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#SmartSelangor

FOR THE RAKYAT



**BUDGET 2017
FOCUSED ON BENEFICIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Our strong reserves will be translated into development for the benefit of Selangor citizens

Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali
Dato' Menteri Besar

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**59 years of Merdeka
and we will be free**



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At the Selangor State Assembly



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**SELANGOR STATE LEVEL
59TH MERDEKA DAY CELEBRATION**
" SELANGORKU : SEHATI SEJIWA "
ALL ARE WELCOME



#SmartSelangor **30 AUGUST 2016** 8.30 PM DATARAN KEMERDEKAAN SHAH ALAM SELANGOR

Pakatan supports #TangkapMO1

SHAH ALAM - The Pakatan Harapan Presidential Council has expressed its support for the #TangkapMO1 programme organised by youth and university students that will take place on August 27 in



Kuala Lumpur.

Pakatan Harapan also urged all citizens who love justice and truth to participate and support the programme.

"We are confident and believe that the youth and students' effort will bring about a positive result that may help solve the mystery of 'Malaysian Official 1'," the council announced in a media statement.

The media statement was jointly made by Keadilan President Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, DAP Acting National Chairman Tan Kok Wai and Amanah President Mohamad Sabu.

The council also objects to the intimidation and threats made by the authorities against programme organisers and sup-

porters, including the three-day remand of three student activists who organised a #TangkapMO1 roadshow.

Nine non-governmental organisations also voiced their support for the programme and issued a statement urging the police to cooperate with organisers to allow the programme to be conducted in a peaceful and safe manner in accordance with their rights contained in Article 10 of the Federal Constitution.

"We, who are part of the civil society, welcome the initiative shown by the students who have organised the #TangkapMO1 rally out of concern of the country's future," the statement said.

The nine NGOs that issued the statement are SUARAM, Bersih 2.0, Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4), Pusat KOMAS, Lawyers for Liberty, Persatuan Kebangsaan Hak Asasi Manusia (HAKAM), Association of Women Lawyers (AWL), Empower and IKRAM.

Petronas profits drop by 85%

KUALA LUMPUR - Petronas' profits for the 2nd quarter of 2016 dropped by 85% in the wake of low oil prices as the company recorded a net profit of RM1.62 billion in the quarter compared to RM11.07 billion the year before.

Petronas issued a statement stating company revenues were at RM48.44 billion, a 21% drop compared to the same period in 2015.

Petronas expects to be affected by uncertain oil prices for the remainder of the year.

"Although crude oil prices have recovered slightly, oversupply and a weak market will ensure uncertainty continues," the statement read.

Malaysia's economy is the third largest in Southeast Asia, but it is now faced with falling oil prices

and external demand that will lead to reduced revenue and pressure on the ringgit.

Malaysia has also been rocked with a financial scandal following allegations that billions of ringgit were embezzled from a state-owned investment fund founded by Malaysia's prime minister.

Earlier this month, Malaysia's economic growth was at 4% for the period of April to June - the lowest growth rate since being at 1.1% during the global economic crisis in 2009.

Last month, Malaysia announced an interest rate cut for the first time in seven years.

Oil prices also fell on the stock market due to oversupply, dropping more than 20% and closing at US\$40 a barrel for the first time since April.



Public dissatisfied over PTPTN decision to reduce loans

SHAH ALAM - The National Higher Education Fund's (PTPTN) recent decision to reduce student loans has created dissatisfaction among affected students and their families.

PTPTN Chairman Datuk Shamsul Anuar Nasarah made an announcement stating that the fund was unable to provide full loans due to the low loan repayment rate among existing PTPTN borrowers.

A survey by SelangorKini found that most Malaysians were against the decision.

Jauhariatul Akmal Johar, a 30-year-old lecturer, said that it was unfair to students who have to deal with reduced loans just because of the irresponsible be-

haviour of a minority of borrowers.

He said the reduction would affect students' dreams of furthering their studies.

"It is undeniable that there are former students who deliberately choose not to repay their loans and there are also those who repay, but perhaps not according to the agreed conditions.

"That said, this should not be made into an issue that burdens new students. The authorities should have done something to ensure that these students are not affected by this issue," he said.

Meanwhile, student Ita Liana Talha, 21, was of the opinion that the loan reduction should not take place during the current un-

certain economic situation.

She said that it would cause students from the lower-income group to give up on their education, adding that PTPTN should also refrain from blaming former students who failed to repay their loans within the stipulated period.

"PTPTN should be reminded that not all former students have successfully found jobs. Some have higher salaries while others are just barely surviving.

"PTPTN should perhaps review the payments or the interest because it seems quite high," she said.

Retiree Rashid Sitra, 66, felt that PTPTN should not risk the future of students needlessly.

He said that parents would certainly rely on the loan to bear the cost of their children's education and to them, it represented the foundation to a good career.

"Perhaps they should consider other mechanisms. There might not be a 'best way' to do things. There must be other alternatives.

"Borrowers should realise that the loan is a debt that they have to repay. This will enable others to enjoy this benefit," he said.

DRB-Hicom may sell entire stake in Proton

KUALA LUMPUR - DRB-HICOM Bhd is reported to be expecting as many as seven bids for Proton Holdings Bhd by August and may divest its entire stake in the national car manufacturer.

Such a move would have a positive impact on DRB-Hicom's finances, regardless of the consequent political fallout.

According to a report by The Edge Malaysia Weekly, DRB-Hicom has advised key stakeholders of the possibility that Proton will be wholly disposed of in a process that will only be completed by the first quarter of next year.

The article quoted a source saying, "They (DRB-Hicom) have made it clear that they are willing to sell up to 100% of Proton. Of course, how much they sell will depend on the proposals and prices they receive. The important thing is that the door is now open."

Note that any decision will have to be presented to the special task force led by Datuk

Seri Idris Jala, the CEO of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit, which is monitoring Proton's turnaround.

The move sends a strong message that Proton's disposal is firmly on course although any decision will have to be presented by a special task force headed by Datuk Seri Idris Jala, the CEO of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit, tasked with monitoring Proton's turnaround.

While many may interpret Proton's divestment as an affront to national honour, for the company itself, a new shareholder - one with the right technological and financial support, along with disciplined restructuring - could very well lead it to its eventual turnaround.



Budget 2017: Focused on beneficial development

BY AFIX REDZUAN

SHAH ALAM – The 2017 Selangor Budget will focus on development aspects that will benefit the rakyat and Selangorians alike.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said

that the aim can be realised with the state's strong financial reserves.

"I have already informed the Treasury and the State Economic Planning Unit (UPEN) that in the current economic condition, the state government is responsible to reduce

the rakyat's burden.

"We will translate our strong reserves into continuous development that will bring benefits to Selangor citizens," he said during the Selangor Government Departments' Monthly Assembly and the Jalur Gemilang Flag Flying Campaign Launch at

the Silver Jubilee Hall recently.

Also present was Klang Municipal Council Yang Dipertua Datuk Mohamad Yasid Bidin, Selangor State Assembly Speaker Hannah Yeoh and Selangor State Secretary Datuk Mohd Amin Ahmad Ahya.

According to records, the

state government has successfully presented balanced budgets without any additional revisions for three years.

In addition, the state government also introduced the concept of increasing development expenditure and lowering administration expendi-

'Selangorku: Sehati Sejiwa' - Selangor's Merdeka Day Theme



SHAH ALAM - 'Selangorku: Sehati Sejiwa' has been chosen as the Merdeka Day theme in Selangor, reflecting the harmonious spirit that exists between the State and the Federal Governments.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali made the announcement during the Selangor Government Departments' Monthly Assembly and the Launch of the Jalur Gemilang Flag Flying Campaign at the

Silver Jubilee Hall, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Building on August 22.

He also presented the Jalur Gemilang to the Selangor state department and agency heads during the event.

At the same time, Mohamed Azmin commented on a minister's statement urging local authorities to enforce the flying of the Jalur Gemilang at business premises.

He said that patriotism cannot be in-

stilled through punishment but through the spirit of independence as stated by the country's Father of Independence, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman.

"I would like to remind that patriotism cannot be enforced through pressure and punishment.

"Patriotism demands responsibility and integrity and not robbing our nation's treasures," he said.

Optimistic no supplementary budget required

SHAH ALAM - The State Government is optimistic that no supplementary budget will be required due to its accurate strategic planning and forecasting.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said proper planning ensured that state funds are spent wisely without deficit.

"We do not want to present the budget in October just to get a positive reception.

However, it is due to our commitment to ensure that we do not present any supplementary budget that led to the actual 2017 budget to be in deficit," he said during the 2017 Budget Roundtable Discussion with professional figures, industry players and policy makers at the Shah Alam Convention Centre on August 15.

In 2015, the State Government managed to consistently bring down administration costs and increased development expenditure to ensure a multiplier effect from the positive developments in Selangor.

Throughout Mohamed Azmin's administration, the State Government has not announced any supplementary budget, unlike the Federal Government under the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who made adjustments to the nation's 2016 Budget.

Funds for new mosque ready

SHAH ALAM – The Selangor Government has allocated funds to build a new mosque to meet the needs of the Muslim residents at Seksyen 24.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, however, said that there were several issues left to be resolved including the suitable land requirements.

"There were previously some issues with the site because the present site might not be able to accommodate the new mosque due to its size.

"After this issue is resolved, we will consider the necessary funds to be allotted to the Selangor Islamic Religious Department for the con-

struction of mosques in Selangor, and not only for Seksyen 24 only," he said.

He spoke regarding the issue after performing Friday prayers at the Al-Ehsan Mosque together with residents of Sekyen 24 on August 19.

There is a need to build a new mosque for the use of Muslim residents in Seksyen 24 as existing mosques are too small.

Seksyen 24 Mosque Nazir, Baharuddin Dawam, meanwhile said that the suggested new mosque would be built on a 2 hectare area near the Warga Emas Complex owned by non-governmental organisation Prihatin.



Smart Selangor attracts private sector participation

SHAH ALAM - Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI) has received positive feedback from the private sector expressing their wish to participate and share their views on the development of the Smart Selangor programme pioneered by the Selangor Government.

MBI Programme Management Head Mohamad Suhaimi Mohamad

Tahir said the private sector seemed interested in developing joint policies, judging from the participation of the "Smart Selangor: Expression Of Interest Briefing Smart Transport & Mobility" workshop.

"We estimated around 160 participants but we exceeded the number, so we are certainly proud," he said to SelangorKini at

the Shah Alam Convention Centre.

The workshop enables various parties, including the private sector, to make the Smart Selangor agenda a success.

He said that the views and suggestions made by the private sector during the workshop would be used in the development of the agenda, including its budget.

"We have gathered the private sector from various fields, including administration management, digital infrastructure development, waste management, transport management and mobility.

"Emphasis on these fields are based on findings and requests from various parties, including government agencies and the public," he said.

Smart Selangor is a development agenda focused on the rakyat championed by the Selangor government.

Its philosophy focuses on strengthening social inclusion, communication and active involvement at every level of society. It also addresses the challenges of urbanisation by using technology as a key enabler.



Green technology focused on sustainable development

SHAH ALAM - Selangor is now a major player in Malaysia where green technology is concerned.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the initiative is driven by the 2016-2018 green technology action plan, including using electric vehicles across the state.

"We are ensuring that the State Government focuses on green technology and efforts to reduce carbon consumption.

"What we are doing are positive initiatives, and encourages the use of the latest technology," he said.

He was speaking to reporters at the 2016-2018 Selangor State Green Technology Action Plan and Electric Vehicle Charger (ChargEV) Launching Ceremony on August 2, at the Bangunan Annex compound.

The action plan is implemented to ensure a balance in human development and physical progress, based on sustainable growth created in the state.

This effort ultimately places Selangor as the only state that promotes the use of electric vehicles by providing 53 vehicle charger units.

Meanwhile, Tourism, Environment, Green Technology and Consumer Affairs Exco Elizabeth Wong said the use of green technology in Selangor is continuously promoted.

This includes the initiative to use electric buses involving several local authorities across the state.

She said that the programme's effectiveness will enable a holistic reduction in carbon consumption.

KEADILAN launches HEAP to assist student appeals

PETALING JAYA - KEADILAN has launched a Higher Education Complaint and Advisory Portal (HEAP) to assist students who failed to get offers from public institutions of higher education (IPTA) or who were offered courses not of their choice.

KEADILAN Strategic Director Sim Tze Tzin said the website is open to all post-STPM (or equivalent) students who want to complain to KEADILAN MPs.

"They just have to fill up a complaint form on the HEAP website at heap.keadilanrakyat.org.

"Upon receiving the student's complaint, we will collect data we receive for analysis," he said.

Sim said appeals to HEAP are only an additional means and the closing date for complaint submission is August 22, 2016.

However, students are required to appeal first to UPU through their website upu.mohe.gov.my before the said date.

In a press conference at KEADILAN head-

quarters, he said the IPTA students' intake in 2016 totaling 39,862 was the lowest since 2013.

He said the decline is believed to be related to the significant IPTA budget cuts in the 2016 Budget.

"The budget cut is due to mismanaged economics under the Prime Minister, a result of his failure to control the country's debts in addition to other scandals such as 1MDB.

"Many IPTAs are now in a state of budget-crisis," he said.

In the 2016 Budget, the Federal Government cut 16.48% of IPTA budget allocation to RM7.31 billion for 2016.

This is a decrease of RM1.44 billion compared to RM8.75 billion in 2015.

"KEADILAN's viewpoint is education for the young generation is of utmost importance for the nation's development.

"The Government should increase the IPTA budget as it is a wise investment," he said.



Rural development physical roadmap will solve rural issues

SHAH ALAM - The state's Town and Rural Planning Department (JPBD) is actively conducting physical research to ensure its urban planning system is more structured and consistent.

Director Rizuan Arshad said the research, which had been conducted since May 1 and will continue until April 30, 2017, focuses on the social study of the progress of rural communities.

He said the State Government must create a more specific plan to increase the pace of development and the construction of traditional villages across the state.

"We identify the criteria of areas categorised as rural areas, and conduct a more detailed literal study.

"We also identify the distribution and location of state rural land on government or private land based on 'lots', in the form of a written report and supported by land utilisation plans," he said.

We identify the criteria of areas categorised as rural areas, and conduct a more detailed literal study

RIZUAN ARSHAD
Director JPBD



He was speaking during the 2017 Budget Round Table Discussion presentation session, held at the Shah Alam Convention Centre.

Islamic Religious Affairs, Malay Customs and Heritage, Rural and Traditional Villages Development Exco Dato' Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi welcomed the recommendation and said that the State Government is optimistic in promoting rural development, complete with the best amenities and facilities.

"We can study and view from the angle of economic diversity, and come up with an effective plan," he said.

MPK collects RM10,000 from premises for failure to comply with chair permit

KLANG - The Klang Municipal Council (MPK) managed to collect at least RM10,000 from temporary permits involving 25 premises in Bukit Raja in a recent operation.

MPK Secretary Adi Faizal Ahmad Tarmizi said all the premises had failed to comply with chair permit guidelines.

"As such, MPK placed stickers on the tables and gave them a month to apply for the necessary permit.

"The permit is based on the number of tables outside the premises, for example RM1 for each table a day," he said during the operation.

Adi Faizal also said that throughout the three-day operation, he found that many busi-

nesses placed chairs and tables outside their premises without MPK's permit.

Nevertheless, all premises involved cooperated well and adhered to the enforcement action.

"This is proactive action on the part of MPK, to monitor and check to ensure that food premises comply with set guidelines.

"Besides checking their permits, we also gave advice on cleanliness and other permits that they would need.

"We welcome any traders who are putting their chairs and tables outside their premises, whom we have yet to visit, to apply for the necessary permits at our licensing department," he said.



SIC, PKNS focus on developing RM200 million Selangor Cyber Valley

SHAH ALAM - Selangor Industrial Corporation (SIC) is now more focused on its RM200 million development programme in Selangor Cyber Valley, Cyberjaya.

Managing Director Ir Zulkefli Khalid said that SIC is now collaborating with Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) to improve access to facilities in rural areas.

"The Selangor Cyber Valley is an industrial development project under PKNS that provides high-tech commercial buildings in the area.

"This development is designed to attract foreign investors into Selangor through the best available infrastructure and facilities provided by SIC.

"Based on the current land valuation in Cyberjaya, the estimated cost until 2017 is RM200

million.

"SIC plans to work closely with PKNS to reassess the cost should there be any changes in the future.

"As of now, the plan is still in the pipeline and implementation details will be decided later," he said to SelangorKini.

He was speaking at the New SIC Headquarters Launching Ceremony in Vista Alam, Seksyen 14.

The new SIC complex will be able to perform its role in strengthening the state's economy.

The complex, located in Shah Alam City Centre, has many amenities and facilities for its workforce.

"This is not just a normal transfer, the move focuses us on supporting the State Government's economic policy," he said.



184 receive Selangor state awards

BY HAFIZAN TAIB

SHAH ALAM - His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah awarded 184 recipients with Selangor state awards at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Silver Jubilee Hall on August 17.

Held to honour His Majesty's 70th Birthday Celebration, the bestowal of awards saw recipients for the districts of Hulu Selangor, Gombak, Hulu Langat, Kuala Langat, Kuala Selangor,

Sabak Bernam and Sepang.

During the event, His Majesty presented the Pingat Perkerti Terpilih (PPT) award to 22 recipients, Pingat Perkhidmatan Cemerlang Selangor (PPC) (36), Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (PJK) (104) and Pingat Perkhidmatan Selangor (PPS) (22).

Heading the list of PPT recipients were Sub Inspector Zakaria Ab Razak, Abdul Qayyum Manan Mustafa, Ghazali Ab Wahab and others.

Abdol Lajis Ariffin, Abdul Ra-

him Raduan and Abdul Rashid Saman headed the 36 PPC recipients.

His Majesty continued awarding PJK and PPS to the remaining group of recipients until the end of the event.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali was also present.

His Majesty also graced the event of August 16, to award the same medals to 194 recipients from the Petaling and Klang districts.

Pasalewa encourages a charitable society

KLANG - The Flea Market Day Programme (Pasalewa) with its 'Donate to Charity' concept involving mosques around Klang has received good response from locals.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Yang Di Pertua Datuk Mohamad Yasid Bidin said that the MPK-sponsored programme, with the cooperation of the Is-

lamic District Office (PAID), aims to encourage a charitable society by donating used but useable items directly to mosques through waqaf.

He said the proceeds from sales will be donated to the mosque and a various assortment of items were successfully collected, including clothes, bags, shoes and toys.

"This programme will be expanded in the future because it benefits donors and mosques besides being a platform that encourages a charitable society.

"Cooperation from PAID and mosques have helped to ensure the success of this charitable effort and it will be expanded to other mosques soon," he said in a statement.



New licenses for closed entertainment premises will not be approved

ENTERTAINMENT premises that have been closed will not have the opportunity to apply for new licenses.

Local Government, New Village Development and Illegal Factory Legalisation Exco Ean Yong Hian Wah said the matter is still being discussed and will be decided soon.

He said the State Government took the issue of illegal entertainment premises and gambling centres seriously and that action will be taken, together in cooperation with local authorities.

"However, a more effective way to control illegal gambling centres would be to cooperate with the police to enforce the Crime Prevention Act 1959.

"Based on police records,

there are a total of 21 licensed gambling premises in this state," he said in response to a question from Datuk Johan Abdul Aziz (BN-Semenyih).

Hian Wah said that as of June 2016, there were a total of 1,293 gambling operators who were penalised while one operator was punished under the Crime Prevention Act 1959.

"In 2015, there were a total of 4,541 operators penalised under Section 4B (a) Open Gambling House Act 1953, State Entertainment and Entertainment Premise Enactment 1995 and Section 3 of the Health and Beauty Centres By-Law 2007 as well as Section 3 of the Local Government Act," he said.

Service sector increases by 111.5%

THE contribution of the service sector the Selangor's economy in 2015 increased by 111.5% compared to 2009, said Tourism, Environment, Technology and Consumer Affairs Exco Elizabeth Wong.

She said that the service sector contributed RM67.8 million to Selangor's economy and the amount increased to RM143.3 million in 2015.

"According to the Selangor Economic Report 2014/2015, 59.4% from Selangor's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is from the service sector.

"This shows the great contribution by the service sector, in-

cluding the tourism industry, to Selangor in 2015," she said at the Selangor State Assembly on August 2.

She was answering a question by Khasim Abdul Aziz (PAS-Lembah Jaya) regarding the tourism sector in the state.

Elizabeth said that the service sector includes utility services, transport, storage and communication, wholesale and retail trading as well as hospitality and restaurants.

"These activities show that services in the tourism industry's economy are closely linked to the economic growth and income of the state," she said.



Wedding incentive benefits for 6,180 youths



A total of 6,180 youths benefited from the Youth Marriage Incentive Programme with an allocation of RM3.09 million as of April 2016.

Youth, Sports, Culture and Entrepreneur Development Exco Amirudin Shari said of that number, 3,802 youth were Muslims and 2,378 were non-Muslims.

"This incentive scheme for youth is in line with the objec-

tive of Pembangunan Berkualiti Rakyat Dipedulikan.

"This is also an initiative for the welfare of households and families in Selangor," he said at the Selangor State Assembly on August 2.

He was responding to a question by Hulu Kelang Assemblyman Saari Sungib regarding the programme.

Amiruddin said since the in-

centive was introduced in 2013, a total of RM11.3 million has been spent and over 26,000 youths have benefited from it.

In 2013, there were 5,952 participants and an allocation of RM1.19 million. The following year, the number increased to 6,451 participants (RM3.2 million) and in 2015, it increased to 7,555 participants (RM3.7 million).

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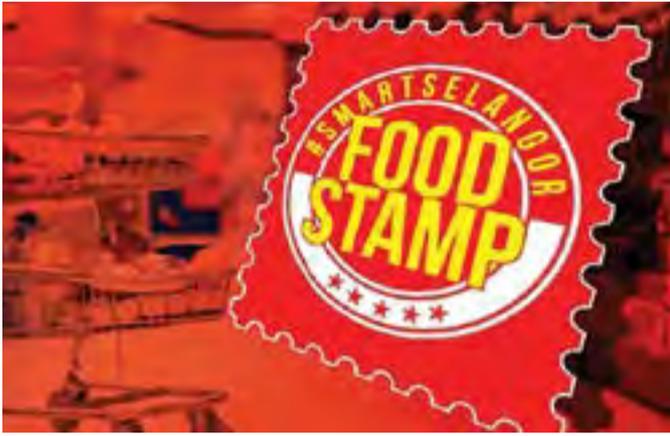
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MB: State's reserve at RM3.95 billion

RM2.1 million allocation for Smart Selangor Food Stamp

A total of RM2.1 million has been allocated in 2016 to help 5,600 poor families through the Smart Selangor Food Stamp Programme.

Health, Welfare, Women and Family Development Exco Dr Daroyah Alwi said RM156,800 was also spent as administration costs consisting of logistics, delivery and workers.

"The value of goods supplied to recipients is exclusive of administration costs, which is being handled by HIJRAH Selangor.

"We know that the citizens have the right to receive aid as per the value specified without any hidden costs," she said at the Selangor State Assembly.

She was responding to questions from Hulu Kelang Assemblyman Saari Sungib regarding the programme.

Daroyah said every family received RM50 value of aid consisting of six basic food items.

"These items are a unit of rice weighing 10 kg, 2kg of cooking oil, 1kg each of sugar and flour, 400 grams of mee hoon and two units of 500 grams condensed milk," she said.

THE state's financial reserve is in a stable position at RM3.95 billion.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the current reserve is a 21.24% increase, compared to RM3.258 billion recorded in December 31, 2015.

He added that the amount was based on data collected on July 15, 2016.

He was responding to Yeo Bee Yin (DAP - Damansara Utama), who requested for the state's current financial reserve status.

Mohamed Azmin (KEADILAN-Bukit Antarabangsa) said that Selangor's reserve increased to its current status from RM1.6 billion in 2010.

"The State's reserve was RM1.9 billion in 2011, RM2.6 billion in 2012, RM2.9 billion in 2013, RM3.2 billion in 2014 and RM3.3 billion in 2015," he said.

He also said that as of July 15, 2016, the State Government had spent a total of RM756.45 million in operational costs, which is 52% of the 2016 State Budget.

He also added that the State Government paid a total of RM15.74 million for Goods and Service Tax (GST) as of December 31, 2015.

"In 2016, from January 1 to June 31, the State Government paid a total of RM10.2 million for GST," he said.



BNM urged to ease loan conditions regarding PTPTN blacklists

THE Selangor Housing Property Board (LPHS) has applied to Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) to ease the conditions set for housing loan borrowers in the state who have been blacklisted.

Housing, Building Management and Urban Settlement Exco Dato' Iskandar Abdul Samad said that more than half of the state's housing loan applicants have been rejected due to being blacklisted by the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN).

He added that this has caused issues for those wanting to buy houses, particularly under the Rumah Selangorku programme, the affordable state housing project.

"If in one project, 60% of buyers' loan applications are rejected, half of that 60% are applicants would be those who have been blacklisted by PTPTN.

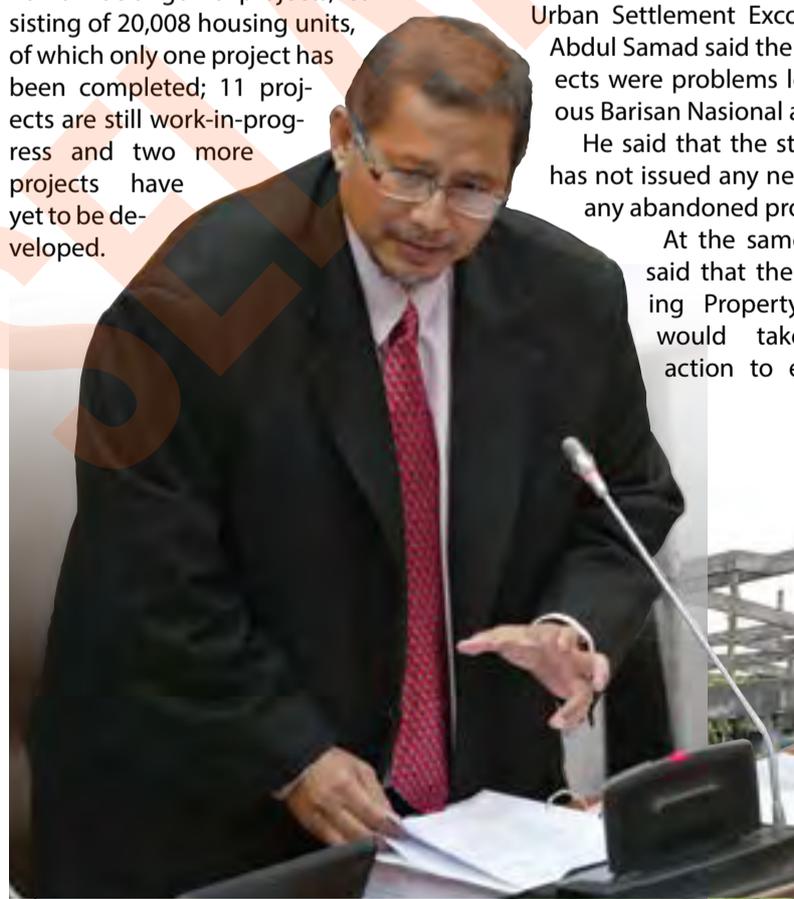
"In our standing committee meeting, we want to propose that details of those who are blacklisted are not entered into the Central Credit Reference Information System (CCRIS)," he said.

He said that in response to a question from Dr Xavier Jayakumar (KEADILAN-Andalas) who had wanted to know if the state had discussed with BNM regarding the rejected loan application issue.

At the same time, Iskandar said that during the State Government Assembly Meeting, he will propose action be taken against

Rumah Selangorku developers who refuse to proceed with construction although approvals have been granted.

He added that there are 14 approved Rumah Selangorku projects, consisting of 20,008 housing units, of which only one project has been completed; 11 projects are still work-in-progress and two more projects have yet to be developed.



29,811 abandoned houses saved since 2008

AS many as 64 abandoned housing projects involving 29,811 residential units were saved by the Selangor government from March 2008 till June 2016.

Housing, Building Management and Urban Settlement Exco Dato' Iskandar Abdul Samad said the completed projects were problems left by the previous Barisan Nasional administration.

He said that the state government has not issued any new ownership for any abandoned projects till now.

At the same time, Iskandar said that the Selangor Housing Property Board (LPHS) would take enforcement action to ensure that the

buyers' property rights are secure.

He said that confiscation of property can be made if the provisions of the National Land Act 1965 were violated such as failure to pay land tax under Section 100 of the act and violation of terms under Section 129.

"We help buyers establish a committee so that action can be taken in accordance with local authorities and with at least 85% of buyers' approval.

"LPHS also issues confirmation letters regarding the abandoned projects so that buyers can deal with banks to restructure or reduce their monthly payments," he said.



59 years of Merdeka and we will be free

BY SELANGORKINI ENGLISH EDITORIAL TEAM

Freedom can be complicated. It is an undeniable right everyone thinks we have, yet few truly understand what it means.

Freedom can be such a vague concept that we tend to disregard it when we have it, but only realise how precious it is after we have lost it.

For Malaysians, our freedom is contained in our rights that are enshrined in the Federal Constitution. These include the freedom of speech, assembly and association, along with freedom of religion.

But throughout our 59 years as a nation we have experienced many instances where our rights have been trampled upon, denied and ignored. It is undeniable that the frequency in which that happens has increased within the last decade in tandem with the rise of the Reformasi movement.

No doubt we are free but is Malaysia free in the context of a so-called democratic nation?

Malaysia's federal government, so used to ruling unfettered, has become aloof and arrogant, with many federal leaders imagining themselves as all-powerful masters, forgetting that they are mere public servants elected to carry out their responsibilities with integrity in the best interest of the rakyat. However, we are often reminded to be grateful for poli-



cies and initiatives that are basically what a government should provide for its people.

Criticism is frowned upon, and hindered where possible by the imposition of limits upon our freedom to voice our concern or displeasure. Sedition is now a word that is bandied about so easily that lines have been blurred. Demand accountability and transparency from our elected officials and you run the risk of being investigated under a sedition charge.

But in the darkness, there is light. Others have risen up and spoken out, and Malaysians have rallied around them. The

Patriotism is not exploitation de l'homme par l'homme - the exploitation of man by man

MOHAMED AZMIN ALI
Dato' Menteri Besar

political tsunami of 2008, followed by the recent general elections in 2013, have shown the federal government that Malaysians still value their freedom. And more importantly, Malaysians are willing to fight for it.

Many political leaders have been targeted openly and made to pay the price for educating Malaysians on their freedom to choose a government that is just and fair. Censorship of criticism has turned into suppres-

sion of expression.

However, as Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali pointed out at the recent assembly of civil servants in Selangor, patriotism is not exploitation de l'homme par l'homme - the exploitation of man by man. This he says is the new colonisation and we need to hold on to the constitutional principles enshrined in Tunku Abdul Rahman's Proclamation of Independence made on August 31, 1957 and not kleptocracy. True patriotism demands that we do what is right for the people by not supporting corruption, embezzlement and the blatant misuse of power.

Our commitment this Merdeka as a nation should be to ensure that we continue to be patriots despite the suppression and fight for a government that is fair, practices the distribution of justice and uses values-based politics to ensure a harmonious society.

With one heart and one soul, we Malaysians will defend the sovereignty of our nation and its democratic institution from being destroyed by elements that have scant regard for the Proclamation of Independence.

Malaysians will live free and no one can take our right for a just government away from us.

Happy Merdeka Day!





Benefits for Selangor citizens

Selangor citizens currently enjoy a lot of benefits under the state government led by Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

Here are 10 benefits that are available for those who are eligible.

NEWBORN

RM1,500 (TAWAS)

Tabung Warisan Anak Selangor (TAWAS) is a fund set up by the Selangor government that provides RM1,500 for every child born in the state
<http://www.tawas.org.my/>



WEDDING

RM500 per person (i-Kahwin)

Under the Insentif Perkahwinan Belia (i-Kahwin) programme, eligible individuals will receive RM500 as wedding aid
<https://i-kahwin.selangor.gov.my/>



PLAYSCHOOL ASSISTANCE

RM100 (SiKembar)

Under the Skim Bantuan Asuhan Rakyat (SiKembar) programme, parents with children 4 years and below will receive nursery aid of RM100 monthly
<http://www.e-sikembar.org/>



INTEREST-FREE MICROCREDIT BUSINESS LOANS

Up to RM50,000 (HIJRAH)

Individuals running small businesses can apply for interest-free loans of up to RM50,000 under the Hijrah Selangor programme
<http://www.hijrahselangor.com/>



PRE-SCHOOL ASSISTANCE

RM50 (TUNAS)

Under the Skim Bantuan Tadika Selangor (TUNAS) programme, parents with children between 5 and 6 years will receive pre-school aid of RM50 monthly
<http://www.e-tunas.org/>



FREE WATER SCHEME

20 cubic metres monthly

Every residence in the state currently enjoys 2 cubic metres of water free courtesy of the Selangor government. Landed properties are automatically given a rebate, while apartments can apply through the Selangor Apartments Free Water Scheme (SAFWA).
<http://lphs.selangor.gov.my/index.php/pages/view/53>



UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

RM1,000 (HPIPT)

University students who qualify for the Hadiah Pengajian IPT (HPIPT) programme are eligible for RM1,000 in aid
<https://hpipt.selangor.gov.my>



FREE SPM TUITION

(Pusat Tuisyen Rakyat SPM)

Students from low-income families can register themselves under the Pusat Tuisyen Rakyat SPM programme to be eligible for free tuition
<http://tuisyenrakyat.blogspot.my/>



FUNERAL AID FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED

RM2,500 (SMUE)

Elderly or disabled Selangorians can register with the Skim Mesra Usia Emas (SMUE) to gain RM2,500 in funeral aid that can be claimed by their next of kin upon death
<http://www.e-mesra.org.my/>



FREE MAMMOGRAM FOR WOMEN (MammoSel)

Women above 35 years who qualify under the Skim Kesihatan Wanita Selangor programme are entitled to free mammogram checks



Selangor's economy strong in lukewarm market conditions

SHAH ALAM - The domestic economic situation and the expose by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) financial scandal have affected the country's economic expansion.

However, according to Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, foreign investors' confidence in trade relations with Selangor have not been affected due to the transparency of its governance.

"The confidence of foreign investors in Selangor is proven in the 2015 MIDA Report on the state's economic success.

"We came out second on investment in the services sector with an investment value of RM2.36 billion and third in the manufacturing sector with an investment value of RM7.96 billion," he said.

He said this at the opening session of the 2017 Budget Roundtable Discussion at the Shah Alam Convention Centre.

During the session, Mohamed Azmin said the 2017 Budget focuses on efforts to continue with the Smart Selangor concept im-



plementation as the main direction for the state's economic expansion.

It is also focused on more effi-

cient services for the sake of economic prosperity.

"The State Government's development philosophy is to raise

the rural communities' quality of life to be on par with modern standards.

"However, we still retain the

character and personality of the communities, working harmoniously and sustainably with the natural environment," he said.

SMEs urged to capitalise on investment opportunities

SHAH ALAM - Those in the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) industry are urged to take the opportunity to be actively involved in state investments to effectively generate more income.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the recommendation followed the State Government's announcement on the increased investment target for 2017.

"The State Government targets RM6 billion for investments, therefore I urge industry players to take this opportunity.

"Investment and technology opportunities must be utilised to the maximum to modernise operations in order to increase productivity," he said.

He was speaking during the 2017 Budget Roundtable Discussion with professional fig-

ures, industry representatives and policy makers in Shah Alam Convention Centre.

Selangor has been consistent in maintaining its position as the country's top investment destination.

This follows the Statistics Department's report for 2010-2014 showing that collectively, Selangor and Wilayah Persekutuan were Malaysia's biggest contributor in the service sector at 49.9%.

Meanwhile, statistics by Malaysian Investment Development Board (MIDA) for 2015 showed that 222 investment projects were approved.

From that, Selangor managed to secure RM7.96 billion worth of investment in 2015 compared to RM7.04 billion in the previous year.

Selangor remains country's biggest GDP contributor

SHAH ALAM - Selangor remains the country's biggest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contributor with 25% earnings.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the earnings continue to strengthen Selangor's position as the most developed state in Malaysia.

"In terms of income per capita, we have reached a level of a developed state. Therefore, Selangor must continue to move towards social justice through progressive policy implementation.

"The State Government must conduct serious research on social policies consisting of services in urban and rural areas, health, education and innovation,"

he said during the opening of the 2017 Budget Roundtable Discussion in Shah Alam Convention Centre on August 15.

Prior to this, Invest Selangor was optimistic that GDP growth has positively expanded through foreign and domestic investments.

In the period of 2010 to 2014, Selangor was leading the country's GDP growth with 22.4%, compared to Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (15.1%), Sarawak (10.1%), Johor (9.3%) dan Sabah (6.5%).

Overall, the country's GDP growth is at 5%, taking into account the turmoil and challenges in the current economic situation.

Positive state revenue - 82.49% earnings recorded

SHAH ALAM - The state's reserve continues to register positive growth with a total of RM480 million as of early August 2016, said Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

He said the amount was recorded through revenue collection of RM1.86 billion against a cost of

RM1.38 billion.

This means that the State Government has revenues of 82.49% (RM1.86 billion) over the estimated total revenue for 2016, which is RM2.25 billion," he said.

Mohamed Azmin said the State Government is committed to ensure that the reserve is managed in

a positive manner for the survival of the domestic economy.

He also said the focus of the State Government is to continue diversifying its sources of earnings to maximise income.

"The State Government's main challenge in future is to diversify its income rather than to just rely on

the current revenue from land.

"But our primary focus is to continue with long-term economic planning strategically, with the right projection so that we do not need to present any supplementary budget," he said.

In a similar development, the State Government is targeting a

total investment of RM6 billion through various programmes and initiatives to attract long-term investment in Selangor.

Mohamed Azmin said the investment has a high potential in contributing towards a more sustainable and competitive state's economic growth.

Agriculture master plan to boost state revenue

SHAH ALAM - The State Government is actively formulating a 10-year agriculture master plan with long-term agricultural development initiatives.

Infrastructure, Public Amenities, Agricultural Modernisation and Agro-Based Industries Exco Zaidy Abdul Talib said the plan consists of initiatives to increase the state's agricultural produce.

"In principle, this master plan outlines a few matters that need to be reviewed and studied, especially efforts to increase agricultural output.

"This includes agricultural products for vegetables, cattle, broilers and aquaculture food," he said in a statement.

Selangor has previously been the highest Gross Domestic Product contributor to the country with 5.2% contribution from agriculture.

The earnings encouraged Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali to approve a RM31.6 million budget for agricultural development programmes.

Zaidy said the provision encourages modern agricultural initiatives which are in line with the 2016 Budget theme, Smart Selangor.

In a similar development, Zaidy said the State Government has also implemented the Youths Agro Programme for those aged between 18 and 40 years old.

The initiative was created as the State Government's commitment to help young people get directly involved in the state's agriculture.

Halal Selangor has potential to go global

BY NAZLI IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - Halal International Selangor (HIS), created to promote halal products through various mediums, has received encouraging response from several countries in Asia.

Investment, Small & Medium Industries, Trade and Transport Exco Dato' Teng Chang Khim said efforts to promote Selangor as a halal trade hub has been intensified on an international level.

"The State Government has established the HIS Council, chaired by Dato' Menteri Besar and two Deputies, namely Dato' Dr Yunus who oversees issues relating to syariah law compliances, and myself taking care of trade issues.

"The Council has called for a meeting to determine the direction and expansion to the international market.

"So far, responses from various countries such as China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Indonesia have been particularly encouraging," said Teng during the Selangor Information Technology and E-Trade Council (SITEC) Leading in the E-Dagang Best Practices Symposium at



the Selangor Digital Creative Centre, i-City, on August 8.

He also said that discussions are ongoing with several parties, including the authorities and Muslim associations in several countries.

Teng also hopes that HIS can be

launched before the end of 2016, ultimately boosting Selangor's economic growth.

He was referring in particular to the halal industry in the e-trading market which SITEC has been intensely promoting.

SITEC e-commerce classes to increase sellers' revenue

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Information Technology and E-trade Council (SITEC) is committed to organising more e-commerce classes for traders and businessmen to increase their knowledge and products.

SITEC Chief Executive Yong Kai Ping said efforts to assist the small and medium industry (SMI) aim to increase the quality of service between sellers and consumers, ultimately boosting revenue.

"SITEC's long-term plan is to or-

ganise more e-commerce classes to increase knowledge in this area of expertise.

"SITEC is committed to assist and guide businessmen to increase the number of their products," he said to SelangorKini.

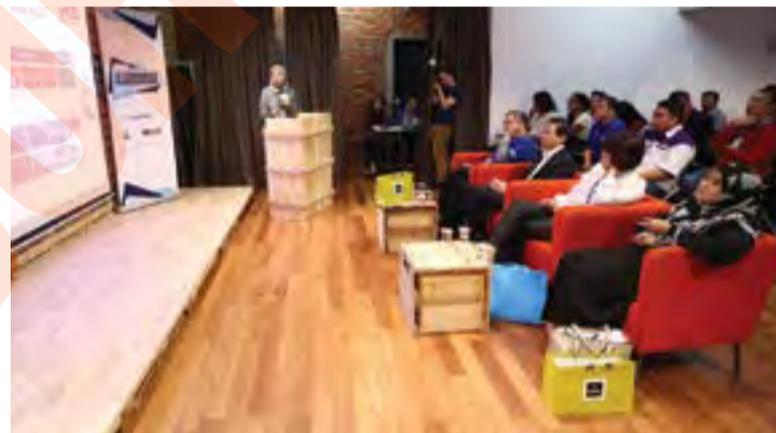
According to Kai Ping, SITEC had also visited Taipei, Taiwan in order to foster 'Cross-Border Trading'.

The council, established in June 2016, has managed to organise 90 e-commerce classes with the aim

of increasing systematic knowledge on e-commerce, targeting SMI players, brick-and-mortar shops and online traders.

"The e-commerce classes have received encouraging response so far, to the extent that we get an average of 100 attendees each time.

"SITEC has successfully guided the SMI in 190 classes within 13 months and recorded sales revenue of up to RM1.3 million," he said.



SITEC symposium to raise quality of e-trading service

SHAH ALAM - The SITEC Leading E-Trading Best Practices symposium, held on August 8, is expected to increase the quality of service in e-trading business, and ultimately increasing the value of sales.

The symposium was held at the Selangor Digital Creative Centre, i-City and saw the involvement of several parties including main logistic player Pos Malaysia, which handles Pos Laju services.

SITEC Chief Executive Yong Kai Ping said the symposium provided opportunities for participants to contribute their ideas.

"The aim of the programme is to strengthen the relationship be-

tween e-trading partners to discuss service improvements.

"Besides that, we also aim to create a suitable environment for discussions, with participation from all related parties, especially on marketing matters," he said after the one-day symposium.

He added that among topics most discussed were logistics, due to the sudden high demand that has created some challenges to existing logistic service providers.

He said that logistics is the most important element in the e-trading industry, as logistics ensures customers receive their orders on time.



MPSJ wins Green World Ambassador 2016 award



BY SYASYA SUFIAN

SHAH ALAM - The Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) has once again received international acclaim by winning an award by The Green Organisation at The Crystal, Royal Victoria Docks, London on August 8.

MPSJ President Dato' Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan said the award was based on MPSJ's commitment to remain consistent in implementing various initiatives to create sustainable urbanisation.

"This award also increases MPSJ's prestige in line with the development of MPSJ Strategic Planning 2012-2030, in order to improve productivity and quality as well as raise MPSJ's and the Selangor Government's reputation at the interna-

tional level.

"MPSJ is also revitalising 22 MPSJ Green Ambassadors, comprising MPSJ officers who will deliver green messages to the community," he said.

He said this at the Installation of Jalur Gemilang Flag in conjunction with National Day, at the MPSJ Arena Complex on the morning of August 10.

MPSJ has won six 'Green Awards' at the international level since 2014.

Among the awards are Green Apple Award 2014 at Palace of Westminster, London; Green World Ambassador 2015 at Leicester Square, London; Green Era Award 2016, Berlin, Germany; and Smart City Innovative Applications Award 2016 in Taiwan.

Sekinchan attracts 10,000 visitors a month

SHAH ALAM - Sekinchan continues to be a popular tourist destination in Selangor with over 10,000 visitors a month recorded.

Sekinchan Assemblyman Ng Suee Lim said that the number can increase to over 20,000 during peak season, including school holidays.

"This indirectly generates the local economy and benefits citizens.

"For example, single mothers and housewives with no previous income can now generate up to RM1,500 a month by selling goodies and crackers," he said to

SelangorKini.

On August 12, Ng was visited by Public Transport Exco Datuk Teng Chang Khim to identify biking paths around Sekinchan.

He said the bike path, which will be launched next year, would be able to attract more tourists.

"Thanks to the State Government that continues to develop Selangor, including Sekinchan, although it is located outside the city.

"I welcome this latest effort. It is not only good for the progress of 'eco-tourism', but also promotes a healthy lifestyle," he said.



MPK shares cooking oil recycling knowledge

KLANG - Used cooking oil has its own advantages and should not be wasted. Instead it can be re-used through recycling.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Yang Dipertua Datuk Mohamad Yasid Bidin said that cooking oil disposal will bring about environmental pollution, especially to water sources.

He said the disposal of waste oil into drains and sewage systems will cause clogged pipes besides being a potential source of diseases.

"MPK has taken the initiative

to share knowledge regarding recycling and environmentally friendly disposal methods for cooking oil.

"Two companies have been appointed to organise used cooking oil collection programmes from restaurants, pasar malam businesses, MPK stalls and school canteens around Klang," he said at the launch of the MPK Pasalewa Programme at Kampung Raja Uda Mosque recently.

Yasid explained that the waste oil would solidify and cause drains to clog, resulting in floods

and could encourage the spread of diseases from mosquitos and rats.

He said environmental pollution, especially to sources of water, is caused by a society that does not adopt recycling in their daily lives.

"What's worse, people continue throwing rubbish indiscriminately into drains, by the road side and out in the open. This is environmental pollution and will bring about outbreaks of diseases like dengue and cholera," he added.



Selangor and New Zealand strengthen trade relations

SHAH ALAM - Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali received a courtesy visit from New Zealand High Commissioner Dr Johan Subritzky to strengthen both countries' trade relations.

According to Mohamed Azmin, both sides exchanged opinions on investment opportunities in Selangor during the one-hour meeting.

"As any other country and a foreign investor, before placing their investments in any country or state, firstly they want to see its political stability.

"With the slogan of moderation and stability in governance, it is clear that Selangor is able to ensure racial and religious harmony which is conducive for great investments.

"Just look at the giant company Toyota that recently invested RM2 billion in Klang. They would not have invested if Selangor was not peaceful and harmonious. The same goes for UMW and Air Bus that are operating in Selangor," he said.

He said that to SelangorKini

I believe that New Zealand is prepared to look at Selangor as an investment destination that is sustainable

MOHAMED AZMIN
Dato' Menteri Besar

at the State Secretary Building.

In addition, Mohamed Azmin also assured that Selangor is capable of providing highly-skilled, educated and talented human capital in order to fulfil the requirements of New Zealand investors.

"With this confidence, I believe that New Zealand is prepared to look at Selangor as an investment destination that is sustainable, despite the critical situation in Malaysia, as Selangor is still preserving its conducive environment for investment purposes," he added.

Selangor, focus of world economic superpowers

BY NAZLI IBRAHIM

SHAH ALAM - Selangor is increasingly becoming the focus of world economic superpowers as there has been a rise in the number of foreign countries interested to send their representatives and meet the State Government in the past 2 years.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said that this was based on the fact that he had received four courtesy visits from foreign delegations, including the United States and Britain in less than a month.

"It's a positive development,

as I've met with a few representatives from big countries like the United States Ambassador, and I've discussed at length with the British High Commissioner and now, with New Zealand and Singapore too.

"This exhibits yet again their confidence with the State Government's administration that is not only able to ensure transparency and accountability in administration but also Selangor's ability to spur sustainable economic growth and development," he said.

Mohamed Azmin told SelangorKini after receiving a cour-

tesy call from New Zealand High Commissioner and the Singaporean delegation, led by their Senior Minister at the Menteri Besar's Office, State Secretary Building.

This clearly showed that the talent pool in Selangor is capable of widening its business opportunities and trade between Selangor and foreign countries.

"The confidence of foreign countries lies with Selangor, and the State Government continues to play its role in ensuring that Selangor becomes Malaysia's main economic contributor in the future," he added.

Singapore Senior Minister visits MB

SHAH ALAM - The Selangor Government received a courtesy visit from the Singaporean Government's delegation led by their Foreign Affairs and Defence Senior Minister Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman to strengthen bilateral relations.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said that besides discussing mutual commitments to strengthen trade relations, both parties also discussed issues concerning safety in Southeast Asia.

"One of the things discussed was strategic steps that should be taken by both countries to build stronger ties in future.

"We have identified the areas of strategic cooperation that can be improved, like trade, culture and also training.

"We also discussed the issue of safety in the ASEAN region, particularly when many debates are sparked by China's demands for territory and how ASEAN countries like Malaysia and Singapore can play their part by ensuring stability and safety in this region," he said.

Mohamed Azmin said that to SelangorKini at the Menteri Besar's Office, State Secretary Building on August 17.

The one-hour visit was also

joined by Singapore High Commissioner to Malaysia Vanu Gopala Menon, Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Deputy Director Shivakumar Nair, Singapore High Commissioner First Secretary Rifdi Ridwan and Ministry of Foreign Affairs State Officer Janice Lui Han Kaijie.

Elaborating on the discussion, Mohamed Azmin said Malaysia and Singapore have their own roles in displaying leadership to other ASEAN countries in order to return to the ZOPFAN (Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality) doctrine to ensure stability and safety in this region.

"This issue has become a hot debate these days. However, as an independent and sovereign country, we should play our role more proactively to create peace and stability in ASEAN, especially along the maritime route in the South China Sea.

"If there is a clash between two superpowers, we would be affected and we certainly want to avoid this," he said.

Prior to this, Mohamed Azmin also received a courtesy call from New Zealand High Commissioner Dr Johan Subritzky, to strengthen trade relations between Selangor and New Zealand.

South Korea learns from Smart Selangor Bus

SHAH ALAM - The Smart Selangor Bus service is not only an eye-opener for other states but this free bus service for citizens has also caught the interest of other countries.

Investment, Small & Medium Industries, Trade and Transport Exco Dato' Teng Chang Khim said this was evident when South Korea sent its delegation to observe the Smart Selangor Bus services.

"Korea has also sent their delegation to come and see for themselves the services provided by Smart Selangor Bus and this has also been discussed during our visit to Korea prior to this," said Teng (DAP-Sungai Pinang).

He was speaking during a ques-

tion and answer session during the 2nd sitting for the 4th term of the 13th Selangor State Assembly on August 1.

The free bus service provided by the State Government has received encouraging response from

the public due to its efficiency.

Besides being on-time, the service also caters to the disabled and provides free Wi-Fi.

Smart Selangor Bus has also gained the interest of other states, with some starting to launch similar programmes.



UNISEL: A prominent regional pioneer in Malay studies

BY ERMIZI MUHAMAD

PEKANBARU - University of Selangor (Unisel) has reinforced its position as a prominent pioneer in the education sector of language and ethnic studies in the region.

The commitment was manifested through the founding of the Malaysia-Indonesia Research Institute that collects Malay-based research between both countries.

Unisel Education and Social

Sciences' Faculty Dean Professor Dr Mohd Zaidi Mohd Hajazi said that the implementation is focused on the initiative to strengthen the role of Malays regionally in Malaysia and Indonesia.

"The focus is on research that encompasses disciplines like politics, social science and technology between the two countries, and it will be the best arena for academicians to meet.

"Surely the research done by these academicians and lan-

guage enthusiasts will be of great benefit to Selangor and particularly to Malaysia and Indonesia," he said to SelangorKini.

He said research into language and Malay ethnic studies builds the best kind of momentum to uncover the shared elements between two countries.

"The relationship between Malaysia and Indonesia is quite unique. Historically, it is said that almost 50% of Malaysians have Indonesian origins.

"So the kinship and similari-

ties we share definitely cannot be separated as the bond has long been formed and should be preserved," he said.

Mohd Zaidi, who is IKMI director, also said he is confident that this is able to contribute to the unification of culture and nations globally.

"Education is without limit, and instead includes all aspects and is open in nature. Hence these components become unifying factors to the development of a government," he said.



Dr Mohd Zaidi



Selangor and Indonesia establish student exchange programme

PEKANBARU - A student exchange programme involving students from Universitas Lancang Kuning (ULK) and University of Selangor (Unisel) will be held in an effort to enhance cooperation between the two higher education institutions.

ULK Rector Dr Hasnati SHMH said the need and commitment of the university as an 'education colleague' is based on developing regional Malay and cultural experts with Unisel.

"The university has often formed educational collaborations with institutions from Malaysia, so it is not something new to us to continue a programme of this calibre.

"We hope to have various activities, particularly focusing on the education sector, societal involvement, and the student

The university has often formed educational collaborations with institutions from Malaysia, so it is not something new to us to continue a programme of this calibre

DR HASNATI
ULK Rector

exchange process that can close educational gaps," she said in an exclusive interview with SelangorKini at her office in Riau, Indonesia, on August 18.

Dr Hasnati said this kind of

programme will be able to generate ideas for the expansion of education access in both countries, in order to achieve the status of best education institutions.

At the same time, Dr Hasnati said that the university is open to regional cooperation with education institutions in Malaysia, including organising the Malay Archipelago Postgraduate Seminar (MAPS) with Unisel this August 20 and 21.

It is the third time that a collaboration on education based on cultural aspects involving Unisel and ULK is being held.

Prior to this, ULK collaborated with a few local universities, including Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Mara.

PTPTN must review stopping full funding

SHAH ALAM - KEADILAN Youth is asking the federal government to review the National Higher Education Fund's (PTPTN) decision to stop full funding for students in institutions of higher learning.

KEADILAN Youth Head Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said that the decision not only affects students but also makes it difficult for students to further their studies.

"The increased cost of living has already impacted students.

"Without PTPTN or any similar financial help, the majority of Malaysians will face difficulty to further their studies. Some are forced to borrow from their families, friends, or worse, loan sharks.

"This factor must be taken into account because daily living costs like food, transport and rent along with household utilities must be prioritised," he said in statement.

Nik Nazmi said he understood the decision was due to a low repayment rate.

PTPTN, however, must also be aware that the body is the main financial source for students who are furthering their studies at public institutions of higher learning.

"The repayment problem has long been identified by PTPTN and they have failed to implement any effective means

This factor must be taken into account because daily living costs like food, transport and rent along with household utilities must be prioritised



NIK NAZMI
KEADILAN Youth Head

to overcome the problem.

KEADILAN has urged the government previously to figure out the real cause of the problem. But till today, we have not been informed of anything done," he said.

On August 21, PTPTN Chairman Datuk Shamsul Anuar Nasarah said the repayment rate was still low among current borrowers and this has lowered the number of loans to new students.

Until December 2015, PTPTN only managed to collect RM8 billion compared to the target of RM15 billion out of RM26 billion of loans approved.

PTPTN also approved only 95% of education costs to public university students and 85% for private students.



150 women join Basic Self-Defense Course

KUALA SELANGOR - A total of 150 women participants joined the Women's Basic Self Defense Course 2016 at Dewan Sri Siantan, Kuala Selangor District Council (MDKS).

MDKS Yang Dipertua Noraini Roslan said the course will teach women the importance of self-defense in the event of an attack.

"News of theft, rape and murder that often appear in newspa-

pers certainly worries society. This has a profound impact on women, who are often the victims.

"Disaster and crime usually happen unexpectedly. Women usually become victims of strangers and also of people they know, sometimes due to the fact that women are always seen as the weaker gender," said Noraini.

She said that self-defense training can establish mental

and physical endurance besides boosting confidence in cases of emergency.

The course is organized by MDKS. It managed to attract female participants of students and staff of Kuala Selangor District offices.

The briefing was given by Kuala Selangor Police Headquarters Criminal Division Head ASP Ramlee Bakar.

SICG: RM350,000 awaits gaming enthusiasts

SUBANG JAYA - Prizes totalling RM350,000 have been offered to cyber-gaming lovers who participate in the Selangor International Cyber Games (SICG) 2016.

Held in One City, there are seven cyber games in SICG, which will run for three days beginning September 9 until 11.

Youth Development, Sports, Cultural and Entrepreneurship Development Exco Amirudin

Shari said that participation is open to both professionals and amateurs.

"Before this, there were only four games. But we have increased it to seven.

"We hope in future there will be more games in the competition," he said in a press conference in One City.

Amirudin aims for SICG to receive more than 2,000 players

by having games such as Mine-ski Pro Gaming League South-east Asia (DOTA 2), DOTA 2 Amateur League of Legends, Counter Strike, Hearthstone, Street Fighter V, Fifa 16 and Clash Royal.

"Selangor will always be a trail-blazer in all sports in Malaysia.

"We believe that this is the correct decision and will ensure that youths in the state benefit from this investment," he said.



'U We Glow Fun Run 2016' returns

SHAH ALAM - The 'U We Glow Fun Run 2016' will soon return for a second season on December 10.

The programme, organised by Lab Anchor Sdn Bhd, in collaboration with Selangor Tourism, requires participants to run for five kilometres and will be held in Shah Alam Stadium.

Those who are interested can register before October 30 at

<https://mro.myraceonline.com/uwgr16/Registrations> with prices ranging from RM83 to RM88 per person, and RM156 to RM166 for 'doubles'.

The run will begin at 8 pm and end at 10 pm.

Participation is open to all Malaysian citizens and profits from participation will be channelled to selected charities.



MPK sells plants at 'great' prices



KLANG - The Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Nursery at Jalan Seruling 59, Taman Sentosa is offering plants at prices that are way lower than market prices.

MPK Yang DiPertua Datuk Mohamad Yasid Bidin said an assortment of plants are for sale at the nursery but response has been lukewarm as the public is still unaware of its existence.

"There are a variety of plants that suit the need to green areas and create a beautiful, clean and cool environment.

"This nursery also sells plants to interested residents and the prices are way cheaper compared to other outlets.

"Plants that can be used as barriers and fences and potable plants are more sought after, especially Kelat Paya that is sold at a

low price," he said in a statement.

Yasid said that Osmoxylon, Mahkota Duri and Jenjuang plants are also well received by buyers.

He said that planting shrubs and other plants at road sides, playgrounds, open fields and other empty spaces that can be adorned by plants is in line with the state government's wish that emphasises on the environment.

"MPK welcomes the public to buy plants at our nursery, which is open daily," he said.

The MPK Nursery is open from 9am to 5pm on weekdays and 10am till 1pm on weekends.

For more information, please contact MPK Parks and Recreation Department Assistant Officer Zainudin Md Noh at 019-3935357.



Olympic Games Rio 2016: Four silver and a bronze

BY MIKE TAN

SHAH ALAM - The recently concluded Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was certainly the most exciting games yet for Malaysia as our team returns with its biggest medal haul to date – 4 silver medals and 1 bronze medal.

It was also an Olympics filled with surprise and drama, both on and off the competition arena. Malaysia finally got its first medal in cycling, thanks to keirin specialist Azizulhasni Awang. He not only produced a surprise in competition but also with his tirade against the Terengganu Menteri Besar in the wake of his win.

For the first time in history, most Malaysians felt emotionally invested in the Olympics as many of our athletes came close to achieving the ultimate glory in sports, winning the Olympic gold medal.

Our divers were within reach of the gold after qualifying for the finals in two events, the women's 10 m platform dive and the women's 10 m synchronised platform event.

In badminton, a sport in which Malaysia has consistently excelled in, our shuttlers rose to the occasion, playing beyond even their own expectations to reach the finals in three different events – men's singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles.

But it just was not to be, and the much coveted gold medal still eludes the nation.

Our athletes have become symbols that unified us, especially after headlines disparaging their efforts surfaced after they failed



to win gold medals. The Malaysian public rallied around our athletes and rebuked the publications roundly, especially in social media.

Real achievement, glory and fame are not measured solely by the colour of the medal. And not every important competition is fought on the field of sports. Our athletes' Olympic journey gave us the opportunity to triumph over bigotry, and to appreciate the effort that we all put in to make our country great.

We should be proud of their accomplishments, as they have given our country and our people something to truly celebrate this Merdeka Day.



Malaysia's Olympic Medallists

SILVER

- Women's synchronised 10 m platform dive event
Cheong Jun Hoong and Pandelega Rinong
- Badminton men's doubles
Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong
- Badminton mixed doubles
Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying
- Badminton men's singles
Lee Chong Wei

BRONZE

- Men's keirin cycling event
Azizulhasni Awang

