

# Star Special

THE STAR, MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023

DAULAT TUANKU



## Warmest wishes to our Sultan

Malaysians wish Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah a joy-filled birthday. May the year ahead bring continued blessings to Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin. Happy birthday, Tuanku!





Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim greeted Sultan Sharafuddin on arrival at the National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs 70th meeting at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque in Shah Alam. — Bernama



Sultan Sharafuddin shaking hands with Selangor veteran football players during the Sultan of Selangor Cup at Shah Alam Stadium, Shah Alam. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

# Ruler wishes for peace and unity in Selangor

By WANI MUTHIAH  
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THE people of Selangor can always be rest assured their Ruler, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, will speak out even if there is a slight hint that something is not right in the state.

Selangor's politicians and elected representatives are also always cautious as they would be admonished by Sultan Sharafuddin – sometimes gently but mostly directly and to the point – if they are seen to have erred in any way.

During the swearing-in of Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari after the state polls earlier this year, the Ruler rebuked Selangor's politicians in his royal address for incessant politicking.

Tuanku did not mince his words when he said the politicians' incessant bickering and politicking had become trying for him as well as for the people of Selangor.

"The people are tired; I am tired of hearing of it. Wake up, honourable members; think about the future of our state and country and the future of our children and grandchildren.

"Make Selangor great again like it was during Selangor's golden era not too long

**"Wake up, honourable members; think about the future of our state and country and the future of our children and grandchildren."**

Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah

ago," Sultan Sharafuddin had said.

Obviously speaking from the heart, Sultan Sharafuddin said he was an elderly person with a fervent wish for Selangor to revert to its past glory.

"I will be 78 this year and it is my hope and dream before I close my eyes, that I can see Selangor rise again and move forward in every aspect of physical and spiritual development, enjoy sustainable economic growth and unity among its multiracial communities," he said.

In the same speech, Sultan Sharafuddin chastised politicians who resorted to using



Sultan Sharafuddin together with Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin (sitting, second left) sharing a light moment with paediatric patients while on tour after the launch of Avisena Women's & Children's Specialist Hospital in Shah Alam, on Aug 22, 2019. Looking on are Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari (third from right) and former Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali (third from left). — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star



Sultan Sharafuddin handing over the appointment letter to Amirudin at Istana Alam Shah in Klang on Aug 21. Present is Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin. — KK SHAM/The Star



harsh language to attack each other as well as the royal institutions.

The Ruler had said such conduct depicted the erosion of respect towards the royal institution and Malay Sultanate that function as an umbrella for Muslims, Malays and other communities.

Sultan Sharafuddin's fervent wish and hope was also for the Malays in the state to stay united by resisting division caused by varying political ideologies while living in harmony among the state's multiracial and multi-religious communities.

"I would also like to take this opportu-

nity to urge all Malay Muslims in Selangor to always prevent arguments and conflicts between each other that could divide the community and give Islam a bad image," Sultan Sharafuddin had said.

The Ruler also always advised the people of Selangor to respect each other and preserve communal harmony.

Last year, when certain quarters had opposed the Bon Odori festival, which was held in Selangor annually, Sultan Sharafuddin stepped in to ensure the festivities took place as usual without any interference.

The Ruler had pointed out that Bon Odori had been held in Selangor for decades as a bridge to connect the Japanese community as well as Japanese businesses operating here with the local community.

Another main concern for the Ruler was the need to invigorate Selangor's tourism given that the state has so many facets and attributes to attract local and foreign holidaymakers.

Sultan Sharafuddin had been quoted as saying numerous times that there was a need for Selangor to be promoted and marketed as an international tourist destination.

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# Daulat Tuanku



## DULI YANG MAHA MULIA SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH ALHAJ IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ

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SULTAN AND RULER OF THE STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN AND ALL ITS DEPENDENCIES

Heartiest Salutations & Congratulations

In Conjunction With  
His Royal Highness' 78th Birthday

On 11th December 2023

From

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# Keeping his subjects close to heart

> FROM PAGE 2

Sultan Sharafuddin had also urged the state government to promote Selangor's arts and crafts, which had their own unique facets, more effectively in order to push the local handicraft industry forward.

As a keen observer of what transpires nationwide, Sultan Sharafuddin had also spoken out about the need to respect the independence of the judiciary and the Rule of Law.

"The Federal Constitution has placed the dignity of the judicial institution at a high level as an independent and authoritative body," Sultan Sharafuddin had said.

The Ruler had added that judicial independence meant judges handled cases by interpreting the law based on facts and evidence, without fear or favour, and free from unwanted interference.

Standing up for his subjects, Sultan Sharafuddin had also called out the state government in regards to flood mitigation in Selangor.

"What is the point of taking pride in economic achievements and status as a rich state with the highest gross domestic product in Malaysia when the basic needs of the people cannot be met effectively?"

"It is my priority that the government solves every problem related to the people's daily lives," Sultan Sharafuddin had said during the swearing-in of Menteri Besar Amirudin and his 10-member exco team earlier this year.

Sultan Sharafuddin also has come to the rescue of his subjects at their darkest hour like how the Ruler had sought a reprieve for Aida Melly Tan Mutalib years ago.

Aida Melly had been desperately trying to seek a divorce from her then-estranged husband for seven years without any success as he



Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin being greeted by Orang Asli children during an official visit to Carey Island in November 2019. — Bernama

refused to comply.

After exhausting every possible avenue, the desperate Aida Melly wrote to Sultan Sharafuddin seeking the Ruler's assistance.

She was finally granted a divorce after Sultan Sharafuddin intervened and advised the court to hasten the decision-making process pertaining to Aida Melly's case.

Sultan Sharafuddin was born on Dec 24, 1945, at Istana Jemaah in Klang when his father, the late Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, was the then Selangor Crown Prince.

His mother is the late Raja Saidatul Ihsan Tengku Badar Shah.

Sultan Sharafuddin has three

children – Tengku Zerafina, Tengku Zatashah and the Raja Muda of Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah.

Sultan Sharafuddin, whose birth name is Tengku Idris Shah, became the Raja Muda of Selangor at the age of 15 in 1960 when his father was installed as the Sultan of Selangor.

The Ruler ascended the throne in 2001 upon Sultan Salahuddin's demise.

Tengku Sharafuddin is married to Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

The people of Selangor wish Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah a very happy 78th birthday and may the Ruler enjoy a long and prosperous reign.

Daulat Tuanku!



Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin witnessing the making of kuih kapit during their visit at Ah Ma House at Sekinchan, on May 22, 2017.



Selangor Ruler and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin officiating the 'Tanam Pokok Dalam Bandar' programme in Cyberjaya in July 2019. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star



Sultan Sharafuddin receiving a replica of an AirAsia aircraft from AirAsia co-founder and group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes at the 43th University Putra Malaysia Convocation ceremony in Serdang, on Nov 16, 2019. Looking on is former UPM Vice Chancellor Datuk Dr Aini Ideris. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star





# *Daulat Tuanku*



## **DULI YANG MAHA MULIA SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH ALHAJ IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ**

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Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin placing a money packet in a ceremonial container marking the launch of the Wakaf Rumah KanWork project, accompanied by Cancer Network Association (KanWork) director Dr Mazanah Muhamad (right). — LOW BOON TAT/The Star



Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin comforting a cat at the pre-surgery prep station during the SPCA Selangor mass pet neutering programme in Klang. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

# Making a pawsitive impact

Stories by WANI MUTHIAH  
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TENGGU Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin recently advised graduates to pursue their tertiary education beyond the diploma and undergraduate levels.

In her royal address at Universiti Teknologi Mara's convocation, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, who is the university's pro-chancellor, had said that seeking knowledge was crucial in the establishment of a higher civilisation. She added that Malaysia needed people who were problem-solvers given the increasingly difficult challenges faced by the country.

In the previous year's convocation, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin had said in her royal address that UiTM had the potential to become a globally renowned university in 2025.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin had added she was committed to supporting UiTM in achieving its aspiration to become globally renowned.

Her Royal Highness had also advised the graduates to play an intellectual role in ensuring the country maintained its sovereignty by avoiding disunity amongst the people.

According to Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, if Malaysians were disunited, the country would become vulnerable to threats from elements that wanted to see the nation fall.

Just like her husband Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin has proven many times that she will not hesitate to speak up when the need arises.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin is a favourite with animal welfare organisations as she can always be depended on to speak

up when animal-related atrocities crop up.

In the latest incident in January this year, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin reprimanded the Kuala Langat Municipal Council (MPKL) over the mismanagement of its dog pound. She had conveyed her sadness in regard to the sad fate of the dogs that were dying of malnutrition and neglect at the pound and urged all local council pounds in the state to improve and upgrade their facilities and operations.

While Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin's previous advice to local councils had fallen on deaf ears, the MPKL took cognisance of the advice and is currently perhaps the only local council in the state to actively trap stray dogs to be neutered and returned or relocated.

"I am truly happy that Tengku Permaisuri's advice has been taken seriously by MPKL," said

animal rescuer Siti Fauziah Abdul Jabbar.

Siti Fauziah's rescue organisation Fauziah Paws Care is the organisation appointed by MPKL to coordinate the catch-neuter-return/relocate exercise.

Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin were married in a private ceremony in August 2016 much to the delight of Selangorians.

She was proclaimed as the Tengku Permaisuri Selangor on Sept 8 and it was decreed that she would be known and addressed as Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

Born as Norashikin Abdul Rahman on June 4, 1971, at a military hospital in Terendak Camp, Malacca, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin was a newscaster with RTM prior to her royal marriage and Malaysia Airlines stewardess before that. She has two adult children – Nur Amanda and Adam Salleh – from a previous marriage.

The first public event that Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin attended together with Sultan Sharafuddin was the Hair Raya Aidiladha prayers at Masjid Diraja Tengku Ampuan Jemaah on Sept 12, 2016.

A few weeks later she accompanied the Ruler on a visit to a senior citizens' home in Shah Alam where one of the residents had spontaneously hugged Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

"She is very pretty. She reminds me of my granddaughter who is also called Norashikin," the then 77-year-old Salasiah Karim had said.

In 2017, Universiti Putra Malaysia named a newly discovered species of orchid Vanilla Norashikiniana after Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

## Down-to-earth and humble royal couple

A few days after leaving for Mecca, Datuk Abd Aziz Abu Bakar was informed by his travel agent that the Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah's entourage would be joining his group to perform the haj.

"The first thought that crossed my mind was that why would the royal entourage want to perform the haj with us when the Sultan and the Tengku Permaisuri (Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin) could do it as royal guests of Saudi Arabia?" recalled Abd Aziz.

He was then told by the travel agent that the royal couple preferred to perform the religious obligation with all other pilgrims and did not want any exclusivity.

The pilgrimage for his group took place between June 20 and July 8, said Abd Aziz.

Abd Aziz, who is the president of the Malaysian Association of Tax Accountants, said his group joined the Sultan's entourage in Mecca before the group left to perform the wukuf rite at Arafat.

The wukuf is an important rite during the haj whereby pilgrims stand on Mount Arafat before



Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin about to leave for the Holy Land. On the left is Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah. — Bernama

sunset to seek forgiveness and repentance.

After seeking permission from the Ruler's military aide-de-camp Capt Ahmad Ramli Kardi, Abd Aziz said he went forward to meet Sultan Sharafuddin after the Maghrib prayers.

"I had never met Tuanku before. I greeted Tuanku and performed the Ishak prayer beside His Royal Highness. I started a conversation with Tuanku after the Ishak prayer and was trem-

bling at first but became at ease almost immediately.

"Tuanku was approachable, friendly, warm and humble while having a truly regal bearing," reminisced Abd Aziz who performed the haj with his wife Datin Che Asma Othman.

According to Abd Aziz, the group members spent a lot of time with the royal couple after the wukuf at Arafat which was followed by the trip to Muzdalifah and Mina before



Abd Aziz having a conversation with Sultan Sharafuddin at a mosque in Mecca. — WANI/The Star

arriving back in Mecca.

"We did a lot of walking while performing the haj and Tuanku and Tengku Permaisuri were with us all the way," he said.

"They were very humble and friendly with the rest of us in the group. We had to constantly remind ourselves who they were."

Upon the entourage's return to Mecca, Abd Aziz said he spent most of his time between the

Maghrib and Ishak prayers with the Ruler.

"It was truly very meaningful, not only for me but for the rest of us in the group.

"In conjunction with Tuanku's 78th birthday, I pray to Allah that Tuanku, the Tengku Permaisuri and members of the royal family will always be blessed, healthy and prosperous. Daulat Tuanku," said Abd Aziz.





# DAULAT TUANKU

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# Lending a helping hand to the underprivileged

By WANI MUTHIAH  
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THE Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah is known for his sense of adventure. Recently, the 33-year-old heir to the Selangor throne led a small entourage to scale Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, to raise funds to help hearing-impaired children.

The others in the group were his brother-in-law Datuk Aubry Rahim Mennesson, cousins Datuk Syed Haizam Hishamuddin Putra Jamalullail and Tengku Ezrique Ezzuddean Tengku Ardy Esfandiari as well as friend Keong Yeen Yeoh.

The group embarked on the journey at the end of August and returned home by mid-September.

From being a shy young man, Tengku Amir Shah, has over the years, evolved into a regal and assertive man who does not waste time mincing his words.

His assertiveness was probably first seen when he took hold of the troubled Football Association of Selangor (FAS) and literally kicked it into shape.

Currently the FAS president, Tengku Amir Shah had recently said that the weaknesses of the state football team have been identified and will be rectified soon.

Syed Haizam had said in a previous interview that Tengku Amir Shah had

taken up the responsibility of helping the FAS because he knew that football was important to Selangorians.

The Raja Muda is also very passionate about giving a helping hand to youths in need of a push to realise their potential.

He has initiated various programmes for young people through two of his organisations – the Yayasan Raja Muda Selangor (YRMS) and the Selangor Youth Community (SAY).

SAY was conceptualised by Tengku Amir Shah himself and is aimed at creating various community-based programmes for youth in Selangor.

The YRMS, which was initiated by Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, when he was the crown prince of Selangor, creates opportunities for marginalised and underprivileged youths in the state.

Those who know Tengku Amir Shah will attest that he is a down-to-earth and easy-going person.

One of the YRMS trustees, Puan Sri TD Ampikaipakan had spoken in an interview of how Tengku Amir Shah, when he was just 18, had attended a self-discovery workshop organised by the foundation for Form Five students.

He had attended incognito and the students were told that he was a guest from England and all of them addressed



Raja Muda of Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah giving a speech at the SAY 5th Year Anniversary Gala at Sunway Resort Hotel & Spa, Petaling Jaya, last year. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

him as Abang Amir.

"The students only found out the next day that he was the Raja Muda of Selangor. They were thrilled that he was unpretentious in his encounter with them," Ampikaipakan was quoted as saying.

Tengku Amir Shah was installed as the Crown Prince and heir to the Selangor throne on May 3, 2002, when he was just 11 and was officially proclaimed in October 2016.

The Crown Prince was born in San Francisco, the United States, on Dec 12, 1990, and is Sultan Sharafuddin's only son.

The Raja Muda received his early education at the Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur, before studying at Wellington College in the United Kingdom from 2004 to 2009.

He trained at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in the United Kingdom, and has a degree in Ecology and Environmental Biology from Leeds University.



(From left) Tengku Ezrique Ezzuddean, Tengku Amir Shah, Keong, Aubry Rahim and Syed Haizam at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.



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On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

WITH UTMOST SINCERITY



THE MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR, COUNCILLORS, OFFICERS AND STAFF  
OF SUBANG JAYA CITY COUNCIL







# Daulat Tuanku



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From

**Tan Sri Dato' Sri Ir. (Dr.) Lim Hock San (Executive Chairman)**  
Board of Directors  
Management and Staff



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(200001015875)



# Many happy returns of the day

While wishing Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah a very happy birthday and many happy returns of the day, mental health proponents are seeking his blessings to spread their wings in Selangor. At the same time, animal activists are thanking Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin for her support towards their cause.



“ Patik wishes Tuanku every happiness on this joyous occasion. Great strides have been made in Selangor under Tuanku’s benevolent rule. May the State Administration continue to be inspired by Tuanku in reaching out to the most vulnerable, especially those with mental health challenges. ”

**Datuk Dr Andrew Mohanraj, Selangor Mental Health Association**



“ The Selangor Mental Health Association wishes Tuanku a very happy birthday. We thank you for your care and concern about the rakyat’s physical, mental and emotional well-being. We pray for many more years of health and happiness for Tuanku. ”

**Firoza Burhanudeen, Selangor Mental Health Association**



“ Wishing Tuanku a blessed and wonderful birthday! May Tuanku enjoy a life filled with love, happiness and good health. Thank you for your guidance in making us a peaceful and progressive state. ”

**Joyce Hue, Selangor Mental Health Association**



“ Happy birthday, Tuanku. May God bless you with good health and happiness. Thank you for always being there for the people of Selangor. ”

**Mohan Chitran, Selangor Mental Health Association**



“ Wishing His Royal Highness, a blessed birthday. May Tuanku be showered with abundance of health and happiness, and always blessed and protected by Allah. ”

**Dr Abdul Rasyid Sulaiman, Selangor Mental Health Association**



“ Daulat Tuanku! Wishing Tuanku many blessings for the years ahead and excellent health always. A big thank you to Tengku Permaisuri Selangor for calling out the Kuala Langat Municipal Council for alleged mismanagement of their pound. ”

**Nurul Ain Abdul Hamid, S.I Home Shelter**



“ Wishing Tuanku heartiest congratulations on your birthday. A million thanks to the Tengku Permaisuri Selangor for speaking up for the welfare of street animals in Selangor. May this beautiful state be able to implement a humane method of street animal population reduction. ”

**Myza Nordin, President, Furry Friends Farm**



“ Daulat Tuanku! Wishing you a very happy birthday as well as good health. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin for speaking out against the poor treatment of dogs at the Kuala Langat Municipal Council Pound. I believe, it is the main catalyst in pushing the council to try out TNR. ”

**Kavitah Ganasan, Coordinator, Malaysian Dogs Deserve Better**



“ On behalf of AnimalCare Society Petaling Selangor and the caregivers and street animals that we help, I would like to wish DYMM Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafudin Idris Shah, the happiest of birthdays and may HRH enjoy many years of health and prosperity. Our best wishes also go to the Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, for always being at the forefront to speak up for the street animals. ”

**Dr Chan Kah Yein, AnimalCare Society Petaling Selangor**



“ Thank you so much for always being there for the people of Selangor as well stray animals’ welfare. May Tuanku and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor always be blessed with good health. ”

**Yeoh Saik Kim, Second Chance Animal Welfare Society**



“ Happy Birthday, Tuanku. Thank you Tengku Permaisuri Selangor for your compassion towards the strays. Your royal support and attention towards the plight of the streets animals has given us inspiration to continuously work towards the betterment of the voiceless. May Tuanku always be blessed with good health and longevity. ”

**Choong Koon Yean, President, International Aid for the Protection & Welfare of Animals, Penang**



“ Sarawak SPCA wishes Tuanku a blessed 78th birthday. Your family’s compassion for all of God’s creations echoes your lessons you have shared with your family. Your empathy fuels our mission of seeking a better world for every creature that share’s God’s gift of life with us. We wish you joy and good health on your birthday. ”

**Datin Donna Drury-Wee, Sarawak SPCA**





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**THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE  
STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN**



# Visionary approach towards nature conservation

Stories by WANI MUTHIAH  
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WANTING to preserve Selangor's green lung, Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah had instructed the state government to continue caring for its forest reserve.

The Ruler had also ordered that the 25-year moratorium preventing logging on the 108,000 forest reserve, launched in 2009, be extended.

Sultan Sharafuddin decreed that the forest reserve be renamed the Royal Selangor Heritage Forest (RSHF). Following this, His Royal Highness officially unveiled the RSHF in November.

The RSHF is made up of 26 permanent forest reserves which include jungles in Hulu Selangor, Batang Kali, Hulu Gombak and Hulu Langat.

The forest reserves under the RSHF have been collectively classified as a protected state park under the jurisdiction of the Selangor State Forestry Act 1985.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Recreation and Ecotourism Department's Prof Dr

Azlizam Aziz said the Ruler had shown a personal interest in the planning, development and establishment of the RSHF.

"During our discussions, Tuanku had expressed hope that emphasis will be given to resource conservation to provide opportunities for people to enjoy the reserve," he said.

According to Prof Azlizam, there are 10 eco parks at the RSHF and experts from his department in UPM have identified 49 tourist attractions throughout the forest reserve.

He added that the main trail, dubbed the Selangor Scenic Trail, will connect the existing trails made up of historical trails, indigenous trails and even security forces trails that have all been redeveloped specifically for tourism.

Prof Azlizam said Sultan Sharafuddin had emphasised that it was important for the economic and social development of the local community that existed along the main trail line, to be taken care of.

"The various physical developments that are designed



Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah (third from left), the Crown Prince of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah (left) with Selangor Menteri Besar Amirudin Shari (right) and Selangor Forestry Department director Azhar Ahmad (second from left) at the Royal Selangor Heritage Forest declaration ceremony in a hotel at Shah Alam, in November. — KK SHAM/The Star

and proposed for certain areas such as Sg Chiling, Sg Tua and Sg Kedondong meet the needs of the current market and will strengthen Selangor's tourism profile," said Prof Azlizam.

He added Sultan Sharafuddin, during discussions with UPM, emphasised that the development of the RSHF must be properly planned in order to not damage the environment.

"This gives a positive impression of the support that His Royal Highness gives to conservation efforts and forest protection in the state," he said.

Meanwhile, UPM chairman Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Ibrahim Komoo said the shift from a permanent forest reserve to a state park and royal heritage forest was a proactive and innovative management transformation.

"Thanks to His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor for this visionary approach towards nature conservation," said Prof Ibrahim.



Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin being briefed by Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre's executive director Dr Dzaeman Dzulkifli on Elmina Rainforest Knowledge Centre's ongoing conservation efforts in Shah Alam, last year. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

## Klang to attain city status soon

THE royal town of Klang will soon be proclaimed a city and the town's residents are all waiting in anticipation.

They say, Klang – despite its warts and many issues which range from flooding to general cleanliness – is ready for the upgrade.

For many outsiders, the presumption is the town is both dirty and mired in anti-social activities with its only saving grace being the scrumptious food it offers.

However, as far as Klangites are concerned, the town is a gem and there is no place like Klang.

In addition to having good food, Klang has a lot more to offer given that it is steeped in history.

Bronze Age artefacts that were found in the district indicate that Klangites came into existence in prehistoric times.

Meanwhile, happy Klang residents have taken to congratulating their beloved town for the upcoming upgrade

but at the same time reminding the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) that it now has to do more.

Social activist Norliza Ismail, who moved to Klang 21 years ago after her marriage, said she would like to see Klang become a beautiful and clean city.

"This includes the roads being properly paved as well as for run-down public facilities and infrastructure to be upgraded," added Liza.

Entrepreneur B. Kumaraesingam said he was looking forward to the celebratory activities following the impending upgrade.

"This well-deserved recognition highlights our town's growth and potential," he said.

Kumaraesingam added that every Klangite must celebrate this milestone together.

"However, I hope the flood mitigation project is expedited, ensuring safety for all. May a reliable public transportation system be put in place soon to



While many are happy with the upcoming upgrade of Klang's status, residents have called on MPK to also improve the town's public infrastructure. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

connect the 'city'.

"To MPK, please step up efforts to keep Klang clean and well maintained," he added.

Mother of three Mandy Chee, said Klang has always been an important trading hub as it had a lot to offer.

"I'm so glad to know that Klang is finally being recognised as a city but what I wish is for MPK to implement a more humane method of street dog management," said Chee.

She hoped MPK would emulate the Kuala Langat Municipal

Council and try out the Trap-Neuter-Release method of stray management.

"Otherwise, animal lovers will continue to have disdain for the MPK regardless of how hard they try to maintain upkeep of the district," added Chee.





# Daulat Tuanku



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# Addressing mental health needs

By WANI MUTHIAH  
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SELANGOR Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah had in his royal address, at the opening of the Tanjong Karang Hospital earlier this year, spoken about mental health care.

Sultan Sharafuddin said those suffering from mental health problems must receive appropriate treatment just like those suffering from physical ailments.

The Ruler had also called for the general public to be more sensitive towards those suffering from mental health issues.

Taking this as a motivation to hold out a helping hand, a group of people comprising psychiatrists, psychologists and counsellors as well as those with loved ones suffering with mental health issues – swung into action.

They came together and formed the Selangor Mental Health Association (SMHA) with the hope and aspirations to work hand in hand with the state government to address mental health care in the state.

Its president Datuk Dr Andrew Mohanraj, who is a consultant psychiatrist, said many in Malaysia were not fully aware of the challenges faced by proponents of mental health awareness.

“There is also little understanding about it currently and that is

**“We look forward to working with the Selangor state government in rolling out our multi-faceted community mental health programmes and activities”**

Datuk Dr Andrew Mohanraj

why there is so much stigma attached to mental illness and people with this health issue even suffer discrimination at workplaces,” said Dr Andrew.

He added SMHA was set up specifically to address mental health needs in Selangor as people in the state faced various challenges daily due to socio-economic pressure.

“We look forward to working with the Selangor state government in rolling out our multi-faceted community mental health programmes and activities,” said Dr Andrew.



Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin visiting a newborn baby after the launch of the Tanjong Karang Hospital on Feb 9. At the launch, Sultan Sharafuddin said those suffering from mental health problems must receive appropriate treatment just like those suffering from physical ailments. — Bernama

Their main target group, he said, were members of the B40 and M40 communities that had to face many hardships which created stress and distress.

It was in view of this, he added, that SMHA was launched earlier at a people's housing project neighbourhood in Batang Kali.

According to Dr Andrew, SMHA would also be targeting youths in Selangor and hoped to work hand in hand with the various youth movements as well as the Yayasan Raja Muda Selangor, which already

had a dynamic programme for young people.

“We intend to implement peer support counselling as well as suicide prevention programme for youth in Selangor,” he said.

“SMHA truly looks forward to working with other stakeholders and sponsors to make this initiative a success.”

SMHA secretary Mohan Chitran said the organisation had big hopes and plans aimed at propagating mental health initiatives in Selangor.

“The hopes and aspirations of SMHA are to meet our objective

to promote mental well-being in Selangor by carrying out all our programmes as planned,” he added.

The SMHA committee is made of people from various professions including caregivers as well as those who have been diagnosed with mental health issues. One of the vice-presidents, Poh Kim Pheng, whose two adult children suffer from schizophrenia and obsessive-compulsive disorder respectively, uses her experience as a caregiver to guide other parents who are in a similar situation.



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With Utmost Sincerity



**YAB Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari  
Dato' Menteri Besar Selangor,  
The Government And People Of The State Of Selangor Darul Ehsan**



# Compassionate towards strays

By WANI MUTHIAH  
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WHEN the Kuala Langat Municipal Council (MPKL) came under the radar for alleged animal cruelty earlier this year, animal lovers and the public went ballistic.

They lambasted the council for allegedly not feeding the dogs kept in the pound until some of the canines were dying of malnutrition.

Videos of the pound's deplorable condition and filthy enclosures, cramped with countless dogs removed from the streets, also made the rounds.

Quite a number of the dogs did not make it but many survived the ordeal and were currently living in a temple shelter in Johor.

Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin was also one of the animal lovers who reproached the council for what had happened.

This was not the first time that Her Royal Highness had chided a local council for alleged shoddy treatment of street animals.

However, most of the time, Her Highness's advice had fallen into deaf ears but this time around, MPKL took heed and did the necessary.

MPKL is currently perhaps the only local council in Selangor which has stopped killing street dogs and implemented the



Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin with their pet cat Snowy. Her Royal Highness was one of the animal lovers who expressed her disappointment towards MPKL for alleged shoddy treatment of stray dogs kept in the pound.

trap-neuter-return/relocation (TNR) initiative.

MPKL's Solid Waste Management and Environmental Health Department director Norain Mohamed said the council decided to give TNR a try.

"We have been catching and euthanising for years but yet we noticed there was still an increase in the street dog population in the district as opposed to a decrease in numbers.

"So, we decided to give TNR a try to test its efficacy," she said, adding that MPKL was currently

collaborating with animal welfare organisation Fauziah Paws Care (FPC).

The organisation's role is to manage the MPKL pound, take care of the dogs caught by the council dogcatchers as well as arrange for neutering and release.

Meanwhile, FPC founder Fauziah Abdul Jabbar said she had about 15 meetings with the council representatives after the malnourished dogs were removed from the pound in January.

"I kept the discussions very

simple and concentrated on explaining to them the efficacy of the TNR method to humanely reduce the number of street animals.

"The Tengku Permaisuri Selangor's statement on the matter was very helpful and I believe it was the main catalyst in getting the TNR initiative rolling," said Fauziah.

The dogs are usually released back to their original locations or relocated to other places if the place they were picked up was not suitable for street animals.

"We talk to the residents when we go to catch the dogs and explain to them about TNR and how it will reduce the stray population eventually," said Fauziah, adding that MPKL also gives her a monthly allowance.

The dogs are then affixed with a council tag which reads – "I have been vaccinated and neutered".

"I will always be grateful to Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin for speaking up as it had opened the hearts of the MPKL management to stop the killing and try out TNR," said Fauziah.

Meanwhile, animal rescuers are applauding the humane gesture initiated by MPKL and hope that state government-linked companies as well as businesses in the Kuala Langat district will provide financial assistance for the TNR exercise.

"Only if there is help, can the

council continue with this initiative which should be emulated by other local councils in Selangor," said independent rescuer Paul Lin Long who feeds, neuters and takes care of street dogs in Shah Alam.

Another rescuer M. Kalai, who lives in Telok Panglima Garang, said she was very proud of MPKL's gesture.

"I am really appreciative of the initiative," said Kalai who feeds, rescues and neuters cats in the Telok Panglima Garang area.

Both Long and Kalai said they were very grateful to Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin for always speaking up for the voiceless.

"I hope Her Royal Highness will continue to speak up when there are atrocities towards street animals. Hopefully, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin will also push other local councils in Selangor to emulate MPKL," she added.

The most successful TNR exercise in the country is probably the International Aid for the Protection & Welfare of Animals' Penang Island project initiated in 2017.

So far, 5,849 street animals have been captured and neutered under this initiative.

Out of these, 640 puppies and 209 dogs have been re-homed while the rest were returned to the locations where they had been picked up or captured.



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