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SELANGOR JOURNAL



Selangor's upward flight path



THE Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) 2023 has once again reached jet-setting records, with the number of visitors doubling the figure recorded last year. The much-anticipated airshow left aviation enthusiasts and attendees spellbound with a breathtaking array of exhibitions, including on new cutting-edge drone technology.

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Visitors were also wowed by the aerial manoeuvres of aerobatic teams and the aircraft models on display that showcased the latest in innovation.

The state-organised event has bridged the present and future of aviation in Selangor, leaving attendees with a profound appreciation for the boundless possibilities of flight.



Airshow eyes KLIA as host

By DANIAL DZULKIFLY

SHAH ALAM - The annual Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) is contemplating a venue upgrade, with aspirations to host the event at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang by 2025.

State executive councillor for investment, trade, and mobility Ng Sze Han said discussions are ongoing between the state government and Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) over the potential venue change.

However, he said it is unlikely next year's airshow will be held in Sepang.

"We need time to prepare and coordinate to ensure the show's success," he said at a press conference at SAS 2023 held at the Skypark Regional Aviation Centre (RAC) in Bukit Jelutong, here, on Sept 9.

"That is why we are looking to move the venue to Sepang in 2025, but talks with MAHB are already in motion."

Since its debut in 2021, SAS has been held at Skypark RAC.

On Sept 10, Ng in a Facebook post stated that the airshow recorded 19,297 visitors during the three-day event.

He also said that 33 forums or talks were conducted by 65 speakers and the event witnessed the signing of 24 memorandums of understanding with a potential trade value of RM700 million.

Reflecting on this success, Ng said



Ng gives the double thumbs up as he poses with Layang-Layang Flying Academy pilot Captain John Scratchman after Scratchman completes his aerobatics show at Skypark RAC, Shah Alam, on Sept 9

there is growing demand from attendees.

"Many are asking whether we will do the show next year. This is because SAS

is the only commercial aviation show in the region of this size and nature.

"This shows SAS is a complete success. In terms of space, we will likely

continue to do it here, in the same time frame in September next year," he said.

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More countries to join business summit next month

SHAH ALAM - China, Italy, and the United Kingdom are among the countries participating in this year's Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS), organised by Invest Selangor Bhd (Invest Selangor).

Its chief executive officer, Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris, said the summit, to take place in October, will also feature attendees from Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and Kazakhstan.

"This year, the Selangor Industrial Park Expo is open to interna-

tional exhibitors from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, in addition to local exhibitors," he told *SelangorKini*.

Hasan said the Selangor International Expo (SIE) for Food and Beverage, which is expected to significantly contribute to sales potential, will also host three new programmes to attract visitors.

"They include the Selangor International Culinary Festival, the Selangor International Coffee Week, and the Selangor International Coffee and Tea Expo, which involve domestic and international entrepreneurs," he said.

Meanwhile, Hasan said a special dialogue session to promote South-east Asia as a primary global investment destination will be held in conjunction with the trade summit.

He said stakeholders will discuss, among other things, the ways to make the region more appealing on the international level.

"Representatives from each country will be involved to discuss the form of cooperation that can be carried out to promote Asean as a

vital global destination for investment.

"This will be among the new attractions at SIBS this year. We hope to achieve our objectives while simultaneously adding value to the state," he said.

SIBS 2023 will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from Oct 19 to 22 and is expected to draw about 50,000 visitors, including industry players from Southeast Asia, East Asia, and South Asia.

Invest Selangor is targeting RM1.5 billion in potential negotiated sales for this year's iteration of the summit, now in its seventh edition.

Last year, SIBS recorded potential negotiated sales of RM1.45 billion, far exceeding Invest Selangor's projection of RM350 million.

The six main components of the summit are the SIE for Food and Beverage, the SIE for Medic, the Selangor Industrial Park Expo, the Selangor Asean Business Conference, the Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention, and the Selangor Research and Development and Innovation Expo.



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Opportunities in aviation

By **DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

SHAH ALAM - Selangor stands to gain from a burgeoning civil aviation industry, which is projected to offer high-skill, lucrative jobs to its residents, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

In his opening address at the Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) 2023, Amirudin emphasised the state government's commitment to further develop the civil aviation sector within the state.

The plan includes enhancing the current infrastructure and collaborating with key industry stakeholders to cultivate a proficient aviation workforce, he said.

"We are not content with having the highest gross domestic product contribution numbers among the states in Malaysia.

"We are not content with being the most advanced state in Malaysia, and we are certainly not content with having the best and brightest minds.

"Our challenge is in how we can harness the vast potential of our workers and our communities by empowering

them, specifically in the aerospace domain," he said at the Skypark Regional Aviation Centre (RAC) in Bukit Jelutong, here, on Sept 7.

Also present at the event were Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Liew Chin Tong, state executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility Ng Sze Han, his predecessor Dato' Teng Chang Khim, and other high-ranking state government officials.

Amirudin said he recognised the profound impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the civil aviation sector, which is still in the midst of a recovery and grappling with economic challenges and a subdued demand for air travel.

He also noted that data from Boeing has shown that due to the recent increase in air traffic following the re-opening of economies globally, there is a projected demand for approximately 790,000 pilots and 754,000 technicians over the coming two decades.

This projection, he said, does not encompass roles such as air traffic controllers, maintenance, repairs and overhaul

(MRO) personnel, ground staff, and baggage handlers.

In the face of these industry challenges, Amirudin said his administration's principal goal is to guarantee sustainable, well-paying jobs for the people of Selangor.

Tackling these considerable problems, particularly by way of offering dignified employment opportunities, is paramount, he added.

The Menteri Besar also shed light on the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), which includes efforts to transform a 2,000-acre land into the Selangor Aero Park.

This aerospace nexus will focus on MRO tasks, aircraft retrofitting, innovation hubs, state-of-the-art smart hangars, and testing facilities, cohesively integrated with existing runways for efficient aircraft movement, said Amirudin.

"Moreover, Selangor is well-positioned to capitalise on the drone sector through the Selangor Drone Centre of Excellence, which will specialise in light aircraft, seaplanes, unmanned aerial vehicles, and even sports aviation.

"All of these initiatives aren't mere whims; they're integral components of RS-1 and the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan, aiming to bolster growth and investments and offer superior remuneration for Selangor's populace."

Amirudin said Selangor's expanding population, which encapsulates a significant portion of the Malaysian diaspora, poses another challenge to the state government in its bid to ensure better-paying jobs for its residents.

He pointed out that the state constituency is not just limited to Selangorians and that Selangor also hosts individuals from Kedah, Kelantan, Johor, Terengganu, Sabah, Perlis and Sarawak, among others.

"Seven million individuals identify Selangor as their home, and I'm confident we'll surpass the 10 million mark before the close of 2030.

"As the population burgeons alongside urban expansion, the challenge of sustaining demand via better-paying jobs will be this administration's primary focus in the upcoming term," he added.

Now's best to reflect on meaning of sacrifice: MB

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has called on all citizens of Selangor to appreciate the sacrifices of past national fighters and truly understand the history behind the country's independence as they celebrate National Day and Malaysia Day.

He pointed out that independence could not have been achieved had it not been for the "sweat, tears and sacrifices" of the war heroes.

This includes the late Lt Adnan Saidi, who fought the Japanese to his death in the famous Battle of Pasir Panjang during his time with the premier army unit the Royal Malay Regiment.

In separate posts on his social media accounts, Amirudin paid special tribute to the war hero, whom he described as a courageous warrior.

"Lt Adnan was a Selangor native, born in Kampung Sungai Ramal. He led the Royal Malay Regiment in defending Malaya from being captured by the Japanese during the Second World War," he said on Sept 7.

In recognition of his sacrifices, the state government had, during the state-level National Day celebration on Aug 30, posthumously awarded Lt Adnan the Tokoh Kemerdekaan Selangor.

Mohd Asrul Halim Ahmad, who is

the fourth generation heir to the legendary fighter, was present to receive the award, together with RM10,000 in cash and a trophy.

He said he is thankful and moved by the recognition given by the state government.

"In his lifetime, my great-grandfather always emphasised the principle of 'biar putih tulang, jangan putih mata' (better to die fighting than to regret not trying) when facing any challenges in life," he said when met after the event.

In his post, Amirudin said Lt Adnan was accorded the honour in recognition of his service to the nation.

"The courage and heroism shown by Lt Adnan, who went above and beyond to fight off the Japanese army until the last drop of his blood, will forever be remembered."

On the eve of Merdeka Day, Amirudin said that the country's National Day should not only be celebrated for Malaysia's emancipation from colonial power but should also be a time for self-reflection.

The day should also be used to consider the country's position on the global stage and Malaysians' collective role as citizens.



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New excos get down to work

By **DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, on Aug 23, introduced the nine names who will be working with him in the Selangor State Executive Council for the 2023-2028 term.

With himself overseeing five major portfolios — one fewer than in the previous term — Amirudin has chosen a good mix of new and experienced faces for balanced governance.

Sworn in for a second term on Aug 21, the Menteri Besar is now in charge of land and natural resources, finance and economy, modernising and digitising govern-

ment, strategic communications, education and human capital development.

His previous disaster management portfolio has been handed over to fresh face Najwan Halimi, who is also in charge of youth and sports development, entrepreneurship empowerment and creative economy.

The Selangor Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) chairman also announced that Kinrara assemblyman Ng Sze Han had been appointed as the new executive councillor for investment and trade, a key role previously held by DAP's Dato' Teng Chang Khim, who has since retired from politics and public service.

Ng will also oversee SME development and new economic districts and Selangor mobility while co-chairing the Special Committee of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Tao Religions with V. Papparaidu and Ng Suee Lim.

Five pledges in 100 days

After chairing the first meeting of the Selangor government for the 15th term on Aug 23, Amirudin, in a press conference, vowed to deliver five of the electoral pledges made by the Harapan-Barisan Nasional unity pact within the first 100 days in office, following their win in the

Aug 12 state election.

He said the pledges, relating to the challenges faced by the Selangor people, include providing 5,000 working mothers in the state with RM1,000 each to help reduce their childcare costs.

The other four pledges are the exemption of assessment rates for village houses and low-cost houses, the provision of Kita Selangor book vouchers worth RM200 for 1,000 students in the state, an increment in allowances for imams, bilals and siaks, and a RM1,000 incentive for 500 farmers, paddy farmers and fishermen through the Kita Selangor agriculture and fishery incentive.

DATO' SERI AMIRUDIN SHARI Selangor Menteri Besar

Land and Natural Resources; Finance and Economy; Modernising and Digitising Government; Strategic Communications; Education and Human Capital Development

- ▶ Batu Caves state assemblyman from 2008, before the constituency's rename to Sungai Tua in 2018
- ▶ Gombak Member of Parliament from 2022 to present
- ▶ First appointed as state executive councillor in 2013 for youth development, sports, cultural and entrepreneurship development



NG SZE HAN State executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility

Investment and Trade; SME Development and New Economic Districts; Selangor Mobility; Special Committee of

Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Tao Religions co-chairman

- ▶ Kinrara state assemblyman from 2013 to present
- ▶ State executive councillor for local government, public transportation and new village development from 2018 to 2023



IZHAM HASHIM State executive councillor for infrastructure and agriculture

Infrastructure Development; Modernisation of Agriculture and Farming

- ▶ Pandan Indah state assemblyman from 2018 to present



- ▶ Resumes his former role as the executive councillor for infrastructure and agriculture

BORHAN AMAN SHAH State executive councillor for housing and culture

Housing and Development of Sustainable Cities; Culture, Heritage and Malay Customs

- ▶ Dengkil state assemblyman from 2013 to 2018
- ▶ Tanjong Sepat state assemblyman from 2018 to present
- ▶ Retains his culture, heritage and Malay customs portfolio and also being given the mandate to helm the housing and development of sustainable cities committee



NG SUEE LIM State executive councillor for local government and tourism

Local Government Development; Tourism; New Villages Development; Special Committee of



Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Tao Religions co-chairman

- ▶ Sekinchan state assemblyman from 1999 to present
- ▶ Former Selangor Speaker from 2018 to 2023

DATUK RIZAM ISMAIL State executive councillor for rural development and unity

Rural and Village Development; Sustainability of Traditional Villages; National Unity

- ▶ Sungai Tawar state assemblyman from 2018 to present
- ▶ Former Selangor Opposition chief



JAMALIAH JAMALUDDIN State executive councillor for public health and environment

Public Health; Environment, Climate Change and Green Technology

- ▶ Bandar Utama state assemblyman from 2018 to present



NAJWAN HALIMI State executive councillor for youth, sports and entrepreneurship

Youth and Sports Development; Entrepreneurship Empowerment and Creative Economy; Disaster Management



- ▶ Kota Anggerik state assemblyman from 2018 to present

V. PAPPARAI DU State executive councillor for human resources and poverty eradication

Human Resources; Poverty Eradication; Orang Asli and Minority Affairs; Special Committee of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Tao Religions co-chairman

- ▶ Newly elected Kota Kemuning state assemblyman



DR FAHMI NGAH State executive councillor for Islam and innovation

Islamic Affairs; Halal Industry; Digital Infrastructure; Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

- ▶ Newly elected Seri Setia state assemblyman
- ▶ Former Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU) managing director



ANFAAL SAARI State executive councillor for women empowerment and welfare

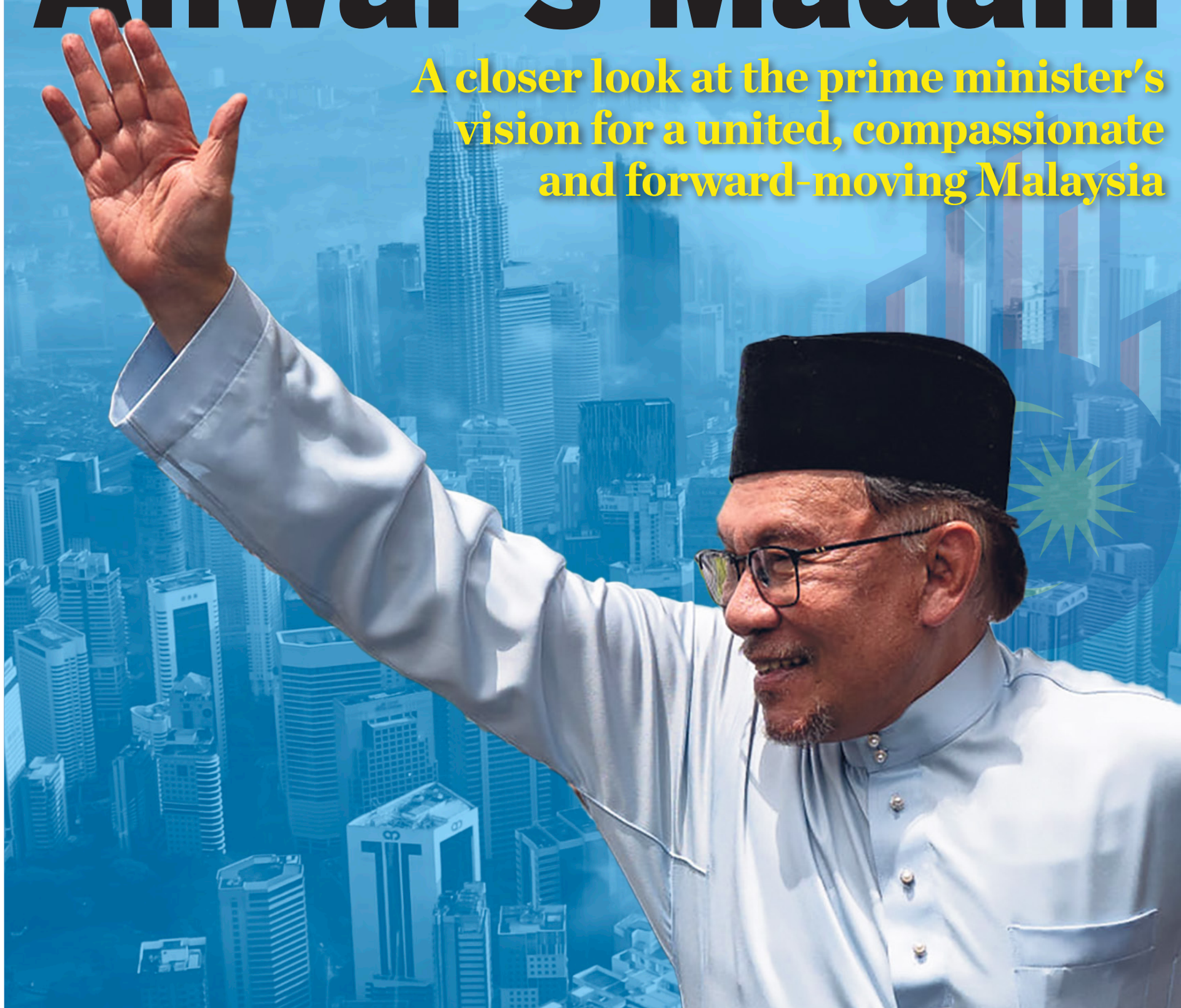
Women and Family Empowerment; Welfare; Care Economy

- ▶ Newly elected Taman Templer state assemblyman



Anwar's Madani

A closer look at the prime minister's vision for a united, compassionate and forward-moving Malaysia





Madani holds key to economic resurgence



Besides promoting good values and investing in social capital that results in more cohesive societies and harmonious interethnic relations, Madani Economy will further boost foreign investors' confidence

YEAH KIM LENG
Professor of Economics,
Sunway University



By
NADIRAH H. RODZI

WITH the state elections out of the way and the three key states remaining under the control of the Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) and Barisan Nasional (BN) alliance, the Unity Government can now go full swing into reviving the economy by means of the Madani Economy framework.

Financial analysts said with the political situation set to remain stable till the next general election in four years, the government has sufficient

'runway' to ensure the lift-off of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's brainchild.

Focusing on inclusive growth, Madani Economy aims to provide social protections to the populace and spread prosperity evenly among them.

According to Sunway University economics professor Yeah Kim Leng, implementing the Madani Economy framework can boost job creation, increase people's income and living standards, and enhance their resilience to inflation and other shocks such as a global recession or financial market turbulence.

"Besides promoting good values and investing in social capital that results in more cohesive societies and harmonious interethnic relations, Madani Economy will further boost foreign investors' confidence," Yeah told *Selangor Journal*.

The Anwar-led Harapan is addressing socioeconomic concerns and has unveiled the Madani Economy Plan to transform Malaysia into one of the world's top 30 economies in the next 10 years.

The plan seeks to establish a specialised financial zone in the Iskandar Malaysia area in Johor, review minimum wage standards, promote female participation

in the workforce, stamp out corruption and reduce our dependence on foreign labour.

In the Aug 12 state elections, the ruling coalition retained its strongholds in Selangor, Penang, and Negeri Sembilan. Still, the expansion of the right-wing alliance Perikatan Nasional is seen as a threat to Anwar's multiracial efforts.

Despite this, economic experts predict no changes to legislative policies.

"I don't see the fuss about the election results. Go ahead with the plans; show that the government can work. Policies can impact people's lives, give hope, and show that the country can change its trajectory to a better one," economist Nungsari Ahmad Radhi told *Selangor Journal*.

Attracting investors

Economic experts are concerned about whether Malaysia is currently appealing to foreign investors.

The answer is yes, according to Universiti Tun Abdul Razak economist Barjoyai Bardai, who said the recent announcement by German chip maker Infineon Technologies AG to increase its investment

in Kedah by RM25 billion confirms this.

“Even though Kedah is an opposition state, they still decided to invest. Malaysia’s investor-friendly environment has attracted many foreign investors due to its positive aspects outweighing the negatives,” he told *Selangor Journal*.

“Malaysia’s strategic location in Asia positions it to benefit from the region’s projected growth. By 2030, China, India, and Indonesia (combined) will be the world’s fourth largest economy, accounting for over 50 per cent of the global market.

“Additionally, Malaysia has a history of fair treatment towards foreign investors. For example, about 50 years ago, a Penang chief minister invited a US company to set up a cheap manufacturing activity in the state, and they treated them well. Today, the semiconductor industry is massive in Malaysia,” he said, adding that Malaysia exports 7.5 per cent of semiconductor devices to the world market at a worth of more than RM25 billion annually.

Global companies like Tesla, Geely, and Micron have also increased their investments in technology, energy, and automobile sectors.

“Malaysia is also one of the world’s biggest solar panel producers. The recent announcement by Elon Musk to beef up electric vehicle activities in Malaysia is also another important announcement. We overtake Indonesia in this,” said Barjoyai.

However, he said the lack of short-term investment in capital formation compared to neighbouring countries like Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia is a concern. This hinders Malaysia’s capacity to increase production and export, which has been reflected in the past two years.

“The reason is that Malaysian businesses, especially micro and small and medium businesses, need to catch up in adopting and migrating into the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (4IR) and 5.0,” he said.

The 4IR refers to the disruptive transformation of industries by applying emerging technology. Industry 5.0, the Fifth Industrial Revolution, is an emerging phase of industrialisation that sees humans working alongside advanced technology and AI-powered robots to enhance workplace processes.

Analysts in the past have said that Malaysia has been slow in adopting artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things or IoT (‘things’ embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies to connect and exchange data with other devices and systems over the Internet), robotic technology, 3D printers, and drone technology.

They stated that the country needs a wake-up call or incentives to support the SME industry, which accounts for over 50 per cent of employment and 35 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP).



Malaysia is also one of the world’s biggest solar panel producers. The recent announcement by Elon Musk to beef up electric vehicle activities in Malaysia is also another important announcement. We overtake Indonesia in this

BARJOYAI BARDAI
Economicst,
Universiti
Tun Abdul
Razak



If the government promotes capital formation in the industry migrating to 4IR, they said, it will have a chain effect, creating employment opportunities and skill development.

“We have over 9.5 million unskilled workers who need to be upskilled. So, this needs to follow, and there will be an increasing income of households and an increase in household purchasing power. And that will have a sequential effect on the growth in the GDP,” Barjoyai said.

Long-term goals

Although the Madani Economy is a brand name, Barjoyai believes that it has two essential purposes: to improve the citizens’ well-being and to increase economic growth so that the country can cope.

“We aim to improve our overall competitive index and become one of the top 15 economies globally. Currently, we rank 27th and aspire to reach 12th position. With the right ingredients, we can achieve this ambitious target and become the 30th-largest economy in the world. At present, we stand at 32nd,” Barjoyai said.

“We only need to improve two positions. Still, neighbouring countries like India, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand also have developing economies ... they have larger populations. They will come along via their household when they progress even slower than Malaysia,” he added.

When a household improves its position from the lower-income group to the middle-income group and then to the higher middle-income group, Barjoyai said its income would increase, bumping its purchasing power and, subsequently, the GDP.

Separately, Malaysia’s labour income share dropped to 32.4 per cent in 2022, a sharp decrease from 35.2 per cent in 2017. The country aims to increase it to 45 per cent within five years.

Despite being a tall order for employers, it can be achieved if productivity is enhanced by the increase in the skilled workers’ composition in our employment sector, said Barjoyai.

Over the last 10 years, fellow economists have criticised the economic system for its lack of long-term insight.

While Malaysia’s economy has developed rapidly, making it the third-best economy in the world in terms of growth, the model needs updating, as it has solved one growth problem but created vast income and wealth distribution gaps.

Economists are urging a shift away from relying solely on foreign direct investment as the primary driver of economic growth and instead consider the other factors of production.

With a more than 16.5 million potential human resources pool, production, income, and overall GDP can be boosted by increasing productivity.

“We have some natural resources that should be developed more carefully and systematically so that they can be enjoyed by everyone in the economy, creating better wealth distribution. These are the new perspectives that should be included in the modern economy to make it apparent that they are being addressed,” said Barjoyai.

A transformative vision for all Malaysia

By
AMAR SHAH MOHSEN

When Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched the Malaysia Madani slogan in January, it was met with mixed reviews.

While the word 'Madani' created some buzz, it also brought about uncertainty with regard to its meaning and, in some quarters, scepticism about whether such a lofty-sounding phrase mattered to the common people.

Some were quick to support the ideals upheld by the Madani policy framework; others found its definition convoluted, particularly when measured against the simpler slogans of Anwar's predecessors.

Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's 'Keluarga Malaysia' and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's 'Malaysia Prihatin' are just a couple of examples that many found easier to connect with and comprehend.

Yet, despite the initial hiccups and some bad press, the Malaysia Madani slogan is apt.

It represents Anwar's personal hopes for the country, in what direction he believes Malaysia ought to be steered, and the changes that must be made.

Some commentators even go a step further by saying that Anwar himself personifies the qualities of Madani, that the concept is not just his credo but his whole identity.

'Anwar is Madani'

According to its official website, Malaysia Madani (loosely translated as 'Civil Malaysia') as a slogan, serves as a reminder that the country believes in humanity and values such as kindness and good governance.

As a policy framework, it lays out Anwar's vision of a civilised, skilled and inclusive society based on six core values — sustainability, prosperity, innovation, respect, trust and compassion.

Anwar himself has stressed the importance of the concept when promoting the values of fairness and justice.

"Malaysia must be known as a Madani nation that is prosperous, fair and rejects any form of cruelty towards any individual or race," the prime minister had said when launching the slogan earlier this year.

National Council of Professors senior fellow Jeniri Amir said this perfectly illustrates who Anwar is, both as a leader and a common citizen.

"Anwar is Madani, Madani is Anwar. That is his identity, no one else comes close," he told *Selangor Journal*.

Jeniri noted that from the early days of Anwar's political struggle, he has always taken a keen interest in the well-being of all Malaysians and promoted inclusivity.

This, the political analyst said, makes up the 'crux' of Malaysia Madani, where the rights and welfare of every single citizen, regardless of race and religion, are taken care of to ensure a better, moderate Malaysia.



Sharing the economic pie

Anwar's personification of Madani is evidenced by his fair treatment of all individuals, parties and states in the country, irrespective of their political leanings.

One example of this was the Pakatan Harapan (Harapan) chairman's willingness to extend an olive branch to Perikatan Nasional (PN) and invite the party to join the Unity Government following the conclusion of the 15th general election last November, as per the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's advice.

This was despite the animosity between the leaders of the two coalitions during and after the election period.

Anwar has also played a pivotal role in ensuring that a bigger share of Malaysia's economic pie is enjoyed by minority groups.

For instance, policies introduced by the Unity Government have so far cut across racial and religious lines, something that many former prime ministers failed to do.

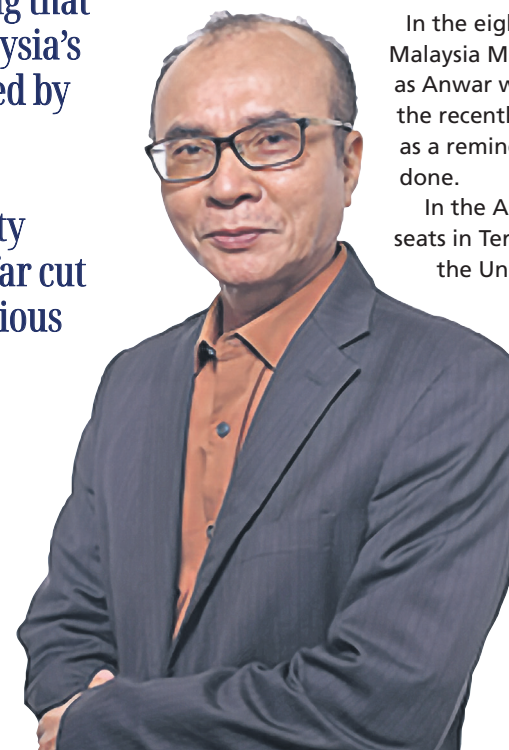
The national budget and the Madani Economy framework both focus on helping less privileged groups via targeted subsidies, cash aid and grants, among others.

Similarly, Anwar has spent millions of ringgit assisting opposition states despite being at the



Anwar has also played a pivotal role in ensuring that a bigger share of Malaysia's economic pie is enjoyed by minority groups. For instance, policies introduced by the Unity Government have so far cut across racial and religious lines, something that many former prime ministers failed to do

JENIRI AMIR
Senior fellow,
National Council of
Professors



receiving end of brickbats from their leaders and supporters.

Spreading the word

In the eight months since its unveiling, Malaysia Madani has not taken off as quickly as Anwar would have hoped for. If anything, the recently-concluded state elections serve as a reminder that much more needs to be done.

In the Aug 12 polls, PN won all the seats in Terengganu and almost wiped out the Unity Government parties from Kelantan and Kedah. It also made inroads into Harapan-led Selangor, Penang and Negeri Sembilan.

Racial and religious rhetoric, meanwhile, continue to divide the masses.

For some, this is a sign that Anwar's efforts to promote the values of Madani have failed to placate the deep-rooted fear of many Malays that their rights are being

eroded by Harapan.

Anwar himself acknowledged the complexity of the concept and said more time is needed for the public to fully grasp it.

WHAT IS MALAYSIA MADANI?

The concept is a policy framework introduced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Jan 19, 2023.

CORE VALUES

M A D A N I

- keMampanan (Sustainability)
- kesejahteraan (Prosperity)
- Daya cipta (Innovation)
- hormat (Respect)
- keyakinan (Trust)
- Ihsan (Care & Compassion)

AGENDA

- To focus on problem-solving processes
- Meeting the needs of the nation
- Creating a peaceful & prosperous future
- Fulfilling the potential of the people & the country

TARGETS

To be made the basis of every core value that will be explored to strengthen:

- Economy & finance
- Legislation
- Institutions
- Education
- Community
- Culture
- Urban
- Rural

Source: Prime Minister's Department
Published: Jan 19, 2023
Bernama Infographics

eroded by Harapan.

Anwar himself acknowledged the complexity of the concept and said more time is needed for the public to fully grasp it.

For Jeniri, the solution to the problem is simple — more effective communication and marketing strategies at all levels.

"This is an issue of perception that, supposedly, the Malays are under threat. But what I think voters, Malays in particular, need to do is really understand what Anwar is doing for the country," he said.

Jeniri pointed out that although more attention is now given to minority races compared to previously, the rights and privileges of the Malays continue to be upheld under the Unity Government.

In this regard, he said it is incumbent on Anwar's administration to better explain the Malaysia Madani

concept to the grassroots and that this must be done via various platforms and approaches.

"The promotion of Malaysia Madani should not be done just through the publication of a book, but also via more creative means, like TikTok videos and interviews with experts.

"Focus also shouldn't only be in the Klang Valley but should be expanded to other states and districts like in rural Sabah and Sarawak. Conduct small gatherings to explain to villagers, get the involvement of NGOs and village heads and people from all levels of the community.

"Other ministers should also consistently talk about it, not just Anwar. If all these can be done, then I don't see why, by the next general election, most, if not all, Malaysians will better accept the Malaysia Madani framework."

By
NADIRAH H. RODZI

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim's reputation for battling corruption long predates his appointment as Malaysia's 10th prime minister. From his days as a firebrand youth leader in the 1970s to his sacking as deputy prime minister in 1988, and then as the opposition leader in the 2000s, his persistence in bringing reform to the country's upper echelon of power were too often thwarted.

Now, Anwar has an anti-corruption weapon that he did not previously possess — his position at the helm of the Malaysian government — and he is determined to carry the fight through.

"When it comes to governance, I think it is my duty to undertake and effect change because the country is somewhat destroyed. Unless there is a clear political commitment and resolve to change, I do not believe Malaysia will survive," he said in an in-depth interview with *Al Jazeera's* 101 East programme in June.

Anwar claims that previous governments were beset by the practice of officials asking for "commissions".

"I don't mind being severely criticised for trying to put a stop to these practices. If I allow this (corruption), how can our country ever develop?" he said when opening the Bumiputera Entrepreneurs Assembly themed 'Madani Entrepreneurs Developing Economy' on Aug 5.

Stopping the rot

Transparency International Malaysia (TIM) president Muhammad Mohan said Anwar's sincerity in fighting corruption and pursuing a clean administration bodes well with his Unity Government.

"Anwar has repeatedly said that, to the best of his knowledge, not a single minister in his cabinet has obtained contracts or taken any bribes. He has asked all his cabinet ministers to look at the Auditor-General's report on the findings and the gaps to be addressed," Muhammad told *Selangor Journal*.

Security and political analyst Noor Nirwandy Mat Noordin said Anwar's effort to fight corruption is notable because of his consistency.

This was evident when government authorities initiated investigations into the Human Resources Ministry earlier this year over multiple allegations of graft and abuses.

"Nothing can be achieved without consistency in beliefs, determination and actions, so people need to acknowledge and support this because corruption bleeds government assets," Noor Nirwandy said when contacted.

"The extensive investigation into the Human Resources Ministry's migrant worker recruitment system, for example, was not a popular move, but it shows that Anwar is serious about stopping the rot."

Malaysia depends on millions of migrant workers to staff jobs in plantations, factories, construction and service sectors.

Over the years, the migrant labour ecosystem has faced accusations of collusion among politicians, enforcement agencies, recruitment companies, labour brokers and exploitative employers, as well as forced labour and appalling living conditions.

After assuming his role as the premier, Anwar has also directed various authoritative bodies, including



PM's anti-graft fight reassures investors



The extensive investigation into the Human Resources Ministry's migrant worker recruitment system, for example, was not a popular move, but it shows that Anwar is serious about stopping the rot

NOOR NIRWANDY MAT NOORDIN
Security and political analyst

the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), the Royal Malaysian Police, Bank Negara, the Inland Revenue Board and the Labuan Financial Services Authority, to launch investigations into issues unveiled by the Pandora Papers.

Anwar said Malaysia is committed to initiating probes wherever possible to prevent illicit fund transfers while specifying that the focus of these inquiries will be on politicians, including former prime ministers and finance ministers, due to the potential misuse of their positions to relocate personal wealth overseas during their tenures.

Call for more reforms

But as impressive as it may seem, tangible action is needed to back up his words, said observers.

Despite being praised for implementing selective tendering to save money and reduce leakages by halting direct negotiations in awarding government projects, experts said critical reforms are still due.

These include amending the Whistleblower Protection Act to provide greater protection and advocating for MACC reforms to ensure independence, which the previous administrations had glaringly neglected.

Recommendations by security experts have included MACC reporting to a parliamentary select committee, fixing the chief commissioner's tenure, and removing the power of the prime minister to make recommendations for the position.

Dubbed as the mother of corruption, 'money politics' has long been ingrained in Malaysia, observers said. This prompts the need for a Public Procurement Act.

Initial plans were announced five years ago, although there has not been any significant development on the matter since.

"The Political Funding Act is also long overdue, and the government and the opposition should sit together to reach a consensus on the draft bill and push to table this," said Muhammad.

"When these initiatives are done, and corruption in the public sector is reduced, the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) scores will improve, which will help boost investors' confidence and national security.

"The prime minister said he wants Malaysia to be ranked in the top 30 in the CPI within 10 years. This is doable, but the hard work must start now."

Malaysia recently saw a stream of investments from the European Union and the Middle East, which political and economic observers believe stemmed from the country's stricter graft-busting efforts.

Likening fighting corruption to elements of communications warfare, Noor Nirwandy said it is a soft power tool to enhance a nation's brand in the eyes of investors.

"We are boosting our image globally by being firmer in tackling power abuse and corruption. It's not an ordinary effort. Good governance talks about national, public and wealth security," he said.

Mending a fractured nation

By
DANIAL DZULKIFLY

THE introduction of the Malaysia Madani concept as a national policy by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in January came at a fractious time in the history of the country.

The nation had just emerged from the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic that had brought about great socioeconomic challenges like supply chain disruptions, escalating costs of living, increasing underemployment, and a growing intergenerational skills gap.

Adding to the struggle was the November 2022 general elections, which is regarded as one of the most divisive to date.

The result of the elections saw no major coalition securing a sufficient majority to allow it into Putrajaya's corridors of power and led to the establishment of a Unity Government with Anwar at the helm.

What the election outcome laid bare, however, was the preference of a large number of the Malay electorate who had voiced a strong desire for a new race-based coalition to represent their interests, as evidenced by the support garnered by Perikatan Nasional (PN) in the polls.

This sentiment had been amplified by PN's nativist style of political campaigning leading to the polls, which at times touched on racial and religious sensitivities, challenging Malaysia's cherished multiethnic and multireligious harmony.

Just two months into his premiership, Anwar saw the urgent need to craft a new socioeconomic narrative for Malaysians, one that endeavours to bring the multiethnic and economically diverse society under one unifying canvas.

This new narrative not only serves to bring people together, it also places his administration's policies — like providing the people with dignified living standards and liveable wages — in one place.

While previous Malaysian prime ministers have introduced their own themes for nation-building, such as '1Malaysia', 'Keluarga Malaysia', and 'Kerajaan Prihatin', the Madani concept goes one step further to address the country's increased social fragmentation and

empower Malaysians from all backgrounds to progress.

Malaysia Madani envisions a society that is civilised, skilled, and inclusive, founded on six core pillars: sustainability, prosperity, innovation, respect, trust, and compassion.

Why it matters

The emphasis on unity has always been at the forefront of every Malaysian administration since independence, though tailored to local needs and contexts.

Malaysia Madani, on the other hand, emphasises the importance for citizens to build bridges not only locally but with regional and global communities.

Anwar has stressed that Malaysia is no longer exempted from the collective responsibility of achieving sustainable development goals.

The pressing challenge, however, is to assure the predominantly Malay electorate that the Malaysia Madani concept is not just a slogan for the Unity Government comprising Pakatan Harapan (Harapan), Barisan Nasional (BN) and their Sabah and Sarawak allies.

It is instead an initiative to consolidate collective decision-making and aims to present public policies designed to address the country's significant structural challenges.

In short, the concept is not simply a political catchphrase designed to appease the public but encapsulates Anwar's broader vision for the nation's potential.

Anwar's commitment to multiculturalism, evident during his tenure in Umno and maintained throughout the formation of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (Keadilan), is a testament to this vision, Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research senior fellow Azmi Hassan pointed out.

"Malaysia Madani reflects Anwar Ibrahim's political endeavours both before and after the Reformasi movement," the political analyst said.

"The concept doesn't solely focus on one group or religion; rather, it encompasses all Malaysians whom he believes would substantially benefit from this idea.

"Consider Keadilan as an example. It was the 'reformasi'

sentiment that catalysed the birth of a multiracial party, epitomising Anwar's vision."

However, Azmi said the key now is to see how Malaysia Madani evolves and wins over the hearts and minds of the Malays — a critical voter segment whose support all major political parties are vying for.

But can Madani subjugate racial and religious rhetoric?

"It will be difficult as PN has been promoting nativist and Islamist ideologies, which are the antithesis of the Malaysia Madani concept.

"In this regard, there is a crucial need to propagate the importance of rational thinking, arguments and discussions to ultimately achieve the vision of Malaysia Madani," said Azmi, adding that the prime minister is the appropriate model to emphasise the need for intelligent discourse.

Most recently, Anwar announced the Madani Economy policy framework, devised from the analyses of eight sectors — economic and financial, legal, institutional, educational, social, cultural, urban, and rural.

The economic narrative contains specific policies that correspond to each of the six pillars under the Malaysia Madani concept.

More precisely, Anwar has shifted from the emphasis on solely bolstering the Bumiputera economy, which had been the central focus of previous administrations, to focusing on all Malaysians.

This is not to suggest that the current administration is not concentrating on the Bumiputera community's economy. Instead, it adopts a holistic approach to uplift all communities, aiming to eradicate hardcore poverty by year-end.

Anwar is acutely aware of the political climate, particularly within the Malay community, and has reaffirmed his commitment to safeguarding the Federal constitution, including the special privileges of the Bumiputera.

However, looking ahead, the Malaysia Madani concept is designed to propel the nation forward, amalgamating various communities under a singular, unifying goal that promises benefits for all.



Anwar's commitment to multiculturalism, evident during his tenure in Umno and maintained throughout the formation of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (Keadilan), is a testament to this vision

AZMI HASSAN
Senior fellow
Nusantara Academy
for Strategic
Research



Malaysia embarks on sustainable green journey

By
DANIAL DZULKIFLY

IN a ground-breaking move, Malaysia is moving away from its dependence on fossil fuel with the unveiling of the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) under the Unity Government coalition.

This monumental shift aligns with the Madani Economy framework championed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

At its core, the framework is designed to elevate the socioeconomic landscape of Malaysia, positioning its citizens in high-yield sectors that promise not just employment, but empowerment.

Central to NETR is a commitment to amplifying renewable energy in the national grid. The government has charted an ambitious course, targeting a 70 per cent renewable energy capacity by the year 2050.

To reach this milestone, investments in the power grid and pertinent legislative reforms are paramount.

Energy efficiency is another linchpin in Malaysia's green vision. With campaigns to boost awareness, mandatory energy audits for significant commercial entities, and the establishment of green building regulations and retrofit schemes, the government aims to promote conscientious energy consumption and conservation.

The NETR also casts a particular focus on the transportation industry, notorious for its greenhouse gas output.

The strategy envisages a thorough overhaul of the public transport system, enhancing connectivity and integration.

As the world races towards electric transportation, Malaysia is no exception. The roadmap outlines infrastructural



developments for EV charging, signalling a shift towards electric vehicular dominance on Malaysian roads.

However, the government is not placing all its bets on electrification alone as biofuels have a pivotal role in the grand scheme, underlining Malaysia's multifaceted approach to curbing vehicular emissions.

Furthermore, the NETR heralds potential amendments to renewable energy policies and paves the way for possible international energy trading through a proposed electricity exchange framework.

A detailed breakdown of the NETR

reveals a structured plan involving 50 initiatives, categorised under six energy transition levers and bolstered by five strategic enablers.

These initiatives complement the 10 flagship projects announced in July 2023, offering a panoramic view of Malaysia's green ambitions.

A strategy of this magnitude requires substantial financing and Malaysia is poised to employ a gamut of financial tools — from grants and loans to rebates and incentives — to underwrite this transition, ensuring that the shift is as economically rewarding as it is

environmentally beneficial.

If the roadmap's directives are carried to fruition, Malaysia stands to bolster its domestic gross product (GDP) from RM25 billion in 2023 to an astounding RM220 billion by 2050.

Moreover, the employment projections are encouraging, with NETR initiatives slated to spur the creation of a whopping 310,000 jobs by 2050.

Launch of NETR's Phase 1

Minister of Economy Rafizi Ramli had previously emphasised that Malaysia possesses several advantages, including a strategic location, a rich array of renewable energy sources, and a high level of expertise, positioning it as a potential regional leader in energy transition.

He further stressed that Malaysia is poised to capitalise on the opportunity to attract global investment in the clean technology sector, which amounted to RM5 trillion in 2022 and is anticipated to rise in subsequent years.

With ambitious targets and a range of initiatives, the government aims to create a sustainable and prosperous future for the country through the NETR.

As of 2020, renewable energy sources such as hydroelectric, solar, and bioenergy made up a mere 3.9 per cent of Malaysia's total primary energy supply (TPES).

Under Anwar's administration, the government has undertaken a significant revision of its targets for renewable energy capacity, from 40 per cent in 2040 to 70 per cent in 2050.

This comprehensive strategy is set to roll out in two distinct phases, with the first phase launch on July 27, 2023.

The objectives and action items detailed within the NETR's first phase are expected to lay a solid foundation for the subsequent phase.

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

The NETR's 10 flagship projects are meticulously crafted around six pivotal energy transition levers



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Dissemination of energy conservation practices, mandatory energy audits for large businesses, and the introduction of green building standards



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Deployment of cutting-edge solar parks and mitigation of regulatory hurdles in the solar domain



HYDROGEN

Leading research and development initiatives in hydrogen energy, coupled with infrastructure for its generation and application



BIOENERGY

Promotion of biomass clustering and innovative waste-to-energy solutions



GREEN MOBILITY

Financial incentives for EV adoption and comprehensive EV charging network development



CCUS

Investment in avant-garde technologies for carbon capture, its productive use, and secure storage

Sports complex project on track

By **SUHAILA SHAHRUL ANNUAR**

KUALA LANGAT - The redevelopment of the Shah Alam Sports Complex (KSSA), covering 76.08 hectares, is going according to plan.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said several details are being finalised and will be announced soon.

"God willing, I will make an announcement in the near future. We are finalising some details, such as when (construction) will start and so on.

"We have just concluded a meeting, and there are several follow-up steps which need to be taken. At the very least, the demolition operations will commence this year," he

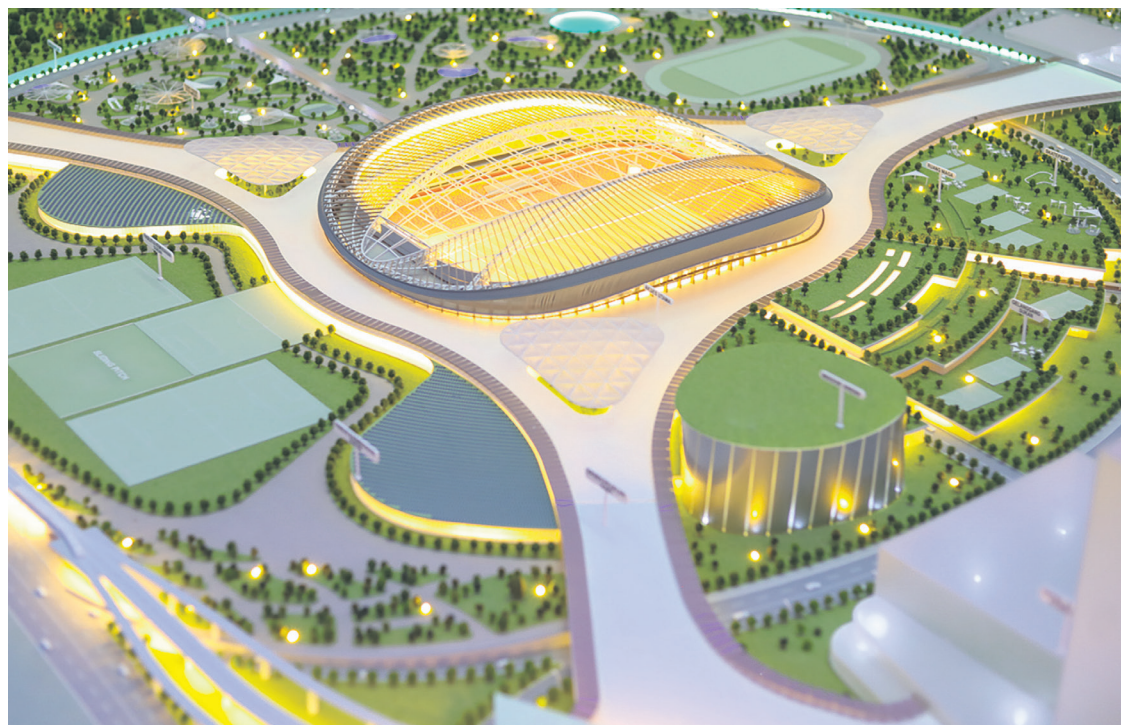
told the press following the Fit Malaysia Selangor 2023 programme at Gamuda Cove Central Park on Sept 2, which saw 11,000 participants.

The programme included activities like a fun walk, a five-kilometre run, a trail ride, aerobic exercises, skipping rope challenges, and 14 fitness competitions.

Previously, the Menteri Besar said the KSSA project would commence in October.

The project is deemed necessary due to the high cost of repairing the existing stadium, estimated at RM787 million.

Of this figure, RM56 million has already been spent on maintenance and repairs from 2013 to 2022.



State seeks expert help for new Sukma events

SHAH ALAM - Four sports associations will meet with state government representatives on preparations for Sukan Malaysia (Sukma) 2024.

Youth and Sports Development Committee chairman Najwan Halimi said state boxing, Muay Thai, petanque, and

e-sports groups will provide details on their participation in Sukma 2024 in Sarawak.

"These four events were just recently announced, and we needed time for briefing and preparatory sessions. We will hold the meeting first and then decide on further action.

"For other events, the Selangor contingent has begun preparations and is aiming for the top spot. We hope to repeat our Sukma 2016 victory in Sarawak," he said.

In March, Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh, after chairing the Sukma Supreme

Committee meeting, said Sarawak was chosen to host the 2024 iteration.

Twenty-eight mandatory sporting events will be held at Sukma 2024 — aquatics (swimming and diving), weightlifting, badminton, cycling (track and on-road), gymnastics (ar-

tistic and rhythmic), golf, fencing, archery, shooting, athletics, sailing, hockey, judo, table tennis, taekwondo, karate, lawn bowling, pencak silat, squash, sepak takraw, tenpin bowling, wushu, football, rugby, netball, basketball, volleyball and tennis.

Fearless Harimau Malaya in 1-1 draw against China



Mohamad Faisal in full focus as he aims for the goal at the 11th minute, stunning China at home — Picture via FAM

KUALA LUMPUR - The Harimau Malaya head coach Kim Pan Gon was impressed with his players' determination after Malaysia almost shocked the 80th-ranked team, China, when they drew 1-1 in a Tier 1 international friendly in Chengdu, on Sept 9.

The 54-year-old South Korean coach also expressed his satisfaction with his players' performance and considered the draw good enough for the team.

"It was a very good game against a stronger team, the higher-ranking China. We learned a lot from this game as well. I'm very proud of all the players, what they have done tonight (on Sept 9) made Malaysia proud.

"As a coach, I have zero complaints, what they have done was great. For our side, it was a very good result," he told a post-match press conference at the Phoenix Hill Stadium in Chengdu.

When asked about the team's positive progress, Pan Gon said that the change in tactical approach to become more proactive and have more control of the game affected the improve-

ment.

He said the determination to fight for the country and the trust between the players and coaches also helped in improving the team's performance.

"Win or lose is secondary, our performance is the most important. Our target is trying to get a higher ranking in the future," he said.

In the match on Sept 9, winger Mohamad Faisal Abdul Halim put the team ahead in the 11th minute before Lin Liangming equalised for China in the 36th minute.

The draw saw Malaysia, which is ranked 136th in the world, maintain its unbeaten record in six friendlies this year after recording four wins and one draw since March.

Harimau Malaya will compete in the 2023 Merdeka Festival, which will see the participation of India, Tajikistan and Palestine, from Oct 13 to 17, before starting the 2026 World Cup/2027 Asian Cup Qualification campaign in November and the 2023 Asian Cup in Qatar in January next year. - Bernama

By DANIAL DZULKIFLY

CIVIL aviation stakeholders and experts have nothing but praise for the recently concluded Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) 2023, commending the annual event for its role in helping to propel the industry forward.

With 67 per cent of Malaysia's civil aviation activities based in Selangor, the airshow has emerged as an important event, bringing together industry players, putting a spotlight on technological innovations and facilitating discussions on pertinent developments.

Speaking to *Selangor Journal*, Universiti Kuala Lumpur's Centre for Women Advancement and Leadership coordinator Hazariah Mohd Noh highlighted SAS' role as an invaluable platform for advocating and exhibiting the latest industry innovations.

"SAS offers a chance to share best practices in specific sectors. For instance, this year, I presented on the advancements in the digital maintenance, repairs and overhaul (MRO) sector and its benefits for the aviation industry as a whole.

"It's heartening to see comprehensive platforms like SAS where professionals can engage in meaningful discussions about advancements and innovations. Such interactions undoubtedly benefit both current participants and those keen to join the industry," she said.

Digital MRO is an innovative approach that harnesses the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence and robotics for aircraft repair, allowing aviation engineers to perform repairs and diagnostics using digital solutions, collaborating seamlessly with those on the ground.

Hazariah has been a guest at the SAS since its inception in 2021. Over the years, she has addressed diverse topics, including aviation safety and women's involvement in the industry.

This year, she served as a moderator and panellist for the 'Women and the Next Generation of Aviation Profession-



als in the Era of Digital MRO' forum.

University Kuala Lumpur, which offers aviation-related courses to its students, also participated as one of the exhibitors of SAS 2023.

Driving drone technology

Business development manager and chief remote pilot Muhammad Syafiq Salleh of SG Education Group Bhd, another panellist at the airshow, commended the SAS for providing a platform to showcase drone technology more prominently this year, recognising

its position in the rapidly evolving aviation sector.

He said this is timely, considering the burgeoning talent pool of drone pilots in Malaysia, whose expertise could be used to stimulate economic growth, as well as the rising use of drones in commercial applications.

Syafiq also lauded the Selangor government for its forward-thinking approach towards drone technology.

"They've undertaken multiple initiatives using drones, such as pothole monitoring and environmental impact assessments. SAS has rightly emphasised this transformative technology. I'm convinced of its potential to bolster Selangor's and, by extension, Malaysia's economy."

Syafiq added that the fast-paced evolution of drone technology, which could soon see a single operator managing multiple unmanned aerial vehicles, underscores the importance of broader training in the field.

Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation head of drone tech WM Farhan WM Fuaad said SAS is unique due to it being one of the only platforms in Malaysia that gather local aerospace and aviation players, including drone technology stakeholders.

"It's a rare event in the region, attract-

ing participants from Thailand and Singapore eager to understand drone technology advancements in Malaysia."

For Farhan, the significance of the event lies not just in showcasing technological prowess but also in understanding and promoting the broader drone technology industry's needs.

"It allows us to advocate for the industry, comprehend market demands and discover innovations. As a government agency, our dual mission is to help the industry expand and ensure our operators function safely," he said.

SAS 2023, held at the Skypark Regional Aviation Centre (RAC) in Bukit Jelutong, here, saw the participation of 19,297 visitors throughout the three-day event that started on Sept 7.

The attendees included a mix of trade and industry players, along with members of the public, which reflected the show's broad appeal.

One of the key highlights of SAS 2023 was the signing of 24 memorandums of understanding (MoUs), collectively worth RM700 million in potential transactions.

This year's airshow also saw the participation of 119 exhibitors, almost doubling last year's 66, demonstrating the increasing popularity and prominence of the event in the global aviation sector.



Selangor navigates the future

By DANIAL DZULKIFLY

IN the wake of the post-pandemic surge in the aviation sector, coupled with the growing demand for air travel and an acute need for a skilled workforce, Selangor is positioning itself as the civil aviation nucleus for Southeast Asia, said Ng Sze Han.

Ng, the state executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility, underscored Selangor's comprehensive aviation infrastructure as a cornerstone that provides the region with a distinct advantage.

"Aviation industry representatives have highlighted that the demand for air travel is mounting, post-pandemic. Thus, it's an opportunity for Selangor to seize this burgeoning market," he told the press at the Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) 2023 in Bukit Jelutong, here, on Sept 9.

Ng said Selangor boasts a robust ecosystem tailored to train and upscale workers within the aviation realm.

"Selangor's established aviation foundation is an asset. The mission now is to upscale this industry, focusing on collaborations between local authorities and civil aviation stakeholders," he said.

Soaring high

As Selangor is home to a fair amount of aviation infrastructure, the current ambition is to grow the industry, advocating for bolstered support from local governance and enhanced collaboration with domestic civil aviation stakeholders.

From a broader perspective, Ng said, Southeast Asia is increasingly emerging as a vital hub for aviation, fuelled by the region's economic growth and swelling appetite for air travel.

He said Selangor plays a central role in this evolution by hosting aerospace-centric endeavours and events like the SAS.

"Attendance at SAS has seen a notable jump, at 19,297 participants, which surpasses the previous year's count of 10,000 attendees.

"In addition to the rising attendance, we've also witnessed an increase in the number of forums and talks held.

"This year, we hosted 33 events featuring 65 distinguished speakers. Furthermore, the number of exhibitors joining us this year came to 119, a re-



markable increase from last year's 66."

However, Ng clarified that this year's anticipated total number of transactions remains around RM700 million from the 24 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) signed over the three-day event, which ran from Sept 7.

"Looking ahead, we anticipate some variability in the value of transactions, as not every MoU yields immediate financial benefits, and they often require time to come to fruition. What we do foresee, however, is a heightened level of participation, scale, and interest in future iterations of SAS," he said.

In the previous year, SAS 2022 reported transaction values exceeding RM1 billion.

Turning skills to gold

Apart from helping the recovery of the aviation industry, Ng said the Selangor air show also fits into the state's catalytic economic plan, the First Selangor Plan (RS-1), emphasising five sub-sectors within the aviation sector.

"The five sub-sectors are namely the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), aero manufacturing, system integration, the design and engineering segment, and education and training, which equip future professionals with the skills and knowledge essential for the aerospace industry's continued growth," he said.



universities and vocational colleges to introduce more aviation-centric courses tailored to industry demands.

Speaking about SAS's success, Ng shared that the event is making waves on the global stage, evident from the international participation in both the exhibitions and the career fair.

"We anticipate nothing but growth ahead, with evident keen interest from industry players for future editions of SAS," Ng said.

The first two days of the trade show welcomed thousands of trade visitors who participated in industry talks, forums, and networking events.

Key industry players from the civil aviation sub-sector, including MROs, aviation educational institutions, and aviation manufacturers, were in attendance.

Major companies such as Dassault Systemes, Gulfstream, and Malaysia Airports Holdings Brhd were among those present.

On Sept 9, the trade show was open to the public on its final day, showcasing its static display of 40 aircraft, ranging from seaplanes and commercial jets to air defence assets, and the Layang Layang Flying Academy performed aerobatics for thousands of spectators.

Ng elaborated that the state administration is keenly focused on nurturing local talent and bridging the aerospace and aviation industry gap using platforms like SAS.

"We recently organised the SAS 2023 Career Fair, featuring 25 local and international employers.

This fair acts as a conduit, linking industry stalwarts with vibrant talent eager to embark on a career in aerospace and aviation.

"We're also connecting these industry players with a rich pool of local talent at the career fair, creating avenues for individuals to elevate their careers in the aerospace domain.

"Our primary aim is to provide our citizens with high-income jobs, fostering enhanced social mobility and empowering them to advance professionally."

Ng expressed his aspiration for local





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