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Your Voice In The Community

May 16-31, 2010

PP 14252/10/2010(025567)

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LET'S NOT REMAIN A BACKWATER



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ARE WE ASHAMED OF IPOH'S GLORIOUS PAST?

• By Jerry Francis

“City That Tin Built” – about sums up the history of Ipoh and its heritage. These four words are also an effective slogan to promote the city. Not “Bougainvillea City” or by any other slogans. On May 27 Ipoh will celebrate its 22nd anniversary as a city. But it is sad that through all those years nothing seems to have been done to reflect its glorious past as the centre of the tin mining industry which had been so significant in the economic development of the country. The tin mining industry has since collapsed; the history of the city will also slowly fade away and be forgotten. Look around us. What is there to reflect the tin mining industry? Why can't the city become one big monument of the tin mining industry in the country which can be both educational as well as a tourist attraction? Are we ashamed of the city's past?

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A CITY NOT LIVING UP TO ITS STATUS

Ipoh is also not a city just living on past glory but is very much alive with natural attractions and some beautiful architecture, such as the Railway Station, Town Hall and High Court.

It is surrounded by beautiful limestone outcrops with fascinating cave temples and as well as producing some iconic products, among them pomelo, white coffee and *taugeh* which have become well-known abroad.

Yet, what have we done to boost tourism in the city? The typical comment from many people is "what can the city offer?"

It is useless for us to lament the failure of the city's attractions and just fold our arms and watch each City Day pass by without fanfare and excitement. Those who care and are in a position to help promote the city need to come forward by participating and contributing ideas.

Public Transport Critical

Though Ipoh has grown from a sleepy hollow on the banks of Sungai Kinta, in size covering 643sq.km, new commercial areas and suburban towns have increased the population to over 750,000. However it still lags behind other cities in the country in terms of public amenities. For example, bus services in the city needs to be urgently overhauled so that it will be the choice mode of transport for the residents, as well as tourists arriving

by bus, train and air.

Taxi service in the city is equally bad. The drivers have been stubbornly refusing to use taxi-meters and will charge at least RM7 for just a short distance.

Perhaps Ipoh must start planning a Light Rail Transit (LRT) system for the city centre and its satellite towns from now on.

Although traffic in the city is not as chaotic as in Kuala Lumpur, city planners must look into it very seriously as traffic congestion is imminent. Already traffic jams are becoming regular occurrences.

Cleanliness and Beautification

Perhaps one of the first things to do is for the City Council to spruce up the city with beautification projects. At this moment there is no project worth mentioning. Instead, whatever beautification we have, such as fountains and gardens, are being neglected. And the rubbish is everywhere. Lack of an efficient rubbish collection scheme has resulted in thousands of illegal rubbish dumps all over the city. Frequently, buffaloes and cows are still seen in the city, obstructing traffic, messing roads with dung, damaging flower plants and fruit trees in housing estates.

In fact, ever since Ipoh was declared a city it has deteriorated rapidly probably because it was accorded in the wake of the collapse of the tin mining industry. Prior to being

declared a city, it was a vibrant town and a playground for the rich, with more posh cars in a one kilometre radius than anywhere in the country.

It was also reputed as one of the cleanest towns in the country with potted flower plants located in strategic places and even hanging from street lamp-posts. There were well maintained public parks, Taman D.R. Seenivasagam, People's Park, Children's Park and the Japanese Garden.

Now, many of the buildings in the old city centre are empty, condemned or abandoned, painting a gloomy picture.

Bleak Future Drives Away Traders

Those traders along the two main streets – Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah (Hugh Low Street) and Jalan Sultan Idris Shah (Brewster Road), once the business hub of the old city centre, are too old to continue and their children are not keen to take over because of the bleak future.

If the City Council does not focus its attention on rejuvenating the old city centre within the next decade, more and more business premises will pull down their shutters and move to new commercial areas.

According to some leading businessmen in the city, there seem to be a lack of enthusiasm from the City Council to induce redevelopment.

The city is also not pedestrian-friendly. Even

Jalan Bukit Bintang KL
In contrast to
Jalan Sultan Idris Shah,
Ipoh.



Note wide pedestrian pavements on either side and lovely palm trees. Also no parking on either side



Note narrow pavements on either side and cars parked plus bulky planter boxes

crossing between the Old and New Town sectors is not planned and facilitated for pedestrians.

The City Council has, instead, allowed food-stalls to erect permanent structures on pavements endangering the life and limb of pedestrians.

Wider Pavements to Induce Business Activities

Among the suggestions to induce business activities to the old city centre is to have wider pavements along Jalan Sultan Idris Shah, like those in Bukit Bintang in Kuala Lumpur. The parking bays on both sides of the street can be sacrificed for the wider pavements and yet wide enough for three-lane traffic.

"Allowing cars to park along the streets will not generate business activities, but wider pavements do," commented Dato' Chin Lean Choong, a miner turned entrepreneur.

"The wider pavements can connect with the Kinta Riverbank's project and thus encourage the residents to walk. As more and more pedestrians move about, the business premises along Jalan Sultan Idris Shah will find it viable to

reopen for businesses."

He said covered pedestrian walkways, connecting the old and new town sectors at the bridges in Jalan Sultan Idris Shah and Jalan Sultan Iskandar Shah, also need to be constructed to protect pedestrians from rain and sun. This would encourage motorists to park their cars somewhere between the two sectors and walk.

What is happening now, motorists would drive to their destinations even a short distance away, resulting in more vehicles moving about in the city centre causing traffic congestion.

"Ipoh City Council needs to hold a brainstorming session for its councillors to come up with plans to rejuvenate the city," said a businessman located in the old city centre.

"The collapse of the tin mining industry and as well as the subsequent recessions in the country, have begun the city's deterioration."

A City Centre of Swiftlets' Hotels

Eventually more swiftlet hotels will take over the business premises. Already the annoying recorded chirpings are clearly heard

in both new and old town sectors.

Just looking at the numerous condemned and abandoned buildings and vacant business premises in the old city centre is enough to scare away any potential investors. It will not take long before the city deteriorates further and be like a ghost mining town, rather than a vibrant city.

The City Council must enforce whatever regulations to get property owners to redevelop their commercial premises rather than giving excuses, such as the owners could not be traced.

A big contrast to when Ipoh was just a Municipality under the control of the People Progressive Party (PPP). A councillor would be on the roster daily to deal with the problems of the ratepayers. Others were tasked with various duties to ensure efficiency.

The City Council is now headed by a Mayor. There are 23 councillors, each in charge of a zone, but are they effectively inspecting their respective zone and are accessible to the residents?

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Chan Sam Lock Photo Studio, 77-81 Jln Sultan Idris Shah.

Pooran Enterprise (opp Super Kinta), 5 Jln Dato Onn Jaafar.

S.Y. Dry Cleaning & Laundry, 1 Jln Chung Thye Phin.

Newsvendor (morning), Opposite Simee Market.

Rasu Enterprise, 271 Jalan Gunung Rapat.

Bawal Jaya Enterprise, 66 Prsn Desa Tambun 7, Desa Tambun.

Perak Academy, 28 Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah.

Fitness Junction, 2 Jalan Kelab Golf.

P.N. Book Centre, 7 Jalan Dato Ahmad Yunus.

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SITI AWAN

• by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Abuses on Upswing

The general perception among Malaysians is that wife-beating and other forms of abuse (physical, sexual, verbal and mental) perpetrated by husbands, are caused by the women themselves. The root cause, many theorise, originates from the wife who provokes the husband into acting in such a manner. This mistaken assumption has affected the way authorities handle complaints on abuses. The President of the Perak Women for Women Society (PWW), Dr. Sharifah Halimah, voiced her concerns over this phenomenon at a press conference held at the society's premises recently.

"Women are being constantly maltreated and the trend is on an upswing. Unfortunately, our society is not treating the matter seriously enough", she remarked. "She faulted the women themselves for allowing the unthinkable to happen. They suffer in silence for fear of losing face or being ostracised by their family members. They fear being blamed for not knowing how to entertain their husbands



and, foremost, they fear for their children's and their future." These feelings of insecurity impacted the way women respond to abuses by their husbands.

Vicious Cycle

The blame game is endemic in the way societies, especially those in Asia, treat their male members. Boys are taught from young that they are superior. "This gets instilled in men and thus explains their aggressive tendencies", said Sharifah. "Although some may find this highly disputable, the truth is there for all to see." The other factor is the man's background. "If the husband comes from a family with a violent past, it's highly

probable that he would do the same to his wife. It's a vicious cycle."

In 2007 alone, there are 3,756 reported cases of wife and child abuses nationwide. "However, this is just the tip of the iceberg. The number is greater considering those that went unreported", Sharifah revealed.

Slow Response from Authorities

The PWW president felt that authorities entrusted with caring for the welfare of women and children should play a more responsible role in discharging their duties. Frontline officers at some government departments lacked the initiative, knowledge and

the drive to push through applications for protection orders submitted by the aggrieved parties. "Victims have to agonise for days and weeks to see their IPO (Interim Protection Order) being processed. And while waiting, they're being subjected to further harassment by their husbands", Sharifah intimated.

Attitude

"This attitude has to change. The well-being of these abused women is a priority." She alluded to a case where the officer con-

cerned had recommended counselling as a solution when the couple had already been divorced. "It's this kind of indifference that's driving victims from seeking help from the authorities concerned." And one other indignity the women have to constantly endure is the snide remarks thrown at them, especially by female staff. As if this is not enough, they are being shunted from office to office without any compassion shown. They are seldom told of their rights and how to go about get-

ting justice.

Awareness

Sharifah admitted that awareness among women is still lacking and this is the cause of the attending apathy and neglect. "PWW will conduct campaigns and programmes, in the form of seminars and *ceramah* (talks), to educate women and schoolgirls, particularly, pertaining to the Domestic Violence Act 1994." It is indeed a long and arduous journey one which is fraught with many obstacles.

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THE SPIRIT IS WILLING BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK

• by Peter Lee

Mathew is a 75-year-old widower who has been bedridden due to a stroke since a year ago. He has been very independent all his life and was actively involved in many organisations before this happened to him. Due to his condition, he is now being looked after by private nurses with the help of a maid in his house arranged by his two children who are working and living abroad. Despite the nursing care, he constantly tries to do his level best to take care of himself but always left with the feeling of the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

His children made arrangements to finance all his expenses by sending the money to a joint bank account opened by Mathew together with his only nephew years ago for emergency purposes. With this bank account, Mathew's nephew could withdraw the money to pay for Mathew's expenses. This arrangement was working well until one day when his nephew suffered a heart attack and passed away. The joint bank account was frozen immediately once the bank discovered that one of the joint account holders died.

Because of this, Mathew contacted his children to make another arrangement to send the money to his close friend's bank account so that the payment for his expenses could continue. Under these circumstances, Mathew could consider the option of setting up a Living Trust so that the money received from his children could be parked in the Trust and the Trustee will pay for his expenses. This would overcome the problem of looking for individuals who may pass away and leaving your bank account frozen or even disappear with the money. By setting up a Living Trust, Mathew becomes the "Settlor". He then appoints Rockwills Trustee Bhd to be the "Trustee" company. The reason for choosing Rockwills Trustee Bhd is because it has the expertise, impartiality, professionalism and most importantly perpetual existence.

Thereafter, it is always advisable to choose a "Protector" as a watchdog for the Trust and the Trustee will liaise with the "Protector" on the welfare of Mathew if he is incapable of making his own decisions and at the same time, his children are living far away. The "Protector" can also ensure that payment made by the Trustee is going to the right people who can be termed as the "Beneficiaries". Mathew can lay down all his instruction in a legal document called a "Trust Deed" with regards to who to pay to, when to pay, the duration of the Trust and how the balance is going to be distributed once he passes away. Some may argue as to why one needs to get a third party such as a Trustee Company to be involved. But I prefer to look at the Trustee Company in a positive light where it provides peace of mind. After all, we are not immortal and we are only the Trustee of all our possession when alive but when we leave this world we can't take away these possessions with us to another world.

Peter Lee is an Associate Estate Planning Practitioner (Wills & Trust) with Rockwills International Group. He is also an Islamic Estate Planner providing Wills & Trust services for Muslims. He is based in Ipoh and can be reached at: 012-5078825/05-2554853 or excelssec@streamyx.com.



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PUBLISHER

Ipo Echo Sdn Bhd
(Regd No 687483 T)

No 1 Jalan Lasam
30450 Ipoh Perak Darul
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LETTERS

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LET'S NOT REMAIN A BACKWATER

The HAVEN promoted with the tag line 'Pride of Ipoh – Envy of the Nation' has come under some harsh criticism. The development consisting of three 26 storey tower blocks intends to provide accommodation for 489 families. The important question is whether the views of the critics represent that of the citizens of Ipoh or are they the voice of a few environmental purists.

Purists – More Harm than Good

I fear purists often do more harm than good to the cause of environment conservation. For society to progress there needs to be development and some sacrifices need to be made. Attempting to preserve everything is neither practical nor realistic. Because of extreme positions taken by the champions of the environment they disconnect themselves from the many that would support their cause if their stand was more moderate.

The Complaints

The complaints of the critics can be summarised as follows:

1. The project should have been subject to public scrutiny with the public invited to view the pro-

posals and voice their opinions. Environmental expert opinion should have been sought.

2. It is an ugly blot on the landscape which does not blend in with the environment. Ipoh should maintain a height restriction for their buildings which would leave their children and grandchildren a beautiful legacy?
3. It is insensitive to fauna, flora and micro-organisms.
4. The housing developer is trying to cash in on the aesthetic value of limestone hills. They have blasted hills for their marble or calcium carbonate products to make cement, or in this case, as a pretty backdrop for their high-rise dwellings.

Let me respond to the criticisms in the order I have laid out above and then add a little more of my views.

Before I begin I would like to declare that I am an Ipohite who was born, grew up, went to school, worked and retired in Ipoh. I think this qualifies me to say what would be good for Ipoh.

The Reframes

Public approval must be

obtained. Here I would need to say that there is no legislation requiring projects to be subject to public scrutiny and their consent sought. As legislation of this nature cannot discriminate between one project and another, all projects will have to go through the same exercise. If such a system were to exist I am certain development in Ipoh will come to a standstill. As it is there is little development in this town and if every development has to take this route investors will avoid Ipoh.

The edifice will be an ugly blot on the landscape. This is a quick judgment. We need to see what its impact is. It may complement the environment. Similar structures in other locations have been well perceived. Indeed some have been highly praised. The developers and the authorities say it will be sensitive.

It will affect the eco system in that location. Any kind of intervention will affect the eco system of the area interfered. To preserve eco systems, the only way is to stop development altogether. The development complained of is not on virgin forest land. Further I understand



that the developers are introducing into the project technology to use renewable, sustainable resources such as wind, solar, water and bio-gas. All that is done may not be perfect but it appears to be more enlightened than other developments.

It must also be noted that high rise residential development maximises the use of scarce land resource and low rise developments actually cause more harm to the fauna and flora since they occupy more land space. Just because Ipoh has more land than other cities it does not mean it should waste it.

The developer is trying to cash in on the natural environment. The question is why not. It is not as if Ipoh has such great attributes that it persuades mass influx of people into this city.

No doubt the hills are an attractive feature that is being used to attract purchasers for the apartments but it is an asset of Ipoh and what is the harm in using it? Indeed if anything Ipoh is not maximising its potential in this respect.

Development vs Quarrying

I think it is rather unfair to put this development in the same category as quarrying. Unlike quarrying which destroys the hills, developing homes in locations of this nature enhances the value of the hills and indeed indirectly works to preserve them. These features, which are in danger of disappearing due to massive quarrying, may be saved by the residents of projects like the Haven who would be people whose complaints could not be ignored.

Ipoh is a city that is between two mountain ranges and amongst limestone cliffs and hills. High rise buildings are a mark of a modern city. We cannot put them up in the inner city as it would negatively impact the city's heritage. Outside the city centre every location is near hills or mountains. If we prevent development anywhere near these features it would be tantamount to saying that there should be no development at all.

Use Assets to Advantage

The mountains and hills are Ipoh's unique feature and we should use these assets to our advantage. Building homes near these wonderful assets of nature will create sense of value of these features and may go to saving them. What better way to promote appreciation of them than to make people live among them. It may effectively stop quarrying activities.

A major problem in Ipoh is its declining quality population. This is not only an impediment to progress but a threat to survival. Circulation of money is primary for economic vibrancy. The new residents, who would be from the high income bracket, considering the sale prices of the apartments, would no doubt assist in contributing to the economic rejuvenation of the City.

The critics need to remember that there can be no future generation if the City remains a backwater. It is the injection of people like the residents of the 489 apartments in the Haven that bring hope to the city and with any luck their children will continue to make Ipoh their home.

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MUSINGS ON FOOD

SEEFOON LANDS IN HOSPITAL . . . WITH AN ACUTE CASE OF GOURMET-ITIS



seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

By See Foon Chan-Koppen

As all of you dear readers know, I've eaten in rat-ridden road-side stalls, swish 3-Michelin-star restaurants, holes-in-the-wall 'Tai Chau' places, Mama-Papa home eateries; but never in my entire life, (and without revealing how long that has been) have I ever raved about hospital food – which has always brought up in me, the response of 'Yuck'.

Unusual Invitation

Until today that is. Today I had the pleasure of being invited to dine at Pantai Hospital – a very unusual invitation to say the least. When I was first approached with this novel idea, knowing my own general abhorrence and recalling the many encounters I've had with hospital food, my first inclination was to decline. However, with some cajoling and assurances from charming corporate communications chief of Pantai, Betty Caleb, that the meal will be worth-while reviewing, I relented and went for

the tasting.

Thanks to innovative planning from dynamic CEO Dr. Dilshaad Ali, Pantai Hospital Ipoh is forging ahead with 're-inventing' itself and holding good to its promises of refurbishment, upgrades and general overhaul of services pertaining to the



customer – in this case, in- and out-patients. And quality of food is high on their list of priorities.

Hotel Standard

Jeffrey Gomes, Customer Service Division Manager, greeted us on arrival and promptly showed us to a well-laid table in their conference room on the fourth floor which they had turned into an impromptu dining room. A scrolled menu lay at each place setting tied with red ribbon. "Wow, full hotel set-up" commented one of my party, and understandably so, as Jeffrey comes from a Food and Beverage ground having only recently left the Casuarina Hotel after 8 years.

Executive Chef Mohamed Azli bin Mat Ali also comes from an hotel background having gained experience with the Merlin, Ramada Renaissance, Pan Pacific groups and lastly with Casuarina Parkroyal Ipoh. He was also a Guest Chef for Fukuoka City Council, Busan City Council and Regal Riverside Shatin Hong Kong at different times in his career. Chef Azli was hired by Pantai because of his substantial experience in designing exciting, creative and innovative menus. He is running the F&B kitchen and overseeing all the food aspects. Together with Jeffrey, they will also be working closely with the dietician in order to provide well-balanced meals for all patients.

Fine-Dining

The menu they put together can only be described as fine-dining or 'gourmet'.



As we waited for the food to arrive, half-moon portions of a kind of pita bread was served. This was totally tantalizing in the contrast of its crusty topping of garlic and cheese and the softness of the middle



was made by Chef Azli himself as were all the accompaniments of the subsequent dishes.

The appetizer was a risotto (Italian style rice) with prawns in a prawn bisque sauce. The prawn bisque was tasty as were the prawns. Next came the main course of Miso rubbed Canadian Salmon served with a Tian (round shape of anything piled high in layers) of auber-

gine (brinjal), asparagus, Tapenade (olive paste) on a bed of Buckwheat noodles. The salmon was done just right, still slightly pink inside and grilled on the outside. The Tian consisted of two thick slices of brinjal sandwiching a slice of tomato and topped

with sun-dried tomatoes. This with the olive paste provided the right dollop of sauciness to the salmon and the buckwheat noodles, causing me to devour every mouthful.

Other Delights

This was only one of the menus on offer! Other menus which will be rotated in turn will be a welcome addition especially for the long-stay patients. This gourmet menu will also be available for those going to the Wellness Centre. Other items on the gourmet menu include: Curried Pumpkin Soup

with Roast Pumpkin Seed; Pan-Fried Cajun Snapper Fillet on Lentil and Potato Ragout with Coriander Sauce; Puree of Chic Pea with Cheese Croutons; Pan-Fried Chicken Breast with Olive-Scented Jus, Seasonal Vegetable and Potato Wedges or Pillaf Rice; Minestrone Soup with Pesto; Poached Cod with Tomato Basil Sauce and Cous-Cous and Sautéed Vegetables; Mushroom Cappuccino; Pan Roasted Mahi-Mahi with Coriander Pesto, Spinach Tagliatelle and Fresh Garden Vegetables; Fillet of Sea Bream with Parsley Sabayon, Soft Polenta and Tian of Eggplant.

Now doesn't that make you want to rush out for your next wellness check-up? By the way, these gourmet menus are only available for patients in private single rooms only. That's what I call pampering!

Pantai Hospital Ipoh
Tel: 05-5405555



HAWKER FOOD

CLAY-POT CHICKEN RICE

Having five pots on a stove cooking at the same time is no easy feat. What more if one has 10 to 20 pots? That's just how many a clay-pot chicken rice stall has! The good ones cook on earthenware charcoal stoves which have to be constantly monitored. The cook is often seen fanning and poking at the fires and juggling pots around. What appears to be a chaotic way of cooking, results in an absolutely fabulous smoky-flavoured dish of rice and tender pieces of chicken marinated with salt, sesame oil, oyster sauce, dark sauce, corn starch and ginger juice all brought to a boil in a covered clay pot. Salted fish and Chinese sausage (lap cheong) give added flavour. The rice is very tasty having absorbed the marinade sauce. The dish is given a good stir and garnished with shallot crisps & spring onions just before serving. All the stalls listed below only open late evening.



NAME	WHERE	COMMENTS	PRICE (RM)	STARS
TONY CLAYPOT CHICKEN RICE Closed on Wednesdays	Anika Selera (Gourmet Sq), Ipoh Garden.	Very flavourful; chicken and Chinese sausage tender; serving just right.	S – 4.80 M – 7.00 B – 9.00	★★★★★
KEDAI KOPI WING FATT Mondays closed	Jalan Queen (opposite the Pasir Pinji wet market).	Flavourful with slight taste of salted fish; chicken bits tender.	S – 5.00 B – 9.00	★★★★★
TEOH KEE CLAYPOT RICE	GP (Golden Point) Food Court, No 1 Off Jln Ng Seong Teik, First Garden.	Tasty and has sufficient amounts of ingredients. One size only.	4.80	★★★★★
NASI AYAM CLAYPOT TEN K (a branch of Bercham) Closed on Thursdays	55-57 Jln Medan Ipoh 2, Bandar Baru Medan Ipoh.	Tasty but not much flavour of salted fish.	S – 5.50 B – 11.00	★★★★★

Our next food review will be **TAN TART (EGG TARTS)**
Email your favourite recommendations to: food@ipohecho.com.my

LETTER FROM ULU KINTA

WHO WILL FILL HER BRASSIERE?

Aficionados of Rose Chan will be devastated to learn that Ipohite Christy Yow has quit her role as the Malaysian legendary striptease queen Rose Chan in "*Mei Gui Xiang*" (The Charming Rose).

In a shock announcement, Christy Yow announced that she was pulling out of the film because of her recent engagement to Taiwanese, Alansk Wang.

Christy Yow is a model cum actress from Ipoh who shot to fame when she posed for a Singapore male magazine. Her assets have earned her the nickname 'Malaysian Giant Breasts' and she became Malaysia's first nude cover girl. She went on to model several fashion brands and acted in the movies, Auntie Lucy Slam Dunk and Love Cuts.

But Christy's acceptance to appear nude in *Mei Gui Xiang*, scheduled for shooting this year, was

what propelled her to the centre of attention. The leading role would have been a pivotal stepping stone in her career and as she has already admitted, her withdrawal was a big sacrifice, for her.

Several people have expressed great interest in this movie. Some of us can still recall with fond memories how Rose Chan enthralled us or the male members of our family. The money spent on her cabaret shows, or the times we sneaked out of the house or school or barracks, to watch her perform, have never failed to excite us.

Although Christy expressed regret at disappointing her fans, she was quick to reassert that she was not quitting her career but was putting it aside temporarily, to be with her fiancé. Her decision was based on her love for him and her future-in-laws.

We have great admiration and respect for



Christy for putting love and family above her own interests, fame & career. Her fiancé Alansk, is a businessman who manages his family's Chinese tea business in China. They

met at an acting class in Taiwan a year ago and he eventually proposed, on Christmas Eve. Details of the wedding date are as yet unavailable. It is assumed that the explicit

scenes in the movie might have caused potential problems.

Is Christy bewildered or deluded? On one hand, she confidently poses in risqué shots and has stated her desire to be a career woman and remain single. However, with her engagement, she exhibits uncharacteristic conservatism by sacrificing her career and dreams. As she has already said, "He supports me and takes care of me well." Although we are disappointed that she has sacrificed her ambitions, we would like to wish the couple future happiness.

Nevertheless, the other person who will acutely feel this loss is Singapore film director Eric Khoo. He spent over a year auditioning over 200 hopefuls before finally selecting Christy Yow as Rose Chan, last October.

But potential film starlets need not apply. The director has since found a replacement and

although he claimed he may change his mind, the girl who will play Rose Chan is 22 years old, has a high IQ and is a local Chinese student.

Apparently, she swiftly grabbed this golden opportunity when she heard about Christy's departure. With only a few months before filming, the director has little choice and limited time to arrange further selection processes. The replacement has been auditioned and was impressive, claimed Khoo.

When Christy pulled out of the film, it was like the proverbial cold shower for us. There is no hiding the obvious disappointment of Ipohites and Christy Yow fans. Therefore, we eagerly await the screening of *Mei Gui Xiang* to decide if the new replacement can indeed fill Christy Yow's acclaimed shoes and 36C brassiere.

YAM

BUSINESS

THE CIMA CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS ACCOUNTING

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financial management. They are skilled in the technical basics of financial accounting and in addition, possess skills to interpret data, convert it into meaningful information to help business leaders make strategic decisions.

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IPOH IN BRIEF

CITY COUNCIL CALLED TO SOLVE 20-YEAR FLOOD WOES



About 2,000 residents in the city, who have been affected by flash floods for the last 20 years, are appealing to the Ipoh City Council to solve it without further delay. They are from Canning Garden, Hock Lee Park, Ipoh Garden and Ipoh Garden South. Also affected are the Police's Federal Reserve Unit complex and quarters at Sungai Senam.

Residents of the affected area have formed a residents' association to bring their plight to Ipoh City Council.

"We are appealing to the city council to solve the flash floods problem without further delay", said Lee Peng Kuan, vice-chairman of the association.

"Whenever there was a heavy rain, especially at night, the residents in the affected area cannot sleep worrying over the impending floods."

He added that over the years various appeals had been made to the city council to deal with the problem, but they have been dragging their feet on the issue.

According to Lee, the cause of the flash floods is the culvert located under Jalan Fair Park at the traffic-light junction.

"The culvert is not big enough for the large volume of water coming from as far as Ipoh Garden South to flow through to the Sungai Kinta, resulting in the monsoon drains being overflowed", said Lee. "The water will rise fast and subside within half an hour."

With the monsoon rains not far away, the residents can expect more flash floods.

JF

TRADERS OPPOSE RELOCATION TO NEW GUNUNG RAPAT MARKET



The majority of traders at Gunung Rapat market are opposing the proposal by Ipoh City Council to relocate them to a new market. The traders conveyed their decision to Mayor Dato' Haji Roshidi bin Haji Hashim during a noisy dialogue session at the Dewan Orang Ramai in Gunung Rapat recently.

The traders were informed that most of the markets in Ipoh are more than 50 years old and new ones must be built. The current market at Gunung Rapat is dilapidated and an eye-sore. The design of the new single-storey market with basement car-park was shown. It would have modern facilities and convenient for traders and customers. Different layouts on the locations of stalls were also shown. The new market, which would be built at a nearby site, would ease the traffic jam.

The Mayor said that discussions are being held with the short-listed contractors on construction of the market to be completed within 12 months. He has obtained RM6 million grant from the Federal Government. All the traders in the present market would be given licence to trade in the new market. No newcomers would be allowed. The licence fees are only between RM15 and RM30 per month. Free transport would be provided by City Council for the traders to move to the new site.

Priority was given to construct a new market in Gunung Rapat because it is near Medan Gopeng Bus Terminal which is the main entry point to Ipoh and the

market would be used to promote tourism as well.

The spokesman for the traders, Mat Razali bin Hj Abdul Rahim handed a memorandum on why the market should not be relocated, signed by majority of the hawkers, to the Mayor. He said the hawkers are facing stiff competition from nearby hypermarkets, pasar malam and pasar tani. He added that business during the first two days of the week is very poor and they only get more customers during weekends. If the market is relocated they would lose customers.

He said that the structure of the old market is still strong and safe and stressed that the maintenance of the building is poor. Only three City Council workers are allocated to carry out the cleaning activities and more staff are needed. The traders want the market building to be upgraded and not relocated.

The Mayor said he would study the proposal of the traders and incorporate what is relevant and meanwhile gave them two options. The first is that City Council would build a temporary market from which the hawkers can operate until the new market is built on the same site. Once the new market is completed they can move in. The second option is to build the market at the new site and traders can move in when it is completed.

The Mayor has given one month for the traders to come up with their decision. Mat Razali said the traders would study the new proposal.

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Land Tenure : Freehold Land Encumbrance : 100% Freehold Lot Total Sites : 21 Price: RM 400,000.00 (RM 197,543.00) Approving
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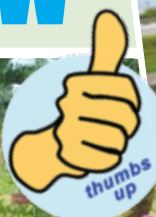
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DIRT VIGILANTES

A VIEW FROM THE WINDOW



Before...

...and Now

Looking out of the window of her double-storey terrace house, Josephine Lee did not like what she saw. There were weeds, shrubs and trees growing on the small strip of land between her house and the highway and so, she decided that she would change the view.

That was six years ago. Today, the view from her window is like a picture frame. The vacant land along Lumut Highway and Jalan Raja Perempuan Muzwin at Taman Kledang in Menglembu had been transformed by her single-handedly into a beautiful landscaped garden.

Josephine or just "Jo" among her friends, spends weekends gardening and a good two hours

trimming the grass.

She labours on despite being chided by council workers for wasting her time and creating more garden refuse for them to cart away, and neighbours who are at times more the problem than the solution.

In her garden, grows white and pink bougainvilleas, double-petal hibiscus and palms; there are planters of cannas, caladiums, heliconias, torenia, cordylines, Japanese roses, basil and rosemary, torch ginger (*bunga kantan*), a banana tree (*pisang serendah*), and even a watermelon patch which has yielded a couple of juicy fruits. A small patch of yellow peanut plant as ground cover provides accents. Park benches are there for anyone who cares to stop by.

It is common in an age

of 'instant' things to have instant gardens if you can afford it. But to have a garden like Josephine's is truly a 'labour of love' motivated by the joy of creating something beautiful.

Where most *tamans* 'pride' themselves in creating more and more garbage dumps, at least there is a 20-metre strip along Jalan Raja Perempuan Muzwin that provides respite for the eyes and a rest for tired feet if need be.

Jo's untiring efforts in beautifying the vacant land can put the Ipoh City Council's parks and gardens division to shame.

Residents like her and the group in Hock Lee Garden are playing a role in bringing back the image of Ipoh as a clean and beautiful city.

It is residents like them that the city council should show its appreciation and reward them with a discount on their annual assessments.

VWSL

NIGHT OF THE BEAUTIFUL AND REFLECTIVE ODISSI



For the novice, it seems a fitting introduction to the Odissi, the ancient Indian dance form originating from the eastern state of India, Orissa, and inspired from the paintings and stone carvings of caves and temples. The Ipoh Fine Arts Society organised this presentation by Guru Geetha Shankaran Lam, Malaysia's renowned dancer and exponent of Odissi, from the Temple of Fine Arts (International), Kuala Lumpur, at the State Secretariat's Bangunan

Serbaguna.

Each performance was eloquently explained by Guru Geetha, highlighting the salient features and the subtle nuances of the dance – each hand gesture, facial expression, stance, and even the tie-and-dye print of the costume is significant. Performed by a troop of seven dancers and Guru Geetha herself – it also includes three children aged 10, one of whom is Geetha's son.

Being a mother of three, Geetha understands

that to perform, one needs to appreciate and understand the dance's spiritual connotations, and for children it is a natural process, when encouraged through music and stories. Inspired by her parents, she shares her passion for dance with her students. This she evoked in her audience who were enthralled that evening.

Some of the Odissi repertoire highlights were: *Pallavi*, which is a pure dance form whereby musical modes are elaborated through body movements; and *Abhinaya*, telling the story of Radha and Krishna. There was also a liberating tribal folk dance (aka dance of the people), which depicts a group of women dancing by the river waiting for Krishna to pass by.

It was a night of appreciation of the Odissi for those who are familiar with this ancient beautiful and reflective dance form, and for those not so familiar with it, an excellent first look.

VWSL

FANCY OPERATING AN ENTERTAINMENT OUTLET IN A 4-STAR HOTEL?

We invite interested and experienced Dance Club / Fun Pub Operators to operate the outlet (Area size is approx. 360 sq.m / 3,890 sq.ft) on a contract basis.

For viewing appointment (office hours only), please call YY at **05-255 5555**, ext **8113**.

Impiana Hotel Ipoh A Garden
Retreat Within The City



In association with Earth Day, the Kechara House Buddhist Association, Ipoh Study Group, kicked started their Recycling Collection recently. Members' friends and family of Kechara House Ipoh Study Group collected almost anything that could be recycled including old orange juice

cartons, shampoo bottles, milk powder tins, cans and even old television sets and clothing. Everyone brought the items to the collection point on Jalan Che Tak, off Jalan Yang Kalsom, between 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Inspired by H.E. Tsem Tulku Rinpoche, the Ipoh Study Group decided

to start a recycling activity every 4th Sunday of each month. The Kechara Ipoh Study Group beavered away at sorting the items out into different categories.

Funds raised from this will go towards Kechara and its charitable activities such as Kechara Soup Kitchen which feeds and finds jobs for the homeless, the setting up of an Animal Sanctuary and the development of Kechara World Peace Centre. The next collection will be held on May 23, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Jalan Che Tak. Items that can be recycled are metal, aluminium, bottles, glass, plastic, newspaper, cardboard, paper, electrical equipment and clothing. For further information, call Wan Wai Meng at **012-215 0968** or Dr Ming at **012-284 1009**.

FREEHOLD VIRGIN LAND

SJK(C) Padang Gajah is now in operation. Interested parents can contact the school at 05-312 6813 for information on student enrolment.

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UNKNOWN BACK ENTRANCE TO IPOH RAILWAY STATION



The shuttle Ipoh-Kuala Lumpur train service has become very popular, making the railway station congested and busy everyday.

Most commuters would use the front entrance, unaware of another entrance from the back of the railway station. As a result, there is an acute parking problem especially during departure and arrival times of the trains. The problem is aggravated since parking in front of the building is roped off and reserved for KTM staff.

At the back of the station, on the other side of the railway tracks, along Persiaran Tun Perak (Jelf Road), KTM has built a car park adjacent to the subway which leads to the main hall of the station. There is a covered building at the entrance of the subway.

However, virtually no one uses this access. Firstly, not many know the existence of this entrance because there is no signboard. Secondly, even if people are aware of it, they are scared to use it fearing that there may be drug addicts or muggers hiding there. Even in the main hall of the station there is no signboard to the subway.

The subway is clean and tiled on all sides, but is not equally lighted and some sections are relatively dark com-

HONOURING STUDENTS WITH GOOD RESULTS

Certificates, souvenirs and cash were presented to Sikh students who did well in the UPSR, PMR, SPM and STPM examinations during the Vasakhi Night Celebration organised by the Perak Sikh Education Aid Fund (PSEAF) in the Red Crescent Hall. Students who obtained distinctions in Punjabi in the PMR/SPM exam were also rewarded.

In his opening address Mr. Mejit Singh, President of PSEAF said

that the Fund was set up in the early sixties by some prominent Sikhs in Perak. The Fund is used to provide financial aid to needy students in schools and colleges and also gives interest free loans. The Annual Vasakhi Dinner is being held every year since 1980s to honour Sikh students who have achieved excellent results in their examinations and also to create fellowship.

Dato' Ramly bin Zahari, Perak State Exco Member represented the



Menteri Besar and donated RM10,000 for the Fund.

The highlight of the evening was an authentic bangra dance performance by a professional group from India. Their fast movements and live music fascinated the guests. There was also a special

dance performance by a student from India who is studying in a local college. Evergreen old Hindi songs were sung. It was a night of entertainment for young and old.

AJ

pared to others. Lighting needs to be improved. A CCTV camera is installed at the station end of the subway; one should be installed at the other end as well. A convex mirror must be installed to enable passengers walking down the stairs and turning into the subway to see whether any suspicious people are in the subway.

Since there are no exits along the subway, there is no place for people to hide. Anyway, KTM must station security guards at the Persiaran Tun Razak entrance to ensure safety of passengers especially women and senior citizens.

Signboards must be put up indicating that it is an entrance to the Railway Station. People staying in Jelapang, Silibin, Buntong and in fact all those staying on this side of the railway line can use the entrance. Since Persiaran Tun Razak is a bypass road, very few people use it and there is ample parking place. This would ease the traffic jam in front of the station.

It has been reported that from June, travel time between Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur would be less than two hours and more people would opt to use the train. In fact people may live in Ipoh and travel daily to Kuala Lumpur to work.

AJ

ANNOUNCEMENT

Noah's Ark Ipoh Chapter is looking for:

- (1) Volunteers and feeders to come forward to help feed street/community dogs. Call: **019-5568292, 012-5015331** or **017-5751556** to arrange a meeting with the team.
- (2) Dedicated animal lovers who can foster advanced pregnant dogs during their pregnancy and whelping stages until mother and pups can be taken for re-homing. Call: **017-5751556, 012-5386366** or **012-5015331**.

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Ipoh Echo CLASSIFIEDS



• By DINESH K

54TH ANNUAL FIRST AID & HOME NURSING COMPETITION



Ave Maria Convent

On Sunday, April 25, a total of 17 teams from Ipoh, Taiping and Teluk Intan, partook in the 54th Annual First Aid and Nursing Competition organised by St John Ambulance of Malaysia (Perak Chapter) with the

collaboration of the State Education Department. Manab Othman, representing the department, was present at the closing ceremony. In his speech, Manab, expressed his hopes that St John Ambulance would organ-

ise similar programmes to train more first aiders, especially school students. Champions SMJK Ave Maria Convent (Nursing Adult and Nursing Cadet Category) and SMJK Yuk Choy (Ambulance Adult and Ambulance Cadet Category) will represent Perak at the national-level competition, which will be held at Pulapol (Pusat Latihan Polis), Jalan Semarak, Kuala Lumpur, on June 4 and 5.



Yuk Choy

HANDOVER OF ORGANIC FARM AND CHEQUE RESENTATION

SMK Raja Perempuan (RPS) hosted the handing-over ceremony of an organic farm to the school by Rotary Club of Ipoh recently. The "Organic Farming, Composting and Environmental Protection for Secondary Schools" is a project initiated by the Rotary Club of Ipoh in collaboration with RPS. The project's intention is to educate school students on sustainable and agro-free farming methods using canteen green wastes and organic compost. The project, which began in August 2009, was then adopted by CIMB Bank under its community-link initiative. "This is one of CIMB Group's corporate social responsibility pro-



grammes aimed at providing a long-term positive impact on the community", said Azliza Ahmad Zaman, CIMB Ipoh's Branch Manager. Rotary Club Ipoh President, Wu Chee Tutt, remarked that the primary objective was to encourage students to adopt

a hands-on approach to environmental protection. Rotary Club Ipoh was later presented with a cheque worth RM31,000 by CIMB Bank. "The organic farm would benefit teachers and students", said a delightful Cik Rusnani, the school's principal.

more LETTERS

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR"

I live in a semi-D house, well, at least what used to be a semi-D. On October 19, 2007, I wrote to MBI informing them of the renovation works being carried out by my neighbour. My neighbour had completely demolished his side to ground zero, intending to build a bungalow. The steel bars of the continuous reinforced concrete beams shared by both houses were cut off. So were the timber



roof trusses. In short, he cut right through the middle of both houses!

As expected, MBI did not respond to my letter of complaint. I sent them a

reminder on November 9, 2007, which also was ignored. On November, 28, 2007, another letter was sent again, asking them how approval was given to my neighbour, since I did not give my consent.

To cut a long story short, finally with the good office of the Public Complaints Bureau, and 2 other government departments roped in by the Public Complaints Bureau, a stop work order was enforced on January 31, 2008.

Simple-minded Me thought that that was the end of my woes. I actually believed that MBI would protect my rights and that I will receive justice and restitution, but not so. My neighbour has started work again!

I have many questions but no answers:

1. How did MBI approve such a monstrosity with no regard to uniformity and harmony?
2. Will complete excavation of the foundation next door affect the stability and safety of my house?
3. Is my house structurally safe since common steel beams shared by both semi-detached houses were cut off?
4. MBI had admitted that no approval was given for the construction. That being the case, then the building is deemed illegal. If it is illegal, then why was it not pulled down?
5. When MBI lifted the Stop Work Order, why was I, the aggrieved party not formally informed?
6. Why were my letters ig-

nored when I asked for confirmation on the Stop Work Order being lifted?

And I would like to add one more question: Tell me please, how to practice the adage "Love Your Neighbour?"

Perhaps Mr Fathol Zaman would like to investigate this issue and give me some answers. The MBI file is F2/2/139/481/07.

I would be more than happy to meet you to show you the place. Otherwise, you have the address you can do a site visit yourself. Please act fast before they complete the building, then it will be a different ball game altogether!

I'm attaching some photographs as well. Happy viewing!

Thank you for your time in reading this mail.

Margaret Wong

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-2552181; or email: announcements@ipohecho.com.my, by the 9th or 23rd of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

"Challenges Faced by Women in Seeking Protection", a talk on domestic violence by Dr Sharifah Halimah, President of Perak Women for Women Society. Date and Time: Saturday, May 22 commencing at 3 pm. Venue: PWW Service Centre, 52, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Ipoh. For details call Siew Keen at 05-546 9715 (office) or 012-521 2480 (mobile).

Poi Lam e-Era English Camp 2010. June 4-6 at the Poi Lam campus, Pengkalan, Lahat. Participation fees: RM120. Closing date: May 22. Details and application forms can be obtained from: Poi Lam High School, Lot No. 18274 Jalan Simpang Pulau Pengkalan, 31500 Lahat, Perak, 05-3218120/3215289, or email: www.poilam.edu.my (Attention: Ms. Chin Lee Pin - 010-3718782; Annie Lim - 016-5059886).

Perak Malayalee Association (PMA) 46th AGM will be held May 23, 3.30 p.m., at 14A Medan Istana, Bandar Ipoh Raya Ipoh. For details contact: 016-9719098.

Cancer Awareness Seminar entitled "Cancer & You" by The National Cancer Society of Malaysia (Perak Branch) together with the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN), at the Royal Ipoh Club, May 23 at 10 a.m. Admission is free. Free breast cancer screening for ladies 40-69. Mammogram test at a discounted rate of RM50 (normal price RM180). Seats limited to 250. Call: 05-5459021 (Puan Noriah) or 016-5629240 (Matron Loh) to register.

Counselling Training for Teachers

Soroptimist International Ipoh and Persatuan Wanita Perak Untuk Wanita (Perak Women for Women - PWW), and Pejabat Pelajaran Daerah Larut Matang and Selama will be holding an all-day workshop called "OK TAK OK" on May 25. It will be held at the Dewan Arif Budiman, Jalan Stesen, Taiping.

This workshop will be facilitated by Women's Centre for Change (WCC) Penang. WCC was set up in 1985 to help women and children facing crisis irrespective of race, religion or social background. WCC will share their knowledge with school teachers on how to recognise, help and educate primary school children on sexual abuse. It will focus on what is acceptable behaviour where children and adults are concerned. Malaysian Police statistics for year 2006 shows that 89% of the child sexual abuse perpetrators are people known to the victims. This workshop is targeted at school teachers as often they are the ones who spot changes in their pupils.

One hundred and eighteen schools in the Larut Matang and Selama areas have agreed to participate in this programme and each will send a representative. The workshop is totally free for the attendees.

For further information contact: Soroptimist International Ipoh (Lanka 012-5190189 or Jeya 012-5386366) or Perak Women for Women (Siew Keen 05-5469715).

SMJK (I) BAGAN SERAI, PERAK-FORM THREE 1975 GATHERING

Class of Form 3-1975, SMJK (I) Bagan Serai, Perak, will be holding a grand gathering on the 12-06-2010 at SYUEN HOTEL, in Ipoh, Perak.

For more details kindly contact:-

Ganesan: 016 551 9486 Mat Said: 016 019 413 5774 or Lau Chin An: 012 518 1318



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IPOH IN BRIEF

LIONESSE FORUM



The Lioness Club of Ipoh hosted the 3rd District 308B2 Lioness Forum at the Royal Ipoh Club recently.

Lioness delegates in District 308B2 came from Penang, Sitiawan, Subang Jaya and participated with the host-

ing Club, with Datin Thavamani Thambipillay as the Organising Chairperson.

Lions Dignataries Council Chairperson Simon Koh, Council Vice Chairperson IPDG Kenneth S.H. Saw, District Governor Choong Kwei

Loi, District Chairperson Lioness Programme Lion Angela Chong, Cabinet officers and Lions were present.

The presiding officer was the District Governor Choong Kwei Loi. The guest speaker was Dr Anthony W.Y. Ng. The topic for the day was 'Lionism' and 'Social Enterprise'.

Lionesses are an important part of the family of Lionism. They work hand-in-hand with the host club strengthening and extending the services by Lions Club International. At this forum the Lioness delegates shared their experiences, enjoyed the fellowship and made new friends during the high-tea.

NURSES DAY CELEBRATION



The nurses at Pantai Hospital Ipoh are a lucky lot. They were pampered with foot reflexology, cooking and food carving demonstrations, and a

makeup demonstration in conjunction with Nurses Day on May 12.

Nurses usually spend the good part of their working day on their feet, and

so the hospital rewarded them by having this one day where they were literally swept off their feet by enjoying a relaxing foot massage and other fun things. In the lobby, the staff, visitors and patients were entertained by the hospital choir, which usually sings every Tuesday; also handicrafts were being sold by the Ray of Hope Centre and Daybreak. This was the Hospital's way of showing its appreciation to their nursing staff - 'Well done nurses, and thank you for caring!'

VWSL

PERAK TOURISM'S NEW CEO



Newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Perak Tourism Council, Zameema Banu Bt Mohamad Ariff has literally 'gone to ground' to get a first-hand knowledge of the products under her charge.

She has already met up with hoteliers, operators of golf resorts, tour agents, managements of private hospitals, heritage people and the Perak Tourist Association just to hear their views and grouses.

Zameema has also, since her appointment last month tried the local foods which she does with friends "to taste the dishes and compare which outlets are better" and as well as

revisited the local sights.

Her initial impressions are that Perak has 10 icons which have so much potential. "We now need to package them and make a concerted effort to promote them as Perak Brand", she said, adding that she and her team have already started work in that direction.

Acknowledging that tourism is the second largest revenue earner for the country she felt that with the products available now, the state "can generate substantial revenue from the tourism sector which is where concerted promotions can target the short and long term results."

Zameema, 40, is from

a finance background. She is a former student of Bukit Nanas Convent, who did her accounting at the International Islamic University in Petaling Jaya and graduated with an MBA from the University of Wales, Cardiff, UK.

She has worked with several large financial institutions. Among them are ABN Amro Bank, Cagamas Berhad and Rating Agency of Malaysia. Coincidentally a lot of her work was related to the stake holders in the tourism industry and analysis and funding for hotels.

"Although I know a lot about the industry, that was an outsider's view. I now need to get into the thick of it", she said.

Incidentally Zameema is an Ipoh girl. "My dad opened a book store in Canning Garden, Ariff Book Store. I used to come to Ipoh during the school holidays. But now coming home to work and stay, this is exciting". Additionally Zameema's hubby is also from Ipoh and an ex-Andersonian.

JAG

SPORT

7 A-SIDE RUGBY TOURNAMENT: CPO CHALLENGE TROPHY

The Perak Police and State Education Department sponsored seven-a-side rugby tournament was held over a weekend at Ipoh Padang recently. The championship was divided into two categories - police and schools. A total of 21 schools and 18 police teams participated to wrest the coveted CPO Perak Challenge Trophy.

Dato Pahlawan Zulkifli, the state police chief and Hj Muhd Roli, the state education deputy director, were in attendance along with over 600 supporters and on-lookers. In his closing address, Dato Pahlawan Zulkifli,



SMK Clifford

congratulated the players for giving their best and praised the school teams for turning up in full force. Muhd Roli thanked the

police for organising the event and said that partaking in a gentlemen's sport like rugby would help instill discipline and sportsmanship in youngsters.

SMK Clifford, Kuala Kangsar defeated SMK Kamunting, Taiping, 17-7 to emerge champion in the school category. Tanjong Malim Police District beat FRU Unit 12-0 to take on the top spot in the other category.

Mohd Aliff AL-Hafiz of SMK Clifford and Mohd Khairul Azhar of Tanjong Malim police district were named best players. DK



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A HAVEN...HERE IN IPOH



Nestled at the foot-hills and with the virgin rainforest of Titiwangsa Range as a backdrop, a RM230 million high-rise condominium project is taking shape along the Tanjung Rambutan Road in Ipoh. It is "The Haven", which the developer Superboom Projects Sdn Bhd claims is exactly what the name implies – living in a "luxurious development set amongst a natural and idyllic setting".

The project, scheduled to be completed in three years, will comprise three blocks of 26-storey condominiums, making it one of the tallest buildings in the city.

Superboom Projects' CEO Peter Chan described The Haven as a high-end lakeside condominium development, which will offer a unique and pleasant

living right next to nature with a panoramic view of the Kinta Valley and towering outcrops.

The lake around which the development is being built, is a living lake. "It has live water with an estimated rate of 7,570 litres flowing in per hour", said Chan. "The water analysis shows it to be pristine." This lake will be preserved and kept pristine; workers are not allowed to even wash their feet in the lake.

All nature has been and will be preserved. The hillsides have never been blasted. It is the stated intention of the developer to leave the hills intact. The building site "housing" the 3 blocks will be built on an open space, without any destruction of any nature whatsoever. Far from destroying the environment, this development "saves" the

hills, nature and lake that is on the site. (The developer also wishes to correct some erroneous reports that the hills have been blasted for the development.) The total footprint of the 3 blocks is less than 10,000sq feet. It will be a green development, harnessing renewable sources of energy of sun, wind and water.

Even Dr. Lance A. Williams, LEED Accredited Professional, Executive Director U.S. Green Building Council (Los Angeles Chapter), has commended The Haven for being a "model for sustainable design and development," and said that "it is something that all from this part of the world, can point to and can visit and really get an education and participate in a very, very direct way."

"You'll be close to nature and yet a shout away from city amenities. No other city in the world can offer such a package", he stressed. Therefore, the project has been labelled as the "Pride of Ipoh, Envy of the Nation."

With peace of mind being a concern among most people, The Haven is providing a five-level security feature ranging from guard house, security/ concierge

desk, CCTV, floor access card, perimeter fencing and regular patrols.

Other amenities include a designer four-level swimming pool, picnic grounds, well-equipped gymnasium, badminton court, cafeteria and a host of other details like special floor traps for easy maintenance and the like.

The availability of several mountain bike and jogging trails and the cool waterfalls at nearby Ulu Kinta makes it a great location for the whole family.

These are the factors that are attracting the positive responses from not just Malaysians but also others from Singapore, Hong Kong and Europe.

A total of 495 units in 12 variations ranging in sizes from 958 sq ft to 2,840 sq ft and penthouse sizes of over 4,000 sq ft will be built. Prices per unit range from RM250,000 to RM1.4 million per unit.

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ANOTHER AVENUE TO LODGE COMPLAINTS TO THE POLICE

Members of the public, who have inquiries or complaints, can bring them up at any district police throughout Perak during Hari Pelanggan (Customers' Day) every Tuesday between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Head of management division of the Perak Police Contingent, ACP Zulkapli Ahmad said district police chiefs would entertain all complaints, inquiries and suggestions and would refer them to the relevant department or officer concerned.

A designated officer will be assigned to look into the inquiries and complaints from the public.

"If anyone not satisfied with the answers given, he/she may then make arrangements to meet the Chief Police Officer or his Deputy", said Zulkapli.

He was elaborating on the suggestion by the CPO, Deputy Commissioner Dato' Zulkifli Abdullah at a press conference recently that members of public meet with police officers on Hari Pelanggan to offer feedback and complaints if any.

Dato' Zulkifli stated that there was a drop in the number of crime cases reported state-wide, which he attributed to the efficiency of his officers and public support, espe-

cially through Rakan Cop. Presently, Perak has over 80,000 members in Rakan Cop, the highest in the country.

He assured the public that positive changes would be in the offing with the redeployment of 500 behind-the-desk police personnel for beat duties.

When asked about the effectiveness of the SWAT (Stop, Walk and Talk) campaign, Dato Zulkifli said that with the pending redeployment exercise, the campaign would be effective as more men would be made available.

Ipoh Echo's online poll for police to commit more men on crime prevention patrol, particularly in housing estates, shows a overwhelming support from its readers.

Complaints can also be made via the Police Hotline: **05-2401999**, via text messaging (SMS) by typing polispk <space> (complaint) and send to 32728. You can log on to www.polisperak.rmp.gov.my/polisperak to make a complaint under the "personal" category.

Unlike the Ipoh City Council, Police don't provide the complainant with a number so he/she can follow up. The Police will, however, contact the complainant for more details, if necessary.

DK



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