (PICK).

State's peat forests essential for wet and dry spells

KUALA SELANGOR - The state's natural resources have once again proven their worth after approximately 91,080 hectares of peat swamp forest were identified in the Raja Musa Forest Reserve and the Kuala Langat Forest Reserve.

Selangor Forestry Department director Azhar Ahmad said in the wake of the dry season, efforts to preserve and restore the forest have been intensified. The forest also serves as a water catchment area to prevent floods.

"During the rainy season, the peat swamp forests help the surrounding areas by preventing water overflow. During droughts, they help to balance the water level," he said following a visit to the Raja Musa Forest Reserve with a delegation from the National Dialogue Global Environment Facility Cycle-8 (GEF-8) on May 10.

A total of 80 delegates from various agencies, including from abroad, took part in the visit which aims to foster awareness of the conservation and preservation efforts of peat swamp forests in Selangor.

Other state efforts, Azhar said, include the need to hold public hearings before degazetting

a reserve and to formulate management plans in collaboration with the state government.

"We also use an underground well method to support the peat swamp forest's hydrology," Azhar added.

Meanwhile, 796,000 trees were planted in Selangor on May 10 as part of a national greening effort via the 100 Million Tree Planting Campaign 2021-2025.

Azhar said the number of trees will continue to increase in light of the positive feedback received from the campaign.

"Anyone can register if they are carrying out tree planting. Members of the public or (government) agencies are encouraged to participate.

"They can register on the campaign website if they have planted trees. We aim to plant 100 million trees, and as such, welcome the participation of all quarters," he said.

The campaign is the government's effort to increase general awareness of the importance of green cover areas and forests for the well-being of humans and animals.

The planting of various types of trees will also help to improve the country's ecosystem and biodiversity.

Following the recent hot and dry spell, Azhar said that the Selangor Forestry Department is closely monitoring forest areas that are at risk of easily catching fire.

Hot area data analysis is being used as the department's reference point for integrated monitoring to detect any fire outbreaks.

Azhar said he has also instructed his team to patrol hot-spot areas and use drones for difficult-to-reach locations.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department said it expects a 57 per cent chance of El Niño occurring from June to September this year, bringing extreme heat and less rainfall.



Time to restructure education, says MB

By **ZAREEF MUZAMMIL**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has started to look into ways to improve on the state's education ecosystem in order to streamline it with the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the restructuring is necessary to manage the sector more effectively, efficiently, and competitively.

The initiative would also address the people's concerns, such as the cost of living, and business and employment prospects, and meeting the state's and the country's security demands.

"We want to reorganise education to ensure that the programmes offered are truly beneficial and reach the direction that has been set.

"Also, following the tabling of the RS-1, there are some new focuses. Perhaps the educational content needs to be improved," he said after officiating the Selangor Education Strategic Planning Workshop at the Selangor Public Library Corporation (PPAS) here, on April 10.

Amirudin said that the workshop, organised by Yayasan Selangor, will run for two months until May to reorganise the function of education.

"After this, there will certainly be a new orientation (in the education sector). It's time for us to review the priorities after Covid-19," he said.

About 100 people from different departments and agencies have come together to brainstorm the workshop's theme 'Building the Institutional Landscape and Ecosystem of Selangor's State Education'.

They include representatives from primary and secondary schools, institutes of higher learning, the Smart Selangor Technical Skills and Expertise Initiative (Iktisass) and the Technical and Vocational Training Programme (TVET).

Yayasan Selangor said agencies involved in implementing programmes for preschool education, senior citizens, people with disabilities (OKU), education support and education sponsorship funds are also involved.

It added that the workshop is held in three instalments to realign the state's education plans with those of the RS-1 and Malaysia Madani.

Also present at the launch were Yayasan Selangor chief executive officer Eddie Ahmad Khodzali and PPAS director Datin Paduka Mastura Muhammad.

BNM to hold OPR at 3%

KUALA LUMPUR - Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has reached the end of its hiking cycle and will leave the overnight policy rate (OPR) at 3.0 per cent for the rest of 2023, said BMI.

The research firm, which is a unit of Fitch Solutions, said BNM would increasingly turn its focus to supporting growth over the coming months as inflation continues to moderate domestically.

"This view is supported by a statement released by the central bank, where it believes the current monetary policy stance is slightly accommodative and remains supportive of the economy," BMI said in a note on May 8.

It also expects the central bank to leave its policy rate on hold at its next meeting in July for two reasons.

First, headline inflation continued to ease to 3.4 per cent year-on-year in March from 3.7 per cent in February, marking the slowest pace in nine months.

The brokerage firm noted that inflation would continue to moderate in the coming months due to base effects and softer commodity prices.

Second, BMI expects the ringgit to continue range trading over the coming months, which means that currency volatility would not pose a major concern for BNM.

"Following the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) latest meeting on May 3, our global team expects the Fed Funds Rate to be raised only marginally further to a peak of 5.50 per cent by the first half of 2023, from 5.25 per cent currently.

"Even if BNM leaves rates on hold for the rest of 2023, this is unlikely to trigger significant portfolio outflows as the divergence in interest rate differentials would be small," said BMI, adding that headline inflation to moderate to 2.5 per cent by the end-2023, bringing the average inflation to 2.9 per cent in 2023 versus 3.4 per cent in 2022.

Meanwhile, BMI expects economic growth to moderate over the coming quarters to 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2023 and 4.0 per cent in the second quarter of the year from 7.0 per cent in the last quarter of 2022, and this would be below the pre-pandemic average of 4.6 per cent recorded between 2018 and 2019.

"We expect pent-up demand to fade and the slowdown in external demand to also filter through to other parts of the economy.

"In its monetary policy statement, BNM is also of the view that exports are due to moderate," it added. - Bernama



Suhaimi (centre) at the campaign's launch at the PKNS headquarters in Shah Alam, on May 2

PKNS targets RM1b GDV for housing projects

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) is targeting a gross development value (GDV) of about RM1 billion for six new housing and real estate projects by the end of this year.

PKNS deputy chief executive officer (management and entrepreneurship) Suhaimi Kasdon said, however, the projection is subject to current market conditions.

"This year's projects involve more than 5,000 housing units in several locations, including in Shah Alam, Kota Puteri, Kuala Selangor, and Antara Gapi, Rawang," he told reporters after launching the Discover PKNS 2023 campaign on May 2.

Commenting on the campaign, Suhaimi said it will be implemented in five locations from May 6 until Oct 29, namely in Kota Put-

eri, Antara Gapi, the Selangor Cyber Valley in Cyberjaya, and the PKNS Complex and the Shah Alam Convention Centre here.

"Discover PKNS 2023 is a campaign in the form of a carnival that acts as a platform to promote PKNS projects involving the local community, in addition to the participation of PKNS's strategic partners.

"It is also to attract public engagement through activities that involve the community in the PKNS municipality as well as being a platform to attract the interest of potential buyers. We want to create more awareness of our housing products," he said.

The campaign also aims to increase the sales of PKNS products and strengthen relationships with stakeholders. - Bernama

LLSB bags gold at prestigious Green World Awards

SHAH ALAM - State subsidiary company Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) has been recognised at the Green World Awards 2023 for its efforts in implementing the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) initiative.

This is the second time LLSB and SMG have received recognition, the first being a silver award for the Best Government Sustainability Initiative at the Gulf Sustainability Awards 2022.

For the Green World Awards 2023, LLSB won gold for Sustainability in Government. The trophy and certificate were presented during a ceremony on April 24 in Miami, the United States.

Receiving the award from The Green Organisation's founder and chief executive officer Roger Wolens was LLSB's corporate services director Nini Shazrina Ahmad Shamli and Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) or MBI chief executive

officer Norita Mohd Sidek, whose organisation serves as LLSB's holding company.

The awards, a global campaign to find the world's greenest countries, companies, and communities, saw LLSB competing against more than 500 other nominations worldwide.

Aside from achieving the Gold Award for Sustainability in Government, it has also been invited to join the Green World Ambassadors movement.

Their winning paper will be published in The Green Book, the leading international work of reference on environmental best practices, so others around the world can follow their example and learn from their achievement.

"This international award is an important recognition of the work we are doing in Selangor to rejuvenate Sungai Klang by striving for a balance between development and conservation.

"SMG is a project that goes beyond beautification to address water management, water security and sustainable development. This initiative involves multiple stakeholders, and as such, the success of the SMG project can only be achieved through partnerships with like-minded organisations," said Norita, who is also a member of LLSB's board of directors.

SMG strives to improve Sungai Klang, making it viable for new economic opportunities and for the social wellbeing of communities along the river.

Some of its accomplishments include the removal of over 85,000 metric tonnes of waste since 2016, increasing the river water quality from Class V to a Class III average, and beginning flood mitigation works via the deepening and widening of an estimated 56km length of Sungai Klang, among others.

Others include successfully delivering

an upgraded riverside public park at Taman Awam Pangkalan Batu Klang, upgrading a soon-to-open mangrove conservation park near Port Klang, initiating River Education Trips with local fishermen operating river taxis, and commencing sustainable development work to raise the value of Sungai Klang's surrounding area and provide potential income opportunities and job creation to local communities.

The Green Organisation is an international, independent, non-political, non-profit environment group that began in 1994 and is dedicated to recognising, rewarding, and promoting environmental best practices around the world.

They are supported by the Environment Agency, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, the Chartered Institution for Wastes Management, and other independent bodies.

F&B expo features new supermarket, more suppliers

KUALA LUMPUR - Invest Selangor Berhad (Invest Selangor) is continuing with the Selangor International Expo (SIE) (F&B) Supermarket Buyers Programme, with collaborations with an additional supermarket and more suppliers this year.

In a statement on May 8, the state investment arm said that aside from ST Rosyam Mart Sdn Bhd (ST Rosyam) and Lulu Group Retail Malaysia (Lulu Hypermarket), Aeon Co (M) Bhd (Aeon) is also participating in the second edition of the programme.

It said that the programme has the participation of 33 suppliers with a total of 155 product SKUs (stock-keeping units).

"For the pilot edition last year, the SIE (F&B) Supermarket Buyers Programme featured two prominent retail brands, ST Rosyam and Lulu Hypermarket.

"The programme has successfully onboarded all 118 SKUs in the participating supermarket, which involves 24 suppliers. The promotion of the products selected by ST Rosyam was done at their outlet at Section 9, Shah Alam, and by Lulu Hypermarket at Setia City Mall," the statement read.

Invest Selangor said the first participating supermarket, Lulu Hypermarket, identified and selected 50 product SKUs from 10 SIE (F&B) exhibitors. Aeon selected 35 product SKUs from seven exhibitors, while ST Rosyam took in 16 suppliers with the product SKUs of 70 exhibitors.

It said that all three retailers will in-



Participants of the SIE Supermarket Buyers Programme at Lulu Hypermarket Capsquare, Kuala Lumpur, which ran for 10 days and ended on May 7

roduce the products in a promotional showcase at their respective outlets before they are introduced on the shelves.

"The SIE (F&B) Supermarket Buyers Programme provides opportunities for the exhibitors to be selected and onboarded by the participating supermarkets and hypermarkets.

"This programme is a value-added initiative introduced by Invest Selan-

gor for all exhibitors taking part in the SIE F&B exhibition. This programme aims to connect exhibitors with a vast array of buyers from participating supermarkets actively seeking new and innovative products to feature in their stores," it said.

In the statement, Invest Selangor chief executive officer Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris said that the state agency aims to expand the programme with

more supermarkets and also to look at international retail brands that are operating both locally and internationally.

"These collaborations are established so that Invest Selangor can assist entrepreneurs in expanding their market through these retail outlets," he was quoted.

For Selangor investment enquiries, visit www.investselangor.my.

Robust domestic demand propels Q1 growth

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia's economy picked up in the first quarter buoyed by firm domestic demand, central bank and government data showed on May 12.

Gross domestic product rose 5.6 per cent, according to Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and the Statistics Department, faster than the 4.8 per cent annual expansion forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll. In the fourth quarter of 2022, the economy had grown 7.1 per cent, revised up from a previously announced 7.0 per cent.

Growth had hit a 22-year high of 8.7 per cent last year as Malaysia bounced

back from a pandemic slump, but cooling global demand is expected to weigh on the outlook for the export-oriented Southeast Asian economy.

The central bank, however, said robust domestic demand will continue to drive economic expansion, maintaining its 2023 growth forecast at between 4 per cent and 5 per cent.

Malaysia's quarterly expansion was supported by improved labour market conditions, continuation of large infrastructure projects and a recovery in tourism, BNM Governor Tan Sri Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus told a press conference.

"The economy is no longer in crisis and in fact, continues to gain strength," she said.

"Risks to the growth outlook are fairly balanced, with downside risks emanating primarily from external factors."

Nor Shamsiah flagged persistent risks to inflation and did not discount a further normalisation of its benchmark interest rate after the central bank's surprise 25-basis-point hike last week, citing evolving global developments.

Some economists had seen the rate hike — which marked the return of borrowing costs to pre-pandemic lev-

els — as signalling the end of the central bank's tightening cycle.

"Any normalisations will depend on whether there will be any developments that will materially affect our assessment of the inflation and growth outlook," Nor Shamsiah said, when asked to comment on whether BNM was done hiking rates.

BNM has said it expects core and headline inflation to moderate but remain elevated over the course of 2023.

It expects headline inflation to average between 2.8 per cent and 3.8 per cent this year, compared with 3.3 per cent in 2022. - Reuters

Defending the **status quo**

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

THE Malaysian 15th general election (GE15) in 2022 was one of the most highly-anticipated political events in the country.

For the first time in Malaysian history, the outcome of a general polls resulted in a hung parliament, leading to the creation of a Unity Government through an Umno-Pakatan Harapan (PH) alliance.

The general polls, held in November of last year, were also the first time the country saw a majority of states choosing not to participate in GE15.

While the states of Sabah, Sarawak, Johor, and Melaka did not hold an election because their periods had not yet achieved maturity, Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, and Penang had not dissolved their legislatures as their terms only end in 2023.

In the coming two or three months, the six states are slated to hold their state elections and were reported to be seeing 'eye to eye' on the prospect of holding the polls simultaneously to save costs and time.

Malaysians in the six states will be heading to the polls to elect their state representatives, and the results will be scrutinised by political analysts and observers across the country, much like during the recent GE15. Selangor, in particular, will be a state to watch.

As one of the most populous and politically active states in Malaysia, Selangor is often seen as a bellwether state that could determine the political direction of the country. With the outcome of GE15, Selangor is expected to be hotly contested, with both the ruling coalition and opposition parties vying for control.

Merdeka Centre for Opinion Research co-founder Ibrahim Suffian, who has followed the country's political landscape for many years, recently shared with *Selangor Journal* his insights on the results of GE15 as well as the public perception towards the current Unity Government, and its impact on the upcoming state elections.

Voter behaviour

In the November 19 polls last year, the Election Commission recorded a final voter turnout of 73.89 per cent, indicating a high level of political engagement among Malaysians.

While this can be read as a positive trend for the upcoming state elections, as it suggests that Malaysians are becoming increasingly politically aware and engaged, Ibrahim noted that the voter pattern observed in GE15 may not necessarily be repeated.

"It is hard to speculate on voter turnout as sometimes events closer to the election date may encourage or discourage people to vote.

"Thus far, we're seeing a likelihood that it may be a little lower than the November GE.



Particularly in younger Malay voters, they are warming up to Anwar and PH, such that it offers PH slightly better prospects in their contest with PN (Perikatan Nasional)

Ibrahim Suffian
Merdeka Centre for Opinion
Research co-founder

This is because some people are not taking the trouble to take the time to return to their hometowns to cast their ballots or because they believe that their vote won't have a big impact on the outcome," said the programmes director.

While GE15 saw a shift towards younger voters and urban constituencies, state elections are often influenced by more localised issues, making it difficult to predict how the state elections will pan out as each state may have a different set of factors that will impact the voter pattern.

Ibrahim said that many of the voters would make their choice based on party preference.

However in the context of Selangor, Ibrahim said that there is a significant difference in party preference for Federal and state levels.

"During the last general election as well as for the upcoming election, it appears to be fairly clear that for the vast majority of voters, their choices will be made along preferences towards the party.

"There is, however, an exception among young voters and some women voters that are within the Malay segment of the electorate as they look into factors such as personalities and issues.

"As for Selangor, PH has a significant advantage over others, perhaps on account of its presiding over the administration over the past three terms," he said.

Shifting sentiment

One of the factors that will play a significant role in the state elections is public perception

towards the current Federal government.

In February, a survey by Merdeka Centre found that the approval rating for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim stood at 68 per cent and some 48 per cent of the 1,209 respondents said that the country was moving in the right direction under the 10th premier's leadership.

Ibrahim said based on more recent findings that are yet to be made public, there are changes in the voter sentiment towards the present Unity Government.

However, he said the sentiment could change and the current government would have to work hard to ensure that it continues to gain public confidence.

"Particularly in younger Malay voters, they are warming up to Anwar and PH, such that it offers PH slightly better prospects in their contest with PN (Perikatan Nasional).

"At the same time, this change in sentiment is 'soft' and could be fleeting ... PH really has to work hard to articulate its agenda to this segment (young Malay voters) and outline its proposed actions for the coming term."

Ibrahim said that the prospects are more challenging for Umno as the Malay-majority party has to improve its image following the party election in March, which saw the dismissal of several of its popular figures.

He said that this stands in stark contrast to PAS, which he said remains stable and has a grassroots machinery that is highly motivated as a result of its successful performance in the most recent general election. But even so, Ibrahim said the Islamist party would not be



able to wrestle Selangor away from PH as it would not be able to win the votes of the non-Malay constituents in the state.

Racial lines

Although there is an indication that the

constituents are divided along class lines, Ibrahim said that the political parties continue to draw the support of the voters based on ethnicity.

He said while PH would be reliant on high turnout from the non-Malay voters to win at the marginal seats and obtain at least one-third of the Malay support, Barisan Nasional (BN) is said to benefit from its alliance with PH as it would mean that they would gain the non-Malay support that has been elusive for the past 15 years as its Malay support has significantly eroded.

"The key question would be Umno's ability to retain its support base among Malays as the party typically contests in seats where Malays make up over 70 per cent of the electorate.

"In such areas, Umno needs to keep at least 40 per cent support in order to have a chance of winning against PN," said Ibrahim, adding that PN appears to have captured just over one-half of the Malay electorate, which puts them at an advantage in at least 15 Selangor state seats where Malay voters make up 70 per cent or more.

While GE15 has set the stage for an exciting and unpredictable state election in Selangor and across the country, it remains to be seen how the national and local factors will play out and what impact they will have on the political landscape of Malaysia.



Zeal for change

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**

A record of 'firsts'

ADMINISTERING the most urbanised state in Malaysia is no easy task. With a population of millions and a growing number of commitments that need to be met, local government officials face numerous challenges on a daily basis. From managing traffic congestion to providing the best service to the people, the demands on local governments are numerous and complex.

As a Local Government, Public Transport and New Village Development Committee chairman, Ng Sze Han has played a pivotal role in bringing about positive changes to the state through his portfolio.

For five years, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that the needs of the people are addressed and their grievances redressed. His achievements are many, and he has proven himself to be innovative and effective in drawing up new ideas and solutions.

Having spearheaded a number of significant initiatives that have impacted the lives of the people, Ng pinpointed several that stand out as noteworthy.

Over the years, Ng has introduced several policies that are the first of their kind in the country.

One policy that he introduced is the requirement for all confinement centres in the state to have a licence to operate. In the past, such centres which provide care and support for mothers requiring postnatal care have traditionally been set up without conforming to any stipulated guidelines.

Ng said that the state government acknowledges the need to standardise and regulate these facilities to ensure that the mothers receive high-quality care in safe and secure environments.

"Because of the increase in population and being an urbanised community where parents need to go to work and the grandparents are mostly back in their kampung, many mothers are in need of this service.

"Previously, the centres operated without a licence because there was no place for them to go to obtain one. But two years ago, Selangor became the first state to introduce guidelines which would make it easier for the centre operators,"

he said during an interview with *Selangor Journal*.

As Selangor is also becoming an ageing society, Ng said the state government is also in the process of drafting guidelines to cater to the future needs of senior citizens, such as providing more elderly-care homes.

Parking payment progress

Ng takes pride in having introduced one particular initiative to the state — the Smart Selangor Parking app, which is the first of its kind in the country.

Implemented in 2018, Ng said that the app is the parking app with the most downloads at 2.83 million. Being the first of its kind, it has revolutionised parking payment methods, making the process quicker, easier, and more convenient.

"The Smart Selangor Parking app is probably the only policy where we received about 99 per cent of good comments. Most people like it and welcome it.

"In creating it, we listened to the people, we heard them, so we implemented a system to go digital and create a smart lifestyle for Selangorians.

"Selangor is the first state in Malaysia

to enforce the use of one common app for the payment of parking that is under the purview of the local councils in the state," he said, beaming.

With just a few taps on their phones, users can locate in which council they are parked and pay for their parking bay electronically, which is far less tedious than the old method of using scratch-and-display coupons.

He said that more people are now paying for their parking due to the convenience.

"From our observation, we noticed that the number of people willing to pay the parking charges has increased by more than 50 per cent.

"It shows that if we can provide them with convenience, people are willing to pay (for parking). It also shows that the parking rate in Selangor is very reasonable.

Compassion in hard times

During the Covid-19 pandemic when movement restrictions were imposed, many small businesses were forced to close, leaving their owners and staff struggling to make ends meet.

Recognising the urgent need to support these traders, Ng introduced a temporary licence for traders to set up small businesses to tie them over the difficult period.

Ng said that the move helped many people survive financially.

"During the pandemic, we noticed that a lot of people lost their jobs and did temporary work to earn a living and sustain themselves. We also received a lot of requests for temporary licences to run as traders and hawkers."

"We then discussed with different agencies how we could help. So we decided to give the licence to almost everyone who applied, provided that the location is safe and does not obstruct traffic because it is important to ensure the safety of both the public and the hawkers," he said.

In all, the state government issued more than 10,000 temporary licences for traders during the whole pandemic period.

A mindset shift

Waste management and waste segregation are among the most pressing issues facing local governments today. In many cities and towns, waste is piling up at an alarming rate, posing serious environmental and health risks.

Ng said that one of the key elements in addressing the issues is increasing awareness on waste management and segregation. He said public knowledge is needed on the importance of proper waste disposal and encouraged citizens to separate their waste.

Although he said Selangor does not subscribe to the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (Act 672), the state does have a high recycling rate as compared to other states in the country.

"I believe Selangor has the highest recycling rate in the whole of Malaysia. However, the only problem we face now is that we do not have the proper data collection method to determine how much recycled waste has been collected.

"Even so, the Selangor government is in discussion with the Federal government to explore the possibility to subscribe to Act 672 because, with this act, we would be able to manage the illegal dumping issues better. At this moment we are relying on the local councils' by-laws, which are not tough enough."

Ng said that if he were to be given more time to oversee the portfolio, he would address the waste issue as it is an ongoing problem that has room for improvement.

"We would be able to do more if we have increased funds and a better awareness campaign for all stakeholders. It's not just Selangor residents (who need to change). We need better awareness among the industries



Ng says the Selangor government listened to the needs of the people before rolling out the smart parking app

and commercial players because, for the two illegal dumpsites that we identified, the type of waste there included industrial, commercial and construction waste," he said.

Not just a tagline

Despite the progress that has been made, Ng said that there is still much work to be done.

As the state continues to grow and face new challenges, it needs people with vision and dedication to ensure a sustainable future for all its citizens. Ng is ready to take them on.

"Because our direction is to make Selangor become a smart state, we need to go along that line," he said.

"But 'smart state' is not just a tagline. We need to be able to make people experience it and bring the conveniences it offers to their daily lives. That is the whole purpose of a smart state.

"In the years to come, we need to have more systems and policies that can give the Selangor people a lifestyle that is better and 'smarter'," he added.



But 'smart state' is not just a tagline. We need to be able to make people experience it and bring the conveniences it offers to their daily lives



N50 KOTA KEMUNING



Ganabattirau and Lead UP Malaysia's founder Sangheta Jeyakumar help flood victims find suitable pieces of clothing at the Free Clothing Bazaar organised at the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple in Shah Alam on Jan 9

Ready to pass the baton

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

IN December 2021, Selangor was hit by one of the worst floods in its history. For Kota Kemuning state assemblyman V Ganabattirau, who oversees one of the most populated state seats under the Shah Alam parliamentary constituency, the flood was one of the greatest challenges he had to face throughout his 10 years serving as a people's representative.

Despite the difficulties, along with the state government, the state representative stepped up to the plate and worked tirelessly to help those affected by the disaster.

"In the 2021 floods, about 60 per cent of the area in my constituency was flooded. People remember Taman Sri Muda as the worst hit, recording about 9,000 homes affected and 17 fatalities.

"But other areas in Kota Kemuning were also inundated, including Kampung Bukit Lanchong, Lanchong Jaya, Alam Indah, and Kampung Baru Hicom.

"The state government was on the front lines and had coordinated emergency response efforts efficiently. Since then, we have been on the alert

every day," he told *Selangor Journal* in a recent interview.

While facing the crisis he described as a dark history during his tenure, Ganabattirau, who also serves as the Socio-economic Development, Social Welfare and Workers Empowerment Committee chairman, said he was also dealing with a number of other issues in the constituency.

From urban development and traffic congestion to health-care access, Ganabattirau was managing one of the most complex constituencies in the state. And while he has done his best, the former Kota Alam Shah state assemblyman said that there is still a lot to be done.

"Many think that Kota Kemuning is in Section 31 but it isn't. Being under the purview of two local councils, MBSA (Shah Alam City Council) and MBSJ (Subang Jaya City Council), the area is vast, bordering Sungai Kandis and some parts of it include Kampung Bukit Naga, Bukit Rimau, Jalan Bukit Kemuning, Pinggiran USJ, Kampung Baru Hicom ... there are three traditional villages in the constituency, namely Kampung Bukit Lanchong, Kampung Bukit Naga and Kam-



pung Baru Hicom.

"Kota Kemuning is not a 'rich' area ... there are a lot of B40 (low-income) households and low-cost residential houses, and it is home to a multi-ethnic society with a number of schools and houses of worship.

"I believe some of the pressing issues that need attention are the worsening traffic condition, the lack of public health clinics to cater to the large population, and the need for more secondary schools," he said.

A tough job

In the upcoming state election, Ganabattirau expressed his intention not to run for the state seat. Instead, he plans to focus his efforts on the parliament constituency of Klang, which he was elected as a member of parliament in the recent 15th general election (GE15) as he believes he can have an even greater impact on the lives of his constituents.

"If it is up to me, I do not intend to run for the state seat as I would like to focus on the parliamentary constituency, as there is a lot to be done. However, I leave it to the party leadership to decide."

While he does not plan to continue overseeing the Kota Kemuning state seat, Ganabattirau expressed his commitment to working towards a better future for all those who call the constituency home and hoped that his possible successor would render the best service.

"I hope whoever replaces me will be able to continue delivering the best service to the people because I must admit, it is not easy to be able to fulfil the needs and demands of all parties.

"Some of the matters that require continuous attention include the improvement of infrastructure, road and drainage maintenance, and flood mitigation, to name a few," he said.

From major disasters to everyday issues, the difficulties Ganabattirau faced during his term have only strengthened his commitment to making a difference in the lives of those he serves and putting the needs of his constituents first.

As he prepares to move to new challenges, Ganabattirau feels he has done his best for his constituents in the most transparent manner and with utmost integrity, and he hopes that it will be emulated by others that come after him.

By AMIN RIDZUAN ISHAK

RAHIMI Ahmad and a few other Malaysians were among the survivors of a horrific mass shooting that happened at the Al-Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019.

As a result of the incident Rahimi, 43, from Penang, now suffers from paralysis on his right leg, having taken a hit from the firearm of white supremacist Brenton Tarrant at Al-Noor. He remains in trauma, as does his son, Ahmad Razif, who was with him on that fateful day.

Another compatriot, Mohd Haziq Mohd Tarmizi, lost his life. He was only 17. Mohd Haziq's father, Mohd Tarmizi Shuib, was gravely injured.

The recent Hari Raya Aidilfitri was particularly special for Rahimi when he managed to meet up with some of the victims and family members of the deceased.

On the first day of the Islamic month of Syawal, he and members of a Muslim community in Avonhead rented a Christchurch community hall to perform their Aidilfitri prayers. The venue was only less than 7 kilometres from the Al-Noor Mosque.

After the prayer session, the group adjourned to Rahimi's family home in Yardley Street to enjoy a meal of tomato rice, *ayam masak merah*, *rendang*, *lemang*, and *kuah kacang*.

The traditional Malay spread was lovingly prepared by his wife, Nor Azila Abd Wahid, 43, who runs an online food business, Warung Akak.

It is this food business that has been keeping Rahimi's family afloat after he could no longer work.

"This year's Aidilfitri celebration was small in scale but big in meaning as we got to meet with our friends and some of the victims of the incident.

"We share each other's sorrow but also try to forget what has happened," Rahimi told *Selangorkini* on May 2.



A time to heal

He was among a few of the victims who testified against Tarrant, who has since been sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, the harshest sentence that can be meted out in a New Zealand court.

Tarrant, 28 at the time of the killings, had reportedly come to the country from neighbouring Australia in 2017 to carry out the acts of violence. He carefully planned how he would go about the crime — using a drone on Jan 8, 2019, to learn how to navigate through Al-Noor, and doing video searches online for the mosque.

Indoctrinated by far-right nationalist movements for years, he announced

to his viewers on Facebook Live that he would open fire on the Friday prayer congregation minutes before he let off his semiautomatic shotgun.

He now lives his days in Auckland Prison, one of New Zealand's maximum security jails.

It has been four years since the sounds of gunfire reverberated through the quiet prayer halls of Al-Noor, but for Rahimi the trauma he experienced that day would likely never be erased from his memory.

Each day, he is reminded of the incident that left 51 dead and 40 others injured as he is no longer able to walk. As the head of his family, his physical duties have become severely limited.

"Till today, I need to make trips to the doctor and am given high doses of medication. At times, my leg still hurts so much," Rahimi said. However, he believes that there must be a higher reason for the suffering he goes through.

A son returns

For another victim of the tragedy at Al-Noor, Noor Yahaya Hamzah, this year's Aidilfitri was spent with his family in Kampung Sungai Tengi Kanan in Kuala Selangor, far away from the small community of Muslims in Christchurch.

When the 59-year-old met up with his mother, Kamsaton Daud, what ensued were tears

of joy, long embraces and kisses for the 82-year-old. It had taken 12 years for him to return.

Noor Yahaya said he was grateful to be able to see his mother again. He had not only lived through the tragedy of the shooting, but also a massive earthquake that struck Christchurch in 2011.

"Mother cried, although she had no idea what had happened to me in New Zealand. She is illiterate and suffers from hypertension, and so the rest of my siblings did not want to tell her about the shootings for fear it would affect her health," he said.

Noor Yahaya flew back to Christchurch on May 10, but not before spending quality time catching up with his loved ones in their generations-old family home.

He knows that it will be years before he can return home, due to the high cost of such trips and his difficulty in getting leave from work.

Just like Rahimi, Noor Yahaya believes that the Almighty is all-knowing, including about what took place on March 15, 2019 — the attitudes of New Zealanders towards Islam have changed for the better since then.

He said many non-Muslims are now showing an interest in learning more about the religion, and have condemned the hideous actions of Tarrant.

"There are 'whites' who have accepted Islam. In the beginning, they just say they want to know more, but once they do, they embrace it," added Noor Yahaya, who on the day the shots rained on Al-Noor, had run for his life to the back of the mosque and was thus spared.



Rahimi (in pink baju Melayu) takes comfort in his friends and tries to forget the terrifying incident as much as possible

N30 KINRARA

A bond built on trust

By IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM

BEING a representative in one of the densely populated state seats in Malaysia is not an easy task, but Ng Sze Han has been prepared from the start as he has lived in the area for a long time and knows Kinrara well.

The incumbent Kinrara state assemblyman said when he contested the seat for the second time in the 2018 general elections, he did not need to prepare a pledge for its people as he knows them and the constituency very well.

"I think if we know the area and people there very well, and people also know you very well, we know their needs and problems.

"I did not have a manifesto during the 2018 general election, but it doesn't mean I did not commit to making Kinrara a better place to live in. I know the problems very well because I live there.

"Puchong is my home now and I am hoping that if I can still continue to serve the people here and bring positive changes, it would be among the best constituencies," said Ng in a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*.

Hailing from Batu Pahat, Johor, Ng has lived in Puchong for more than 20 years and can quickly identify the main issues faced by the people there, such as traffic congestion, the need for better recreational facilities, and facilities for an ageing society.

Ng said for several years, his office has been working hard to provide more public facilities that cater to the different age groups of the constituents so that they would have more kinds of ac-

tivities for leisure.

"As the most dense state seat in the whole of Malaysia with the highest number of voters at more than 120,000, the problems in Kinrara are quite similar to those of Selangor, it being the most populated state. When you have more people, you have more waste and more cars, so traffic congestion is a key challenge.

"Over the past few years, I have tried to improve traffic congestion by connecting the missing link, improving traffic flow at the junctions by turning the traffic lights into smart traffic lights, for example. They are improvements that are within our means.

"We also need to improve Kinrara's recreational facilities because it is highly urbanised, so the people need more parks to exercise in and bring their families for outings. We have already brought some changes, such as providing two covered basketball courts in the Taman Wawasan recreational park," he said.

Ng said Taman Wawasan Puchong, which is the largest recreational park under the purview of the Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ), is also equipped with a woodball course that is of international standards, and so is suitable for all, even senior citizens.

He said a person would need to take about 10,000 steps to complete the whole 18-hole course.

"MBSJ is also building a sports complex in Pusat Bandar Puchong, which will be completed in three years' time ... these are some of the improvements that I have pushed for during my tenure."



Ng (centre) with former Subang Jaya Mayor Dato' Johary Anuar (in batik shirt) at a groundbreaking ceremony for an MBSJ sports complex in Puchong

Help for all

Although Kinrara is also home to some urban poor and voters who are not Selangor natives, he has ensured that aid is channelled fairly to all, including foreign workers.

He said that rendering aid to the local residents is an ongoing process and that he and his service centre would visit the people and offer help to ease their difficulties.

"If they need medical treatment, special care, food, or jobs, we would help them and would continue doing this kind of home visits to ease their burden," he said.

Ng said that his other portfolio as the state executive councillor for local government has helped him too, in his work for Kinrara. When Selangor was hit by a major flood in December 2021 and many parts of the constituency were inundated, it was easier for him to get the relevant state agencies to help as he is used to working with them.

"Being a state executive councillor has given me the convenience to solve

many problems, for example, the major flood in Taman Kinrara Section 1, which was one of the worst hit areas in Selangor (during the 2021 floods).

"It had never before happened in Taman Kinrara but all of a sudden, two major floods came and we figured something must have caused them. After investigating and calling the agencies involved, we found that the retention pond under the purview of the Kuala Lumpur City Council (DBKL) needed maintenance. So after meeting with the mayor, we immediately got to work to resolve the problem," Ng said.

He said that following discussions with the Selangor Irrigation and Drainage Department (JPS), the agency was able to secure a budget to build a bund along Sungai Kuyoh until the meeting point of Sungai Klang, which was completed within nine months.

"Ever since the works were completed, we never again had flash floods in Taman Kinrara. So, this is a good example of how we can work with agencies to identify problems quickly and solve them in the fastest time possible," he said.

The Kinrara man takes a walk down Jalan Merbuk near the cross-roads with Jalan Pipit to observe the traffic flow there after road improvement works were carried out



Come rain or shine — or floods — a people's representative must keep on working



No complacency, Selangor FC players told

SHAH ALAM - The performance and play style of Selangor FC players in this season's Super League tournament is an improvement compared to last season, said its chief executive officer Johan Kamal.



Nonetheless, he reminded players not to succumb to complacency but to strive for success and reach the peak, since the tournament is still long to go.

"At present, we have been seeing improvements. It is satisfying compared to the last season, yet we must continue to improve our weaknesses and performance to complete the season with excellence.

"Players must be committed so the points tally does not drop as it did with our Sabah opponents (losing 2 - 1). Continue this winning momentum for the next match," Johan told the team at a Hari Raya open house event on May 8.

Commenting on the second transfer window that opens in July, he said some new players may be brought in to further augment Selangor FC's strengths.

"Now we will focus on the available players, as a few games remain. When the time comes, we will consider bringing in more. For now, we will evaluate the available players," Johan said.

SEA Games 2023: Halfway there



SHAH ALAM - The 32nd Southeast Asia (SEA) Games in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, officially kicked off on May 6 and will run until May 17.

The 677 Malaysian athletes competing in 33 sports at the Games are working hard to bring home the target of 40 gold, 37 silver and 64 bronze medals for the country. At press time, Malaysia reached more than half of its medal target with 26 gold, 32 silver and 52 bronze, bringing the total medal tally to 100.

The 141-medal target is said to be a realistic aim after the last edition of the Games in Hanoi, Vietnam saw Malaysia's athletes win 39 gold, 45 silver and 90 bronze for a total of 174 medals.

Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh on May 11 expressed her satisfaction with the performance of the younger athletes in Cambodia, who managed to contribute gold for the country even though it was their first time competing.

She said that although not all of the sports met their medal targets, she is still satisfied, especially when silat, wushu, golf and karate performed unexpectedly well by winning gold medals for the country, Bernama reported.

Meanwhile, the Selangor state government will reward its athletes who have successfully won medals. A total of 97 Selangor athletes are competing in the Games.

State executive councillor for sports Mohd Khairuddin Othman said he hopes that the athletes would be able to bring home medals and bring glory to the country and state.

Notably, Selangor's Wan Athirah Hidayah Ahmad Fuzli won Malaysia's first medal at the Games, bringing home bronze in the women's obstacle race.

For the first gold victory of 2023, Shahmalarani Chandran came first in Karate (Women's Kumite below 50kg event) — a significant achievement as she defeated the 2022 World Games champion Junna Tsukii Villanueva from the Philippines.

Karate also provided Malaysia with its second gold medal, won by Prem Kumar Selvam in the Men's Kumite below 55kg event.

The following are the Malaysian athletes who won gold (as of May 12, 7pm):

- C. Shahmalarani** Women's Under 55kg Kumite *Karate*
- Prem Kumar** Men's Under 55kg Kumite *Karate*
- Sureeya Sankar Hari Sankar** Men's Under 60kg Kumite *Karate*
- Sharmendran Raghonathan** Men's Under 75kg Kumite *Karate*
- Saiful Bahri Musmin** Men's singles *Petanque*
- Grace Wong Xiu Mei** Women's hammer throw *Athletics*
- Kimberly Bong** Women's 3m springboard *Diving*
- Muhammad Hafizin Mansor** RSX *Sailing*
- Izry Hafiezy Fitry** RS One *Sailing*
- Muhammad Danial Azray & Muhammad Danial Azrol** Artistic men's doubles *Silat*
- Muhammad Syafiq Puteh** Men's 3m springboard *Diving*
- Shereen Vallabouy** Women's 400m *Athletics*
- Umar Osman** Men's 400m *Athletics*
- Steve Khiew Hoe Yean** Men's 200m freestyle *Swimming*
- Moh Keen Hoo** Men's 6-reds snooker *Billiards*
- Norsyakirah Muksin** Women U45 *Silat*
- Nor Farah Mazlan** Women class A (45-50kg) *Silat*
- Lee Yiat Qing** Women's 10m platform *Diving*
- Mohd Izzul Irfan Marzuki** Men's class D (60-65kg) *Silat*
- Ng Jing Xuen** Women's Individual *Golf*
- Tan Cheong Ming** Women's Nanquan *Wushu*
- Enrique Macartney Anak Harold** Men's 10m platform *Diving*
- Mohd Irfan Shamsuddin** Men's discus *Athletics*
- Andre Anura** Men's Triple Jump *Athletics*
- Tan Cheong Min** Women's nandao *Wushu*
- Nur Amirul Fakhruddin Mazuki** Men's road race *Cycling*

Incentives for para athletes

SHAH ALAM - The state government will provide a RM20,000 incentive to Selangor's para-athletes competing in the 2023 Asean Para Games, which takes place in Cambodia in June.

State executive councillor for sports Mohd Khairuddin Othman said the aid will be channelled to the athletes before they depart for Cambodia.

"Insyallah, we will review the incentives, because in terms of the sports structure they fall under the Youth and Sports Ministry, rather than the state government.

"But so long as they are Selangor residents, even though competing at the national level, the Selangor Sports Council (MSN) is concerned about them. Should I be informed about any Selangor residents participating in the Para Asian Games, incentives will be provided," he said when contacted on April 17.

The 2023 Asean Para Games in Cambodia will take place from June 3 to June 12.

During the 2018 Asean Para Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, the national contingent succeeded in garnering 17 gold, 26 silver, and 25 bronze medals.

Tdap vaccine saves lives

“ The Health Ministry is looking into giving the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) vaccine to pregnant women to protect babies from whooping cough, even before birth. ”



Dr Zaliha Mustafa
Health Minister

What is whooping cough?

A bacterial respiratory infection, also known as pertussis, that affects infants younger than five months old who have yet to:

achieve optimum immunity

complete the 3-dose primary vaccination



High-risk groups include infants, non-fully vaccinated children, and people with weak immunity

COMPLICATIONS

- Weight loss
- Nutrient loss
- Fits
- Inflammation of the brain
- Pneumonia
- Death

THE CAUSES

A contagious bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis*

Infects the mouth, nose and throat

Spreads through airborne droplets from coughs and sneezes

SYMPTOMS



Persistent cough lasting more than one week and up to two months



Coughing up phlegm and vomiting



Contagious within two weeks of infection

CASE COUNT AS OF APRIL 28, 2023

132 cases & 2 deaths

89

Malaysian
(67.4%)

43

foreigners
(32.6%)

Below
12 months



67 cases

1 – 10 years



47 cases

11 years and above



18 cases

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Immunisation under the National Immunisation Programme (NIP) for children at ages:

- 2, 3 and 5 months
- Booster shot at 18 months



ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT

- Erythromycin
- Clarithromycin
- Azithromycin

