

THE STAR, THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2021

StarSpecial

DAULAT TUANKU



Happy Birthday, Tuanku

Many happy returns of the day to the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir who celebrates his 73rd birthday today.

ORDINARILY, a man picking up trash is hardly an attention-grabbing scene. But for motorists driving along Seremban's Jalan Tuanku Munawir, a billboard featuring a man doing just that has been causing double takes.

Clad in a short-sleeved T-shirt and fedora and wielding a garbage picker, the man pictured in the billboard is none other than the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir.

Those present on the day the image was captured will attest to the fact that the picture was neither a photo opportunity nor publicity stunt.

The candid photo was taken shortly after the launch of the state-level World Cleanup Day and Negri Sembilan Bersih (A Clean Negri Sembilan) campaign at the Lake Gardens here last September.

The Ruler, who was scheduled to partake in refreshments at a nearby hotel after the launch, caught everyone off-guard when he set protocol aside to participate in clean-up efforts at the Seremban main market.

Armed with garbage pickers, Tuanku Muhriz and his sons Tunku Ali Redhaudin and Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin helped out in the sprucing-up exercise organised by the state government and Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWM).

While doing his part, the Ruler also paused to chat with shoppers, and more importantly, to offer motivation to those involved in the clean-up project.

Leading by example comes naturally to Tuanku Muhriz, who celebrates his 73rd birthday today.

Tuanku Muhriz is quite accustomed to rolling up his sleeves for community causes – a practice that dates back to his days as the international service director of the Rotary Club Kuala Lumpur Diraja.

During the conditional movement control order last year, when the state's blood bank's supply was running dangerously low, Tuanku Muhriz was among the first to respond to calls to replenish the stock.

A blood donation drive was held at Istana Hinggap in Seremban, with the Ruler and palace staff donating blood in aid of the urgent cause.

True to his mantra of walking the talk, Tuanku Muhriz started the ball rolling by volunteering to donate blood himself before urging his subjects to do the same.

Tuanku Muhriz's humble gesture drew attention to the importance of donating blood to replenish the blood bank's supply and save lives.

Tuanku Muhriz also paid tribute to those involved in the fight against Covid-19, and commended all Malaysians for proving they were able to cooperate and help each other, irrespective of race and religion.

"I am truly amazed and at the same time, value the dedication of all frontliners as well as those behind the scenes who are fighting the virus.

"I am also proud of the commitment shown by the rakyat where many have served as volunteers during this period and helped out in many ways," Tuanku Muhriz said when opening the state assembly meeting last May.

Education and community health have always been priorities for Tuanku Muhriz, who is also Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) chancellor and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh – an honour bestowed upon Tuanku Muhriz for his untiring efforts to advance medical care for the less fortunate.

Yamtuan walks the talk

“With Tuanku, it's not just lip service. You know that he has his ear to the ground and ardently follows current issues be it politics, social problems or the environment.”

Datuk Dr Kirthi Jeyarajah

As the Yang di-Pertuan Besar, Tuanku Muhriz is naturally the royal patron of many organisations in the state. But rather than remain an observer, the Ruler has made it a point to take an active interest in the various non-profits and clubs he patronises.

Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) state chapter deputy chairman Ramesh Patel, who has had the pleasure of working with Tuanku Muhriz during several MRCS events, said the Ruler kept himself updated with the society's activities and enjoyed engaging with members.

"When our branch hosted a national level medical camp for youth several years ago, Tuanku not only graced the event, but participated in our activities alongside our youth members.

"Just like everyone else attending the camp, Tuanku followed a CPR demonstration and later practised what he had learnt in a mock resuscitation activity," he said.

Warm and caring

Ramesh said Tuanku Muhriz was often accompanied to events by his consort Tunku Ampuan Besar Negri Sembilan Tuanku Aishah Rohani, who shared the Ruler's interest in causes that served the rakyat.

"Over the years, Tuanku has graciously allowed us to hold our annual MRCS NS awards ceremony at Istana Hinggap," he said.

"Tuanku is jovial and very knowledgeable, and topmost of his priorities is the younger generation."

The Ruler is also the royal patron of CMH Specialist Hospital (formerly NS Chinese Maternity Hospital) in Seremban.

On a visit to the hospital's dialysis centre, which provides subsidised treatment for needy patients, the Ruler and his consort took the time to speak to patients undergoing dialysis and give them words of encouragement.

One patient, Gan Kean Ling, when met, remembers being pleasantly surprised when Tuanku Muhriz dropped in.

The grandfather from Temiang here said the visit boosted his morale as it was tiring to undergo dialysis for hours at a time three times a week.

"Tuanku offered his support and presented us with gifts," he said, adding that he was touched by the Ruler's warmth and genuine concern for his subjects.

His sentiments were echoed by residents of Kampung Semarak and Kampung Datuk Mansor here after Tuanku Muhriz and his sons made an impromptu stop to personally inspect damages caused by flash floods last November.

The royals, dressed casually in



Tuanku Muhriz using a rubbish picker to help in the clean-up exercise at the Seremban main market, in September last year.

T-shirts and slacks, took their time to go house to house and chat with villagers to check on their well-being and give out cash assistance.

Resident Asiah Mohd Salleh said she was surprised when Tuanku Muhriz walked into her home unannounced to enquire after her family's well-being and to assess the impact of the flood.

"Tuanku was very friendly and enquired about our well-being. He even asked if we had managed to save our pets," she said.

Tuanku Muhriz's involvement in charitable initiatives today is just an extension of the good work that he had actively pursued and carried out during his younger years.

Giving support to various community projects

As the royal patron of Rotary Club Seremban and Rotary Club Senawang, the Ruler continues to lend his support to various projects that benefit the community.

Rotary Club Senawang adviser Datuk Dr Kirthi Jeyarajah recalls Tuanku Muhriz's words to Rotarians during their last catch-up with the Ruler.

"With Tuanku, it's not just lip service. You know that he has his ear to the ground and ardently follows current issues be it politics, social problems or the environment.

"After visiting the victims of last November's floods, Tuanku suggested that we put together presentations for schools to educate students on the effects of indiscriminate littering," he said.

Since becoming the club's royal patron in 2009, Tuanku Muhriz has also participated in the club's events, attending everything from campaign launches to the annual installation of committee members.

Dr Kirthi said the ruler had only excused himself once since assuming the role of the club's royal patron.

"Tuanku has not turned down a single invitation over the years. He is always there to lend his support.

"Even for the one event which was a district Interact conference that Tuanku couldn't attend, he sent his two princes as representatives," he said emphasising the ruler's commitment to service.

Dr Kirthi and his fellow club advisers, who meet with Tuanku Muhriz regularly to update the ruler on the club's programmes and seek advice on club-related issues, know first-hand how deeply

passionate the Ruler is when it comes to service.

During their sessions, the Ruler often highlights issues faced by the community and discusses ways in which the club can address and find solutions for these problems.

The issues broached range from caring for the environment to bullying in schools.

"Tuanku's support is not about just cutting ribbons at launches. If Tuanku hears that we are raising funds for a good cause, Tuanku would be the first person to contribute.

"I remember when we needed money to purchase a van for Hospice Seremban a few years back. Tuanku immediately contributed RM10,000 via Yayasan Munarah."

Lending a helping hand to the underprivileged

Yayasan Munarah – a foundation to help the underprivileged – was among the first charitable initiatives set up by the Negri Sembilan royal family several months after Tuanku Muhriz ascended the throne a little over a decade ago.

The foundation was named in honour of the ruler's parents Tuanku Munawir Tuanku Abdul Rahman – the ninth ruler of Negri Sembilan who reigned from 1960-67, and his consort Tuanku Ampuan Durah Tunku Besar Burhanuddin.

To date, Yayasan Munarah has reached out to thousands of people in need and disbursed over RM7mil in aid.

Among the recipients whose dreams were achieved with assistance from the foundation is Dr Shamini Subramaniam, currently a houseman at Hospital Segamat.

Despite obtaining excellent results during her matriculation at a government college in Kuala Pilah, the daughter of a lorry driver father and a rubber tapper mother was offered a seat in zoology at a local university instead of her first choice – medicine.

The young woman had almost given up on her hopes of becoming a doctor, but thanks to a timely intervention by Yayasan Munarah, she was able to pursue her passion.

The foundation helped her secure a place in a local medical school, and financed half the cost of her studies (the other half was funded with a National Higher Education Fund loan), as well as paid for her books and other expenditure.

Besides providing financial aid to deserving students, Yayasan Munarah has also organised pre-examination workshops, medical camps for the hardcore poor, and supported causes related to special needs children.

The foundation's work is not just limited to helping the needy.

Causes also include environmental issues and the promotion of culture and the arts – subjects that are equally important to Tuanku Muhriz.

The Ruler, whose second prince Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin is a trustee of the Chopin Society of Malaysia, enjoys attending classical music recitals and winding down to tunes from his favourite artists – Elvis Presley, The Beatles and Cliff Richard.

Passion for music

Tuanku Muhriz's love for music was fostered during his school days at the Aldenham School in England, where he led a band cheekily dubbed The Prince and the Paupers.

But while strumming his guitar brings him great joy, the Ruler is a steadfast believer of duty above all else.

A just leader whose legal training instilled in him values such as fairness, integrity and accountability, Tuanku Muhriz often espouses that Malaysians are capable of thinking critically and rationally to uphold peace and security in the country, which was hard-won.

The Ruler reiterated his thoughts at the investiture ceremony for state honours last year.

"In fact, the sovereignty of the country wasn't achieved easily. Appreciation should be given to all national fighters and security forces who had shed sweat, tears and blood, for the sovereignty and security of this country.

"The people here are made up of many different races, religions and cultures. Be careful in what we strive and fight for, do not forget the values of the people and the sensitivity of other races," Tuanku Muhriz said, adding that a key to maintaining unity and harmony was to encourage the younger generation to mix and mingle with peers of various races.

At a time when most of us are too quick to judge our neighbours and ever ready to pass sentences without attempting to seek the truth, those words from a wise and caring Ruler are ones we should take to heart.



Daulat Tuanku



Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations
**DYMM YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR NEGERI SEMBILAN DARUL KHUSUS
 TUANKU MUHRIZ IBNI ALMARHUM TUANKU MUNAWIR**

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**May Allah The Almighty Bless His Royal Highness's Reign
 On The Occasion Of His Royal Highness' 73rd Birthday**

on

14th January 2021 (1 Jamadilakhir 1442H)

From

**The Board of Directors, Management & Staff of
 MATRIX CONCEPTS HOLDINGS BERHAD**

Property Development | Construction | Education | Hospitality | Healthcare

Charitable and musically inclined

Tuanku Muhriz giving words of encouragement to Puziyah Abdul Aziz during a visit to her home in Kg Semarak which was affected by flash floods in November last year. Looking on is Tunku Ali (right).



TUANKU Muhriz Tuanku Munawir, the grandson of the country's first Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Rahman Tuanku Muhammad, was born in the royal town of Seri Menanti on this day in 1948.

At the tender age of 12, Tuanku Muhriz was appointed Tunku Laxamana and a year later, elevated to the position of Tunku Besar Seri Menanti (the most senior rank among the Putera Yang Empat) – a title he held until his ascension to the throne as the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan on October 26, 2009.

The Ruler spent much of his formative years in Negri Sembilan, attending the Tuanku Muhammad School in Kuala Pilah, Tunku Besar School in Tampin and later, King George V Secondary School in Seremban.

When Tuanku Muhriz's father Tuanku Munawir Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan passed away in 1967, the then young prince was barely out of his teens.

The mantle of Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan was assumed by his uncle Tuanku Ja'afar Tuanku Abdul Rahman, who held the role for four decades until his passing in 2008.

The young prince went on to pursue his O- and A-Levels at England's Aldenham School – a school steeped in tradition and history, and known for providing its students with an all-round education. It was at school that Tuanku Muhriz's love for music was nurtured, and where the young prince began performing with his own band – The Prince and the Paupers.

The Ruler still very much enjoys strumming his guitar, having fine-tuned his guitar-playing skills in the 1990s.

After completing his studies at Aldenham School, the Ruler took up law at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (now, Aberystwyth University) – a prestigious university that counts among its alumni the United Kingdom's Prince Charles.

Tuanku Muhriz graduated with an LLB (Hons) in 1970, and was conferred an Honorary Fellowship by Aberystwyth University in 2014.

Upon graduation, the Ruler returned to Malaysia and joined the corporate sector, building a career that spanned the fields of banking, finance and advertising.

On April 25, 1974, Tuanku Muhriz tied the knot with Tunku Ampuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Aishah Rohani Tengku Besar Mahmud, a member of the

Terengganu royalty.

The royal couple were blessed with three princes – Tunku Ali Redhaudin, Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin and Tunku Alif Hussein Saifuddin Al-Amin.

While raising his young family, Tuanku Muhriz also played an active role in non-profit and charitable organisations.

As a member of the Rotary Club Kuala Lumpur Diraja, the Ruler dedicated much of his time and effort to causes close to his heart, including education, healthcare and social welfare.

The Ruler's untiring efforts to improve the welfare of the underprivileged have not gone unnoticed.

One of the country's foremost teaching hospitals, the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre was renamed Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz (HCTM) in honour of the royal.

In 2016, the Ruler was bestowed an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in recognition of his dedication to the advancement of surgery and support of healthcare projects in aid of impoverished communities in Malaysia.

The award is the institution's highest and recipients include former United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan.

Tuanku Muhriz's interests, especially in the fields of education and welfare, are shared by his family, who lend their support in various capacities to many organisations, including universities and non-profits.

Tuanku Aishah Rohani serves as the royal patron of the Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur – a branch of International Inner Wheel, one of the largest women's service voluntary organisations in the world, and is also the Chancellor of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM).

The couple's eldest son, Tunku Besar Seri Menanti Tunku Ali Redhaudin Tuanku Muhriz, continues his parents' charitable work in his role as the Yayasan Munarah board of trustees chairman.

Born on April 26, 1977, the dashing prince completed his GCSE and A-Levels at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, England, before pursuing a degree in History and Social and Political Science at Cambridge University, after which he joined McKinsey & Company in London as a management consultant.

Since his return to Malaysia, Tunku Ali has worked with many organisations.

The prince is currently on the board of trustees of Teach for Malaysia, a non-profit dedicated to ensuring Malaysian children have equal educational opportunities, no matter their status.

He has also completed a Master in Public Administration at Harvard Kennedy School, the public policy and public administration school of the prestigious Harvard University in the United States, and is a pro-chancellor of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

The royal couple's second prince Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin was born on July 6, 1982.

Like his older brother, the prince spent his formative years at Marlborough College.

Tunku Zain furthered his education at the London School of Economics and Political Science, graduating with an honours degree in Sociology and Government, and later, with an MSc in Comparative Politics.

The prince is the founding president of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), and sits on the board of several corporations as well as non-profit organisations.

A columnist, gifted musician and avid sportsman, Tunku Zain is equally comfortable with pen, piano and squash racquet.

Those who read this paper will be familiar with the prince's column #ABIDINIDEAS, where he pens his thoughts on current events and social issues.

The prince is a trustee of Yayasan Munarah, Yayasan Chow Kit, and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

He is also the president of the Negri Sembilan Squash Association and a royal fellow of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

The royal couple's third child, Tunku Alif Hussein Saifuddin Al-Amin, was born on Sept 3, 1984.

During the prince's childhood, Tuanku Muhriz and Tuanku Aishah took up courses in the therapy and treatment of children with special needs in the United States in order to give Tunku Alif, who was born with special needs, the best possible care.

Hands-on parents, the couple devised a tailor-made programme to help nurture their son's capabilities and enhance his quality of life.

Tunku Alif was doted on by his parents and older brothers until his passing on Jan 15, 2016.

The royals continue to support awareness and education for individuals with special needs.



A file photo of Tuanku Muhriz playing the guitar with the members of his band, The Prince and the Paupers, while studying at the Aldenham School in the United Kingdom.



A file picture of a young Tuanku Muhriz with his father, the former state ruler Tuanku Munawir.



A file photo of Tuanku Muhriz and Tuanku Aishah Rohani with their three children, Tunku Ali (left), Tunku Zain and Tunku Alif (seated).



Daulat Tuanku



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From

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Keeping up with the changing times



Aminuddin (centre) after tabling the state Budget 2021 at the Negri Sembilan State Assembly in Seremban.

NEGRI Sembilan was not spared when the Covid-19 pandemic spread like wildfire across the globe, disrupting economies and bringing development even in the most advanced nations to a near halt.

Having enjoyed exceptional growth in recent years, the outbreak caused a slight dent in the state's revenue, derailing initiatives that had put it in good stead to do even better than in 2019 when it registered a 5.1% growth.

Then, Negri Sembilan, despite being one of the smaller states, was only one of four whose growth had exceeded the 4.3% registered at the national level.

The pandemic may have delayed whatever plans Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun's administration had outlined for the year but his team did not waste time wallowing in despair, and focused on finding ways to do better this year.

"Almost everything that both you and I, and everyone around the globe had planned for at the beginning or late last year, had to be forgone or brought back to the drawing board.

"The unprecedented nature of the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all sectors and is a crisis like no other," he said when launching Invest NS 2021.

Aminuddin's administration was forced to defer several new projects after the number of Covid-19 cases increased.

The laying off of workers due to the imposition of the MCO and the subsequent conditional MCO only worsened matters.

Despite the massive shortcomings, Aminuddin's team kept the midnight oil burning, working behind closed doors to promote the state.

In the end, the state still managed to secure some RM5bil in investments for 2020, a testament that Negri Sembilan was still a favoured destination for foreign and local investors.

This was higher than the RM3.68bil it received in 2019 and RM2.86bil in the previous year.

In fact, Aminuddin's administration has upped the bar and set an ambitious target to secure some RM10bil in new investments this year based on the interest shown by potential investors.

"When you invest in Negri Sembilan, you are investing in a state with strategic land use, efficient social services, enhanced community amenities as well as quality infrastructure and utilities," he said.

Aminuddin said his administration recognised the necessity to

keep up with the changing needs of businesses, and have therefore, adopted policies and outlined incentives that provide a landscape which is business-friendly and supportive of expansion.

This, he added, will be the year to escalate growth, build investment and set the state economy towards a prosperous direction.

For 2020, the state government managed to collect RM452.9mil in revenue as against the targeted RM457mil.

The shortfall, Aminuddin said, was mainly due to the reduced collection of non-tax revenue such as premium payment.

"We had approved applications to convert land status and planning approvals for several developments but these had to be either cancelled or deferred," he said adding that the services sector, manufacturing and agriculture were the state's top three contributors to its gross domestic product.

In November, Aminuddin tabled the state's biggest budget ever to get the state economy going again.

A sum of RM560mil was set aside for 2021, as opposed to the RM507mil for 2020.

His government also expects to earn RM448mil this year.

The higher allocation was among others made possible after the state managed to increase its reserves from some RM688mil in 2018 to just over RM1bil last year.

It was an increase of some RM312mil, savings made from prudent management of the state economy.

Of the RM560mil allocated for this year's budget, a sum of RM153mil will be used as development expenditure to spur the economy.

This, Aminuddin said, will help revitalise several sub-sectors in the construction industry including cement, sand, stone, iron, paint, machinery, equipment and machinery.

His administration has also taken several measures to address the crippling effects of Covid-19.

"Among the initiatives taken was the launch of the Invest NS Year 2021 which we did in December to attract new investments.

"Under the initiative, we will give special incentives to support the development of the Malaysian Vision Valley 2.0 project to attract more investors," he said.

The MVV 2.0 development will be carried out in a 153,411ha new growth area spanning from Seremban to Port Dickson over 30 years.

Envisioned to be a world-class metropolis and part of Greater Kuala Lumpur, it is expected to



Aminuddin has done well for the year despite the Covid-19 outbreak. Programmes for the well-being of the people has always remained the state government's priority.



Aminuddin and his wife Datin Seri Wan Hasni Wan Yusof (right) visiting a senior citizen in the Sikamat constituency.

attract some RM294bil in investments till 2045 and will see the creation of some 600,000 jobs.

It will have six "heartbeat" projects with the first being a 1,135ha hi-tech industrial park in Labu.

He said the state government through its departments and agencies, will, among others, conduct joint promotions to help the private sector promote their products.

"We will facilitate this completely and provide end-to-end hand-holding.

"We have no other choice but to cut bureaucracy or the involvement of middlemen to get the economy going again," he said adding that these were important to instil confidence in prospective investors.

He said the state administration will also set up a one-stop centre (OSC) to expedite approvals to attract more investors.

"The OSC will be like special green lanes to make it easier for investors to deal with the state authorities.

"The members of the OSC will include individuals who can make immediate decisions so that we can prevent further delays which is not good for doing business," he said.

Aminuddin said the OSC will also play the role of facilitator and ensure the approvals from techni-

cal agencies were done quickly.

To help rejuvenate the economy, the state government had in June last year agreed to offer a 25% discount on land premiums to developers who pay up the entire sum within 21 days of getting the approval for development.

Apart from paying the amount in stages, the state government had also agreed to give a 15% discount if the premium is paid up within 60 days.

Before that, it took developers months to get a discount as there was a long process for it.

"My administration approved the discounts to promote more development.

"This, we hope will also help developers to better plan their cash flow," he said.

The state government has received resounding applause from all quarters for the measures taken to help the people during the crisis.

In March last year, it allocated RM3mil to assist families from low-income households affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

The money was used to buy household essentials which were then distributed to affected individuals, including those who lost their jobs.

In May, it went a step further by giving RM500 each to petty traders

and hawkers as well as e-hailing and taxi drivers.

A sum of RM3mil was allocated for petty traders and hawkers and another RM1mil for e-hailing and taxi drivers.

To further help the rakyat, the state government did not increase water tariffs although this was proposed by the federal authorities.

Assessment and quit rent was also not raised although Seremban attained city status in January.

The RM124 monthly rent for all People's Housing Project (PPR) flats for March and April was also waived.

Another RM1mil was also allocated for healthcare frontliners in the state involved in efforts to contain the spread and handle Covid-19 cases.

Families of those who tested positive for Covid-19 were also given RM500 each and a sum of RM500,000 was set aside for this purpose.

To ensure no stone was left unturned to contain the spread of the virus, another RM2mil was allocated for contingency purposes as the authorities battled the virus.

A special trust fund known as Akaun Amanah Permasalahan Rakyat was also set up to provide basic assistance to those in the lower-income category and daily wage earners whose income had been affected due to the outbreak.

Small contractors or those in the G1 class, who were also badly affected, were not forgotten.

To ensure they did not go out of business, the state government went ahead with the awarding of small infrastructure projects through a live-stream balloting exercise instead of requiring them to physically buy and submit tender documents.

More than 700 projects under the Public Works Department and the Department of Irrigation and Drainage were awarded to successful bidders to stimulate the domestic economy.

To ensure transparency, officers from the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission and the police were invited to monitor the exercise.

The small infrastructure projects were worth less than RM100,000



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IJM CORPORATION BERHAD AND ITS GROUP OF COMPANIES



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Aminuddin (left) posing with representatives from all frontliners involved in the fight against Covid-19 in the state during the last Merdeka Day celebration.

Putting the rakyat's well-being first

> FROM PAGE 6

each and involved the construction, maintenance, and repair works of roads, community halls and other public facilities.

Aminuddin's administration also allocated RM100,000 to the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) to allow it to buy greens and fruits from growers in the state affected by the movement control order.

Through the initiative, Fama helped the farmers market these produce as many retail outlets had been forced to shut down due to the MCO.

Before that, some farmers were unable to sell their produce.

To help developers who were unable to sell their high-end properties, Aminuddin's administration had in June come up with a new policy allowing expatriates to buy landed properties worth more than RM1mil in the state.

Foreigners and foreign companies were also allowed to buy landed strata properties worth more than RM1mil and strata units worth more than RM600,000.

Previously, foreigners were only allowed to buy dwellings worth more than RM2mil.

To help communities further with their activities, all 433 Village Community Management Councils (MPKK) in the state were given RM3,000 which was over and above the RM2,000 given for the year.

Apart from organising programmes, the additional funds could also be used to pay utility bills or other maintenance works at their community halls.

Addressing unemployment issue

To address the issue of unemployment, the state government has organised several job fairs in recent months.

It has also collaborated with JobsMalaysia to provide job matching online and organised Karnival Kerjaya (Jobfair) where applicants are also helped with preparing good resumes.

The number of unemployed in the state in the first quarter of 2020 was 16,800 or 3.3% and this increased to 18,200 or 3.6% in the second. This was, however, still lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.1%.



Aminuddin handing over cash aid to old folk at a centre in Seremban that were affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.

In the first nine months of 2020, 104 employers were forced to lay-off their workers due to the adverse effects of Covid-19.

A total of 1,095 workers lost their jobs out of which 925 were locals.

The state government through the Manpower Department, he said, had closely monitored the situation and made sure the workers received their termination benefits.

In total, some RM30.7mil was paid out by the employers to those affected.

Aminuddin's team has also decided to lead by example by contributing 10% of their salary to the state's Disaster Trust Account as its commitment to fight Covid-19.

The Menteri Besar and state executive council members will do this beginning this month.

"We will do this for six months to show that we are in this fight together," he said.

Aminuddin said there were also plans to rejuvenate the tourism sectors which was one of the state's top revenue earners.

The food, beverage and accommodation sectors, travel agency services, transportation, meetings, incentives, conventions and

exhibitions (MICE) venues and recreation have been badly impacted following the closure of national borders.

"To minimise the impact on the state economy, the state government in collaboration with the state Tourism Board and other agencies will increase efforts to increase tourist arrivals.

"This will be done by improvising the promotion of local products such as beach tourism, eco-tourism and cultural and heritage tourism," he said.

Aminuddin's administration had also launched "Pantai Indah, Bebas Sampah" (Beautiful Beach, Garbage Free) campaign at Pantai Saujana in Port Dickson last July after the beaches were re-opened to the public after the MCO was eased for the recovery period.

The Port Dickson Municipal Council had also put up loudspeakers along several stretches of beach to remind the people to keep them clean.

"We will also go to the ground to personally see how prepared is the industry to welcome tourists back after months of

Aminuddin's team has decided to lead by example by contributing 10% of their salary to the state's Disaster Trust Account as its commitment to fight Covid-19.

being affected by Covid-19.

"We will look at product updates, awareness and the tourism events for the year," he said, adding that the tourism authorities have also been promoting the industry via social media such as Facebook and Instagram.

Aminuddin said his administration has also set aside RM1.42mil to promote and organise 23 tourism-related activities and programmes to be held this year.

Eight of these activities will be held in Port Dickson.

There are also plans to build a 13km beach train service under the Port Dickson Special Coastal Area Draft Plan to further develop tourism in the resort town.

These are among efforts to transform the resort town into an International Tourism City in the next decade.

The proposed plan, to be carried out in stages and covering a 10,434ha area, will also see the redevelopment of 11 popular beach stretches in Port Dickson.

The authorities are also revisiting an earlier proposal to build a duty-free complex which was mooted more than a decade ago.

The move is also to strengthen its position as MICE, wellness, eco-tourism, cultural and heritage and commercial zone.

There is also a proposed river cruise from Sungai Linggi to Pengkalan Kempas, construction of a bikers cafe, a floating restaurant and a fisherman's bay and upgrading Dataran Teluk Kemang and Persiaran Pahlawan near the army camps.



Daulat Tuanku



Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations
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TUANKU MUHRIZ IBNI ALMARHUM TUANKU MUNAWIR

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May Allah The Almighty Bless His Royal Highness's Reign
On The Occasion Of His Royal Highness' 73rd Birthday

on

14th January 2021 (1 Jamadilakhir 1442H)

From



THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF NEGERI SEMBILAN DARUL KHUSUS



YAYASAN NEGERI SEMBILAN



SYARIKAT AIR
NEGERI SEMBILAN SDN BHD (SAINS)
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NEGERI ROADSTONE SDN. BHD. (17858-V)
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ROADSTONE CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD.
(215578-U)



PERBADANAN KEMAJUAN NEGERI,
NEGERI SEMBILAN



Aminuddin (centre) and Rafie (right) launching the NS Integrated Economic Development Masterplan 2021-2045.



Aminuddin and his wife Datin Seri Wan Hasni Wan Yusof (standing, right) posing for a photo after delivering aid to a family in need.

Attracting investors to the state

THE Negri Sembilan government has come up with an economic development masterplan which promotes the concept of “living and working” in the state as opposed to the previous one which encouraged people to stay here but work in the Klang Valley.

State investment, industrialisation, entrepreneurship, education and human capital committee chairman Datuk Dr Mohamad Rafie Ab Malek said the integrated masterplan also outlines its goals for the next 25 years as the state works towards making Negri Sembilan “prosperous, inclusive and sustainable”.

He said the masterplan is divided into three key components which are the Malaysia Vision Valley 2.0 (MVV 2.0), Agropolis and Biodiversity.

Among others, it focuses on bringing in economic activities targeting the hi-tech industrial sector, especially in Seremban and Port Dickson districts, transforming the Kuala Pilah, Jempol, Rembau and Tampin districts as Agropolis regions and Jelevu as a centre of biodiversity attractions.

“The main economic sector for the state is the MVV2.0, which is a new growth area located and aimed to complement the development of Greater Kuala Lumpur and the National Conurbation, located on the west-side of Negri Sembilan.

“Driven by public-private partnerships, MVV 2.0 aspires to deliver economic impact to Malaysia by bringing in international and local investors and creating job and business opportunities,” he said at the launch of Invest NS2021 by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun.

The overall MVV2.0 development spans across 153,411ha covering Seremban and Port Dickson and is envisioned to be a world-class metropolis that was competitive, inclusive and clean.

Located close to Kuala Lumpur, MVV 2.0, he said, is the natural destination and sponge for the spill-over impacts of the Klang Valley where developments thrive.

“Its strategic location next to the KL International Airport, its proximity to major towns and growth centres in the National Conurbation such as Putrajaya, Cyberjaya, Kajang and Bangi, and its relatively still serene and low-keyed affordable living environment makes MVV 2.0 an attractive



Aminuddin (centre) and his state exco members looking at the proposed development in the state in the years to come during the launch of the economic masterplan.

alternative location,” he said.

Rafie said the whole development will be facilitated by the state government and would focus on four economic drivers which were high technology manufacturing, wellness tourism, skill-based education and research and specialised services.

There are four main areas dedicated for the development of MVV2.0 namely Parcel A, Parcel B, Parcel C and Parcel D with the first phase spanning over a 25-year development period covering 30,000 acres (12,140.5ha).

“The second sector that we will be focusing on is Agropolis which is a concept of development that incorporates the urban elements into a rural settlement and is developed as an agricultural town.

“We want to ensure that the agricultural sector that is ventured into has an economic scale that is to produce high-income agricultural entrepreneurs who use technology to improve crop yields and can be developed in areas with limited size,” he said adding that the state government wants to create downstream products as well.

Citing an example, Rafie said in addition to producing honey jackfruit, the authorities wish to create downstream products such

as honey jackfruit chips.

He said promoting biodiversity as the third sector will also benefit the state which was rich in tropical forests with unique flora and fauna.

“Jelevu is among the districts that have great potential in tourism but are not yet fully explored as a tourist destination.

“The state government will embark on an extensive tourism and ecotourism promotion and prepare adequate facilities to promote natural attractions such as the state Wildlife Park, Lembah Jemaloi and the Kenaboi recreational area,” he said.

Rafie said the state government also plans to further develop Port Dickson as a tourist beach destination similar to UK’s Brighton, which is located some 100km south of London.

“For people in London, Brighton is their main tourist destination due to its location which is not far away.

“But those living in the Klang Valley usually do not consider Port Dickson as a vacation destinations even though it is located so close to Kuala Lumpur,” he said adding that the state government will improvise facilities in the resort town and make it as one of the best

tourist destination in the country.

Negri Sembilan, he said showed a remarkable increase in tourist arrivals of 14.6% or 7.86mil travellers in 2018 compared to 6.9mil in 2017. In 2019, the state received 6.4mil tourist arrivals.

Rafie said the state administration had also launched the Invest NS 2021 plan to further improve the state economy following the Covid-19 outbreak.

“We have prepared a masterplan for economic development with the appropriate strategies to attract investors and our efforts have brought a significant increase in investment in Negri Sembilan.

“The Covid-19 public health crisis has led to a global economic crisis and has now become a social and humanitarian crisis in many parts of the world including Malaysia,” he said.

The state government, he said, has introduced a “Double Investment” policy which main objective is to increase the household income for the people in the state.

“This new policy aims to increase the investment value to provide quality employment opportunities and open businesses for the people in the state.

“In the context of employment opportunities, the state govern-

“ We have prepared a masterplan for economic development with the appropriate strategies to attract investors and our efforts have brought significant increase in investment in Negri Sembilan.

Datuk Dr Mohamad Rafie Ab Malek

ment wants to bring in hi-tech industries, which require skilled and knowledgeable workers.

“Knowledgeable and skilled workers will also ensure better perks and salaries,” he said.

Statistics from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority show that the state managed to secure more than RM5bil in new investments for 2020 despite it being a challenging year.

This was higher than the RM3.68bil received in 2019, RM2.86bil (2018) and RM1.41bil (2017).

Several incentives will be offered to attract more investors to the state.

These include infrastructure maintenance allocation for industrial areas, easier and faster processes through the setting up of a one-stop centre focused on investment assistance, property ownership privileges for foreign companies, deferment and discounts on land premium payment and water utility payment rebate.

Rafie added that in the past few months, the state administration through its strategic investment arm Negri Sembilan Corporation has been working hard to attract investors and industry to the state.

“The state is committed to ensuring effective delivery of public services to facilitate business processes,” he said.

“We are also committed to implementing the Double Investment policy to achieve investment increments from year to year and improve our purchasing power parity to upgrade the living standards of the people.”



Daulat Tuanku



Merafak Sembah & Setinggi-Tinggi Tahniah
DYMM YANG DI-PERTUAN BESAR NEGERI SEMBILAN DARUL KHUSUS
TUANKU MUHRIZ IBNI ALMARHUM TUANKU MUNAWIR

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Semoga Allah Memberkati Pemerintahan Kebawah Duli Tuanku
Sempena Hari Keputeraan Ke-73

pada
14 January 2021 (1 Jamadilakhir 1442H)

Sembah Takzim Daripada





Aminuddin presenting a certificate to a successful recipient of the TUNS grant during a ceremony in the Sikamat state constituency last year.



A file photo of Aminuddin (second from left) presenting a certificate to one of the recipients of the TUNS grant Mohd Syazwan Kamaruddin. Also present were state excos Ismail Ahmad (left) and Datuk Dr Mohamad Rafie Ab Malek.

Giving aid to entrepreneurs

ONE of the first initiatives undertaken by the Pakatan Harapan government after the 2018 general election was to set up the Negri Sembilan Entrepreneur Fund or TUNS.

Aimed at producing more successful micro-businesses, the state administration set aside RM3mil for the purpose in 2019 and grants were then given out to 1,046 entrepreneurs.

Those involved in the food, services, agriculture, beauty, textile, automotive, construction, handicrafts, medical, telecommunications and information and communications technology and retail

industries and had an annual sales of RM300,000 or had less than five full-time workers were eligible to apply for cash assistance.

Under TUNS, each successful recipient was given a grant of up to RM3,000.

The programme was so well-received by the people that the state government not only decided to continue with it but increased the allocation for 2020 to RM6mil.

As of mid-November last year, the authorities had approved 969 applications involving some RM2.85mil. In total, 2,014 individuals applied for the grants.

Those between 18 years and 40 years represented 46% of the applicants followed by 41-59 years (45.5%) and 60 and above (8.5%). Sixty-five per cent were females.

Since TUNS has helped micro-businesses increase their income by up to 15%, the state government has again agreed to keep it going and allocated RM3mil for the programme in 2021.

This time, the state government also agreed to introduce another initiative known as TUNS PLUS to further assist these entrepreneurs.

From this year, entrepreneurs will be able to apply for interest-free loans of up to RM15,000 to further expand their businesses.

"This will help their businesses become more competitive.

"They can use the extra capital to buy equipment, advertising or even promote their products," said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun.

An additional RM3mil will be allocated for this which can benefit up to 200 entrepreneurs.

Apart from TUNS and now TUNS PLUS, the state government has also taken several other initiatives to assist the people ranging from fresh graduates, farmers, hawkers as well as petty traders.

There is a pressing need for this as the Covid-19 outbreak has caused many workers to lose their jobs.

One of the programmes it will continue is Siswazah Tani or better known as INSIST-9 which was first introduced in 2019.

Aminuddin said the state administration decided to come up with this initiative after the Statistics Department had proposed that it should venture into the agriculture sector to help balance the deficit between agriculture-based food production and manufacturing.

"In 2020, 51 graduates were given grants of between RM5,000 and RM10,000 to venture into the agriculture sector.

"This not only helped change their perception of the agriculture sector but also helped the state government address the problem of idle land," he said adding that the move was also to reduce unemployment among graduates.

Due to the success of INSIST-9, the state government has also set aside RM500,000 for the programme for this year.

In an effort to increase food production, the state government has also decided to introduce another programme know as Petani Muda with an allocation of another RM500,000.

"Under the initiative, non-graduates will also be able to apply for grants of between RM5,000 and RM10,000 to venture into the sector," he said.

Aminuddin said his administration will also take steps to develop the 10,500ha of idle land in the state. Tampin was the largest district with 4,171ha.

"Through collaborations especially with

the Agriculture Department, we have managed to turn 508ha of idle land into agriculture land in the past two years.

"For this year, the state government will set aside another RM1mil to assist such as to erect fence, build a piping network, to provide water pumps subject to a maximum RM15,000 per hectare," he said adding that another RM1mil will be set aside to provide incentives to food growers to produce 5,000 metric tonnes of greens and fruits.

Aminuddin said to help farmers get the myGAP and myORGANIC accreditations, the state government has also set aside RM500,000 this year.

"They will be able to apply for grants of up to RM10,000 each to get the certifications.

"This will be good as consumers will know their produce is of good quality," he said, adding that until October last year, 349 food growers have obtained the recognition.

And to allow hawkers to operate in conducive environments, Aminuddin said RM3mil will be spent to build food courts at strategic locations in the state this year.

Another RM1mil has been set aside to give a RM300 one-off incentive to 3,300 hawkers.

The Seremban City Council has also relocated some of these hawkers to 39 food courts which have a total of 817 lots.

To assist petty traders, the council has also built stalls at Arked Senawang and another 19 at Taman Paroi Jaya.

Lots were also now available at several other locations such as Dataran Senawang, Centrio, Garden Avenue, City Park and Taman Ampangan.

Aminuddin's administration had also helped small scale farmers who were not able to sell their produce due to the pandemic.

Many were unable to sell their produce to hotels and restaurants as well as tourist areas after the MCO as imposed.

Some farmers were even forced to throw away their produce as there was no market for it.

To ensure there was a continuous supply of greens, Aminuddin's government, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, introduced a programme to help the farmers.

Each farmer was given free fertiliser, pesticide as well as seeds worth some RM5,000.

A total of RM675,000 was set aside benefiting 135 farmers.

The state also gave RM100,000 to the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) to be used as a revolving capital to buy produce from farmers who were unable to market these during the MCO.

As of Oct 15, 2020, Fama helped farmers market 474metric tonnes of produce worth some RM806,000.

Fama had also set up three drive-through centres known as Pasar Segar Terkawal in Seremban, Paroi and Jempol after the pasar tani was closed to contain the spread of Covid-19.



Daulat Tuanku



Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations
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May Allah The Almighty Bless His Royal Highness's Reign
On The Occasion Of His Royal Highness' 73rd Birthday
on
14th January 2021 (1 Jamadilakhir 1442H)

From



The General Committee, Management & Members of
ROYAL SUNGEI UJONG CLUB



Daulat Tuanku



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**May Allah The Almighty Bless His Royal Highness's Reign
On The Occasion Of His Royal Highness' 73rd Birthday**

on

14th January 2021 (1 Jamadilakhir 1442H)

From



Mahkota Hills

Well wishes for a much-loved Ruler

Happy birthday, Tuanku Muhriz! The rakyat of Negri Sembilan offer their felicitations on the occasion of the Ruler's 73rd birthday.



“ Despite being the patron of the Royal Sungei Ujong Club, Tuanku Muhriz never expects red carpet treatment. When he drops by for a meal, it is only with a few aides so as not to distract club members. He really is down to earth. ”

Gordon Yong Lin Fooi, 53
Lawyer
Royal Sungei Ujong Club Seremban president



“ I witnessed Tuanku Muhriz's fatherly side during a tennis friendly at the Royal Port Dickson Yacht Club. Just like any dad, Tuanku was on the sidelines cheering his son Tunku Zain on, while motivating all the players to do their best. ”

N. Panchalingam, 70
Retiree



“ The first time I saw Tuanku Muhriz up close was when he visited my village a few weeks ago with his two sons. I was amazed how simple and gracious he was. He walked around the village and spoke to the subjects as if he had known them for a long time. ”

Zainon Abu Hassan, 75
Resident
Kg Datuk Mansor



“ I saw Tuanku Muhriz during a Merdeka Day parade along Jalan Yam Tuan two years ago and how the crowd rushed to photograph the royal family. Tuanku Muhriz is truly a humble ruler who always makes time for events organised by NGOs or to visit schools whenever he has the time and this shows his concern for the rakyat. ”

Jagjit Singh, 65
Retiree



“ Tuanku Muhriz always speaks about standing up for what is right and being accountable for one's actions. I often quote the Ruler's words to my law students in the hope that they will live and work by these principles. ”

P. Lahveenya, 31
Lecturer



“ During a meeting between Tuanku Muhriz and Soroptimist International Seremban club, I was in awe of the Ruler's genuine interest in the club's activities, particularly programmes that empowered girls and women, and his concern about social issues. ”

Jenny Wang, 48
Property developer
Soroptimist International Seremban Immediate Past President



“ I have heard so much about Tuanku Muhriz and how humble and approachable he is. In fact, I was so honoured to have received cash aid from him personally when he visited us. All the charity work done by Yayasan Munarah which he founded speaks volumes of how much he cares for his subjects. ”

Laila Baharom, 57
Housewife



“ Tuanku Muhriz truly leads by example. This is a ruler who is so humble that he actually went to the wet market in Seremban and joined a campaign to clean up the area. Tuanku and his sons used garbage pickers to clear thrash and this to me is a message from the ruler that it is everyone's responsibility to keep our surroundings clean. ”

Mohd Noor Yaman, 56
Self-employed



“ Tuanku had visited Kg Semarak during a recent flood and I was given the task to brief him. Initially, I was so worried about protocol but Tuanku made me feel so comfortable. I was also worried if the kampung folk would breach protocol when Tuanku spoke to them but they too were made to feel so at home. Tuanku lent an ear to our concerns and that only further endeared him to the all of us. ”

Hassan Hussin, 63
Chairman
Kg Semarak Village Community Management Council



“ Although I have never personally met Tuanku Muhriz, a friend of mine who went to the Seremban wet market about three months ago was surprised when he saw the Ruler and his sons helping out in a clean-up campaign there. This truly goes to show how concerned Tuanku Muhriz is about the environment and that all of us, irrespective of status, must play our part in keeping our surroundings clean. ”

Gurubachan Singh, 55
Bank officer



Daulat Tuanku



Salutations and Heartiest Congratulations

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**May Allah The Almighty Bless His Royal Highness's Reign
On The Occasion Of His Royal Highness' 73rd Birthday**

on

14th January 2021 (1 Jamadilakhir 1442H)

From

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF



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Daulat Tuanku



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May Allah The Almighty Bless His Royal Highness's Reign
On The Occasion Of His Royal Highness' 73rd Birthday

on

14th January 2021 (1 Jamadilakhir 1442H)

From



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