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March 2012: Issue 1/03

Edisi Bahasa Inggeris, Tamil dan Cina

Penang to be best outsourcing hub

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng who was at the 'Accountants for Business Forum Finance Transformation: Expert Insights on shared services and outsourcing' which was held recently had delivered a candid speech to a group of accountants. CM Lim also revealed to the accountants that Penang has made the largest contribution to Malaysia's foreign direct investments with RM17.7 billion or 28% of Malaysia's total FDI of 63.2 billion between 2010-2011.

Speech by YAB Lim Guan Eng, Chief Minister of Penang

Before I begin I would like to admit that I am a failed accountant. I graduated in economics and accounting in Australia and chose to practice as an accountant. Somehow it was more difficult for me to get a auditing position in a Big 8 accounting firm in 1984, as compared to my classmates. But I was delighted after months of failed interviews with top accounting firms, to have finally landed a position with a Big 8 firm.

However my delight was short-lived as I was unceremoniously sacked without any professional reason after less than a week when they found out who my father was. For some of you who may not know, I am the son of the DAP leader Lim Kit Siang.

Obviously I was deemed not qualified to be an accountant as I was feared to share my father's unhealthy passion for integrity, transparency, full disclosure as well as giving a true and fair view. This definitely disqualified me as an accountant with the Big 8 firm as the 1980s was a time of financial hanky-panky and cover ups such as the massive Bank Bumiputra losses scandals.

Needless to say I was devastated when I found I could not get a job as an accountant. But all's well that ends well. After failing to make the cut as an accountant, I had no choice but to join politics and became the Penang Chief



Minister. I would therefore wish to congratulate all of you for making the grade as an accountant. And if you do not make it as an accountant, do not despair. You can always be like me and hope to become the Penang Chief Minister.

I take this opportunity to thank ACCA for inviting me to speak at the Accountants for Business Forum on the topic of shared services and outsourcing as a crucial finance transformation tool. Today's topic of discussion is high in the Penang state's agenda, especially since Penang has been recognized by United Nation Industrial Development Organisation as one of the top 10 industrial destinations in the world, with a reputation as one of the locations to watch for the next outsourcing boom. With such obvious potential, it is fitting that Penang is host to this thought-provoking forum.

Further in 2009, KPMG's Exploring Global Frontier Report identified Penang as one of the 31 emerging Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) hub cities in the world. To date, prominent multinational

corporations (MNCs) such as AMD, Agilent Technologies, Citibank, Dell, Intel, Jabil, Motorola, Mattel and Seagate have already set up their shared services and outsourcing activities in Penang encompassing financial services, human resources, trade bills processing, call centre, information technology outsourcing services, data intelligence, design and development as well as supply chain management.

The concept of shared services and outsourcing – or SSO – first came up about 30 years ago, and back then, it was a radical idea viewed with both optimism and scepticism. Fast forward to today and SSO is now a mainstream business function which has delivered strategic value.

The Penang state government is also keen on delivering strategic values in financial management. CAT governance based on competency, accountability and transparency has resulted in surplus budgets every year since we took power in 2008. Penang managed to reduce our government debts RM 630.13mil in

8.3.2008 to RM 29.66 mil at end of 2011. This marks a reduction of 95% over a period of three years, the highest record ever amongst all states in Malaysia.

Some sceptics dismiss our success in reducing growth by 95% as a mere restructuring in transferring our debt to the Federal Government. Under standard financial literature, debt restructuring is a process that allows a private or public company or a government facing cash flow problems and financial distress, to reduce and renegotiate its delinquent debts in order to improve or restore liquidity and rehabilitate so that it can continue its operations. Replacement of old debt by new debt when not under financial distress is referred to as refinancing.

There is no debt restructuring in Penang's case as Penang has no delinquent debts that are in arrears, suffers no cash flow problems and is not under financial distress. In fact, Penang has increased our

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Queen's brief visit to Penang

Pix by **Chan Lilian and Alissala Thian**

THE Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Haminah Hamidun made a brief visit to Penang recently. On arrival Her Majesty was received by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and his wife, Betty Chew Gek Cheng, Penang Speaker Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain, Penang Exco Members Wong

Hon Wai, Chow Kon Yeow and other State leaders.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng was at the airport again on 16 March, 2012 with Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain and Senator Mustafa Kamal Mohd Yusoff to bid farewell to Her Majesty. The Queen looked resplendent in pink baju kurung and was pleased when Chief Minister Lim bade farewell and invited Her Majesty to come to Penang again.



Governor supports Penang Rifle Club



The Governor fired the first shot to launch the shooting competition.



Datuk Dr. Kenny Ong looking while Lydia took part in the VVIP category.



Speaker Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain concentrating on the competition.

THE Penang Rifle Club was established in 1954 and it is the oldest shooting club in Malaysia. Located at the unique Penang Botanical Gardens since 1966, the club is surrounded by flora and fauna and shielded by a huge boulder perimeter.

The Penang State Governor, Tuan Yang Terutama Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Tun Dato' Seri Utama (DR.) Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Haji Abbas and his consort, Toh Puan Dato' Seri Utama Hajah Majimor binti Shariff were at the Penang Rifle Club for the annual Governor's Cup 2012 Shooting Competition on 5 March 2012. The Governor graciously posed for photographers before he fired the first shot to mark the launch of the shooting competition.

Several Penang leaders took part in the VVIP shooting category. They were State Assembly Speaker Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain, State Youth and Sports, Women, Family and Community Development Committee Chairperson Lydia Ong Kok Fooi and Kebun Bunga Assemblymember Jason Ong Khan Lee.

During a brief press conference, the Governor expressed his wish that the Penang Rifle Club will be allowed to continue to operate at the same location. Several NGOs have demanded for the Club to be relocated as part of the Botanical Gardens future plan. One of the reasons given was noise pollution which is unsuitable at the Botanical Gardens. Furthermore, the Club is catered for the elite few only.

The Governor said, "I suggest that the Club is not relocated. If there are problems, these can be discussed. It is not true to say that the Club is for the privileged few. The Police, Bomba, Immigration, Forestry, MACC and other Government departments need this place to

hold their trainings. We also need it to train young athletes."

"We must learn to be tolerant and not ask others to move because of noise pollution. For example, we accept each other religious practices. We do not ask others to move but we live harmoniously. Now, the Club does not operate during festivals at the Botanical Gardens and shooting hours are limited too," the Governor advised.

Prior to the Governor's speech, the Club President, Dato' Dr. Kenny Ong said, "We are also an NGO and we believe that the Penang Rifle Club does have a role to play for Penang. The Club provides a platform for Penang athletes to sharpen their skills in competitive environment besides supporting the various Government agencies in their training."

Ong said the Club will not hinder any development for the progress of Penang and it is willing to relocate to another venue, if a safe, secure and suitable site can be identified.

The Penang Rifle Club managed to raise RM60,000. The money will be used to organise events and to send shooters to participate in competitive events outside Penang.

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Chinese politician rocks boat in Malaysia

By **Dan Martin**

FORMER political detainee Lim Guan Eng wasted no time leaving his mark on Penang after the brash opposition politician won power in the Malaysian state in 2008 elections.

He quickly balanced the books of the former British colonial outpost, which were stained red after a half-century under control of Malaysia's authoritarian ruling coalition.

He has virtually eliminated its debt, launched a campaign to halt official corruption, and has, by most accounts, injected new vigour and efficiency into the government of the important economic hub.

Today, Penang -- a colorful mix of colonial architecture, pre-war Chinese shophouses, tropical beaches and high-tech factories -- is on the up, as property values soar and foreign investment rolls in.

With potentially pivotal new elections expected to be called within months, Lim -- a 51-year-old ethnic Chinese former banker with slicked-back hair and a wide chin -- says the implications of his record are clear.

"If you can show that you can govern well, it will be a model, a showcase... a precursor of governing the federal government," he said, pointing to the possibility of the opposition led by Anwar Ibrahim taking power.

Malaysia's long-ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition faces voter unease over allegations of misgovernance, corruption, racial tension, the latter often blamed on policies that promote majority Malays over minority Chinese and Indians.

But the BN insists the Anwar-led opposition can do no better.

Lim's success in Penang has called that claim into question, however, and his outspokenness mark him as the country's most potent symbol of minority impatience.

Lim earned a one-year jail term in 1998 for sedition after he criticised the dropping of rape charges against



a Malay top ruling party politician and he launches regular broadsides against the BN over its frequent financial and other scandals.

His detractors call him a domineering self-promoter who is benefiting from UNESCO's 2008 listing of Penang's capital Georgetown as a World Heritage Site, a bid launched before he took over.

But even opponents acknowledge he gets results.

"He is very clever, very authoritarian," said Teng Hock Nan, Penang's top official for Gerakan, the ruling coalition partner ousted by Lim's Democratic Action Party (DAP) in 2008. "When he gives a directive, it gets done."

One of Britain's oldest Asian settlements, Penang was a cosmopolitan trading hub in its 19th-century heyday before going into what Lim calls a "graceful decline".

Today, run-down Georgetown shophouses -- the

distinctive rows of buildings seen in parts of Southeast Asia -- are being transformed into trendy hotels, cafes and art galleries injecting new life into old neighbourhoods.

A federally-backed grant programme provides seed money for such renovations.

Many credit Lim's attempts to clean up the rampant backroom deals and political patronage that are typical of Malaysia, whose rating by Transparency International on corruption in recent years has steadily sunk.

Lim launched an unprecedented system of open tenders for state projects and his top officials this year took the unheard-step of declaring their assets.

Business figures privately say once-routine demands for payoffs are now rare and the bureaucracy more efficient.

"What is sad about Malaysia is that things that are the international norm (clean government) are abnormal," Lim said.

Foreign investors have signalled their approval. Home to much of Malaysia's high-tech industry, Penang led the nation in luring manufacturing investment the past two years.

Lim's moves have been "very substantive in managing finances, cleaning up the government, and initiating green policies", said Bridget Welsh, a Malaysia politics analyst with Singapore Management University.

"I've gone there for years and can tell you there is a big difference."

Australian investors Karl Steinberg and Christopher Ong, who is Penang-born, have restored an Edwardian bungalow and other decaying heritage properties into boutique hotels, lured by the new energy and official "cleanliness".

"There are places where corruption can make it hard to get things done. Penang is relatively free of that," Steinberg said.

But Lim's directness rubs many raw and he faces

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criticism for overly fast growth as soaring property prices have worsened low-cost housing shortage. Plans for huge infrastructure projects have fuelled the concerns.

Gerakan accuses him of stoking racial tensions, and national leaders including premier Najib Razak have warned vaguely threats to Malay dominance, widely seen as referring to ambitious non-Malays like Lim.

But Francis Loh, head of independent Penang-based democratic rights group Aliran, says Lim's government has

been racially inclusive.

"They represent the opening up of government in Malaysia," he said.

Leading Malaysia pollster Ibrahim Suffian said Lim looks so secure that the ruling coalition likely views Penang as a "lost cause" in the next polls.

Nationally, the picture is less clear.

Lim doubles as national head of the Chinese-dominated DAP, one of three members of the opposition front, including Anwar's multi-racial party and an Islamic party.

The alliance won historic gains over the BN in 2008

but remains fractious and its performance is mixed in three other states - Malaysia has 13 -- it won four years ago.

But Lim remains hopeful. He relaxes by reading British historian Niall Ferguson's works on the failures of past national governments through history, in case the opposition wins control.

"If we win... I need to know what are the pitfalls," he said. - AFP

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cash reserves by nearly 50% to RM1.2 billion. Neither is there refinancing as Penang is not replacing the old RM630 million debt with new ones.

This is simply just a case of debt reduction from RM630 million to RM 30 million, where the state government now no longer needs to pay RM600 million. Penang's singular success in debt reduction is certified even by the Auditor-General's Report. Certain quarters claim that the same transfer of debts is done in other states. Then why is it that the debts of these states are not reduced by 95% like Penang?

Penang's economy is growing strongly. Penang topped investment in Malaysia in 2010 and repeated that historic feat in 2011. For two years in a row, Penang has been tops in manufacturing investment in Malaysia. In 2010, we attracted RM12.2 billion worth of investments while we received RM9.1 billion last year. Penang contributed to 28% or RM 17.7 billion of Malaysia's FDI in 2010-2011. Credit must be given to the people of Penang and former Penang Chief Minister Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu.

Penang's success can be traced to the state's industrial manufacturing revolution which has transformed Penang's economy to what it is today. The next step in progression is to grow our state into a knowledge-based economy so we can be an intelligent and international city that is a location of choice for investors.

For Penang to succeed as an international city, our civil service must also be internationally rated to help facilitate the growth the services sector. Penang has adopted a forward looking and long-range vision of transforming Penang into an international and intelligent city. Apart from increasing Penang's attractiveness, the Penang state government has also taken pro-active steps in improving infrastructure including the 4 major road infrastructure projects of RM 5-8 billion.

These physical infrastructure building are further supported by favourable Malaysian Government

policies in the form of cyber laws, financial and non-financial incentives and appropriate strategic policies. Clearly, these attractive features have been the main reasons behind the success of the SSO industry in Malaysia. To date, there are over 200 companies which have made Malaysia their preferred choice, including global brands such as Intel, AMD, BMW, DHL, HSBC, Nokia, Shell.

Growing our services sector to be the main engine of economic growth exceeding manufacturing can only succeed with contributions from tourism, shared services and outsourcing. However, that does not relegate the importance of manufacturing as without manufacturing, there is no platform to develop our services sector. The key word is convergence of both manufacturing and services sector or of product, technology and direct consumer services.

The SSO trend has great untapped potential, and from all accounts, SSO is set to be the next business phenomenon. The latest report from ACCA has stipulated that there is no turning back from using shared services and outsourcing as a finance transformation tool, not if we want to drive business excellence. It is no longer a question of it but rather of when and how.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The global demand for SSO centres have risen dramatically in recent years. It was estimated that the SSO market in Malaysia will be worth USD2 billion with 300,000 high value jobs this year. Globally, this worth is multiplied hundred fold. Clearly, the benefits of engaging in SSO are plenty, not least of which are the cost savings and improved efficiency.

I believe Malaysia, and Penang in particular, is well-positioned to be a major player in the SSO industry because of the many attractive features offered here. At the top of the list is the fact the Penang has world-class infrastructure, including a high-capacity digital fibre-optic network in business hubs and cities. This is complemented with a pool of highly skilled workforce with cultural adaptability, efficient trans-

portation system and a comfortable living environment, clean administration with open tenders and good governance based on CAT of competency, accountability and transparency.

Our country has been enjoying an enviable position where SSO is concerned. According to the latest A.T. Kearney Global Services Location Index 2011, Malaysia is ranked third in terms of attractiveness as a destination for outsourcing activities, behind only to two of the world's economic power houses: India and China. While this recognition is an honour, we must be reminded that complacency is the antithesis of leadership. It is the collective responsibility of both the Government and Corporate Malaysia to strengthen our competitive position even further.

The Penang government is committed to making our state into the best outsourcing hub in Malaysia. We aim to provide quality infrastructure and widen the talent pool by finding cost effective ways associated with the training and certification of knowledge-based workers as well as setting up the industry-driven Penang Science Council and the Penang Tech Center.

We do not doubt that there will be many questions on how businesses can achieve the economies of scale promised by the SSO initiative. In fact, it is better to ask questions first before jumping on the bandwagon. Today's ACCA forum provides you with the perfect opportunity to understand more about the SSO industry and the role it plays in your company's future.

Remember to understand well or else you will be repeating the accountants' joke of "There are two sides of the balance sheet: the left side (comprising of assets) and the right side (which should be the owners). On the left side of the balance sheet, there is nothing right, and on the right side, there is nothing left!"

On that note, I wish everyone a fruitful forum this morning. Thank you.

LIM GUAN ENG

World Interfaith Harmony – True Moderation

“Evil exists because good people do nothing.”

ACCORDING to the World Interfaith Harmony Week website at <http://world-interfaithharmonyweek.com/>, the World Interfaith Harmony Week is based on the pioneering work of The Common Word initiative. This initiative, which started in 2007, called for Muslim and Christian leaders to engage in a dialogue based on two common fundamental religious Commandments; Love of God, and Love of the Neighbour, without nevertheless compromising any of their own religious tenets. The Two Commandments are at the heart of the three Monotheistic religions and therefore provide the most solid theological ground possible.

The World Interfaith Harmony Week extends the Two Commandments by adding ‘Love of the Good, and Love of the Neighbour’. This formula includes all people of goodwill. It includes those of other faiths, and those with no faith.

The World Interfaith Harmony Week provides a platform—one week in a year—when all interfaith groups and other groups of goodwill can show the world what a powerful movement they are.

The Penang Pakatan Rakyat State Government had taken the initiative to organise a conference, “True Moderation” on 18 February 2012. This was attended by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and his two deputies, Datuk Mansor Othman, Prof. P. Ramasamy



Some of the participants.

and Penang Speaker, Datuk Abdul Halim Hussain together with Penang State Secretary, Datuk Farizan Darus and Exco members and State Assembly Members.

In his speech, CM Lim said, “We should never take for granted the religious freedom and the relative harmony that we have enjoyed in this country. The practice of holding an annual World Inter-Faith Harmony Week was established in 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly, which encouraged governments to support the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill based on love of God and love of one’s neighbour”.

He continued, “Religious conflict generally arises from the wilful failure or inability of the followers of religions to temporarily set aside their own religious viewpoints and to see the world through the eyes of other human beings. The ability to empathise with others is what makes man a moral being. There is no religion in the world that does not contain the golden rule: ‘Do unto others as you would have others do unto you’”.

CM Lim also said, “Religious harmony requires not simply that we tolerate other religions, as we would tolerate a stranger who sits next to us on the bus. True religious harmony requires that we give honour and respect other religions and other religious beliefs. We respect them, despite our differences, because of our shared values and because they are dearly held by people who are our friends and fellow citizens”.

CM Lim who is the Exco member in charge of Non-Muslim Affairs said, “Penang can show the way to the rest of Peninsular Malaysia in inter-faith harmony. Here in Penang, we have for the first time set up an EXCO portfolio for Non-Muslim Affairs. We have increased the State



Exco Member Abdul Malik Kassim presenting a souvenir to Bishop Antony Selvanayagam of MCCBCHST.

allocations for Islamic Affairs and provided burial grounds and religious schools. We have set up fixed institutionalised funding to partially-funded schools run by various religious communities and given land to schools and temples, as well as RM1 million annually to the Hindu Endowment Board. And today, we are holding what we hope will be the first of many inter-faith events to promote religious harmony and understanding”.

Penang is appreciative of the presence of Prof. Din Syamsuddin, Ketua Umum Muhammadiyah; Prof. Ramasamy, Deputy Chief Minister II; Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, Chairman of the Cheng-Ho Multicultural Education Trust; Dato’ Dr Siddiq Fadzil, President of Wadah Kerjasama Umat Malaysia; Bishop Antony Selvanayagam, Chairman of the Malaysian

Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism, Penang; and Dr Mujahid Yusuf Rawa, South-east Asia Inter-faith Dialogue Chairman at the conference.

CM Lim said, “The conference on True Moderation seeks to explore the moral compass of all-encompassing universal values, to define the boundaries of moderation and to shape people’s thoughts and actions towards that which reinforces peaceful coexistence and inter-faith harmony”.

In closing, CM said, “Let the common good in us be our armour and our respect of each other’s faiths be our shield.

True moderation is justice;
True moderation is freedom;
True moderation is equality;
True moderation is knowledge seeking;

True moderation is truth;
True moderation is courage.

A true moderate personifies upward mobility, modesty, inclusiveness, courage and patience, piety, and above all, success. Most importantly, a true moderate must stand up to evil and wrongs. Evil exists because good people do nothing. We must not lose our faith in that narrative.”

The Closing Ceremony was done by Opposition Leader and Member of Parliament for Permatang Pauh Dato Seri Utama Anwar bin Ibrahim.



Listening attentively.

A showcase of the best in press photography



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr Paul Bekkers and CM Lim looking at a photo.

THE 'World Press Photo 11' which was held in Penang from 11 to 19 March, 2012 was a meaningful one because it was the first time the exhibition had reached Penang's shores. The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr Paul Bekkers had chosen the impressive Penang Town Hall building as the venue.

In his speech, His Excellency said Penang surrounded by water has made the Dutch people feel at home. He also pointed out other similarities between Penang and the Netherlands such as the 'strong winds blowing in opposite directions' and said the business climate on the island is very attractive to the Dutch investors.

"Penang is one of the most attractive states in Malaysia. Furthermore, Penang has an inspiring leader, Lim Guan Eng," said the Ambassador. There was loud applause from the guests who were at the exhibition.

This was the 54th World Press Photo exhibition.

110,000 entries were submitted by 6,000 photographers from all over the world which show the dark and positive sides of life. Ooi Geok Ling, the General Manager of Penang Global Tourism said, "The exhibition is photo journalism at its best, awesome and gruesome at the same time."

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng agreed that the exhibition showed the virtues of mankind as well as its failures and effects. He said, "Some of the people have said that photographs are windows to our souls which show what evil men can do. Perhaps these photographs can help us to do more good than evil."

One photograph that captured CM Lim's attention was the portrait of an Afghan girl, Bibi Aisha, whose nose and ears had been cut off by her husband. It was chosen as the Photo of the Year. CM Lim who was moved by the picture said, "Without this photograph of a girl with no nose, no one would have known the cruelty inflicted on women. What more, this reminder is so appropriate when we have just celebrated International Women's Day. We once again reaffirm that in Penang we support gender equality and women's rights."

CM Lim praised the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program by TNT Express Malaysia because this exhibition had opened the eyes of the people. CM Lim also joked that TNT company exemplifies the



Visitors at the World Press Photo 11 listening attentively to CM's speech.

Dutch resolve of - when the going gets tough, the tough get going. He was referring to TNT's perfect timing of having opened up an office in Penang despite the economic slowdown but had a spike and surge in business and TNT is now unable to cope with their orders when things picked up again.

The crowd applauded louder when CM Lim said, "You know, when you invest in Penang, you could never go wrong. We hope His Excellency will send the message back home that when people invest in Penang, they will surely make money."

CM Lim ended his speech with, "Let this be a platform for everyone to take note of what else is going on in the world and for everyone to take heed on the importance of press photographers. Their role in communicating the world's news is important and the World Press Photo is a true reflection of that."

MPSP councillor makes Penang proud

SEBERANG Perai Municipal Councillor (MPSP) Councillor, Steven Sim 29 years old has made Penang proud for being nominated as one of the "Young Global Leaders" (YGL) 2012 at the World Economic Forum (WEF).

This year, there were 191 YGLs who were selected from 59 countries. In Malaysia, only two persons were given the honour. They are Penangite, Steven Sim and Member of Parliament for Lembah Pantai, Nurul Izzah.

These YGLs were selected based on their leadership, professional achievements and contributions and commitment to society.

Steven is amongst leaders like the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, David Cameron and Google Founder Larry Page.

"I am honoured to be nominated. The

world is now at a defining moment. On one hand, we are witnessing unprecedented technological progress, but on the other, humanity is faced with a never seen before risk of systemic collapse. The opportunity is now for citizens of the world to come together to rethink our future," Steven commented. He is looking forward to collaborate with the best young minds to shape the future together.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng met with Steven and his lovely wife, Joreen Chan at a press confence recently. He congratulated Steven and said, "We are very proud that for Malaysia, we have Steven who is from Penang to be given the honour".

Steven is a DAP member and also the Senior Executive Officer of Penang Institute. He has been a Councillor of MPSP since January 2011.



Exco Member Chow Kon Yeow, CM Lim, Steven and his lovely wife, Joreen Chan.

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2012年3月刊

领取人数逐年上升 民众反应褒多过贬

由槟州民联政府推动的乐龄人士回馈金计划今年已经踏入第3个年头。尽管这项以民为本的惠民计划在落实的当初曾遭到槟州反对党的蓄意破坏，声称这项计划是州政府在贿赂槟民等，但事实胜于雄辩。今年领取回馈金人数较去年人数增加了8000人，在在地证明了槟州人民对这项惠民计划的支持度。尤其是，当部分受惠者在接受访问都异口同声说：这是槟州政府感激及感恩槟州年老子民对槟州社会发展所作出的贡献的一种体现。

乐龄人士回馈金计划于3月10及11日正式开放给民众领取，截止日期是到3月30日。

今年共有13万6015人获发回馈金，相较于去年的12万8000人，共增加了8000人。当中2万6521人来自威北、2万5505人来自威中、1万653人来自威南、6万844人来自东北区以及1万2492人来自西南区。

根据《珍珠快讯》抽样式地访问民众意见时，占绝大部分的领取者都表示今年是他们第3度领取回馈金，并且对这项以民为本的计划感到满意。

槟州首长林冠英到亚依淡马来亚银行巡视时表示，尽管该项计划将增加州政府的开销预算，但槟州政府还是兑现承诺，每年分派100令吉给60岁以上的乐龄人士。

他指出，州政府今年准备了2000万令吉作为乐龄人士回馈金、单亲妈妈及能力差异人士援助金，以及往生乐龄人士指定继承者所将领到的1000令吉抚恤金。

“另外，还有考入国立大学的槟州学生可获得一次性1000令吉奖励金；宝贝计划下的每名新生儿可获得200令吉；快乐学习计划下的一年级、四年级、中一及中四生可获得100令吉。”

“这些都是州政府肃贪的收益，这跟国阵不同的是，他们在大选要来时才分派一次性的500令吉。民联不管什么时候、也不分宗教、种族及性别，最重要的是不分政治背景。反而是砂拉越一名老人，因支持反对党而得不到国阵分派的500令吉援助



今年领取回馈金人数较去年人数增加了8000人，在在地证明了槟州人民对这项惠民计划的支持度。尤其是，当部分受惠者在接受访问都异口同声说：这是槟州政府感激及感恩槟州年老子民对槟州社会发展所作出的贡献的一种体现。的高度不同，那就是分别会有9楼或16楼，预计首阶段工程将于2015年竣工。

金。”

他续称，在檳城，民联州政府不分人民的政治背景，无论他们是否支持反对党，州政府都是一视同仁。

“今年在亚依淡及阿逸布爹选区领取100令吉的乐龄人士，从去年的5000人增加至6000人。虽然人数

逐年增加，但州政府拥有12亿令吉的储备金，所以我们不担心资金不足。”

值得一提的是，槟州首长林冠英在百忙公务中抽空到数个选区的马来亚银行巡视回馈金分派流程及情况，包括阿逸布爹区、丹绒武雅区、双溪槟榔区、双溪浮油区、北海区以及峇都茅区等。



Frances Lim (75岁)

“这是我第三年拿到民联州政府分派的100令吉津贴。我会继续支持民主行动党。”



Gan Joo San (72岁)

“很开心也很感激。因为这100令吉是我的额外收入。”



Faridah Harun (60岁)

“这是我第3年领取这100令吉。我很开心也很感激首长这么地珍惜年老一代的人的贡献。虽然这数目不多，但这也是一种对我们的重视。有了这100令吉，我可以为我的孩子买很多东西了。”



Vallammal A/P Sukalingam (71岁)

“这是我第3年拿到民联州政府分发的100令吉。很开心，因为我有额外的收入。”



Abdul Wahab bin Che Din (72岁)

“我个人认为，乐龄人士回馈计划是一个非常惠民的

计划。我已经从民联州政府手中拿了3次的回馈金。我会用掉50令吉，将另外的50令吉存起来。”



Oon Hock Seng (82岁)

“很开心因为有民联州政府给的额外收入。这是我第3年拿到这回馈金。”

槟州政府致函首相要求公平拨款 冀将大马第十计划拨款增超72亿令吉

槟州政府正式致函给首相拿督斯里纳吉，吁请首相公平拨款予槟州，尤其是在大马第十计划下，能够将28亿8000万的拨款增加至超过72亿令吉。

槟州政府于3月20日正式致函给首相，以吁请首相公平拨款予槟州。相较于槟城在大马第九计划下获得的65亿4000万令吉近933项计划，槟州政府对于只能在大马第十计划下获得28亿8000万令吉来进行259项计划感到失望。

既然大马第十计划的拨款已经比大马第九计划的增加了10%，因此，槟州理应获得的拨款，也应该从大马第九计划下的65亿4000万令吉，在大马第十计划中，同样地增加10%至72亿令吉。联邦政府无法做到这一点，让人看到他们边缘化槟州的事实，只因为槟州人民通过民主程序选择让民联政府治理槟州。

联邦政府须谨记槟州上缴联邦政府的税收是占了非常重要的比例。更何况槟州在马来西亚的经济发展及吸引外资到大马及槟城方面扮演着举足轻重的角色。这可从槟州在2010年及2011年，连续吸资高居全国冠军的成绩中获得证明。2010年槟州获得了122亿4000万令吉投资，2011年则获得了91亿令吉投资。

如果联邦政府继续不成熟地采取歧视政策对付槟州，联邦政府将自食恶果，因为槟州损失，大马也将会损失，就如马来谚语所说的“为了迁怒于一只蚊子，竟然把蚊帐给烧了”

峇眼区国会议员兼槟州首长林冠英在国会中要求首相列出大马第九计划及大马第十计划中的拨款比



槟州政府正式致函给首相要求公平拨款予槟州，尤其是在大马第十计划下，能够将28亿8000万的拨款增加至超过72亿令吉。图为槟城第二大桥设计图。

例，同时也详细列出其拨款内的全部计划，特别是造路解决交通阻塞计划及造沟渠解决闪电水灾计划的费用。

获得的答案则是，联邦政府已经在大马第十计划下拨出28亿8000万令吉给槟州进行259项计划，而在2006年至2010年的大马第九计划下，联邦政府

已经拨款65亿4000万令吉在槟州进行993项计划。

联邦政府已经拨出8亿7343万令吉在槟州进行50项造路及造桥计划，以减少交通阻塞。同时，为了减少闪电水灾，联邦政府已经在大马第九计划及大马第十计划拨款2亿3496万令吉进行30项治水计划。

总拨230万令吉推动妇女发展

槟州政府创纪录

槟州政府首先河拨出150万令吉成立槟州妇女发展机构，再加上原先已拨给槟州妇女发展委员会80万令吉的总和230万令吉，显示了槟州民联政府在提升性别平等醒觉及加强女性在社会经济及政治上参与度的重视。

槟州首长林冠英于3月7日为槟州妇女发展机构主持推介礼时说，现代女性的能力越来越强，而且她们的能力不只是局限在学业方面，即使是在各领域的表现也一样出色，因此，他不排除会出现女性首长的一天。

他说，尤其是槟州政府每年分派奖学金给优秀生时，就可发现每10位领奖者中有8位是女生，

这与他求学年代的情况是完全相反的。

“州政府在招聘人才时只选贤以能，不看性别，只要有有能力者皆有机会担任重要职位，好像槟岛市政局主席、威省市政局主席以及县长等也是由女性担任。她们是因为工作表现杰出而被委任，并不是因为她们是女性才受委。”

“槟州男性要更努力及做得更好，否则就可能找不到工作，因为饭碗都被能力好的女性抢光了，甚至首长职将来也可能由女性来担任。51%的槟州选民是女性，女性也占了劳力职场的53.4%，这比全国的46%还要高。”

槟州妇女发展机构的成立性质是充作州政府的臂膀之一，槟州妇女委员会主席王国慧行政议员被委为该机构董事主席、槟州农业委员会主席刘子健行政议员是署理主席、大山脚区国会议员章瑛则担任董事，首席执行官则是斯丽。

值得一提的是，槟岛市政局及威省市政局也各拨20万令吉及6万3000令吉来参与该机构推行的为期3年的“性别回应预算案”，该预算案注重在提升卫生及治安方面的服务。

此外，该机构也计划在各选区成立托儿所，以廉宜的每月50令吉费用帮助低收入职场女性照顾子女，好让女性在事业上能够专心冲刺。



槟州政府首先河拨出150万令吉成立槟州妇女发展机构，旨在提升性别平等醒觉及加强女性在社会经济及政治上参与度。前排左5至左8为刘子健、王国慧、林冠英及章瑛。



同时也是阿逸布爹区州议员的槟州首长林冠英（后排右2）与升旗山区国会议员刘镇东（后排右1）及亚依淡区州议员黄汉伟（左1）前往巡视亚依淡区回馈金分派情况。



双溪槟榔区州议员郭庭源（右）扶助阿嬷上楼梯。



来自双溪槟榔区的75岁阿嬷温蒂（右）在领了回馈金后选择留下来等候槟州首长林冠英，就只为了见他一面。首长获知后即敬老地伸手拥了她一下，却让她腼腆却开心不已。

乐龄回馈计划迈入第3年 阿公阿嬷笑领100令吉



来自亚依淡区的阿公阿嬷们顺利领到100令吉。



双溪浮油区州议员彭文宝（左）协助现场的乐龄人士领取回馈金。



日落洞区国会议员黄泉安（右）亲身到银行巡视分派回馈金流程是否顺利时，不忘与阿嬷攀谈。



槟州民联政府在推动乐龄人士回馈金计划的初期不断遭反对党抨击及破坏，但还是获得槟州乐龄人士的支持而顺利迈入第三年，当中绝大部分者今年是第三度领取回馈金。



高龄阿嬷在领了100令吉后，开心地笑了。槟州政府推动乐龄回馈金计划，旨在感激年老一辈的槟城子民为槟州的社会及经济发展所作出的贡献。



丹绒区国会议员兼巴当哥打区州议员曹观友（中）在巡视回馈金分派情况后与其服务队及银行工作人员留影。



முத்துச் செய்திகள்



ஆற்றல்

பொறுப்பு

வெளிப்பாடு

மார்ச் 2012

உலக பத்திரிகை புகைப்படங்கள் 2011

53 ஆண்டுகள் வெற்றிகரமாக நடந்தேறிய பின் 54வது ஆண்டாக மீண்டும் களம் கண்டுள்ளது உலக பத்திரிகை புகைப்படங்கள் கண்காட்சி. உலகம் முழுவதும் உள்ள பத்திரிகை புகைப்பட கலைஞர்களின் திறனை உலகிற்கு வெளிச்சம் போட்டு காட்டிடும் ஓர் அற்புத நிகழ்வு இதுவெனக் கூறலாம்.

கடந்த ஆண்டில் புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்களால் உலகில் பல இடங்களிலும் பிடிக்கப்பட்ட புகைப்படங்கள் போட்டியில் இடம் பெற்று அவற்றில் வெற்றி பெற்ற மிகச் சிறந்த புகைப்படங்கள் கண்காட்சிக்கு வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. 125 நாடுகளைச் சேர்ந்த 5691 புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்களின் திறமையான படைப்புகள் போட்டியில் இடம் பெற்றன.

மொத்தம் 49 பிரிவுகள் அடங்கிய இப்போட்டியில் 108,059 புகைப்படங்கள் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டன என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்க ஒன்றாகும். அவற்றில் சிறந்தவற்றைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து வெற்றியாளர்களை அறிவித்த பின், கண்காட்சிக்கு வைக்கப்பட்டு உலக முழுவதும் மக்கள் பார்வைக்கு எடுத்துச் செல்லப்படுகிறது. அவ்வாறே இம்முறை பிளாங்கிற்கு இக்கண்காட்சி வந்துள்ளது. பிளாங்கில் இக்கண்காட்சி பாடாங் கோத்தா



உயர்து பாவ்ல் பெக்கர்ஸ் முதல்வருக்கு விளக்கமளிக்கிறார்.

அருகில் பிளாங்கு நகராண்மை கழக மண்டபத்தில் கடந்த 11ஆம் திகதி மார்ச் மாதம் நடைபெற்றது. இந்நிகழ்வினை மலேசியாவிற்கான நெதர்லாந்து நாட்டின் தூதரகமும், தி.என்.தி. எக்ஸ்பிரஸ் மலேசியா நிறுவனமும் (TNT Express Malaysia) இணைந்து ஏற்பாடு செய்திருந்தன. இந்த உலக பத்திரிகை புகைப்படங்களைச் சிறப்பிக்கும் போட்டியினையும் கண்காட்சியினையும் தொடங்கிய நாடு நெதர்லாந்து என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.



கண்காட்சி தொடக்கவிழாவின் போது நிகழ்வில் கலந்து கொண்ட வெளிநாட்டு பிரதிநிதிகள்.

11ஆம் திகதி ஞாயிறன்று தொடங்கிய கண்காட்சி நிகழ்வினை அன்று மாலை மாண்புமிகு பிளாங்கு முதல்வர் திரு லிம் குவான் எங் அதிகாரப்பூர்வமாகத் தொடங்கி வைத்தார். அவருடன் மலேசியாவின் நெதர்லாந்து தூதர் உயர்திரு பாவ்ல் பெக்கேர்ஸ் (His Excellency Mr. Paul Bekkers), தி.என்.தி. எக்ஸ்பிரஸ் மலேசியா நிறுவனத்தின் நிர்வாக இயக்குநர் திரு சொங் சியாங் சுங் ஆகியோரும் நிகழ்வில் கலந்து சிறப்பித்தனர்.

நிகழ்வில் சிறப்புரை ஆற்றிய முதல்வர் லிம், இக்கண்காட்சியினைப் பிளாங்கில் ஏற்பாடு செய்தமைக்கு நெதர்லாந்து குடியரசிற்கு நன்றியினைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொண்டார். நெதர்லாந்து குடியரசின் நிகழ்வொன்று பிளாங்கில் நடைபெறுவது இதுவே முதல் முறை என்று தெரிவித்த முதல்வர் இனி வரும் காலங்களில் அக்குடியரசுடனான நல்லுறவு மேலும் பெருக வேண்டும் என விருப்பம் தெரிவித்தார்.

“புகைப்படம் எடுக்கும் கலையானது ஆன்மாவிற்குச் சாளரமாக அமைகிறது. நம்மைச் சுற்றி நடைபெறும் நல்லவற்றையும் தீயவற்றையும் நமக்கு உணரச் செய்வதில் இது பெரும் பங்காற்றுகிறது. எனவே இது போன்ற ஒரு வாய்ப்பினை அமைத்து தந்தமைக்கு ஏற்பாட்டாளர்களுக்கு நன்றி கூறிக் கொள்கிறேன்.”

“இக்கண்காட்சியோடு பேறு குறைந்த 30 சிறுவர்களுக்குப் புகைப்படம் எடுக்கும் அடிப்படை பயிற்சி பட்டறையையும் கிள்ளான் பள்ளதாக்கு மற்றும் பிளாங்கில் தி.என்.தி. எக்ஸ்பிரஸ் மலேசியா

நிறுவனம் நடத்தியுள்ளனர். இது பாராட்டத்தக்க செயலாகும்,” என முதவர் தமதுரையில் குறிப்பிட்டார்.

கண்காட்சியில் இடம்பெற்ற பரிசு பெற்ற புகைப்படங்களைப் பார்வையிட்ட முதல்வர் ஆச்சரியத்தில் மூழ்கினார் என்றே கூறலாம். ஒவ்வொரு புகைப்படமும் தனித்தன்மை மிக்கவையாகவே காணப்பட்டது என்று கூறினால் அது மிகையாகாது.

“கையில் புகைப்படக் கருவியினை ஏந்தி, அதன் துணை பாகங்களையும் பாதுகாப்பு பொருட்களையும் பையில் சுமந்தபடியே ஆங்காங்கே நடைபெறும் நிகழ்வுகளைப் புகைப்படங்களின் வழி மக்களுக்கு எடுத்துரைத்திட பல போராட்டங்களையும் கடந்திடும் புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்களை நாம் போற்றிடவே வேண்டும். தடைகளையும் ஆபத்துகளையும் கடந்து மக்களுக்குச் செய்தியினைச் சென்று சேர்த்திட உழைத்திடும் புகைப்பட கலைஞர்களின் உழைப்பு இதில் தெரிகின்றது. இப்புகைப்படங்கள் உணர்த்தும் கருத்துகளை நாம் உணர்ந்து தெளிந்தால் அதுவே நலமாகும்,” என முதல்வர் கருத்துரைத்தார்.

தொடந்து எட்டு நாட்களுக்கு நடைபெற்ற இக்கண்காட்சி உள்ளூர் மற்றும் வெளியூர் மக்களையும் தன்வசம் ஈர்த்தது. பத்திரிகைகளில் புகைப்படங்களைக் காணும் போது நாம் அவற்றை பெரிதாகக் கருதுவதில்லை. இது போன்ற நிகழ்வுகளின் வழி மக்கள் இனி புகைப்பட கலைஞர்களை மதிக்க செய்வர் என்பது திண்ணம்.

ஆன்மீக நிலையில் ஓர் ஒன்றுகூடல்

மனிதனை நெறிப்படுத்தி, நல்வழிக்கு இட்டுச் செல்லும் நோக்கில் அமையப் பெற்றதே மத நெறிகள் ஆகும். பல்வேறு மதங்கள், பல்வேறு நிலைகள், பற்பல பிரிவுகள் என நிறைய இருப்பினும் அனைத்தும் ஒரு எல்லையற்ற சக்தியினையும் அன்பு வழி பாதையினையுமே வலியுறுத்துகின்றன.

நம் நாட்டில் இந்து மதக்கோட்பாட்டினைக் கற்பித்து வழிநடத்தும் அமைப்புகள் பல உள்ளன. அவற்றில் மதநெறிகளைப் போதிப்பதோடு நின்றிடாமல் சமுதாய தொண்டுகளிலும் ஈடுபட்டு மக்களின் மனதில் நிலைபெற்ற ஓர் அமைப்பு சிவானந்தா ஆசிரமம் அல்லது தெய்வீக வாழ்க்கை சங்கம் (Divine Life Society) ஆகும்.



சுவாமி சிவானந்தாவின் திருவருவச் சலை

கடந்த பிப்ரவரி மாதம் 18ஆம் திகதி பிளாங்கு தீவு குலுக்கோர் பகுதியில் அமைந்துள்ள சிவானந்தா ஆசிரமக் கிளையில் ஒன்றுகூடலோடு இணைந்த விருந்துபசரிப்பு ஒன்று நடைபெற்றது. ஆசிரமத்தின் நல்லெண்ண நடவடிக்கைகளுக்கு நிதி திரட்டிடும் அதே வேளையில் ஒன்றாக இணைந்து சமய நெறிகளை பயின்றிடும் ஒரு வாய்ப்பாகவும் இந்நிகழ்வு அமைந்தது எனலாம்.

இச்சிறப்பு நிகழ்வில் பத்து உபான் தொகுதி சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் திரு இரவீந்திரன், மற்றும் ஸ்ரீடெலிமா தொகுதி சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் திரு சனீஸ்வர நேதாஜி ராயர் ஆகியோர் கலந்து சிறப்பித்தனர். சில தவிர்க்க இயலாத காரணங்களினால் புக்கிட் குலுக்கோர் நாடாளுமன்ற உறுப்பினரும் நாடறிந்த வழக்கறிஞருமான திரு கர்பால் சிங் நிகழ்வில் கலந்து கொள்ள இயலவில்லை.



நகழ்வில் பங்கேற்ற வருகையாளர்கள்

புக்கிட் குலுக்கோரில் தற்போது அமைந்திருக்கும் ஆசிரம பகுதிக்கு மாற்றம் கண்டது.

தற்போது ஆசிரம நிர்வாகத்தின் கீழ் வாராந்திர வழிபாடுகள், சமய சொற்பொழிவுகள், கீதை மற்றும் உபநிச சொற்பொழிவுகள், யோகா மற்றும் தியான வகுப்புகள், இந்து பெருநாட்கள் கொண்டாட்டம், பிள்ளைகளுக்கான சமய வகுப்புகள், வசதி குறைந்த குடும்பங்களுக்குப் பொருளுதவி என பல நடவடிக்கைகள் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன. ஆசிரம நடவடிக்கைகள் தொடர்பாக தகவல் பெற விரும்புவோர் திரு தாண்டவன் நாய்கர் (016 4557127), திரு தனசேகரன் (016-4399682) ஆகிய இருவரைத் தொடர்பு கொள்ளலாம்.



தன் பரத நாட்டியத்தால் அனைவரின் மனதையும் கவர்ந்த சிறும.

இந்நிகழ்வின் மற்றொரு சிறப்பு அம்சமாக அமைந்தது தெய்வீக வாழ்க்கை சங்கத்தின் தலைவர் மதிப்புமிகு சுவாமி குஹபக்தானந்தா சரஸ்வதி மகராஜ் அவர்களின் வருகையும் இனிய சொற்பொழிவுமே ஆகும். இனிதொரு புன்னகையும் கனிவுமிகு பார்வையும் கொண்டு மிளிர்ந்த சுவாமிஜி அவர்களின் வருகை நிகழ்வினை மேலும் மெருகேற்றியது என்றே கூறலாம்.

பக்திமிகு பஜனைப் பாடல்கள், பரத நாட்டியம், சொற்பொழிவு, அனிச்சல் வெட்டும் நிகழ்வு, சிறு நன்கொடைகளும் அன்பளிப்புகளும் வழங்கிடும் நிகழ்வு, இரவு உணவு என தொடர்ச்சியாக நிகழ்வுகள் நடந்தேறின. நேரம் கடந்து செல்வதை வந்திருந்தோர் உணராத வண்ணம் அனைத்தும் இனிதே நடைபெற்று முடிந்தன.

ஆசிரமத்தைப் பற்றிய சில விவரங்கள்:

பிளாங்கு தீவின் சிவானந்தா ஆசிரம கிளையானது பல நடவடிக்கைகளை மேற்கொண்டு வருகின்றது. 1950களில் தொடங்கப்பட்ட பிளாங்கு தீவின் சிவானந்தா ஆசிரமம் ஆரம்ப காலகட்டங்களில் லோரோங் கூலிட்டில் உள்ள மகா மாரியம்மன் ஆலயத்திலும் டோபி கோட்டில் உள்ள இராமர் ஆலயத்திலும் வாராந்திர வழிபாடுகளையும் சமய சொற்பொழிவுகளையும் நடத்தி வந்தது. 1996 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜூன் மாதம்



சுவாமிஜி அவர்களுடன் இணைந்து அனிச்சல் வெட்டும் தரு ராயர்.

இராயரின் சேவைகள்

துன்பத்தில் வாடுவோருக்கு உதவுவதே ஸ்ரீ டெலிமா சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் திரு. நேதாஜி இராயரின் தலையாயக் கொள்கையாகும். மக்களால் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட அவர் மக்களுக்குச் சேவை செய்வதையே தமது முதல் கடமையாகக் கொண்டுள்ளார். எங்கெல்லாம் மக்கள் வறுமையால் வாடுகிறார்களோ, அவர்களை இனம் கண்டு தன்னால் இயன்ற உதவிகள் அனைத்தும் வழங்கி வருகிறார்.



தருமத் அமிர்த்தத்திற்கு இராயர் ந்தயுதவி வழங்குகிறார்.

நேதாஜி இராயர் அவர்கள் தனக்கு நேரம் கிடைக்கும் போதெல்லாம் ஸ்ரீ டெலிமா வட்டாரத்தில் சந்தை, மக்கள் ஒன்று கூடும் இடங்கள், இரவுச் சந்தை என பல இடங்களில் வலம் வந்து மக்களின் குறைகளை நேரில் கேட்டறிந்து வருகிறார். கேட்பதோடு நில்லாமல் அவர்களுக்குத் தேவையான உதவிகள் உடனுக்குடன் கிடைப்பதற்கும் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து வருகிறார்.

சில வாரங்களுக்கு முன்னர் தாமான் துன் சார்டுன் பகுதியில் அமைந்துள்ள திருமதி சூரியானாவின் வீட்டிற்கு அவர் வருகை மேற்கொண்டார். திருமதி சூரியானாவின் கணவர் பல நாட்களாக நோய்வாய்ப்பட்டு சுயநினைவின்றி இருக்கிறார். கணவனின் இந்நிலையால் மிகுந்த சிரமத்திற்கு உள்ளான அவருக்கு இராயர் அன்றாடத் தேவைகளுக்கான அத்தியாவசியப் பொருட்களையும், நிதியுதவியும் வழங்கினார். எழுந்து நடமாட இயலாத சூரியானாவின் கணவருக்கு சக்கர நாற்காலியும் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

அதுமட்டுமின்றி உயிர்க்கொல்லி நோயினால் அவதியுறும் திருமதி அமிர்தம் அவர்களுக்கும் வைத்தியச் செலவுக்காக நிதியுதவி வழங்கப்பட்டது.



தருமத் சூரியானாவிற்கு பணம், வீட்டும் பொருட்கள் மற்று சக்கர நாற்கால் வழங்கியுள்ளது. பூக்கையில் சுயநினைவின்றி கிடக்கும் அவரது கணவர்.

பாதிக்கப்பட்ட இவ்விருவருக்கும் ஏனைய அரசாங்க அமைப்புகள் மூலம் மென்மேலும் உதவிகள் பெற்றுத் தர தான் முழு முயற்சியுடன் ஈடுபட போவதாக இராயர் சூளுரைத்தார். இராயரின் இளகிய மனமும், உதவிப் புரியும் தன்மையுமே அவர் மக்கள் மனதில் இடம் பிடிக்க ஏதுவாய் அமைகிறது என்றால் அது மிகையிலில்லை.

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15 டிசம்பர் 2011 முதல் 31 மார்ச் 2012 வரை

**2008-ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கு முன்னர் விண்ணப்பித்தவர்கள்
விபரங்களைப் புதுப்பிக்க வேண்டும். புதுப்பிக்கப்பட்ட பிறகே
வீடுகள் பெற தகுதி பெறுவர்.**

விண்ணப்பப் படிவங்கள் (பி.என்.2) இவ்விடங்களில் பெறலாம்:

- மக்கள் பிரதிநிதிகளின் அலுவலகம்
- நில மற்றும் வட்டார அலுவலகம்
- வீடமைப்பு திட்டத்தின் அலுவலகம்
- வீடமைப்புப் பிரிவு 3 மற்றும் 20-ஆம் மாடி, கொம்தார்

பினாங்கில் இசை விருந்து

மூன்று ஆண்டுகால இடைவெளிக்குப் பின் மீண்டும் நம் நாட்டில், அதிலும் நம் பினாங்கு மாநிலத்தில் களம் காண்கிறது **பினாங்கு உலக இசை பெருவிழா!**

இம்மாதம், மார்ச் 30 முதல் ஏப்ரல் 1 ஆம் திகதி வரை பினாங்கின் தாவரப் பூங்காவில் (Penang Botanical Gardens) நடைபெறவிருக்கும் இவ்விசை விழா உலகளாவிய நிலையில் இசைப்பிரியர்களை ஈர்த்த வண்ணம் உள்ளது எனலாம்.

மூன்று ஆண்டுகளாய் இந்நிகழ்வினைப் பினாங்கில் நடைபெறச் செய்வதற்குப் பினாங்கின் சுற்றுலாத்துறை மற்றும் கலாச்சார அலுவலகம் கடுமையாக உழைத்து வந்தது. அதன் பயனாகக் கடந்த ஆண்டு ஆகஸ்டு மாதம் 18ஆம் திகதி இசை விழாவின் நாள் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. மேலும் இப்பெருவிழாவின் அதிகாரப்பூர்வ தங்கும் விடுதியாக ஹார்ட் ரோக் தங்கும் விடுதி (Hard Rock Hotel) அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

இசை விழா ஏற்பாட்டாளர்களின் அடுத்த கட்ட அறிவிப்பு அக்டோபர் மாதம் 20ஆம் திகதி

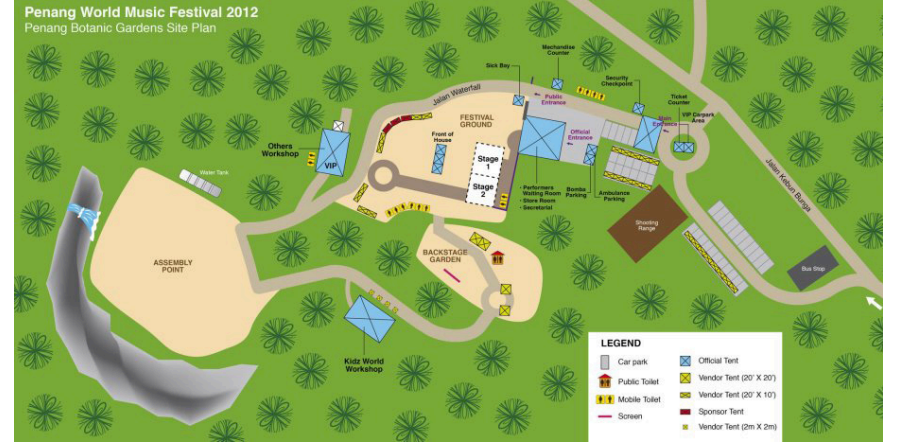
வெளிவந்தது. ஹார்ட் ரோக் தங்கும் விடுதியில் ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருந்த நிகழ்வில் டிஸ்கவரி ஓவர்லேண்ட் ஹோலிடே (Discovery Overland Holiday) சுற்றுப்பயண ஏற்பாட்டு நிறுவனம் அதிகாரப்பூர்வச் சுற்றுப்பயண ஏற்பாட்டாளராக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

இந்நிறுவனம் நம் நாட்டில் சுற்றுலாத்துறையில் முதன்மை வகிக்கும் நிறுவனமாகும்.

இந்த அறிவிப்பினைப் பினாங்கு மாநில சுற்றுலாத்துறை முன்னேற்றம் மற்றும் கலை, கலாச்சார குழுத் தலைவர் திரு டேனி லோ அறிவித்தார்.

டிஸ்கவரி ஓவர்லேண்ட் ஹோலிடே நிறுவனத்தை அதிகாரப்பூர்வ பயண நிறுவனமாக நியமித்ததன் வழி வெளிநாடுகளில் இசை விழாவின் விளம்பரங்கள் வெகு விரையில் சென்று சேர்ந்தன. பல நாடுகளில் இசை விழாவின் நுழைவுச் சீட்டுகள் வேகமாக விற்பனையாகத் தொடங்கின.

ஓராண்டு கால கடும் உழைப்பிற்குப் பின் இம்மாதம் உலக இசை பெருவிழா நடைபெறவிருக்கின்றது.



விழா நடைபெறும் பூங்காவின் வரையடம்

ஆஸ்திரேலியா, பிலிப்பைன்ஸ், ஆப்பிரிக்கா, தென் கொரியா, ரஷ்யா, கொலம்பியா, மங்கோலியா, பாலி என உலகத்தின் பல நாடுகளின் இசைக் கலைஞர்கள் இப்பெருவிழாவில் தங்களின் திறன்களைக் காட்டிட வருகின்றனர். பினாங்கின் தாவரப் பூங்காவில் இனிதே நடைபெறவிருக்கும் இவ்விழா இம்மாதம் 30ஆம் திகதி நண்பகல் 2 மணியளவில் இசை பட்டறையோடு தொடங்கும். மாலை மணி 7 தொடக்கம் நடைபெறவிருக்கும் கலை நிகழ்ச்சிகளே அனைத்து இசை கலைஞர்களின் இசைமழையில் நனைந்திடச் சிறந்த தருணம் ஆகும்.

இந்நிகழ்வின் நுழைவுச் சீட்டுகளை www.ticketexpress.com.my எனும் அகப்பக்கத்தில் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம்.

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மௌனமாய் சில கதைகள்..

உலக பத்திரிகை புகைப்படங்கள் 2011 கண்காட்சியில் இடம்பெற்ற சில படங்கள்.
(படம் & தகவல்கள்: WWW.WORLDPRESSPHOTO.ORG)



2010 ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கான சிறந்த விருதினைப் பெற்ற புகைப்படம். பீபி அயிஷா, 18- ஆப்கானிஸ்தானில் ஒருஸ்கான் பகுதியில் வசித்த இப்பெண் தம் கணவர் வீட்டாரின் கொடுமை தாங்காது பெற்றோரிடம் தஞ்சம் அடைந்தாள். பின் அயிஷாவின் வீட்டிற்கு வந்த அவளது கணவர் அவளை வலுக்கட்டாயமாக உடன் அழைத்துச் சென்று அவளது காது, மூக்கினை அறுத்து ஊனப்படுத்தியுள்ளார். உள்ளூர் வழக்கப்படி கணவனை மதிக்காத பெண்ணுக்கு வழங்கப்படும் தண்டனை இதுவாகும். ஆயிஷா பின்னர் ஆப்கான் மாதர் சங்கத்தால் காப்பாற்றப்பட்டார். ஆப்கானில் பெண்களின் நிலைமையை உலகிற்கு எடுத்துரைத்த படமிது.

புகைப்பட கலைஞர்: ஜோடி பியேபர் (Jodi Bieber, south africa)



தாய்லாந்தில் சிவப்பு சட்டை ஆர்ப்பாட்டக்காரர்களுக்கும் அரசிற்கும் நடைபெற்ற மோதலின் போது எடுக்கப்பட்ட படம். கற்களைக் கொண்டு இராணுவத்தோடு போராடும் இளைஞனை தன் புகைப்படக் கருவியில் அழகாக பதிய வைத்துள்ளார்.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: கொரெந்தின் போலேன் (Corentin Fohlen, France)

7.0 புள்ளி ரிக்டர் அளவைக் கொண்ட பூகம்பத்தால் சிதைந்த ஹைத்தியின் (Haiti) அமுகுரலை உலகிற்கு எடுத்தியம்பும் படமிது. 316,000 பேர் இப்பூகம்பத்தில் உயிர் இழந்தனர். அந்நாட்டின் அடையாளமாகத் திகழ்ந்த மார்ச் ஹைபோலிட் எனும் இரும்பு சந்தை தீயில் சிதையும் போது அமுதபடி நிற்கும் சிறுமி.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: ரிக்கார்டோ வென்சுரி (Riccardo Venturi, Italy)



2010 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜூலை மாத இறுதியில் பாகிஸ்தானை முக்கால்வாசி முழுகச் செய்த வெள்ளக் காட்சி. இராணுவத்தினர் விமானத்தில் இருந்து உணவு பொட்டலங்களை வழங்கிய வேளையில் அதற்காக வெள்ளத்தை பொருட்படுத்தாது பாய்ந்தோடும் மக்கள்.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: டேனியல் பெர்சுலாக் (Daniel Berechulak, Australia)





தென் ஆப்பிரிக்காவில் நடைபெற்ற உலகக் கிண்ண காற்பந்து போட்டியின் அரையிறுதிச் சுற்றில் நிகழ்ந்த சம்பவம். நெதர்லாந்தின் டெமி டெ சீயூவ் (Demi De Zeeuw) உருகுவேயின் மார்த்தின் சேசெரஸால் (Martin Caceras) முகத்தில் எதிர்பாராத விதமாக உதைத்த போது பிடிக்கப்பட்ட படம்.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: மைக் ஹட்சிங்ஸ் (Mike Hutchings, South Africa)



பொலிவியா நாட்டில் கடந்த 10 ஆண்டுகளாய் பெண்கள் மல்யுத்தம் பிரபலமடைந்து உள்ளது. பாரம்பரிய உடைகளை அணிந்த வண்ணம் மல்யுத்தத்தில் ஈடுபடும் இரு பெண்களின் சண்டை காட்சி.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: டேனியல் தாமாக்னி (Daniele Tamagni, Italy)

1955 ஆம் ஆண்டு அமெரிக்கா இராணுவத்தால் பயன்படுத்த ஆரஞ்சு நிற இரசாயனத்தின் தாக்கம் 40 ஆண்டுகளைக் கடந்தும் இன்னும் வியட்நாமிய மக்களைப் பாதித்துக் கொண்டு தான் உள்ளது. கூயென் தீலீ (Nguyen Thi Li), வயது 9, இரசாயனத்தால் ஏற்பட்ட பாதிப்பைக் காட்டும் படமிது.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: எட் காஷி (Ed Kashi, USA)



ஹைத்தி பூகம்பத்திற்கு பின் அங்கு நிகழ்ந்தவற்றை புகைப்படக் கலைஞர் பதிவு செய்துள்ளார். மருத்துவனையின் பிணவறையில் ஒரு சிறுவனின் சடலத்தைத் தூக்கி எறியும் ஊழியர். கீழே எறியப்பட்டு கிடக்கும் மற்ற சடலங்கள்.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: ஒலிவெர் லபான் மாத்ते (Olivier Laban-Mattei, France)



சிங்கப்பூரில் முதல் முறையாக நடந்தேறிய இளையோர் ஒலிம்பிக் போட்டியில் 2000 மீட்டர் தடைகள் போட்டியில் நிகழ்ந்த காட்சி. பிரேசில் நாட்டினைச் சேர்ந்த இயோரான் இட்ச்சூரி (Ioran Itchechury) போட்டியின் போது தலை கீழாக விழுந்த போது எடுக்கப்பட்ட படம்.

புகைப்படக் கலைஞர்: ஆடம் பிரிட்டி (Adam Preeti, Australia)



首长率团官访墨尔本 寻求双方合作商机

槟州首席部长林冠英于3月23日至25日率团官访澳洲墨尔本。此次的官访是为墨尔本马来西亚嘉年华及槟城嘉年华主持开幕。马来西亚嘉年华是马来西亚留澳学生会维多利亚州分会所主办的年度活动，以推广马来西亚的多元文化。槟城作为这项嘉年华的策略性伙伴，也积极参与其中，其余的长期伙伴还包括大马旅游局、国际贸易与工业部、高教部及澳州政府、墨尔本市政府及相关赞助单位。

在槟城旅游局的支持下，马来西亚嘉年华经年也包括了精彩槟城嘉年华，当中槟城3家著名的小食将呈献6道槟城特有美食，同时还有槟城的文化舞蹈表演，以推广槟城的多元文化及美食之旅。

首长也将借此机会礼貌拜会维多利亚州的州长阿列撒诺夫。为了迎接首长，撒诺夫州长将于3月23日晚间，在维多利亚州政府官邸席开晚宴招待首长林冠英。出席该晚宴者包括了政府及工业界领袖，当中有维多利亚州科技与飞航部长戈登菲利，维多利亚州艺术总监佩妮哈奇森小姐及Linfox集团主席林赛先生。希望这次官访及该晚宴能加强槟州与维多利亚州的友谊，增加双方政府的合作及鼓励商业投资。

另外，首长将在悉尼迈尔亚洲中心（由Asialink主办）及维多利亚投资中心（由维多利亚州政府及维多利亚澳马商业协会联办），亲自向当地的工业资深长官、商人及潜在投资者呈现槟城的投资汇报。这次官访，首长也会在招揽人才汇报会中主讲，这项汇报会是由投资槟城的事业援助及培训中心（CAT）在墨尔本多元文化中心主办，并且也会在墨尔本的万提纳Wantirna的商业对话会发表演说。

首长将在24日周六中午受到墨尔本维多利亚公园局（掌管该州占地4万平方公里的国家公园）及皇家植物园的招待，参观辖下的公园及花园管理，希望能开创交流与取经，以协助及支援槟城植物园，并且促进绿化槟城。

林冠英同时也将接受澳洲广播公司“亚洲太平洋”节目主持Sen Lam的电台访问，同时也接受该公司“时事”电视节目主持金米德顿的电视访问。

此次随同首长官访的尚有主掌槟州旅游与文化发展理事会的行政议员罗兴强，投资槟城总经理吕丽莲小姐、槟州首长署科学、科技与创新官员叶舒惠小姐、投资槟城高级经理Lee So Cheran先生及事业援助及培训中心高级执行元Rose Oon小姐。

槟州首席部长林冠英于2012年3月23日在澳洲维多利亚投资中心，和3月24日在墨尔本的亚洲悉尼麦雅亚洲中心，两场对澳洲投资者和专业人士的主讲内容：

槟城寻求汇集制造业、服务业和政府领域，以推动槟城逃离中收入的困境，在2020年达到人均收入1万5000美元的高收入经济地位。

贸易对马来西亚和槟城非常重要，大马是世界第22大的出口国，仅次于排名第21的澳洲；在世界进口国中排名第26的大马，居后于排名第20的澳洲。大马是全球第37大经济体，澳洲则排名第13。

马来西亚，尤其是槟城有一个相对较小的国内市场，注重于外向型经济，特别是在电子领域。尽管槟城是大马第二最小的州属，但槟城贡献了大马25%的进出口量。

槟城于2010在全马制造业投资居冠，2011年也写下辉煌的记录，连续2年领先制造业投资额。2010年获得122亿2000万令吉，去年则达91亿令吉。外国直接投资方面，槟城在2010年至



槟州首长林冠英率团官访澳洲墨尔本，为墨尔本马来西亚嘉年华及槟城嘉年华主持开幕，同时也寻求双方合作商机。（档案照）

2011年贡献全国总直接投资的28%，在632亿令吉中占了177亿令吉。

这些成功来自槟州政府公开招标的能干、公信和透明（CAT）施政原则，这可从我们于2008年执政后每年财政盈余中看到。槟城也减少了95%的债务，从2008年3月8日的6亿3千万令吉债务减少至3千万令吉。

澳洲是大马重要的贸易伙伴，澳洲曾是大马第11大的贸易伙伴，同时大马也是澳洲第10大贸易伙伴，双方货物和服务的往来贸易在2010年达到156亿澳币。空调机、机器和零件是大马主要出口至澳洲的制造业产品。服务业方面，澳洲也是我国建筑业、石油、天然气、法律、维修和运作业的主要出口国。

马来西亚澳洲自由贸易区（MAFTA）能解决澳洲农业品出口、加工食品和服务贸易的障碍，希望大马能享受澳洲更佳的服务，包括法律、电讯、会计、建筑、工程、教育、保险和银行的服务。

澳洲已成为大马学生完成高等教育的传统选择，至今约30万大马留学澳洲，我相信，澳洲在槟城设立分校是可行的，单单在墨尔本，就有超过7万5000个大马居民和学生。

维多利亚和槟城有许多相似之处，我们都是着重于工业的州属，维多利亚的国内生产总值几乎90%

来自制造业和服务业，而槟州则占了97%，我们希望更多来自澳洲的投资者，因为澳洲在教育、媒体、设计和航空业都达到世界级水准。

除了加强CAT的施政原则，槟城也寻求汇集制造业、服务业和政府领域，以推动槟城逃离中收入的困境，在2020年达到人均收入1万5000美元的高收入经济地位。随着企业寻求汇集产品、科技和服务业，以在市场上继续生存，政府希望，投资和外国直接投资也必须与政府部门迈向高附加值制造业和服务业进行汇集。

在逃离中收入困境这方面，槟城必须不只是制造业的“血汗工厂”，同时也是服务业的“精明工厂”。毕马威会计事务所列槟州为全球进行资讯业务流程外包的31个城市之一。今天，跨国公司已在槟城设立科技支援和客户服务，包括人力资源、会计、金融服务、教育和卫生健康的服务。

人才是汇集制造业、服务业和政府领域的主要条件，槟城要成为充满吸引力的宜居地，就必须善于人才，而第一步就是打造一个清洁、绿意、安全和健康的槟州。正如墨尔本是澳洲的文化之都，槟城也立志成为马来西亚的文化之都。雅虎旅游网页也列为“死前必须要看”的前8个岛屿。所以说，不管是投资者还是旅游，你必须到槟城一游，那至少也死得快乐。



槟城世界音乐回来了! 植物园矿石公园见!



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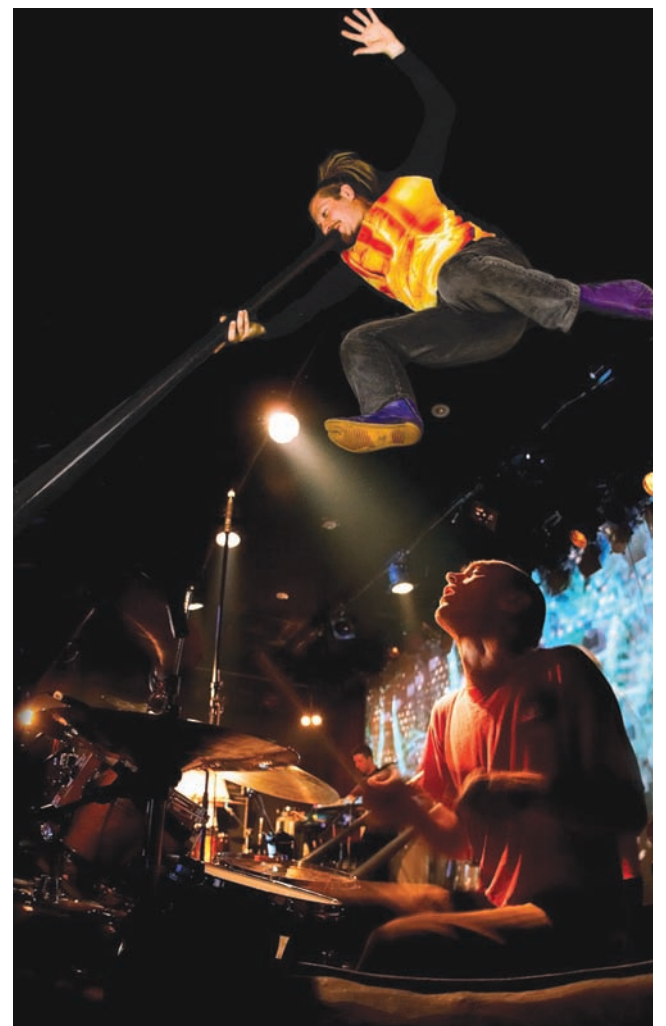
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117学校申请650万令吉教育拨款 首长促联邦政府向州政府看齐



槟州首长林冠英（中）在黄汉伟行政议员、刘子健行政议员、章瑛国会议员及骆保林（左起）的陪同下宣布今年共有117间学校向州政府提出申请制度化教育拨款，而所有的学校都获得州政府批准。

今年共有117间学校向州政府提出申请制度化教育拨款，所有的学校都获得州政府批准。今年度的制度化拨款同样是依据申请准则，以急需为优先考量，同时也优先考虑郊区、微型华小及贫穷社区的学校。州政府制度化拨款，达到抛砖引玉的效果，

中央政府也在近期拨款予华校，为了表示中央政府的诚意而不是大选前的政治糖果，我们呼吁联邦政府向州政府看齐，年年拨给学校，今年开始落实制度化拨款给各源流学校。

槟州政府从2009年开始通过财政预算案制度化拨款给各源流学校，华小、国民型中学及教会学校获得450万令吉，并于2010年数额增加至580万令吉，再于2011年又增加到650万令吉，今年同样是650万令吉。

槟州首长林冠英希望各校能体谅州政府的一番苦心，将制度化教育拨款视为一个额外的‘红利’，这是州政府对基本硬体建设及软体的需求，以及对整体教育的发展所作出的承诺与努力。

在槟州华教事务协调委员会主席章瑛国会议员的领导下，2012年的拨款分配工作终于完成。该委员会是于去年12月21日提早让各校做出申请，同时在申请截止（2010年1月6日）后，即刻与所有国、州议员召开会议。国、州议员的配合，加上当地华社、董家教与校方的协助到学校进行实地考察，并鉴定2012年度各校提出申请之急需项目，以及视察去年向州政府申请拨款作为维修校舍或添购设备等事项的进展工程。

各州议员及华协委员从1月19日开始进行为期4个星期的校园实地考察工作，并呈上审核表格，并在2月27日及3月1日向委员会汇报考察的结果。华协委员经过2月27日及3月1日的会议讨论后，才决定制度化拨款的分配。

“在这里，我再次感谢华教事务委员会，国、州议员及董家教三大机构的合作，让我们制度化拨款的工作可以顺利完成。”

今年度的制度化拨款同样是依据申请准则，以急需为优先考量。拨款除了以急需为主，同时也优先考虑郊区、微型华小及贫穷

社区的学校。其中91万6000令吉（14.09%）是拨给正在或即将兴建新校舍用途的学校，共有7间学校受惠。

大山脚金星华小是今年度获得最高拨款是43万令吉的学校，供建校用途。州政府将暂时保留檳城美以美女子中学的6万令吉，青草巷修道院中学的5万6000令吉与辅友小学5万令吉的款项，直到这些学校开始动工兴建校舍。

另外，拨款中的55万5,000令吉（8.54%），是用在维修学校建筑结构方面，如屋顶、天花板泄漏、水槽破裂等，81万5,000令吉（12.54%）则是用作会构成安全威胁用途，如消灭白蚁及维修电缆等用途，29万3,500令吉（4.52%）用作装置遮阳板等装修用途，94万8,500（14.59%）用来维修学校设备，如维修厕所及沟渠排水系统，29万2,700（4.5%）则是建设有盖走廊等用途，34万令吉（5.23%）用来维修篱笆、门、围墙等，179万8,000令吉（27.66%）提升学校设备，如视听室、科学室、课室、食堂等，51万1,300令吉（7.87%）用来购买用具如科学室用具，其他的用途是3万令吉（0.46%）。

获拨款进行兴建新校舍用途的学校：

校名	数额(RM)
檳城美以美女子中学	6万
檳城青草巷修道院中学	5万6000
檳城辅友小学	5万
柔府真光华小	6万
峇都丁宜培才华小	21万
SK ST MARK PERAI	5万
大山脚金星华小	43万
总数	91万6000

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从2011年12月15日至2012年3月31日

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更新表格(PN2)可在以下地点获得：

- 人民代议士办公室
- 县属办公室
- 政府组屋房屋部办公室
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欲知详情，请浏览房屋部网站 <http://erumah.penang.gov.my>
电话: 04-650 5392 / 04-650 5336 电邮: erumah@penang.gov.my



BAHAGIAN PERUMAHAN
PEJABAT SETIAUSAHA KERAJAAN NEGERI
TINGKAT 20, KOMTAR
10503 PULAU PINANG

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Lim Cheng Hoe (DAP)	016 - 438 4809
Tan Hun Wooi (DAP)	012 - 488 0409
En. Ong Ah Teong (DAP)	012 - 410 6566
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Francis a/l Joseph (PKR)	012 - 474 3321
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Encik Prem Anand a/l Loganathan (DAP)	012 - 412 2558
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Tuan Haji Mohd Rashid Bin Hasnon (PKR)	019 - 456 0077
Muhammad Sabri Bin Md Osman (PKR)	013 - 432 0207
Mohd Taufik Bin sulong (PKR)	012 - 438 0873
Tahir Jalaluddin Bin Hussain (NGO)	012 - 463 5959
Dr. Lim Mah Hui (NGO)	012 - 422 1880
Encik Sin Kok Siang (NGO)	016 - 422 2255
Ng Chek Siang (PKR) perisaihebat@gmail.com	016 - 470 7089

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YAP LEE YING
AINUL WARDAH SOHILLI
ZULIANA AZIZ
ZAINULFAQAR YAACOB
NORSHAHIDA YUSOFF

Jurugambar/Juruvideo:
CHAN LILIAN
LAW SUUN TING
ALISSALA THIAN
MOHD. HAFIZ TAJUDIN

Jurugrafik:
LOO MEI FERN
IDZHAM AHMAD

sertai kami melalui "sms blast",
taip "ADD ME" 019 357 9726

Bagi sebarang maklum balas, sila hantar ke:

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04 - 650 5561, 04 - 650 5705, 04 - 650 5256

Kalendar Pelancongan Pulau Pinang Mac 2012



2hb - 4hb Mac
KFC/PSC International Regatta
Penang Swimming Club

25hb Mac
MALAKOFF 26KM RUN
Youth Park



30hb Mac - 1hb Apr
Penang World Music Festival 2010
Penang Botanic Gardens

From: Jimmy C S Lim
Subject: Birds in the skies

My Dear Chief Minister,

We are like birds in the skies,
the seasons take us everywhere in a seamless manner.
The seasons come and the seasons go,
we must never think of a project completed to our satisfaction.
Always striving for perfection
brings us closer to an endless chase,
which life on earth can be all about.
Once totally satisfied
may be a signal that it may be game over time.
For this reason we need to occasionally touch base
that we are all well.

May I wish you a Happy and Healthy Seamless New Year.

Warmest regards
Jimmy Lim
from Penang

Iklaneka



Hanya
RM 18.75 /
RM 37.50
sebulan!

Buletin Mutiara boleh diperoleh di :

- Pejabat-pejabat ADUN
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- Pejabat-pejabat PBA
- Bukit Bendera
- Pasaraya-pasaraya sekitar Pulau Pinang
- Hospital-hospital Kerajaan dan Swasta
- Pejabat-pejabat NGO
- Edaran rumah ke rumah

Bagi Maklumat Lanjut, Sila Hubungi :

Shawal Ahmad:

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shawal@penang.gov.my atau shawal9004@gmail.com

Penang scouting activities given a new lease of life

SCOUTS and youth in Penang have reasons to rejoice because they now have an alternative base for scouting activities at the new Penang Hill Scout Quarters set to be opened in the second quarter of this year.

The three units of staff quarters at the Lower Tunnel station were restored by Penang Hill Corporation (PHC) to their original condition at a total cost of RM42,000. The buildings were previously left vacant for 15 years and were in a very bad condition.

The rental of the three quarters is two ringgit monthly for a 3 year term.

The tenancy agreement was signed by PHC General Manager, Maklen Ali while Vice President of Penang State Scout Council Ong Seng Huat signed on behalf of Penang Scout Council.

Ong who was at the Chief Minister's Office at Komtar to sign the agreement described the initiative as, "A new lease of life for Penang scouting activities". He said since the previous State Government had taken back the Coronation Camp in 2006 and use the land for a Bamboo Garden. Scouts do not have a proper venue for their activities.

Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng who is also the Chairman of Penang Hill Corporation said, "Since the closure of the Coronation Camp, Scouts have to resort to school grounds or camp at the Penang Scout Headquarters at the busy corner of Jalan Air Itam and Jalan Scotland. Therefore, this corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiated by PHC will enable our youth to enjoy and experience nature. Although these Scout Quarters do not



Left to right : Datuk Lee Kah Choon former Acting General Manager of PHC, Assembly Member Teh Yee Cheu, Maklen Ali, General Manager of PHC, CM Lim Guan Eng, Ong Seng Huat, Vice President of Penang State Scout Council and other members of the Scout Council at the signing ceremony of the tenancy agreement.

have a camping ground, they will provide the Scouts with a different setting and the place is ideal for training".

Ong said that Scouts will be able to contribute back to the State through their scouting activities such as exploring trails, opening up new trails, naming the trees etc and help Penang Hill Corpora-

tion in their environmental activities. Ong made a pledge that the Penang Scouts will not misuse the Scout Quarters. They will maintain the natural environment and encourage more youth to be involved in the Scout movement.

Members of the media wanted to know the Government's future plans for the Coronation Camp. CM Lim said this matter has to be further discussed between the various NGOs and the Penang Scout Council because of strong objec-



Ong Seng Huat, Vice President of Penang State Scout Council

tions from certain NGOs not to allow any scouting activities at the Coronation Camp which is now a Bamboo Garden.

Ong recalled that the piece of land was given for scouting activities in 1951, way before

Merdeka. He said in 1970s, the stream was so clean that Scouts could source for drinking water from the stream. Although an alternative camp site was provided at the Guillemard Reservoir along the Vale of Tempe Road, Ong said the place is not really suitable as Scout activities involve young children and the camp site is not safe for them.

Therefore, the PHC Scout Quarters will give the Penang Scouts a new terrain to explore.



The Penang Hill Scout Quarters.

New GM poised to transform Penang Hill

PENANG Hill Coporation (PHC) has announced the appointment of Maklen Ali, 46 years old as the General Manager on 16 March, 2012. He is poised to transform Penang Hill into a hill resort of choice with many new and exciting projects.

Prior to joining PHC, Maklen was the Head of Operations for Langkawi Cable Car (LCC). Under his management, LCC was able to achieve commendable results in its key corporate performance indications. He and his management team participated in the internal capacity building of LCC as well as in the development of the company capability in crisis management.

At a press conference at Komtar, CM Lim who is the Chairman of PHC said, "With Maklen's extensive experience, he will be a valuable addition to our team".

Maklen is an engineer by profession, having graduated with a Bachelor degree in Electrical, Electronics and System Engineering (Hons) in 1993 from UKM and obtained his Masters in Business Administration in 2003 from UiTM.

He has exposure to international collaborations like the Dopplemayr and the Hong Kong Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car operator in terms of business and Engineering activities.

Chowrasta to get a RM10 million facelift

HISTORICAL notes show that Penang Chowrasta market is one of the earliest markets. It was built in Penang in 1880s. Since 1961, no redevelopment has been done to this market which is a tourist and local destination as the place offers local delicacies like pickled fruits, dried seafood, fresh vegetables, fruits and many types of seafood.

Many vendors have abandoned the building and prefer to trade outside because ventilation is poor. The building is too closed up. Fire had destroyed part of the market building. Most of the food stalls are no longer open because very few people enter the market building.

Penang Municipal Council is concerned and cares for the vendors and works hard to make Chowrasta an icon in the Central Business District of George Town. Therefore, it recently announced the Revitalisation of Chowrasta project.

Through Penang CAT or Competent, Accountable and Transparent adminis-



An artist's impression of the redeveloped Chowrasta market.

tration, a positive impact derived includes economic growth. This leads to budget surpluses annually for the Penang Pakatan Rakyat State Government and also the two councils - MPPP and MPSP.

The Revitalisation of Chowrasta is one of the several efforts by the PR Government to maintain and promote heritage and at the same time, care for the welfare of the rakyat. The project will help the lower and middle income

groups to trade in a cleaner, greener and healthier environment.

An open tender will be called for this project which is estimated to cost around RM10-RM12 million. "International conservation architect Lawrence Loh will handle and implement the revitalisation project because it involves a heritage building. It will be done in accordance with the Green Building Index requirements," CM Lim said during the presentation of the proposed project.

Penangites can now look forward to a revitalised Chowrasta. It will remain charming with heritage values but at the same time, has a brighter, breezier and greener facade. A 150-bay parking complex will be added to ease parking and traffic woes.

During construction, proper management will ensure that all the current traders are not affected much by the on-going work. MPPP has so far upgraded five markets with minimal inconvenience to market traders and visitors.

Free of rubber pollution – after 30 years

THE infamous pollution and stench problems related to a rubber factory which have been recurring for thirty years at Paya Terubong have been resolved with the closure of Lee Rubber Co Pte Ltd's operations there.

"Lee Rubber Co Pte Ltd has been operating in Penang island for more than 40 years. In 1970 the company moved from Lebuhr Noordin to Paya Terubong and continued its operations," said Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng at the site recently.

According to CM Lim, Paya Terubong was actually covered with trees and looked like a jungle in the 1970s. Developers began to build residential homes there after 1980..

Lee Rubber in Penang island grew to become one of the largest rubber processing factories in Malaysia.

The company's Penang branch manager Chew Chee Bing said the company used to process about 5,000 metric tonnes of SMR (Standard Malaysian Rubber) every month. It handled the important raw materials and exported the products to South Thailand and Aceh in Sumatra.

"Over the years, air pollution here has become worse. The State

Government has received a lot of complaints from the residents over the past 25 years," Lim stated.

Below is a complaint on CM Lim's Facebook dated 23 May 2011:

"JaYy Jay Sen

Hi CM, I am one of the residents in Paya Terubong, Penang. We have this foul smell caused by Lee Rubber Factory. The smell is terrible. Few years ago, the Government promised to relocate Lee Rubber but still no action has been taken. We have thousands of residents here pleading to the State Government to take some action. We have even approached YB Yeoh Soon Hin for help and he promised to look into it. Dear CM, please look into this issue as the pollution is great. Thank you very much. Do let us know what we need to do to assist you into taking action. Thanks."

The State Government was notified through a letter on 4 August 2011 that the company would cease operations on 1 April 2012. However this date was brought forward by a month. All operations ceased on 1 March 2012," said CM Lim.



Mr. Chew stated the foreign workers who want to continue with the company would be transferred to the new factory in Kelantan. As for the local workers, those who chose to resign would get proper compensation from the company.

The Chief Minister felt happy as the company was willing to work with the State Government to relocate in order to give the residents a Cleaner, Greener Penang. At the same time he felt sad for the closing down of one of the largest rubber processing factories in the country.



“The workers work harder because the CM cares and notices them”

ARUL was walking up and down the venue of the George Town 55th City Day at the Esplanade on 31st December, 2011. He was checking if the chairs had been arranged orderly while making sure the place was clean. He was engrossed in his job, supervising the workers and was surprised when Buletin Mutiara's Chan Lilian called on him.

Lilian had followed Arul and his team of drain cleaners on their rounds and hence, was a familiar face to Arul. When asked for his photo to be taken, Arul shyly said, “Aiyor, don't take my photo. I am so messy. I have been here from morning till now; no time to bathe and change!”

Arul Selven V.M. 51 is the Senior Public Health Assistant (Pembantu Kesihatan Awam Kanan) who is in charge of the MPPP workers who are often unseen, unheard and unknown. The drain cleaners, road sweepers and those who are in charge of the 3D work – dirty, dangerous and difficult usually carry out their work behind the scene. We rarely care to find out their names, their background and what they do.

Lilian followed Arul as he carried on instructing the workers to vacuum the red carpet to make sure it was spic and span before the VIPs arrived for the huge celebration that night. Phone calls came in as Arul had to coordinate with the other workers at other locations around the island. They were working in full force to make sure that Penang remained clean and orderly in spite of the huge inflow of crowds of people to celebrate and to countdown the New Year 2012.

When asked about the RM150 monthly ‘3D’ allowances given to MPSP and MPPP workers who are involved in dirty, dangerous and difficult work, Arul said,



Arul Selven V.M. 51 is the Senior Public Health Assistant (Pembantu Kesihatan) .

“It is not only the monetary award that pleases us, my workers are very happy that the Chief Minister appreciates and notices us. It is a sign that the State looks after us and cares for us.”

It is an undeniable fact that Penang is now much cleaner. For instance, after a huge event that lasts till past midnight, one will find the place cleaned up the next morning. During the wee hours of the morning, council workers diligently clear all the rubbish before the crack of dawn.

One may ask, “Aren't these the same workers who had been working for decades? How come Penang State is so much cleaner now compared to before? What is the cause for this marked improvement?”



Arul revealed the reason. He said, “You know, recently we got half a month bonus. The lower income workers got RM800 and they were so happy. It is the recognition that makes us work harder and become more dedicated. Moreover, the RM150 in the form of the 3-D allowance every month spurs us to be more dedicated to our jobs”.

When asked what Arul did with his bonus, he shared, “I used the money to buy gold and keep that as a souvenir.” Due to Lilian's persistence, Arul finally agreed to have his photo taken in front of the majestic MPPP building where his office is located.

Air Itam and Paya Terubong team spirit

Pix by **DAP Air Itam**

A concerned road user reported that pieces of gravel and cement fragments were spilled along the middle of Jalan Thean Teik and Jalan Shaik Madar road junction. This was hazardous and dangerous to motorcyclists. Swift action was taken by an action group consisting of Penang Pakatan State Government's newly formed PPSP (Pasukan Per-

onda Pulau Pinang or Penang Patrol Team) teams from Air Itam constituency under State Assembly Member Wong Hon Wai and Paya Terubong constituency under Assembly Member Yeoh Soon Hin. These voluntary workers immediately cleared the debris before any untoward incident could happen. The individuals who were part of these voluntary teams worked hard under the hot sun for the good of the community.

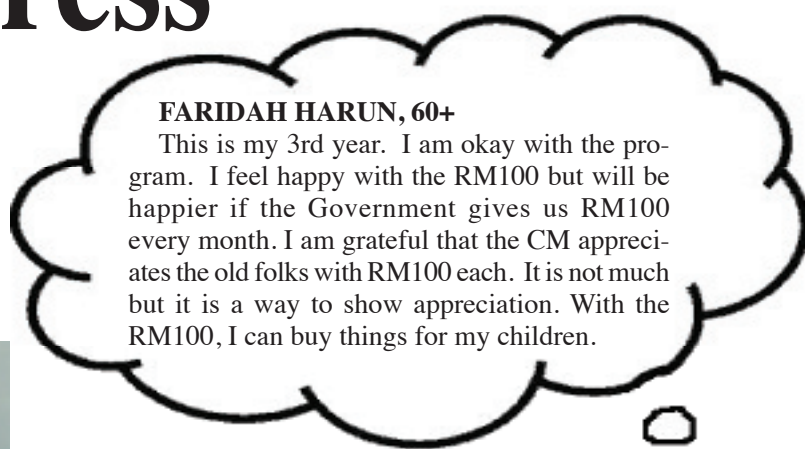


Senior citizens express their appreciation

Pix by Jocelyn Yew



FATIMAH BINTI KASSIM, 66
I am happy and grateful. I have obtained the RM100 for three years already. I will save it for future use.



FARIDAH HARUN, 60+
This is my 3rd year. I am okay with the program. I feel happy with the RM100 but will be happier if the Government gives us RM100 every month. I am grateful that the CM appreciates the old folks with RM100 each. It is not much but it is a way to show appreciation. With the RM100, I can buy things for my children.



OON HOCK SENG, 82
I am happy that I can get extra income from PR State Government. This is the 3rd year. Last year, we did not need to queue up for a number. This is a good sign that more people benefit from the program.



ABDUL WAHAB BIN CHE DIN, 72
Personally, I think this Senior Citizen Appreciation Program is very good for senior citizens like me. I have received this for three years already. I will spend RM50 and will save RM50. I am grateful to the PR Government.



MF GOH, 64
I have taken the RM100 for three years. God bless CM Lim and the PR State Government.



VALLAMMAL A/P SUKALINGGAM, 71
It is my 3rd year to receive the money. I am happy because I have extra income. With the RM100 from PR Government, I can have a feast. Talking about Lynas, in my opinion, it should be closed if it causes pollution and brings harm to human beings. The BN Federal Government should think of the people and not be selfish.



FRANCES LIM, 75
This is my 3rd year to get the RM100 from the Pakatan Rakyat State Government. I am happy with this program. My friends and I will continue to vote for PR.

GAN JOO SAN, 72
I am happy and grateful for the RM100. My family, friends and I will give our support to the PR Government.



Penang Investment Updates

PENANG tops in manufacturing investments for 2nd consecutive year

Penang tops in manufacturing investments for 2nd consecutive year Penang again tops in the manufacturing sector in 2011 with RM9.1 billion of Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) approved investments (Table 1). This figure accounts for 16% of the total manufacturing investments approved for the country of RM56.1 billion.

Foreign direct investments at RM7.1 billion account for 78% of the total manufacturing investments approved for Penang. This figure, which is also the highest FDIs approved amongst the states in Malaysia, accounts for 21% of the total FDIs approved for the country. Once again, Penang proves to be the location of choice for FDIs.

The top five countries of origin of FDIs are Japan (46%), U.S. (23%), Netherlands (13%), Canada (6%) and Singapore (4%). The electrical and electronics industry tops the list, accounting for 80% of the total investments approved. The second and third largest sectors comprise the basic metal products and transport equipment industries, accounting for 8% and 6% of the total investments approved respectively.

New manufacturing projects account for RM4.5 billion (49%) of the approved investments while the remaining RM4.6 billion (51%) comprises expansion/diversification manufacturing projects.

This year's investments are knowledge-intensive, high tech and high value added in electronics such as next generation multilayer printed wired board and advance package substrate for semiconductor, LED, renewable energy, aerospace, medical devices and life sciences, which will help build Penang's human talents and capabilities to the next level.

While Penang ranks first in terms of manufacturing investments, the State ranks second after Sarawak in terms of overall approved investments (Chart 1). With approved investments in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors at RM14.038 billion, the state falls behind Sarawak by a mere RM0.313 billion.

December 16, 2011 – investPenang organized a **talk on Feed-in-Tariff (FIT)** as part of its CEO Speaks... Series of Talks.

This talk is in conjunction with the introduction of FIT in Malaysia. The State Government, through investPenang, requested the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) to share with the business and industry community on FIT and how it works.

The State has requested for higher allocation of FIT quota, i.e. from the current RM300 million to RM1.3 billion annually so as to expedite the achievement of gridparity.

The State also called for the current "First-come-first-served" basis in the award of FIT be replaced with "FIT-for-all" basis. Penang has one of the best irradiance rate in the country, with 1809 kWh/m² and the State is projected to contribute near to RM20 million to the FIT fund annually. A "FIT-for-all" basis

Table 1: Approved Manufacturing Investments, 2011

State	Jan - Dec 2011			
	No. of approvals	Proposed Investment (RM Million)		
		Domestic	Foreign	Total
Penang	109	1,960.4	7,145.6	9,106.0
Selangor	263	4,504.8	4,236.3	8,741.1
Sarawak	43	4,312.7	4,140.7	8,453.4
Johor	188	3,290.9	3,293.7	6,584.6
Kedah	42	140.3	5,995.7	6,136.0
Negeri Sembilan	38	1,571.1	4,334.3	5,905.4
Melaka	39	1,710.4	2,653.3	4,363.7
Pahang	25	2,054.3	983.7	3,038.0
Terengganu	15	306.0	1,086.7	1,392.7
Perak	30	894.9	90.0	984.9
Sabah	27	877.1	44.3	921.4
FT Kuala Lumpur	19	204.7	102.9	307.6
Kelantan	5	90.0	38.6	128.6
Perlis	3	20.3	3.0	23.3
Total	846	21,937.9	34,148.9	56,086.8

(Source: MIDA)

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for FIT will ensure that Penang-based companies and individuals have equal opportunity to benefit directly from their contributions.

Pursuant to the talk in December, Bosch Penang celebrated the successful implementation of its 2nd phase of PV system on its plant on February 25, 2012.

This installation is presently the largest PV system ever installed in Malaysia with total installation capacity of 647 kWp, total production capacity of 832 MWh of solar power per annum and reduction of carbon dioxide emission by 542 tons per year.

January 17, 2012 – IHS, a U.S. based company global information company with world-class experts in pivotal areas shaping today business landscape in the areas of energy, economics, geopolitical risk, sustainability and supply chain management, officially launched their Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the Menara KWSP in Penang.

IHS has been in business since 1959 and became a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange in 2005. IHS serves customers ranging from governments and large multinational corporations to smaller companies and technical professionals in more than 165 countries in the following industries:- Aerospace & Defense, Agriculture,

Automotive, Chemicals, Construction, Consumer & Retail, Clean Energy, Energy Oil & Gas, Electronics & Telecom, Financial, Government, Healthcare & Pharmaceutical, Metals & Mining, Military & Security, Power & Utilities, Shipping & Transportation.

The CoE in Penang is deemed to be the largest centre for IHS worldwide. It will be staffed and led by Malaysians. With an initial headcount of 192, the centre is expected to grow exponentially and eventually to achieve a total headcount of 1,600 in 2015. The activities identified for Penang include (i) customer care and procurement services; (ii) market intelligence analysis research and reporting; (iii) technical support and maintenance including information and insights operations services; (iv) general management and administration encompassing finance services, and (v) data / information management and processing services.

The implementation of these activities will widen career opportunities for the people of Penang trained in various expertise such as oil and gas; design and

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supply chain; risk and security; environment, safety and health; finance and legal as well as country and industry forecasting to remain in Penang. This development is in line with the State Government's vision of developing Penang into a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Hub, which will promote higher value added activities. The higher value activities are expected to provide higher paying jobs for the Penang's populace, thus helping the State and its people to move out from the middle income trap.

February 8, 2012 – VAT is a familyowned company, headquartered in Haag, Switzerland. VAT is a world renowned company supplying vacuum valves for the semiconductor industry, in the manufacture of flat screens and solar panels, in coating optical systems and tools, in the aerospace industry as well as in research.

Registered as VAT Manufacturing Malaysia Sdn Bhd, VAT **signed the sales and purchase agreement with Penang Development Corporation** for a 7.5 acre site at Batu Kawan. The VAT Penang facility is expected to commence production in December 2012 with 50% local sourcing.

With a total investments of US\$25 million, VAT is anticipated to create 100 new jobs, of which more than 65% are skill and knowledge-based jobs.

February 16, 2012 – In line with the state's initiative to provide affordable quality housing to all Penangites, Penang Development Corporation (PDC) took the lead with the proposed development of **Bandar Cassia Affordable Housing Scheme**. Bandar Cassia is located in Batu Kawan, Seberang Perai Selatan. The proposed affordable housing scheme will be developed in 5 phases on 200 acres of land over a period of 10 - 15 years.

The proposed affordable housing scheme is expected to cater to the housing needs of the increasing pool of talents who are currently and will be employed at the nearby industrial parks, such as Penang Science Park, which is 5 km away as well as in Batu Kawan Industrial Park, which is only 2 km away.

February 21 – 24, 2012 – Business Meeting with Singapore Business Federation (SBF). A Seminar on 'Investment Opportunities' was organized by investPenang for the members of SBF and a business matching session was also held for members of SBF as well as the local companies. During the visit, the SBF delegation also had the opportunity to network with members of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM).

The objectives of the delegation were to (i) enhance trade and economic linkages between Singapore and Penang business communities; (ii) develop and promote networking between Singapore and Penang companies, relevant government agencies as well as organizations in Penang; and (iii) update and connect the delegates with the latest business and market developments.

SME Centre ... The Penang SME Centre at Bayan Lepas Industrial Park 4, is scheduled to be ready for occupancy and operation by end of June 2012. The Management Council, comprising members from the industry and public sectors has agreed on the tenancy period of 2 + 1 years with rental rates ranging

from RM1.80 for the 1st year to RM2.00 for the 3rd year for level 1 and RM1.50 to RM1.70 for levels 2, 3 & 4.

The SME Centre will not only provide space for budding SMEs but it also offers mentoring services to help incubate these companies. The Centre will also provide a showcase of SMEs' products and services to visiting MNCs and other foreign companies. Therefore, start-ups and innovative SMEs with aspiration to move up the value chain, tap on opportunities to proliferate own branding as well as to become market leaders are strongly encouraged to sign up for space at the SME Centre. Enquiries can be made with the SMART Centre @ investPenang, tel: 604-640 9988 or info@smartpenang.my.

Penang CAT Centre... The Penang Career Assistance and Talent Centre's website, www.penang-catcentre.my has gained much popularity since its launch in July 2011. The purpose of the website is to enable companies in Penang to publicize vacancies that are available in Penang as well as for jobseekers and students from both within and outside Malaysia to access information on job vacancies and career opportunities in Penang.

To date, the website has received more than 7000 hits with more than 4000 visitors from different countries. More than 150 visitors have also signed up to the weekly newsletter updates. The Penang CAT Centre has also carried out the student outreach programme to more than 20 institutes of higher learning in Penang to brief on the Centre's objectives and promote vacancies and job opportunities in Penang.

MSC-Malaysia Penang Cybercity Updates... MSC-Malaysia status companies and companies applying for the MSCMalaysia status will have wider choice of locations, thanks to the revision of requirements by the Multimedia Development Corporation

(MDeC). In its quest to encourage more companies to take advantage of the benefits conferred by MSC-Malaysia, MDeC now allows MSC-Malaysia companies to have the option to locate in non-MSC designated commercial buildings within an approved MSC boundary, e.g. Penang MSC Cybercity. Companies that take up this option will be required to forgo the Bill of Guarantee 1 (BOG1), i.e. the provision of world-class physical and information infrastructure. The revision took effect on January 1, 2012.

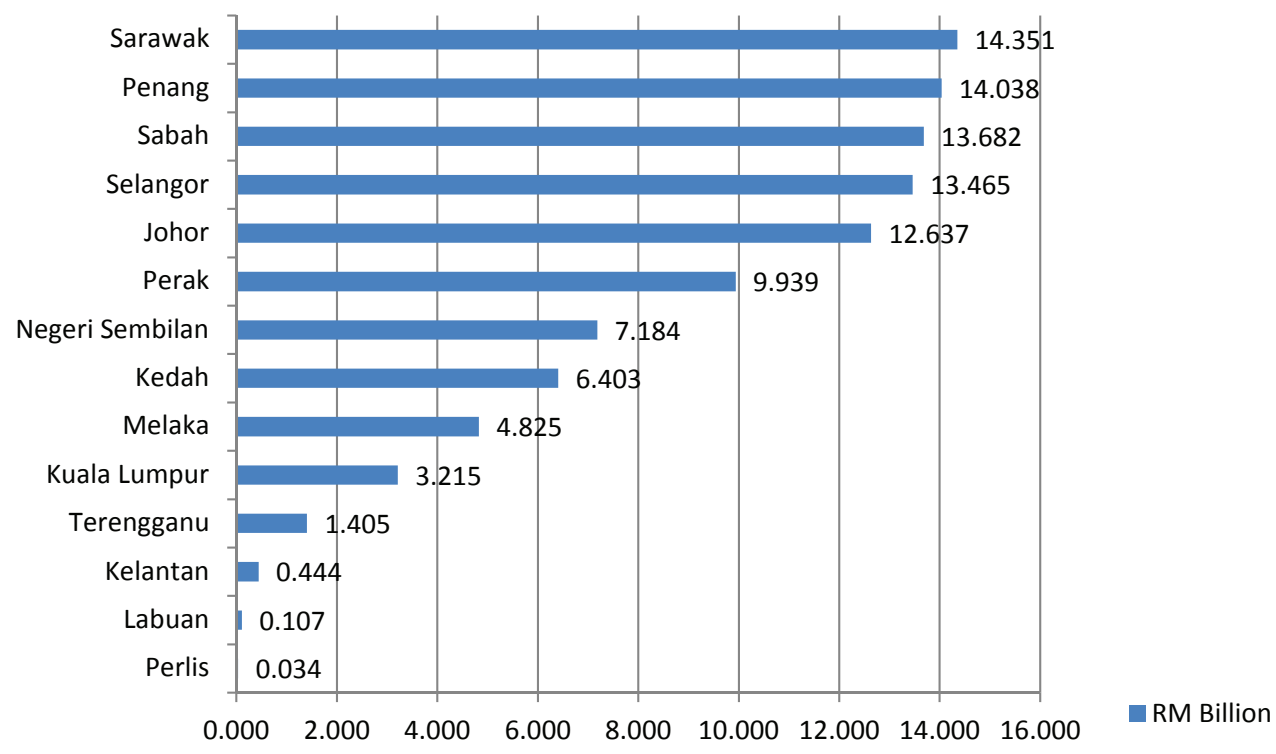
In Penang, the Penang MSC Cybercity 1 is a designated MSC boundary. Penang Cybercity 1 is located in Bayan Lepas, spanning from south of Penang Bridge to Bayan Lepas Industrial Park and Bayan Lepas residential areas up to the Penang International Sport Arena (PISA).

40 Years of Industrialisation in Penang... Penang embarked on industrialization as a means to generate jobs for its people as well as to revive its economy, back in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The first free trade zone in the country was set up at Sungai Kluang, Bayan Lepas, Penang in 1972 and attracted some very young foreign companies that were looking for low-cost and labour-intensive offshoring opportunities. Today, young foreign companies have grown together with Penang and they have also become world-class transnational corporations.

After 40 years of partnership in development and growth, the Penang Government, through investPenang and Penang Development Corporation (PDC), is jointly collaborating with the pioneer companies in the industrial parks to commemorate past successes and explore opportunities to nurture the foundations for Penang's future.

Companies are invited to join this celebration and interested parties are encouraged to contact investPenang at tel: 604-646 8833 for further information.

Chart 1: Approved Investments by State, 2011



Note: The approved investments comprise primary, manufacturing and services sectors. The approved investments do not include investments that cut across state borders.

(Source: MIDA)

Betty - The fort that held everything together

Story and pix by **Chan Lilian**

AN exclusive interview with Betty Chew Gek Cheng on the trials and tribulations she faced as the wife of a man who had been unjustly jailed.

"In the past, when we talk about women, there is a saying - behind every successful man, there is a woman. Nowadays, behind every successful woman, she is always her own man."

The above was a quote by Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng in his speech given on September, 2011 at the Journalism Award Night. This quote is so apt when it applies to his wife, Betty Chew Gek Cheng.

CM Lim knows very well how she had managed on her own when he was unjustly jailed twice. Betty is a lawyer, a State Assemblymember for Kota Laksamana in Melaka and a mother of four children. She is one of the two dragon ladies who played a significant role in CM Lim's life. The other is CM Lim's mother who was born in the year of the dragon too.

Betty shared with Buletin Mutiara how she started in politics. She said, "during varsity days, I had always kept abreast with daily local and national political news even though my direct interest into politics had not started yet. After marrying into a political family, I started to get involved in political activities and it escalated during the imprisonment of Guan Eng. In 1999, I was asked to be a candidate in the Tenth General Elections. I accepted for I realised that I could use the political platform to help others. I guess my interest in politics is a natural progression of my position as the wife of Guan Eng."

Coming from a poor family, I understand how being poor and ignorant of the law can be disadvantageous. So I use my position as a wakil rakyat cum legal practitioner to be my constituents' friend, counsellor, motivator, legal counsel and help them in any way I can," said Betty.

She recalled the time when CM Lim was jailed for 18 months at the Kajang Prison for trying to help a 15 year old Malay girl and to seek justice for her grandmother. During the 18 months, Betty had to take care of her three children aged 7, 6 and 3 years old, continue her work in the law firm and champion CM Lim's release.

Betty said, "I am thankful to my understanding father-in-law (Lim Kit Siang) and the DAP leaders who were busy going around practically the whole of Malaysia doing many roadshows and ceramahs explaining Guan Eng's case. I attended most of the ceramahs and activities in Melaka but selected a few outstation ones because I had to take care of my children and had to work."

There wasn't any Facebook or Twitter back then. There was a "Release Lim Guan Eng petition" going around at that time to secure the release of LGE and we



got over a million signatures in Malaysia. All the people tried to do their part by securing as many signatures as possible to send to Yang DiPertuan Agong for Guan Eng's release ... even the Pasar Malam aunties and many strangers helped.. Though we didn't manage to touch the Agong's heart with the million over signatures to release Guan Eng, the genuine help, encouragement and motivation provided by many good-hearted people, be it small or big helped my family and myself to be strong. I could really sense peoples' strength and power during Guan Eng's unjust imprisonment. It touched many hearts."

Betty had gone through some of the hardest times in life. Which mother is not heart-broken when her little daughter of seven years and her son who was merely six years old waited in agony to see their father once a month in jail? A video interview recorded a few years ago showed Betty's eldest child, Rachel relating how she and her younger brother, Clint had tried to break the glass separating the two children from their father who was in jail.

Rachel said, "Waiting was very difficult. Sometimes, a month seemed like a year. We had to wait for a whole month just to see our papa. But we got to see him for only 30 minutes. My brother and I couldn't hold his hands and couldn't feel his pulse so we tried to hit the glass to break it. In the end, only our hands felt the pain".

Life in prison was hard. CM Lim had related to many people what prison life was. He had said, "There were no mattresses and we slept on hard, cold cement floor. The whole body ached. As a result of that, I have severe backache now. At night, they did not turn off the lights too. One night, I woke up because I felt something moving on my chest. I opened my eyes and saw ants

crawling across my chest carrying a dead cockroach! I couldn't move due to the backache and by the time I was able to move, the ants had crossed my chest."

Betty had stoically held the family together through that tough period. Today, she is proud of her husband. She said, "To many, Guan Eng has a sincere and a kind heart. He always has peoples' welfare at heart and will try his best and go all the way to help them regardless of their race, social status and their political background... wherever he is ...and all for free.. Remember how Guan Eng went all the way to help the makcik whose grand-daughter was raped by a VVIP and his reward - imprisonment".

Betty shared a glimpse of CM Lim which many people don't know. She said, "even when he was in prison, he fought for the prisoners to get mattresses and electric kettles. Previously the prisoners slept on cold cement floor and drank tap water but the situation changed after that."

After CM Lim was released from prison, Betty continued working side by side with him. She told Buletin Mutiara, "He was released from Kajang prison in 1999. From that time until 2008, he was helping people with various problems in Melaka. Sometimes they even came from other states. I remember every day my legal office was full of all kinds of people seeking his help whenever he was around. He was so popular that they were willing to wait patiently for hours for their turn. One of my friends even joked that my office was akin to a Chinese temple and he wanted to help to issue metal number cards to those waiting to determine how long the daily queue was!"

She continued, "The irony of it was... people like Guan Eng and he seemed to be able to solve most of their problems or alternatively give them some useful advice on how to resolve them. They all went back happy and satisfied after seeing him. Apparently most of their problems no matter how difficult and hard ... seemed to be easily solved once they saw him. I always hear good things about him. I am so proud of him!"

Betty has proven that she is the woman behind the man but she is also the strong one who held everything together when her man was unjustly imprisoned. Today, Betty carries her role as the Chief Minister's wife in a graceful and humble manner.

As a parting note, Buletin Mutiara asked Betty what she does in her free time. She replied, "All these years ... most of my time is for others and hardly for myself. I don't even have time to fall sick! So little time I have that whenever I am free, I catch up with my sleep. I also like to read story books and surf the net for factual news".

**Buletin Mutiara thanks Betty Chew for granting this two-part interview as it has given Penangites a deeper understanding of their Chief Minister who heads a people-centric State Government under the Penang Pakatan Rakyat administration.