



# FULFILLING ASPIRATIONS



Merdeka Centre Study  
**72% SATISFIED**

Local councils are not only responsible for tax collection and infrastructure development but more importantly have to realise the rakyat's aspiration of wanting their areas to be in the best condition, peaceful and harmonious

Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali  
Dato' Menteri Besar



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Najib fears the perfect storm, Azmin will bring the rain



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# EAST COAST RAIL LINE YET TO BE APPROVED



FULL REPORT PAGE 2

# Costly ECRL yet to be approved by Selangor

OLEH NORHAYATI UMOR

**SHAH ALAM** - The State Government has not given any approval for the second phase of the East Coast Rail Line (ECRL) that will run from Gombak to Port Klang.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said this was due to the fact that the mega project was too expensive, involving a total estimated cost of over RM55 billion, which will be a burden to the rakyat.

"Treasury Chief Secretary, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah did meet me to ask for support and approval to continue the project to Klang.

"However, Selangor has yet to give its approval. I will have to check further as the project is too expensive," he said during the launch of the Tabung Inisiatif Komuniti Selangor and dinner with Selangor volunteers at Midlands Convention Centre on August 18.

Mohamed Azmin said the State Government is of the view that development and progress

do not necessarily bring benefits because Selangor prioritises quality development that does not burden the rakyat and is environmentally friendly.

"It is useless if progress and development bring flash floods or burdens the rakyat with high costs. That is not quality development. In Selangor, we care about quality development for the rakyat," he said.

The ECRL project has recently begun construction work, including a line spanning 600.3 kilometres for the first phase.

It will run through four states, including Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Selangor.

The ECRL line will begin at Gombak Integrated Transport Terminal and end at Wakaf Bharu, Kelantan, with 23 stations in between.

The second phase will be implemented after that and connect the line till Port Klang.

The speed of the train is estimated to reach 160 kilometres an hour and will carry passengers and cargo.

**EAST COAST RAIL LINE**

Malaysia and China signed an agreement on the framework covering funding, contract, engineering, procurement and construction aspects

<b>WORTH</b> RM55 Billion	<b>STARTING</b> 2017 <b>ESTIMATED COMPLETION</b> 2022	<b>REPAYMENT PERIOD</b> 20 Years
<b>2 PHASES</b> <b>PHASE 1:</b> Port Klang – Gombak – Dungun		<b>PHASE 2:</b> Dungun – Tumpat

**PROJECT WILL:**

- Reduce transport costs between the west and east coast of Peninsular Malaysia
- Shorten travel time
- Create more business and work opportunities
- Reduce cost of goods in the east coast and stimulate growth in small towns



## Improving Selangor-US relations

**SHAH ALAM** - The official visit of the United States Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Kamala Shirin Lakhdar to the Selangor Dato' Menteri Besar's office, has set the stage for closer relations between the two parties.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the meeting has opened a good opportunity for Selangor

as there were various issues discussed during the meeting.

"We exchanged views, including on geopolitical issues.

"We also shared our concerns regarding regional security and want to increase bilateral relations with the US, especially for Selangor," he said.

Earlier this month, the Dato' Menteri Besar's office also re-

ceived a visit from the Swedish Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Dag Juhlin Dannfelt and Swiss Ambassador to Malaysia, H.E. Michael Winzap.

The official visits are seen as boosting Selangor's image on an international level, in addition to attracting more investment to boost the state's economy.

## Najib must stop political fear mongering

**SHAH ALAM** - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has been urged to stop political fear mongering in the lead up to the 14th General Election (GE14).

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the number one leader of the country should instead study the highly efficient opposition-run state as an example.

"Recently, someone in the country stated that change does not necessarily bring good benefits. This is political fear mongering.

"I want to say, dear Najib, look at what is happening in Penang and Selangor. Change is a very good thing for the rakyat because they are maturing steadily.

"Do not try to frighten them. Fact is, this state was handed over to Pakatan Rakyat and Pakatan Harapan due to the support of the rakyat and has been run well ever since," he said during the launch of the Tabung Inisiatif Komuniti Selangor dan Dinner with Volunteers at Midlands Convention Centre on August 18.

At the same time, Mohamed Azmin said the State Govern-

**Do not try to frighten them. Fact is, this state was handed over to Pakatan Rakyat and Pakatan Harapan due to the support of the rakyat and has been run well ever since**

**MOHAMED AZMIN**  
Dato' Menteri Besar

ment administration was performing its duties with integrity not because it wants a reward.

"Previously, land in Selangor was given to political leaders and division leaders would get at least 50 acres.

"Yet I have given my guarantee since 2008, not an inch of our land was given to political leadership. This is a big change, even State Executive Council members need to sign a declaration before meetings begin so that all parties do not have any interests before a paper is tabled," he said.

# Realise citizens' aspirations through good governance

BY NORHAYATI UMOR

**AMPANG** - All local councils in Selangor have to understand the aspirations of citizens and should implement local development programmes effectively and holistically.

This was only fair, said Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, if the demands of taxpayers that municipal councils be more consistent in administrating their local areas well are to be taken into consideration properly.

"Today's taxpayers are matured and understand their needs and rights.

"Therefore, local councils are not only responsible for tax collection and infrastructure development but more impor-

tantly have to realise the rakyat's aspiration of wanting their areas to be in the best condition, peaceful and harmonious," he said during the launch of the 2017 Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) Carnival at the MPAJ Municipal Field, Pandan Indah on August 20.

A recent study indicating a 72% approval rate regarding the overall performance of the state administration and local councils in Selangor should become an impetus for the State Government to continue to strive for the rakyat's best interests.

Selangor Dato' Menteri Besar's Political Secretary, Shuhaimi Shafiei said the approval rate towards the State Government can still be increased in the future.

"The percentage can be improved in time by increasing our efforts and focus in other sectors that will fulfil the rakyat's needs.

"Although the results of the study are encouraging, we still must continue our efforts so that the support base not only remains but will grow," he told SelangorKini recently.

Shuhaimi said the study's results also prove that the rakyat made the right choice for the State Government since 2008.

A study conducted by the Merdeka Centre between January 23 and June 29 found that 72% or 8,640 respondents representing the population of Selangor were satisfied with the overall performance of the State Government and local councils.



## Make use of Peduli Siswa Education programme

**SHAH ALAM** - Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali has invited Selangor youth to apply for the Peduli Siswa Special Programme and State Education Loan.

He said the programmes are part of the State's initiatives to help Selangor youth to pursue their education through scholarships and loan schemes.

"The State Government uses its wealth to facilitate Selangor youths to further their studies with scholarship schemes, loans and special gifts.

"These initiatives use the state's revenue and empower Selangor youths. The aim is to empower them through scholarship programmes and loans," he said.

Applications for Peduli Siswa Special Programme and the interest-free State Education Fund are open from August 1 till August 31.

Those interested can obtain more information at <http://tkwbns.selangor.gov.my/portal>.

In the 2017 Budget, a total of RM10 million in allocated to for Selangor students at International Islamic University, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Univer-

**The State Government uses its wealth to facilitate Selangor youths to further their studies with scholarship schemes, loans and special gifts. These initiatives use the state's revenue and empower Selangor youths**

**MOHAMED AZMIN**  
Dato' Menteri Besar

siti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Mara.

The programme offers convertible education loans based on academic achievement.

It was implemented following the Federal Government's decision to lower the higher education sector's allocation in the 2017 Federal Budget to RM12.13 billion from RM13.38 billion in 2016.



## Selangor 2018 Budget to focus on youth

**SHAH ALAM** - The Selangor 2018 Budget is expected to focus on the state's youth as they are vital to the development of the country.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said that Selangor has thus far been able to reach out to many different segments of society, thanks to the various programmes under its Peduli Rakyat Initiative (IPR) and its deep financial reserve.

"IPR programmes are available only in Selangor. No other state has such good programmes like the Peduli Sihat programme.

Not Johor, not Perak or any other state.

"That also includes our programme for traders who wish to expand their business, some of whom don't have the capital.

"Through this programme, we have helped many traders not only Nasi Lemak Anak Dara, but the funny thing is when I appeared on the scene, Umno got upset and claimed that I didn't help the elderly," he said at the launch of the Tabung Komuniti Selangor and Dinner with Selangor Volunteers at Midlands Convention Centre on August 18.

He added that the State Government will take youth development into consideration and make it its focus for the next year.

"For the Hijrah programme, the State Government has spent RM240 helping 35,000 traders. Also a total of RM1.92 billion has been spent for all the IPR programmes and we still have RM4 billion in our state reserve.

"If we had not spent it on the programmes, the state reserve would be over RM6 billion. But I believe that the more we give, the more returns we will receive," he said.

# Broga Hill closed for three months

BY NAZLI IBRAHIM

**SEMENYIH** - The State Government, through the Selangor Economic Action Council (MTES) that convened on August 17, has decided to temporarily close Broga Hill to all recreational and tourist activities effective immediately.

Tourism, Environment, Green Technology and Consumer Affairs Exco Elizabeth Wong said the three month closure was done to enable conservation efforts that would cost RM1 million to be done on the 143 acre state-owned land.

"The closure is needed to ensure the safety of visitors who hike and enjoy recreational activities at Broga Hill as well as to avoid any unforeseen incidents as a result of land clearance.

"At this time, the Selangor Public Works Department (JKR) estimates that restoration efforts can be completed in three months, although the State Government will make an announcement if there are any changes to the completion date," she said at



a media conference during the official closure of Broga Hill on August 18.

She said restoration efforts involve the construction of drainage so that the flow of rain water would not adversely affect the hill slopes, planting grass to mitigate soil erosion and landscaping work.

She said besides the Selangor JKR, the Hulu Langat Land and

District Office and the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) were also involved in the restoration efforts.

"RM900,000 has been allocated to the Hulu Langat JKR and RM100,000 to MPKj. However, this is an early estimate and the real costs will only be known once we get the real evaluation from the relevant agencies.

"Besides this, the State Gov-

ernment will consider the suggestion to increase the existing road reserve to Broga Hill," she said.

Broga Hill had previously been illegally encroached by a Federal Government agency for a rubber plantation project.

As a result of the illegal encroachment, the hill slopes were cut and turned into terraces for the proposed rubber plantation.

Broga Hill gazetted as recreational area



**SEMENYIH** - The State Government has gazetted Broga Hill as a recreational area as allocated under Section 62 of the National Land Act with the Selangor State Secretary as the managing officer and monitored by the Kajang Municipal Council.

Tourism, Environment, Green Technology and Consumer Affairs Exco Elizabeth Wong said the decision was made at a Selangor Economic Action Council (MTES) meeting on August 17.

"At the same time, the 31-acre Sakai Land Fruit Trees and orchard as recorded in the Pelan Akui 18083 is retained for the use of the Orang Asal community," she said at a media conference at Broga Hill on August 18.

She added that the State Government remained committed to nature conservation at Broga Hill and to ensure the well-being of the Orang Asal community in the area.

## Najib blind to Selangor's contribution

**SHAH ALAM** - The Federal Government, led by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Najib Razak has seemingly forgotten about the Selangor Government's contribution when they launched the Ampar Tenang People's Housing Programme at Dengkil on August 17.

Housing, Building Management and Urban Settlement Exco Dato' Iskandar Abdul Samad said this was because the housing project that will be built is on land taken over by the State Government from the property developer at a cost of RM15 million.

"The 30 acre land was taken over by the State Government from the developer at a cost of over RM15 million and given to the Federal Government for the housing project without any payment.

"It is for the affected residents of an abandoned housing project at Taman Permata who have been neglected for decades," he said.

Iskandar said that previously there were a series of negotiations by the State Government, yet the Federal Government had been hesitant regarding the issue.

He said it was the Federal Government's duty to resolve the problem because the development was their project, but without the cooperation and contribution from the State Government, the problem could not be solved.

The housing project was a solution to the problems faced by the residents of the low cost housing project at Taman Permata, Dengkil which was built for former plantation workers when the Federal Government developed Putrajaya.

Previously, the low cost housing project suffered structural defects believed to have been caused by soil settlement.

Iskandar also reiterated the State Government's stand to cooperate with the Federal Government for the benefit of the rakyat but expressed regret due to the Federal Government's penchant for politicking.

Najib had earlier officiated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Ampar Tenang People's Housing Project that will benefit the lower income group in the near future.



## Team Selangor for community building

**SHAH ALAM** - The State Government will prepare special allocation to realise the community development programme led by Team Selangor.

Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said that the establishment of Team Selangor clearly shows the firm commitment the Selangor community has towards idealism and values that form the core of a nation.

He said the establishment of the programme was planned with the policy of inculcating nationalism and to strengthen community values among the Gen Y community.

"The State Government believes the future of the nation lies not in the hands of old leaders but with the youth.

"To realise our goal of 'Membangun Bangsa dan Memakmur Negeri', we have a duty to encourage a love for the state and to build a caring and competitive society," he said during the launch of the Tabung Inisiatif Komuniti Selangor and Dinner with Selangor Volunteers at Midlands Convention Centre on August 18.

At the same time he was proud of the number of Team Selangor participants that have

reached over 3,000 since its establishment in January.

"I am proud of the youth in Selangor who are capable enough to form a volunteer group that is able to reach out to the general population, understand their current needs and aspirations.

"We want youth who are action oriented. Just look at the youth in France, the movement has led to action till a youth leader has risen up to become the president," he said.

He expressed his hope that Team Selangor would be able to achieve its participation target of 20,000 volunteers.

# MBI, UNISEL will cooperate fully in MACC probe

**SHAH ALAM** – Referring to the latest report regarding the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) investigation into the dispute resolution between University of Selangor (UNISEL) and Jana Niaga Sdn Bhd, Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI) and UNISEL will continue to cooperate fully with MACC throughout the investigation period.

MBI would like to assert that MBI and its subsidiaries have always maintained a transparent and open concept in its organisational administration in accordance to good corporate governance.

During several negotiation and discussion sessions between UNISEL and MBI, several matters need to be examined and studied by both parties to find the best solution taking into consideration the interests of the State Government and to ensure that UNISEL operations are not affected. As we look for these solutions, the main consideration that is empha-

sised is to ensure that UNISEL is able to provide the best educational services to ensure that UNISEL students' welfare is maintained.

This decision is in line with the High Court and Appeals Court's decision that the dispute need not be referred to court and should be referred to an arbitration committee or through a mediation process as stipulated in the concession contract signed between UNISEL and Jana Niaga.

As such, UNISEL and MBI management will continue to cooperate with MACC to hand over all evidence and to provide any statement needed to help the investigation, which will put to rest any rumours of wrongdoing directed at MBI or its subsidiaries.

The statement is jointly issued by YM Raja Shahreen Raja Othman, MBI CEO, and Professor Dato' Dr Mohammad Redzuan Othman, Vice Chancellor and President of University of Selangor.



## Assembly reforms gain UM's attention

**SHAH ALAM** – The University of Malaya (UM) has invited Selangor State Assembly Speaker, Hannah Yeoh to write an article in the first edition of Universiti of Malaya Law Review.

Yeoh wrote an article entitled Enhancing The Institutional Efficiency Of Parliament: Problem and Prospects, together with Tunku Abdul Rahman Constitutional Law Professor, Emeritus Prof Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi.

"Prof Shad wrote a paper that was presented last May at the 2017 Parliamentary Speakers and National State Assembly Conference.

"The paper was intended to inform the public about the right practice to reform lawmakers and how Parliament and state assemblies can move ahead.

"The paper also contains all changes done to the state assembly that have been presented," she said.

According to her, the article will be used as reference by lawyers and law students.

The first edition also features an article written by Federal Court Judge, Datuk Seri Gopal Sri Ram entitled Lim Kit Siang, Order 53 and Future of Locus Standi in Public Interest Litigation.

Managing Editor Eriq Phang Li-Onn said the publication was the idea of Academic Advisor, Prof

Dr Johan Shamsuddin Sabaruddin himself.

The publication was first published almost 60 years ago when UM joined Singapore.

"Previously, we only published online but with a hardcopy, it will be easier to gain international recognition.

"We have a new board of directors to publish the manuscript on an annual basis," he said.

The publication is priced at RM30 locally and RM50 for sales abroad.

## Opposition missing from Selangor PAC

**SHAH ALAM** - The attendance of Opposition state assemblymen in the Selangor State Assembly Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is still disappointing even though efforts have been made to encourage their participation.

PAC Member, Rodziah Ismail said the latest committee meeting for the year was attended only by State Government assemblymen.

"The 7/2017 Selangor State PAC Meeting was attended by

State Government assemblymen only. BN Opposition assemblymen were absent as usual. This year it has been zero attendance," the Batu Tiga assemblyman posted on Twitter.

Selangor PAC Chairman, Pengerusi PAC Selangor, Ng Suee Lim had previously voiced his disappointment regarding the commitment of the opposition state assemblymen during a debate at the State Assembly in July.

He said that for the 2017 ses-

sion, the two BN assemblymen failed to show up as compared to the single attendance last year.

He added that the state opposition should be more responsible to play its part in developing Selangor.

"The PAC met a total of 11 times in 2016, the Sungai Burung Assemblyman only attended once, while Jeram Assemblyman did not show up at all. This year, we have met six times but they have yet to show up," he said.

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# Pakatan to abolish GST in 100 days



BY NORHAYATI UMOR

**SHAH ALAM** – Keadilan Deputy President Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali has promised to abolish the Goods and Services Tax (GST) within a period of 100 days if the Opposition successfully takes over Putrajaya in the 14th General Election.

He said the GST implementation is seen as being a burden to the rakyat and there was no need to implement the tax unless the government had integrity.

"If we view the Auditor-General's Report that was tabled at the Parliament, every year there are recorded leaks, losses or wastages, some of which can reach RM27 billion.

"Therefore the leadership and I do announce that if we succeed and gain majority support, within 100 days we will abolish GST in the country," he said.

At the same time, Mohamed Azmin, who is also Selangor Dato' Menteri Besar, said that Selangor is the largest GST contributor in the country.

"Not only are we the biggest contrib-

utor to the country's Gross Domestic Product, but we are also the largest GST contributor due to the booming economic activities in the state," he said.

The Malaysian Royal Customs Department had earlier announced a target of RM42 billion in GST collections this year.

Customs and GST Deputy Director, Datuk Zulkifli Yahya was quoted as saying that the GST collected by the government in 2016 totalling RM41.2 billion had exceeded the government's earlier target of RM38.5 billion.

# Freedom true meaning of Merdeka

**SHAH ALAM** - Freedom is one of the most important aspects of independence with the condition that it is regulated, said Institut Darul Ehsan (IDE) Chairman, Dato' Dr Siddiq Fadzil.

He said that freedom should be enjoyed by all as citizens of an independent nation.

"The true meaning of independence is that the rakyat can enjoy freedom, even animals and plants need freedom.

"Freedom is a fundamental right for all," he said during a lecture regarding independence in conjunction with 2017 Merdeka Celebration Month at the Selangor Public Library Corporation on August 22.

Dr Siddiq is the author of the book *Memperingati Kemerdekaan: Mensyukuri Nikmat, Menginsafi Amanat* that is in its third edition by IDE.

The first edition of the book was published by Akademi Kajian Ketamadunan in 2007 in conjunction with the 50th Merdeka anniversary.

In his lecture, he also gave a social critique focusing on the Malays as an independent race.

He said the Malays should have a greater sense humility and awareness so as to not be easily manipulated.

In addition, Dr Siddiq also said that elections should be used to showcase a society's maturity and not as a medium to belittle the rakyat through politics.

## LALUAN SHAH ALAM

# BAS SMART SELANGOR

**PERCUMA!!**  
UNTUK SEMUA

**Kekerapan Perjalanan**  
SETIAP 15 MINIT (SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04)  
SETIAP 20 MINIT (SA05)

**Waktu Operasi**  
6.00 PAGI - 10.00 MALAM

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7 HARI SEMINGGU

### LALUAN BAS

- SA01 **STESEN KOMUTER SHAH ALAM, SEKSYEN 19 (MULA) - SEKSYEN 7**
- SA02 **HENTIAN PUSAT BANDAR, SEKSYEN 14 (MULA) - SEKSYEN 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 22 & U1**
- SA03 **STESEN KOMUTER SHAH ALAM, SEKSYEN 19 (MULA) - SEKSYEN 17, 18, 24, 19 & 20**
- SA04 **TERMINAL 17 SEKSYEN 17 (MULA) - PADANG JAWA - SEKSYEN 7**
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# Bayu Malawati

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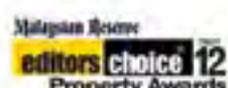
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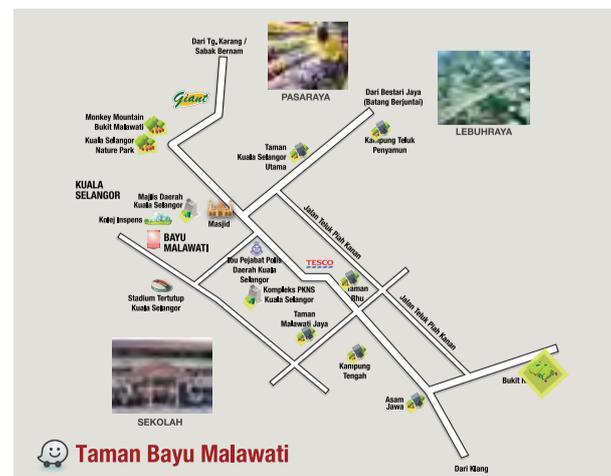
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# What does Merdeka mean to you?

This is a question I kept hearing every Merdeka for the past decade or so.

Perhaps I did hear it being asked when I was growing up but I really can't remember my parents or grandparents being so introspective about the significance of August 31, 1957.

The memories of past Merdeka Days that come to mind are, of course, filled with absolute joy because it was, after all, another public holiday and that meant no school! However, we still woke up early and eagerly turned on the TV to watch the Merdeka Day parade.

I remember feeling such awe as I sat cross-legged in my pajamas in front of our old Phillips TV, watching as contingent after contingent marched with almost perfect preci-

sion in colorful uniforms and costumes. The crowd cheering them on and waving flags made me wish I was right there in the middle of the festive spectacle.

I remember looking on with so much respect at government ministers such as Rafidah Aziz, Samy Vellu and the man himself – Dr. M – in their dark blue t-shirts. I felt a sense of pride because my parents were both government servants too.

My dad always shared stories of how he was on duty on that August night in 1957, what the atmosphere was like and I felt deeply connected to the history of our nation. My mum never failed to tell me the trials and tribulations of an uncle who was in the police force prior to

and how he put his life on the line to fight for our independence.

My love for our country was so profound that it was hard to describe. All I knew was that I wanted to continue serving her as how my parents did and to fight for her when needed, just like my uncle.

So it's surprising that I don't really know when that loving sense of belonging started eroding.

Maybe it started with Ops Lalang, when I saw family friends arrested. These were good people who were detained without a trial.

It shocked me.

Maybe it was when I first started hearing the word "pendatang" and I started feeling insecure.

Maybe it was when it was drummed in to all of us that there are some people who are more spe-

cial than others, that they had special rights and privileges we must never question. This puzzled me, and I asked my mum if it was like apartheid in South Africa.

She said no, but I wasn't convinced.

It could have also been when we started noticing that Dad's Muslim colleagues were suddenly not comfortable to dine at our home anymore after years of jolly feasting for Christmas and other celebrations.

I can't pinpoint when I finally realised that when we were "home", we were divided as Muslims and non-Muslims, but when we were overseas we were collectively Malaysians.

In the late 80s, I suddenly found myself saying goodbye to a lot of school friends who were then emi-

grating to New Zealand, Australia and Canada with their families for a "better future".

I remember Dad's friend coming over with migration forms, encouraging my dad to uproot our family and settle in Wellington.

Dad told him, "There's no place like Malaysia lah. You will still be a second-class citizen no matter where you go."

His words haunted me. Why am I a second-class citizen in my country of birth?

Soon Merdeka Days came and went as just like any other public holiday. If anything, it slowly became a poignant reminder of the superficiality of patriotism in Malaysia.

We are all Malaysians when it comes to taxes but for everything else we are non-Bumiputeras and

non-Muslims.

We live under the same flag but for some of us we have been told to feel "grateful" to be "allowed" to live in this country our forefathers spilled blood, sweat and tears to build.

That August night in 1957, people from all walks of life, creed and religions came together to become an independent country. Sixty years on, we are a divided and fragmented nation, having fallen far from the ideals our beloved founding fathers dreamed of.

We are governed today by race-based politics and the rising tide of Islamisation that is affecting not just Muslims but non-Muslims as well.

Malaysia is finally on the map, but for all the wrong reasons.

"Kleptocracy" is a new word that has crept into our daily vocabulary and never before in the history of Malaysia has the US Department of Justice been followed so fervently by Malaysians from all walks of life waiting with bated breath for the other shoe to drop.

Before penning this column, I asked my social media followers what their hopes are this Merdeka. The general consensus was for

change and justice; liberty for those wrongly behind bars and for greedy thieving villains to receive their just deserts. I wondered just how far off course we have veered as a nation from the day we gained Independence.

I still believe though that Tunku Abdul Rahman's proclamation of Independence at Merdeka Stadium is relevant, if not more important than ever today.

"Let no one think we have reached the end of the road. Independence is indeed a milestone, but it is only a threshold to a higher endeavour; the creation of a new and sovereign State...one that is inspired by the ideals of justice, liberty; a beacon of light in a disturbed and distracted world."

This Merdeka Day, instead of wishing, ruminating and complaining, let us make a commitment to strive daily for justice and liberty and to always support those who do, however flawed they may be.

No matter how fragmented we are today, no matter how disappointed we are, I truly believe there is always hope.

Hope is precisely why I have chosen to remain in Malaysia despite

being offered a "better future" elsewhere.

Hope is why I work for the current state government. They do not view me as a "second class citizen" and looked beyond gender, race and religion to hire me for the job that I do now.

In 1952, Tunku forged an alliance between the Malays, Indians and Chinese that went on to win the 1955 general election with an overwhelming majority. Now in 2017, we have forged an alliance of hope striving for liberty, justice and equality. Who is to say we cannot achieve a similar victory for Malaysia at the upcoming elections? After all, as Tunku said,

"We are all Malaysians. This is the bond that unites us. Let us always remember that unity is our fundamental strength as a people and as a nation."

Socrates sums it up perfectly, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

If you are a true patriot, it is time to unite and start building a new Malaysia, the Malaysia that was meant to be in 1957.

*Cecelia Alphonsus is the Chief Editor of SelangorKini, an anak Selangor fostered by Perak but undisputedly a true blue third generation Malaysian of mixed ethnicity.*

**All talk on Islamic States is just an empty dream. No man in his right sense would accept a nation which bases its political administration on religion, and in a country like Malaysia with its multiracial and multi-religious people, there is no room for an Islamic State.**

Tunku Abdul Rahman

**We must each always think first of Malaysia, of the national need and least of ourselves...Everyone must try to help and see that the people are one-minded, with loyalty and one aim, to make Malaysia – the land we love – a happy abode for all of us. If we all do this then we can guarantee liberty, security, prosperity and happiness for the future.**

Tunku Abdul Rahman

# Najib fears the perfect storm, Azmin will bring the rain



BY YIN SHAO LOONG

I was recently in conversation with diplomats, journalists and an Umno office-bearer. Conversation naturally turned to when the general election would be held. The consensus everyone came to was that it would be next year and there are compelling reasons to support it.

We are in a period of tremendous openness and fluidity, a situation where any number of political scenarios are possible. This is why Najib Razak hasn't called an election yet.

With the recent emergence of Parti Pribumi Bersatu, led by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malay electorate is more split than it has ever been. Over the last 20 years, the number of opposition parties contesting against Umno in Malay-majority seats has trebled as PAS was joined by Keadilan and now Pribumi.

Of course, Umno can retain its seats if the opposition parties fail to unite and instead contend against both Umno and each other in multi-cornered fights. This is the bitter lesson of Malaysian elections that has driven opposition parties into coalitions time and again.

Since 1998, PAS, DAP and Keadilan have been in and out of coalitions with each other, from Barisan Alternatif to Pakatan

Rakyat and now Pakatan Harapan (sans PAS). Every time the parties united and fought straight one-on-one fights against Barisan Nasional, they were able to increase their seats. Every time they fell apart, BN gained more seats.

We are now in a transitional situation. The opposition parties are in partial unity and Umno is wracked with crises of confidence and popularity, a consequence perhaps of being led by the most unpopular Prime Minister in living memory.

Najib fears the scenario where

Umno will face a straight fight – one-on-one – against an organised opposition formed by Keadilan, DAP, Pribumi, Amanah and PAS. This is the outcome that will guarantee maximum loss for Umno, a “Malay Tsunami” that will pave the way for a change in federal government.

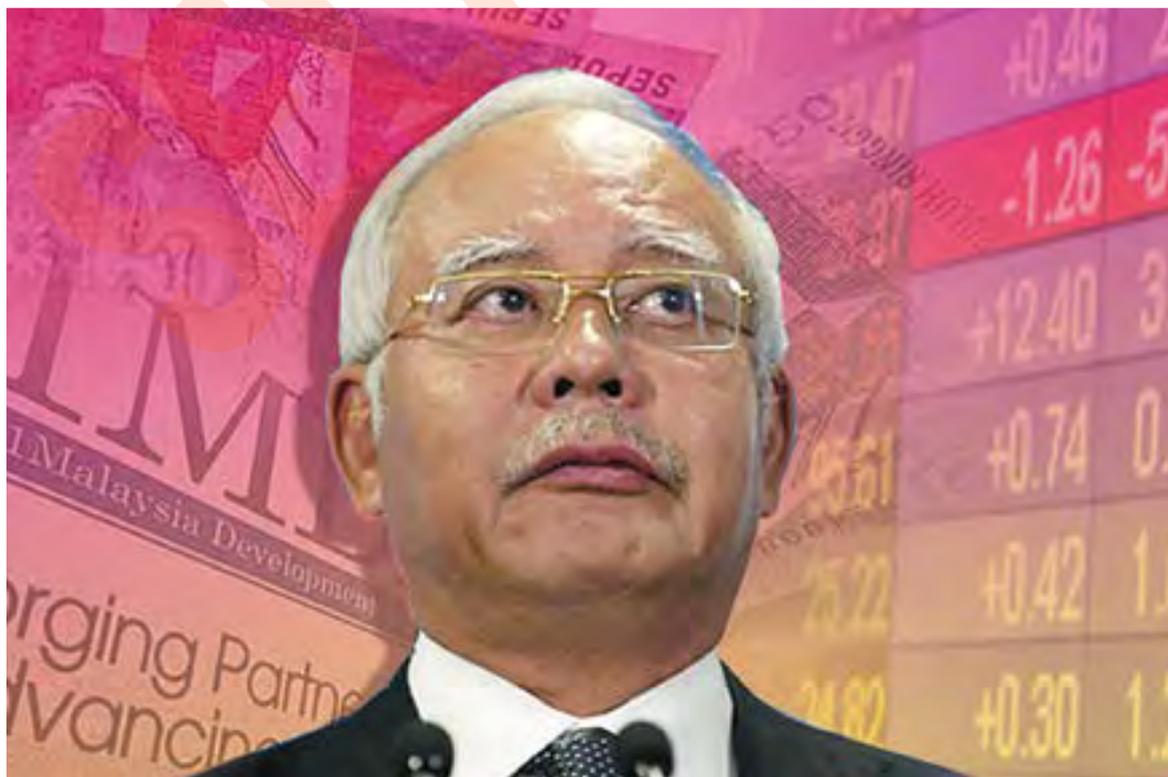
While Najib has made great progress in bringing PAS closer to Umno and away from the rest of the opposition, this process is far from complete due to internal resistance within PAS. Najib needs to deliver a big win in order to re-

main in power.

He is cautious, he is cunning, and he wants all the pieces to fall into place before he risks calling for a general election.

There remains a chance for an electoral deal to be struck between Keadilan and PAS, at least. This is in the self-interest of both parties as they are both competing for Malay ground currently in Umno's weakened grasp. If they can reach an electoral accommodation, it is possible that they could deny Umno twenty or more seats.

**Umno can retain its seats if the opposition parties fail to unite and instead contend against both Umno and each other in multi-cornered fights. This is the bitter lesson of Malaysian elections that has driven opposition parties into coalitions time and again**



It is also expected that Keadilan will cede some seats it traditionally contests to Amanah and Pribumi. Negotiations between Keadilan and PAS could be extended to ensure that Amanah and Pribumi survive and prosper beyond the general election. DAP is the one opposition party that does not face the problem of multi-cornered contests (save one or two seats) with Umno and PAS precisely because they cater for a different community.

While some of Keadilan's coalition members in Harapan are leery of an alliance with PAS, they

## Under Mohamed Azmin's leadership, Selangor PAS has been a constructive part of a state government that has provided a slew of people-centric policies and welfare initiatives

must recognise that it is Keadilan's prerogative to do so for mutual prosperity, just as it is certainly Pribumi's to negotiate in Kedah, for example. Both Keadilan and Pribumi can be members of Harapan while working out productive non-aggression pacts with PAS.

That said, emotions are still raw in the wake of the breakup of Pakatan Rakyat and it seems unlikely that PAS could comfortably rejoin its former comrades as a member of Harapan anytime soon. However, a coalition-plus arrangement where opposition parties contesting in Malay-majority seats work out an electoral arrangement is certainly both possible and sensible.

This would firm up straight fights in Malay-majority seats and pave the way for throwing Umno out of the federal government. There is some 30% of the Malay vote that is firmly with PAS. Dislodging Umno from the federal government will not happen without support from this bloc.

It is precisely this electoral strength that Keadilan's Deputy President Azmin Ali has been trying to court because, with one-to-one fights conducted under



the kinds of electoral irregularities and distortions raised by BERSIH, there is a 60% chance that BN could lose its majority in Peninsular Malaysia. This would be a game-changing outcome.

Failure to work out an opposition deal guarantees that both Keadilan and PAS will lose seats. The additional Malay support brought by Pribumi would be cancelled out in the event of a three-cornered fight with PAS and Umno. Amanah and Pribumi could be wiped out as electoral forces. UMNO will walk out the victor.

Keadilan experienced this in 2004 when they were reduced to a single seat. These lessons are hard learned and Mohamed Azmin is well aware of them since

**If Anwar and Mahathir can shake hands and stand on the same leadership lineup once again for the good of the country, then we should expect nothing less from any other politician**

he has been with the party from day one. It was a similar experience with the Asri Muda fiasco that made the late Tok Guru Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat such a hardliner against a PAS-Umno dalliance. Many in the PAS grassroots remember this and leaders ignore it at their peril. Both PAS and KEADILAN recovered ground once they entered into a coalition with each other and DAP. It is no surprise that pragmatic PAS leaders in Kedah, Kelantan and Selangor want to link up with the rest of the opposition.

We also need to recognise that under Mohamed Azmin's leadership, Selangor PAS has been a constructive part of a state government that has provided a slew of people-centric policies and welfare initiatives.

Three-cornered fights would carry a 75% chance of BN winning back a two-thirds majority in Parliament, which brings with it the power to amend the Constitution and the psychological confidence to do so.

Najib has proven himself one of the most illiberal Prime Ministers we have ever had, and proudly so. He repealed the dreaded Internal Security Act only to restore it, with strengthened powers, in the National Security Council Act, the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (SOSMA), and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA). I shudder to think what damage he would wreak on our nation's legal foundation, the Federal Constitution, with only a threadbare Parliamentary opposition to counter him. Today's youth will have to grow up under

both authoritarianism and economic stagnation.

Politics is the art of the possible; it is also the art of compromise. Politics also involves putting the interest of the nation ahead of personal feelings.

There are sore feelings between former comrades that could impede unity, but everyone needs to take a lesson from the example of Anwar Ibrahim and Mahathir. If, after all that has happened, Anwar and Mahathir can shake hands and stand on the same leadership lineup once again for the good of the country, then we should expect nothing less from any other politician. Leadership involves sacrifice, and personal feelings should be the first thing placed upon the altar.

Anyone who believes that victory is possible in a three-cornered fight with Umno is letting sentiment cloud proven experience and reliable polling. Harapan members must ask themselves: who is the number one enemy, Umno or PAS?

We need to put hurt feelings aside and look at things objectively: straight one-to-one fights offer the best way to defeat Umno and ensure it remains defeated. While Najib hesitates, negotiations should go on as long as possible and to the greatest possible extent.

Najib fears the perfect storm. Azmin's duty to his party, his state, and his nation is to bring the rain.

*Yin Shao Loong is the Strategic Communications Director of the Selangor Menteri Besar's Office*

# Collaborate to strengthen Smart City agenda

BY LIZAWATI MADFA

**SHAH ALAM** - Selangor and Penang have agreed to share views and experiences in an effort to strengthen the Smart City agenda in both states.

Penang State Government Exco Chow Kon Yeow said although he has started Penang Smart City initiatives, he is still keen to learn what Selangor is doing to enhance the effort.

"This meeting is a preliminary effort that will lead to official cooperation in the future," he said during his welcome speech at the official meeting of both State Governments in Penang recently.

Education, Human Capital Development, Science, Technology and Innovation Exco Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad led the Selangor State Government's delegation to Penang in a series of official visits from August 14 to August 15.

Nik Nazmi said the State Government is confident that through the sharing of the Smart City agenda, the relationship between both states can grow closer.

"Selangor launched the



Smart Selangor Blueprint last year and has embarked on several initiatives including solid waste management, Smart Selangor WiFi, road repair through Waze application and Smart Selangor Command Centre.

"So, both parties have some

basis of sharing," he said.

At the same meeting, Penang Local Government Department Head, K Vishantini also gave a presentation regarding Penang Smart City, its initiatives and plans.

Meanwhile, Smart Selan-

gor Programme Management Office Project Head, Suhaimi Mohd Tahir explained the Smart Selangor Blueprint content and ongoing initiatives.

Earlier, the State Government delegation visited Penang City Council CCTV Command Centre

and Penang Digital Library.

The delegation also had the chance to listen to Aspen Group's presentation on Aspen Vision City to be built in Batu Kawan, which employs smart solutions as its development basis.

## MBSA expects RM133.2 million tax revenue

**SHAH ALAM** - The Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) expects a total of RM133,271,090.03 assessment tax revenue to be collected for the second term of 2017, involving 246,072 property owners.

MBSA Corporate and Public Relations Head, Shahrin Ahmad said property owners have the chance to pay their taxes before or on August 31 to avoid any enforcement action.

He said that there are 44 payment channels provided, including the Main Counter at Wisma MBSA and Branch Offices at Kota Kemuning, Sungai Buloh and Setia Alam.

"Property owners are reminded to perform their responsibilities by paying assessment tax to help MBSA manage domestic waste collection, clean areas and maintain public infrastructures such as roads, road-lights, drains and build more public and recreational parks.

"It also helps MBSA to manage Shah Alam more effectively and efficiently ultimately bringing comfort, well-being and harmony to the community," he said in a statement.

Besides the main counter, property owners can also pay their tax at all Selangor Local Authority Counters by cash only or at local agencies such Post Offices for Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya areas.

It can also be paid at all Bank Simpanan Nasion-



al, Ambank and Bank Muamalat branches by cash only, while at Agro Bank, Affin Bank, Bank Islam and EON Bank branches by cash or cheque.

Payment by cheque, postal order, credit card and charge cards like Master Card, Visa, American Express and Dinners Club are also accepted.

Payment through JomPAY can be done by entering the biller code: 7567, new account number for Ref-1 and telephone number for Ref-2 followed by the amount to be paid.

To facilitate property owners, MBSA also provides review services and online tax balance payment through [eps.mbsa.gov.my](http://eps.mbsa.gov.my).

For any questions on assessment tax, the public can contact MBSA Finance Department, Revenue Management Section at 03-5522 2881 or 2882 or email [cukai@mbsa.gov.my](mailto:cukai@mbsa.gov.my).

## Selangor formula can boost nation's economy

**SHAH ALAM** - The Federal Government would be able to increase its income if it applies the State Government's formula in its administration.

Selangor Economic Advisor's Office CEO, Dr Fahmi Ngah said that the comparison between the average annual income growth in Selangor in 2015 and 2016, which was 10.4%, compared to federal level, which reduced to 0.6%, was ample proof of Selangor's successful formula.

He said Selangor is also projecting its revenue growth at 13% compared to the federal government's meager 0.8% this year.

"This means that Selangor is able to formulate new revenue generation initiatives such as better revenue collection, no corruption and investments with better returns.

"Selangor also usually allocates bigger development expenditure annually compared to the federal government. For instance, for 2017, it is 52% of total annual expenditure compared to only 18% at the federal level," he said to SelangorKini.



Fahmi, who is also Smart Selangor Delivery Unit (SSDU) Deputy Director, said that the formula applied by State Government is showing results as the state is able to register a much better economic growth rate.

When asked about the prospects of Selangor's economic growth rate in 2018, Fahmi again expressed his confidence in Selangor's ability to record healthy earning growth.

"I am confident we can achieve a better growth rate in 2018 and the following years if the State Government dares to invest in new industries such as biotechnology, e-commerce, halal, smart cities and aerospace," he said.



# Biotech industry booms in Selangor

BY NORHAYATI UMOR

**SHAH ALAM** – The Selangor Bio Bay (SBB) Biotechnology Development Project is capable of making a significant positive impact globally, said Investment, Small & Medium Industries, Trade and Transport Exco Dato' Teng Chang Khim.

Teng said this was due to the fact that the project is the biggest in the region and is focused on biotechnology industry.

He said the 1,070 acre project is something that the State Government and Selangor citizens can be proud of.

“There is no better industrial location that has specific themes like Selangor. This industrial project that focuses on biotechnology is the biggest in the world, and will therefore create a big impact on a global scale,” he said.

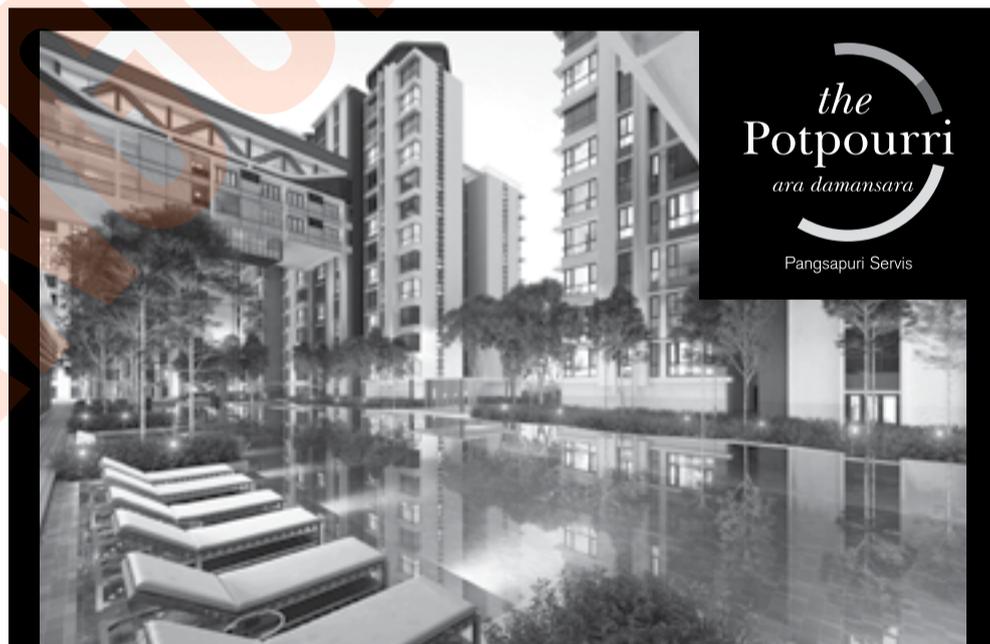
Teng said that SBB not only will focus on industry but there will be mixed development as well.

“We will develop research and development (R&D) centres and not only as investors to build their factories here,” he added.

The State Government is currently exploring opportunities to attract strategic high impact investors, including those in the aerospace, automotive, biotechnology and halal industries.

In the 2017 Budget, the State Government has suggested to prepare seed capital worth RM10 million to fund biotechnology R&D at Bio Bay, Pulau Indah.

SBB will be developed to cover mixed development in three precincts in a span of 20 years in stages with a gross development value of RM5.5 billion.



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# Selangor reclaims priceless heritage building

BY NORHAYATI UMOR

Unbeknown to many, the Selangor state government, under the leadership of Dato' Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, has recently taken ownership of a historical building right in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

The building, formerly occupied by the Malaysian Industrial Court, was built in way back in 1905 and is one of the many heritage buildings that make up the historic city centre of Kuala Lumpur. Located along Jalan Mahkamah Persekutuan, near Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur the building is estimated to be worth billions of ringgit.

According to historical records, the Industrial Court of Malaysia was set up in 1940 under the Industrial Court Enactment NMB 12/1940, but it did not function due to the Japanese invasion.

During the Communist Emergency, worker unions operated illegally and many union leaders were influenced by subversive communists.

In 1948, the Industrial Court Ordinance was introduced to pave the way towards the establishment of an organised arbitra-



tion system and for the first time, workers' unions were registered under certain conditions.

In 1965, the Essential (Prohibition of Strikes and Proscribed Industrial Actions) Regulations 1965 was drafted and enforced. The country's national security faced threats during the Indonesian Confrontation from 1965 and 1967 and the ongoing the communist insurgency. As such,

all industrial action in the public service was banned and regulations were drafted to solve industrial disputes in essential services.

Industrial dispute arbitration was conducted by the Industrial Arbitration Tribunal for essential services, while disputes for services not classified as essential would be handled by the Industrial Court through voluntary arbitration.

Drafting the Industrial Relations Act

In 1967, the Industrial Relations Act was passed with the introduction of compulsory arbitration. The act, which is still in use, was amended several times since then, the last being in 2007.

The Industrial Court has jurisdiction to determine the outcome for dismissal involving employees if referred to by the Human Resource Ministry.

The Industrial Court currently has two main functions, arbitration involving the process of set-

**The Malaysian Trade Union Congress suggested that the historical building that formerly housed the Malaysian Industrial Court should be conserved due to its significant heritage value and its unique place in the country's workers' history**

tling industrial disputes under the Industrial Relations Act 1967 and collective agreements, including registering and acknowledging collective agreements so that they are legal.

Last year the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC) wanted the historical building to be retained as a symbol of pride for workers who attended their cases in pursuit of justice.

MTUC felt that the function and motive should be continued because of the symbolism it provides to workers, in addition to conserving the heritage value of the building and its place in the country's workers' history.

The official owner of the building is the Selangor State Government Secretary, effective from 1984.

Recently, Mohamed Azmin said that the illustrious building would be upgraded and maintained by the State Government.

He said that suggestions to convert the building into a museum or a hotel were being studied.



# Sultan pleased with SEA Games preparation



BY ERMIZI MUHAMAD

**BUKIT JALIL** - His Royal Highness Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah recently conducted an official visit to the Bukit Jalil National Stadium on August 15.

The Sultan's visit, which was in part to monitor the final preparation process for the 2017 Kuala Lumpur South East Asian Games (KL2017), was accompanied by Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar and Youth and Sports Ministry Deputy Chief Secretary (Strategic), Nik Abdul Kadir Nik Mohammad.

His Majesty was satisfied with the country's final preparations for the organisation of KL2017, according to Malaysian Stadiums Board CEO Azman Fahmi Osman, who also accompanied the visit.

"His Majesty was very proud of the achievement and final preparations that are being made at the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex, including upgrading and improvement work.

"The Sultan said that it was a positive development for other stadiums and we are very thankful and grateful for his trust in this matter.

"Our upgrading efforts, which is of international standard, is yet another achievement for our country," he said.

## Visit Klang Year 2017 a success

**KLANG** - The Royal town of Klang, which was the capital of Selangor at one time, is now the most important tourist destination in Selangor due to the increasing number of tourists annually.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Yang Dipertua, Dato' Mohamad Yasid Bidin said since last July, almost five million visitors were recorded in the Klang district in conjunction with Visit Klang Year 2017.

He said the Heritage Walk, Royal Museum and Guan Yin Temple are some of the most popular attractions that contributed to the increase in tourists.

"Based on data recorded, the Sultan Abdul Aziz Royal Gallery registered 5,600 tourists; GM Klang wholesale store recorded 1.3 million visitors and Boustead Cruise Centre received 130,000 visitors.

"Meanwhile, Pulau Ketam recorded 2 million visitors, the City Heritage Tour recorded 1.3 million visitors and Shah Alam Palace recorded 3,500 visitors," he told SelangorKini.

Yasid said he considered Visit Klang Year 2017 a success as the number of visitors has exceeded the set target.

"So far, the number of visitors

in conjunction with Visit Klang Year 2017 has been very encouraging. We also formed a Tourism Sub-committee to help attract more people to visit Klang," he said.

Yasid added that the standard of cleanliness and Klang River's conservation played a very important role in the effort to promote Klang as a tourism product.

He said tourist arrivals increased when Klang, including the Klang River itself, began to offer a more attractive and clean atmosphere.

The interesting activities going on this year round include Royal Klang Town Heritage Walk, Jom Berkelah, 'We Love Klang Treasure Hunt', Pulau Ketam tour, 'selak tirai' fishing competition, Klang Arts Festival, Jambatan Kota photography contest, classic bicycle ride and We Love Klang Food Festival.

Klang has many tourist attractions, such as the Alam Shah Palace, the Royal Gallery, the Royal Klang Heritage Walk and Boustead Cruise Centre.

In 2015, the district received over 5.2 million visitors, which increased to 7.9 million visitors in 2016.



BY NORHAYATI UMOR

## The highs and lows of KL2017

**SHAH ALAM** - The incident involving the upside-down Indonesian flag printed in the souvenir book of the Kuala Lumpur 29th South East Asian Games (KL2017) has left a lasting impact on the games. The books containing the mistake, with the white stripe on top and the red on the bottom, were distributed at the opening ceremony of the games on August 19. The incident got widespread public attention not only in Malaysia but also was reported by media outlets in the region, including JawaPos.com and riaupos.co with headlines such as 'Bendera Indonesia Terbalik di SEA Games 2017, Imam Nahrawi murka serta Merah Putih Terbalik, Indonesia Protes Malaysia, Begini Tahapannya...'

Although Putrajaya has apologised for the incident, it has not calmed some Indonesians, including IT experts who reportedly hacked 27 Malaysian websites, according to media reports.

In fact, an Indonesian political party, Partai Persatuan Pembangunan, urged the Malaysian government to take legal action against the organisers who they

allege were trying to subvert the original goal of KL2017 of strengthening ties between countries through sports.

Meanwhile, the sepak takraw national squad were unable to capitalise on home advantage, managing only to win the bronze medal, losing 0-3 to Thailand in their last match. Sepak takraw is easily the second most popular sport in the country, yet the national team went down tamely in such a humiliating manner.

Thailand manager Thawat Kumutpongpanich himself suggested that Malaysia hold more championships to unearth more talent for the development of the sport.

In archery, national archer Khairul Anuar Mohamad had to be satisfied with a silver medal, losing 6-2 in the individual finals due to some issues with his arrows.

His failure to clean his arrow within the stipulated time was one of the main reasons that cost him the gold. He had previously performed well during the qualifying rounds, creating three championship and national records in the morning of August 19.

On the other hand, the Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and his horse Rtes Annaversary not only succeeded in winning the gold in the individual category endurance race but set a new SEA Games record, beating the previous record by nearly three hours.

His performance at the Terengganu International Endurance Park (TIEP) Lembah Bidong, Setiu brought a total of two gold and one silver medals.

Not only was it the first time that Sultan Mizan won the gold in



**Equestrian (Endurance)**

this event, he made history by being the first sultan to compete in the SEA Games.

To top it off, the national netball squad emerged victorious over rivals Singapore. The clash between these two close rivals in the finals was like a repeat of their previous meeting, when Malaysia lost 43-46, two years ago.

However, the team did not squander the chance to bring back the gold medal this time around.



**Sepak Takraw**



**Netball**

## Milo-MBPJ Youth Open Tennis Championship returns

**PETALING JAYA** - Over 200 youth from all across the nation are expected to participate in the 28th Milo-MBPJ Youth Open Tennis Championship that will take place from August 26 to August 30.

The championship is certified by the Lawn Tennis Association of Malaysia (LTAM) as a national youth ranking championship.

This means that every participant who joins the championship will qualify for points that will be included in the LTAM ranking.

The championship is divided into four categories, including Boys' Individual, Girls' Individual, Boys' Doubles and Girls' Doubles

for participants aged eight till 16 years.

It will be held at four locations, including Kompleks Sukan MBPJ, Kelana Jaya; SS 3/14, Kelana Jaya, Kompleks Sukan PKNS, Kelana Jaya and Kompleks Sukan Astaka, Petaling Jaya.

The championship, which began in 1990, offers cash prizes totalling RM7,620 and medals and sponsor gifts.

It is fully supported by the Selangor State Sports Council and is sponsored by Nestle Products (M) Sdn Bhd (MILO) along with F&N Beverages Marketing Sdn Bhd (100 plus) and Amer Sports Malaysia Sdn Bhd (WILSON).

