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SELANGOR JOURNAL



THIS month, Selangor is calling on investors looking at expanding into Asean to come and visit its trade show, the Selangor International Business Summit, which promises four days of extensive networking and exchanging of ideas between the industry's best. Already a base for many multinational corporations, the state has been proactive in expanding its influence on the region's economy. The summit is just one of many initiatives it has lined up to realise its ambition of becoming Asean's preferred hub for all trade and commerce activities.

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Selangor woos investors keen to expand into Asean

By **DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

KUALA LUMPUR - The Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) 2023 is set to be the best platform for ambitious businesses eager to expand their reach into the Asean market by building a solid foundation in Selangor, said Ng Sze Han.

Targeting RM1.5 billion in potential transaction value for SIBS, the state executive councillor for investment, trade, and mobility said this year's edition is expecting to host approximately 1,000 exhibition booths and some 50,000 trade visitors.

"I believe SIBS 2023 will continue to strengthen Selangor's position as a gateway to the Asean region and a preferred investment destination in Asia.

"I am happy to announce that the upcoming seventh edition of SIBS this October will be the biggest edition to date, with more participation from local and international exhibitors, industry thought speakers and captains of industry.

"There will be six main programmes with an additional five side programmes being lined up to run concurrently during this four-day event, and I look forward to meeting everyone and creating the synergy for our mutual benefits," he said in his speech during the official launch of SIBS 2023 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, on Sept 21.

Citing Selangor's economic achievements in the previous year, Ng said the state led the expansion of the Malaysian economy by contributing 25.5 per cent to Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022.

Selangor's economic growth of 11.9 per cent last year, above the national growth rate of 8.7 per cent, is even more impressive compared to the economic growth achieved by the other countries in the region, demonstrating its continuous robust and active activities.

"It is noteworthy that Malaysia's record of 8.7 per cent economic growth in 2022 was the highest among Asean countries. For comparison, Vietnam's economy grew at 8 per cent, the Philippines at 7.6 per cent, Indonesia at 5.3 per cent, and Cambodia at 5.1 per cent.

"SIBS 2023 will further validate Selangor's position as the most progressive and developed state in Malaysia," he said.

Meanwhile, Invest Selangor Bhd (Invest Selangor) chief executive officer Datuk Hasan Azhari Idris, who was also present at the launch, noted that SIBS 2023 anticipates participation from international pavilions like China, Indonesia, Japan, India, Korea, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Australia, Nigeria, and Uganda.

The event will showcase the upcoming regional conference, the Selangor Asean Business Conference (SABC)

2023, along with five other main programmes and other events co-located at the same venue.

"SABC will persist in its discourse on regional geo-economic predicaments and prospects. The emphasis will be on Selangor's strategic role in fostering transnational collaborations. This year, the spotlight will be on tailored panel sessions designed to open the doors to inter-Asean trade and investment opportunities," he said.

Themed 'Selangor: The Gateway to Asean', the annual trade summit will be held from Oct 19 to 22 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The event will host six main components, including the ninth Selangor International Expo (F&B), the eighth Selangor Smart City & Digital Economy Convention (SDEC 2023), the fourth Selangor R&D And Innovation Expo (SRIE 2023), the ninth Selangor International Expo (Medic), and the third Selangor Industrial Park Expo (SPARK 2023).



Upgrading works at treatment plant vital for clean water

HULU LANGAT - The upgrading, maintenance, and replacement of assets at the Sungai Langat water treatment plant (WTP) is inevitable and must be carried out to ensure the continuous distribution of safe and clean water to consumers, said Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor).

Its acting chief executive officer, Abas Abdullah, said the Sungai Langat WTP has been in operation since 1973, and some of its assets need to be replaced.

"The upgrading and maintenance works need to be carried out because every asset has its lifespan, and we need to prevent unexpected damage.

"There are 16 major works involving the replacement of equipment that have not been replaced since 1973.

"We have to make sure that the WTP is able to continue its operation to ensure safe water supply is channelled to the consumers," he said at a press conference at the Sungai Langat WTP in Cheras, here, on Oct 5.

Abas said major maintenance works are carried out every five years, with the last major upgrading works done in 2016.

Smaller scale works are carried out

annually and do not result in water cuts.

Meanwhile, Air Selangor has alerted residents in 339 areas in Petaling, Kuala Lumpur, and Hulu Langat of a scheduled disruption on Oct 10.

The works are expected to begin at 9am on Oct 10 and complete by 7pm the same day. Water supply is expected to fully recover by 12pm on Oct 12.

Abas said Air Selangor will mobilise 75 water tankers to the affected areas and will prioritise premises such as hospitals, dialysis centres, and funeral parlours.

State executive councillor for infrastructure Izhah Hashim, in a Facebook post on Oct 4, reminded residents in the affected areas to store enough water.

"Affected residents, please be prepared and store a sufficient supply," he said.

For more information on the scheduled disruption, visit Air Selangor's mobile app or its Facebook, Instagram, and X, or contact Air Selangor at 15300.

Questions and complaints can be submitted to the app or the Help Centre on the website www.airselangor.com.



Abas (centre) gives members of the press a tour of the Sungai Langat WTP on Oct 5

State govt vows swift flood response

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has pledged to improve its response time during incidents of flooding that are expected to begin in November, coinciding with the northeast monsoon.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said several approaches have been considered and will involve state executive councillors, the local councils, and command centres.

"We have identified our temporary evacuation centres (PPS) that can be used to store our essential kits," he said in a press conference, here, on Oct 4.

"If a flood occurs, relief equipment and supplies will be sent quickly," he added, as opposed to the situation in 2021, where the authorities' response time was called into question.

Amirudin said the Smart Selangor Operations Centre will also coordinate and monitor information that needs to be disseminated to the public through collaboration with the Meteorological Department.

In addition, he said local councils, the Irrigation and Drainage Department, the Public Works Department, and other related agencies have been instructed to conduct immediate cleaning works at reservoirs and drains, particularly in flood-prone areas.

Amirudin also announced that the state executive councillors have been assigned to carry out specific duties in the event of a disaster.

Ng Sze Han will be responsible for the rehabilitation of industrial areas; Izham Hashim for infrastructure rehabilitation; Borhan Aman Shah for PPS management; Ng Suee Lim for cleaning and managing local councils; Datuk Rizam Ismail for rural areas disaster coordination; Najwan Halimi for volunteer aid coordination; Jamaliah Jamaluddin for health matters; V. Papparaidu for special tasks; Dr Mohammad Fahmi Ngah for telecommunications, mosques and surau management; and Anfaal Saari for welfare coordination.

"Based on our past experience, the state government is prepared to render help to 5,000 flood victims.

"I have ordered the Social Welfare Department to provide additional equipment," he said.

3 pledges to be fulfilled by October

By **YASMIN RAMLAN**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government will implement three of its five election pledges that it vowed to accomplish within 100 days of coming into power by this month.

This marks a significant milestone for the Pakatan Harapan-Barisan Nasional state administration, less than two months since it won the Aug 12 state election.

The three pledges that will be implemented, according to Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, are the assessment tax exemptions for village homes and low-cost houses; an increase in allowances for imams, bilals, and siaks; and RM1,000 incentives to 500 farmers, padi cultivators, and fishermen.

Amirudin said the two other pledges — RM200 Kita Selangor book vouchers for university students and RM1,000 in financial aid for 5,000 working women to cover for childcare costs — will be implemented next month.

"We will announce that later," he said at a press conference at the State Secretariat Building, here, on Oct 4.

Elaborating on the tax exemption initiative, Amirudin said a total of 426,656 homes in Selangor will benefit from the assistance for the July 1 to Dec 31 tax term. This will cost local councils in the state a total of RM29.42 million.

"It is hoped that this targeted aid will increase the disposable income and reduce the cost of living for the low-income group," he said.

For the state's agricultural and fishing incentive, Amirudin said RM500 would be paid in cash to beneficiaries, while the remaining RM500 would be channelled via the provision of crops, equipment



and raw materials.

The aid will be distributed starting Oct 31, with the cooperation of AgroBank Selangor and Koperasi Kohijrah Warga Hijrah Selangor Bhd.

As for the allowances for mosque personnel, which will be coordinated by the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais), Amirudin said the monthly income of 760 imams in the state will be increased from RM1,300 to RM1,500 starting Oct 25.

In addition, the allowances for 1,900 nazirs, bilals, and siaks will be increased by RM50 a month to RM300, RM340, and RM290, respectively.

He added that the incentives involve an allocation of RM2.96 million and will be allocated annually as part of the state government's effort to promote Islamic teachings in Selangor.

MBI: Fret not, Sabda won't alter Sabak Bernam landscape

SHAH ALAM - The scenic landscape of Sabak Bernam will be preserved even upon the completion of several massive development projects there by the state government in the next few years.

This is the promise given by Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI, to the local community amid concerns that the development would alter the look of the northern district, which is a popular tourist spot.

MBI is the organisation entrusted by the state government to oversee the implementation of the Sabak Bernam Development Area (Sabda), a state initiative under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Its economic and financial division chief, Zannifa Azura Ahmad, said projects being planned under Sabda will in-

tegrate seamlessly with the district's existing landscape.

"When we proposed the idea to the community, they expressed fear. To them, we will change Sabak Bernam's landscape," she said in an interview on Agenda Awani on Oct 4.

"But we explained that, in terms of architectural design, we really studied it, and the design will integrate seamlessly (with the surroundings)."

Such is the state's commitment to ensuring this goal is achieved that Zannifa said a team from MBI had spent three months in Sabak Bernam to properly understand the needs and expectations of the local community.

"The study we conducted and feedback we gathered were really worth it,"

she said, adding that the forest reserve, which makes up 40 per cent of the district, will be preserved, notwithstanding Sabda's implementation.

Zannifa said that concerns raised by residents include the fate of certain facilities once the state's mega projects are completed and the potential loss of income.

To address this, she said MBI had collaborated with a consortium of related associations there to garner their input and proposals before making any decision.

"Some asked what would happen to existing jetties, for example. We noticed that a lot of people visit Sabak Bernam for the experience. So we proposed, why not turn them into bed and breakfast?"

"Ships can also be turned into cruises or dining spots. They thought that when we develop the area, we will destroy everything."

Meanwhile, Zannifa said MBI's role in implementing Sabda is to ensure better organisation of economic activities in Sabak Bernam, noting that current developments there are unorganised and slow.

"We try to develop the district in a more organised and strategic manner," she said.

"The aim is to increase the economic activity based on agriculture. We encourage entrepreneurship and innovation among local businesses and communities. We also have huge potential to expand the ecotourism industry."

Putting Mangrove Point on the tourism map

KLANG - As part of efforts to promote one of Selangor's newer tourism destinations, Mangrove Point, state subsidiary Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) has included the eco-haven park among the stops for the Sungai Klang River Educational Trip (RIT) programme.

LLSB corporate services officer (communications) Suhailah Shamsudin said the ecotourism and educational centre, located near Port Klang, has been earmarked as a designated stop before the start of the river trip.

The move is also because the jetty meant for the RIT programme has yet to be completed.

"As such, we make an active effort to showcase the park to organisations and visitors first before the boat ride," she told *Selangor Journal*.

RIT is a programme under the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) master plan, a state initiative to rehabilitate and rejuvenate Sungai Klang.

LLSB is the master developer appointed to implement key activities in the development of the river.

Suhailah said LLSB has also organised several clean-up programmes with non-governmental organisations, partners, and universities at Mangrove Point, in a bid to promote the destination and encourage environmental stewardship.

The collaborators include Kelab Belia Prihatin, environmental advocacy groups AirKita and EcoKnights, and education institutions Management and Science University (MSU) and UCSI University.

She said multiple exclusive events have also been hosted at Mangrove Point, including a media visit with state executive councillor for agriculture Izhah Hashim and a working visit by Energy and Natural Resources Ministry officials.

LLSB also uses social media to promote the park. Among others, an #ExploreMangrovePoint photography competition was held before its official opening to the public on July 26.

"Social media is our biggest friend. Most of our shoutouts about Mangrove Point are on our platforms," Suhailah said, adding that the public can obtain further information via SMG's Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn accounts.

During a media visit to Sungai Klang organised jointly by LLSB and Tourism Selangor on Sept 21, she said a total of 2,000 individuals had visited Mangrove Point since March last year.

"To continue promoting awareness of the importance of taking care of the environment, the public is encouraged to come and learn about the mangrove forest ecosystem," Suhailah said.

Although it has yet to be fully developed, Mangrove Point was officially opened to the public on July 26, in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem.



Ng and Tourism Selangor's chief executive officer Azrul Shah Mohamad pose with placards showing the state's many tourism campaigns, during a townhall session at Tourism Selangor's office on Sept 22

State's top-class hospitals a draw

By **YASMIN RAMLAN**

SHAH ALAM - A month after being appointed as state executive councillor for local government and tourism, Ng Suee Lim said Selangor will focus on medical tourism to draw more foreign visitors to the state.

He said the plan is one of many promotional strategies outlined by Tourism Selangor.

The five-term Sekinchan state assemblyman explained that the strategies for the upcoming year align with preparations for the Visit Selangor Year 2025 campaign.

The campaign aims to attract up to eight million domestic and international tourists that year.

"(The plan is in place) due to the top-notch medical facilities we offer, and we plan to strengthen it.

"We will promote our tourism domestically and internationally, focusing on the Asian market, especially in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Singapore and Indonesia are our main targets," he said during a meet-and-greet with the media at the Tourism Selangor office in Section 14, here, on Sept 22.

According to a report by *The Edge Malaysia*, the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council reported that the domestic healthcare travel industry raked in over RM900 million for the first half of 2023.

Ng said the usage of social media, especially TikTok, will be one of the platforms for reaching a larger audience.

"We will ensure that all our social media platforms are fully utilised. We will enhance our content in all the apps, including TikTok, since youngsters nowadays prefer to watch short videos.

"We will approach local influencers and collaborate with them for (content) on TikTok, es-

pecially in introducing destinations, products and local delicacies."

Ng also outlined other plans for Selangor's tourism, including the 'Nak Bercuti? Pusing Selangor Dulu!' campaign that will utilise the 160 Smart Selangor Buses operating in the state.

Meanwhile, Ng said an increase of up to RM10 million in allocation is needed to improve Selangor's tourism sector.

"I was told the allocation for promotional purposes is RM6 million a year. It is insufficient for the entirety of Selangor. If possible, (we need) RM10 million," said Ng.

He said to achieve the state's tourism goal, promotional campaigns need to be carried out consistently and that they are a type of investment.

"It cannot be done in a day or two but perhaps throughout a year or two. Then, we will see the result. We need to be consistent."

Earlier in his speech, Ng cited figures from the Department of Statistics, which show that Selangor drew the third-highest number of domestic tourists this year, at 6.4 million.

He added that the state will reach its target of five million tourists this year and that it already has received four million tourists this year as of this month.

Ng said the state government will also ramp up the promotion of eco and agro-tourism in Selangor's northern and southern regions starting next year, including creating three-day, two-night accommodation packages that will be packed with activities.

Coincidentally, during the tabling of Budget 2023 earlier this year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that 2025 will be Visit Malaysia Year.

Putrajaya is hoping to welcome 23.5 million international tourists, with a projected income of RM76.8 billion, in that period.

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By SELANGOR JOURNAL TEAM

SHAH ALAM - Selangor is striving to be the number one state in Southeast Asia by way of building a dignified and resilient economy, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

To achieve this, Amirudin stressed the need for the state government to look beyond the region for competition.

Despite consistently being Malaysia's highest income contributor, the administration should not rest on its laurels.

"This vision is the driving force behind RS-1, which I launched in August last year, the driving force to not be complacent or content with our successes, but to understand that we are not competing to be Malaysia's best state.

"Rather, we are competing to be the number one state in Southeast Asia, better than Jakarta, Manila, Bangkok, or Hanoi. We must start looking beyond Southeast Asia to the likes of Tokyo, Seoul, Shenzhen, Singapore, Melbourne, and Sydney.

"These are our competition, and RS-1 has a singular aim to build a dignified, resilient and sustainable economy using digitisation as the thrust to push us forward," Amirudin said during the signing ceremony between Daiso Malaysia Group Sdn Bhd and Kajima-Suncon Joint Venture, at Courtyard by Marriott Setia Alam Hotel, here, on Oct 5.

RS-1 is the first document of its kind in the country, developed to fulfil the needs of its people and aims to make Selangor a smart, liveable, and prosperous state by 2025.

It contains four strategic themes, five policy catalysts, and 262 initiatives, which include 19 game-changing projects.

Looking ahead, the Menteri Besar said RS-1's upcoming mid-term review would focus on creating and offering high-value jobs to Selangor residents

Selangor in race to be Southeast Asia's best



Selangor's highly-skilled workforce is what drives the economy, says Amirudin. In this file picture, he observes the workings of Malaysia's first electric towing vehicle for commercial jets displayed at the Skypark RAC Subang on Sept 7

and implementing several high-impact projects.

These include a new rail infrastructure initiative from Klang to Kuala Selangor and Sabak Bernam and developing a fully digitised third port in Pulau Carey.

The review process will begin after the launch of the 2024 Selangor Budget, which is scheduled for tabling next month.

Amirudin said 2023 is also a year where Malaysia is 'put back on the right track', crediting Prime Minister Datuk

Seri Anwar Ibrahim for four important documents that will transform the country's medium-term prospects.

Among them are the Madani Economy framework, which seeks to build a resilient and dignified society and propel Malaysia towards becoming a top-30 economy globally, and the National Energy Transition Roadmap, which focuses on accelerating the transition from coal and gas-fired power plants to more sustainable renewable energy.

"The Investment, Trade, and Industry Ministry recently launched a plan

to re-energise Malaysia's industrial capacity after going through a period of premature deindustrialisation, and the New Industrial Master Plan seeks to correct this.

"About two weeks ago, Parliament passed the 12th Malaysian Plan's Mid-Term Review to offer better jobs and salaries, to build a bigger middle class in Malaysia," Amirudin said, adding that the (national) Budget 2024 scheduled for tabling on Oct 13 will focus on key improvements in education and healthcare.

Move to recognise caregivers for their economic contribution

SHAH ALAM - In a progressive move, the Selangor government is formulating policies that will acknowledge the invaluable contribution of housewives, househusbands, and unpaid caregivers to the nation's economy, said Anfaal Saari.

The state executive councillor for women empowerment and welfare said that the policies aim to support these individuals by integrating social enterprises and corporate partnerships.

She said the collaborative approach is designed to offer opportunities to these individuals, thereby enhancing their capabilities to better provide for their dependents.

"We're not solely zoning in on the

care economy aspect, but also assessing their contribution to the broader economy and gauging their value in terms of contribution to the national GDP (gross domestic product).



"By partnering with social enterprises and corporations, we can provide caregivers with income-generating opportunities while they continue to care for their dependents, such as their children or bedridden family members," she told *Selangor Journal*.

Anfaal explained that this is part of the state government's commitment to supporting the national endeavour of boosting female participation in the

workforce.

She clarified that the state government has already established a support system for working mothers.

This includes providing subsidies for daycare and dispensing cash aid through the Selangor Sejahtera Living Assistance (Bingkas) programme.

As per the latest government data from May 2021, female participation in the national workforce stands at 55.5 per cent.

However, the Federal government has set a target of 59 per cent by 2025.

On the aforementioned policies, an upcoming convention, scheduled to be announced later this month, will shed further light on the specifics, said Anfaal.

Aligning with this vision, Anfaal re-

cently revealed the state's intent to synchronise policies with the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

This strategic initiative aims to elevate Selangor's Family Wellbeing Index (IKK) score to eight by 2025. The foundation of this index revolves around fortifying family institutions.

Referring to the 2019 IKK report, Selangor currently ranks 13th nationally out of 17 states and territories, with a score of 7.68.

The challenges faced by Selangor families are multifaceted, said Anfaal.

"Parents are overburdened with work, financial constraints, inadequate savings, and the 'sandwich generation' phenomenon, where individuals simultaneously support ageing parents and their children."

Daiso picks Selangor to build mega warehouse

By SELANGOR JOURNAL TEAM

SHAH ALAM - Selangor is set to become home to Japanese variety store Daiso's largest warehouse in the world, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

This comes after an agreement to develop Daiso's new global distribution centre that will span 156,927 square metres in Pulau Indah, which is expected to be fully operational by January 2027.

"I understand that once this new centre is fully up and running, it will become Daiso's largest warehouse, larger even than its home centre in Hiroshima, Japan.

"I thank you for having chosen Selangor to place your investment. This is also a testament to your trust and confidence in all things good about Selangor," he said at the signing ceremony between Daiso Malaysia Group Sdn Bhd and Kajima-Suncon Joint Venture for the development of the facility at Courtyard

by Marriott Setia Alam Hotel, here, on Oct 5.

He added that Daiso's increased presence via the new distribution hub will have a net positive impact on the state's manufacturing and logistics sectors, with the plant expected to handle an annual volume of 9,317 containers of out-bound shipments upon its completion.

"This hub is strategically positioned to increase efficiency as part of Daiso's global supply chain, with Selangor serving demand not only in Asia but also the Americas, Middle East, Australia, and New Zealand," Amirudin said.

While he is not in a position to spec-

ulate Daiso's decision to pick Selangor as the destination for its largest distribution centre, the Menteri Besar opined that this could be down to the state's 'natural diversity'.

This diversity is not only based on its various ethnic groups but also on the expertise and quality of its people and workforce.

The fact that Selangor has one of the highest per capita purchasing powers in the country has also possibly made the state a preferred destination, he added.

"This is coupled by a workforce and community which has proven and exemplified its resilience, citizens who demand no less than excellence from their government, and a society which

has been at the forefront of change for the better in Malaysia."

"In Selangor, we not only talk about change and progress, we have walked the talk over the past decade and a half.

"And each time we faced a crisis or setback — be it the Covid-19 pandemic, the floods nearly two years back, or the economic crisis caused by inflation — we bounced back better, stronger, and with one aim to succeed and be in a better position compared to before these crises," he said.

Amirudin also highlighted some of Selangor's recent achievements, including contributing to over a quarter of Malaysia's entire gross domestic product at 25.5 per cent in 2022.

Consequently, over 50,000 jobs, including over 10,000 high-income employment opportunities, have been created in the manufacturing sector alone, as noted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority.



Fishing port to meet EU standards

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI, is targeting European Union (EU) certification for its new fishing port and processing plant in Sungai Lang, which is one of the large-scale projects under the Sabak Bernam Development Area (Sabda) initiative.

MBI economic and financial division chief Zannifa Azura Ahmad said this is key to ensuring the facility meets the highest possible standard and promoting the district as a vital economic development zone.

She said the EU certification is also necessary as the port, which is currently under construction, is expected to welcome large vessels plying the Indian Ocean.

"We are planning to bring in tuna and deep sea fish, so certainly the vessels that will dock (at the Sungai Lang port) will not be ordinary ships," she said during an *Agenda Awani* programme on Oct 4.

"In terms of the design and architecture, and its facilities, we have to meet EU standards, as this will then attract foreign investors."

Previously, it was reported that MBI would collaborate with Alpha Ocean Resources Bhd (AORB) to implement the project, as well as the development of the country's first tuna and deep sea fish processing and packaging facility.

On June 22, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said that the two projects are expected to draw RM600 million in investment to the state and open up about 7,000 job opportunities within the next decade.

According to Zannifa, the port construction is projected to be completed within 10 years of its

commencement, but stopped short of providing specific dates.

She added that AORB is also expected to invest RM100 million for the first phase of the project.

Meanwhile, Zannifa said the development of Malaysia's first integrated fish landing port in Sekinchan, which will be focused on helping local fishing industry players, will have spillover effects on the community.

This will be achieved by expanding and deepening the river there to allow the landing of more fish catches, with a projected increase of 300 per cent within the next 10 years once the project is completed, while the revenue from downstream products will increase by 20 per cent each year over the next decade.

"By expanding the river, we expect 1,300 tonnes in fish catches each day and that 400 boats can dock daily. At present, only about 200 small fishing boats can enter and dock in Sekinchan," she said.

Sabda is a state project under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) involving the development of high-value crops across a 1,317-hectare area. It is expected to yield RM248 million in annual revenue.

Zannifa said the mega project in northern Selangor is one of three state economic corridors identified under the RS-1 to focus on improving food security.

The two other economic corridors — the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) project in the central region and the Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (Idriss) — will respectively focus on water security and aviation.

Top jobs await at aerospace park

SHAH ALAM - The state government will develop the Selangor Aerospace Park (SAP) to turn Selangor into a global aerospace hub, especially for Southeast Asia.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the park in Sepang will measure 2,000 acres and will be equipped with various aerospace engineering facilities.

"One of Selangor's aspirations is to strategically lead the aerospace industry via the Selangor First Plan (RS-1) and the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan.

"Alhamdulillah, this aspiration has also found its place in the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030)," he said in a Facebook post on Sept 24.

Amirudin added that the aerospace industry can potentially drive Malaysia's economic growth while simultaneously creating high-quality job opportunities.

"By 2030, I believe nearly 70 per cent of the aviation industry in Malaysia will be based in Selangor," he said.

NIMP 2030, one of the main components of the Madani Economy framework promoted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, aims to secure RM55.2 billion in industry revenue by 2030.

Its emphasis on innovation and technology in the aerospace sector will enhance the industry's competitiveness and attract further investments and industry partnerships.

Nurturing talent for the fast-growing rail sector

By **DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

SHAH ALAM - The state government, via Invest Selangor Bhd, has renewed its collaboration with Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp) to focus on bridging the gap between academic institutions and real-world industry requirements in the rail industry through the Industry-Academia Collaboration (IAC).

State executive councillor for investment, trade, and mobility Ng Sze Han commemorated the cooperation at an event on Sept 25, highlighting the significance of such efforts in leveraging upcoming opportunities in the state's rail sector.

"Our goals today are to outline the collective possibilities to strengthen this industry's ecosystem and to find the best delivery method to prepare industry-ready talent in the rail industry.

"As we embark on our third IAC, this time in the rail industry, we carry forward the spirit of collaboration, determination, and the aspiration to make a meaningful impact.

"The rail industry is an essential pillar of our economy, with vast opportunities for advancement, innovation, and sustainability. Through this partnership with TalentCorp and our esteemed stakeholders, we aim to harness these opportunities and shape the future of the rail sec-



Two Rapid Rail trains undergo maintenance at the LRT Kelana Jaya Line Depot in Petaling Jaya — Picture by BERNAMA

tor," he said in his keynote speech at the IAC Workshop in Rail.

Prior to the third collaboration, Selangor successfully organised two IACs in biotechnology and logistics with TalentCorp.

Meanwhile, Ng said the state administration has also established the Selangor Rail Council in 2021 to strengthen the rail ecosystem in the state.

In meeting the demands of Selangor's increasing population, which has reached approximately 7.2 million as of July 2023, the rail industry, particularly in

urban areas, is essential to domestic urban mobility.

"The increase in population compounded by the migration from rural to urban areas is being given attention by the state government.

"This factor directly impacts the growing demand for public amenities, notably public transportation services, which include the ongoing development of rail services within the city to serve the needs of the population.

"Among the council's objectives are to develop and formulate programmes as

well as to promote this industry," he said.

The council is chaired by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, and its members include representatives from the Transport Ministry, state government, local councils, related federal and state agencies, and industry associations.

With the substantial growth in the rail industry that demands a more skilled workforce and in support of Selangor's development as a rail industry hub, Ng said the council has also included prominent education institutions as its members, including Tunku Abdul Rahman University (UTAR), Kuala Lumpur University (UniKL), and Tun Hussein Onn University (UTHM).

"These institutions will play a pivotal role in nurturing industry talent and ensuring the establishment of a comprehensive and sustainable ecosystem.

"I believe that the continuous coordination with universities and training institutions is vital to ensure minimum skills gap and mismatch for the rail industry."

Ng added that the focus on the rail sector is in line with the National Transport Policy 2019-2030 (NTP), which advocates the use of public transport, focusing on a more environmentally friendly transport ecosystem.

Pulau Carey port will be among the best, says MB

KUALA LUMPUR - The construction of a cargo port at Pulau Carey in Klang, once completed, will pave the way for Malaysia to become one of the world's leading players in the port industry, said Selangor Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Chiefly, the Gombak MP said its development would lead to the expansion of the country's all-important services sector.

To that end, Amirudin said it is incumbent on all lawmakers from across the political divide to back the initiative and ensure its successful implementation.

"The Pulau Carey port, and the existing Northport and Westport in Klang, will be as large as Singapore in terms of square footage," he said at the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) Mid-Term Review in the Dewan Rakyat, here, on Sept 13.

"I believe this will improve our capacity and ability in the port industry and make us a leading global player."

The Pakatan Harapan lawmaker said this while expressing his gratitude to the Federal government for its commitment to developing the Pulau Carey port.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during the tabling of the 12MP Mid-Term Review on Sept 11, had said the port's construction would be among the government's key transportation and logistics development projects, subsequently positioning Port Klang as a key regional shipping hub.

Another major project in Selangor that will get federal attention is the regeneration and expansion of the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah (SAAS) Airport, also known as Subang Airport, which

he said is one of 10 initiatives to improve the public transportation network in the country by providing better access and connectivity.

On a separate matter, Amirudin hopes the federal government would take a page from the First Selangor Plan (RS-1) when drafting future policies, particularly in relation to the development of infrastructural projects.

He suggested such projects should not only be developed and financed solely by Putrajaya but also incorporate private involvement so that major projects like the construction of ports or highways can be jointly developed, not by way of privatisation, but through cooperation.

Meanwhile, on Sept 12, state executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility Ng Sze Han said that the regeneration of Subang Airport will

attract investment to the state in line with the Selangor Aerospace Action Plan 2020-2030 and the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030.

He said the Selangor government strongly supports the redevelopment project and that it would also continue to support the efforts of Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) to promote and coordinate the participation of related companies interested in making the Subang Airport their hub.

The effort, he said, would be facilitated by the state's investment arm, Invest Selangor Bhd, by providing services to investors who are interested in investing in Selangor and will also help MAHB promote the project to potential investors.

He added that constructing the new Pulau Carey port will strengthen Port Klang as a regional transfer hub.



SIBS: Selangor flexes its economic muscle

By DANIAL DZULKIFLY

THE Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) is gearing up to highlight the state's emerging significance as a pivotal hub for trade and commerce in the Asean region.

The summit will demonstrate Selangor's proactive strategy to magnify its regional economic influence, said state executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility, Ng Sze Han.

Ng said the Selangor government's decision to host this event complements its vision to cultivate and foster trade partnerships.

He believes the summit will serve as a strategic platform to enhance the state's branding, with its primary focus being to accentuate Selangor's integral role in Malaysia and its potential as a premier gateway to the Asean community.

"The potential transaction value generated through the summit indicates the actual negotiations and interest from buyers and trade visitors to the expos organised.

"The interest will generate demand from the supply chain and thus help expand economic activities as a whole. Those who have yet to set up their operations in Selangor may also decide to do so to speed up their distribution and movement of goods after the summit," he said in an interview with *Selangor Journal*.

This year, the state government has set a target of RM1.5 billion in potential transaction value for the state compared to RM1.45 billion in 2022.

The upcoming summit anticipates over 1,000 exhibition booths and is set to welcome around 50,000 trade visitors.

Carrying the theme 'Selangor: The Gateway to Asean', the annual trade summit is scheduled to take place from Oct 19 to 22 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The event is structured around six primary segments: the ninth Selangor International Expo Food & Beverage, the eighth Selangor Smart City & Digital Economy Convention, the fourth Selangor R&D And Innovation Expo, the ninth Selangor International Expo (Medic), the seventh Selangor Asean Business Conference, and the third Selangor Industrial Park Expo.

Ng recently highlighted Selangor's pivotal role in driving Malaysia's economic engine across multiple sectors.

For example, the manufacturing sector, which contributes 32.2 per cent of Malaysia's total output, saw a notable nine per cent surge in 2022. Moreover, Selangor was responsible



Ng and Invest Selangor's chief executive officer Dato' Hasan Azhari Idris launch SIBS 2023 surrounded by models representing the different segments of the expo, at KLCC on Sept 21

international expos to enhance brand visibility, according to Ng.

"SIBS has actively participated in international expos since last year, connecting with potential partners and spreading the exposure of SIBS globally.

"In Southeast Asia, SIBS has embarked on regional roadshows and met with business communities, government departments, as well as expo agents to seek further collaborations and attract delegations to attend the summit," he said.

Larger goals

In line with the new Madani Economy framework introduced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the Selangor administration is fine-tuning its policies to resonate with federal ambitions.

This synchronisation notably encompasses the recently unveiled New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) and The National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), which are both pivotal to the country's ambition of emerging as the premier investment destination in the region.

"Being a state-owned initiative, SIBS is committed to aligning its direction and objectives with those of the Federal government," said Ng.

To this effect, the state government focuses on constructing a sustainable ecosystem. This environment is tailored to nurture startups and tech enterprises, simultaneously aiding the traditional sectors in enhancing productivity and minimising waste through digital transformation.

"Our aim is to foster high-impact entrepreneurs pivotal for innovation, job generation, wealth creation, and making a constructive societal difference," Ng elaborated.

A case in point is the Selangor Information Technology & Digital Economic Corporation (Sidec) — a state-affiliated company propelling Selangor's digital metamorphosis, positioning it as Asean's digital nucleus.

"Sidec zeroes in on three pivotal sectors of Selangor's digital economy: E-Commerce, startups, and SME digitalisation," he said.

Beyond bridging the digital chasm in Selangor, Sidec's mission encompasses bolstering local startups to gain regional recognition.

By fostering business growth in Selangor and promoting SME digitalisation, SIDEc seeks to magnetise digital investment and offer a conducive environment for emerging tech innovations in the region.

for 34.1 per cent and 26.5 per cent of national contributions in the construction and services sectors, respectively.

Of these, the services sector showcased the most impressive growth within Selangor, expanding by 13.6 per cent, indicating Selangor's increasing appeal to diverse business entities.

Ng further explained that Selangor is rapidly cementing its stature across seven main sectors: electrical and electronics, life sciences, F&B manufacturing, transport equipment, machinery and equipment, digital investments, and logistics services.

Global exposure

With a commitment to nurture and delve deeper into these burgeoning sectors, the state is poised to attract even more investments.

These sectors span a range of industries, from aerospace to F&B and pharmaceuticals, all of which are geared to propel Selangor's economic ascent and long-term sustainability. This year, the summit will give them focus.

Building on the momentum of its previous editions, this year's summit has also expanded its media outreach, even participating in



The potential transaction value generated through the summit indicates the actual negotiations and interest from buyers... The interest will generate demand from the supply chain and thus help expand economic activities as a whole.

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

7 EDITIONS AT A GLANCE

SIBS 2017



- Over 22,000 visitors across 10 days, including 8,069 global trade visitors
- Feature events included the Selangor International Expo (SIE), the Selangor Smart City & Future Commerce Convention, and the Selangor-Asean Business Conference

SIBS 2018

- RM204.2 million in transaction value
- Over 22,000 visitors across four days



SIBS 2019

- RM447.3 million in transaction value
- Some 34,683 visitors across four days
- Feature events included the Malaysia International Tea and Coffee Expo, the Malaysia-China Entrepreneur Conference, the Selangor Culinary Festival, and the Selangor International Halal Conference



SIBS 2020

- Pandemic edition: Goes virtual for the first time
- 170,000 digital audiences from 54 countries across four days
- 51 speakers, 286 exhibitors, and business matchings worth over RM1 million

SIBS 2021

- Hybrid edition: Combining online and offline modalities
- 25,410 visitors and 180,000 virtual visitors across four days
- RM217.6 million in transactions
- Introduction of the Selangor International Expo (Medic) 2021 and the Selangor Industrial Park Expo (SPARK) 2021

SIBS 2022

- Nearly 50,000 public and trade visitors across four days
- Achieved a record RM1.45 billion in transactions
- Featured six main events, including the 8th Selangor International Summit for Food and Beverage, the 6th Selangor Asean Business Conference, the 7th Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention, the 3rd Selangor R&D and Innovation Expo, and the 2nd Selangor Industrial Park Expo



A test of time

By YASMIN RAMLAN AND NADIRAH H. RODZI

Previously a part of Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, a 240-sq-km enclave, was declared a federal territory after it was handed over to the Federal government in 1974.

The separation was driven by several factors, including Kuala Lumpur's rapid urbanisation and its need for more autonomous governance, disputes over revenue sharing, and a desire to streamline administrative processes for the capital's growth, ultimately fostering economic development.

This marked a significant step in Kuala Lumpur's transformation into the dynamic capital and economic hub it is today.

On Sept 13, Petaling Jaya MP Lee Chean Chung called for Kuala Lumpur to be returned to Selangor to pave the way for better economic coordination and the city's prosperous and sustainable development.

While debating the mid-term review of the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) in the Dewan Rakyat, Lee said he envisions the Klang Valley as one of the key hubs in the region, comparable to other mega metropolises.

In light of this proposal, the debate on whether to reunify Kuala Lumpur with Selangor has attracted significant attention, raising questions on the practicality of the move.

The Selangor Menteri Besar himself, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, had on Sept 23 responded that the move is only possible if the Federal government decides to no longer designate the city as Malaysia's capital, along with other conditions set out in the 1974 agreement.

Datuk Teo Kok Seong, the principal research fellow at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Institute of Ethnic Studies, believes that the issue should not be raised despite the fact that it would be beneficial to both sides.

He told *Selangor Journal* that it would be considered as 'buruk siku' (the act of one taking back what has been given) and have an adverse effect on the nation's stability.

"Let it be as it is. Don't create 'fenomena buruk siku'. Especially since the agreement took place many years ago ...

"Even if it is for good intentions, we have to look at the bigger picture for the sake of stability for our country," he said.

Teo said he believes that carving Kuala Lumpur out of Selangor was the best decision after a thorough process of debates, detailed proposals and resolutions.

"Yes, of course, it was a huge sacrifice from the Selangor government at that time and also the then Sultan of Selangor (the late Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz



A view of Kuala Lumpur's contrasting skyline — Picture by REUTERS

Shah Alhaj), but I believe it was implemented for the sake of beloved Malaysia, so that our country would have a focused, dynamic and developing capital city," he said.

Teo stressed that the nation has to move on and be forward-thinking, especially since the separation took place almost five decades ago.

Letting things be

Teo cautioned that it is risky when one does not properly grasp the significance of historical events, and instead chooses to alter what has once been agreed on.

He gave the example of how Penang was a part of Kedah in the 18th century and that should Kedah someday seek to reclaim it, conflict would unfold.

"The same goes in this situation (Kuala Lumpur-Selangor). I hope 'gejala buruk siku' can be avoided. I'm pretty sure there were detailed discussions on the pros and cons before it was decided.

"It is not as easy as they think. Yes, it is a man-made law. But it's not supposed to happen because it has become a part of our history. There is no need to change history," he said.

Prospects of prosperity

Economist Barjoyai Bardai from Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, on the other hand, has outlined several factors as to

why the proposed reunification would bear positive outcomes.

Speaking to *Selangor Journal*, he said Kuala Lumpur no longer effectively operates as an autonomous state as it lags behind in terms of state governance and lacks representation by state assembly members.

"Numerous critical facilities in Kuala Lumpur, including water supply, roads, and basic infrastructure, heavily depend on Selangor. In comparison to other states, Kuala Lumpur does not fulfil its role as a self-contained territory," he said.

From an economic vantage point, Barjoyai emphasised the potential benefits of Kuala Lumpur falling under Selangor's jurisdiction.

"If Kuala Lumpur were to be integrated into Selangor, its governance would be considerably more manageable, having previously been under Selangor's administration. It is imperative that Kuala Lumpur be overseen effectively as a district within Selangor," he remarked.

Addressing the potential liabilities Selangor might assume, Barjoyai noted that Kuala Lumpur's business centres and housing developments may be excessively congested, and that Selangor may need to allocate significant resources to manage them effectively.

"Nonetheless, I maintain my support for the return of Kuala Lumpur to Selangor," he added.

Sprawling metropolis

On the financial front, Barjoyai said Selangor already contributes more than 25 per cent of the nation's income. With Kuala Lumpur's inclusion, it could become the largest revenue contributor, at about 40 per cent of Malaysia's total income.

"It is also crucial to recognise that the country's primary economic hubs are situated in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur," he said.

"We may envision Selangor transforming into a sprawling metropolis encompassing the entire Klang Valley.

"Drawing parallels with cities such as Jakarta and Istanbul, which boast nearly 10 million residents, we can anticipate a similar trajectory for Selangor within the next 10-15 years."

Barjoyai also emphasised the overall positive outlook from a cost-benefit analysis standpoint.

He said Selangor's income comfortably surpasses its expenses, and integrating Kuala Lumpur would yield qualitative benefits. For instance, the combined collection of zakat (charitable donations) in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor would exceed RM2 billion.

He cautioned that the present alignment of state and Federal administrations presents an opportune moment for this transition, and more opposition may arise if there are more delays.

Fostering Rumpun Selangor from the ground up

By DANIAL DZULKIFLY

IN a political landscape fraught with religious and racial rhetoric, newly-appointed Selangor state executive councillor Datuk Rizam Ismail faces the daunting challenge of uniting diverse voices to maintain unity in the nation's wealthiest state.

Following the Selangor state elections on Aug 12, the state government has, for the first time, forged an alliance with Barisan Nasional (BN), which is in line with the Unity Government agreement established at the Federal level.

Rizam, who is also the Sungai Air Tawar state assemblyman, has been put in charge of rural development, unity and consumer affairs and has acknowledged the heavy duty of mending political and social division within the state.

Eager to make a mark, the former Selangor Opposition chief revealed that the state government is in the process of introducing a new state-wide policy called 'Rumpun Selangor', or RMS, which will feature a number of programmes and initiatives.

The primary focus of the policy is to empower local communities and bridge the divides that have become more pronounced in recent times.

"The essence of Rumpun Selangor is to cultivate a sense of belonging among the residents of Selangor, irrespective of their religious or racial background," Rizam said in a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*.

He believes that with the right ap-



proach and strategies, the state can serve as a model for national unity.

While details of the programmes under RMS are still under wraps, Rizam hinted at collaboration with community leaders, NGOs, and other stakeholders to ensure its success.

He said a central tenet of the Rumpun Selangor policy is the restructuring of organisations within local kampungs, which is set to enhance cohesion and ensure that state government initiatives are effectively delivered to their intended beneficiaries.

"It's not just about policies or regulations, but about touching the hearts and minds of our people.

"We must understand and celebrate our differences rather than letting

them divide us. Selangor has become the benchmark for Malaysia as its citizens are of all the different races and groups in the country.

"So it is crucial for us to be a model state for unity," he said.

Rizam stressed that it is the government's duty to educate and increase awareness about its initiatives, policies, and vital socioeconomic shifts aimed at enhancing the living standards of its citizens.

"The challenge we now face is the imperativeness of consistently informing the public about the current economic challenges and the importance of collective action.

"It's futile to indulge in political rhetoric if it doesn't translate to tangible benefits for the people," he said, referring to some members of the opposition who often use rhetoric for political gain.

He underscored that RMS's policy will not be a top-down effort but will hinge on the active engagement and collective determination of every resident in Selangor.

Check and balance

Delving further into his concerns about excessive politicking, Rizam voiced his hope that the opposition coalition, Perikatan Nasional (PN), would adopt a constructive role and has urged that they serve as a genuine check and balance to the state government rather than indulge in political theatrics.

"I'm aware that PN has unveiled a

shadow executive councillor line-up. It's a sound strategy, and any responsible government would welcome constructive opposition.

"However, I sincerely hope they prioritise their crucial role as a check and balance instead of descending into political games," he said.

Rizam said that the current political landscape might seem more divisive due to the so-called 'greenwave' — a term coined by political observers to describe alleged Malay discontent towards the Unity Government led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Yet, Rizam remains relatively unfazed, noting that public sentiment is fluid and often shifts with the prevailing mood but acknowledges the challenges and responsibilities faced by the Unity Government in navigating a complex political landscape.

"I must emphasise again the importance of the Unity Government, both at state and Federal levels, in educating and raising awareness about our policies.

"This approach is not only more constructive but also a responsible measure to ensure the public truly benefits from these initiatives," he said.

BN's return

Despite the hurdles presented by the alleged greenwave and the surging popularity of PN, Rizam, along with Dusun Tua assemblyman Datuk Johan Abdul Aziz, stand as the two elected representatives in Selangor from BN.

Their wins mark a notable comeback for the coalition, which lost its majority in the state elections 15 years ago in 2008.

However, Rizam emphasises that since independence, Selangor has reaped the benefits of BN's policies and expressed his determination to advocate for enhanced policies, continue the legacy of sound governance, and align the strategies between the state and the Federal government.

"My current task involves drafting new policies. Selangor requires more refined strategies on top of what previous state administrations have accomplished.

"With the state and Federal governments now aligned, it's imperative that the state continues sustainable growth and robustly contributes to the national economy," he said.





Tracks of time

Uncovering a long-lost railway line

By NADIAH ZAMLUS

Within the next five years, the state government plans to construct a railway line from Klang to Kuala Selangor in collaboration with the Federal government.

The purpose of this project is to shorten the travel time to the northern parts of the state compared to the current road routes.

Simultaneously, it encourages the use of public transportation. This plan is expected to boost the economy in the surrounding areas along the west coast of Selangor.

Yet, it is essential to note that there is a railway route between Klang and Kuala Selangor that's already been in existence for over a century. In February 1913, the administration of the Federated Malay States built a route in the same area to transport coffee and rubber commodities, as well as to serve the local population at the time.

The early efforts to build a rail line to northern Selangor were initiated by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Frederick Weld, in 1886. At the time, he detailed a route to construct a train railway from Klang to the town of Jeram.

However, construction did not immediately occur, as there was a lack of significant demand for transporting commodities along the Klang-Kuala Selangor route.

The British were more interested in building railway lines in areas with commodity production, especially Kuala Lumpur at the time, which had a vested interest in transporting tin ore.

In 1908, the *Malay Mail* reported complaints from residents of Selangor's west coast. The main bus transportation from Klang to Kuala Selangor was very limited despite its affordability.

After several years, the colonial authorities finally conceded and began constructing the railway line between Klang and Kuala Selangor in January 1911, and completed it in 1913. It functioned for 18 years before its service was suspended in November 1931.

Tracing the past

In 1935, The Federated Malay States Railways (FMSR) leased the route to the Public Works Department on the grounds the railway route was no longer competitive due to the presence of improving roads.

That same year, a newspaper editor commented on the matter. The Klang-Kuala Selangor railway route was unpopular because FMSR did not connect concrete rails to the Kuala Selangor port.

This posed difficulties for traders, leading them to prefer using the road for transporting goods. Slowly, the Klang-Kuala Selangor railway, which once served as a primary means of transportation, was forgotten.

One railway history enthusiast, Meor Amran, traced this historic route by using drones. The recordings and surveys were uploaded to his You-

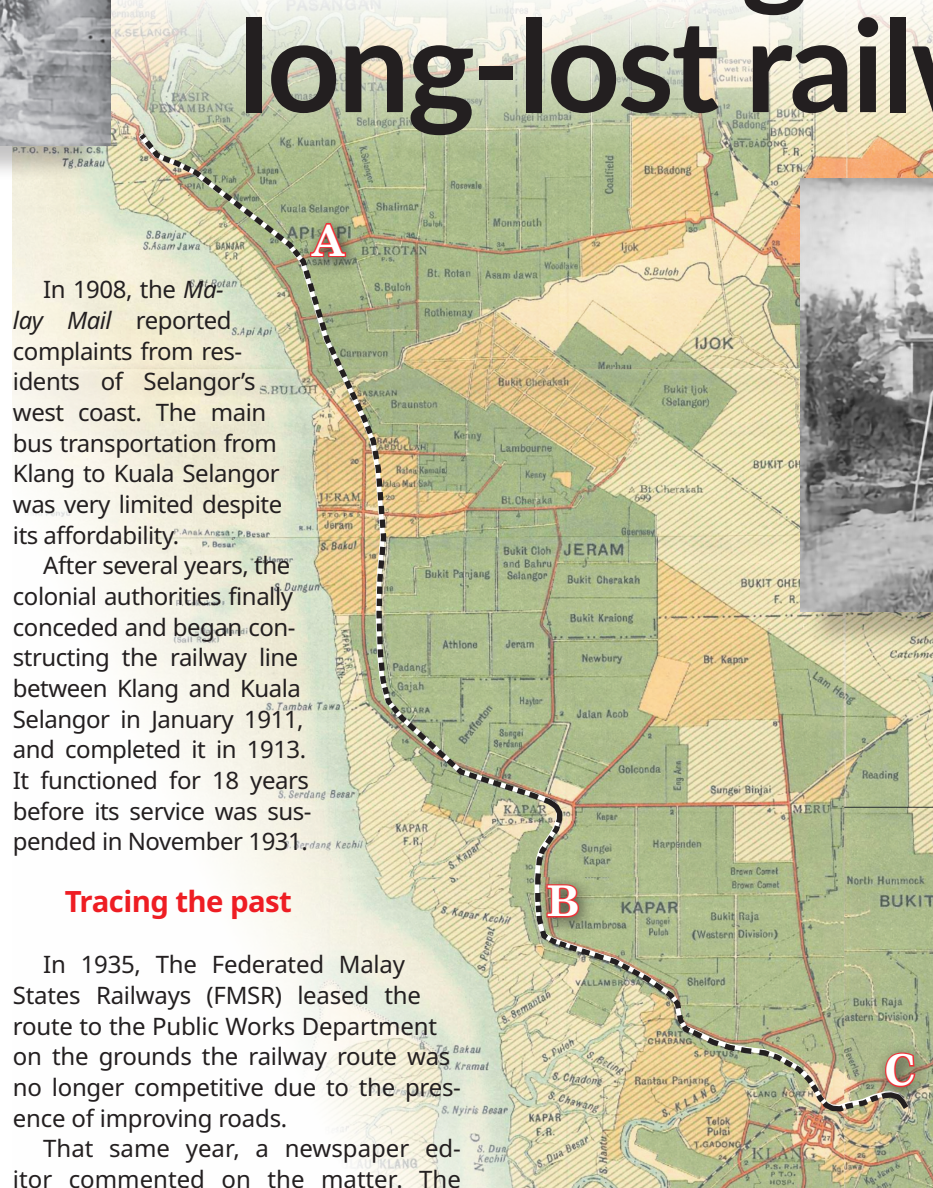
Tube channel, Jenut TN.

"I am not alone in my interest; several other bloggers have also tried to uncover this railway route. They include Zkere-tapi, Aku Budak Telok, and Riding Tales.

"The Klang-Kuala Selangor railway route starts from the Connaught Bridge in Klang, and then passes through 17 stops to reach the Kuala Selangor Station," he said.

Meor documented his findings in a two-part video, titled 'Menjejak Sejarah Pembinaan, Tapak Stesen dan Penutupan Laluan Keretapi Klang-Kuala Selangor', in 2021.

In it, he traces the remnants of the railway line, including various structures



FROM TOP:

A The Pasir Tuntung Iron Bridge at Sungai Tuntung, near Assam Jawa Station, in Kuala Selangor

B The George Dearie Russell Bridge at Sungai Puloh, Klang, near Vallambrosa Station

C The Connaught Bridge at Sungai Klang, near the Klang-Kuala Lumpur railway crossing

Sources:

Blog www.clairegrey.co.uk

Blog searail.malayanrailways.com

A map of Selangor circa 1929 printed by the Federated Malay States

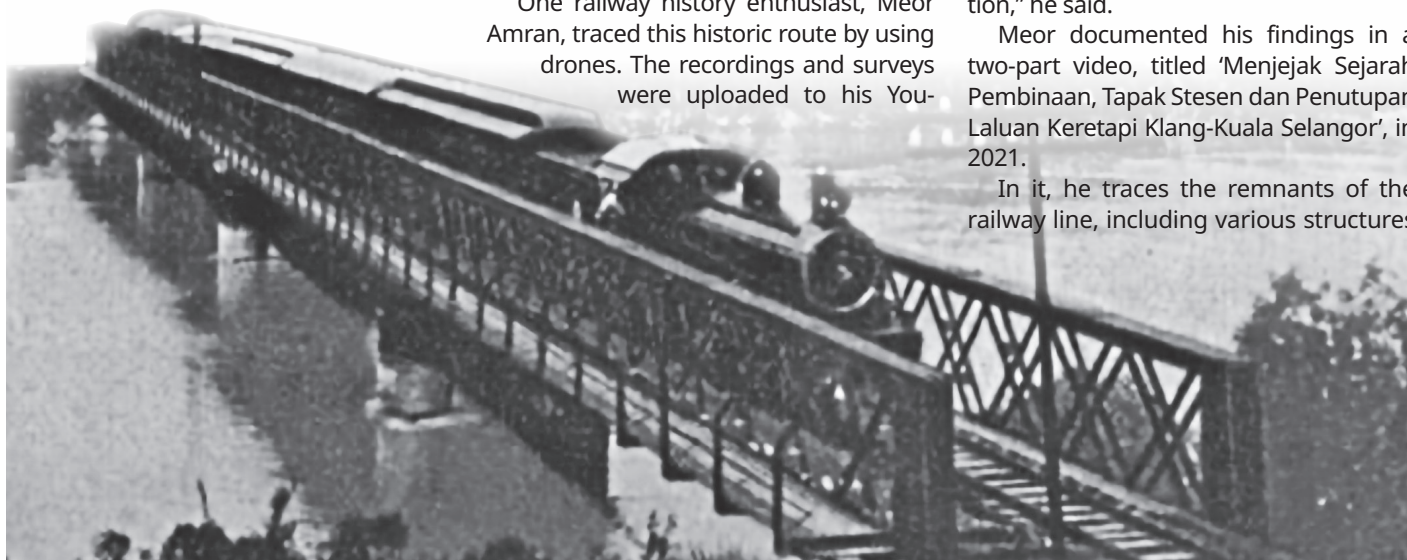
and the latest data obtained from Google Maps, along the approximately 40-kilometre route. It features display station records, including Klang Utara, Sungai Putus, Parit Chabang, Vallambrosa, Sungai Perepat, Kapar Ilir, Kapar, Jalan Acob, and Suara.

Meor said there are still historical remnants, including the George Dearie Russell Bridge's piles in Sungai Puloh, Klang. Similarly, stone remnants in front of Sekolah Kebangsaan Jeram are believed to have been those of the railway guard-house.

Another relic is the Pasir Tuntung Iron Bridge. Built over 100 years ago, the bridge has been abandoned and is no longer suitable for heavy vehicles.

"I hope with the exposure these researchers provide, the responsible authorities will take notice. These historical remnants should be preserved, and I also hope the local authorities or tourism boards can put up signs.

"At the same time, more people will become aware of their existence, and future generations will appreciate Selangor's historical remnants," he said.



N01 SUNGAI AIR TAWAR

Preserving tradition with a modern twist

By DANIAL DZULKIFLY

SUNGAI Air Tawar, a quaint settlement in northern Selangor, is on the brink of an exciting transformation, thanks to the state government's forthcoming Sabak Bernam Development Area (Sabda) project, which is one of the key developments outlined in the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Its state assemblyman, Datuk Rizam Ismail, who is also the current state executive councillor for rural development and unity, emphasised a dual vision for the constituency, where he envisioned it as a traditional village, rich in history and charm, that is seamlessly integrated with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities.

"By integrating the historical charm of Sungai Air Tawar with contemporary developments, we aim to create a unique blend that would attract tourists as well.

"This balance will ensure the preservation of our traditions while also catering to modern-day demands," he told *Selangor Journal*.

Rizam further highlighted the pristine allure of Sungai Air Tawar's villages, which provide a genuine window into the kampung lifestyle.

"The villages here, with their authentic charm,



have the potential to spearhead ecotourism in Selangor," he said.

Investing in people

A cornerstone of Rizam's vision is promoting the serene kampung way of life, merging tranquillity with economic dynamism.

Central to this economic dynamism is the Sabda project.

While development is essential, Rizam points out that the project is equally invested in job creation, aiming to bring high-value career opportunities to the doorstep of the locals.

"It's not just about infrastructure and buildings; it's about providing our people with the means to lead better lives.

"With Sabda, we anticipate the introduction of numerous high-paying jobs that would significantly uplift the community," Rizam said.

Launched by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari, Sabda aims to channel

investments of approximately RM1.9 billion into the northern regions of Selangor.

The blueprint of this ambitious endeavour spans six transformative projects across 1,317 hectares, collectively set to offer around 3,600 high-income jobs.

The slew of projects under Sabda include the Smart Selangor Agro Park in Changkat Menteri, a state-of-the-art fisheries centre in Sekinchan, the Air Manis business hub, R&R facilities in Sabak Bernam, and various agrotourism initiatives around Sekinchan.

Additionally, a holistic centre for the construction and maintenance of boats and fishing vessels in Sungai Lang underpins the project's comprehensive vision.

New strategies

Despite the swirling predictions that the 'rice belt' seats of northern Selangor would fall to Perikatan Nasional (PN) at the recent state elections, Rizam proved naysayers wrong.

He successfully defended his seat, pulling off a win against PN's Zaidi Selamat with a majority of 846 votes.

This victory wasn't just another tick on the scoreboard but symbolised Rizam's connection with the people.

As the incumbent assemblyman, Rizam's consistent ground presence and promptness in addressing the concerns of his constituents undoubtedly played a

crucial role.

However, an introspective Rizam believes this win also serves as a call to adapt. Observing electoral patterns, both from the recent state elections and the preceding general election, he noticed a shift in the political narrative.

Reflecting on his campaigning methods, Rizam said, "My approach has always aligned with the traditional Umno doctrine — prioritising community service and adopting a door-to-door strategy.

"But times are changing, and the election provided clear evidence. With opponents like PN harnessing the power of newer platforms like TikTok and leveraging influencers to spread their narrative, Rizam recognises the need for a shift in strategy.

"It's evident that digital outreach, especially through platforms like TikTok, has a profound influence on the electorate. For us in the unity government, our task now is not just to transition to these platforms but to use them effectively to educate and raise awareness about our initiatives," Rizam pointed out.

While he acknowledges the learning curve that comes with these platforms, Rizam remains optimistic.

"It's a new frontier for many of us, but with time and determination, I'm confident we'll harness its potential to its fullest," he said.



N39 KOTA DAMANSARA

Responding to local needs

By **DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

THE already thriving and diverse town of Kota Damansara, with its modern amenities, green spaces, and strong community ties, is anticipated to undergo more development in the coming months.

Its newly-elected state representative, Izuan Kasim, is unwavering in his belief that comprehensive public infrastructure, especially vital connecting routes, is necessary in light of the upcoming projects in the area, particularly the mixed-commercial project, Kwasa Damansara.

The proposed township is earmarked to sit adjacent to both the Kota Damansara and Subang Bestari townships, which come under the administration of his state constituency.

Izuan stressed the importance of ensuring that the interconnecting roads linking these townships are planned and built well, ahead of Kwasa Damansara's aggressive construction timeline, which sets its opening for 2030.

He said this would improve traffic flow and prevent future congestion issues.

"There are three 'missing links' that have yet to be constructed in these areas. They are supposed to be built by the Shah Alam City Council in collaboration with the developers and the Public Works Department.

"Two of these roads have not been constructed by developers because that particular area hasn't been developed, but this affects the residents of both Subang Bestari and Kota Damansara and even those in Subang Perdana," he told *Selangor Journal* recently.

Izuan said although the project is slated to be completed by 2030, he is determined to work closely with the local council and the state administration to see that the proposed roads are built.

"The road connecting Persiaran Caker-



Izuan meets with representatives of the School Management Board and the Parent-Teacher Association of SJK(C) Sungai Buloh to discuss issues faced by the school

awala and Kwasa Land Sdn Bhd will help reduce traffic congestion in Subang Bestari. This is one of the long-term plans for Subang Bestari, at the very least," he said.

The Kwasa Damansara township, spearheaded by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) with its new headquarters serving as a key landmark there, occupies a total land area of about 1,064 hectares, comprising both freehold and leasehold properties.

The EPF Tower, which was completed in June 2022, sits on a 2.1-hectare plot.

Kwasa Damansara is set to become one of the most environmentally friendly townships in the Klang Valley, with its green buildings and conservation efforts aimed at preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the place.

For Kota Damansara, at least in the immediate term, Izuan said he is advocating for the maintenance of Persiaran Mahogani, which is considered a main road that connects the major neighbourhoods and roads there.

Izuan explained that as of this year, according to the Malaysian Road Records

Information (Marris), there has yet to be a resurfacing project scheduled for Persiaran Mahogani, something which he will rectify.

Engaging with residents

Since his appointment as state assemblyman on Aug 21, Izuan has hit the ground running. Aside from making development plans, he is also embarking on a constituency-wide tour of focal points in the community to engage with the locals.

Among his first stops are schools in Kota Damansara, where he aims to understand the challenges faced by the teachers and to listen to the concerns voiced by parents.

"The education issue is intrinsically linked to today's schools, and I aim to identify the problems they encounter. This includes concerns voiced by headteachers and parents, not solely about infrastructure but also regarding potential community collaborations.

"Beyond the usual concerns about infrastructure and basic learning necessities, some schools, for instance, have

autism classes that desperately need air conditioning.

"Without it, students may become agitated, particularly in the heat. Similarly, there are motor skills classes; it's not solely about reading, but also providing classes tailored to their motor skill needs," he said.

Izuan is also touring local mosques, which have evolved beyond just places of religious congregation to become comprehensive community hubs, each facing its own set of unique challenges.

"We cannot ignore that 60 per cent of Kota Damansara's population is Malay. Mosques aren't merely places of worship; they've transformed into all-encompassing community centres.

"These particular mosques predominantly serve the elderly, and through my visits, I've gained insight into the wider community issues that necessitate support," he said.

Moving forward, Izuan is keen to engage with local youth associations established within Kota Damansara rather than the major organisations based in the state.

"This is because I want to understand their concerns and the challenges they face here and how I can support or assist them," he said.

During the election campaign in August, Izuan made a firm commitment to concentrate on local issues and solutions, steering clear of race and religious debates.

Despite concerns about his status as a non-local, the 32-year-old has emphasised his dedication to community service.

His campaign slogan, 'Kota Damansara, Our City,' underscores his proactive approach towards constituency work.

Izuan won the state seat with a 5,694 vote majority against his closest rival, Radzlan Jalaludin, from Perikatan Nasional.



Members of the Selangor Federation of Malay Students Union hold a motivational session for Form 5 students at SMK Subang

Money reward for Selangor medallists



SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government will reward all its athletes who succeed in winning a medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

State executive councillor for sports Najwan Halimi said gold medallists will earn themselves RM10,000, silver medallists RM7,000, and bronze medallists RM5,000.

"This is a show of appreciation from the state and a recognition of our athletes' success in placing Malaysia on the sporting map. This time around, 38 of the athletes in the Malaysian contingent come from Selangor.

"A number of them have not compet-



ed and we are hoping for more medals. So far, we've already got three medals. We will hold a special event to celebrate their efforts when they come back," Najwan told *Selangorkini*.

The three medals are bronzes, and come from Nur Afrina Batrisyia Mohamad Rizal, who competed in the 4x100 women's event; Addeen Idrakie and Yuen Chee Wern for men's squash; and Muhammad Fadhil Mohd Zonis for men's track cycling.

The Selangor Sports Council's executive director, Mohamad Nizam Marjugi, said he is proud of the Selangor athletes' achievements at the Asian level.

On Oct 5, the Malaysian contingent surpassed their 27-medal target in Hangzhou.

The national contingent, as of Oct 6, brought cheers to Malaysian fans by raking in five gold, seven silver and 17 bronzes, or a total of 29 medals.

Nearly 300 athletes from Malaysia competed at the Asian Games, held from Sept 23 to Oct 8.

Red Giants take much-needed break

SHAH ALAM - The coaches at Selangor FC will closely monitor the fitness levels of the players during their upcoming month-long rest break.

Head coach Tan Cheng Hoe said adequate rest is vital to maintain the team's winning momentum after it beat Terengganu FC (TFC) 4-0 at the Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium in Kuala Terengganu on Sept 29.

Cheng Hoe said the hard work and winning spirit of the boys, and their early goal, have put to rest the feelings of defeat they suffered under the same team during the quarter-final round of the Malaysia Cup recently.

"The early goal ignited the team's motivation and confidence to keep going. That wasn't an easy win. We will be meeting TFC again, and we know they have been on a three-month winning streak until now, unlike us.

"This rest break is necessary, but it is no excuse for the team to fall back on their fitness," he said.



Faisal Halim (right) celebrates his winning kick — and the team's third goal — against TFC.

Pix from Selangor FC Facebook

November timeline to demolish stadium

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government expects the planning permission to demolish the current Shah Alam Stadium and replace it with the state-of-the-art Shah Alam Stadium Complex to be issued in early November.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said demolition works will proceed as soon as the approval is given.

"Definitely, the demolition works will commence this year. If it's not in the end of October, then in early November. That is our target.

"God willing, we aim for the new Shah Alam Stadium Complex to be completed in 2026," he said when asked on the matter after officiating at the Selangor Property Expo 2023 organised by the Selangor Housing and Property Board (LPHS), here, on Sept 30.

It was reported in June that the state government had submitted a planning permission application to tear down the now-dilapidated stadium and develop the sports complex at the same site. - Bernama

Khind is new sponsor for Selangor FC

SHAH ALAM - Selangor FC is in a strategic partnership with electrical and electronic appliances brand Khind Marketing Malaysia (Khind) to bolster sponsorship opportunities for the squad.

Chief executive officer of Selangor FC, Johan Kamal Hamidon, said the partnership will also see Khind providing high-quality equipment to the team to

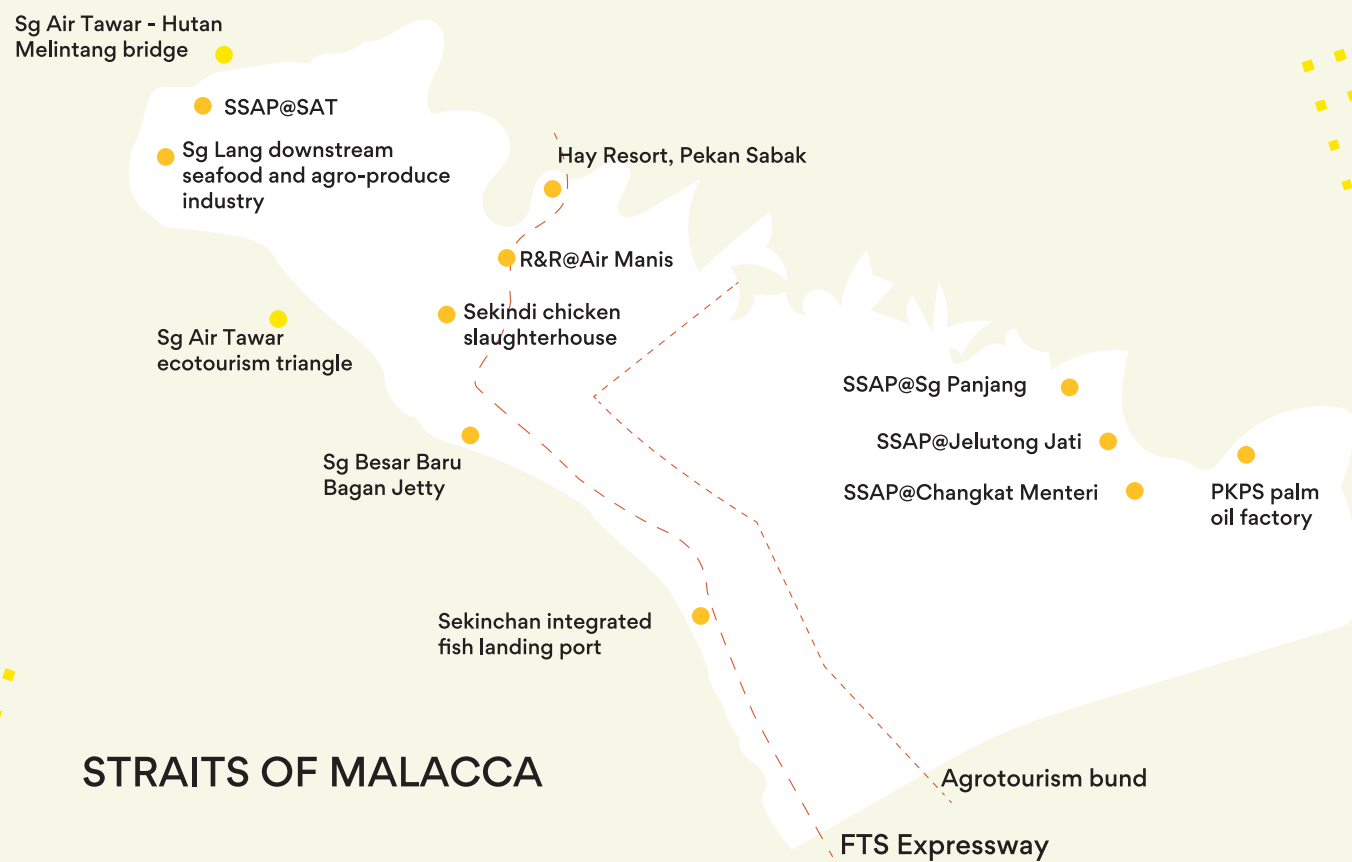
help them with their logistical and training needs.

Johan added that the collaboration with Khind serves to strengthen the Red Giants's performance and bring benefits to the larger football community ahead of the new season. He also hopes that other corporate entities will come forward to provide similar sponsorship.

Johan was speaking at the signing ceremony between the football club and Khind on Sept 27, attended by the Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah and Khind's chief executive officer, Cheng Ping Keat.

With the sponsorship move, Khind's brand logo will be featured on the Red Giants's official and training kits next season.

SABAK BERNAM DEVELOPMENT AREA (SABDA)



*SSAP - Selangor Smart Agro Park
*PKPS - Selangor Agricultural Development Corporation



OBJECTIVE

- To stimulate growth in the Sabak Bernam district through five core activities
- To develop the state agriculture sector with RM1.9 billion promised for the development of 1,317 hectares of land



HIGHLIGHTS

- To increase high-value commodities and productivity levels by using the latest agricultural technology
- To develop the industrial chain, create jobs, and expand market opportunities
- To develop agrotourism and ecotourism products
- To attract new investments for the development of downstream industrial activities
- To improve infrastructure and public facilities



TIMELINE

- Ongoing



OUTCOME

- To generate approximately RM248 million in annual revenue from its five core economic activities
- To create some 3,600 jobs