

# KERATAN AKHBAR 8 NOVEMBER 2019 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR	MUKA SURAT

## The Star

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    Guidelines on illegal hostels being planned



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Amirudin tabling Selangor's Budget 2020 at the state assembly. On his right is Teng.

# RM300mil for six-year **Smart Selangor initiative**

By OH ING YEEN

MORE than 50% of Selangor's Budget 2020 is focused on developing infrastructure towards meeting its Smart State 2025 vision. Mentri Besar Amirudin Shari said the state spent RM47mil three years ago and next year, RM50mil has been allocated for the

"It is estimated that RM300mil will be allo-cated in the next six years for the Smart

"It is estimated that RM300mil will be allocated in the next six years for the Smart State programme.

"There are a few ways to boost investments and spur the economy, such as the aerospace industry," he told reporters after tabling the budget at the Selangor state assembly.

Amirudin announced a frugal budget of RM2.33bil for 2020 last Friday.

It was reported that the amount was slightly lower than 2019's budget of RM2.33bil for 2020 last Friday.

It was reported that the amount was slightly lower than 2019's budget of RM2.5bil and the RM3.12bil for 2018.

Of the RM2.33bil, 51.44% amounting to RM1.2bil and the RM3.12bil for 2018.

Of the RM2.33bil, 51.44% amounting to RM1.2bil is allocated for development costs.

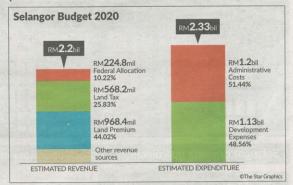
The state's Budget 2020 will focus on five main trusts – boosting the state economy, education, safety, health and social aspects. In line with the theme Selangor Negeri Unggul, Kehidupan Bermartabat, Budget 2020 was developed based on the following strategies, namely generating and empowering state economic growth, providing top education agenda, establishing a safe and healthy state, and environmental and social sustainability.

The estimated revenue for 2020 is RM2.2bil with land premium as the main contributor at RM968.40mil (44.0%), followed by land tax at RM568.21mil (25.83%), and federal allocation of RM224.84mil (10.22%).

## Smart Selangor

To achieve Premier Smart State by 2025, Amirudin said the state government would continue with its Smart Selango initiative. This is to be done by developing smart solutions and an integrated platform between the local authorities and state departments, improve quality of public secu-rity monitoring, and the state government's digital infrastructure.

MB: State seeks support of investors, private sector to match allocation



As such, the state is allocating RM300mil for the Smart Selangor initiative for six years with RM50mil for 2020 alone.

"We are confident that investors and the private sector will support this effort by matching the sum at a ratio of 1:1, making the funds RM600mil," he said.

Commenting on the budget, Selangor investment, industry and trade, small and medium industries committee chairman Datuk Teng Chang Khim said Smart Selangor was the highlight of the state's Budget 2020.

"RM300mil is allocated for a span of six years, at RM50mil per year, this is the highest amount by any state government for such a project," he said.

Among the things to look out for are facial recognition cameras, upgrades to traffic management, and amenities for a cashless society.

"Each council will have 1,000 cameras installed. It can help reduce the crime rate.

installed. It can help reduce the crime rate. There will be a date and command centre. "With a computing cloud, it can be con-

nected to JPJ (Road Transport Department) and the police," he said, adding that this was not an ad hoc project but a comprehensive plan.

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Teng said a 243ha infra-ready land in Sepang has been identified for the electronic and electrical sector.

"We will collaborate with private developers to promote this area as the single largest dedicated industry area for electrical and electronics," he said.

Teng said an 809ha private land within the 35 belt of Serendah, Subang, and Sepang, has been identified and is set to be developed as the largest aerospace park in the country.

"It will take approximately five years to complete and we hope Selangor will become the aerospace hub in the region," he said.

Since the Smart Selangor initiative was announced in 2016, it has achieved 26% of its goals.

its goals.

Among the achievements include the development of the Intelligent Response Selangor to solve public complaints.



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4 News BRENDA CH'NG and FARID WAHAB at Selangor State Assembly

# Assemblymen tickled by irony of using plastic at meetings

LAUGHTER filled the house after Rajiv Rishyakaran (PH-Bukit Gasing) questioned the presence of single-use plastic water bot-tles at meetings, which was contrary to the state's commitment to curb single-use plas-

states communications titles.

Speaker Ng Suee Lim replied that the state government would make the necessary improvements, gaining the approval of assemblymen who thumped the tables with the bands.

their hands.

This joke arose after Hee Loy Sian
(PH-Kajang) answered a question by Datuk
Rosni Sihar (BN-Hulu Bernam) about the
state's ban on plastic straws.

"Breed on a pure are or meeting previously."

"Based on our exco meeting previously, the state approved the ban on single-use plastics in government buildings, starting with the state secretariat, effective July 1," said Hee, who is also the environment, green technology and consumer affairs, science, technology and environment committee chairman.

chairman.

Hee urged all government officers to take the lead and stop the use of single-use plastics for the public to follow suit.

In relation to this, Jamaliah Jamaluddin (PH-Bandar Utama) asked the state to tackle the use of plastic containers at bubble tea shops mushrooming statewide.

"We are not carrying out any enforcement against eateries still using plastics for now as we are in the education and awareness stage.

we are in the education and awareness stage.

"But there are plans to start enforcement efforts in future.

"For bubble tea operators, we are planning a dialogue with those involved to come up with ways to improve the packaging and find alternative materials to plastic," he said. This year, RM456,000 was allocated to all 12 local councils to carry out green activities to curb single-use plastics.

Another RM20,000 was spent on Karnival to Curb single-use plastics.

Another RM20,000 was spent on Karnival the No Straw" awareness programme involving various parties such as schools and non-governmental organisations.

WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND

# **Guidelines on illegal** hostels being planned

S'gor to check on owners converting their houses for profit

GUIDELINES to address the issue of unlicensed hostels is being drawn up following an increase in such operations from houses in Selangor. Terrace houses, which are illegally reno-

vated and fitted with partitions, are pre-dominant in Subang Jaya, Petaling Jaya and Shah Alam

Shah Alam.
"We are working on the guidelines as fast as possible," said Ng Sze Han (PH-Kinrara).
"Now the respective local councils are in the process of collecting data and we will see what guidelines work for everyone

statewide."

Sze Han, who is also the local government, public transport and new village development committee chairman said this in response to a question from Michelle Ng (PH-Subang Jaya).

Michelle said guidelines for hostels drawn up before 2016 existed but were not used after that.

"Why don't was between these."

"Why don't we just use those guidelines for all other local councils instead of draw-ing up a new one?" she asked. Elizabeth Wong (PH-Bukit Lanjan) also

Elizabeth Wong (PH-Bukit Lanjan) also asked if the new guidelines, once finalised, would be used on existing illegal hostels or would the operators be given amnesty. Sze Han said the guidelines for Subang Jaya, which was localised to the area, might not be suitable for other areas in Selangor. He said the new guidelines would take into account all aspects as it could apply

into account all aspects so it could apply statewide.

statewide.
Unlicensed hostel owners, he said would not be let off the hook easily and would have to toe the line.
"If the operators do not follow the guide-lines, then enforcement action will be taken against them, including asking them to restore the building to its original state," said Sze Han.

He added that owners who turned their homes into hostels without approval from the local council could be fined up to RM25,000 and an additional RM500 for

every offence after the first notice.

On a separate matter, state housing and



Guidelines on illegal hostels are being drawn up by the Selangor government, - Filepic

urban living committee chairman Haniza Talha said owners of Selangor's affordable home project Rumah Idaman Rakyat Selangor were reminded not to rent or sell their properties within the first five years. "Owners who break the rules will face

action.
"There is however an exception where owners can appeal to rent out their unit if they have a good reason such as being transferred for work to another area," she

said.

Haniza said this in response to a question
by Datuk Mohd Imran Tamrin (BN-Sungai
Panjang) and Rajiv Rishyakaran (PH-Bukit
Gasing) who wanted to know if action
would be taken against the rule breakers.
She added that discussions were taking
place on the possibility of legalising this as

part of the sale and purchase agreement.

part of the sale and purchase agreement.
"We are discussing these things with
developers and if this happens, the rule
becomes legally binding," she said.
Haniza said Rumah Idaman was an
improved version of Rumah Selamgorku
where the houses, inclusive of fitting and
furniture, were handed over to purchasers.
The scheme is open to first homebuyers.

The scheme is open to first homebuyers, aged 18 years and above, with a monthly household income of RM10,000 and below. There are two pilot projects in Kajang that are awaiting planning permits. "Action will also be taken against those who rent out the units to foreigners, renovate illegally or turn them into hostels."

vate illegally, or turn them into hostels.
"Our enforcement team will check based on complaints received and take the necessary action," she said.