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SELANGOR JOURNAL



Driving progress



SELANGOR'S economic success is a direct result of the tremendous advancements the state has been making, year after year. Unwilling to slow down, the state government is working towards another big goal — to achieve financial freedom from the Federal government by next year.

The state's budget for 2024 has been set at RM2.53 billion. The money will be spent on projects that will both open up opportunities for the people and propel Selangor towards its desire to become a thriving and exemplary state, not just in Malaysia, but Southeast Asia.

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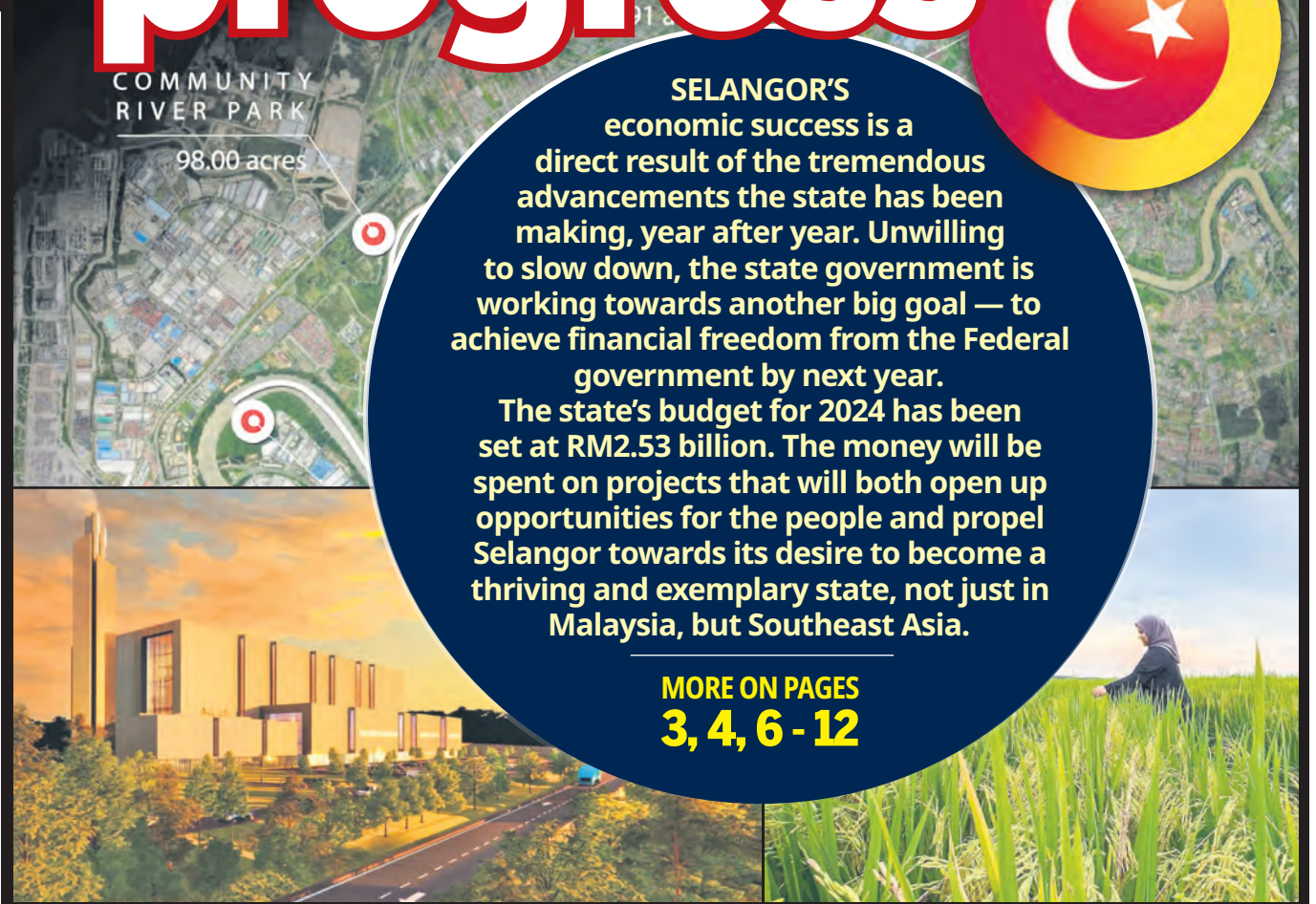
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Committed capital to fund state's projects

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state government has secured a total of RM29.1 billion in committed capital as of the third quarter of this year for the implementation of projects under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

He said of this amount, about half was invested into the manufacturing sector, including the development of the NCT Smart Industrial Park situated in the Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (Idriss).

The remaining commitment has been earmarked for projects under the services sector, like the Sungai Rasau water treatment plant and the data development centre in Petaling Jaya, as well as for the agricultural sector, such as the Sabak Bernam Development Area (Sabda).

Committed capital refers to money that investors have agreed to contribute to investments.

"Under RS-1, we intend to mobilise and develop the state's economy through 262 targeted projects," Amirudin said at the Selangor State Assembly sitting on Nov 15.

"These initiatives serve not only to bolster the economy but also strike a harmonious balance between infrastructure development and socioeconomic empowerment of the populace, aligning with our commitment to sustainable development.

"The initiatives align with our specified key economic enhancement strategies, particularly the review of various regions for development," he said in response to a question from Gombak Setia assemblyman Hilman Idham on how much the state government has secured in committed capital from the private sector for RS-1.

Amirudin said the state government has identified several high-value projects for proposed development and will scrutinise applications from various private companies and state government subsidiaries.



SIBS sets new record

By **YASMIN RAMLAN**

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) 2023 surpassed its initial transaction value target by fourfold during its four-day event last month, achieving a whopping RM6.12 billion, its biggest since its inception.

State executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility Ng Sze Han said the seventh edition of the summit, held from Oct 19 to 22, received a positive response and drew 57,249 visitors.

"This is one of the initiatives that the state government is taking, in making Selangor the main destination for the foreign investors," he told the Selangor State Legislative Assembly

sitting, here, on Nov 16.

Ng said this in response to Hulu Kelang assemblyman Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali's question about the state government's preparedness to facilitate high-tech investments entering Selangor.

During the tabling of the 2024 Selangor Budget on Nov 10, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced that the annual trade summit will transition from a national-level event to a key investment programme in the Southeast Asian region beginning next year.

He said the state's investment promotion agency, Invest Selangor Bhd, will begin SIBS's transition to a major regional event to enhance the creative economy and celebrate the cultural

diversity that is the strength of Southeast Asia.

SIBS 2023 featured six core components, namely the ninth Selangor International Expo (F&B), the ninth Selangor International Expo (Medic), the third Selangor Industrial Park Expo, the seventh Selangor Asean Business Conference, the eighth Selangor Smart City and Digital Economy Convention and the fourth Selangor R&D and Innovation Expo.

The summit showcased over 1,000 booths and held several side events, including the Selangor International Culinary Festival, the Selangor International Coffee Week, the Selangor International Healthcare Conference and the Malaysia International Tea and Coffee Expo.



Investments total RM88b in 5 years

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor government has recorded a staggering RM88 billion in total investments over the past five years through approving over 1,500 manufacturing projects, the State Legislative Assembly was told on Nov 16.

State executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility Ng Sze Han said these projects have generated 95,610 job opportunities.

"For the year 2018 to June 2023, a total of 1,506 manufacturing projects have been approved in Selangor, with an investment value of RM88,882,983,802 (RM88.88 billion).

"Out of this amount, RM35,879,623,616 (RM35.88 billion) was from local investment capital, while the remaining RM53,003,360,186 (RM53 billion) was from foreign investment capital," he said, responding to Bukit Lanjan assemblyman

Pua Pei Ling's question about the total investments in Selangor from 2018 to 2023 and the state government's efforts to increase foreign investments.

According to Ng, several measures have been taken by the state to attract foreign investors, including drawing up key policies like the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

He said other efforts include imple-

menting new regional development plans like the Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (Idriss), and large-scale annual programmes like the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) and Selangor Aviation Show (SAS).

Ng further elaborated that the state government plans to develop a Selangor International Aero Park (SAP) next to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, aimed to attract investors to the state.

"Talks regarding this development have commenced with landowners and other aerospace industry players.

"They have shown keen interest in investing in SAP, which is part of our ongoing initiatives to attract more foreign investors," he said.



MB: RM2.53b budget for 2024

By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM AND DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

SHAH ALAM - Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has announced a total of RM2.53 billion in allocations for the 2024 Selangor Budget.

Themed 'Independent Selangor: Driving Progress, Fostering Unity', the budget reflects the idea of Selangor as a self-sufficient and progressive state that fosters unity among its people.

The Menteri Besar said the funds will be channelled to four main areas of focus, which are to drive quality investments and generate a high income, promote smart education and ensure a sustainable environment, safeguard the welfare of the people, and foster unity among the 'ummah'.

During the tabling of the budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 10, Amirudin said 52.6 per cent of the allocations, or RM1.33 billion, has been set aside for operating expenditure, while the remaining 47.4 per cent, or RM1.2 billion, will be used for development expenditure.

Of the total sum allocated for operational expenditure, RM480.24 million will be set aside for emoluments, RM601.57 million for services and supplies, asset purchases (RM22.91 million), grants and fixed payments (RM210.56 million), and miscellaneous expenses (RM14.72 million).

As for development expenditure, RM359.17 million (29.9 per cent) will be allotted for the social sector, RM357.10 million for infrastructure, RM296.13 million for economic development, and RM187.6 million for health, education, and rural development.

2024's estimated revenue is RM2.2 billion, of which RM890.94 million or 40.5 per cent will be from land premium, RM622.65 million (28.3 per cent) from property tax, and RM212.96 million (9.7 per cent) from the Federal government's allocation.

"The figure is projected based on the previous track record, where a total of



RM2 billion was successfully collected in August 2022 and September 2023," Amirudin said.

Amirudin said the 2024 Selangor Budget sees a RM330 million estimated deficit this time, RM120 million less than the RM450 million deficit in last year's budget.

"Although we have seen deficit budgets for the previous six budgets, the state government will take measures to reduce the deficit to a reasonable level through expenditure control mechanisms and good financial governance practises without compromising spending output and impact," he said.

As for the state's financial position, Amirudin said Selangor's reserves via the state government's Consolidated Fund, as of Dec 31, 2022, recorded RM3.082 billion.

"For 2023, as of Nov 9, the aggregate amount accumulated in the state's Consolidated Fund remains robust and stable, recording an increase of RM631.48 million to reach RM3.713 billion, comprising of some RM1.5 billion in the Consolidated Revenue Account and Consolidated Trust Account, totalling RM2.213 billion.

"Due to effective and prudent spend-

ing approaches and strategies, the financial performance of the state government until Nov 9 recorded a RM427.25 million financial surplus," he said.

Selangor's revenue collection for 2023 stood at RM2.405 billion or 120 per cent of the expected RM2 billion figure.

Amirudin said almost 85.97 per cent, or RM1.113 billion, was spent on operational expenditure, whereas infrastructure development spending has reached 72.05 per cent or RM864.56 million.

"Based on the state government's performance and financial position, we are optimistic that we can reduce the projected 2023 deficit from RM495 million to a lower figure, which the reserves currently held by the state government can accommodate," he said.

The total state revenue in 2022 was RM2.533 billion, with RM722.50 million from recorded tax revenue, RM1.543.18 billion from non-tax revenue, and RM268.15 million from non-revenue receipts.

Financial freedom

Meanwhile, Amirudin said that Selangor is on track to fully settle all its debts

to the Federal government by 2024, marking a significant financial milestone for Malaysia's most developed state.

He said at present, Selangor's debt liability with the Federal government stands at RM19.2 million, most of which is from past commitments related to its water supply project and the Selangor State Trust Scheme (Asas).

He said clearing its debt obligations next year is a pivotal step in Selangor's journey towards financial stability and sustainability, ensuring robust economic growth in the coming years.

"With the advantage of financial freedom, the state government has successfully demonstrated excellent governance in managing financial resources without compromising the quality of services to enhance the living standards of Selangor's people," he said.

Amirudin added that settling the debt liabilities next year would only involve the remaining RM1.893 million instalment payment for Asas.

The remaining RM17.314 million debt, which was for loans for Selangor's water supply project, will be transferred to Pengurusan Aset Air Bhd.

He said this aligns with the Global Settlement Agreement for Selangor's water industry restructuring.

The Menteri Besar also announced the decision to diversify its revenue streams, including leveraging on contributions and dividends from state government subsidiaries under Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI.

This is part of the strategies to ensure revenue sustainability per the First Selangor Plan, which is designed to enhance the state's economy and competitiveness for the next five years.

"The initial target is to collect a minimum of RM40 million in dividend revenues in 2024 from state government subsidiaries under MBI. This figure will be annually reviewed, taking into account the financial and economic landscape," he said.

Civil servants get 2.5 months' bonus

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

With a total financial implication of RM40.03 million, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the Special Financial Assistance (BKK) would be paid in stages starting in December.

The Menteri Besar said BKK's first phase, amounting to one month's salary, was disbursed in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri earlier this year.

The second payment of one month's pay will be disbursed on Dec 28, while the remaining half month's salary will be in February next year, in preparation for the 2024 schooling session, which is expected to commence in March.

"As a token of gratitude and recognition for the civil servants' hard work and dedication alongside those involved in contributing to the state's success, I am pleased to announce the Special Financial Assistance for the year 2023 to all employees of the Selangor state administration, including Federally-funded government service members.

"The achievements recorded by Se-

langor signify the collaborative efforts of the state government at all levels to ensure its continued prosperity.

"Selangor remains exemplary as a wealthy and harmonious state, undivided, alongside a consistently healthy democratic climate," he said during the tabling of the 2024 Selangor Budget at the Selangor State Legislative Assembly on Nov 10.

Let's seize the moment and lead, says MB

SHAH ALAM - Selangor aims to become the most developed state in the Asean region, with unity as a guiding principle, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

During the tabling of the 2024 Selangor Budget on Nov 10, he said Selangor, with its robust economic infrastructure and cohesive societal fabric, is uniquely positioned to capitalise on the shifting economic focus towards the Asean bloc.

"Unity should also be based on such aspirations, not sentiments and hatred. Such sincere unity that is not filled with schemings and hidden agendas can be successful.

"This embodies the kind of unity that Selangor's people yearn for — a collective effort to drive progress and success in our state," Amirudin said.

Reflecting on the global political landscape, he said the prevailing uncertainties and challenges include the forthcoming United States (US) elections and the instability they bring, the rise of Europe's far-right movements, China's economic woes, and the ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine, which he likened to a new Cold War.

The Menteri Besar also commented on Southeast Asia's strategic significance, which is expected to grow amid global uncertainties.

"With all this uncertainty, Southeast Asia, strategically positioned between the US and China and home to 680 million people, is rapidly growing.

"The region, besides its strategic position, can come forward with administrations focused on the primary strength of unity and togetherness," he said.

Drawing parallels with post-World War II Europe, Amirudin advocated for a similar collective approach in Asean, focusing on unity and pragmatic leadership.

In his concluding remarks, he expressed confidence in Southeast Asia's future, envisioning the region as a powerhouse in the coming decade.

"In Europe, they proclaimed 'Never Again' after World War II and the Cold War with the fall of the Berlin Wall (in 1989).

"In Asean, our stance should be 'Never in Asean' so that unity, (and) pragmatic, realistic, and visionary leadership approaches, along with the importance of negotiation in politics, not politics as a zero-sum game, prevail.

"This is why this would be the Southeast Asian Century," Amirudin said.

While acknowledging the competition within the Asean region, citing the economic growth in Vietnam and Indonesia's Nusantara offer to potentially lead the economy in the region as examples, he said Selangor is in the most strategic position to become not only the most advanced state in the Nusantara region but also in Southeast Asia.

"This budget is an effort which will steer us on the right track," he added.

Trade summit to go regional next year



By **YASMIN RAMLAN**

SHAH ALAM - Beginning next year, the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) will transition from a national-level event to a key investment programme in the Southeast Asian region.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced this when tabling the 2024 Selangor Budget in the state assembly on Nov 10.

"Next year, Invest Selangor Bhd, the state's investment promotion agency, will begin SIBS's transition from a national programme to a major event in Southeast Asia.

"SIBS aims to enhance the creative economy and celebrate the cultural diversity that is the strength of Southeast Asia," he said.

"To ensure the success of the eighth SIBS event next year, a total of RM20 million will be allocated (under the state budget)."

On Nov 16, state executive councillor for investment, trade and mobility Ng Sze Han announced that the seventh edition of the annual trade summit surpassed its initial target by fourfold and achieved its highest-achieving transaction value of RM6.12 billion during its four-day event last month.

He also said that the event, which took place from Oct 19 to 21, saw a record participation of 57,249 visitors.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said the annual Selangor Aviation Show (SAS) will be conducted biennially

from next year onwards, with a specific focus on sectors like security, defence, business aviation, and the advancement of drone technology in the state.

"To support this initiative, an allocation of RM8 million will be provided," he said.

The decision took into consideration previous editions of the event, as well as aviation shows conducted in other cities, such as Farnborough, Dubai, and Paris.

Amirudin said the recent SAS in September saw the participation of 109 companies, including international participants from the United States, Japan, Australia, Kazakhstan, France and South Korea, and recorded 19,217 visitors.

He said a total of 28 MoUs worth RM823 million, primarily in the fields of business and general aviation, were inked.



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MARKETING & ADVERTISING:

Nadhrh Azlan nadhrh@mediaselangor.com

Syahir Khadri syahir@mediaselangor.com

PHOTOGRAPHER: Zakki Jilan, Hafiz Othman,
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Level 11, Menara Bank Rakyat, No. 1, Jalan Indah 14/8,
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Tel : 03-5523 4856 Fax : 03-5523 5856 Email: info@mediaselangor.com

State bids again for own waste management law

By AMAR SHAH MOHSEN

SHAH ALAM - A proposed enactment on solid waste management and public cleansing in Selangor, which failed to get the nod of the previous Federal government, is now back on the table for consideration.

This was confirmed by state executive councillor for local government Ng Suee Lim, who said the move also aims to address the issue of rampant illegal dumping activities in the state.

Speaking during the Selangor Legislative Assembly on Nov 15, Ng said plans to introduce the enactment were originally made in 2020, but the matter was not approved by the then Federal administration despite multiple applications.

He explained that the proposal for Selangor's own enactment was made as the existing state by-law on waste collection, management and disposal under the Local Government Act 1976 (Act 171) lacks bite, with only a maximum fine of RM2,000 allowed.

Now, following the change of government in Putrajaya, Ng said that the state is determined to breathe life into the enactment.

"A proposal to replace the by-law (under Act 171) with a new enactment was tabled in the executive council on Dec 14, 2022," he said in response to a question from Kajang assemblyman Cheong Kian Young on the scores of illegal dumping sites operating in the state.

"The state executive council later,



on June 7, 16 and 17, discussed and rejected the suggestion to use the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (Act 672) for the purpose of waste management and public cleaning in Selangor.

"The council agreed that a new enactment be drafted and gazetted for this, in line with existing legislation."

Ng said the draft enactment is now being reviewed and scrutinised together with all local authorities before the

matter is considered for approval by the executive council.

He also revealed that a total of 51 illegal dumping sites are still operating statewide, of which 18 are under the jurisdiction of the Subang Jaya City Council, while the Hulu Selangor Municipal Council oversees 13, the Selayang Municipal Council (eight), the Kajang Municipal Council (eight), the Kuala Selangor Municipal Council (three) and the Kuala Langat Municipal Council (one).

Previously, on Feb 17, 2020, former state executive councillor for local government Ng Sze Han said that Selangor will not be a party to Act 672, which provides for and regulates the management of controlled solid waste and public cleansing.

He said instead, the state will enforce its own enactment on waste management and public cleansing once it receives the green light from the Federal government.

High-tech facility to up recycling rate

SHAH ALAM - The development of the high-tech Selangor ReCycle Surge facility in all local councils will help increase the recycling rate in the state by up to 15 per cent by 2025.

KDEB Waste Management (KDEB-WM) managing director Dato' Ramli Mohd Tahir said this would help to achieve the state's objective under the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Ramli explained that the RM3 million long-term project, which will be implemented in stages, will include a material recovery collection facility (MRCF), a community recycling centre, and drop-off and drive-thru recycling centres.

"KDEBWM plans to add at least five more recycling facilities, and its im-

plementation, through collaborations with several strategic partners, will be subject to the state government's allocation and private finance initiatives," he told *Selangorkini*, adding that the public will be the biggest winner when the project is completed.

On Nov 10, Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced a RM3 million allocation in the 2024 Selangor Budget to develop the Selangor ReCycle Surge facility as part of the state's effort to promote recycling.

The Menteri Besar said the initiative is expected to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfills, thereby saving the state expenses on waste disposal fees.

Meanwhile, Ramli said the construc-

tion of the first phase of the Sultan Idris Shah Green Energy Plant (SISGE) is expected to start in Gombak next June.

He said the environmentally- and community-friendly energy plant would also be equipped with supporting infrastructure facilities.

"The first phase of the project physically begins after reaching targeted financial closure (FC) in June next year, and the construction period is 36 months.

"All the details of the first phase project will be communicated to the public through a transparent and complete environmental study process and are expected to be completed by the end of this year," he said.

He added that the entire construc-

tion of the energy plant is expected to use 245 acres of land that has been allocated by the state government.

"KDEBWM has selected YTL Power Generation International Bhd through the proposal process for requests as a collaboration partner for the implementation of the first phase of the project," he added.

Amirudin said the project will cost RM4.5 billion and be paid through private financing initiatives. When completed, it could burn 2,400 tonnes of garbage a day and generate 130.5 MW of electricity.

He said the project will also make Selangor comparable to developed countries in how it manages solid waste sustainably.

A debt-free, empowered future

By **YASMIN RAMLAN**

SELANGOR is set to become an economically independent state in the upcoming year following the unveiling of its 2024 budget.

With a RM2.53 billion allocation, the state is working towards promoting progress and building togetherness among its communities.

Several notable goals were unveiled by Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari during the tabling of the budget, including the clearing of Selangor's debt obligations next year, which he cited as a pivotal step for the state towards financial stability and sustainability and ensuring robust economic growth in the years to come.

The debt-free goal is itself a demonstration of the Amirudin administration's prudence in financial management. The image lends well to its larger objective of being a responsible government, one that sees to the well-being of its people.



I think that's the most important thing for people in Selangor to realise, what kind of government they have. It's a very responsible government, keeping (expenditure) at the minimum and also, they can afford it, they can repay their debts

Political analyst Azmi Hassan (*pic*) of Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research explained that being a debt-free state government would mean Selangor has more money to spend on the people, as it is no longer obligated to repay debts to the Federal government.

"I think that's the most important thing for people in Selangor to realise, what kind of government they have. It's a very responsible government, keeping (expenditure) at the minimum and also, they can afford it, they can repay their debts.

"It's sending a positive message to the people," he said when contacted by *Selangor Journal* recently.

On Nov 10, Amirudin said that Selangor's debt liability with the Federal government stands at RM19.2 million, most of which is from past commitments related to its water supply project and the Selangor State Trust Scheme (Asas).

High-density setback

Achieving a debt-free status would be a significant milestone for Selangor, but as Azmi sees it, Selangor, as Malaysia's most developed state, should have already achieved high-income status some time ago.

"I think Selangor should have achieved its high-income status in July, when the World Bank announced Kuala Lumpur, Penang, and Sarawak as high-income states.

"This is something the Selangor government should focus on, how it will

increase its income," Azmi said.

Azmi recommended that Selangor prioritise three key sectors, namely manufacturing, construction, and services, if it wants to achieve that status.

He said the state can benefit from its location near the capital city of Kuala Lumpur, as this presents a strategic advantage for it to generate more income.

Following the World Bank's report, Amirudin expressed his confidence that Selangor would achieve a high-income status through several of its development initiatives covering various economic sectors.

In June, Amirudin also said that Selangor's manufacturing sector accounted for one-third of the entire nation's manufacturing industry, with an increase of 9 per cent in 2022, whereas the construction sector surpassed one-third of the country's activity or 34.1 per cent, and its services sector recorded a 13.6 per cent increase in the same year.

Although Selangor emerged as the leading contributor to the national gross domestic product (GDP) at 25.5 per cent in 2022, Azmi said that the state's high population of approximately 7.2 million as of July this year is seen as a barrier for Selangor to becoming a high-income state.

He said as the World Bank calculates GDP per population, Selangor's high population is a disadvantage compared to the other less-

populated states.

"For instance, Sarawak, Penang and Kuala Lumpur are less populated. So they have an advantage in comparison to Selangor, despite (Selangor) recording a higher GDP," he said.

Not a ploy

With the theme 'Independent Selangor: Driving Progress, Fostering Unity', the 2024 state budget outlined four main thrusts, namely to drive quality investments and generate a high income; promote smart education and ensure a sustainable environment; safeguard the welfare of the people;

and foster unity among the 'ummah'.

While the fourth thrust outlines several allocations for the Muslim community and Islamic affairs, Azmi noted that such allotments are nothing new, with similar announcements made in previous state budgets.

He also dismissed the idea that it was a plan for the ruling government to gain Malay votes.

"To say that this is to attract Malay voters in relation to what happened in the last state election, I don't think so. I believe it is part of the budget strategy year-by-year. In this case, there is a special allocation for the Malays, for the Muslims.

"It is a norm as the state government has previously provided allocations for the Muslim community," he said.

In the recent Selangor state election on Aug 12, the Pakatan Harapan (Harapan)-



BN two, allowing them to form the new state government with a simple majority.

The state polls saw the opposition, Perikatan Nasional, making inroads into Selangor, particularly in Malay-majority seats.

Goodies for all

Meanwhile, Universiti Malaya Centre for Democracy and Elections (UMCedel) research fellow Awang Azman Awang Pawi expressed a different sentiment on the allocation, stating that the strategy may raise

questions about inclusivity.

“If the state government aims to build trust among Malay voters, it’s crucial also to ensure fairness and equal distribution of resources to all communities,” he told *Selangor Journal*.

He gave the example of funds allocated for the Jelajah Perpaduan Rumpun Selangor carnival, which is considered an event for all, irrespective of race.

In the budget, RM4.5 million has been allocated for the roadshow under its Gagasan Rumpun Selangor initiative.

This includes programmes offering discounted prices for essential goods, complementary health screenings, and roadshows promoting various state and Federal initiatives.

Awang Azman said this approach is commendable as it addresses the needs of a diverse population. Azmi agreed, saying such a strategy could enhance community relations in the state.

“The effectiveness of Gagasan Rumpun Selangor in catering to the diverse needs of non-Muslims or non-Malays depends on the details of the programmes,” said Awang

Azman.

“Potentially, it may improve community relations and foster unity, but details are crucial in assessing its true impact.

Azmi concurred with Awang Azman’s view, as the programme is anticipated to introduce various incentives and initiatives next year.

“I think the Gagasan Rumpun Selangor programme is a good strategy to demonstrate that with the state’s population being so diverse, the state government is giving opportunities to all segments of the society,” he said.

Settling debt means fewer obligations, says economist

WITH the recently announced 2024 budget, Selangor has taken the lead in forging a plan towards financial independence while other states are still grappling with substantial deficits, says economist Barjoyai Bardai (*pic*).

The former senior lecturer at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia said being a debt-free state provides Selangor with political autonomy as it will no longer depend on the Federal government, regardless of which political party is in power at the federal level.

“This implies that Selangor can allocate more funds towards its financial reserves since it won’t be obligated to commit loan instalments to the Federal government, thereby resulting in savings on loan interest,” he told *Selangor Journal* when contacted.

Barjoyai said Selangor is known for building substantial reserves.

“This trend dates back to the tenure of former Menteri Besar, the late Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim, who successfully generated a significant reserve, starting from RM1 billion,” said Barjoyai.

Khalid, from Parti Keadilan Rakyat (Keadilan), became the 14th Menteri Besar after the Pakatan Rakyat (now Pakatan Harapan) coalition took over the state government from Umno following the 2008 general election.

“This achievement sets Selangor apart from other states, as most of them grapple with substantial



deficits, resorting to borrowing from the Federal government,” Barjoyai said.

He also commended Selangor for building reserves that have surpassed RM3 billion.

During the tabling of the budget, Menteri Besar Dato’ Seri Amirudin Shari said that as of Nov 9 this year, the aggregate amount accumulated in the state’s Consolidated Fund remains robust and stable, recording an increase of RM631.48 million to reach RM3.713 billion.

This comprises some RM1.5 billion in the Consolidated Revenue Account and Consolidated Trust Account, totalling RM2.213 billion.

Savings and spendings

While acknowledging Selangor’s significant rainy day savings, Barjoyai said that the state government must also ensure fair distribution of wealth among its citizens.

“When the reserves are excessively high, questions may arise about why the state government is keeping them, especially when there are still people in need.

“Therefore, it is crucial to manage them wisely and prioritise the well-being of the people,” he said.

Barjoyai said he had expected a bigger budget amount for 2024, considering Selangor’s status as the most developed state in the country.

He added that the total amount allocated — RM2.53 billion — is seen as relatively modest for a population of approximately 7.2 million.

“But it is commendable that the budget is an expansion budget for the state, which is bigger than last year’s.

“The budget allocation represents an expansion and has the potential to spur an increase in the growth rate, as the state government’s expenditure is expected to drive the economy in the coming years.

“It is also a comprehensive budget, as it covers all aspects,” he said.

Barjoyai added that the state government efficiently coordinates its allocations, ensuring that national and state-level funds are distributed and managed wisely.

In the previous 2023 Selangor Budget, the state administration allocated RM2.45 billion, comprising RM1.25 billion (51 per cent) for operating expenditure and RM1.20 billion for development expenditure (49 per cent).



Reporters: IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM, AMAR SHAH MOHSEN, DANIAL DZULKIFLY, YASMIN RAMLAN

IN a strategic move to manage urban growth complexities, Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari has announced plans to introduce an enactment to formalise the creation of a Greater Klang Valley.

The envisaged conurbation will encompass Petaling Jaya, Subang Jaya, Shah Alam, and Klang, the latter of which is pending its city status approval from the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj.

Amirudin said the state will allocate RM2 million to this end under the 2024 Selangor Budget.

The establishment of the Greater Klang Valley is crucial to, among other things, streamlining the administrative processes for businesses and residents, rejuvenating mature cities, implementing a digital twin system for government administration, and promoting public transportation.

"The move will also optimise government resources to reduce overlap and establish the first inclusive local administrations that are elderly-, disabled persons-, and child-friendly, and to achieve the goal of becoming Malaysia's first low-carbon city," said Amirudin.

Parked under the first main thrust of the budget, which is to drive quality investments and generate high income for the state,

Greater Klang Valley plan takes shape

the initiative is regarded as crucial by the Menteri Besar as it will be tailored to address the multifaceted challenges stemming from rapid urbanisation and mass migration since Selangor is currently home to about seven million residents.

Meanwhile, Amirudin announced plans to introduce a Local Authorities Service Commission, with a bill expected to be tabled by the third quarter of next year.

This initiative is designed to boost the local authorities' responsiveness and efficiency, particularly in addressing public complaints, including shortening response time to 24 hours.

Other initiatives outlined under the first main thrust are:

- RM1 million to strengthen the Selangor Implementation and Performance Monitoring Unit (Siap), which includes the development of a more efficient project management system that enables more frequent periodic reporting
- RM6 million to optimise the state's e-Auction, Tender,



and Smart Docket System

- RM3 million to develop the Kita Selangor Rail network from Klang to Kuala Selangor, Tanjong Karang, and Sabak Bernam
- RM8 million for the Selangor Mobility initiative, including the expansion of the on-demand transit van services (DRT) in all

local government areas

- RM300 million to construct a pipeline network from Klang to Pulau Indah to facilitate ongoing work at the state's new industrial zones
- RM68 million to the Selangor Irrigation and Drainage Department to ensure a

systematic and effective management of water resources. Another RM65 million is provided for flood mitigation projects and the development of drainage systems, river basins, and coasts, bringing the total allocation to RM133 million.

- RM24 million for the continuation

of the Selangor Penyayang Project, with each of the 56 state constituencies receiving RM250,000

- RM145 million to improve road networks, implement major road maintenance projects, and install street lights and traffic lights
- RM50 million for food security efforts, including stockpiling food (rice, fish, meat), in facing climate change, and diversifying food supplies (coconuts, rice, bananas) to reduce external imports
- RM4 million to upgrade dilapidated infrastructure in rural areas, such as community halls and public halls, including providing free broadband coverage
- RM3 million to boost the halal industry and to host the 2024 Selangor International Halal Convention (Selhac) for Selangor to become the main halal platform in the Nusantara region
- RM4.8 million to support the state's entrepreneurs and build a creative economy

Focus on TVET to fill quality jobs

THE state government will allocate RM1 million to establish a Selangor Jobs and Skills Council as part of its promise to create 100,000 quality jobs in the next five years, announced Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Speaking at the tabling of the 2024 Selangor Budget, Amirudin said the council would focus on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) initiatives.

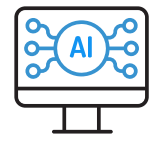
This includes nurturing talent across five key sectors: food and beverage, electrical and electronics, life sciences, transportation, and machinery and equipment.

"The council aims to enhance Selangor's labour force by fostering coordination between universities, workers and the industry. This collaborative approach involves identifying and addressing current and future job requirements in sectors ready for investment.

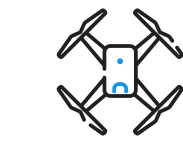
"The emphasis will also be on augmenting workers' skills through specialised training and providing comprehensive job matching and



**SELANGOR JOBS AND SKILLS COUNCIL
RM1 MILLION**



**SELANGOR CENTRE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
RM1 MILLION**



**SELANGOR DRONE DEVELOPMENT
RM 2 MILLION**

vocational training for future and existing job markets," he said.

Additionally, Amirudin highlighted the state's strategy to leverage job creation across 21 industries identified in the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030.

He said these industries range from aerospace and medical equipment to automotive, rail, digitalisation, and pharmaceuticals, underlining the state's commitment to a diverse and dynamic economic landscape.

The Menteri Besar also announced initiatives to propel technology advancements in Selangor, including the setting up

of a Selangor Centre for Artificial Intelligence.

He said RM1 million will be allocated for this purpose, reflecting the state's commitment to leading in technology innovation.

Amirudin added that the state will also focus on drone development next year, with RM2 million allocated for the collaboration between the Selangor Aviation and Technology Innovation Sdn Bhd (Selati) and Turkish Aerospace (Tusas).

He said this demonstrates the state's commitment to investing in high-potential sectors like aviation and drone technology.

Investing towards Unesco status

IN a bid to enhance Selangor's natural heritage prestige, the state government has allocated RM2 million to facilitate the Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark's recognition as a Unesco Global Geopark by 2027, said Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said the Federal government has already recognised the geopark as Malaysia's seventh and the first national geopark in the state.

"To achieve this, elements like scientific research, the development of collective infrastructure, and the development of geo-tourism must be mobilised. (Therefore), RM2 million will be allocated," he said.

Meanwhile, in anticipation of Visit Selangor Year 2025, Amirudin announced a significant investment of RM3.3 million in the state's tourism sector, and several initiatives planned in 2024 as part of this effort.

The initiatives include creating bespoke tourism packages via Tourism Selangor to attract visitors from Asia and Europe.



He said the ongoing 'Pusing Selangor Dulu' campaign is also set to leverage the influx of tourists arriving through the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and the Subang Airport, offering incentives to entice the visitors to extend their stay in Selangor, thereby boosting local tourism.

"There is a strategic emphasis

on harnessing digital capabilities to promote tourism, especially in key areas like the northern region's Sabak Bernam and Kuala Selangor, and in the south, the Sepang and Kuala Langat districts.

"(Therefore), virtual tourism utilising digital twin technology will be developed next year," Amirudin added.

13 projects earmarked for Idriss



THE Selangor government has approved 13 projects with an estimated development area of 17,398.56 acres under the Integrated Development Region in South Selangor (Idriss).

Idriss is one of the game-changer projects under the state's five-year blueprint, the First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

"The state government aims to mobilise Idriss effectively in collaboration with the private sector, focusing on the Sepang and Kuala Langat districts," said Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar also guaranteed that the state government and local authorities will streamline the entry process for local and foreign investors keen on expanding their manufacturing facilities in Selangor.

Meanwhile, he said the process for the Request For Proposal (RFP) regarding the development of the state's third port in Pulau Carey is now open to interested parties.

"The state government believes establishing the third port is necessary rather than an option. This aims to enhance port management capacity, positioning Malaysia and Selangor as the main ports in Southeast Asia.

"We aim to actively participate in developing the Pulau Carey Port through its subsidiaries, not merely for the land management responsibilities," Amirudin said.

Similarly, the Selangor Aerospace Park (SAP), one of Idriss'

projects, will be the first green-concept aerospace industrial park with a focus on aerospace-related industries, including maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), installation and manufacturing, and a centre of excellence for aviation training and skilled workers.

Other areas include a green aviation research and development centre, a centralised centre for aviation regulatory bodies, a warehouse and logistics area, and integrated public infrastructure.

"With over 62 per cent of the aerospace industry established in Selangor, SAP's sustainable development aspires to meet environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

"It is set to make Selangor a leading state in the Southeast Asian region's aerospace sector," he said, adding the project's development cost will be financed by the state government's investment arm, Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI.

To provide an optimal industrial area to meet investors' needs, the state government supports the establishment of new industrial parks based on the sustainable Managed Industrial Park (MIP) concept, said Amirudin.

The state administration has recognised six proposed industrial area development projects as MIPs, spanning 3,383.85 acres in total, including one each in Kuala Langat and Klang, and two in Gombak.

It has also allocated RM6 million under the Selangor Industrial Broadband initiative to provide high-speed internet, equip new and existing industrial areas with broadband services, and strengthen the telecommunication infrastructure in Selangor in 2024, especially within industrial zones.

He said the funds would address the broadband coverage capacity issues faced by factory owners in industrial parks, especially for facilities in high-tech industries.

Under the first main thrust of the state budget, Amirudin also stated that RM76 million will be allocated for the first phase of the Sabak Bernam Development Area (Sabda), one of three new economic zones identified by the state government.

"Sabda's primary focus is to ensure food security and logistics utilisation, capitalising on its strategic location as the northern gateway to Selangor and connecting with the state of Perak," said Amirudin.

He said among the projects under Sabda that were previously announced and outlined in the state budget include the downstream seafood and agro-food industries in Sungai Lang and the Sekinchan fish landing port project, spearheaded by MBI.

"The Sekinchan Seafood Landing Complex project would also positively impact the development of ecotourism activities in the Sekinchan area," he added.

THE RM200 Kita Selangor book voucher initiative will be expanded next year to include more students, including those pursuing their education in universities outside the state, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Specifically, he said the number of beneficiaries will double to 2,000, as opposed to the 1,000 recipients this year.

This is achievable thanks to strategic cooperation with various government agencies and non-governmental organisations.

"The book voucher programme will continue in 2024, targeting 2,000 students. It will be expanded to as many public universities throughout Malaysia as possible, as well as selected private higher education institutions," he said when tabling the 2024 Selangor Budget.

Amirudin said the initiative, which targets students from low-income families and zakat beneficiaries, aims to reduce the burden of educational expenses and encourage academic success.

More students to get book vouchers

The Menteri Besar also announced a substantial RM9 million allocation for infrastructural improvements in three education institutions in the state — Universiti Selangor (Unisel), Universiti Islam Selangor (UIS) and the Selangor State Technical Skills Development Centre (STDC).

He said Unisel will also be restructured as Universiti Industri Selangor by 2025, and will primarily focus on technical and vocational training (TVET) through strategic cooperation with industries.

In its effort to continue with TVET education through STDC, Amirudin

said RM13.85 million is allocated for the Smart Selangor Technical Skills and Expertise Initiative (Iktisass) programme to ensure that the state would produce a skilled workforce, preparing Selangor for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0).

Separately, he said the RM1,000 financial aid for Selangor students from low-income households who pursue their higher education at recognised public and private institutions (Higher Learning Institute Entry Reward or HPIPT) will continue next year with a RM3 million allocation.



Amirudin added that the state has also agreed to maintain its RM9 million allocation for the Selangor State Scholarship Fund (TKWBNS) and its RM5 million allocation for the Basic University Fee Assistance (Bayu) next year.

In all, he said the state government will allocate RM24.9 million to enhance higher education through various programmes, benefitting Selangor students both at home and abroad.

Amirudin said a nationwide #KitaSelangor Students Tour will be held next year to promote the state's educational initiatives at public universities.

Free tuition for fourth formers too

SELANGOR'S free tuition programme will be expanded next year to include Form Four students, through an additional RM3 million budget, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

This brings the programme's total annual allocation to RM10 million, he said when tabling the 2024 Selangor Budget in the State Legislative Assembly.

Currently, the Selangor People's Tutoring Programme (PTRS) only involves Form Five students sitting for the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM). With the expansion, the programme is expected to benefit 130,000 Form Four and Five students.

Amirudin said the move to expand the programme aligns with the state's election manifesto, the 'Kita Selangor Pledges', which targets the participation of 200,000 students within the next five years.

"(The inclusion of Form Four students in PTRS) will elevate the total number of participants in the programme to nearly 120,000 students across Selangor (next year)," he said.

In his budget speech, Amirudin also said the Selangor school aid programme, first introduced in 2009 to assist schools in repairing and upgrading their infrastructure and

facilities, will be continued next year with a RM26.5 million allocation.

Of that figure, RM1.5 million will be directed towards the state's special fund for the rehabilitation and restoration of schools affected by disasters.

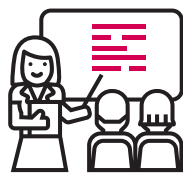
He also announced efforts to empower the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sector with a RM2 million allocation to reorganise the educational programmes in schools.

The state government will similarly expand the Selangor Early Childhood Care and Education Caretaker (Impak Selangor) programme next year by introducing a new developmental screening programme to identify children with development issues.

The initiative will be targeted at children aged three to five from B40 families and is aimed at ensuring early intervention.

"It is also part of the state government's initiative to shorten the waiting period for appointments with developmental paediatricians at government hospitals, which currently takes between two and three years.

"The state government allocates RM350,000 for this purpose," Amirudin said.



Public transport system to go electric

ELECTRIC vehicles (EVs) will be introduced into Selangor's public transport system from January next year in a move towards being a carbon-neutral state, says Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

He said the initiative, which will be implemented in phases, will integrate EVs into the state's demand-responsive transit (DRT) services and its existing Smart Selangor buses, starting with two electric buses to kick off the transition.

Amirudin said plans are also in place to replace fuel-engine vehicles with EVs for the official use of state executive councillors and department heads as part of its efforts to promote low-carbon transportation from next year.

The state government would also establish 'green routes' that include EV charging stations and battery replacement facilities for motorcycles by setting up 1,000 EV charging stations, backed by a RM1 million allocation and partnerships with private entities.

Under the second main thrust of the state budget, which is to promote smart education and ensure a sustainable environment, the state government allocated RM2.5 million for environmental and climate change efforts.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said that RM1.4 million has been allocated to open up more disaster operation

centres to ensure that information can be disseminated more effectively in the event of impending danger.

He said this year, such centres were established in three districts, namely Petaling, Klang, and Hulu Langat.

Amirudin also said RM400,000 will be allocated to sustain a community project called SeDAR that will help participants get a better understanding of local disaster risks and disaster preparedness.

Other initiatives announced for environmental sustainability are:

- RM520,000 to designate the Selangor State Park as the state's Royal Heritage Forest
- RM250,000 for conservation and restoration efforts at degraded forest areas, mangrove swamps, and coastal zones
- RM305 million for renewable energy infrastructure under Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd
- RM4.5 billion for the Sultan Idris Shah Green Energy (SISGE) Plant (Phase 4)
- RM3 million for Selangor ReCycle Surge to carry out its sustainable development goals and recycling
- RM100 million for the water supply industry, which includes RM40 million to continue the Skim Air Darul Ehsan (SADE) programme

Removing barriers for women

THE 2024 Selangor Budget has allocated RM4 million to Wanita Berdaya Selangor (WBS) to conduct various programmes and activities for women's empowerment.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said WBS plays a pivotal role as a think tank and conducts policy studies on women to assist them at every level.

He said the state agency also conducts a special gender mainstreaming project to ensure inclusive development for Selangor's policy planning and evaluation.

"The state government will also continue the Lifelong Learning Programme or the WBS Scholarship for selected individuals to pursue higher education.

"At present, 24 scholarship recipients are continuing their studies at the Open University Malaysia, the Universiti Malaya, and the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia," he said.

Meanwhile, he said RM50,000 will be spent on the Special Domestic Violence Helpline (Talian SELamat), which WBS operates due to increased post-pandemic cases.

He said RM100,000 was also allocated

to continue providing Women's Shelter Grants to enhance the protection ecosystem for domestic violence victims.

As for the newly-introduced Selangor Care Economy Policy, RM1 million was set aside to develop the initiative that seeks to acknowledge the work of caregivers and homemakers and resolve the issues they face.

"The issues include unpaid care sector workers, (work that is) commonly carried out by women, alongside low-paid care work in health service sectors, childcare, and education centres, and social workers in elderly care and disability centres," he said.

Amirudin also said that RM5 million has been allocated to establish Yayasan Insan Istimewa Selangor (YaNIS) and implement the primary programme for people with disabilities (OKU) next year.

The establishment of YaNIS under Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated), or MBI, aligns with the First Selangor

Plan's (RS-1) second goal, which is to enhance social inclusion and community well-being, specifically focusing on targeted groups.

"To enhance services for individuals with disabilities, the state government recognises the importance of broadening the scope of the Selangor Special Needs Children (AnIS) initiative, which has been the primary implementer.

"Its initiative includes the AnIS special assistance, Didik AnIS, the AnIS Academy, the AnIS early intervention centre, and the AnIS preschool programme," he said.

Amirudin said YaNIS will also expand its services — which include focusing on providing education, training and empowerment programmes — to the disabled, regardless of age limit, as opposed to its previous focus on those under 18 only.

Among other welfare initiatives for targeted groups, as outlined in the state budget, are:

- RM250,000 to develop the action plan

for OKU for 2024–2026

- RM2.5 million for Orang Asli welfare
- RM1 million for the Selangor Legal Aid Fund, offering a RM3,000 subsidy for each case for households with incomes up to RM5,000

Assistance for nurseries, kindergartens, and special-needs children:

- RM3 million for the Iltizam Anak Selangor programme, which includes RM500 in savings in the National Education Savings Scheme (SSPN) Prime for five years for 30,000 children born in 2022 and onwards
- RM1 million for the AnIS initiative
- RM600,000 for Skim Asuh Pintar, which provides a RM100 monthly subsidy for nursery fees and RM50 per month for kindergarten expenses to parents in the low-income group
- RM2 million for the state's assistance programme for kindergartens (Tunas), providing a monthly RM50 for kindergarten fees



Free screenings, subsidised treatments to continue

IN a significant move to boost public health, the state government has earmarked RM59.7 million for public health programmes and initiatives next year, says Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Menteri Besar said this includes a RM35 million allocation for the Iltizam Selangor Sihat (ISS) programme, benefiting 100,000 primary policyholders and about 150,000 registered family members.

Amirudin said the increased funding would allow registered individuals to receive up to RM10,000 in hospitalisation coverage annually at selected panel hospitals.

"The ISS policyholders are also entitled to basic healthcare and vaccinations, with RM500 in annual coverage for families and RM250 for individuals at any panel clinic within Selangor," he said, adding that existing benefits will also be maintained, including the RM5,000 incentive for critical illness and natural death, each.

The following are the allocations announced for some of the state's existing health programmes:

- RM5 million for the Bantuan Sihat Selangor programme, which provides up to RM5,000 in financial aid to lower-income groups for various health treatments like dialysis, surgeries, and medical equipment
- RM5 million for the state's heart treatment scheme, offering up to RM50,000 in heart treatment financial assistance for eligible individuals
- RM3.2 million for Selangor Saring, focusing on screening for non-communicable diseases and several types of cancer
- RM1.5 million for the ISS initiative for civil servants (ISSPA), benefiting those in Grade 44 and below and offering basic health benefits at panel clinics and other protection benefits, including coverage for natural death, permanent disability, critical illness, and funeral expenses



Sustenance for impoverished families

THE RM3,600 annual Bantuan Kehidupan Sejahtera Selangor (Bingkas) aid for families that are struggling financially continues next year with a RM108 million allocation.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the RM300 monthly assistance paid out via e-wallets will benefit 30,000 families, helping them to purchase goods and basic needs, including educational equipment for their children.

"The initiative is continued due to the need to enhance resilience for families in this state affected by economic challenges," he said.

The Bingkas initiative replaces Kasih Ibu Smart Selangor (KISS) and KISS IT (Single Mothers) programmes, all of which are part of Iltizam Selangor Penyayang (ISP).

Through Bingkas, eligible families will receive RM300 in assistance each month or RM3,600 a year, and the payments will be distributed via the Wavpay e-wallet app to facilitate spending for the recipients.

Meanwhile, Amirudin said RM2.1

million has also been allocated to support the Poverty Eradication Blueprint programme next year.

"Some 334 aid recipients from nine districts have benefitted this year, and the state government has agreed to continue the programme in the form of equipment or machinery next year.

"Other planned programmes include organising a Blueprint Carnival to help aid recipients showcase their products and provide exposure to a wider market," he said.

The following are several other welfare assistance announced in the state budget:

- RM16.48 million for Jom Shopping vouchers for 82,400 households earning below RM3,000 a month
- RM2 million to assist the B40 in homeownership
- RM37.5 million for Skim Mesra Usia Emas and Skim Mesra Insan Istimewa (RM150 shopping vouchers and RM500 death benefits)

A commitment to diversity

THE state government has taken significant steps under the 2024 Selangor Budget to promote the Gagasan Rumpun Selangor grassroots initiative aimed at fostering unity and celebrating the state's diverse cultural heritage.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari announced that RM4.5 million will be allocated towards the campaign next year, in a move reflective of Selangor's commitment to social harmony and cultural inclusivity.

Speaking at the tabling of the state budget, he said the programme will adopt a sectoral approach, engaging a wide array of state and Federal

departments alongside agencies to ensure impactful and far-reaching community engagement.

The state government will continue to focus on strengthening community ties and showcasing Selangor as a microcosm of Malaysia.

"A host of activities are planned across all nine districts in Selangor, including carnivals, tours, traditional sports events, free health screenings, and roadshows.

"These are designed to not only

promote unity but also highlight various people-centric state and Federal government initiatives," Amirudin said.

Additionally, the Gagasan Rumpun Selangor campaign will feature major community service events, career guidance, and entrepreneurship programmes.

In a parallel effort to bolster the rural economy and development, he also unveiled a RM4 million allocation for the Jejak Eko Desa Selangor programme next year.

The initiative aims to identify

local economic activities with significant commercial potential unique to each village and offer free skills courses for rural communities.

It is designed to foster human development and preserve the identity of traditional villages, integrating local customs and culture through various community-driven programmes.

The state budget also allocated RM2 million for cultural programmes, such as the Selangor International Keroncong Competition, and RM6 million to ensure the continued preservation of Malay customs and the heritage of Selangor.



RM18m to rehabilitate abandoned projects

SOME 101 abandoned housing projects involving 39,476 units have been completed since 2007 via the Abandoned Projects Rehabilitation Committee.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the Selangor Housing and Property Board (LPHS) is committed to addressing the issue of abandoned projects.

"At present, 178 abandoned projects involving 36,342 buyers have been recorded, and since 2007, the state government has completed 101 housing projects involving 39,476 units.

"RM18 million has been allocated to the Selangor Abandoned Projects Recovery Fund to boost efforts in rehabilitating these projects," he said.

Amirudin said that more projects are being restored, including the expansion of Kampung Koskan in Hulu Selangor and Desa Mawar in Kuala Selangor, with

RM11.4 million being spent to repair the infrastructure of the areas.

In collaboration with the Local Government and Development Ministry, Selangor is working on restoring three projects worth RM7.25 million in Taman Meru Makmur and Pangsapuri Impian Meru, Klang.

The third main thrust of the state budget, with the theme of safeguarding the welfare of the people, outlined several housing efforts, including:

- 200,000 Kita Selangor affordable homes within five years
- RM220 million for the Smart Rent Scheme targeting 810 units
- RM200,000 to resolve long-occupied strata ownership issues in apartments
- RM300,000 to rehabilitate public housing projects

Trust fund for students in Middle East

THE state government has allocated RM5 million under the 2024 Selangor Budget to strengthen the management of its Islamic endowment (wakaf) and support its students studying abroad.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the strategic move will see a substantial part of the allocation go towards establishing a Middle East Student Development and Management Trust Fund, among other things.

The fund's primary initiative includes developing a second 'Rumah Selangor' project in Egypt, which will be designated as a dormitory to accommodate Selangor students there.

In addition, he said the state government has increased its allocation for haj pilgrims under the 'Kita Selangor' initiative, which provides RM500 to each pilgrim. The allocation has been raised to RM3 million for 2024, up from RM1.5 million this year.

On a separate matter, Amirudin announced a RM25

million allocation to construct the Gombak Permai Islamic Complex, which will house a new mosque, quarters for imams and bilals, and two new religious primary schools.

He said the development of the complex will significantly enhance religious facilities and Islamic education for the local community.

The fourth main thrust of the state budget, to foster unity among the 'ummah', includes the following initiatives:

- RM2 million for the Turath Islami Festival
- RM500,000 to empower the state's Fatwa Institution
- RM200,000 to improve the Selangor students' dormitories in Egypt
- RM700,000 to upgrade mosque facilities
- Quran and Fardhu Ain Integration Class (Kafai) fee subsidies, with an allocation of RM5 million for the RM30 monthly aid for parents paying Kafai fees in full
- RM1 million for the Quran Literacy Academy
- RM2 million for mosque management programmes



By **IDA NADIRAH IBRAHIM**
& **DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

THE rejuvenation of Sungai Klang is crucial in creating a healthy and sustainable environment not just for the existing communities along the river but for the river's entire ecosystem.

Before 2018, as a result of decades of neglect and industrialisation, Sungai Klang's water quality consistently registered Class V (heavily polluted) due to plastics and other debris, which resulted in fish deaths and the migration of crocodiles, birds, and other animals that depend on the river's ecosystem.

However, hope is not lost for this lifeline that pulses through the Klang Valley and into the Strait of Malacca. The Selangor government has already kick-started the Selangor Maritime Gateway (SMG) Project, a long-term effort to clean up the river for the benefit of people, nature, and the climate.

Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd (LLSB) has been tasked as the master developer of the strategic and transformative plan to turn the highly polluted waterway into an asset that boosts economic growth, environmental conservation, and community participation.

The initiative aims to holistically restore the last 56 kilometres of the tributary and sustainably transform 27,960 hectares of its adjacent land and islands.

Covering the municipalities of Petaling Jaya, Subang Jaya, Shah Alam, and Klang, a master plan was designed for the project to grow in three phases — from waste management at the start of 2016 to the recognition of the project as a key income generator for Selangor by 2031.

In an interview with *Selangor Journal*, LLSB managing director Syaiful Azmen Nordin outlined some of the project's key elements that go beyond trade and tourism.

Notable achievements of the SMG project

- The Malaysia Outstanding ESG Impact Corporate Excellence Award 2022
- Silver for the Best Government Sustainability Initiative at the Gulf Sustainability Awards 2022
- Gold for Sustainability in Government at the Green World Awards 2023
- Gold for Sustainable Ecosystems (under SMEs to Mid-Tier Companies) at the ESG Positive Impact Awards 2023



A river reborn

"The product of a robust river that fosters a healthier ecosystem underscores the project's commitment to river conservation and environmental sustainability", he said.

"The long-term goal is to rejuvenate Sungai Klang, fostering local appreciation, and preserve natural ecosystems. The SMG effort shows the state government's commitment to sustainable development and inspires other regions facing similar challenges."

Syaiful added that river cleaning solutions have the potential to create a circular economy platform for local job creation, business opportunities, investment, and skills transfer, which are ultimately beneficial to the Selangor people.

Back to life

Up until August, 88,411 metric tonnes of waste had been successfully removed from the river under the SMG initiative, said Syaiful.

He said this has improved its water quality from Class V (contaminated and dangerous) in 2016 to Class III (moderately polluted). In 2022, the river even recorded Class II and I on 64 per cent of the days.

"As a result of improved water conditions, riverine animals such as otters, crocodiles, migratory birds, nesting eagles, fish species, and marine flora and fauna have returned to the river, with small fiddler crabs, mudskippers and polychaete worms making Mangrove Point their home," he said.

Syaiful said the Sungai Klang River Deepening and Widening Project, acti-

vated under the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in November 2022, would not only increase river capacity by 40 per cent but improve water quality through several efforts.

"This includes the enhanced removal of chemical spills, sewage accumulation, decayed plant life build-up and stormwater runoff to produce approximately 200 million litres per day (MLD) of additional raw water for public consumption," he said.

Urban makeover

Some of the project's benefits to the existing communities include opening new income opportunities, such as the River Educational Trips operated by local fishermen and ecotourism attractions like the Mangrove Point, which was recognised by the Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia in 2019.

Opened on July 26, Mangrove Point has been designed to promote a biophilic environment and features a carefully crafted one-kilometre boardwalk loop, allowing visitors to explore the lush mangrove forest alongside the serene Sungai Klang.

Syaiful said the improvement of the river also means better mobility for the boats plying it and less downtime at the ports, and locals have also praised the cleaner river as contributing less to waterborne health issues.

"The SMG project has also brought more people, especially youths, to be part of a river stewardship movement through volunteerism, and we continue to see high interest in people want-

ing to visit and learn about Sungai Klang."

"Noteworthy endeavours like the Pangkalan Batu Urban Park and Mangrove Point exemplify the project's dedication to environmental sustainability, education, and creating recreational spaces for residents and visitors alike," he said.

No mean feat

Syaiful said there is a misconception surrounding the importance of river cleaning, with some people underestimating its significance.

He said LLSB has dedicated nearly five years to the mammoth task, underscoring its vital role in the project's success.

"The project is not just a typical development initiative. It adheres to strict compliance with regulatory authorities, emphasising responsible and sustainable river development and is a long-term endeavour, requiring patience and commitment.

"To counter these misconceptions and enhance public awareness, several measures are being implemented, such as engagement with non-governmental organisations and corporate entities through a Community Empowerment Programme to give them a deeper understanding of the project's long-term goals and benefits," he said.

Syaiful said another proactive step is forming the Selangor Maritime Gateway Consultative Council to integrate relevant regulatory agencies to ensure the project aligns with requirements and guidelines.

N15 TAMAN TEMPLER

No quick fixes for Taman Templer

By **DANIAL DZULKIFLY**

TAMAN Templer state assemblyman Anfaal Saari is setting a new pace for societal development, with a keen focus on enhancing transportation connectivity and fostering unity.

In a recent interview with *Selangor Journal*, Anfaal said she is working towards addressing the issue of first- and last-mile connectivity and is committed to leveraging the state's demand-responsive transit (DRT) services for her constituency.

This, she said, is particularly crucial considering Taman Templer residents have long been confronted with the issue of insufficient public transport links to major transportation hubs like Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) stations.

Anfaal said this lack of adequate transportation options is further compounded by the increased traffic congestion on roads leading to the Batu Caves round-



Anfaal hands over aid to a victim of a house fire, at Dewan Seroja in Kampung Bendahara



about, a critical artery to Kuala Lumpur.

Recognising the need for a multifaceted approach to the issue, Anfaal is collaborating with local authorities, the Public Works Department (JKR), and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to devise solutions

for smoother traffic flow around this major junction.

"Residents need to start their day early, between 6am and 7am, to avoid the severe traffic congestion. Otherwise, they face up to two hours of travel time to reach Kuala Lumpur.

"I have met with JKR and soon with DBKL. We hope to look into rerouting strategies in that area, although it's quite a technical task. The congestion affects not just the residents of Taman Templer but also those who use that route regularly," she said.

Additionally, Anfaal is exploring public transportation solutions by discussing with local bus operators to extend their routes in her constituency.

"The closest MRT station is in Kepong. I'm in talks with Prasarana Malaysia Bhd to potentially expand their feeder bus services to areas like Kampung Sungai Baru."

Confronting complaints

Beyond improving the transportation system, Anfaal is also deeply involved in addressing the persistent flooding of Anak Sungai Udang.

She noted that deepening the river is a crucial aspect of resolving this issue.

However, this has become more complicated due to the need for land acquisition along the riverbanks.

"We recognise this is a complex issue but are committed to finding a lasting solution.

"We are actively collaborating with the Irrigation and Drainage Department to resolve the situation effectively and efficiently," she said, indicating a strong resolve to tackle the perennial problem in her community.

Anfaal, who is the state executive councillor for women empowerment and welfare, explained that the flooding problems

stemmed from the less-than-ideal town planning decisions made in the past.

She also expressed her commitment to finally addressing the long-standing issue of the uncompleted construction of the Selayang Mutiara Mosque, which she noted has been mired in political controversy, particularly involving the state opposition coalition Perikatan Nasional.

She explained that the construction delays were primarily due to insufficient funding and the need for due diligence, which initially hindered the Selayang Municipal Council's approval.

"We are taking concrete steps to resolve the issue. I have engaged with major stakeholders, including the Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS), who had previously agreed to contribute zakat funds.

"However, they have requested thorough due diligence from the mosque committee, a process I am actively facilitating," she said.

Anfaal also lamented the politicisation of the mosque's construction, criticising the oversimplified arguments made by opponents suggesting that the state government is against the development.

"Such allegations overlook the complexity and necessary procedures involved in such projects. Despite these challenges, I am optimistic that with the necessary processes in place, we can expect the mosque's completion within the next three years."

In the recent Aug 12 state election, Anfaal, who is the daughter of former Hulu Kelang assemblyman Saari Sungib, won the Taman Templer state seat with a majority of 467 votes, or a total of 22,247 votes.

The 44-year-old first-time candidate defeated former state executive councillor and PAS candidate Zaidy Abdul Talib, who garnered 21,780 votes, while Muda's Aida Rahman received 765 votes.




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Big dreams and bigger budgets

THE Selangor government is aiming for the return of the Selangor FC (SFC) as the champions of the Super League, Malaysia Cup, and the Malaysia Games (Sukma) by 2025.

Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari said the state administration is allocating RM10 million for the 'Merah Kuning' football team and RM8 million for the Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS).

"This is the starting point for the mission to clinch the Super League, Malaysia Cup, and Sukma championships by 2025.

"To achieve this dream, the state government will fully support the leadership of Raja Muda Selangor Tengku Amir Shah as the president of FAS (FA Selangor) and SFC, as well as MSNS," he said.

Amirudin also said the state budget

had included a RM1 million allocation for next year for the e-sports industry, which includes growing the Selangor Cyber Games that was established in 2014.

He said in collaboration with the Youth and Sports Ministry, the state administration will also establish an e-Sports League in each district, and strengthen the e-sports ecosystem.

"After nearly 10 years, the e-sports industry has grown rapidly, expanding beyond games to become a sector valued at almost US\$1.5 billion (RM7 billion) in 2022, with projections indicating growth to over US\$6 billion (RM28 billion) by 2030.

"This sector now provides employment opportunities in electronic gaming entrepreneurship, system operations, and coding industries," he said.



In this file photo, Selangor FC celebrate their win against Kedah in the Malaysia Cup 2015. Amirudin hopes that with a bigger budget, history can be repeated.



A participant in action during the Selangor International Junior Golf Championship 2023 at the Seri Selangor Golf Club, Petaling Jaya — Picture via FACEBOOK

MB: Yes, we're serious about golf

PETALING JAYA - The state government is committed to developing golf by nurturing young talents with the ultimate goal of elevating them to a much higher level, said Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari.

Currently, the administration is training and grooming 12 golfers to ensure they get proper exposure and coaching.

"These individuals are currently undergoing training at the Bukit Beruntung Golf and Country Resort.

"We are serious about this matter

(golf), not only because of the potential of the golf business but because we want to produce players that are capable of carrying the state and country's name at a higher level," he said at a press conference in conjunction with the Selangor Masters Golf Tournament 2023 on Nov 7.

Amirudin added that the state's effort includes offering scholarships to potential players, with the winner of the previous tournament already receiving state sponsorship.

Previously, Selangor State Secretary

Dato' Haris Kasim said the state government had allocated RM2 million to develop golf and produce potential professional golfers for the future.

The state government organised the Selangor International Junior Golf Championship 2023 from Nov 3 to 5, featuring 96 young golfers from Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, China, South Korea, and India.

A similar tournament was organised earlier this year, which saw 105 teenage players participate.

RM8m will go a long way: MSNS



SHAH ALAM - The Selangor State Sports Council (MSNS) will fully utilise the RM8 million allocation granted under the 2024 Selangor Budget to prepare its contingent for the Malaysian Games (Sukma) in Sarawak next year.

Its executive director, Mohamad Nizam Marjugi, is determined to meet the athletes' needs and enable them to compete against states with substantial allocations and were champions at this year's Sukma.

"On behalf of MSNS, I express the highest gratitude to the state government for acknowledging and showing concern for sports development in the state.

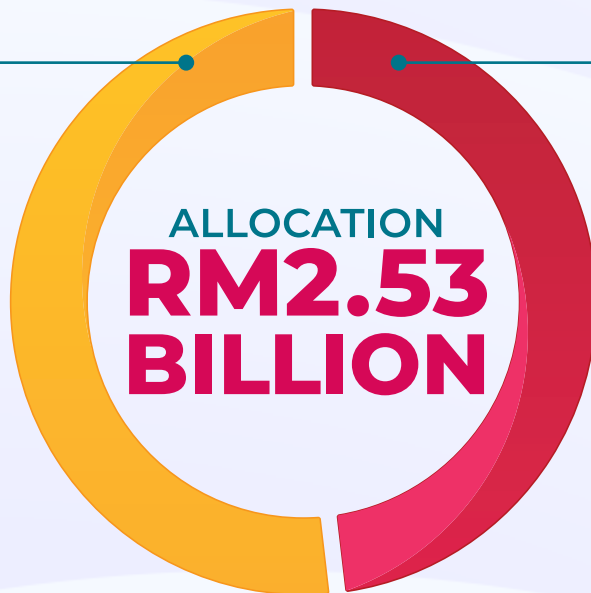
"The allocation will be optimally utilised to prepare for Sukma 2024. Although 37 sports are to be competed, the most ever held, we will ensure all the contingents' needs are met," he said on Nov 11.



Independent Selangor: Driving Progress, Fostering Unity

52.6%

47.4%



EMOLUMENTS
RM480.24 M



SUPPLY AND SERVICES
RM601.57 M



ASSETS
RM22.91 M



GRANTS AND FIXED PAYMENTS
RM210.56 M



OTHER EXPENSES
RM14.72 M



SOCIAL SECTOR
RM359.17 M



INFRASTRUCTURE
RM357.10 M

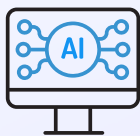


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RM296.13 M



HEALTH, EDUCATION,
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RM187.60 M

DRIVING QUALITY INVESTMENTS, GENERATING HIGH INCOME



SELANGOR CENTRE FOR
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
RM1 MILLION



DRONE DEVELOPMENT
RM2 MILLION



SELANGOR JOBS AND
SKILLS COUNCIL
RM1 MILLION



SELANGOR INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS SUMMIT (SIBS)
RM20 MILLION



SELANGOR AVIATION SHOW
RM8 MILLION



GREATER KLANG VALLEY
RM2 MILLION



LOCAL AUTHORITIES
SERVICE COMMISSION



PERFORMANCE
MONITORING UNIT (SIAP)
RM1 MILLION



KITA SELANGOR
RAIL NETWORK
RM3 MILLION



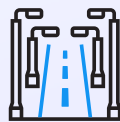
SELANGOR MOBILITY
RM8 MILLION



IOT ENABLED INDUSTRIAL
PARK (IEP) UNDER IDRIS
RM6 MILLION



PULAU INDAH
UTILITY FACILITIES
RM300 MILLION



ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT
RM145 MILLION



FLOOD MITIGATION, RIVER BASIN,
AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS
RM133 MILLION



SELANGOR PENYANG
PROJECT (PSP)
RM24 MILLION



FOOD SECURITY
RM50 MILLION



SABDA (PHASE 1)
RM76 MILLION



TOURISM
RM3.3 MILLION



GOMBAK-HULU LANGAT
GEOPARK
RM2 MILLION



HALAL INDUSTRY
RM3 MILLION