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**December 16 - 31, 2012** 

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# 'We were right all along'

ATTORNEY-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail should not only withhold prosecution of individuals who have been penalised through the Automated Enforcement System (AES) but also refund all monies paid by those who settled the summons.

Nearly 300,000 summonses has been issued since the AES 1Malaysia cameras were first installed in 14 locations on Sept 23 2012.

More summonses will be issued when the remaining 817 locations, making up a total of 831 throughout the country, are installed with the cameras over the course of the next one year.

"Abdul Gani's suspension of prosecuting motorists penalised under the AES is a vindication of the bold and correct decision by the Penang state government of being the first state in Malaysia to bar AES from being installed," said Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng.

Even though Abdul Gani tried to soften the huge blow to the BN and Federal government's credibility by claiming that the move stems from public concern over "the law and other technicalities" related to the system, it is clear that AES has lost public credibility.

"There should be no more unnecessary delay in putting an end to this sordid scheme of allowing two crony companies to profit based on com-



missions imposed on every traffic summons disguised as enforcement to reduce accidents," Lim added.

Abdul Gani is legally correct that the AES summonses issued by the Road Transport Department were still valid.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha should step in to exercise his powers to cancel these RTD summonses to atone for his support for AES.

"Should Kong not do so, he

should resign for being identified as a discredited supporter of AES, to the extent of vilifying the Penang state government as encouraging accidents to happen.

"The BN government should just not withhold prosecution of summons under the AES but admit that PR was right in abolishing the AES and refund all summonses paid because of public anger at this project," Lim said.



# buletin

# ESCAPE to a fun day out

Story by **Danny Ooi** 

AN old "brownfield" site is now an exciting tourist destination!

"I am pleasantly surprised to see an old 'brownfield' site being transformed into an exciting new tourist destination in just 12 months," Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng told the crowd at the opening ceremony of the ESCAPE Theme Park on Dec 8, at Teluk Bahang..

"As some of you may be aware, this theme park was only an idea of Penang State Government three years ago. This location was a former construction site of the Teluk Bahang Dam of PBA, left idle since the dam's completion in 1999. Today we witness the completion of the RM200 million ESCAPE's first milestone – Adventureplay," Lim said.

Lim was accompanied by his wife Betty Chew and youngest son during his visit to the park.

Also joining them were Sim Leisure Group founder and chief executive, Sim Choo Kheng, Penang State Assembly speaker Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain, State Secretary Datuk Farizan Darus, Penang Water Works (PBA) director Jaseni Maidinsa and Town and Rural Planning director Zainuddin Ahamad.

Together, with some members of the media, the VIPs and assembly members tried out the major attractions such as the "Atan's Leap", a freefall adventure with gentle and secure landing which is a must-try, especially for bungee-jumping enthusiasts.

The tall tower structure consists of three levels of elevated platforms from 13m to the highest at 30m.

"Gekko Tower", which is a set of climbing towers on which participants can choose their path to reach the top of the obstacle, also promises a bucketful of fun.

Lim said it took quite a lot of determination and a high degree of creativity to achieve what was seen today.

"In Malaysia we're more used to copying generic concepts of theme parks or buy expensive 'off-the-shelf' international brands where you only need to have a deep pocket but the RM18 million first phrase of ESCAPE – Adventure-play is a unique creation, it has grown out of the soil of Penang, where originality has played a more

important role than just money.

"The uniqueness of ESCAPE is its idea in promoting visitor wellness and green awareness through fun in a thought-provoking manner. I have particularly enjoyed ESCAPE's quirky approach to creating green awareness, such as the provocative statements around the park. "About this, I was fascinated to see the green grass roof on the recycled buildings and wondered how the cows got up there to graze but then I was told that grass roofs cool buildings and help to absorb rain," he added.

Lim said he knew Sim had been trying to build a theme park in Penang since 2001.

"Sad to say, it's the usual story that everyone knows; his dream of coming back to settle down in his hometown could never come true because he didn't know how our 'system' works. So he went back to build many more theme parks in the Middle East and Europe.

"I am proud that this Penang company is currently also involved in the development of the biggest waterpark in the world in Abu Dhabi - The Yas Island Waterpark and also the Legoland theme park in Denmark.

"And now he's back after the new state government was formed where a businessman does not need to know how the system works because we practice clean and good governance," he stressed.

ESCAPE is set to play an ever-increasing role in drawing visitors to Penang but the benefit to the island do not end there as it provides employment and economic spin-off for Teluk Bahang.

The theme park currently has 114 employees, 80 per cent of whom are from Teluk Bahang. It will employ more than 500 employees in the next five years when other phases are completed.

The town of Teluk Bahang has also been transformed, restaurants and eateries are thriving, taxis are getting better business.

Elaborating further, Lim said Adventureplay is only one of the three main components of ES-

Some visitors trying out an attraction at the Theme Park.

CAPE, Waterplay and Treetop Hotel will be realised in 2014 and 2016 respectively.

"What we see today is only seven acres of the entire 44 acres yet to be realised, so the Penang tourism industry can look forward to more exciting moments in the future.

"We believe that ESCAPE will put Penang firmly on the tourism map, be a favourite spot for locals and allow our many multi-national corporations here to organise their team-building activities."

# Urgent need to decentralise our system of governance

MALAYSIA, though in name a federation, is in practice more akin to a unitary state.

The federal government has power over areas such as utilities, public transport, public housing, social welfare, education and even religion.

"This has led a few political observers to label our country a 'centralised federation'," chief executive officer of Penang Institute Zairil Khir Johari told participants at the welcoming dinner organised by the Forum of Federations on Nov 29 at the Eastern & Oriental Hotel in George Town.

He said: "Not only are we a centralised federation, but in fact a 'super-centralised' one. This is because even within the federal government, power has been increasingly consolidated under one office – the prime minister.

For example, the federal budget for 2013 reveals an allocation of RM14.6 billion for the Prime Minister's Department (PMD), while Penang recently announced that the entire state budget for 2013 will be RM1.1 billion.

"In other words, the PMD employs 43,544 workers (as of

2010). In contrast, President Obama runs the most powerful office in the world with 468 staffers in the White House (as of 2012)."

This irrational allocation of resources is the result of an increasing centralisation of power.

"Today, public transport is no longer run by the Transport Ministry but in fact by the Land Public Transport Commission which falls under the preview of the PMD. The same goes for public housing which is now managed by the Prime Minister's Department via Perumahan 1Malaysia (PR1MA), even though we have a Housing and Local Government Ministry.

"In total, there are at least 52 agencies under the Prime Minister's Department – including the Attorney-General's Chambers, the Election Commission, the Education Service Commission, the Judicial Appointments Commission, the Department of Statistics, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and even Parliament. This list does not include government-linked companies directly controlled by the Prime

Minister.

"There is therefore an urgent need to decentralise our system of governance in order to rationalise the distribution of power," Zairil stressed.

He added it is pertinent to have more discussion and debate on this issue, and especially relevant to understand and learn from the experiences of other federations around the world.

"Take Indonesia for example. After nearly half a century of authoritarian dominance, the fall of Suharto led to a sudden dispersal of authority in what is now being termed as 'big bang decentralisation'," Zairil said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said the chosen topic of discussion, "Service Delivery in Decentralised Systems," is most relevant to Penang and Malaysia as we are now heading into the final stretch before the next general election, the result of which will determine if Malaysia will continue to

maintain a highly-centralised structure of government, or if this power will be dispersed in a logical and balanced manner and finally returned to the people.

"Malaysia was created from the merger of Malaya (comprising 11 states) with Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore to form a federation that was designed to respect the seperate histories and traditions of each state while taking advantage of the strength of the whole group.

"Historically, there are two compelling reasons for why the power structure of the Federation of Malaysia is meant to be devolved.

"Firstly, the preservation of the royal houses in the Malay states and the fact that the Malay rulers continue to play important roles as the head of the respectives states as well as the head of Islam in their states. This constitutional role effectively guarantees their sovereignty over matters of culture and identity, hence maintaing a clear distinction from the central authority.

"Secondly, our country has traditionally had a well established decentralised structure. In fact, the very first democratic elections held in Malaya were local government elections, beginning with the George Town Municipal Council

elections in Penang in 1951. Thus, the earliest political consciousness was developed and centred on local democracy," Lim added.

He said the spirit of federalism has eroded over the last 55 years.

"Local government elections were suspended in 1964 and sub-sequently abolished. Worse, power was increasingly concentrated at the centre, leading to the states losing most of their autonomy to the Federal Government."

Lim said today the federal government controls everything from housing to utilities, welfare and to public transport.

"As a case in point, even bus routes in Penang are controlled 400 km away in Putrajaya."

Summing up his speech, Lim said Malaysia is now at an important juncture of its political history.

"The current system has seen too much authority and power accumulated at the federal level, at the expense of the state and local governments.

"This has resulted in abuse of power, a lack of democratic participation and the weakness in the public delivery system in the country," he stressed.

# State-of-the-art convention centre coming up

Story by **Danny Ooi** 

THE new Penang Waterfront Convention Centre (PWCC), which is expected to open in early 2017, will be another location of choice for MICE catering to business visitors.

"This announcement is timely especially since the Penang government is actively embracing new initiatives that will boost the state's economy," Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said when witnessing the signing of a collaboration agreement between IJM Land Bhd and Suntech Penang.

"PWCC - IJM's RM RM346 million centre to be managed by Suntech, will be an addition to the RM300 million Subterranean Penang International Convention and Exhibition Centre, which will be ready by 2015.

"According to the Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau, the meeting, incentive, conference and exhibition (MICE) sector is drawing big spenders, with reports of a single business visitor in Malaysia spending in excess of RM7,000 per trip, almost triple that spent by leisure visitors," Lim added.

Malaysia's lucrative MICE sector is thriving with international business tourism visitors up by 132 per cent since 2003 and economic value of the sector estimated at RM17.6billion for 2010.

"Since we took over the state administration in March 2008, countless initiatives were implemented that catapulted Penang to being the nation's top state that raked in the highest investments ever in the history of Penang. Clearly all negative talk about Penang's economic decline is untrue when foreign investors give such a strong vote of confidence," Lim added.

There are currently 14 top known convention centres in Malaysia but none of them are located in Penang.

Penang is definitely poised to benefit from the 2 new convention centres - SPICE and PWCC since these centres will not only serve Penang but also IMT-GT (Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand Growth Triangle).

The IMT-GT has grown in geographic scope and activities to encompass more than its boundaries.

Under the agreement, Singapore's Suntech International will design, market and operate the convention centre, located in IJM's the Light waterfront project along the Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu Expressway.

Meanwhile, IJM Corp Bhd CEO and managing director Datuk Teh Kean Ming said Suntech International has a proven track record as an established global business network providing an all-encompassing portfolio of management services and operational expertise as displayed in

their flagship venue - the Suntech Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The convention centre will feature a 10,000 sq m column-free multi purpose hall that can be subdivided or used as a single space for meeting, incentive, conference and exhibition (MICE)



Lim (second from right) with other VIPs posing for a group photograph after the IJM /Suntech signing ceremony.

activities, or converted into a 9,000-seat arena for holding world-class concerts.

Teh said PWCC will serve

local businesses and global investors as a venue for high-level exchanges and networking op-

#### **Growing prosperity of Penangites**

Story by Chan Lilian

THE launch of the new Tian Siang Premium Auto BMW 4S centre in Butterworth on Dec 1 has been described by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng as "a symbolic milestone for the growth of Penang as it demonstrates the recognition of the growing prosperity of Penangites"

Lim, who was at the launch, was greeted by Dr. Gerhard Pils, chief executive officer of BMW Group, Ooi Tian Huat, chairman of Tian Siang Group, Tan Ka Kin, managing director, Tian Siang Premium Auto and board members.

Lim, who is also the Member of Parliament for Bagan, said: "Just as BMW celebrates a new beginning today, Butterworth and Bagan celebrate a new beginning for the first time in 50 years. We all can learn from BMW's vision of uniqueness through diversity, and emphasis of excellence."

The guests at the event were enlightened when Lim told them: "In the last four years, Penang has gone on to become one of the most successful states in Malaysia. We are now the most livable city in Malaysia, first achieved in 2010 and aspire to be an international and intelligent city. To take advantage of economic opportunities available, Penang needs to grow, build, retain and attract human talent.'

He continued: "In 2010, Penang topped investment in Malaysia with inflows of RM12.2 billion and re-

peated that feat in 2011 with a total of RM9.1 billion, contributing 28 per cent of Malaysia's foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2010 and 2011.

Credit should be given to the people of Penang, for this success and making the city livable. This means having all the necessary support and services in place, keeping crime low, providing convenient and affordable public transportation, affordable housing, employment, quality of life. In short, making Penang cleaner, greener, safer and healthier."

There are more than 700 companies operating in the industrial parks in Penang alone and the number is

The state is also fast gaining recognition for being a hub for health and wellness, professional services such as Business Process Outsourcing and Shared Services Outsourcing and medical tourism, to name a few.

From a luxury car dealer's perspective, there are plenty of opportunities in which to tap the potential customer.

"It is thus my hope that we will come to appreciate and value the ongoing efforts of BMW Group Malaysia in leading the automotive industry towards better, cleaner practices as outlined through its global BMW EfficientDynamics strategy. I am confident that these improvements will in turn strengthen Malaysia's economic growth and place Malaysia as a strong and competitive player in the regional and global automotive industries," Lim said.

# Penang set to join CCAC

Story by **Evelyn Joseph** Pix by Chan Lilian

FOR the first time, Penang has been proposed to join the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), an ally of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to solve the problem of environmental crisis.

"We are also very serious on environment issues. We have fully subscribed to the United Nations Earth Summit Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in

Rio de Janerio," said Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng during the opening ceremony of Review and Planning Workshop on Eco Town held at Cititel Hotel on Dec 11-13.

Malaysia was a signatory to the declaration in 1992.

Penang has taken action to commit towards industrial clustering and taken a proactive approach to make the city environmentally friendly, provide an excellent opportunity for the project to guide industrial growth in an environmentally sound manner (using the eco town concept) and encouraging efficient use of re-



Girl Guides in green holding banners on "go green" to welcome the public to the Review and Planning Workshop on Eco Town.

sources, waste minimization and exchange between industries.

During the closing ceremony on Dec 13, state exco for local government and traffic management Chow Kon Yeow said he believes this workshop will help in environmental management, pollution issues and more importantly better efforts to go green.

Penang hopes this scope for the Eco-town will not only cover green town planning and integrated waste management but also expanded to encompass the practice of 3R's, green purchasing, efficient use and conservation of natural resources and air emission controls.

# New office for Penang Women's **Development Corporation**

Story by Evelyn Joseph Pix by **Poh Guek** 

THE Penang Women's Development Corporation received a boost recently when the state government allocated a total of RM2.3 million towards women's development.

Of this amount, RM1.5 million is continued funding of PWDC to indicate the important work it does towards gender mainstreaming, good governance and social status.

PWDC is a state funded organisation set up with a vision towards empowering women in all sectors in order to achieve gender and social iustice

PWDC is managed by a 12-member board directors chaired by the Penang State exco for Women, Family and Community Development.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the PWDC office on Dec 12, Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said: "I dare say that PWDC was built on the back of civil society, with the support of a state government that is progressive and inclusive in outlook and approach.

"On behalf of the Penang state government, I recognise in particular the contribution of dedicated women activists such as Lydia Ong Kok Fooi, exco of the board of directors of PWDC, Chong Eng, Dr Cecilia Ng, Loh Cheng Kooi, Prof Datin Dr Rashidah Shud, Dr Marina David and many more who have given so much of themselves over the years."

PWDC aims to ensure the transformation of Penang based on principles of substantive equality and good governance.



PWDC new office is at Level 47, Komtar.

### Another maid rape reported



Ong (right) and Teoh going through the case articles during her

ANOTHER case of an Indonesian maid being allegedly raped by policemen in Penang on Dec 8 has been reported.

Lydia Ong Kok Fooi, state exco and chairman of the Board of Directors of Penang Women's Development Corporation, said she received a call from a lawyer friend, Teoh Tai Eak, that the case happened in Bukit Mertajam and she was asked to help.

"I called assemblymember Teh Yee Cheu and state exco Phee Boon Poh to look into the matter because I was out of state" said Ong.

"I am doing this case because it is something serious. As an exco member, I have the responsibility.'

She hopes no one will jump to any conclusion and that police will conduct a thorough investigation.



It is wheat harvesting season in Taiwan! (From left) Exco member Law Choo Kiang, Deputy Chief Minister 1 Datuk Mansor Othman and exco member Lydia Ong Kok Fooi visited wheat fields in Taiwan during a working trip. Ong said: "I grew up in the kampung and so did Datuk Mansor. We found it so relaxing to be back here in the countryside. During his childhood, Law helped in their family vegetable business and he also love the kampung lifestyle." Law is the exco member for Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Rural Development and Flood Mitigation while Ong is in charge of Youth and Sports and Women, Family and Community.

# Hotayi's presence shows confidence in Penang

Story by **Danny Ooi** 

MORE than 1,000 employees of Hotayi Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd had a gala time being feted to sumptuous food and an evening of entertainment at their 20th anniversary dinner held at Hotel Equatorial on Dec 1.

Among the highlights of the evening included performances by employees and a display by young budding violinist Rina Koay.

During the function, the company also made a CSR contribution of RM200,000 towards the Buddhist Tzu-Chi Merits Society of Malaysia.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng graced the function. Also present were chairman of Hotayi Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd, Datuk Lee Hung Lung, its general manager Goh Guek Eng and chief executive officer of Phison Electronics Corp, Datuk Pua Khein-Seng.

In his speech, Lim said Hotayi's presence in Penang clearly conveys the management's confidence towards Penang's strength in the manufacturing sector

"Hotayi has experienced high growth and has been present in Penang for the past 20 years. The state has also been the choice of location for many other electronics manufacturing companies, like Flextronics, Jabil Circuits, Venture Manufacturing and Inari to name a few," he added.

He said according to Electronics. Ca Publications (June 2012), the worldwide electronics manufacturing services (EMS) market continued to expand at a very healthy rate of nearly 13 per cent in 2011.

The report also stated that the total electronics assembly value was US\$1.1 trillion (about RM3.5 trillion) in 2011, and will grow to approximately US\$1.5 trillon in 2016 – a 6.8 per cent compounded annual growth rate.

Fuelled by this huge market, Electronics. Ca Publications believe that the EMS industry will grow from US\$413 billion in 2011 to US\$654 billion in 2016.

Lim went on to highlight some of Penang's proudest achievements to date, namely:

\* Penang is top for manufac-



Hotayi Electronics employees having a gala time at their anniversary-do.

turing investment for 2011 with RM9.1 billion recorded. This has made Penang the No. 1 two years in a row since 2010 when it recorded RM12.2 billion. The state contributed 30 per cent of Malaysia's Foreign Direct Investment during those two years. B. Braun has announced that they will be reinvesting RM1.75 billion in Penang over the next three years while Agilent will be investing US\$200 million in 2013.

\* In a global economy filled with debt crisis, Penang recorded a remarkable achievement of reducing its debts by 95 per cent

from RM630 million in March 2008 to RM30 million at the end of 2011.

\* Penang is also the safest state in Malaysia with the highest reduction of 27 per cent in crime index in the country among all states in 2010 and topped the country again for the first six months of this year with crime reduction of 26 per cent.

\* Penang state government's competency, accountability and transparency (CAT) governance for anti-corruption efforts received commendation of Transparency International in 2010,

and earned the distinction of being the best financially managed state in the country for three consecutive years by the Auditor-General.

\* The state government has implemented key approaches to reduce traffic congestion which include:

a) The construction of an undersea tunnel and three major road constructions which will cost the state government RM5-8 billion and is currently tendered out via open tender.

b) Short-term measures to mitigate traffic congestion in Penang involving flyover and road constructions around Jalan Gottlieb, Jalan Masjid Negeri, Air Itam, Jalan Scotland and Tanjong Tokong will cost the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) RM60 million. All these short-term measures will be completed in three years.

In conclusion, Lim congratulated Hotayi Electronics for celebrating its 20th anniversary.

"I am confident Hotayi will continue to break new ground and secure bigger businesses in years to come."

### Taking eco-tourism to higher level

CHIEF Minister Lim Guan Eng in his keynote address at the 7th Asia Pacific Ecotourism Conference (Apeco 2012) held at Eastin Hotel on Nov 29, emphasised the importance of sustainable eco-tourism and the need to maintain a fine balance between the development of the tourism industry in Penang as well as the preservation of the ecosystem.

"We want our visitors to not only visit our beaches, pagoda, Penang Road, but also to wade knee-deep in our padi fields and toil with the farmers on how to plant, cultivate and harvest the rice, while paying for the experience.

"We want the tourist to learn how to cast the fishing net and support the way of life of the fishermen.

"Besides this, we also want the tourist to learn how to pick fruits, feed our farm animals or stay in our farms or even homestays.

"Eco-tourism sites in Penang include the Meromictic Lake, the Jerejak Jungle Trail, Penang Hill, War Museum, the Tropical Fruit Farm as well as the Penang National Park," Lim said.

Meanwhile, president of the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agencies (MATTA) Datuk Mohd Khalid Harun said MATTA had urged the Tourism Ministry to review the approval given to foreign tour operators to conduct business in the country.

"The influx has affected local tour operators. More licences are being issued to the foreign operators. This has resulted in local operators losing out.

"Maybe at the time of the implementation many years ago, the initiative was important to promote our tourism industry," he said.

"We want to know the licensing criteria for the foreign operators. At the same time, we would like to appeal to the ministry to reconsider the legalisation of 100 per cent owned foreign tour companies," Mohd Khalid said.

Deputy Tourism Minister Datuk Dr James Dawos Mamit told the conference that the tourism industry in the country was expected to grow by 24 per cent this year.

He said the ministry was expecting the arrival of 26 million foreign tourists this year compared to 24.7 million last year.

"An income of over RM60 billion is expected to be derived this year as compared to RM58.3 billion last year.

"We are targeting the arrival of 36 million foreign tourists for 2020. This will bring in an income of RM168 billion," he said.

The three-day conference from Nov 28 to 30, themed "Back to Mother Nature", is aimed at helping to market a sustainable eco-tourism sector for the tourism industry.

Organised by MATTA, Apeco is held in line with the growing awareness of the need for conservation and sustainable development, particularly in East Malaysia.

#### Some 1,000 people expected for City Walk 1.1.13



Mohamed Akbar Mustapha (second from left) and other City Walk 1.1.13 organising committee members showing the information and entry form.

SOME 750 people have signed up for the City Walk 1.1.13 which will be held in George Town on Jan 1.

Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) Recreation, Tourism and International Affairs director

Mohamed Akbar Mustapha said the council was targeting 3,000 participants for the event

"The 5km walk would be flagged off from the Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower in Pesara King Edward at 8am.

"Participants would have the opportunity to visit numerous heritage sites in George Town along the route." he said.

The walk is open to those aged 12 and above. However, those below 12 can also take part under the supervision of their parents.

Akbar said there will also be cultural and band performances.

The event is jointly organised by MPPP and the Penang Adventurers' Club. The participation fee is RM5 per person.

Closing date is on Dec 10 or when the targeted 3,000 participation figure is reached.

Registration forms are available for download at http://pac.com.my. For details, call Shariff at 016-4555939 (9am to 5pm) or Ong at 012-4532704 (5pm to 9pm).

# Showers of blessing at Christmas open house Story by Chan Lilian

Pix by Law Suun Ting

WITH Christmas carols ringing in the air and youths performing energetic and modern dances, Penangites, visitors from other states of Malaysia and foreign tourists thronged the Fort Cornwallis to share in the merriment of the Penang State Christmas Open House with the theme, "Jesus, Hope of the World".

Earlier in the evening, rain had caused guests to seek shelter under tents and umbrellas.

But amazingly, when Bishop Emeritus Antony Selvanayagam

of the Roman Catholic Church, who is also the chairman of the Christian Federation of Malaysia (Penang), delivered his opening speech, the skies cleared.

He described it as the showers of blessings.

By the time "God loves everybody!" Chief Minister Lim

Guan Eng was to deliver his speech, the rain stopped and thousands of people gathered around the stage to cheer and

The multi-racial crowd listened attentively as he shared some verses from the Bible.

He said, "This year's theme is Jesus, Hope of the World. I believe the theme is timely and appropriate since Christmas is a week away. Jesus was born into the world to bring hope to a world that is in darkness because of sin. Sin that separates man from God and also man from man. In John 10:10, Jesus says that - The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

He continued: "God wants to give us abundant life, to enjoy a relationship with Him as He is a

> God of love. Sin has corrupted mankind in many ways, Romans 1:29 - They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanders, God haters, insolent, arro-

gant and boastful, they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents, they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Because of this, God desires mankind to be restored back to Him. God is looking for faithful



The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit presented a musical act 'God Speaking' which tells a story of modern people rushing about doing their Christmas shopping and yet, longing for God.

men who will follow the footsteps of Jesus, who will make a stand against ungodliness and corruption, because Proverbs 28: 28, says -When the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding, but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive."

Buletin Mutiara talked to a few church leaders to find out what is the desired message the Christian community wishes to share with the rest of the people.

Bishop Sebastian Francis said: "Jesus brings peace, goodwill, unity and love to the world. Christ is universal and embrace all humankind."

Meanwhile Pastor N. Surendran said the message to the community is that Christians are gifts to the community and they

want to bless them and celebrate together.

Pastor Hwa Jen shared that Christmas celebration is to convey to the community that everyone can come together and to know each other.

"God loves everybody," Pastor Hwa Jen said.

Guests were treated to some great food and drinks while entertaining themselves with the performances by various church groups.

A Christmas Musical Act titled "God Speaking" by the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit told a story of modern people rushing about doing their Christmas shopping and yet, longing for God.

Another show by St Anne's Church captured the attention of the audience with the appearance of St Nicholas who looks like Santa Claus. Choirs from the George Town Baptist Church and other churches made the Christmas mood alive with Joy to the World and other classic hymns.

This is the fifth year the Penang Pakatan Rakyat state government has hosted a State Christmas Open House.

Lim, in ending his speech, said: "We thank God for our beloved country Malaysia, our beloved State and we pray that all its citizens, Christians and non-Christians all pursue unity, multiracial solidarity and peaceful harmony for all regardless of race and religion and that the freedom of religion shall always be pre-

# Civil servants respond to Gaza

Story by Chan Lilian Pix by Law Suun Ting

THE sufferings of the people of Gaza has hit headlines and their cries have not gone unheard.

Reverend Hwa Jen said.

The Penang state government, under the Penang State Secretary Datuk Farizan Darus, had taken the initiative to kick-start a fund for Gaza and successfully collected RM72,480.00.

The amount was handed over on Dec 19 to the chairman of the Palestine Peace Council, Hamidi Abu Hassan, at Komtar.

Before the handover, civil servants spent an afternoon to understand the plight of the people in Gaza.

Ustaz Shaharuzzaman Bistaman, who is a Palestine peace negotiator, showed them video clips and explained the Palestinian issue.

Many of the civil servants shed tears after

watching the videos of the sufferings of the women and children there.

Farizan commended the people who had contributed to the fund and hoped they will continue to contribute.

"You are all getting your bonus and salary and I hope you will continue to contribute generously to help the people in Gaza. Although the money collected so far has been handed to the Palestine Peace Council, we will continue to collect funds and you can all continue to contribute.'

Several government agencies department heads such as Penang Development Corporation, Penang Hill Corporation, Land Office, Penang State Library and others handed over their contributions to Farizan to be given to the peace council.

The contribution is tax-exempted.



(From left) Ustaz Shaharuzzaman Bistaman, Hamidi and Farizan exchanging souvenirs after the event.

# Developer fulfils CSR

Story and pix by Chan Lilian

BACK in the 1980s, long before the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) imposed guidelines for the infrastructure of new townships, a developer had earmarked a piece of land measuring two acres to build a wet market and hawker centre for their pro-

"At that time, we had already planned the amenities for the neighbourhood. However, we didn't develop the place until now because the low-medium cost housings projects were only completed recently. We are doing this as part of our corporate social responsibility," Chan Fock Seng, managing director of Chong Company told Buletin Mutiara.

Chan and his consultant, architect Lawrence Loh, were at the Kompleks Sri Aman when exco member Chow Kon Yeow visited the place on Dec 14.

Loh said: "There are over 1,000 units of low and mediumcost flats in this area. This complex is part of the bigger masterplan. Back in the 1980s, no developers had thought of this but we allocated the land for this. That's why today, we have ad hoc

wet markets in the open, illegal hawkers and all the unhygienic places because there was no zoning and proper ruling and regulations."

Loh pointed out to Buletin Mutiara the special feature of the complex where the ceiling is exceptionally high which allows for natural lighting without the need for lights during the day.

"These passive green designs will reduce the carbon footprint. If we have amenities for the people in the neighbourhood, it will also reduce traffic congestion as people do not need to travel far to reach places like markets and hawker centres,' Loh added.

On Dec 14, exco member Chow Kon Yeow visited the newly-opened Kompleks Sri Aman with assembly member for Paya Terubong Yeoh Soon Hin and several MPPP councillors.

Chow, in commending the developer, said: "This is a significant effort by a private company. They have spent RM4.8 million in this private scheme which does not include the cost of the two-acre land. As the population grows, we must provide the amenities for the com-

T h e Kompleks Sri Aman has a build up area of 33,000 sq ft and houses 143 market stalls and 40 hawker stalls. Four parking lots for the disabled and 100 parking bays are provided together with 135 motor-

cycle parking spaces. What makes the Kompleks Sri Aman stand out is the high ceiling with natural ventilation and

the developer has provided centralized washing bay, recycling area and proper rubbish disposal place. Chan concluded that their

company is happy that they have fulfilled their responsibility of providing over 1,000 low and medium-cost housing to the people which were sold for about RM72,000 - RM75,000.



(From left) Yeoh, Loh, Chan and Chow giving the thumbs-up to the new market and hawker complex.



# State rep's heavy duties

Story and pix by Chan Lilian

BEING the assemblymember for one of the most densely populated areas in Penang is certainly not a walk in the park.

Ask Yeoh Soon Hin, the assemblymember of Paya Terubong, and he will tell you the host of problems the constituency faces.

Yeoh, a first-term assemblymember, has an uphill task to tackle.

"There are 300 blocks of flats, many of them low-cost, in this area. Traffic jams is the biggest problem to solve. Due to the lack of planning by the previous Barisan Nasional administration, there is no proper infrastructure. Markets, parks, roads and other facilities for the benefit and comfort of the people are sorely lacking," Yeoh lamented.

"There is also a lack of good management by the residents' association and those living in the high-rise flats. Some housing areas lack maintenance due to the lack of stringent rules and regulations imposed upon them previously. Some of the low-cost flats are used by foreign workers," he said.

A drive around the low-cost flats will show the area to be rather depressing.

Many of the blocks are in dire need of a new coat of paint.

Rubbish chutes are damaged and certain areas are an eye sore due to the haphazard manner in which illegal tiny stalls are erected.

Yeoh and his service centre helpers are doing their best to deal with the problems.

Some of the flats have applied for the Yes! HAPPY ( Housing Assisted Programme of Penang) allocation to have their flats repainted and repaired.

HAPPY! is a RM50 million allocation by the Penang Pakatan Rakyat State Government to repair, upgrade and renovate low and medium-cost flats.

The Federal Government has set up a fund of RM500 million for low and medium-cost housing schemes by offering to fund 90 per cent of the low-cost flats' upgrading and repairs while the residents bear the rest.

For medium-cost flats, the percentage is 70 and 30.

Unfortunately, such efforts failed because most residents of low and mediumcost flats cannot afford to pay the 10 per cent and 30 cent respectively.

So, the Penang state government will bear the costs for the residents.

The state government will fund up to RM50 million to repair, upgrade and renovate the low and medium-cost flats.

Residents' associations have been urged to apply for the funding from the Federal government immediately so that they can have the repairs done and Yeoh is helping them in this area.

As an assemblymember who has to tackle traffic congestion in his area, Yeoh is working closely with the local authorities to have the roads widened.

"Now new housing projects have to provide wider roads with four lanes. Previously, during the old Barisan Nasional administration, many of the projects were carried out without proper planning to provide good roads. Hence, the traffic congestion is severe. I also hope the Federal government will do something about the public transporta-



Yeoh on his rounds in Paya Terubong.

tion. Where are the extra buses promised? The people here need good public transportation.

Yeoh summed up that times have changed.

Nowadays with the increase in income, people want a better quality of life. Their needs are different, they want more affordable housing with proper infrastru-



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2012年12月16日-31日

# 槟州国阵强打广告若执政恢复自由 若能恢复为何执政时不

报导: 岑健伟

自首相拿督斯里纳吉在12月8日访槟后,中 文报上开始出现打着国阵"蓝色天秤"标志 的自由港广告。数个设计版本的广告打着 自由港"为标题,再以"照亮槟城每个人" "槟城锐变免税天堂"等字眼,给了民众 很美丽的期待及想象空间。

广告底部,也印有国阵标志,而在该标志 旁则打着"给您一个全新的槟城"的广告标 语。再来,广告内也加入不少为国阵背书的 专业人士的意见。

然而,针对这广告,就在《珍珠快讯》抽 样式访问了数名槟城人民后,发现他们的看 法多是大同小异, 那就是既然自由港是个利 民政策,但为何国阵在执政槟州时,未见他 们落实这项计划,恢复自由港呢?

#### 槟城人民有话说

名字: 林财结



名字:胡勤勇 年龄: 23

职业: 市场营业员

看法: 在广告里提供了很多 数据和找来许多专家来给与好 评,在看完广告对我的第一个 印象就是非常好,最主要就是 广告提出了免税以及带动发 展, 也无可否认这概念是利民 的,但若是利民政策,国阵还 不实行呢? 而是他们提出了条 件给我们槟州子民, 如果人民 接受这条件,就要支持他们才 能得到这些所谓的"优惠" 回顾那么多年来, 国阵向我们 许下那么多次的承诺, 但是真 正有多少次是实现这些承诺的 呢? 但我质疑,既然浮罗交怡 已经拥有自由港,那么还需要 恢复槟城为自由港吗?? 我想 说的是槟城子民没有自由港依 然可以生活的很好,但是相反 的浮罗交怡失去自由港后,谁 敢保证不会影响他们的生计? 而两地同时拥有自由港会带来 冲突吗?



看法: 我觉得国阵恢复自由 港的广告是糖果的政策, 许下 承诺时,请把之前所答应的先 实现,不要重施旧计,如果有 意要实行,为什么还要等大 选?等到国阵执政槟城才能实 行呢?



名字: 杨允泉 职业: 文化工作者

年龄: 22

看法: 我个人认为是恢复自 由港是不错的,因为国阵提到 恢复自由港能够带动槟城的经 济, 但是自由港有那么多好 处,为什么不在国阵执政时恢 复呢? 我觉得恢复自由港无疑 是对槟城的旅游业有帮助,但 是槟城已经被列为世界文化遗 产的一部分了,恢复自由港之 后,是否会把槟城变成商业化 的岛屿, 而忽略文化遗产方面 呢?恢复自由港之后,会不会 影响我们槟城文化遗产在世遗 的排名吗?而广告里,就是没 有提及对槟城的文化遗产有任 何的帮助,如果恢复自由港之 后, 槟城古迹是否会步向像苏 丹街的命运呢?



名字: 朱庆良 年龄: 28

计划。

职业:市场营业员

**看法:** 我个人认为,国阵推 行自由港的概念是一项很好的



# 给您一个全新的槟城

自首相拿督斯里纳吉在12月8日访槟后,中文报上开始出现打着国阵蓝色天 秤标志的自由港广告。

第一,可促进槟城的旅游 业,让更多的人来槟城观光, 可促使别的服务行业有个好的 收入。

第二,免税的产品可减轻人 民的负担,特别是一些低收入 的家庭。

第三,可造就更多的就业机 会给人民。

名字:王俊能 年龄: 19 职业: 学院生

**看法:** 我觉得自由港是好,



但是能够实行吗?讲是一回 事,做则是另一回事,如果恢 复自由港了,要人民相信国阵 是可以的,问题是空头支票,

谁都能开?

# TIMSS大马数科水平排名下跌

当马来西亚位于国际数学和科学 评测趋势(TIMSS)的排名,数学 水平从20名降到26名,科学水平从 21名降到32名,副首相丹斯里慕尤 丁还会不会说我们的教育制度好过 美国、英国及德国?

槟州首长林冠英提问, 我国副首 相兼教育部长丹斯里慕尤丁在2012 年3月说,我国的教育制度好过美 国、英国及德国, 当时他选择性采 纳世界经济论坛全球竞争报告的统 计。他的讲法完全被2011年国际数 学和科学评测趋势的报告推翻。

他表示,根据上述报告,马来西 32名。我们的平均数学分从2007年 步,或者他们保持之前的水平。 474分降至440分,科学平均分从 2007年471分降至2011年426分。

"相反地,美国和英国在数学水 507。英美两国的科学平均分别为 533及525,排名第9及第10。两国 的得分及排名皆远远超越马来西亚 育。 (德国没有参与评比)"

林冠英于12月12日发表文告指出,在 亚的数学排名从2007年第20名, 42个参与数学评比及45个参与评比的国 跌到2011年第26名,而它的科学家,马来西亚是六个数理科皆退步的国家 从2007年第21名, 跌至2011年第 之一, 而大多数国家的得分及排名都有进

"数理科成绩退步,反映了多少城市地 区中产阶级父母"用脚及陶钱投票",放 弃国家的教育制度,转向将孩子送入私立 平排名第9和第10,分别得分509及 小学及中学。不幸的是,那些付不起私立 学校高昂学费的家长, 唯有继续把孩子 送到国民学校,接受素质较不理想的教

> "我呼吁慕尤丁认真考虑我国在数理科 排名退步的严重性, 并且收回他指我国教 育制度比英国、美国及德国还要好的言

#### 列表 1: 马来西亚数理科在国际数学和科学评测趋势中退步 (2007年与2011年比较)。

排名	2007 年排名	2011 年排名	排名退步
数理科	20	26	6
科学	21	32	11
平均分	2007 年平均分	2011年平均分	平均分退步
数学		440	34

#### ~~~~ // ~ // ~ // ~ // ~ // ~ 過止教育水平继续下跌

他说,每个人都知道我国的教育水平继 续在下滑,2009年一项针对国际学生的 阅读、数理能力进行的评估显示, 相比起 国外同龄的15岁学生,我国44%学生无法 达致基本的阅读水平,60%不能达到数学 基本水平,43%无法达致科学基本水平, 总体而言,我国15岁学生的能力比国际水 平落后3年。

"我们必须共同弥补教育的差距及缺 陷,我们不只要防止人才外流,也要努力 朝高收入经济体迈进。"

他续称, 在美国, 美国人担心财政悬崖 (fiscal cliff) 会引发影响全球的经济衰 退,马来西亚的人才断崖(talent cliff) 也会阻碍经济成长并削弱我国成为高收 入、知识经济型发达国家的努力。

"除非我们栽培人才、再培训、留住 人才同时吸引新的人才,我们面对的风 险不只是落后于新加坡及韩国,还可能 被邻国如印尼及泰国超越。我们不只要 有最好的、最聪明的,我们也支持高水 平的人才。让我们确保我们的学校和大 学,提供最好的教育,让我们的孩子不 会落后国际水平3年。唯有如此,我们才 能打造绩效文化,许我们的孩子一个光 明的前程。

他说,2011年国际数学和科学评测趋势 (TIMSS) 只确认了2009年的国际学生的 阅读、数理能力评估,就是我国的学生比 国际水平落后3年,我国一半的学生没有 数理的才智及知识运用。

"马来西亚若要成功转型成为先进经 济体, 先决条件就是要有强稳的科学工 艺基础。因此,副首相必须要起草一个 危机蓝图, 以应付我国日益退步的数理 教育水平,否则,我国迈向高科技、高 附加价值及知识密集经济的宏愿将会落 空。

### 甘榜马来由重新粉刷计划完工

### 州政府将继续提升2组屋基本设施

亚依淡区州议员黄汉伟指出, 耗资53万 4525令吉的甘榜马来由A、B两座组屋的重 新粉刷工程终于都完成了, 槟州政府在过 去2年内总拨款大约40万令吉来支付粉刷费 用,加上有商家赞助另外10万7千令吉,甘 榜马来由组屋才能够"焕然一新"

同时也是槟州房屋委员会主席的他说,州 政府也拨出了147万令吉,用作提升该组屋 及周围的基本设施如升降机、邮箱及沟渠 "40岁"的甘榜马来由组屋在内外 都进行提升及粉刷之后, 完全可以媲美新组 屋。

他说,与以往粉刷组屋不同的是,州政府 先向居民收集意见及看法, 然后再重新粉 刷,A座组屋是军装青色,B座组屋则选择了 五颜六色的油漆粉刷。

他说,自2009年开始,他几乎每一个月都 会到甘榜马来由至少2次,也组织了工作团 队以了解该区居民需求, 也常到甘榜马来由 与居民相聚。



黄汉伟与甘榜马来由组屋居民们在A座组屋前合照。

#### 甘榜马来由组屋进行提升工程 / 花费

事项	费用(令吉)
提升2个垃圾房及垃圾房通道	18, 829.00
(A座组屋10米)-竣工	
提升沟渠(A及B座50米)-竣工	39, 990.00
提升升降机前候处及更换邮箱-竣工	111, 290.00
更新B座3架升降机-完成40%	717, 000.00
更换A座3架升降机-竣工	592, 000.00
总数	

#### 甘榜马来由A、B两座组屋重新粉刷费额

1, 479, 109.00

事项	费用(令吉)
B座组屋粉刷计划-2011年开始	275, 000.00
州政府负担80%-22万令吉	
私人界赞助20%-5万5千令吉	
A座组屋粉刷计划-2012年开始	259, 525.00
州政府负担80%-20万7620令吉	
私人界赞助20%-5万1905令吉	
总数	
534, 525.00	

# 槟机场提升工程3次延长竣工期 首长: 月杪若没竣工承包商应受罚



耗资2亿5000万令吉的槟城国际机场提升工程竣工期限3度延迟,槟州首长林冠英促请交通部长拿督斯里江作汉也到机场亲自巡视工程。

耗资2亿5000万令吉的槟城国际机场提升工程竣工期限3度延迟,槟州首长林冠英亲自巡视机场时表达不满并且促请交通部长拿督斯里江作汉也到机场亲自巡视工程;而大马机场控股有限公司也答应,若果承包商再无法定时完工交货,那么就会被罚款,而且是以每日计算。

槟州首长林冠英在大马机场控股有限公司高级总经理拿督阿兹米陪同下巡视槟州峇六拜机场,并且提出了州政府对提升工程的3个问题,那就是提升工程的素质、机场的清洁程度及机场在收到乘客投诉后的应对措施。

林冠英指出,江作汉身为交通部长就应该到槟城峇六拜机场巡视,因为他在国会上承诺提升工程在11月30日前完成,而现在提升工程延迟到12月31日,毕竟提升费不是小数目,而且这也是他的责任,所以他应该到峇六拜机场巡视。

"虽然目前的提升工程已经完成了99%,但是最新限期是12月31日,要是承包商在限期之后还是完成不了,就要面对每日计算的罚款。"

他也建议,希望机场能够增设2台行李扫描机,因为目前的关税局检查站只有一台扫描机,所以乘客们都必须等上长达1个小时而感到不满,因此希望机场能够增设扫描机,以加速该过程。

另外,日落洞国会议员黄泉安则表示,第4闸门原先应该有座升降机提控乘客尤其是行动不便的乘客使用,他促请机场方面能够尽快完成该座升降机,他也会继续监督该工程的进度。

出席者尚包括槟州工程、基本设施及交通委员会主席林峰成行政议员、光大区州议员黄 伟益及班台惹雅区州议员沈志勤。



大马机场控股有限公司总经理拿督阿兹米(右1)答应槟州首长林冠英(右2) ,若果承包商再无法定时完工交货,那么就会被罚款,而且是以每日计算。



槟城国际机场候机室。



槟州政府对槟城国际机场的提升工程提出3个问题,那就是提升工程的素质机场的清洁程度及机场在收到乘客投诉后的应对措施。

### 珍维快讯

# 吉打律組屋粉刷工程动工每名居民只需付182令吉

吉打律組屋重新粉刷工程正式动工,成为槟州发展机构粉刷计划下的第3个組屋单位,并预料将在明年3月18日完全换装。

丹绒区国会议员兼巴当哥打区州议员曹观友指出,槟州发展机构将负责该项粉刷工程达32万8050令吉的80%(约26万2440令吉),剩余的20%费用(约6万5610令吉)则由320户居民分担。

值得一提的是,同时也是槟州地方政府委员会主席的他宣布额外拨款3万令吉来补贴粉刷费用,以减轻居民负担,换言之,每名居民只需承担10.8%,即3万5610令吉粉刷费,相等于每人只需缴付182令吉,而剩余的3万5610令吉则交由居协作为其他设施提升用途。

曹观友在吉打律組屋粉刷工程动工仪式上指出,共22层、360个单位的吉打律組屋由槟州发展机构承建于1986年建竣,是80年代市区重建的计划之一,共有320间住家单位及40间商业单位。

他说,根据1985年分层地契法令,该組屋在去年获得分层地契后已成立共管机构,因此槟州发展机构把管理权移交给居民,在槟州发展机构政策下,居民需要承担20%粉刷费,而该机构已进行公开招标,而得标价是32万8050令吉。

吉打律組屋粉刷计划是继峇央峇鲁玛苏里組屋及玛央組屋后的第三项組屋粉刷工程,玛苏里组屋的粉刷工程是于今年1月19日竣工,而玛央組屋则是刚刚动工。



吉打律組屋重新粉刷工程正式动工,预料将在明年3月18日完全换装。

槟州发展机构曾于1996年重新粉刷吉打律組屋,该組屋在16年后需要再换新装,此外,该机构还耗资约50万令吉,包括于去年12月维修电梯,及即将展开的提升防火配备。

曹观友补充,相信这项工程展开后,吉打律 組屋不但有新气息,組屋及商业单位的产业价 值还会上涨。



曹观友(左2)在槟州发展机构总经理拿督罗斯里(右)及槟岛市议员郑来兴(右2)陪同下在墙壁油上一层漆,象征着吉打律組屋重新粉刷工程正式动工。

### 乔治市世界文化遗产摄影及寻宝比赛

槟州地方政府委员会主席曹观友行政议员鼓励本地居民及 旅客参与古迹区摄影比赛及寻宝活动,以对文化遗产有更进 一步了解,同时他也相信该项活动会是有趣的活动,因为参 与者可重新认识这片熟悉的环境。

他说,狮子会与市政局合作举办活动数次了,他相信这次 的摄影及寻宝活动是相当有趣,因为人们可以重新关注这片 熟悉的环境。

古迹区摄影比赛及寻宝活动是由乔治市狮子会主办,也获得了槟州环球旅游机构、槟岛市政局及乔治市世遗机构联办。

古迹区摄影比赛及寻宝活动筹委会主席郑荣祥在出席活动 发布会时表示,举办这项活动是为了让更多人能够了解乔治 市文化遗产及我国独一无二的多元文化及信仰。

他说,希望能够通过这项活动让各族更加关怀和理解彼 此,同时活动所筹得的基金将作为慈善公益。

他说,这项活动是以摄影及寻宝两个部分同时进行;摄影比赛是以家庭为主题,报名费为15令吉,胜出者有1000令吉作为奖金;寻宝比赛将设为4人一组,报名费每组100令吉,参加人数有限,所以只预定100组而已,胜出组合则有2000令吉奖金,可说是奖金相当之丰富。

他表示,欢迎一家人参与这项活动,希望能够这项活动促 进家人之间的亲情。

另外,槟岛市政局代表阿米尔阿里表示,为了配合这项活动进行,市政局将在2013年1月12日12时至隔天13日下午6时进行封路,封路地点为义兴街后半段。

乔治市狮子会前任主席王逢生透露,狮子会计划在古迹区的爱情巷、漆木街及打石街增添3幅壁画,这3幅壁画一定要具有古早文化,他们正向乔治市世界文化遗产机构及槟岛市政局申请。

当天除了摄影及寻宝活动之外,也有食物展、艺术展、书法展、古董车展、选美及槟州文化遗产手工艺品等。槟州元首将为活动主持挥旗仪式,目前预计将有2000人参与。活动详情到Georgetownheritage.blogspot.com查询。



槟州行政议员曹观友、市政局代表阿米尔阿里及狮子会成员合照,并呼吁公 众踊跃参与。

## 槟州选手化身宣传使者到台富邦参加马拉松赛



选手们在槟州国际机场起飞前与州行政议员王国慧合照。

槟州I-Run及Forward的65名马拉松选手从槟城出发到台湾富邦参加富邦2012马拉松比赛,他们这次除了是前往参加比赛,而且化身宣传大使到富邦为槟州宣传,促进两大城市的交流及带动两地的马拉松比赛。

槟州行政议员王国慧在槟州国际机场送别时表示,I-Run及Forward都是正规选手,他们常代表槟州出外参与马拉松比赛,这次也不例外地到台北富邦参与这次的2012富邦马拉松赛。

她说,这次是第三次I-Run及Forward到富邦参加马拉松赛了,通过马拉松赛来介绍槟城,及推广槟州2013年第二座大桥上的马拉松比赛,借此机会让更多选手能够到槟城参与其中。

她说,这次槟州政府赞助一件T衫及外套给选 手们,也交给他们4箱的"宣传工具"如国旗 及州旗、宣传单、地图等到富邦时可以分发给 当地民众或是选手,连同槟州别针,以便选手 们交换。

她希望,通过这项活动能够促进两地的友好关 系,同时希望代表槟州的选手们都能为国争光。

I-Run俱乐部领队队长郑美玲表示,这次到富邦参加16日的马拉松比赛分别有两支队伍,I-Run有50名参赛者及Forward有15名参赛者前往。

她表示,这次参赛项目有9K FUN RUN、21k 半程马拉松及42k全程马拉松,选手们有些是 带同家人一起前往比赛,16日参加马拉松赛, 则20日就从台北富邦回来。

她透露,这次赞助选手们的除了槟州政府以外,还有中国华航公司给与的特别优惠来支持 他们。



டிசம்பர் 2012

# பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத்திற்குச் சொந்த அலுவலகக் கட்டடமும் கூடுதல் மானியமும்

கொம்தார் 30ஆம் மாடியில் செயற்பட்டு வந்த பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரிய அலுவலகம் இனி மெக்கலிஸ்தர் சாலையில் அமைந்துள்ள அரசாங்கத்திற்குச் சொந்தமான கட்டடத்தில் செயற்படும். இக்கட்டடத்தைப் பினாங்கு முதல்வர் மேதகு லிம் குவான் எங் அதிகாரப்பூர்வமாகத் திறந்து வைத்தார். இது, இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத்திற்கு வசதியான வியூகமான நிர்வாக மையத்தை உருவாக்கிக் கொடுத்துள்ள பினாங்கு மாநில அரசின்

மற்றுமொரு குறிப்பிடத்தக்க சாதனை விழாவாகக் கருதப்படுகிறது.

பினாங்கு வாழ் இந்தியமக்கள் சமயம் மற்றும் பண்பாட்டு சார்ந்த நிகழ்ச்சிகளை ஏற்று நடத்த இந்தக் கட்டடம் புதிய அடையாளத்தைக் கொண்டு முதன்மை தளமாகத் திகழும் என்பதில் எள்ளளவும் ஐயமில்லை. முதன் முறையாக ஒரு வாரியத்தின் சீரமைப்புக்கு மாநில அரசு ரிம 231 500 செலவிட்டுள்ளது. இது மாநில அரசு ஒவ்வோர் வழங்கும் ஆண்டும் ரிம1 மில்லியன் மானியத்தின் கூடுதல் தொகையாகும். சிறப்புரையாற்றிய மாண்புமிகு முதல்வர் ஆண்டு அடுத்த முதல், அறப்பணி வாரியத்திற்கு 20% கூடுதல் மானியம் அதாவது ரிம1.2



பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத்தின் தலைவரும் பினாங்கு இரண்டாம் முதல்வருமாகிய மாண்புமிகு பேராசிரியர் ப. இராமசாமி.

மில்லியன் மானியம் வழங்கப்படும் என்று அறிவித்ததும் வந்திருந்தவர்களின் பலத்த கரவொலியைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்டார். ஆகவே, நிதியுயர்வு மட்டுமின்றி நிரந்தர நிர்வாக மையமும் பெற்றிருக்கும் பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியம் தங்களுக்கென்று சொந்த இல்லம் ஒன்றைக் கொண்டிருப்பதில் பெருமிதம் கொள்ளலாம் என்றார். இவ்வில்லம் இந்திய மக்கள் தங்கள் சமயத்தைப் பற்றி தெரிந்து கொள்ளவும் ஆழ கற்கவும் சிறந்த தளமாக அமையும் என எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது.

தற்பொழுது பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத்தின் பொறுப்பில் 9 கோவில்களும் 3 மயானங்களும் செயற்படுகின்றன அதுமட்டுமல்லாது, இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியம் கோவில்கள் நிர்மாணிப்புக்கும் பிரேத உடல் தகனத்திற்கும் மற்ற சில நோக்கத்திற்கும் 10 ஏக்கர் கூடுதல் நிலம் பெற்றுள்ளதும் இங்கு குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. அதுமட்டுமன்றி பினாங்கு இந்து



பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத்தின் புதிய அலுவலகக் கட்டடம்.

அறப்பணி வாரியம் பினாங்கு இந்திய மாணவர்கள் கல்வியில் சிறக்க நிதியுதவி வழங்கியும் ஊக்குவித்து வருகிறது. 2010-ஆம் ஆண்டிலிருந்து 2012-ஆம் ஆண்டுவரை இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியம் உள்நாட்டிலும் வெளிநாட்டிலும் மேற்கல்வியைத் தொடரும் சுமார் 456 வசதி குறைந்த பினாங்கு இந்திய மாணவர்களுக்கு இதுவரை ரிம 579, 353 வெள்ளி நிதியுதவி பகிர்ந்தளித்துள்ளது. திறமைமிக்க இந்திய மாணவர்கள் பொருளாதார நெருக்கடியால் மேற்கல்வியைத் தொடரும் வாய்ப்பை நழுவவிடாமல் இருக்க இந்நிதியுதவி தொடர்ந்து வழங்கப்பட வேண்டுமென்று முதல்வர் தம் உரையில் தாழ்மையுடன் கேட்டுக் கொண்டார். இதுவே, பினாங்கு வாழ் இந்திய மக்களின்பால் பினாங்கு மக்கள் கூட்டணி அரசு கொண்டுள்ள அக்கறையைப் தெளிவாகப் பிரதிபலிக்கிறது எனலாம்.

இதனைத் தவிர, பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியம் 2010-ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் பொருளாதார நலிவுற்ற சுமார் 110 மாணவர்களுக்கு இலவசப் பள்ளிச் சீருடைகள் வழங்கி உதவி வருவதும் இங்கு குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. இந்தப் புதிய அலுவலகக் கட்டட அமைப்பால் இவ்வாரியத்தின் ஆணையர்களும் ஆலயங்களின் செயற்குழுவினரும் கடின உழைப்பைக் கொண்டு ஆற்றல்மிக்க கருத்துகளைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்வதுடன் ஒன்றிணைந்து செயற்பட்டுப் பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத்தின் நிர்வாகச் செயற்திறன் சிறந்த அடைவு நிலையைப் பெற பாடுபடுவர் என இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத் தலைவர் பேராசிரியர் ப.இராமசாமி நம்பிக்கை தெரிவித்தார்.

மாநில அரசு இந்து சமயம் சார்ந்த விசயங்களை எவ்வாறு சிறந்த முறையில் கண்காணித்தும் ஆதரவளித்தும் வருகிறது என்பதற்குப் பினாங்கு இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியம் ஒரு சிறந்த முன்மாதிரியாகத் திகழ்ந்து வருகிறது. மேலும், தேசிய முன்னணியின் ஆதிக்கத்தில் உள்ள மத்திய அரசின் கீழ்ச் செயற்படும் பினாங்கு துறைமுகத்தால் இடிக்கப்பட்ட கோவிலைத் தவிர 2008-ஆம் ஆண்டு முதல் இன்றுவரை மக்கள் கூட்டணி ஆட்சியின் கீழ்ச் செயற்படும் பினாங்கு மாநிலத்தில் எந்தவொரு கோவிலும் இடிக்கப்படவும் இல்லை புறக்கணிக்கப்படவும் இல்லை என்று கூறி முதல்வர் லிம் பெருமிதம் கொண்டார்.

மொத்தத்தில், இந்து அறப்பணி வாரியத்தை மேம்படுத்தும் நோக்கில் சிறப்பான முறையில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள இந்த இந்து அறப்பணி வாரிய அலுவலகக் கட்டடம், பினாங்கு மாநில இந்துக்களின் சமூக நலனைப் பேணி வருகிற மாநில மக்கள் கூட்டணி அரசு, பினாங்கு இந்திய மக்களின் மேல் கொண்டுள்ள அக்கறையையும் ஈடுபாட்டையும் பிரதிப்பலிக்கிறது என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது.

### 'AES' எனப்படும் தானியங்கி அமலாக்க முறை பினாங்கில் அனுமதிக்கப்படவில்லை



தானியங்கி அமலாக்க முறையில் பயன்படுத்தப்படும் ஒளிப்பதிவுக் கருவி

விபத்துகளைக் குறைக்கும் வேகக் நோக்கில் ஓட்டுனர்கள் வாகன கட்டுப்பாட்டைப் பின்பற்றுவதை உறுதி செய்ய மத்திய அரசு அறிமுகம் செய்த தானியங்கி அமலாக்க முறை பினாங்கில் நிறுவப்படுவதை அனுமதிக்கவில்லை மாநில அரசு அண்மையில் நடைபெற்ற செய்தியாளர்கள் சந்திப்பில் மாநில முதல்வர் மேதகு லிம் குவான் எங் அறிவித்தார்.

பினாங்கு மாநில அரசு, இத்தானியங்கி அமலாக்க ஒளிப்பதிவுக் கருவிகளை அகற்ற பினாங்கு நகராண்மைக் கழக அதிகாரிகளுக்கும் பினாங்கு செபெராங் பிறை நகராண்மைக் கழக அதிகாரிகளுக்கும் வலியுறுதியத்துடன் இது சம்பந்தமாக மறுப்பேதும் இருந்தால் நீதிமன்றத்திற்குச் செல்லவும் தயாராக இருப்பதாக முதல்வர் தெரிவித்தார். பினாங்கு மாநில ஆட்சிக் குழு உறுப்பினர்களுடனான 'AES' நிறுவுவதைப் பற்றிய விளக்கக் கூட்டத்தைப் போக்குவரத்து அமைச்சின் சிறப்பு அதிகாரி காரணமின்றி ஒத்தி வைத்ததால் இம்முடிவு எடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது என்று மேலும் விளக்கமளித்தார்.

பொதுவாக போக்குவரத்து மற்றும் சாலை விதிமுறைகளைப் பின்பற்ற எடுக்கப்படும் எந்தவொரு முயற்சிக்கும் பினாங்கு மாநில அரசு எதிர்ப்பு தெரிவித்ததில்லை. ஆனால், இந்தத் தானியங்கி அமலாக்க முறைக்கு கடும் எதிர்ப்பு தெரிவிப்பதற்கு இரண்டு காரணங்கள் உள்ளன. முதலாவதாக, இதில் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் வரம்பான 50கிமீ- 60கிமீ மணி நேரம் நடப்பு சூந்நிலைக்கு அமையாததால் ஏற்றவாறு வாகன ஓட்டுநர்களுக்கு பெரும் மேலும், சிரமத்தையளிக்கும். இவ்வமலாக்க முறை தேசிய முன்னணியின் ஆதரவில் உள்ள இரண்டு தனியார் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு இலாபத்தை ஈட்டித் தரும் கருவியாகச் செயல்படுகிறது. வேகக் கட்டுப்பாட்டை மீறும் வாகனமோட்டிகளுக்கு விதிக்கப்படும் அபராதத்தின் ஒரு பகுதி இந்த நிறுவனங்களுக்குச் சேரும். அமலாக்க முறை தனியார்மயப்படுத்தப்படக்கூடாது மாறாக அது மக்கள் தேர்வு செய்த அரசாங்க அதிகாரத்தின் கீழ்ச் செயற்பட வேண்டும்." என்று மாண்புமிகு முதல்வர் லிம் குவான் எங் தெளிவுபடுத்தினார்.

### மாநில அரசு ஊழியர்களுக்கு இலவச பேருந்துச் சேவை.

டிசம்பர் 3-ஆம் தொடங்கப்பட்ட 'BEST' என்னும் இலவசப் அக்கரையில் பேருந்துச் சேவை பினாங்கு மாநில அரசு ஊழியர்களுக்கு நன்மை பயத்துள்ளது. இது கொன்சொர்தியும் பேருந்து நிறுவனமும் பினாங்கு மாநில அரசும் இணைந்து வழங்கும் கூட்டுத் திட்டமாகும். அரசு ஊழியர்கள் பொது போக்குவரத்துச் சேவையைப் பயன்படுத்த ஊக்குவிக்கும் அதே வேளையில் பினாங்கில் குறிப்பாகப் பினாங்குப் பாலத்தில் பெருகி வரும் வாகன நெரிசலைக் குறைக்கும் நோக்கில் இந்த 'பெஸ்ட்' திட்டம் அறிமுகம் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது என்று மாநில முதல்வர் மேதகு லிம் குவான் எங் கூறினார்.

இத்திட்டத்தில் பெற பங்கு விண்ணபித்தவர்களில் 82 அரசு ஊழியர்கள் மட்டுமே தேர்வு பெற்றுள்ளனர். பெண்களுக்கும் குறைந்த வருமானம் பெறும் ஊழியர்களுக்கும் இத்திட்டத்தின் வழி பயன்பெற முன்னுரிமை முன்று மாதச் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. முதல் சோதனைக் காலத்திற்கு இச்சேவை வழங்கப்படும். அதன் ஆதரவைத் தொடர்ந்து பேருந்துகள் அதிகரிக்கப்படும் என்று போக்குவரத்துப் பிரிவு ஆட்சிக்குழு உறுப்பினர் திரு சௌ கொன் யௌ தெரிவித்தார். இந்த முன்று மாத பேருந்துச் சேவைக்காக மக்கள் கூட்டணி அரசு ரிம50,000 ஒதுக்கீடு செய்துள்ளது. இத்திட்டத்திற்காகச்



பேருந்திலிருந்து இறங்கும் அரசு ஊழியர்களை, ஆட்சிக்குழு உறுப்பினர் திரு சௌ கொன் யௌ, மாநில அரசுச் செயலாளர் டத்தோ ஃப்ரிசான், மாநில முதல்வர் மேதகு லிம் குவான் எங், டத்தோ அப்துல் மாலிக் (இடமிருந்து வலம்) ஆகியோர் வரவேற்கின்றனர்.

செயற்படும் இரண்டு பிலஸ் லைனர் பேருந்துகள் காலை 6.50க்குச் செபெராங் ஜயாவில் உள்ள கரினிவெல் சன்வே பேரங்காடியிலிருந்து மத்திய புறப்பட்டு கொம்தார் பேருந்து நிலையத்தை வந்தடையும். மீண்டும் மாலை கொம்தாரிலிருந்து 5.20க்கு புறப்படும். இப்பேருந்து சேவை அரசு ஊழியர்களின் போக்குவரத்துச் செலவினைக் குறைக்க மிகவும் பயனுள்ளதாக அமைந்துள்ளது

### சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதி தமிழ்ப்பள்ளிக்கு இலவசக் கணினிகளும் அச்சுப் பொறிகளும் வழங்கப்பட்டன



சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதி தமிழ்ப்பள்ளியின் வாரியக் குழுத் தலைவர் டாக்டர் சமயனமூர்த்தி ஸ்ரீ டெலிமா சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் திரு நேதாஜி இராயரிடமிருந்து அன்பளிப்புகளைப் பெற்றுக் கொள்கிறார். அருகில் ஆலய உறுப்பினர்களும் பெற்றோர் ஆசிரியர் சங்க உறுப்பினர்களும்

நீரின்றி அமையாது உலகு என்ற காலம் போய் இன்று கணினியின்றி அமையாது உலகு என்று சொல்லக்கூடிய அளவில் நவீனம் நலிந்து நிற்கும் காலத்தில் வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறோம் என்றால் மிகையாகாது. இன்றைய தொழில்நுட்ப உலகில் மனிதனையும் கணினியையும் பிரிக்க இயலாது. உலகத்தைத் தன்னுள் அடக்கி வைத்திருக்கும் கணினியின் பயன்பாட்டை நம் தமிழ்ப்பள்ளி மாணவர்களும் கற்றறிந்து அதில் புலமை பெற வேண்டும் என்ற உயர்ந்த நோக்கில் அண்மையில் ஸ்ரீ டெலிமா சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினரான மதிப்பிற்குரிய திரு நேதாஜி இராயர் சுங்கை குலுகோர் வட்டாரத்தில் அமைந்துள்ள சுப்பிரமணிய பாரதி தமிழ்ப்பள்ளிக்கு இலவசக் கணினிகளும் அச்சுப் பொறிகளும் வழங்கி உதவினார்.

வீரமாகாளியம்மன் மண்டபத்தில் நடைபெற்ற இவ்வன்பளிப்பு வழங்கும் விழாவில் சுப்பிரமணிய தமிழ்ப்பள்ளியின் வாரியக் குழுத் தலைவர் டாக்டர் சமயனமூர்த்தி அவர்கள் அத்தமிழ்ப்பள்ளியின் சார்பாக திரு நேதாஜியிடமிருந்து 10 கணினிகளையும் 5 அச்சுப் பொறிகளையும் பெற்றுக் கொண்டார். அண்மையில் புதிய கட்டட நிர்மாணிப்புக்காக இப்பள்ளிக்குப் 2.3 ஏக்கர் நிலம் வழங்கப்பட்டது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. அவ்வகையில், புதிதாகக் கட்டப்படும் இப்பள்ளியில் கணினி அறை வசதியும் அமைக்கப்படவுள்ளது. அதற்கான தொடக்க அன்பளிப்பாக இக்கணினிகள் வழங்கப்பட்டுள்ளதாக மதிப்பிற்குரிய நேதாஜி இராயர் தெரிவித்தார்.

சவால் மிக்க இன்றைய கல்வித் திட்டத்தில் கணினியின் பயன்பாடு மிகவும் அவசியமாகிறது. ஆகவே, இப்பள்ளி ஆசிரியர்களும் மாணவர்களும் கற்றல் கற்பித்தலில் கணினியைப் பயன்படுத்தி பயன்பெறுவர் என எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது.

# எஸ்கேப் 'ESCAPE' என்னும் இயற்கை சார்ந்த விளையாட்டு மையம் திறப்பு விழாக் கண்டது

மூன்று ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன் கட்டத் தொடங்கப்பட்ட எஸ்கேப் என்னும் சவால்மிக்க விளையாட்டுத் தளம் கடந்த 8-ஆம் திகதி மாண்புமிகு முதல்வர் லிம் குவான் எங் அவர்களால் அதிகாரப்பூர்வமாகத் திறந்து வைக்கப்பட்டது. திறப்பு விழாக் கண்ட எஸ்கேப் விளையாட்டுத் தளத்தின் ஒரு பகுதியான சாகச விளையாட்டுத் தளம் 7 ஏக்கர் நிலத்தில் ரிம18 மில்லியன் செலவில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. இத்தளம் இன்னும் இரண்டு பகுதிகளைக் கொண்டுள்ளது. அது, நீர் விளையாட்டுத் தளமும் மர உச்சி விடுதிகளுமாகும். ஆக மொத்தம் ரிம200 மில்லியன் பொருட்செலவில் 44 ஏக்கர் நிலத்தில் இந்த எஸ்கேப் விளையாட்டு மையம் நிர்மாணிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது.

இவ்விளையாட்டு மையத்தின் தலைமை நிர்வாகியான திரு சிம் சூ கெங் சிறு வயதில் தாம் பெற்ற அனுபவங்களைக் கொண்டுதான் இந்த சவால்மிக்க விளையாட்டுத் தளத்தை அமைத்திருப்பதாகக் கூறினார். இன்றைய நவீன உலகக் குழந்தைகள் குண்டுச் சட்டியில் குதிரை ஒட்டுவதுபோல் பி எஸ் திரி 'ps3', ஐ ஃபோன் 'iphone', ஐ பேட் 'ipad', கணினி ஆகியவற்றில் உள்ள தொழில்நுட்ப விளையாட்டுகளை விளையாடி ஒரே வட்டத்திற்குள் சிக்கிக் கிடக்கின்றனர். இது இவர்களின் உடல் ஆரோக்கியத்திற்கு மிகவும் கேடு விளைவிக்கக்கூடிய செயலாக அமைகிறது என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது. எனவேதான், இந்த விளையாட்டு மையம் பிள்ளைகள் இயற்கையோடு ஒன்றிணைந்த நடவடிக்கைகளை மேற்கொள்ள ஏதுவான வகையில் மரம் ஏறுதல், குரங்கு நடவடிக்கை, உயரத்திலிருந்து குதித்தல், பலகை வீடேறுதல், தென்னை மரம் ஏறுதல், சறுக்குப் பந்தயம் போன்ற பல ரசிகரமிக்க நடவடிக்கைகளையும் சவால்மிக்க விளையாட்டுகளையும் அமைத்துள்ளதாகத் திரு சிம் கூறினார்.

உலக மக்களை ஆரோக்கியமாக வாழ ஊக்குவிக்கவும் பசுமையை ஆதரிக்கும் விழிப்புணர்வை ஏற்படுத்தவும் திரு சிம்மின் சிந்தனையில் ஊற்றெடுத்த திட்டம்தான் இந்த எஸ்கேம் தீம் பார்க் ஆகும். திரு சிம் சூ



எஸ்கேப் விளையாட்டு மையத்தின் முற்புறத்தைப் படத்தில் காணலாம்

கெங் உலக புகழ்மிக்க பல 'Theme Park' தீம் பார்க்களைக் கட்டியவர் என்பது இங்கு குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. அண்மையில் ஜோகூரில் தொடங்கப்பட்ட லெகொ லேன் 'Lego Land' இவரின் ஆக்கத்தில் அமைந்த மாபெரும் விளையாட்டு மையமாகும்.

சுற்றுலாப் பயணிகளை வெகுவாகக் கவர்ந்த தெலுக் பகாங் வட்டாரத்தில் அமையப்பெற்றுள்ள இவ்விளையாட்டுத் தளம் பினாங்கின் மிகப் பெரிய சுற்றுலாத் தளமாக அமைவதுடன் உள்ளூர் மக்களுக்கு அதிக வேலை வாய்ப்பை ஈட்டித் தரும் மையமாகவும் விளங்குகிறது. தற்போது 114 பணியாளர்கள் வேலை செய்யும் இவ்விளையாட்டுத் தளத்தில் 80% பணியாளர்கள் உள்ளூர் மக்களான தெலுக் பகாங் மாவட்டத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாவர். மற்ற இரு பகுதிகளின் நிர்மாணிப்புப் பணிகளும் நிறைவடைந்ததும் சுமார் 500 பேர்களுக்கு வேலை வாய்ப்புக் கிடைக்கும் என எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது. முழுக்க முழுக்க அந்நிய முதலீடுகளைக் கொண்டு அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள இந்த விளையாட்டுத் தளம் நாட்டின் புகழ்பெற்ற விளையாட்டு மையமாகத் திகழும் என முதல்வர் லிம் தம் உரையில் நம்பிக்கை தெரிவித்தார். இவ்விளையாட்டு மையத்தைப் பற்றி மேல் விபரங்களுக்கு www.escape.my என்னும் இணையத் தளத்தை வலம் வாருங்கள். உடல் ரீதியிலான நடவடிக்கைகளுக்கு எஸ்கேப் பூங்காவிற்கு படையெடுங்கள்.

# பாடாங் தெம்பாக் அடுக்குமாடி வீடுகளுக்குக் கூடுதல் பாதுகாப்பு

பினாங்கில் உள்ள மிகப் பழமையான அரசாங்க அடுக்குமாடி வீடுகளில் ஒன்றான பாடாங் தெம்பாக்கில் அமைந்துள்ள ரைஃபில் ரேஞ் அடுக்குமாடி வீடுகளின் பாதுகாப்பை மேம்படுத்த சூழ்ந்துருக் காட்டிகள் 'CCTV' பொருத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன. இந்த குறைந்த விலை குடியிருப்புப் பகுதியில் குற்றச்செயல்களின் எண்ணிக்கையைக் குறைக்கும் நோக்கில் இந்தப் பாதுகாப்புக் கருவிகள் பொருத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன.

அதனைப் பார்வையிட மாநில முதல்வர் மேதகு லிம் குவான் எங், ஆட்சிக் குழு உறுப்பினர் திரு வொங் ஹொன் வாய், சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர்களான திரு ஜேசன் ஒங், திரு லியு சின் தொங், வீடமைப்புத் துறையைச் சார்ந்த அரசு ஊழியர்கள் ஆகியோர் அண்மையில் F அடுக்குமாடிக் கட்டடத்திற்கு வருகை மேற்கொண்டனர். ரிம 89,970 செலவில் A முதல் F வரையிலான அடுக்குமாடி வீடுகளின் 24 மின் தூக்கிகளின் உட்புறத்திலும் வெளி புறத்திலும் இக்கட்டடங்களில் சுற்றுப்புறத்திலும் இக்கருவிகள் பொருத்தப்பட்டுள்ளன. மக்கள் கூட்டணி அரசு ஆட்சிக்கு வந்த பிறகு இவ்வடுக்குமாடிக் குடியிருப்புப் பகுதி அதிக தூய்மை அடைந்திருப்பதுடன் நிறைய வசதிகளையும் பெற்றுள்ளதென்பதை அப்பகுதி மக்கள் உணர்ந்துள்ளனர் எனலாம். முதல்வர் லிம்மின் வருகையை அங்கிருந்த பல மூத்த குடிகள் மிக ஆவலுடன் எதிர்பார்த்துக் காத்திருந்து அவருக்கு நன்றி தெரிவித்துச் சென்றதைக் காண முடிந்தது.



சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர்களான மதிப்பிற்குரிய திரு வொங் ஹொன் வாய், திரு ஜேசன் ஒங் சூழ்ந்துருக் காட்டியைப் பார்வையிடுகின்றனர்.

இந்த அடுக்குமாடிக் குடியிருப்பை மேம்படுத்தவும் சீரமைக்கவும் இதுவரை ரிம 4,463,390.36 தொகை செலவிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. மறுச்சாயம் பூசல், மின் தூக்கி பழுதுபார்ப்பு, கழிவு நீர்க் குழாய் மாற்றல் போன்ற நடவடிக்கைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது இங்கு குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. இந்தச் சூழ்ந்துருக் காட்டிக் கருவிகளின் பொருத்தலுக்குப் பிறகு இப்பகுதியின் பாதுகாப்புக் கூடி குற்றச் செயலகளின் எண்ணிக்கை குறையும் எனவும் எதிர்பார்ப்பதாக முதல்வர் லிம் தெரிவித்தார்.





'எஸ்<mark>கேப்' விளையாட்டு மையத்</mark>தின் பலகை வீடேறும் <mark>விளையாட்டி</mark>ல் மகிழ்ச்சியோடு பங்குபெறும் இளைஞர்களைக் காணலாம்.



ஸ்ரீ டெலிமா சட்டமன்றத் தொகு<mark>தியின் தீபாவளி பொது</mark> உபசரிப்பில் மதிப்பிற்குரிய திரு நேதாஜி இராயர் 100 குழந்தைகளுக்குத் தீபாவளி மொய்ப்பணம் வழங்கினார். அவர்களில் சிலரைப் படத்தில் காணலாம்.

# கதை பேசும் படங்கள்



<mark>வரும் 2013-ஆம் ஆண்டு அ</mark>னைவருக்கும் சிறந்த ஆண்டாக அமைய வாழ்த்துகிறோம்.



பத்து ல<mark>ங்சாங் சட்ட</mark>மன்ற தொகுதியின் தீபாவளி விருந்து உபசரிப்பை மதிப்பிற்குரிய திரு லாவ் ஹெங் கியாங் குத்து விளக்கேற்றி தொடக்கி வைக்கிறார். அருகில் ஏற்பாட்டுக் குழுவினர்.



<mark>பினாங்கு வாழ் கிறிஸ்துவர்களுக்கு இனிய கிறிஸ்மஸ் திருநாள்</mark> வாழ்த்துகள்!







#### Kandungan Bahan Kimia Berbahaya



ASAP MAUT! Setiap Batang Rokok Yang Dihisap Mengandungi Racun Yang Amat Berbahaya

#### Buatlah Keputusan Bijak Berhenti Merokok Sekarang

DAERAH TIMUR LAUT	
KK Jalan Perak	Tel : 64-281 2931
KK Bukit Jambul	Tel: 04-544 5521
KK Sungai Dus	Tel: 04-642 2201
KK Bandar Baru Air Itam (Farlim)	Tel: 04-826 6267
DAERAH BARAT DAYA	
KK Bayan Baru	Tel: 04-642 5102
KK Bayan Lepas	Tel : 04-643-5434
DAERAH SEBERANG PERAI UTARA	
KK Penaga	Tel : 04-579 1718
KK Sungai Dus	Tel : 04-356 4355
KK Butterworth	Tel: 04-323 3333
KK Mak Mandin	Tel: 04-324-4685
KK Kepala Batas	Tel: 04-575 3350

DAERAH SEBERANG PERAI TENGAH	
KK Seberang Jaya	Tel : 04-390 0264
KK Kubang Semang	Tel: 04-539 0654
KK Bukit Minyak	Tel: 04-507 1355
DAERAH SEBERANG PERAI SELATAN	
KK Bukit Panchor	Tel : 04-593 5892
KK Bandar Tasek Mutiara	Tel : 04-507 9855
PUSAT SUMBER HOSPITAL	
Hospital Pulau Pinang	Tel : 04-229 3333
Hospital Seberang Jaya	Tel: 04-382 7333





ஆரோக்கியம் நிறைந்த சிறப்பான வாழ்க்கை வாழ புகைப்பிடிப்பதை நிறுத்துங்கள்!!!

# 国际建筑大师亲自操刀设计 槟海滨会展中心料2017年启用

由怡保工程(IJM)集团斥 资3亿4600万令吉打造的槟城 海滨会展中心交由国际建筑大 师操刀设计,该会展中心将是 继sPICE地下会展中心后,成 为槟州第二座会展中心。

怡保工程(IJM)集团首席 执行员拿督郑建民指出, 槟 城海滨会展中心(Penang Convention WaterFront Centre) 除了作大型展览及 会议以外,还是可以为演唱 会提供场地,因为槟城海滨 会展中心具有9000座位,附 近还有酒店、购物广场、商 业大楼及公寓等。

他说,这大型建筑设计者 是来自伦敦Vx3建筑公司的首 席执行员设计总监Larry Oltmanns的作品,他的作品包 括比利时布鲁塞尔的北约总

部、香港的维多利亚港,在 新加坡、澳洲及雅加达等地 方的会展中心都是Vx3的作

"槟城海滨会展中心是怡保 工程集团 "THE LIGHT "工 程下的一项计划,今年开始 就已经进行填土, 明年将可 以动工。槟城海滨会展中心 将交给Suntec公司负责,因 为该公司在这方面的经验丰 富,一定能够让槟城走向国 际化。"

他希望, 槟城海滨会展中心 竣工之后, 能够带给槟城新 气象, 让槟城能够在国际上 被受到认可。

另外,Suntec国际槟城 部首席执行员阿伦玛胡则 表示,根据国际会议协会 2011年报告显 (ICCA)

示,我国是亚太及中东 地区第7个最受欢迎举 行国际会议的国家,全 球则是排行第29名, 而随着槟城海滨会展中 心竣工后,排行一定随 着外国企业来槟城举行 博览及会议而上升。

槟城首长林冠英在见 证LJM与Suntec国际 签约时表示, 槟城海滨 会展中心具有现代感设 计的建筑物,在2017 年竣工后,必定能够成 为槟城新地标, 让槟城 成为外国企业举办会议 及博览的新地点。

"槟城海滨会展中心能够借 助举办国际会议、研究会等 活动及博览而帮助到旅游, 算得上是商务旅游。类似的



林冠英(前)在郑建民(后左)带领下,浏览槟城海滨会展中心的建筑设计图。后为阿伦 玛胡 (后右) 及槟州地方委员会主席曹观友行政议员。

商务旅行每趟行程都需要花 费到7000令吉左右,是一般 旅客的3倍以上的花费。

他说, 槟城海滨会展中心能 够补充槟城的"不足",因 为国内目前为止拥有14座知

名会展中心,但是槟城之内 却是一座都没有。

他说,继SPICE之后,拥有 槟城海滨会展中心并不会发生 冲突, 反而能够扩大市场, 让 槟城在这方面更进一步。















PROGRAM PULAU PINANG BEBAS ASAP ROKOK (PENBAR)
(SMOKE FREE PENANG)

# JANGAN MEMBINASAKAN DIRI ANDA DAN ORANG LAIN



Asap Rokok Boleh Memudaratkan Mereka Di Sekeliling Anda. Hormati Hak Mereka.



#### Kandungan Bahan Kimia Berbahaya



#### **ASAP MAUT!**

Setiap Batang Rokok Yang Dihisap Mengandungi Racun Yang Amat Berbahaya

#### **Buatlah Keputusan Bijak Berhenti Merokok Sekarang!**







### 珍维快讯

# 朋党计划引民怨

# 国阵应承认民联主张废除AES是正确

国阵政府不应只是暂停提控自动执法系统(AES)违规者,也应该承认民联主张废除AES是正确的,并全数退还已缴罚款,因为这项朋党计划已经引起民怨。

槟州首长林冠英指出,总检 察长丹斯里阿都干尼不应该只 是暂停提控AES违规者,他也应该把已缴的罚款退还。自从AES一个马来西亚电眼在2012年9月23日于14个地点安装以来,当局共发出了30万张传票。

他说,如果其余的817地点都安装了AES,全国各地将出

现总数831个AES,届时将会有 更多人得到传票。阿都干尼暂 停提控30万个AES违规者,证 明槟州政府的决定是大胆、正 确的,我们是全马第一个禁止 安装AES电眼的州属。

"虽然阿都干尼解释,他的 决定是由于"公众对于有关法 律及技术问题"存疑,试图缓解这个做法对国阵及联邦政府公信力的冲击,但是,很明显地,AES已经丧失了公信力。当局根本无需再耽搁,应该竞当后根本无需的计划,应该竞然让两家朋党公司,藉执法减少交通意外为由,以抽佣方式,从每一张传票中谋利。"

林冠英于12月19日发表声明,阿都干尼的法律理由是对的,他说AES传票是陆路交通局发出的。交通部长拿督斯里

江作汉应该介入,行使他的权力,撤销这些传票,以弥补他对AES的错误拥护。如果江作汉做不到,他应该辞职,他对AES过度拥护,甚至诽谤槟州政府,指我们不支持AES等于鼓励交通意外。

他说,国阵政府不应只是暂停提控自动执法系统(AES)违规者,也应该承认民联主张废除AES是对的,并全数退还已缴罚款,因为这项朋党计划已经引起民怨。

### 2013新年倒数庆典 风雨无阻在旧关仔角引爆

第八届槟城金碧辉煌新年倒数 庆典将于2013年前夕在旧关仔角 草场引爆,民众受邀齐来参与其 盛。

第八届槟城金碧辉煌新年倒数 庆典筹委会主席林丽沄在东方大 酒店举行由槟州首长林冠英主持 的推介礼时表示,今年在槟岛旧 关仔角草场举办的倒数活动预算 也比往年增加3成,超过100万令 吉,更是请来了多位国内外著名 艺人前来表演。

她说,当晚的倒数活动,除了 30及31两日的室内小型足球赛之 外,还有"Think Blue"在当天的 植树活动,50辆Volswagen车队 将参与其盛。

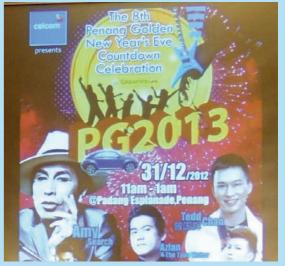
林丽沄希望倒数庆典活动参与活动者及倒数人数能够达到12万人,打破过去去年超过10万人的新纪录。

她说,当天下午5时至8时将举行韩流K-POP争霸赛。晚上8时45分开始至凌晨1时将有金碧辉煌演唱会,燃放烟花表演在准12时燃放。

她提醒,今年还会特别增设42 尺大荧幕 ,出席者记得千万别乱 抛垃圾,因为主办单局不止将延续往年的奖赏拍摄到抛垃圾者的奖励,而是会将被拍摄到的照片放上大荧幕,而该项倒数庆典活动,无论雨天晴天都势在必行。

由creatiVision联合大马Volk-swagen集团、槟岛市政局、天地通亚通电讯公司及SuriaFM电台联办2013年元旦前夕的第8屆槟城金碧辉煌元旦新年倒数庆典。

出席该项记者会的尚包括槟岛市 议会主席拿督芭提雅、天地通亚 通电讯公司全国零售与销售总监 赛夫巴哈林等嘉宾。



第八届槟城金碧辉煌新年倒数庆典,无论雨天晴天都势在必 行,势要刷新纪录,突破12万出席者。



sila klik untuk maklumat lanjut ....











#### 8

# 继荣获槟岛干净厕所冠军后亚依淡巴刹再当选模范巴刹

在赢得槟岛干净厕所冠军后,亚依淡巴刹再获得模范巴刹殊荣,从槟岛23个巴刹中脱颖而出,被槟岛市政局选为槟岛首个模范巴刹。

槟岛市政局公共卫生及执照小组交替主席王耶宗指出,当局从全槟岛23个巴刹中,筛选出亚依淡、峇都兰樟、丹绒武雅、七条路及峇央峇鲁5个巴刹进入最后阶段,最终因亚依淡巴刹最达标而中选。

亚依淡区州议员黄汉伟表示,亚依淡巴刹厕所之前打败槟岛56个公共厕所,得到冠军;现在又获选为模范巴刹,因此,他对亚依淡巴刹的管理表现感到光荣。

"亚依淡巴刹的招牌是黄色的,我们选用黄色的用意是因为"很黄"在广东话是"很旺"的谐音。我会继续与贩商配合,把亚依淡巴刹的生意和形象搞得更好。"

同时也是槟州房屋委员会主席的黄汉伟于12月14日与一众槟岛市议员到亚依淡巴刹派送围裙给小贩们。槟岛市政局公共卫生及执照小组动用市议员拨款购买了3731条围裙,分派给27个小贩中心、23个巴刹及45个临时小贩中心,来推行绿意槟城计划。

## 发林安珊娜路全新行人交通灯即日开始启用



杨顺兴(前排中)主持安珊娜路行人交通灯启用礼后,亲身试用该交通灯。

发林安珊娜路(Jalan Angsana)政府诊所前的行 人交通灯即日起正式启用,民众不必再冒着生命危险 跨过马路。

垄尾区州议员杨顺兴于12月19日在安珊娜路前召开记者会时表示,耗资9万5820令吉的行人交通灯已经安装完成,民众即日起可以使用,不必再危险跨过马路了。

他说,在该处安装行人交通灯的原因是近几年经过 该处马路的行人日益增加,主要是到新建的安珊娜路 政府诊所及发林巴刹,所以步行的民众都必须要跨过 马路才行。

他补充,安珊娜路该处就拥有21座组屋,当地居民更是数千人以上,来回巴刹及诊所的多数是乐龄人士,槟岛市政局调查显示来回该处的行人在早上8时至9时,竟然高达95人,但该处除了天德园路交界十字路口处拥有交通灯以外,没有任何交通灯了。

他说,当地居民也投诉难以跨过马路,加上该处也 是车祸黑区,发生过多次死亡车祸。

他说,基于行人的安全,工程局在该处安转了全新的交通灯,这也算是槟岛第2架全新LED及拥有发音器的行人交通灯。



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31hb Disember

New Year Countdown 2012

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Penang Pesta Site, E&O Straits
Quay, Auto City

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# buletin

# Moves to ease traffic jams

Story and pix by Chan Lilian

LOCALS and outstation visitors are familiar with the horrendous traffic jams along Gurney Drive during public and school holidays and festive seasons.

A perfect holiday is spoilt when one gets caught in traffic jams.

Sensitive to the people's needs, the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) and the assemblymember for Pulau Tikus, Koay Teng Hai, are working hard to somewhat ease the jams.

"We have received public feedback and are looking into how to improve the traffic flow. There are suggestions to turn Gurney Drive and Kelawei Road into one-way traffic.

"However, to be fair to the people and the business owners located in the area, we must attend and see to their problems. We have to do the changes in stages," MPPP Deputy Director of Engineering Department, who is in charge of infrastructures and traffic management, A. Rajendran, told Buletin Mutiara on Dec 13 at a press conference.

"MPPP is taking several measures to ease congestion. We conduct constant monitoring on-site. We must try to control the surge of vehicles that come to Penang during holidays. So, we adjust the traffic lights sequencing and timing according to needs," Rajendran added.

At the press conference, the chairman of the Standing Committee - Infrastructure and Traffic Management, councillor Muhammad Sabri Md Osman, also announced that traffic at two roads will



Rajendran (left) and MPPP Councillor Muhammad Sabri Md Osman explaining to members of the change of traffic flow at certain stretch of roads in Penang.

be changed to one-way. These are:

1. Part of Cantonment Road between Kelawei Road and Burmah Road - From Kelawei Road/Cantonment Road to junction of Cantonment Rd/Burmah Road - effective 11pm on Dec 14 2. Lorong Pitt between Chulia Street and Lebuh Ah Quee - One way from Chulia Street/Lorong Pitt to junction of Lorong Pitt/Lebuh Ah Quee - effective 8pm on Dec 14 Sabri said more roads will made one-way

in preparation for the festive seasons like Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year.

Usually, MPPP sets a three-month period for users' feedback before making the one-way traffic permanent.

Road users can write to aduan@mppp.gov.my or zainuddin@mppp.gov.my or call 04-2592015 or MPPP 24-hr hotline at 04-2637637 if they have any queries or complaints.

# Safer road crossing for Farlim folk



Pedestrians can now safely cross Jalan Angsana in Farlim after the Penang state government installed pedestrian crossing and traffic lights costing RM95,820.

Story by **Chan Lilian** Pix by **Law Suun Ting** 

RESIDENTS living around the Jalan Angsana area in Farlim where the Farlim government clinic is, can now heave a sigh of relief.

Thanks to their state assemblymember Yeoh Soon Hin, they now have a pedestrian crossing which will take them safely across Jalan Angsana.

The project is funded by the Penang state government and carried out by the Public Works Department (JKR).

For the information of Buletin Mutiara's readers, some parts of the roads in Penang are under JKR while others are under the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP).

Costing RM95,820, the project began in October and was completed this month.

On Dec 19, Yeoh and MPPP Deputy Director of Engineering Department, who is in charge of infrastructures and traffic management, A. Rajendran were at the location to launch the pedestrian crossing.

"According to a survey done by MPPP, an average of 100 people cross this road every hour. There are eight blocks of flats on one side and another 14 on the other side. People need to get to the opposite site daily. One fatal accident has happened and there were also other accidents along this stretch," Yeoh said.

Rajendran showed to the press the new pedestrian crossing panel which he said is the first new system installed.

Pointing to the panel, he said: "This is a vandal-proof design. Previously, using the push button, people tend to break the push button."

# Damage control for Swettenham Pier, Marina



Story and pix by Chan Lilian

PENANG'S Swettenham Pier (SP) is the port where cruise ships berth. Tanjung City Marina (TCM) is the abandoned marina operated by Penang Port Sdn Bhd

Both of SP and TCM are under Penang Port Commission (PPC) but the two buildings sit on land belonging to the state government and Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) respectively.

PPC is a statutory body under the purview of the Transport Ministry and its chairman is Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek.

In the last issue of Buletin Mutiara, we featured the sad state of the abandoned TCM.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng had voiced his concerns that TCM's fate may befall SP if they are under the same operator.

On Dec 12, Lim had rebuked Chua when the latter reportedly challenged Penang to forcibly acquire the SP and close it.

Lim: "Why should we acquire something that is already ours? The land and anything on the land belongs to the landowner.

"Chua must understand. We are worried that the SP will become like the abandoned TCM. So, we want to have a say. Although by virtue as the State Secretary (post held by Datuk Farizan Darus), his appointment is statutory in the PPC board. Datuk Farizan has not been informed that PPC is taking over the operations of TCM from Penang Port. That's why we want the Penang State government to have more say in the running of SP. We want to be consulted.'

"TCM is the clearest example of abject failure. We want to give inputs. We want the state govern-

ment views to be heard. I am the Chief Minister elected by the Penang people and I represent the Penang people. They want a port run properly and efficiently, with open competitive tenders and with attractions to draw more tourists," Lim added.

Chua had earlier recently visited Penang for a

"Why did Chua come to Penang to eat durians only? Why didn't he visit TCM? For heaven's sake, go and see the TCM. It is RM43 million down the drain!" Lim said.

During his visit, Chua also made accusations that "Lim likes to boast about his efficient state government administration. But next year they have tabled a deficit budget".

To this, Lim retorted: "For the last five years, despite the budget deficit, Penang still recorded a budget surplus. In fact, last year we achieved a record in history with RM138 millions. If Chua doesn't understand basic and financial accounting, if he doesn't understand the books, does he want me to give him a CD?"

While the political tirade goes on, the sad fact is the marina continues to fall apart day by day and abandoned by its operator, PPSB under PPC.

At the same time, exco member in charge of tourism Law Heng Kiang has been receiving complaints and concerns from both cruise liners and tourists about the condition of the pier.

The Penang Pakatan Rakyat government will continue to monitor and ensure that money is not further wasted by poor management.

The CAT administration will adopt a competent, accountable and transparent approach for the benefit of the people.

### MPPP's 5-star show



Khoo is proudly showing the certificate and the award received by MPPP (Majlis Perbandaran Pulau Pinang).

Story by **Evelyn Joseph** 

ALL government web portals will be evaluated and analysed each year and this evaluation will be made by MAMPU through MDeC - a process that has entered its seventh year.

"In 2012, 1,348 portals and websites across the country were evaluated and analysed, where only 281 managed to get five stars.

"The Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) is one of the agencies to have successfully maintained five-star standards," MPPP corporate director Patrick Khoo Poh Aik said.

For this year, the MDeC also introduced an additional criterion of the "Strategic Achievers" to encourage government agencies to provide a website which is transparent and not adversely affected by security issues.

Only 28 agencies had successfully passed the test and MPPP is one of them.

The certificate of appreciation award ceremony was held in Putrajaya on Dec 12.

For more information or complaints, refer to MPPP website; (http://www.mppp.gov.my @ http://aduan.mppp.gov.my)

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Funicular Operation will be closed from 7th January - 13th January 2013 (7days) for Annual Inspection by Garaventa and SISAG. This activity is compulsory as a yearly routine maintenance to make sure the Funicular instruments in good condition. Operation will be open to public on 14th January 2013.

Visitors can opt for alternative routes via Jeep Track (Botanic Gardens) or the existing hiking route to the top of the Penang Hill. For further information on train service schedules and developments, please visit our website at www.penanghill.gov.my.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Thank you.

The Management **Penang Hill Corporation** 

buletin

# Follow Penang in declaring assets

THE Federal government has been urged to publicly declare all assets of the prime minister and ministers to improve Malaysia's rankings in Transparency International (TI).

"If Penang can publicly declare and update the assets of the chief minister and exco members, which will be updated yearly in January, why can't the BN Federal government do likewise?" Lim said.

"Unless the BN federal government follows Penang's footsteps by implementing six integrity measures, Malaysia will not only fail to prosper but the weight of the recent exposes of financial scandals will ensure that next year's Corruption Perception Index(CPI) ranking of TI will be worse."

The six integrity measures of fighting corruption are: 1. instituting public declaration of assets of the Chief Minister and the EXCO members. 2. implementing open competitive tenders. 3. barring family members from involvement in government contracts. 4. protecting genuine whistleblowers. 5. removing leaders with extravagant lifestyles. 6.



File photo of Penang state exco members declaring their assets in Jan 2012. With them is Chartered Accountant Ooi Kok Seng (seated, 2nd from left) of accounting firm KPMG.

coming clean on political donations.

Malaysians observed International Anti-Corruption Day recently with little cause for celebration as despite a slight improvement in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) ranking from 60th out of 183 countries in 2011 to 54th out of 176 in 2012, our country remains haunted by financial scandals and allegations of

grand corruption involving leaders at the highest level.

Although there is a slight improvement in the overall score, it must be remembered that this survey was conducted earlier in the year, before the emergence of major high-profile scandals such as the mysterious RM40 million donation to UMNO Sabah and recent revelations by businessman Deepak Jaikishan relating

to shady land deals.

Worse, the extraordinary wealth of the Sarawak Chief Minister and his family exposed in the Syariah courts as worth billions of ringgit has not been fully explained and accounted for.

The public has only been informed of the full extent of the abuse of power in the previous Selangor and Penang governments.

For example, land in Selangor now worth RM300 million was sold to BN component parties at RM1 per sq ft (psf) while prime land in TanjungTokong next to Gurney Drive in Penang was sold at RM1 psf.

If all these exposes of scandals were factored by TI, Malaysia's ranking under the CPI of TI would have been worse.

Most worryingly, the CPI score does not reveal telling details such as the fact that 50 per cent of respondents in the Bribe Payer's Survey believed that they have lost business due to bribery.

In this area, Malaysia ranked worst out of the 31 countries, worse than even Indonesia (47%), Pakistan (42%) and Russia (39%).

# Our education standards are lagging

EDUCATION Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has been ridiculed for saying that that our education system is better than that of the US, UK and Germany, using selective results from the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Competitiveness Report's statistics.

Muhyiddin, who is also deputy prime minister, had made these claims in March.

"His claims have now been totally repudiated by the recently released TIMSS 2011 findings," said Bagan MP Lim Guan Eng, who is also Penang Chief Minister.

Malaysia's ranking in Math fell from 20th in 2007 to 26th in 2011 while its ranking in Science fell by an ever greater margin, from 21st in 2007 to 32nd in 2011. Our average Math score fell from 474 in 2007 to 440 and our average Science score fell by an even greater degree from 471 in 2007 to 426 in 2011.

The results are summarised in Table 1 below.

In contrast, the US and the UK were ranked 9th and 10th with an average Math score of 509 and 507 respectively. The average Science scores of 533 for the UK and 525 for the US put them at

9th and 10th in the ranking respectively.

Both scores and rankings are far above that achieved by Malaysia. (Germany did not participate in this study)

Malaysia also shared the distinction of being only one out of six countries out of a sample of 42 countries participating in the Math study and 45 countries participating in the Science study to see falls in both our Math and Science scores and ranking!

Most of the other countries either improved their scores and rankings or stayed at their previous levels.

This fall is reflected in how many middle class parents in urban areas are voting with their feet and wallet by leaving the national education system in droves by enrolling their children in private primary and secondary schools.

Unfortunately, the parents who cannot afford the high fees of private schools will continue to have to send their children to the national schools and receive a less than desirable quality of education.

"I call on Muhyiddin to give a clear account of this serious and unacceptable fall in our TIMSS rankings and retract this previous statement that Malaysia's education system is better than the UK, US and Germany," Lim said.



File photo of primary school students who are part of the 'Green School' campaign.

Everyone knows that educational standards in Malaysia have deteriorated alarmingly.

In the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which compares international standards of reading, mathematics and science of 15-year olds, 44 per cent of Malaysian students failed to meet the minimum standards for reading, 60 per cent failed to meet minimum standards for Mathematics and 43 per cent failed to meet the minimum standards for Science.

Overall, the competency of 15-year olds in Malaysia was measured to be three years behind the international average.

"We as a nation must bridge the gaps and overcome any educational deficits together, so that not only do we avoid the pitfalls from any brain drain, but permit ourselves to scale new heights towards a high income economy," Lim said.

The latest 2011 TIMSS results only confirms the 2009 PISA study that our students are three years behind the international average and half of our students do not have an aptitude and command of knowledge of science and math.

For Malaysia to succeed in transforming into a developed economy, a prerequistie is a strong base in science and technolody.

"Accordingly, Muhyiddin must draw up a crisis plan to address the deteriorating educational standards in science and maths or else jeorpardise Malaysia's ambitions of becoming a high-income, high value-added and knowledge intensive economy."

### 31, 2012 NEWS

# Suit has no sPICE, court rules

Story and pix by Chan Lilian

IN November 2011, four individuals who called themselves "ratepayers" caused quite a stir when they appeared at the High Court in Penang accompanied by some politicians from Barisan Nasional to file a legal suit against the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) seeking a declaration that the agreement for Subterranean Penang Internation Convention and Exhibition Centre (sPICE) is null and void.

Video archive showed heavy presence of the Light Strike Force as the four "ratepayers", a group of Barisan Nasional leaders and supporters headed towards the High Court building.

The four plaintiffs, Khoo Yen Her, R. Rama Krishnan, Abdul Manan Abdul Manap and K. Sathiasilan, claimed they represented the people of Penang and were filing the suit on behalf of



Photo collage of the 'Old Spice'. Photos taken by MPPP show the deplorable state of the aquatic centre.

Artist's impression of the sPICE which is a RM300 million project, targeted to be completed in 2015.

other taxpayers in the Penang municipality.

However, the High Court has rejected their case.

In a press conference on Dec 7, exco member Chow Kon Yeow said that on Dec 4 the High Court had rejected the case and ordered the four to pay costs

of RM7,500 to the three respondents, i.e. MPPP, the Penang state exco members and Eco-Meridien Sdn Bhd, the developer of the project.

Chow also reported that so far the progress of the sPICE project is going according to schedule and about 18-19 per cent upgrading has been done to the Penang International Sports Arena (PISA) which will be upgraded to sPICE.

A Buletin Mutiara team visited the sPICE site in October and was briefed about the development of the project.

The aquatic centre which was

in a deplorable state during the Barisan Nasional administration is undergoing repairs and upgrading. The main PISA building continues to carry on as usual with exhibitions, concerts and big events being held weekly.

Piling works are going on at the subterranean centre which is at the front portion of PISA (where the fountains used to be) while a site has been cleared to be used as a temporary carpark.

The targeted completion date of sPICE is in the last quarter of 2015 and Penang will have an international subterranean convention centre by 2016 which will include a RM300 million sPICE; a new seven-acre public park; refurbished, repaired and upgraded Penang International Sports Arena(PISA); refurbished, repaired and upgraded aquatic centre, and a new hotel and retail outlets and additional car park.

### 'Go after the Federal Government'

Story and pix by Chan Lilian

"The people who collect our money must provide housing for the poor." - REHDA

HYPOCRITE – that's the word that the chairman of the Real Estate Housing Developers Association (Rehda) Penang, Datuk Jerry Chan, used to describe individuals and groups who had protested and demanded for development to stop in Penang.

"These people who are now protesting against the 87 units per acre policy by the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP) are the same people who had approved up to 165–180 units per acre during the previous government administration," Chan revealed.

REHDA had called a media briefing on Dec 17 and informed members of the press about the property outlook for 2013.

In a no-holds barred question-and-answer session, Chan also illustrated the domino effects should the property sector slow down by half.

He said 2012 had been a good year for the property sector with five to 15 per cent growth.

"So much attention has been given to Penang. With the Penang Science Park, we see job creation. Population growth projection is two million by 2020. That means an increase of about 400,000 people. We need housing for these people."

REHDA deputy chairman Toh Chin

Leong added: "We have to keep progressing. Growth is inevitable. It is a matter of how we manage it. What actually do Penangites want?

"It is high time we conduct a survey and find out what the people want. The average age of the people is 25.8 years. Do they want RM25,000 flats or apartments with facilities and bigger spaces?"

Chan lambasted certain quarters who had made a lot of noise.

"In 2008, these people who protested did not represent the stakeholders. They are not the ones who get elected. They have no locus-standi. It is the state government that has been voted in and they have the mandate to carry out the greater good of the public and it is their responsibility to provide housing for the people. If MPPP does not implement the 87 units/acre (and stick to 30 units/acre), where is the Penang state government going to find the housing for the people?" he said.

REHDA also pointed out that housing prices cannot be brought down by building less.

The moment development of housing stops, the demand is consistent and hence, prices go up.

"Consumers (house buyers) must know that every time the NGOs make noise, it is going to hurt their pockets. The people are going for the wrong target. We pay taxes to the federal government. Income tax, sales tax, road tax and most of other taxes go to the federal government. Yet, the federal



Chan (seated, second from left) and Toh (seated, third from left) say the people who collect our money must provide housing for the poor.

government is not providing housing for the poor. Instead, the federal government is pushing the state government and the state pushes the developers," Chan said.

He added: "Land prices have increased 100-200 per cent. Building materials and workmanship have increased. Yet, developers are compelled to provide low-medium cost (LMC) units at RM75,000 which has not been revised in the last 10 years. In the end, who pays for the increase? House buyers! Developers will have to factor in the costs for the LMC and the consumers will have to pay for them!"

Toh added: "From our experience, though we provide RM25,000 flats to the poor, we know that they have side transactions and those units go for as high as RM120,000. These people made a lot of money. If you don't believe, just take a look at the low cost housing. You can see air-con compressors and Astro dishes. On top of

that, the very poor cannot even afford to buy the RM25,000 per unit flats."

Chan said REHDA has proposed to the state government that if they can provide the land, the housing developers can work together with the state government to provide low cost housing.

Otherwise, house prices will continue to go up because of the need to provide low-cost and low medium-cost housing.

"Go for the people who owe it to us! They (the federal government) have collected our money (taxes) and they have the responsibility to provide low-cost housing for the poor," Chan repeated.

On a more positive note, REHDA said currently the property market outlook in Penang is very good.

With the building of the Penang Waterfront Convention Centre and several other projects, more hotels are needed and the state will cater to a different market.

# Bereaved family stays strong in faith

Story by Chan Lilian, Pix by Law Suun Ting

"The tide recedes but leaves behind bright seashells on the sand The sun goes down but gentle warmth still lingers on the land The music stops and yet it echoes on in sweet refrains For every joy that passes, something beautiful remains.."

JACOB Isaac Fletcher had been a loving son, a true brother and friend. The memory of him will live on and will never end – especially of one so young like Jacob who had a caring heart and a giving hand.

Buletin Mutiara requested permission from Martin Jalleh who had facilitated a Confirmation Camp Jacob attended, to reprint the above poem which Martin wrote for Jacob. Friends of Jacob too had left heart rending messages on his Facebook, recalling the good times they had and the wonderful person that Jacob

Jacob, 19, who was a Race Official of the Pesta Penang Dragon Boat Race, drowned at the Telok Bahang Dam on Dec 9.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, exco members Lim Hock Seng, Law Heng Kiang and Penang Water Supply Corporation Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) general manager Jaseni Maidinsa paid a visit to the bereaved family at the Church of Immaculate Conception funeral parlour and handed over RM5,000 from the Chief Minister and RM10,000 from PBAPP of which Jacob's grandfather was a former employee.

No words could console the parents, Paul and Jillian Fletcher, and Jacob's two sisters, Jessica and Stephanie.

However, the family will stay strong in their faith and will seek comfort in



Lim extending his condolences to Jillian who lost her son.

# Children reminded to be good, grateful

Story by Chan Lilian

TWO hundred and fifty children from Penang Cheshire Home, Pertubuhan Rumah Kebajikan Seri Cahaya, the Salvation Army Home, the Ramakrishna Ashrama, St Joseph's Home, St. Vincent de Paul and the public had a joyful time at the YWCA Penang Christmas do on Dec 8.

Joining them were Penang state exco Chow Kon Yeow and his wife Tan Lean Kee.

YWCA president Dr Marina David told the children: "We want you to to enjoy the spirit of Christmas and you will bring from Santa. You can also get

to know and respect each other's festivities and would have a better understanding as you grow up. Similarly you should visit and enjoy the festivities of others too."

Chow, who stayed through the three-hour event, sang Christmas carols with the children and reminded them: "Be good and be grateful for all that we have in Malaysia. Remember the good values taught and respect and love for each other."

The cheeky children at first demanded for an "old" Santa when they saw the young man in

Dr Marina assured them: "Santa is too old to



home a present and goodie bag Tan giving away prizes to the winners of the most creative attire.

travel in his sleigh from the north pole to Penang. So he sent his son today."

Upon hearing that, the children readily accepted the presents from young Santa because they did not want their presents to return to the "North Pole".

The children had a whale of a time especially the fancy dress competition with each one in creative attire from sari to cheongsam and baju kurung all made instantly from newspapers. Their creativity was at its best.

Tan gave away the prizes to the winners of the most creative attire.

#### **About the YWCA**

THE YWCA Penang, the oldest women's organisation in the country, was established in 1909.

It has been at its present premises on Jalan Mesjid Negeri since 1954.

The women in the early years served during the pre-war and post-war days, sewing clothes for the soldiers and doing other tasks. Members of the association were locals and expatriates. The president then was the Resident commissioner's

Through the years, with the establishment of the different associations, YWCA has became more localised.

Funding is limited and has become challenging to keep up the work of the association which is primarily empowerment of women, childcare and early education.

The YWCA in spite of its challenges still continues to give subsidies and free early education to

YWCA hostels are known through the world and Penang YWCA hostel still continues to serve at affordable rates – "a home away from home".

Recently the committee has been trying very hard to raise money for various repairs and also would seek furniture and furnishings from hotels and others who are in the process refurbishing their

Those who wish to help as volunteers at the YWCA are most welcome, and those who want to donate/help towards the upkeep of the Y and the running of the activities are also welcome.

For details, call the YWCA office at 04-8281855/8280741.

#### Story and pix by Chan Lilian

PENANG State Youth, Sports, Women, Family And Community Development exco Lydia Ong Kok Fooi told the guests at the opening of Penang Entrepreneurs Counselling Society (PECS): "When foreign visitors come to Penang, they want to take something 'Penang' home with them. However, we sometimes run out of ideas what to offer them. That's how we came up with the idea of the Pinang's Pinang branding. It is the best of what Penang has, made by 'Penang lang' (Penang people)."

The PECS building at No. 9, Kinta Lane is easily accessible by foot from Macalister Road, diagonally across New Lane. It is a one-way road and people can access it from Burmah Road by car.

The bright and breezy building with beautiful paintings on the wall and a huge courtyard at the back offers many things.

There are handmade Penang souvenirs like Agift which sells perfume and personal

care products made by people with special needs.

Beautifully packaged handmade soaps are made by people with learning difficulties. Beside that, one can find curry



pastes, beautiful handicrafts and other items which made perfect gifts.

However, the PECS has a bigger mission.

'It is the first culture and creative centre in Malaysia where we provide the platform for youths, families and single



Rows of hand painted bottle of perfumes which make perfect souvenirs from Penang.

mothers to come and learn skills that will help them. The mission of the PECS is to provide consultation strategy to promote the development of entrepreneurial talents. We want to educate youths to excel because in Penang, we value human talent," Ong said.

Korean illustrator Kim Jung Gi who was at the launch left a drawing on the wall while five other local Penang artists painted another section of the wall and left their signature

One of the Penang artists, Chong Hon Fatt, who drew Komtar building, told Buletin Mutiara that he specialised in drawing old buildings and currently has an art exhibition at the Penang State Art Gallery.

When asked if he felt a revival in the arts scene in Penang and if there is a more vibrant mood on the island, Chong agreed.

"The current government is encouraging arts and that is

The guests were treated to delicious foods catered by Bamboo Catering which inGroup photo of some of the local artists and guests with Ong.



Ong telling Korean artist Kim Jung Gi all the wonderful things he can enjoy during his trip to Penang.

cluded delicate Nyonya kuih, laksa, char koay teow, rojak and chicken herbal soup (bak kut teh soup base). Some of the rempah and herbal soup base are also on sale at PECS.

This has made PECS a one-

stop location to grab some Penang original and authentic items while being charitable when you purchase items made by special needs people as they will be earning some money from the sales.

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# **Coming home**

Story and pix by Chan Lilian

JOAN Cheong was choked with emotion and shedding tears when she related how she had left her beloved Penang in the 1980s in pursuit of a career in fashion designing.

She left because back then prospects on the island were not bright.

Today, she is back.

"Lydia (Penang State Youth, Sports, Women, Family And Community Development exco Lydia Ong Kok Fooi) persuaded me three years ago to return to Penang to contribute to the arts and design scene. Penang has a pool of talented youths but they need to broaden their horizons. We have to provide them a good foundation and innovation and they can certainly improve," Joan told Buletin Mutiara.

"I remember I was in the United States



Cheong (left) and Ong posing in front of Joan's painting.

on March 8, 2008 when I heard that the DAP and its partners had won the election

in Penang. Then, I heard that the Chief Minister was Lim Guan Eng. About a year later, I learnt that George Town had become a UNESCO World Heritage Site," she recalled.

Ong was very happy that a talented individual like Joan had finally decided to come home.

Cheong will be providing career advice on brand and image consultation and positioning at the Penang Entrepreneurs Counselling Society (PECS) in her role as

Cheong specialises in fashion designs with traditional and cultural elements.

"I want to make Penang an international brand. You know...back in 2005, when I was in Taiwan, a Brazillian classmate told me that Penang was going down. People no longer wanted to come to Penang back then in 2005," Joan said as to how she was inspired to do something about the declining state of Penang's al-

"I am proud to say that two years ago

(in 2010), I found that Penang was getting better. I told myself - 'Give me five years and we will make Penang known internationally'. I travel a lot and spend most of my time in all parts of the world like China, Japan, Africa and other countries. I am confident with the right approach and guidance, Penang will be known globally," Joan said confidently.

At the launch of the PECS, Cheong had deftly painted the wall with one of her designs.

Though she is 50, her energetic self with her passion in arts and design plus her great skin and fashionable clothes have made her look years younger.

Penang is certainly lucky that the pool of human capital who had left the country is now slowly coming home to roost and impart their skills and experiences to the youths.

This can only happen when they have confidence that the state government is serious in taking care of its people and giving them the platform to shine.

# buletin

# 'Quit if you lied about Lynas'

Story and pix by Chan Lilian

CHIEF Minister Lim Guan Eng, in his capacity as MP for Bagan, has urged for ministers to resign if they are found lying over the Lynas issue.

The four are International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Unggah Embas and Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

"Is the Malaysian Cabinet and in particular the four ministers lying or is Lynas the liar over the controversy whether the Temporary Operating Licence (TOL) granted to Lynas has a strict condition that the rare earth toxic waste residue cannot remain in Malaysia but must be exported out of the country?" Lim asked in a press statement.

While Lynas claims that it has become a political football due to impending general elections, Lim said this was a serious issue with long-term consequences lasting a lifetime that are more important than elections which come once in five years.

Many Malaysians worried about their health and children's safety are asking questions following conflicting reChief Minister Lim Guan Eng and excomember Chow Kon Yeow joined Penangites in the Himpunan Hijau on Feb 26.

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ports between both Lynas and the Malaysian government whether the TOL makes it compulsory for the waste to be exported.

"Based on which party the statements were addressed to, it is clear that Lynas is telling the truth and the entire BN Cabinet is lying."

Lim exerted that the four ministers must resign because he is sure that Lynas will not dare lie to the Australian Stock Exchange(ASE) with their statement that the licence permitted the waste to remain in Malaysia.

"It is easy for BN to lie to the people as they have done so for the last 55 years without suffering any serious adverse consequences," he added.

"Lynas' admission that rare earth waste will remain and will not be exported out of Malaysia presents a rare opportunity for the Malaysian government to cancel the Kuantan Rare Earth Facility for breach of compliance without needing to pay compensation amounting to billions of ringgit.

"If BN refuses to defend the interests of the people's health and the environment by cancelling the Lynas plant for breach of compliance, then Pakatan Rakyat will do so when we take



A member of the media with Buletin Mutiara Chan Lilian at the Himpunan Hijau protest.

over Putrajaya without needing to pay a single sen in compensation," Lim said.

He assured Penangites that

as long as PR remains as the state government, Penang will be safe from such nuclear plants.



One of the placards held by a protestor.



The Himpunan Hijau protestors stand in unity to protest at the Esplanade.