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August 16 - 31, 2018

PP 14252/10/2012(031136)

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ISSUE **287**

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# LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS



By Loshni Nair

**A** head of GE14, Pakatan Harapan (PH) made an unabashedly bold promise in their manifesto – to revive the now defunct local council elections.

Local council elections were introduced during the British Colonial era. The first recorded election in Malayan history was the Penang Municipal Council elections held in 1911.

The Local Government Election Ordinance 1960 provided local authorities the power to organise elections for the office of councillors.

In this issue, Ipoh Echo seeks public opinions regarding local council elections and discusses options and aspects pertaining to this form of poll

*Continued on page 2*





***“The merits of the elective process far outweigh those of the nominative process”***  
**– Datuk Kuthubul, former president of the Malaysian Bar Council**



Newly-elected councillors

### A History Lesson

The Malaysian-Indonesian Confrontation, popularly known as Konfrontasi in our history textbooks, was a low-level armed conflict that took place between Malaysia and Indonesia from 1963 to 1966. It was, in all honesty, an undeclared war of sorts between two neighbours who share common racial roots.

Konfrontasi began with the creation of Malaysia through the amalgamation of the Federation of Malaya (present day West Malaysia), Singapore, the British crown colonies of North Borneo and Sarawak (present day Sabah and Sarawak) in September 1963.

President Sukarno of Indonesia and President Macapagal Ruyong of the Philippines were concerned that this was a ploy by the British to further expand their sphere of influence to Indonesia and the Philippines.

Indonesia adopted a more aggressive stance – they launched armed raids into Sabah and Sarawak along the border regions and set off bombs in various parts of Singapore. Indonesian troops landed in Labis, Johor. They were duped into believing that locals would receive them with open arms. They were all rounded up within 48 hours after landing. Some were killed in skirmishes with security forces.

Armed conflict between the two neighbours continued for a period of two years (1963 to 1965). It culminated with the ouster of President Sukarno following a military coup led by General Suharto.

### Suspension of Local Government Elections

The Malaysian-Indonesian confrontation in 1963 led to the declaration of a state of emergency on September 3, 1964. This in turn forced the Federal Government to suspend local council elections, through the passage, in parliament, of the Emergency (Suspension of Local Government Elections) Regulations 1965 and Amendment Regulations 1965.

This suspension was made permanent with the passing of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1976. The enactment has remained effective till today.

The LGA placed the power of appointing mayors, council presidents and councillors in the hands of state governments.

### Three-Tier Electoral System

Local council elections are third tier elections, just behind the parliamentary and state elections. Local councils are the level of governance that is closest to the people. Therefore, decisions made by the local council has a more immediate effect on the people, compared to the decisions made at the federal or state level.

### Responsibilities of the Local Council

Technicalities aside, what exactly is the local council responsible for?

They collect taxes in the form of assessment rates, collect parking fines, grant licenses and permits for trades, provide basic amenities, collect, dispose and manage waste, as well as plan and develop local areas.

### Public Opinion

Nineteen-year-old pre-university student and aspiring lawyer, Ashrvini Nair, strongly agrees that local council elections should make a comeback.

“Local council elections represent the voices of the people. These elections also provide representation for smaller groups of people who don’t have the opportunity to make significant changes in the political arena,” she adds.

Edwin Tan Tjin Shuen, second year law student, concurs. “These elections are an important part of the circuitry that translates policies to action at the municipal level. Local council elections aren’t just motivators for the local council to perform, they’re also a signalling mechanism – failure to act is reason enough to be fired,” he says.

The ability to choose leaders is something that we should cherish. Personally, I did not know the members of my local council till last year, and that just goes to show how apathetic an average person is to the political process. Allowing the public to vote will increase political participation, and simultaneously, teach us to actually care about how our city is managed,” Edwin adds.

Associate Professor Dr Richard Ng, President of Ipoh City Council Watch, said that as part of PH’s manifesto to uphold integrity and have checks and balances, it is best that the third vote be returned to the public, especially ratepayers.

“Ratepayers should be allowed to exercise their democratic rights to elect their representative so that the assessment paid to local councils is utilised in a more efficient manner and ratepayers are provided with efficient services,” he added.



Ashrvini Nair



Tan Tjin Shuen



Ipoh Mayor, Dato' Zamri Man and Yong Choo Kiong

As a preventative measure, Dr Richard said that there must be provisions made whereby an elected representative can be terminated by a tribunal due to reasons such as bankruptcy or criminal acts. A by-election should then be carried out to replace him or her.

Datuk Kuthubul Zaman, lawyer and former president of the Malaysian Bar Council says that he is all for local council elections.

“After the passing of the Local Government Act 1976, councillors had been appointed. Over the years since then we’ve experienced instances where the local authorities are found to be unaccountable, inefficient in their management and intolerable in the way services are provided,” he added.

“There are instances where the councillors are arrogant, abuse their powers, serve themselves rather than the public, and are lacking in credibility,” he continued.

Datuk Kuthubul goes on to say that normally, the political party in power appoints the councillors. They are appointed not based on their track record of merit or performance. Instead, their position in the party overrides all other considerations.

He recalls a case where a councillor was re-appointed despite having flouted the building laws and regulations by putting up illegal buildings. “Family members were also appointed as councillors,” he added. “It’s cronyism.”

### Pros and Cons

Local council elections place voting power in the hands of the people, indirectly forcing representatives into performing their best. Their actions or inactions will allow people to decide whether they are worthy of their position in the council.

Therefore, no one is guaranteed a position, regardless of their power, influence or wealth. Councillors can and will be held accountable for their decisions.

Datuk Kuthubul thinks that by having local council elections, issues of credibility, transparency and accountability will be better addressed with elected councillors.

He says that it will strengthen democracy, institutionalise public participation, fulfil the expectations of the people and provide good governance.

“It’ll reduce inefficiency in the management of the local councils and reduce abuse of power. An elected councillor will have a better understanding of the local needs of the electorate,” he added.

However, when considering the positives, the negatives cannot be overlooked.

Datuk Kuthubul mentions costs. He said that this issue was addressed in the Athi Nahappan Report on Local Council Elections.

He added that there will be a wider circle from which a councillor can be picked which will include professionals who may not want to stand for election.

“From my experience, the government of the day did not pick professionals as councillors despite the availability,” he said.

Elections may also be hijacked to push forth religious agendas and ulterior motives that do not benefit the people.

All said, the former Bar Council President strongly believes that the merits of the elective process far outweigh those of the nominative process.

### Politics-Free Local Council?

Non-partisan local council elections were practised during the local government elections in 1960. This may be a good way to avoid underlying political motives.

Dr Richard Ng agrees, adding that eligible candidates should contest using random symbols that are not affiliated with any political parties.

Datuk Kuthubul agrees that the idea of a non-partisan local council election is feasible.



Datuk Kuthubul Zaman



Dr Richard Ng

*Continued on page 6*





# THE WEEK THAT WAS

*The week-long session, August 6 to 13, had been cordial except for the many outbursts from both PH and BN assemblymen.*

It will go down the annals of Pakatan Harapan (PH) Perak as the first successfully conducted legislative assembly meeting ever.

Monday, August 6 began with the usual honour-guard parade for His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Shah. This was followed by the sultan's royal address to a PH-led assembly rather than one with a preponderance of Barisan Nasional (BN) lawmakers. Nazrin reminded the 59 assemblymen to fulfil their promises with integrity. Perakeans, he said, want a good government one that could administer the state well and in good faith. He reminded them "not to misuse their power and titles and never to discriminate and encourage bad behaviours."

Such prophetic words coming from an honourable man who has much love for his state and his subjects are to be expected, as past sessions had degenerated to a shouting match between the opposing sides. Profanities and unsavoury words were liberally used to score points reminiscent of similar meetings at Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur.

The likes of Bung Mokhtar, MP for Kinabatangan, Sabah and Tajuddin Rahman, MP for Pasir Salak, Perak are aplenty. These two Umno stalwarts would resort to name calling at the slightest provocation.

Bung Mokhtar had challenged his opposite number to a fist fight outside parliament while Tajuddin had numerous reminded DAP representatives that the "country belongs to Malays". This shows the level of maturity of our political representatives who are elected time and again. Need we fault them then?

Nazrin alluded to the proliferation of tahfiz (religious) schools in the state. Safety standards of these schools are at minimal level thus deaths often occur when the buildings are razed. There have been many cases. The sultan's reminder was timely indeed. But will the state act on this malfeasance? It is not something possible as there is no control on such schools at federal level. Every Muslim cleric, worth his salt, wants to establish a tahfiz school as it is "good for Islam", they insist.

The second day got off to a heady start as time was wasted arguing over the Menteri Besar's official residence. Zambry, former MB and assemblyman for Pangkor, was cautioned by Speaker Nga Koo Ham for his lengthy introduction. Zambry was irked by Ngeh's rebuke and began raising his voice and gesticulated furiously, prompting Perak DAP chairman, Nga Kor Ming to comment that the BN representatives were having a tough time adjusting to their new role as opposition.

However, current MB insists that the land where the residence is to be sold as it will fetch a premium price considering its location. The proceeds from the sale, said Ahmad Faizal, can be used to build accommodations for executive councillors.

I find this absurd as all ten executive councillors are paid housing allowance. Their take-home pay per month is in excess of RM30,000, more than what Prime Minister Tun Mahathir gets. Does anyone in his right frame of mind want to forego this for a billet adjacent to Ipoh's famous landmark, the Sultan Idris Shah Roundabout? And in doing so lose their housing allowance? He or she must be mad.

The third day sitting was unexpected, as the proposal to have the appointed Opposition Leader be accorded privileges befitting his position. This is a common practice in western democracies in line with PH GE14 manifesto. Giving due recognition to the guy gives new meaning to the office of Opposition Leader. Past leaders had no such tidings. They had to make do with whatever they were being paid. Besides getting an additional allowance he or she gets an office space with two administrative assistants, a staff car and a driver, courtesy of the ruling government.

The offer was welcomed by Hj Saarani Mohammad, the Opposition Leader and BN assemblyman for Kota Tampa. But he lamented that the additional RM3000 allowance is "chicken-feed" compared to what the executive councillors are getting and, moreover, the staff car is old and the office is run-down. When BN was at the helm such thoughts were neither entertained nor discussed. That is appreciation for you.

The 101-hectare state land near Gua Tempurung, reportedly given to a private company to build a private institution of higher learning, was the subject of discussion on the fourth day sitting. Approval for a 99-year lease was given by the then PKR government under Nizar Jamaluddin in 2008. Till today nothing is heard from the company. The two sides traded barbs accusing the other of negligence and apathy. The vacant land, apparently, is now being used by illegal oil palm cultivators and they are raking-in profits at the behest of the state government. Faizal finally took ownership and promised to look into the problem.

Other pressing matters discussed in succeeding days' sittings focused on the state-owned human development centre Pusat Kerjaya Amanjaya or PEKA, as a sum of RM19.8 million was alleged to have been misappropriated by the management. The case is currently being investigated by the federal anti-corruption agency.

Howard Lee, the Executive Councillor for Youth and Sports Development pooh-poohed claims by the former state government that between March 2011 and March 2018, some 69,985 people who were registered with PEKA, 63,186 or 90 percent out of the number got their first job offer. Howard's team discovered that between January and March 2018 out of 4,667 people who were registered only 73 were offered jobs. The claims, said Howard, were outrageous and requested that both sides deliberate over the matter in a civil way, as young Perakens' livelihood is at stake.

The much publicised Bagan Datuk Water City, a brainchild of former Deputy Prime Minister and MP for Bagan Datuk, Zahid Hamidi, was hotly debated. The initial capital of RM5 million, promised by the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority, was withheld for no apparent reason. This placed a damper on the 15 projects earmarked for the water city.



Overall the week-long session (August 6 to 13) had been cordial except for the many outbursts from both PH and BN assemblymen. Since it is the beginning of the term both sides are still adjusting to their new-found roles, one as opposition and the other as the administrator. No matter what, BN assemblymen still think they are in charge while their PH counterparts behave like they are the opposition. Unless this disparity is addressed, the confusion will continue unabated much to the chagrin of Perakeans.

## EYE HEALTH — ANTIOXIDANTS

*Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about ANTIOXIDANTS*

### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ANTIOXIDANT?

Antioxidants are substances that protect cells in your body from free radicals. Free radicals are the by-products produced when our immune system fights off bacteria and when foods we eat are broken down into energy. These free radicals are unstable and can damage the cells in our eyes and organs as a whole. Our bodies including our eyes are constantly exposed to these free radicals (*oxidative stress*). In fact, every cell in our body comes under attack from a free radical once every ten seconds. Antioxidants are like the "bodyguards" for the cells in our body. They protect the cells from damage by the free radicals. This is why antioxidants are important.



Dr S.S. Gill  
Resident Consultant  
Ophthalmologist,  
Hospital Fatimah

### SOME THINGS CAUSING FREE RADICAL PRODUCTION:

- **Ultraviolet light** – sun exposure increases chances of cataracts and skin cancer.
- **Toxins** – cigarette smoke, poisonous wastes of our own metabolism, the chemicals invariably found in our food, pesticides and air pollution.



### ANTIOXIDANTS LUTEIN AND ZEAXANTHIN

Lutein and zeaxanthin are important nutrients that have been found to reduce the risk of chronic eye diseases, including age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and cataracts. These carotenoids are powerful antioxidants that protect the cells of the body from damage caused by free radicals.

### FOODS RICH IN LUTEIN AND ZEAXANTHIN

Green vegetables such as kale, spinach, turnip, broccoli, garden peas and eggs. To get the best avoid excessive cooking and storage as heat and storage reduces the antioxidant effectiveness.

### HOW DO THE ANTIOXIDANTS LUTEIN AND ZEAXANTHIN WORK?

Antioxidants Lutein and zeaxanthin filter the harmful high-energy blue wavelengths of light and help to protect and maintain healthy cells in the eye.

### LUTEIN AND ZEAXANTHIN SLOWING CATARACT FORMATION

Lutein and zeaxanthin may play a role in cataract prevention. In fact, studies have shown that lutein and zeaxanthin along with vitamin E was associated with a decreased risk of cataract formation. This is because these antioxidants may slow down the oxidation of the lens and therefore slow down cataract formation.

### LUTEIN AND ZEAXANTHIN IN AGE RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (AMD)

Age Related Macular Degeneration results in visual loss. Clinical studies done have shown that high levels of antioxidants and zinc significantly reduced the risk of advanced AMD.

For more information, please call Gill Eye Specialist Centre, Hospital Fatimah **05 545 5582** or email [gilleycentre@dr.com](mailto:gilleycentre@dr.com)



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(Regd No 687483 T)

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Off Persiaran Selangor,  
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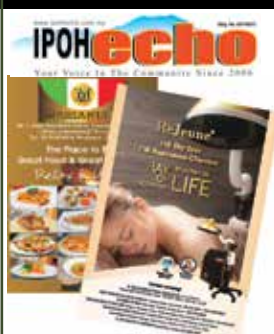
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# The MB's House is Not For Sale

The Pakatan Harapan government, in Putrajaya, is trying to cut costs, but the new Perak Menteri Besar, Ahmad Faizal Azumu, is doing the opposite. His job is not to build tourist attractions in Perak, which will become the equivalent of the White House, or Buckingham Palace, or The Palace of Versailles. These buildings are full of history, whilst Perak's will be associated with profligacy. So, why is the new MB, acting like an Umno-Baru stooge, who sells government assets because the sales are hugely profitable, and then lists umpteen reasons to justify the sales?

In early June, when it was alleged on social media that the former Menteri Besar, Zambry Abdul Kadir, had not moved out of the Menteri Besar's official residence, denials were issued by both the outgoing Zambry, and the newly-installed Ahmad Faizal.

The Umno-Baru media machinery went into overdrive, issuing statements, which were reported by the major newspapers, dismissing the concerns, which I had written, in response to the many requests by worried Perakians.

Many casual observers felt that both MBs had over-reacted.

A brief explanation would have sufficed; stating that Zambry had been given a grace period of a few days to move from the official residence. Instead, he alleged that I had slandered him, whilst the new MB, issued a lengthy and clumsy statement claiming that the official residence was not habitable, because it was undergoing extensive renovations, which would take three months to complete.

Two and a half months later, on August 4, Ahmad Faizal told Bernama, that the MB's official residence may be put up for sale.

The reasons were manifold:

- The residence was unsuitable for occupation.
- It lacked proper security.
- The location was unsuitable.

He said, "Now several buildings are being erected around the house that it is no longer suitable for a menteri besar to stay, not just me but anyone in the future."

"I have informed the Perak ruler Sultan Nazrin Shah about this matter."

This is extraordinary. This is the first time, that many Perakians and Ipohites have heard that the residence is unsuitable for an MB; furthermore, why has he informed the sultan, before the matter has been debated in the state assembly?

Why did the state decide to renovate the residence, and then decide to sell it off? What is happening? They seem to be planning like headless chickens.

The real reason for this sale, lies in his following statement. He said that the value of the residential land was high and when sold, a number of projects could be implemented, such as "housing construction for all state executive councillors." What does he mean by this?

He also claimed that the State Economic Planning Unit was considering various proposals, from various sources, for possible projects that would suit the area.

He said, "We will make sure, whatever will be decided, it will safeguard the state's interests as well as to add value to the people of Perak."

Haven't Malaysians, been stung before, when state assets were sold-off to crony companies and the money siphoned into individuals' pockets?

Shouldn't the new MB and his administration try to regain the trust of the people, by telling us when corruption charges will be levelled against those who are alleged to have mismanaged MB Inc and the other quasi government bodies, which wasted several hundreds of millions of ringgits on projects which have failed?

What happened to all those promises, made before GE-14? Show us some results of the initial investigations into corruption proceedings, instead of alarming us with more waffle, stating that land is valuable and state assets will be sold to take advantage of the high prices?

Ahmad Faizal said that if a new official residence were to be built, it would be constructed beautifully and could be open to visitors to take pictures of the building as a memento.

Is he serious? With several issues plaguing the state, this is not what Perakians want to hear. What does he want? Grand mansions like those found in Tambun Heights? Or the one occupied by the former Chief Minister of Malacca? Has he seen the humble dwelling of

the former MB of Kelantan, Nik Aziz Nik Mat?

Ahmad Faizal is a menteri besar whose job is to administer the state. He was not made an MB, to construct vanity projects, or be known for his self aggrandisement. His job is to cut the wasteful spending in Perak. He should revamp the administration of the government and make it a slick, efficient and lean operating machine. Instead, we are told that a more beautiful building will be constructed, to house him and future MBs.

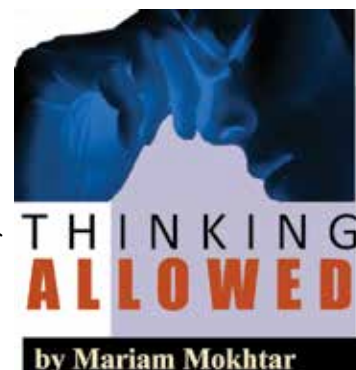
Who will pay for this grand experiment? Will the Perak taxpayer be forced to pay an inflated price, to a crony company, to build the new palace, when in actual fact, the true cost of the building will be a fraction of the final price?

Ahmad Faizal's handling of the Manjoi fiasco, at the start of his term in office, was abominable. What happened to the investigation into the thugs who forced the shop assistants to remove alcohol from the shelves, in the shop? We cannot have legitimate businesses being targeted by extremists. If the truth be told, the men were bullies who used religion to intimidate the public and possibly, a rival business, in typical samseng style.

What is the MB doing about Orang Asli lands which were allegedly illegally handed to timber companies? What is he doing about the pollution of our rivers? How does he propose to tackle the drug taking among Perak youths? What is he going to do about the Mat Rempit menace, which is plaguing some roads in the nation? Will he continue to inject millions of ringgit into the white elephant, aka the Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS)?

So, what is the new MB's vision for Perak? How is he going to increase the revenue for the Perak coffers?

If he continues with his stunted view of progress and development in Perak, few Perakians who have migrated in search of better opportunities, will want to return to contribute to the well-being and future of the state. Get real, and get your priorities right, MB!

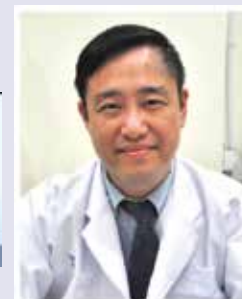


by Mariam Mokhtar

## ABOUT LASIK

Dr Lee Mun Toong  
Consultant Eye Specialist Surgeon KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital

## Advantages of Femtosecond Laser LASIK



## Bladeless Femtosecond Laser Eases Blade LASIK Fears

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Reduction in retreatment rates

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The femtosecond laser also gives the LASIK surgeon more options in flap size, shape, and orientation, for a more customized LASIK procedure for each patient's needs.

Finally, a femtosecond laser can create a corneal flap that has edges that enable the flap to fit more securely in place after the LASIK procedure, potentially reducing healing time and decreasing the risk of dislocation of the flap after surgery.

For more information, readers can call Lee Eye Specialist 05 254 4388 or email at [ishkjpj@gmail.com](mailto:ishkjpj@gmail.com). Also visit their Facebook page: LASIK Services at KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital.

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# SeeFoon Takes a Walk on the Health Side

Pics by Vivien Lian



ON IPOH  
FOOD



By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen  
seefoon@ipohecho.com.my



I'm not known for my athletic prowess, especially walking, and when Vivien Lian, my young and energetic junior 'Foodie' suggested I go and have a meal at the **Gaharu Tea Valley in Gopeng**, I balked, making excuses and bemoaning the long drive, etc. Finally I succumbed and made the journey, and was very glad I did.

Breathing the fresh air in the 300-acre Gaharu plantation was invigorating. I was met by the handsome and charming **Operations Manager Anand Lourdes** and given the full brief. I was told that the invaluable negative ions released from the 200,000 Gaharu trees' branches, leaves and flowers help disinfection, removal of fatigue, stimulate the autonomic nervous system, promote emotional stability, and prevent organ diseases. In addition, Gaharu aroma can stimulate the central nervous system and balance emotions. Can I build a house there?

Gaharu Tea Valley Gopeng is the only organic plantation with 120 ha of the species 12-in-1 Aquilariaspp trees. Due to its uniqueness, this special species of Gaharu has been aptly named **HOGA (Holistic Gaharu)**.

The use of Gaharu, also known as Black Gold, harks back to as early as 600 AD in various kingdoms of the world. Emperors, royal families, noblemen and the rich used it for medicinal purposes. It is also an important component of traditional Chinese and Malay medicine. As early as the 8th century, Muslim and Indian traditional medicine dispensing records showed that Gaharu was used as incense.

Wow, with all those claims, it is no wonder that their showroom cum shop is a magnet for tourists who come, take the tour known as the Gaharu Experience, and end up buying all the wonderful Gaharu products on offer.

Now **Ashley Ho**, daughter of the founder **David Ho**, who had the foresight to plant all these trees 26 years ago, has taken on the task for creating more products from the health giving trees and is now offering special meals for groups of 10 or more.

I had the pleasure of tasting one of these meals recently. Ashley who is an electrical engineer by training (!) as is husband Anand, professes to be still experimenting with her recipes. Yet the meal that she served for tasting would do any restaurant proud. Add on the health giving benefits of the HOGA leaves (rich in several essential nutrients including calcium, iron, manganese, zinc and various polyphenols with antioxidant properties all of which play important roles in the body) in every dish and it's worth the trip out there with a group of friends.

The deli serves **HOGA Tea Noodles** – RM7.90; **HOGA Tea Nasi Lemak** – RM7.90; **HOGA Gui Ling Gou** – RM5; **HOGA Osmanthus Jelly** – RM2; **HOGA Soft-serve Ice Cream** – RM3; **HOGA Tea Eggs** – RM1.60; **HOGA Coffee** – RM4 and **HOGA Fruit Tea** – RM3. These are readily available all day, every day. If it's a quick bite after the Gaharu tour, then I would say the Nasi Lemak is well worth having as are the tea eggs and the Soft-serve Ice Cream. All infused with the HOGA goodness.

For the main feast, the **HOGA Matcha Vegetarian Fried Rice** was amazing considering that the 'mock' lardons made from soya meal was wonderfully crispy and crackling and the HOGA tea leaves permeating the rice lent it a distinctive aroma, the texture of which was enhanced with 'Tsoi Po' or preserved radish, RM15.90.

**HOGA Braised Chicken with Tea Basmati Rice and HOGA chicken soup** was lovely, using their prepacked herbal mix for the chicken and tofu, the chicken which is free range was well steeped



in the sauce, redolent with hints of cloves, star anise and cinnamon, the accompanying Basmati rice cooked in HOGA tea, matched with a very umami chicken soup laden with white fungus, guaranteed cooked without MSG, RM26.90.

We then had their **HOGA Grilled Chicken pieces with Tea Basmati Rice** and HOGA chicken soup similar to the braised soya chicken except that this chicken was grilled instead, RM26.90. The **HOGA Grilled Free-Range Chicken** was served as a whole bird, still juicy on the inside at RM70/bird.

We were then treated to a bowl of their **HOGA Birds Nest sweet soup** at RM80 per bowl. Although pricey, and as we all know that bird's nest IS pricey, this sweet soup was laced with the goodness of HOGA leaves and surprise surprise, the nest comes from the Gaharu Valley's own swiftlet house, all hand-picked and cleaned by hand. A delightful treat in an unusually ambient setting.

Aside from the dishes from the deli, all the dishes mentioned have to be ordered at least two days in advance for a minimum of 10 persons. So what are you waiting for dear readers, gather your group and head off for some healthy fresh air chock full of negative ions, take the tour, hug a Gaharu tree and sit down to a health giving meal.

For more information on the Gaharu Tea Valley Gopeng, an article was written in the Ipoh Echo three years ago with more details on the facilities: [www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2015/05/01/black-gold-in-gopeng](http://www.ipohecho.com.my/v4/article/2015/05/01/black-gold-in-gopeng).



Gaharu Tea Valley Gopeng Agarwood Sanctuary (Pork Free; awaiting Halal certification), Mukim Teja, Kampung Sungai Itik 9840  
Jalan Gopeng, 31600 Gopeng.

GPS: N 04°27'30.00" E 101°11'26.40"

Tel: +605 351 1999/1998

Business hours: 9am-6pm





**Local Council Elections. . . continued from page 2****Election Commission**

Dr Richard stressed that the Election Commission (EC) should come up with criteria and mechanisms to conduct Local Council Elections, with the same technology and expertise that is used during general elections.

"Some things that the EC needs to focus on are candidacy criteria, campaign duration, campaign methods and the amount of campaign money that can be spent by each candidate," he remarked.

He makes another important point, naming the United States of America as an example.

"In the US each candidate is not allowed to spend more than USD5000 and they are not allowed to receive donations of more than USD1000. This is to prevent corruption and manipulation by corporate companies on candidate selection."

**Ideally, when should the local council elections be revived?**

Datuk Kuthubul says that the minister in charge of local government has indicated that the local council elections will be held in three years.

"However, several NGOs have urged the government to hold the local council elections in 2019. My view is that it should be held as soon as possible," he stressed.

Speaking on the legal aspects, Datuk Kuthubul says that the government will need to amend the Local Government Act 1976 to allow for the elections of councillors and to repeal the provision for their appointments.

**Ipoh City Council Shortcomings**

With the current advancement of technology, plenty can be done to improve the living conditions of the people.

No council is perfect, but there is a difference between a council that actively does their jobs and provides for the people, and a council that does not.

Some of the more notable shortcomings of the Ipoh City Council are issues like poor cleanliness. Although the cleanliness of public places is improving, the same cannot be said for housing areas.

Issues like illegal dumping and irregular collection of rubbish are still ongoing problems.

Clogged drains, and damaged roads are issues that have been raised time and again but to no avail.

'Patchwork' fixes are done, but these fixes are temporary and result in uneven roads which are not only dangerous, they are also not ideal for vehicles.

Lack of pedestrian-friendly facilities like zebra crossings and pedestrian bridges is also a concern, as it endangers the lives of people.

Poorly-maintained infrastructure, for example, the Tun Razak Library could do with a new coat of paint and clean windows while Taman D.R. Seenivasagam is in dire need of a thorough clean-up.

**Conclusion**

Generally, it seems that the public is eager for local council elections to make a comeback. The new Ipoh City councillors were sworn-in on Monday, July 30.

There definitely is more than enough work to keep them busy till the end of their term in July next year.

Rest assured, they will be closely watched by Ipohites.

It is after all, the dawn of a new government, as they keep saying.

Power to the people.

**LETTERS**

We reprint some of our reader's comments from our online paper. Go to <http://www.ipohecho.com.my/> to read more. The views expressed in these letters are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Board. We reserve the right to refuse or modify the letters we publish.

**Multi-ethnic Civil Service**

**N**ow that Perak has a new government, the need for a real work to reform, specially the federal and state civil service is anticipated by all Perakians.

Generally, the civil service has lost it's professionalism many years ago, because, it behaves more like a branch of United Malays National Organization (UMNO), than a neutral group of committed civil servants.

In a pluralistic society like ours we should, as far as possible try to ensure that work places, whether in the public or private sector, are genuinely multi-ethnic.

It is, therefore, regrettable that over the last decades, the upper and middle level of Malaysian civil service has become largely Malay in ethnic composition. Since the top management of the civil service commands a great deal of power and influence, this trend has had an adverse impact upon the formulation and implementation of public policies. It is only too apparent that communal considerations dominate civil service thinking much more than ever before. Besides, the greater emphasis upon ethnicity has resulted in a decline of professional values within the civil service. A government is courting trouble when it allows ability and integrity to be sacrificed at the altar of ethnicity.

The new government began their first day at work on Tuesday (May 22), having promised a move of economic and financial reforms, and has vowed to fulfil some of those promises in its first 100 days. In that spirit, we the people of Perak hope that, the new government can put a stop to this ethnic trend in the civil service.

For a start, there should be a clear directive to the effect that in promotions and appointments of department heads and the like, ethnic considerations should be set aside. This would be in line with the Federal Constitution which while allowing for ethnic ratios in recruiting into JUSA (Jawatan Utama Sektor Awam) of the civil services does not stipulate ethnic requirements for promotions and appointments to positions within the civil service.

Malaysia's coming of age as a democracy represents a change in how it's people perceive themselves. No longer mere pawns of history, they have made history by getting rid of an unpopular government and placing the 93-year-old Tun Mahathir back in power. If Perak and the new government is going to have a bright future, then it remains to be seen in how the new government keeps its trust.

**S. Sundralingam**

**Environmental Damage to Ipoh Hills**

**A**s an Ipoh resident, I am appalled by the rampant damage to our environment especially at Simpang Pulai/Gopeng and now the quarry/cutting of Kledang hills near Menglembu-Lumut highway. Why did the State government grant license to cut/damage our hills? When will they stop or will they be allowed to cause more damage?

I think the Ipohecho should do a feature on this important issue. As more of our residents and citizens are informed, we will be able to exert pressure upon our State government to stop all undesirable activities that cause permanent damage to our precious environment!

**Lai Thian Seong**

**Ipoh and Perak's Future – Not Just Tourism**

**A**t the recent YMCA dinner on July 22 to raise funds for Tabung Harapan. YB Nga Kor Ming gave an eloquent, light-hearted yet rallying address for Malaysians abroad to come home to Malaysia to build a new and better Malaysia, and for every rakyat to play their part in the development of our country.

YB Nga also mentioned his belief that Ipoh/Perak's future lies in tourism and not industry as Ipoh lacks the necessary infrastructure.

The glaring question would then be: Why does Perak lack the necessary infrastructure that has enabled Penang to be a giant in industry thus generating jobs for Penangites?

Well, BN has been the ruling state government of Perak until PRU14 this year, so we can safely say BN did a poor job in planning and building needed infrastructure, and an even worse job at growing Perak's economic engines. MAPS is a huge FAIL for everyone to see. A legacy of BN.

Ipoh has light industry in Menglembu and Pengkalan with companies such as Carsem, K1, Tasek Cement and a smattering of others. But clearly insufficient to provide meaningful employment to Perakians who are compelled to find jobs in KL or Singapore.

Why can't Menglembu and Pengkalan be further developed to attract more industry to Perak? Why can't roads and Internet connection and water supply be upgraded to support industry?

I read (in The Star Online) that Airbus SE has agreed in principle to conduct a feasibility study for an investment to build a final assembly line (FAL) in Negeri Sembilan. What extra advantage does Negeri Sembilan have that Perak doesn't?

Our State Investment, Industrialisation, Entrepreneurship, Education and Human Capital Committee needs to get up and get going to grab those investment opportunities for Perak.

Other than industry, why is there no international university with a local campus in Ipoh? Universities such as Monash, Curtin and Nottingham have already established their presence in Malaysia. An education hub is capable of catalyzing the growth of the state's economy as can be seen by what UTAR has done for Kampar. The state government must offer attractive and significant incentives if it is to draw in investment.

Ipoh is renowned for its excellent food and voted by booking.com as THE place to sample local delights.

But relying on tourism alone is just lazy. Pakatan Harapan needs to do better for Perak.

**Judy Lam**

**To Advertise**

**Deanna Lim**

**016 501 7339**



# New in Town: The Porch

Unveiled in July, The Porch is the latest addition in town for your next tippie and bistro dining to toast the setting sun.

The urban hideaway features a LED-lit bar and open ceiling dotted with filament light bulbs to ease one into total unwind mode with its warm glow.

The relaxed seating inside fits about 100 while the street facing outdoor terrace seats over 60.

As the resident DJ mixes the finest tunes of R&B and House music, head for the full bar with extensive drinks menu and amazing happy hour specials from 4pm to 9pm. Then, stay on for a hearty dinner served by its amiable staff in the cozy space. From appetizer, main course, tapas to dessert, there is something for every palate as the dishes are done fusion-style.

Head Chef Kyle Lim Chin Kai, 35, has vast experience in both Asian and Western cuisine. Having worked at Petaling Jaya (Hanazen Japanese Restaurant and Brussels Beer Cafe), Ipoh (Berlin's Bier Houz and Movida Kitchen + Terrace) and once his own business at Cameron Highland, he has multiple signature dishes to his name.

Patrons are in for a treat as The Porch is currently brimming with promotions.

For the month of August, the Porch chef choice combo pairs a main course with



Head Chef Kyle Lim



either a 300ml Xtra Cool Mug Carlsberg or chilled juice. The pairings are priced at RM45++ for lamb shank, RM33++ for cordon bleu chicken, RM30++ for Hawaiian pizza and RM30++ for Thai duck pasta.

Every Tuesday is family day as kids eat for free with purchase of two main courses.

On Friday and Saturday, the mix and match promo enables one to pick two bottles of liquor at a special rate. For instance, Jack Daniels and Absolut Vodka at RM450++, Macallan (12 years) and Glenlivet (12 years) at RM730++, Hennessy (VSOP) and Gold Label (Reverse) at RM680++, Singleton (12 years) and JW Black Label (12 years) at RM600++ and two Singleton (12 years) at RM600++.

Cheer up your Thursdays at the Ladies Night in which groups of five ladies get a bottle of red wine free. For every set of tray shot (six shots of tequila, vodka or jager), ladies get another set on the house too.

Out to impress on a date night? Couples Night on Wednesday is perfect as couples can get two bottles of premium wine for the price of one. Plus there are quiz and game prizes to be won.

For the month of August, the Black Label bottle promo is available daily at RM500++.

Non-beer drinkers will be well looked after with a range of sparkling juices, soft drinks, fresh juice and chilled juice. All food and drinks are subjected to 10% service charge. **Official opening date for The Porch falls on 31 Aug 2018. There will be classic car show, live band and guest DJs in the event.**

Mei Kuan



For reservations, call **018 2450 966** or email [theporchipoh@gmail.com](mailto:theporchipoh@gmail.com)  
Operating hours: **4pm – 1am for weekdays and 4pm – 2am for the weekend (Closed on Monday)**  
Address: **12 & 14 Jalan Veerasamy 30300 Ipoh Perak.**  
Facebook page: **The Porch**

## My Say

By Jerry Francis



## Fishing Village – A Testimony of Religious Tolerance

The existence of a small century-old Catholic chapel in a fishing village in the estuary of Sungai Sepetang in Perak is a testimony of religious tolerance. Although there is not a single Christian in Kuala Sangga, the St Anne chapel has been rebuilt and maintained.

And occasionally, candles are also being lighted and placed at the altar and the main statue.

The 100-odd residents of a closely knit Teochew community in the village are all devotees of the Chinese temple in the village.

I was with some members of my family on a tour of Kuala Sepetang (formerly known as Port Weld) recently, when our guide told us of the chapel in a fishing village nearby.

I must confess that though a Catholic, who has been residing in Perak for many years, I have not heard of the chapel. Therefore, I was very curious and eager to visit it.

It took us about half an hour by motorboat from Kuala Sepetang to Kuala Sangga, located on a mangrove island. It is only approachable from the river.

We disembarked on a concrete jetty and walked along its narrow bridge for about 30m to the houses, which were built on stilts along the shore with the back to the mangroves swamp. The whole village is connected by long concrete and wooden bridges. The village's modest 'kopitiam' is the first place a visitor will see on arrival.

There is no water and electricity supply. The villagers collect rainwater and installed small generators for electricity.

We arrived in the afternoon and the scene was typical of fishing villages in the country. Some of the villagers were in small groups watching television or having their own discussions. While a few were seen mending their fishing nets.

We walked to the western end of the village, where the Poay Chhee Chinese national-type primary school is located. In fact it is the best building on the island. A concrete building constructed on solid ground. Its pastel green walls are decorated with drawings of dolphins and turtles.

On the eastern side is the pristine St Anne chapel. A small concrete building sandwiched between a row of houses.

It is a white building with a large statue of St Anne in front. There is an altar, a few pews and a number of smaller statues inside the chapel.

Also on display inside is a list of names of those, Catholics and non-Catholics, who had donated towards the construction of the new building.

The chapel was built when a group of Catholics from Teochow, China, came around the end of the 19th Century to set up the village.

During the Feast of St Anne in August each year, priests and groups of Catholics would come and hold mass in the chapel.

In 1954, the old chapel miraculously escaped a blaze. Most of the houses in the village were destroyed, but the fire stopped short at the chapel.

According to our tour guide, the villagers initially wanted to move the chapel out as there are no longer any Christians in their midst.

They consulted the deity in their temple through a medium and were told that the chapel must not be moved out of the island.

So the villagers decided that not only would they look after the chapel, but also launch a fundraising drive to rebuild the old wooden and zinc building.

Kuala Sangga is a thriving fishing village, specializing in fish breeding in cages and cockle farming. However, there are signs everywhere that the village is dying.

A number of houses have been left abandoned and the population has dropped to just about 100 residents and the enrolment of the school has also reduced to only 11 pupils.

Most of the children, who had sought their secondary education away from the village, must have refused to return to the village as there are no prospects for them.

Many villagers have also bought houses in the mainland and moved their families there. The village is now just their operational base.





## Dimple Creation Surgery

**Dr. Leow Aik Ming**

Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon  
Pantai Hospital Ipoh and Pantai Hospital Manjung

In traditional Asian folklore, the presence of a dimple suggests good fortune and fertility, while in the West it is more simply viewed as a cute and unusual facial curiosity. For whatever reason, surgical creation of a dimple is often mentioned as a form of Asian body modification, even though dimples seem to occur no more or less commonly in Asians than in others. Dimples have always been considered to be "cute", however not all of us were blessed with that natural "cute" factor. All that can be changed, thanks to cosmetic procedures such as dimple creation surgery. Dimple creation surgery is safe and effective, but also potentially reversible.



### Preoperative evaluation and planning

Communication is vital in order to achieve the patient's goals. During the initial consultation, patients will have the opportunity to discuss their goals, desirable position and shape of the dimple with the plastic surgeon. The plastic surgeon will work closely with the patient to reach an agreement about the expectations from the surgical procedures involved and their long term benefits. Every patient is different, therefore a specific treatment regimen is planned to suit an individual's need.

### How is a dimple created?

The surgery can be performed on any kind of cheeks, be it chubby or not. It would be easier if the cheeks are not too chubby. The procedure involves simulating the natural way a dimple is formed, by forming a connection between the skin and the cheek muscle, such that when the muscle contracts, it pulls the skin inwards to form a dimple. The surgical procedure used to create a dimple is relatively easy and is commonly done on an outpatient basis.

Before the procedure, the inner (buccal mucosal surface) and outer (skin surface) of the cheek is infiltrated with local anaesthesia. It can be done by a blade or core biopsy instrument by placing an incision at the buccal mucosa. An adequate amount of the buccal mucosa, submucosal fat and cheek muscle are removed resulting in a shallow defect, leaving the skin intact. This will create a shallow cylindrical-shaped defect under the skin at the cheek. If a prominent dimple is desired, a larger soft tissue defect is created intraorally leaving the skin untouched. This defect is then closed by placing an absorbable suture through the cheek muscle on one side of the defect, then through the dermis layer of the skin and finally through the cheek muscle on the other side of the defect. A surgical knot is tied, which in turn will result in dimpling of the skin even without smiling for several weeks. The skin will, however, gradually flatten out in 2-3 weeks when the suture is absorbed. Once the internal scarring takes place, it will connect the muscle to the skin, creating a dimple when one smiles.



### Postoperative expectations

There is usually minimal swelling and bruises at the cheek after the surgery. The postoperative care is just as simple and uncomplicated as the procedure which involves regular mouth rinsing with oral antiseptic solution and antibiotic intake. Normal activities can be resumed straight after the procedure.

For more information on the procedure mentioned in this article, please visit the following website ([www.elegantplasticsurgery.com](http://www.elegantplasticsurgery.com)).

Online consultation is also available if you have any enquiries, please email: [elegantplasticsurgery@gmail.com](mailto:elegantplasticsurgery@gmail.com).

Elegant Plastic Surgical Centre, **Pantai Hospital Ipoh**,  
Tel: +605 5405457 (Receptionist) or +605 5405458 (Direct Line)  
WhatsApp : +0126235458

Elegant Plastic Surgical Centre, **Pantai Hospital Manjung**,  
Tel: +605 6898624 (Receptionist) or +605 6898697 (Direct Line).

## Lifestyle

# A Night of Royal Korean Cuisine



When 50 guests sat down to a sumptuous feast hosted by Dato' Lim Si Boon in the private dining room of Meru Suites Eco Village, they were expecting kimchi and the usual Korean barbecue as they were told it would be a Korean dinner.

To everyone's surprise and delight, they were treated to a 9-course royal banquet, to dishes that only royalty in Korea were privy to in days of yore.

With two celebrity chefs curating in the kitchen, the Korean tableaux unfolded as guests sipped Korean soju, a distilled Korean spirit of low alcohol content (around 20-25%) while waiting to be seated.

Then the banquet began.

The side dishes were beautifully laid out on the table as we sat down. Radish Water Kimchi, Cabbage Kimchi Cabbage Fresh Kimchi and Soy Sauce Braised Beef, with the Kimchi being replenished regularly. The first course of Pine Nut porridge went down a treat, velvety smooth ground pine nuts delicately seasoned, which was a first for me, world traveller that I claim to be.

The assortment of nine cold appetizers that followed were beautifully plated, tasty morsels that tantalized rather than fill, followed by mains like mushrooms with grilled minced beef, assorted pan fried delicacies, sliced and seasoned barbecue beef, stir fried noodles with vegetables and ending with Korean Rice Cake with Omija Punch.

Chef Kim Hanna is the award winning Senior Resident Korean Specialist at the Kongju Restaurant, the leading fine dining Korean restaurant in Bangkok. Chef Kim Hanna's expertise and knowledge of traditional Korean ingredients and recipes has been the heart of the phenomenal success that Kongju has enjoyed for 20 years. She regularly appears in the news for receiving popularly coveted culinary awards and occasionally graces Thai television as a guest judge for cooking contests or to simply whip up her signature dishes on national television.

Before becoming famous in the field of Korean Food Art, Chef Kim Priscilla started her career as a viola player in Seoul, South Korea. With her love for food and arts combined, she decided to study at the Royale Korean Cuisine Institute. Chef Kim Priscilla now runs her own studio in Seoul where she teaches Royale Korean Food Art with music.

They were brought in specially by Meru Golf Resort to demonstrate the art of Korean cuisine to their culinary team.



Datin Lim Hui Yi with Chef Hanna and Chef Priscilla



## To Advertise



**Deanna Lim**  
016 501 7339

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Suggested area: **Menglembu, Kledang, Falim, Silibin, Jelapang, Taman Meru, Merdeka Garden, Lim Garden, Jalan Kuala Kangsar, Fair Park.**

Contact: **Ms Jennifer @ 017 561 1767**

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## Education



## Sunway College Open Day

Choosing a course and institution for the first time can be problematic. However, it need not be daunting, especially when there are people to guide you through the options.

Sunway College Ipoh (SCI) Open Day, which was held recently came in time to allow students to discover what courses were available with the guidance of the lecturers.

Visitors were taken on a tour of the facilities, availed themselves to talks, presentations, hands-on workshop, counselling sessions, lab demonstrations and student activities, just to give them a first-hand experience of being a student at SCI.

Lecturers and students were on hand at every corner, to answer every question, ranging from fees and campus facilities to enrolment and scholarship opportunities.

Sunway College Registry Head, Rani Arumugam said she was pleased as the college continues to be competitive and relevant in the ever-changing education landscape in Ipoh and internationally.

"This open day is a great opportunity for us to provide visitors with a unique, interactive and fun-filled educational experience, as well as encourage them to take up higher education with us," she said during the open day.

Visitors had the opportunity to check out the scholarships available under the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

Among the scholarships offered, according to Rani, were Jeffrey Cheah Entrance Scholarship, Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship, Principal's Scholarship, Media Scholarship, Continuing Bursary and Special Scholarship.

"Diploma graduates of SCI can pursue their study into Year 2 of any Bachelor Degree Programmes at Sunway University. This is an advantage we offer. Students can save time and money to get their bachelor degrees," said Rani.

**Nabilah Hamudin**

## Tourism

# Tour Package for SUKMA

Seven tour packages, specifically designed for the upcoming Sukan Malaysia (SUKMA) 2018, await local and foreign visitors to the biennial games in September.

Tan Kar Hing, Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts and Culture, said that the effort is a collaboration between Tourism Perak, Malaysian Association of Tour & Travel Agents (MATTA) Perak and Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH) Perak.

A total of 66 hotels in the state are involved.

"The packages are not confined to Ipoh only but available for the other 11 districts where events will be held.

"The package will provide visitors with information such as venues of scheduled events," he told reporters after launching the SUKMA promotional packages on Wednesday, August 1 at Excelsior Hotel, Ipoh."

Details of listed hotels, locations, prices, transportation, tourist hotspots and entrance into SUKMA events are also available.

"The package is reasonably priced. It's designed to provide tourists with enough information before they embark on a trip to Perak.

"Those who wish to know more can get brochures of participating hotels from Tourism Perak office or visit Tourism Perak website," he added.

**Rosli Mansor**





## Community

# Pride of Workmanship Award



It is undeniably true that healthcare personnel in psychiatric hospitals and wards perform their duties in a significantly difficult environment. They are constantly exposed to threats of violence by mentally-deranged patients.

As a form of recognition for their sacrifices, Rotary Club of Greentown awarded 12 healthcare personnel from Hospital Bahagia Ulu Kinta (HBUK) with the "Pride of Workmanship Award" on Monday, July 30. The award ceremony was held at the hospital hall. Rotary Club District 3300 Governor, Dr Baskaran Gobala Krishnan gave away the awards.

Among the 12 recipients was a 51-year-old head nurse, Hafishoh Che Pa. Being able to work with those with mental illnesses for the past 20 years was a gift to Hafishoh.

When asked what motivates her to do her very best every day, she replied, "My patients' well-being is what keeps me going. To see my patients improve health-wise is what motivates me the most. It gives me satisfaction to see them improve gradually every day," said Hafishoh.

Having worked at Hospital Sultanah Aminah in Johor Bahru, Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun in Ipoh and Hospital Kampar for six years, she finds working in HBUK more family-oriented and encourages better relationships with patients.

"The patients here are the most genuine people I've ever met. They're like my family members. Compared to other hospitals where I had worked before, this is more satisfying," she added.

A recovery staff, Kwong Mei Yee, who worked at the hospital since 1993, said she felt contented to see her patients taking control of their lives after being discharged.

"Recently, two of my former patients found jobs. I'm so happy for them. I believe every patient can recover and lead a meaningful life thereafter," said Kwong who was surprised when told that she would be receiving an award.

The award is a brainchild of Rotary Club and is aimed at honouring employees, irrespective of age or vocation. It is one way for employers to reward employees who have shown distinctive qualities like positive attitude and aptitude in the workplace. It also enables employers to publicly acknowledge selected staff for their dedication and passion.

Nabilah Hamudin

## Connexion

By Joachim Ng

### Scrap this colonial word 'race'

Each time you fill in a form that asks for your race, and you comply, you are reinforcing a colonial chain. Independence saw most vestiges of colonialism discarded, except this shackles. For many emerging Third World nations it was a useful political instrument to keep.

Race belief is a scam — a 19th century conqueror's invention to segment human populations into colonisers and the colonised. The first racial classification was a simplistic division into white, black, and yellow races that was later expanded into five continental races to include the reds and browns. The white races were, of course, always stacked on top. Upon gaining independence many nations kept this schema, but repainted the top stack a local colour.

We love wearing the race chain, as even our largest commercial institutions require you to state your race in their application forms. After that comes the line where you state your nationality. So race comes first; nationality comes second. Is that nation building or nation tearing? Are the Malays, Chinese, and Indians three races? No, they are large ethnic clusters that have been formed in three adjoining regions — Nusantara, India, and China.

Genetically, all humans are one species with no sub-division into races. It's biologically wrong to ask someone his race, as our DNA variations are relatively minor. Keep talking race and we drift further apart because we are heightening this "us" versus "them" feeling. Racial stimulation is a "fight" response evoked by some groups who want you to feel threatened by other human groups. By provoking racial aggravation, they are tearing the country apart.

On August 31 all Perakans — especially Ipohites — should resolve to scrap this colonial word "race" and replace it with "ethnicity," as that is the correct term. Ethnicity denotes the sociocultural differences that populations develop in separate regions of the world. No doubt, Perak is a showcase of ethnic facial and skin colour diversity: that's due to variations in sunlight intensity and other environmental conditions in the ancestral lands of Nusantara, India, and China.

Nevertheless, Ipoh became an innovation hub for colour-blind politics as the townsfolk believed that a person's capability and commitment to serve counted as more important than his ethnicity. Old-timers remember the Seenivasagam brothers (S.P. and D.R.) from the small "Ceylonese" minority who were elected to govern the town after Merdeka. The dynamic duo established for Ipoh a 15-year-long record of having the cleanest streets and cleanest administration. Ipoh can lead Malaysia again, and one initiative is to abolish the race line in all forms.



## To Advertise



**Deanna Lim**  
016 501 7339

# Haircut for a Greater Cause

In conjunction with Perak Community Specialist Hospital's (PCSH) fundraising dinner, Wars SB Saloon & Academy participated in one of the fundraising activities with a haircut extravaganza on Sunday August 5 at AEON BIG Falim, Ipoh.

More than 10 hair stylists from the said academy did their part for charity, snipping away and styling the hair of a long stream of participants from 11am till 3pm that day.

Participants only had to pay RM20 per ticket to get a brand new look — but most of all, have the satisfaction of knowing they were doing it all for a greater cause. All proceeds collected will be channeled towards the upgrading of facilities and services in PCSH to enable it to continue providing affordable quality healthcare to the community.

Held simultaneously at the function that day were:

- free basic health screenings;
- blood donation campaign from Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun; and
- charity bazaar.

The charity haircut managed to raise RM8950 while the charity bazaar raked up another RM3095, bringing in a total collection of RM12,045. A total of 170 participants attended the health screening activities throughout the day while about 74 pints of blood was collected as well.

"It is an honour to be able to participate in this fundraising activity. This is not the first time we are doing this and I believe this will definitely not be our last," said Mr Titus Tok, founder of Wars SB Saloon & Academy.

Chief Executive Officer of PCSH, Mr Nicholas Chan added: "It was a really great response from the public today and we appreciate each and everyone who have supported us. I always believe that together, we CAN make a difference in the community.

Chairman of PCSH Fundraising Organizing Committee, Mr Woo expressed his gratitude by saying: "The event would not have been such a success without the helping hand extended by the sponsors: AEON Big Falim, Ipoh and Venus Excellent Sdn Bhd."

Interested readers who would also like to help raise funds for PCSH can call **012 505 3851** (Kit Ting), **017 520 0028** (Christine Leow) or **012 510 0102** (Bonnie). Donations can be made to: **The Perak Chinese Maternity Association, CIMB Account: 8601253753**. All donations are tax exempted.





## Community



## Silveritage Galleria

**S**ilveritage Galleria along Jalan Raja Dr Nazrin Shah in Medan Gopeng was officially opened in January. Incidentally, how may Ipohites know about its existence?

Ipoh Echo visited the building and was impressed with its ambience and lay out. It was once an out of the way bus terminal that city folks love to loathe. The newly renovated building, under the ambit of the Perak State Development Corporation (PKNP), looks people-friendly with plenty of room for maneuvering.

However, it seems a waste as feedback from visitors and traders is not too encouraging. When Echo visited the building around 10am one day last week, it was deserted. Most of the parking lots were empty. Morning was definitely not the ideal time for business. Most of the shops on the first floor were closed. A feeling of despondency was in the air.

During the visit, few traders recounted their frustrations with the management for forcing upon them what they considered as improper.

This frustration stems from the PKNP forcing them to evacuate their shops in Megoplex, after which PKNP failed to advertise and market Silveritage.

They have been inconvenienced far too long, as the lack of publicity has caused



them to lose customers, and with that, the money that feeds their families.

According to Samira Muhd Azmi, 37, her retailing business has not seen any profit since January.

"Imagine, I don't make anything the past seven months. I just make enough to pay the RM1,500-monthly rental.

"PKNP must do something to help us. We've other commitments such as staff's salary," said Samira, who has been operating a sports attire and accessories business for almost 15 years now.

Samira was among the many traders who received notices from PKNP to vacate Megoplex, the shopping mall down the road, last year. She was told to move to Silveritage. Without her old customers, it would be difficult to make ends meet.

"The current situation forced me to find an alternate platform. I advertised on the internet. It's like starting business all over again," she told Ipoh Echo.

Another trader, Norliana Juwanda, 30, said she only received two customers on an average on weekdays but none on weekends.

"We need a viable marketing strategy from the management. They asked us to move here but they didn't do anything in terms of promotion. Many people are in the dark about this place.

"More promotional programmes need to be held here to publicise the place. There's no official launching since January," said Norliana, adding that the rental rates are much higher than Megoplex.

"The rental here is RM1,500, while in Megoplex, it's only RM900 and business there was much better," she complained.

She added that separated section is the problem. Food is on the ground while other businesses are on the first floor. And the two are connected by a staircase.

"From my observation, the food court is well patronised but people normally leave once they have finished their meals. They rarely go upstairs to browse because of the distance. If all are on the ground floor customers get a chance to wander around before and after eating," said Norliana.

Food court tenant, Muhammad Khair Alimar Shidi, 26, proposed more family activities be held in order to attract visitors.

"This building looks quiet from the outside. People think it's closed. They should put more banners, buntings and signboards to add colour to the drab building. It'll attract people," said Khair.

Comparing Silveritage and Megoplex, Khair felt tenants still prefer the latter.

"Our space here is limited and hot because it's an open food court. However, the sales here are twice the previous place, especially on weekends. The rental is comparatively cheaper.

"It's good to be here but amenities need to be improved. One that is sorely lacking here is washing basins. The ones available are far away," said Khair.

**Nabilah Hamudin**

## Medical

## Mentoring Programme for Medical Graduates

**T**he PMPS's (Perak Medical Practitioners' Society) Mentor-Mentee Programme (MMP) for newly-qualified medical graduates is a service for those graduates waiting to commence house officer posts in order to provide them with continuing medical education to prepare them in terms of general clinical skills and confidence prior to the commencement of house officer posts.

The MMP is an entirely voluntary programme that will match mentees with a mentor in a registered private medical practice.

There is concern that the transition for students to placement for housemanship is an abrupt and stressful one. The concern is compounded by the long waiting time of from six months to ten months for a new medical graduate to obtain a houseman posting. PMPS feels that a program to support the transition period from medical student to practising doctors will be useful and effective in building confidence in both clinical skills and communication skills.



L-R: Dato Dr M. Subramaniam, Dr Yap Foo Ngan, Dr Amarjeet Kaur, En Muhammad Anuar

PMPS successfully ran the first programme from February 1 to April. Seven graduates were placed under voluntary attachment with several specialists and GPs.

The second batch will start from **September 1 to November 30**. UniKL has also shown keen interest in this programme which resulted in a meeting with Dato' Dr M. Subramaniam and En Muhammad Anuar from the Alumni Relation Unit and Dr Yap Foo Ngan and Dr Amarjeet Kaur from PMPS.

Fresh graduates are invited to contact us through whatsapp or email with their details before **August 18**.

Contact details:

**President PMPS**

**Dr Yee Meng Kheong (017 578 4530)**

**Program Co-ordinator**

**Dr Amarjeet Kaur (012 522 6662)**

**Email: pmps.secretariat@gmail.com**

PMPS would also like to appeal for more doctors to come forward to volunteer their services towards this programme as mentors. Please contact us directly for further details.

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iSpeak

By A. Jeyaraj

# MBI – Changes I'd Like To See

New councillors have been appointed to MBI and of the 24 councillors, except for two, the rest are political appointees. The public perception is, it is new wine in old bottle. Business would be as usual.

In the so called New Malaysia, the government is saying that the public are the driving force and things would be done differently. I am suggesting the changes I'd like to see in MBI.

## Mayor

I am always reminded that it is taboo to talk of the glorious days of Ipoh during the fifties when Ipoh was the trend setter for the country. I was a school boy then and whenever I hear of any incident in town, my friends and I would cycle to the place to find out what happened. By the time we arrived, D.R. Seenivasagam (DR), President, Ipoh Town Council, would be there, getting first-hand information. DR can be seen all over the town. Since the boss was working, the subordinates had go to find out what was happening.

I wonder how often the current Mayor comes out of his office. The Mayor must go around the town by himself and see the situation. He can experience the parking problem and traffic jam.

I wanted to see the Mayor and asked his Secretary for an appointment and she told me he was busy for the next two months. I wonder whether he was eating and sleeping during that period. The Mayor must reserve the last hour of the day to meet ratepayers. He is appointed to serve the people.

When Dato' Hj Roshidi and Dato' Hj Abdul Rahim were Mayor and Secretary, there was no problem in seeing them. Most of the time their door was open and I could say hello. Why the problem now?

## Full Board Meeting

I used to attend the Full Board Meeting. The meeting is held once a month to approve the decisions made by the various sub-committees. I found that it was a waste of time and stopped attending. You are only an observer.

The normal agenda of a full board meeting begins with the Mayor's opening remarks which usually reports on any special activities since the previous meeting.

This is followed by the minutes of each department to be endorsed by the full board. The councillors read the titles of the files and they are approved without any debate. The observers present at the meeting have no idea what is being approved.

The meeting ends with the adjournment speech by one of the councillor's. Most of the time they talk about problems and not solutions. Councillors are paid to solve the problems, not to highlight them.

Instead of expecting people to attend the meeting, the sitting can be broadcast live so that anyone interested can see it from home. With modern technology, this should be no problem.

## Councillor Sub-committee Meeting

Ipoh City Watch, a NGO, has been asking that the public must be allowed to attend this meeting, but permission has not been granted. It is during these meetings that important decisions are made. The public have the right to give their views and also participate

in the discussions. Public must have their input in preparation of specification for contracts.

There is a flaw in the current specification for grass-cutting contracts. The person cuts the grass at road shoulder and the grass falls into the drain. It is not the responsibility of the grass cutter to remove this grass and the drain gets clogged and stagnant water become breeding ground for mosquitoes. The contract must be complete. The person cutting the grass must be responsible to remove it. The workers cleaning the drains also leave the garbage behind.

MBI has LA21 Programme which includes the Role of Stakeholders and under Community it is stated:

"Members of the community comprising people with diverse interests and backgrounds. Representative members of the community will forward their respective views in the LA21 partnership and to bring LA21 revolution back to the community and their respective neighbourhoods"

How can the public state their views if they are not allowed to attend the meetings?

My friend visited Melbourne and just walked into the local council meeting and asked questions. The authorities asked about his particulars and said he was welcome to take part in their discussions. This is how first world works.

## Accounts

I read in the papers the Mayor announcing the amount of revenue collected and the amount spent. It is a balanced budget. It is said that about 70 percent of revenue collected is spent on salary and operating costs of MBI. Only about 30 percent is spent on the well-being of the ratepayers.

The Mayor must inform us what is the total amount of assessment to be collected and how much is actually being collected. If the accounts are not under OSA and MBI employs qualified accountants and there is nothing to hide, then the accounts must be made public.

## Councillors

Few years ago, members of civil societies made a survey about councillors. More than 90 percent of the respondents said they did not know who their councillor is. The situation is still the same.

Unlike MPs and assembly persons, the councillors are not elected and we cannot expect the people to know them. A photo of the councillor and his/her contact number must be placed in every zone. Then the people will know who their councillor is. It is the responsibility of the councillors to introduce themselves to the people.

Being political appointees, councillors do not know their responsibilities. A handbook must be given to councilors detailing their duties.

Councillors also have their limitations. During one of the Full Board Meetings, a councillor complained that when he called a MBI staff and said that he is councillor so and so, the response was, so what. This is not an isolated case. Councillors need the co-operation of MBI staff who are responsible to carry out the job.

The bottom line is we must be able to elect our councillors so that they would be accountable to the voters.

With the new government in place, I hope the public would be given the opportunity to have their say in the running of MBI.

## Nosh News with SeeFoon

Pics by Vivien Lian

### Canning Dim Sum



A big welcome to the "pork-free" Dim Sum family, hitherto monopolised by Greentown Dim Sum and Yuk Sou Hin @ WEIL. This is Canning Dim Sum situated in a prime spot right opposite New Hollywood kopitiam in Canning Garden.

Converted from a corner bungalow, this Dim Sum nook is helmed by **Ceylyn Tay** and her husband **YC Nang** whose father supplied 'pau' all over Ipoh for decades. Tapping on this expertise, the couple decided that a pork free dim sum cafe has great potential in our bustling foodie town and has now gathered a sharp team of chefs and service staff offering a wide selection of Dim Sum.

The standard menu has around 50 items so even if you went there every day for a week and ordered six to seven items, you will not run out of choice. With a capacity of 130, the cafe itself has a vaulted ceiling giving a spaciousness to the dining experience, not experienced elsewhere.



Add to this, the beautifully landscaped exterior and it's no wonder that shortly one month after their opening the place was packed the day I was there.

Prices range between RM4/5/6 with certain dishes like their **Abalone Dumpling** costing RM10. I



loved their **Chow Kueh** which is homemade radish cake fried with bean sprouts and in this case, added 'tsai poh' or preserved radish which lent it the extra crunch.

An unusual dish is the **Lala Mai** (a deviation from usual *Siew Mai* which they also have) which is meat farce on top of large clams. Creativity is at work here when the usual pork dishes are out of bounds...like the perennial favourite of steamed spare ribs. They have created a steamed ginger chicken which is smooth, and umami, helping the pork lover to immerse in the non-pork Dim Sum experience. As do the two types of fish ball, one made from Tofu fish and the other one from mackerel.

Also the **smoked duck wrap**, is a great substitute for suckling pig, capturing the same taste and textures, **RM8**.

Their signature and "wow" dish is the **5 flavours of Lau Sa Pau** oozing with black sesame, salted egg, lotus, chocolate and yam. And finally their pièce de résistance has to be their mochi like dessert made with coconut cream, milk and mango which is one mouthful of heaven. They also do one with durian and even though I did not get to sample it, I can imagine what bliss that must be.

**Canning Dim Sum (Pork Free)**

No. 1, Lebuhr Cecil Rae, Taman Canning, 31400 Ipoh.

05 541 5556

Business hours: 6.30am-2pm; Wednesday day off



## Conservation



## Heritage Gallery @ 22 Hale Street

Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad and *The Edge Malaysia* presented “Ipoh Pergi!” (Go to Ipoh!) in conjunction with the special edition on Ipoh by The Edge and the soft launch of 22 Hale Street’s very own heritage gallery. Attended by about 70 invitees, the exclusive preview was held on Tuesday, July 24 at the gallery.

Present were Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, CEO of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad and Ho Kay Tat, Publisher and Group CEO of The Edge Media Group.

When asked on her vision for the heritage gallery, Puan Sri Dato’ Sandra Lee, who initiated and spearheaded the 22 Hale Street project, explained, “To tell stories of the people of Ipoh who made Ipoh what it is today before they are forgotten. Besides that, to provide a community space for people to gather, learn and grow as we are also hiring persons with disabilities and providing more employment opportunities in this space of arts, culture and history.”

“Another objective is to be an encouragement for others to conserve our heritage, both tangible and intangible, in Ipoh,” the tireless philanthropist added.

In this space, one gets to explore Ipoh’s history through photographs, paintings, models and projections. Be sure to check out one of the chambers which displays typical Peranakan furniture as the elaborate embroidery and beadwork on the wedding bed, wedding brocade, wedding slippers and phoenix crown take centre stage.

As the colonial tin and rubber economy boomed, the entrepreneurial tycoons acquired Chinese furniture to dress their mansions. The furniture was often made in China and exported to Chinese diaspora throughout the world. Typically of solid masculine style, sometimes inlaid with glittering mother of pearl, the collection was built as their wealth grew.

The Hale Street project, a gargantuan restoration, is driven by the love of family. It is dedicated to the memory of Sandra’s late father-in-law, Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng, a man of great foresight, wisdom and generosity.

Hale Street itself was named after Abraham Hale, the Inspector of Mines of Kinta in 1885 when Kinta was the epicentre of the tin mining boom. Today, this street is called Jalan Tun Sambanthan and to the locals, Guest Street (Hak Zhan Gaai) as there were many hotels here.

The restaurant called Dong, after the Chinese word for “antique”, is located downstairs featuring an eclectic menu of local flavours. The heritage gallery on the upper level is scheduled to open in August to the public, with an entrance fee of just RM5. For tour booking and latest updates, visit its website: [www.22halestreet.com](http://www.22halestreet.com).

Mei Kuan





# Cancer Research His Calling

“I couldn’t believe my eyes when the interface read, ‘Congratulations you’re a recipient’.”

That was how Ipoh boy Gregory Dominic, 23, felt when he received the news that he was one of the 12 recipients of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Scholarship for session 2018/2019.

The young man with a Bachelor of Science (Biological Science) degree from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, received the scholarship to pursue his MSc degree in Biotechnology with a major in cancer research at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Scholarship is said to be one of the most prestigious scholarships in Malaysia under the Public Service Department Malaysia. Since its introduction in 2006, a total of 153 scholars have received it. Its existence is not known by many and was vouched by Gregory himself.

“Actually, I didn’t even know about it. My USM research supervisor, Dr Nethia, was the one who brought this to light. I applied because I didn’t want to financially burden my dad, Dominic Retnasamy. Another reason was because my MSc degree programme is research-based, thus requiring more financial aid,” he explained.

A month after applying for the scholarship online, Gregory was shortlisted and was called in for a final interview in Putrajaya. The young man was able to convince his panel of interviewers with his research proposal on a cancer therapeutic alternative using natural products.

According to Gregory, his UMT Final Year Project supervisor, Professor Dr Tengku Sifzizul, was the one who got him interested in cancer research. “Not only did he trigger my interest in this field, he also made me aware of how far behind our country is on cancer-cure research,” he said. “I’ve worked closely with marine organisms during my degree. Incidentally, research shows that marine organisms, like sea cucumber, have anti-cancer properties. That’s when it struck me. I realised that we do have a wide range of natural products in Malaysia that could be potential cancer cures. All we lack is research and that’s the stepping stone for me.”

“I came up with my research proposal with the help of my two USM supervisors, Dr Nethia and Dr Darshan Singh.” Handpicked by the selection committee and the Public Service Department Malaysia, Gregory said it was not an easy journey.

“This journey took up a lot of time and effort. It was very gruelling because I had to do lots of reading and research in this field,” he told this scribe.

Gregory said his mother, Grace Saminathan, his brother and Professor Sifzizul



were his biggest motivators. They have always stood by him, giving him the push and advice that he needed.

According to Gregory, the scholarship will help lessen his financial burden. It will provide him with monthly allowances for books and other necessities.

“I’ll also receive funds for research and fees should I want to present my papers at conferences in the country,” he added.

Gregory who loves playing the piano aspires to become a lecturer someday.

“Almost all my role models are lecturers. I feel I’ve a sense of responsibility to pass on the knowledge I have acquired to other students, just like they did to me. Also, it’ll give me a chance to continue my research,” he said.

When asked if he had any advice to give to students, Gregory said, “Never stop dreaming. Have as many dreams as you can. At first, I thought this scholarship was beyond me but here I am. Family is often forgotten these days, but it’s their support and blessings that’ll take you further in life,” he added.

Paaveetra N.

## Upcoming

# Job Fair for the Differently Abled

Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah (YSIS) and Persatuan DAYBREAK in collaboration with Department of Labour, Department of Social Welfare, Perak State Education Department and Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers Perak are organising a job fair for the differently abled (OKU Job Fair 2018) on **Saturday, August 25 from 8.30am to 2.00pm** at YSIS.

Dato’ Dr Ramanathan Ramiah, CEO of YSIS explained, “The disabled community is often sidelined when it comes to employment opportunities. The current law is not sufficient to protect the best interests of OKUs; hence this group is often discriminated against and not offered equal job opportunities. We should not underestimate the ability of the disabled community, as many are just as capable as the able-bodied.”

“There is a government policy that 1% of the disabled community should be employed by all government departments but it is now somewhere between 0.7% - 0.8%. Private sector companies are encouraged to step up and provide more employment opportunities to this group of people. As such, any private sector employers who are interested in giving job opportunities to OKUs are strongly encouraged to contact the organizers,” he added during a press conference held on Tuesday, July 31 at YSIS.

YSIS is an NGO which works very closely with the local community with the hope of rehabilitating children and adults with disabilities either from birth or acquired after an accident, stroke or surgery. Meanwhile, Persatuan DAYBREAK is an NGO established to provide vocational training skills for persons with disabilities. This is to provide them with opportunities to earn a livelihood, gain self-esteem, become self-reliant and be accepted by society.

“We have invited employers from Perak and they will be present at the job fair to conduct on-the-spot interviews for OKUs. We expect at least 150 OKU participants to register for the positions available. Department of Labour, Department of Social Welfare and Manpower Department will set up booths for registration during the job fair. State Health Department is conducting a health screening for all present. Youth & Sports Department will also have a booth to enlist potential paralympic athletes to train with them for future sporting events,” Dato’ Dr Ramanathan elaborated.

“Let us join forces to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate,” he concluded.

Job seekers are advised to dress in proper attire and to bring along resumes and photocopies of relevant certificates.



YSIS is located at Lot 158413, Lorong Bercham 11, Bercham, 31400 Ipoh. For more information, readers can call **05 241 3507** (Joanna – Department of Labour), **019 648 6354** (Steven – Department of Social Welfare), **016 305 6397** (Zaini – Perak State Education Department), **016 520 8660** (Louis – Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers), **05 548 1905** (Lakshmi – YSIS) or **05 323 5908** (Anna Lim – Persatuan DAYBREAK).

Mei Kuan

## Property

# MAPEX Perak 2018



Perak’s largest property exposition, MAPEX Perak 2018 was back this year with the theme, “Innovation for Life and Living”.

Organised by Real Estate and Housing Developers Association (REHDA) Perak, the event was held from Friday, August 3 to Sunday, August 5 at the concourse of the Ipoh Parade shopping mall. The event was launched by Executive Councillor for Housing, Local Government, Public Transport, Non-Islamic Affairs and New Villages, Paul Yong Choo Kiong.

Malaysia Property Exposition (MAPEX) is regarded as the largest one-stop exhibition that brings convenience to those seeking to purchase or invest in property.

According to REHDA Perak chairman, Tony Khoo, MAPEX Perak 2018 was by far the largest and most successful. This was because the take-up rate by developers for the exhibition booths was 100 percent, as all 47 booths were rented out.

“MAPEX Perak 2018 is very special as Bumi MAPEX is also a part of the show,” said Khoo during the opening ceremony.

Bumi MAPEX has been a part of MAPEX since 2006 to help provide a sales platform for Bumiputera property developers and buyers.

A total of 40 developers showcased a wide range of innovative development projects and types at their designated booths. Some RM4 billion worth of properties were on display during the exhibition.

Several activities were organised to complement the exposition. They included lucky draws, cultural dances, cheerleading and brass band performances. Informative talk sessions by industry experts on topics such as property investments, feng shui and smart home systems were on the cards.



Paaveetra N.



## Government

## New Ipoh City Councillors Sworn In



**T**wenty-two new councillors were sworn in at the Ipoh City Council Hall along Jalan Sultan Abdul Jalil, at 9am on Monday, July 30.

The breakdown is as follows: Four from Bersatu, four from Amanah, four from Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) and 10 from DAP.

Present at the swearing-in were Perak State Executive Councillor for Housing and Local Government, Public Transport, Non-Muslim Affairs and New Villages, Yong Choo Kiong and Ipoh Mayor, Dato' Zamri bin Man.

In a brief press conference that followed, Yong said that the remaining two seats will be filled by non-governmental organisation candidates.

"We've two names in mind. They were not sworn in today because there was a delay in sending out appointment letters. They should be sworn in before the council's first full board meeting. Hopefully within the week," he added.

"This is a diverse group of councillors, from different races, genders and age groups," said Wong Kah Woh, Member of Parliament for Ipoh East.

Yong agreed, saying that the different ages will benefit the council as the older councillors have more experience, while the younger councillors are more active, physically.

Yong also said that the councillors have two pressing matters to handle, namely, cleanliness and street lights. "We've received many complaints regarding dark streets.

We will look at putting up 1000 new streetlights, as well as look at maintaining broken street lights," he added.

Dato' Zamri added that each street light costs anywhere between RM200 to RM300. "Some street lights just need a new bulb, and some of them need to be built from scratch. Whatever it is, we will closely be working with Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) to ensure that the people's needs are fulfilled," he said.

Asked for a timespan, Yong said that there is no fixed time.

"It'll be an ongoing effort, not just for a certain period of time," he remarked.

Yong added that his hopes for the newly-elected council is abundant.

"Be honest, and be committed to your job," he urged them. Besides council matters, Yong talked about his ideas for a better Perak.

"The idea to introduce an e-parking system, where vehicle owners will no longer have to purchase parking tickets is in the works. The app should be introduced sometime next year," he said.

"We're not completely scrapping the printed parking tickets. Vehicle owners will have the option of either e-parking or printed tickets. Besides the tickets, we also need to standardise parking fees in all 15 zones here in Perak," he added.

Yong stated that he would like to see more heritage sites at various locations in Perak, naming Tronoh as a possible example.

**Loshni Nair**

**Below is the list of the new Ipoh City Council. Their term ends on July 14, 2019.**

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Major Kamaruddin bin Abdul Aziz (Rtd) | 12. Lee Tze Hoo                |
| 2. Puteri Holijah binti Muhamad Rali     | 13. Tiw Tee Siang              |
| 3. Arifin bin Mohammad Rafi'i            | 14. Wong Kar Kit               |
| 4. Mohammad bin Sharof                   | 15. Aldrin Ng @ Wu Yau Zhuin   |
| 5. Ahmad Khair Faizal bin Yahaya         | 16. Ngo Kok Foong              |
| 6. Shamsul Effendy bin Abdul Rahim       | 17. Shahari Anuary bin Ibrahim |
| 7. Mohammad Ridzuan bin Jamaluddin       | 18. Wong Hon Long              |
| 8. Chin Yew Kien                         | 19. Lim Mei Hiang              |
| 9. Selvam Kunjambu                       | 20. Chin Yee Hing              |
| 10. Zuraidah binti Zakaria               | 21. Ganesan a/l Athinarayanan  |
| 11. Norhayati binti Sani                 | 22. Chan Wei Sum               |

## Entertainment

## Cultural Pageant Competition

**K**inta Culture and Tourism Association organised a charity dinner cum pageant competition along with the Perak Association for Intellectually Disabled at Kinta Riverfront Hotel on Saturday, August 4.

The dinner successfully raised RM10,000 in funds. Vice President of Kinta Culture and Tourism Association, Shirley Angeline Woodworth handed a mock cheque for that amount to Dato' Dr Yeoh Beng San, President of Sekolah Semangat Maju, Batu Gajah.

Shirley, in her speech said, her association's role was to give back to the community. They had, in the past, donated to numerous charities. The Dementia Society of Perak was among the recipients.

A beauty pageant was held to enliven the occasion. It was judged by a panel of five. Alice Ong, winner of Mrs Gorgeous 2017 was the chief judge.

Three crowns were up for grabs, namely Kebaya Queen, Cheongsam Queen and Saree Queen.

The pageant saw contestants of various ages, the youngest contestant being a 22-year-old student, and the oldest being 59 years of age. Women from various backgrounds, such as homemakers, beauticians, students, accounts assistants and hotel receptionists took confident strides on the runway.

Seventeen contestants took part, six for the Kebaya and Saree Queen titles, and five



for the Cheongsam Queen category. The top two from each category progressed to the final question-and-answer round, which later that night determined who would walk away with the title, and the grand prize.

No stranger to the world of pageantry, Lam Woon Nee was crowned Kebaya Queen, while Aini Yusry was the first runner-up.

In the question round, Lam was asked to choose one family member she loves the most. She picked her mother, adding that she would not be where she is today without her.

Lam said that she chose to enter the Kebaya category instead of the Cheongsam, as she feels that the Kebaya

accentuates a woman's figure and highlights their femininity in an elegant manner.

Sandy Lee, an accounts assistant and a mother of two, was crowned Cheongsam Queen. Sandy would use her baking and cooking talent to organise bake sales and would donate the proceeds to charity.

Madam Chong Choo Lian was the first runner-up. Chong, a grandmother, won the crowd's hearts with her soft-spoken nature, and her sophisticated velvet cheongsam.

Ipoh-born Vivasheni was crowned Saree Queen, while 22-year-old student, Tarshini Vijayakumar came in second.

**Loshni Nair**

## Military

## Joint Military Exercise In Perak

**E**xercise Land Malphi Serial 19/2018 is a bilateral exercise involving troops from the Malaysian Army and Philippines Army. It serves as a platform to further enhance the existing cooperation, goodwill and friendship between both armies.

The 14-day exercise, coordinated by Headquarters 2nd Malaysian Infantry Brigade, was from August 5 to 18 and held in Perak for the first time ever. The opening ceremony was officiated at the parade grounds of Gua Permai Camp, Ipoh on Monday, August 6.

"The objectives of this joint-exercise are to develop professional engagement and interoperability; to develop the planning and the conduct of offensive operation in built-up area setting in Malaysia; and to enhance knowledge related to information operation in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive environment (CBRNE)," Major-General Dato' Mohd Ramli bin Jaafar, General Officer Commanding 2nd Malaysian Infantry Division said during the launch.

The command-and-control exercise was conducted in three phases namely, cross training, battalion-staff-orientation training and command post exercise using the Battle Tech IV System. Unlike previous years where counterinsurgency warfare took precedence, urban warfare training was the emphasis this year to tap on the experiences of the recent Battle of Marawi and the Sauk incident. The exercise scenario was on fighting in built-up area (FIBUA) in urban and residential areas north of Sungai Siput, Perak.

A total of 80 officers and personnel from 23rd Battalion Royal Malay Regiment and



40 Philippines counterparts (35 Officers and 5 Other Ranks) took part in the field exercise.

"Exercise Land Malphi is an engagement with a very long history. We've undergone 19 exercises thus far which we host alternately. We share experience in terms of tactics, techniques and procedures. We wish to thank the Philippines Army for their cooperation. Their commander will talk on the Battle of Marawi when he comes for the closing ceremony," Mohd Ramli added during the press conference.

"I was here in 1999 when the first Malphi joint-exercise was held in Kota Kinabalu. I'm happy to be back after 19 years. Before I was just a participant now I'm heading the delegation. One can see the strong bonding of Malaysia and Philippines," recalled Major

General Robert Musni Arevalo, Vice Commander of Philippines Army.

"Our dealings and training activities have also evolved. We started out with tactics, techniques and procedures in simple patrolling. Then, as we are situated in the same region sharing the same threat and climate change, we engaged more on humanitarian assistance and disaster-response training. With a new security threat in the region namely, terrorism by Islamic State operatives and coupled with our involvement in Marawi, we come to realise that this is a pressing worldwide threat. It's timely that, aside from the usual exchange of best practices, this time we shared our first-hand experience in Marawi," Arevalo told reporters.

**Mei Kuan**



## Sport

# UCI Officially Homologates Velodrome Rakyat

The refurbished Velodrome Rakyat track has been officially homologated by the International Cycling Union (UCI) today.

This was confirmed by Vice President of Malaysian National Cycling Federation (MNCF) Datuk Amarjit Singh Gill upon his return from Aigle, Switzerland.

Based on the inspection conducted by UCI Head of Track, Mr Gilles Peruzzi, the UCI has given its seal of approval and has certified that Velodrome Rakyat has complied with all the requirements for the said track to be homologated.

"I am delighted to inform that Velodrome Rakyat has finally been homologated and I have personally collected the original Velodrome Homologation Certificate from Aigle," said Amarjit who is also the UCI Management Board Member.

With the certification and homologation all done, this velodrome is now ready to host and organise international and local tournaments.

As per the dateline given by Howard Lee, Perak State EXCO for Youth, Sports and Character Building, that the work at the track and homologation to be completed by the first week of August, MNCF has ensured that this was done within the agreed time frame. PCA will be sending a copy of the said certificate to the office of Howard Lee for his immediate attention.

Amarjit who is also the President of Perak Cycling Association (PCA) thanked Howard Lee for his support given towards cycling.

As for plans for track events, Amarjit said that the immediate focus will be on SUKMA which is scheduled next month and thereafter he will discuss with MNCF as to organising development programmes in Ipoh including local grassroots programme focusing on Northern Zone.

PCA had in 2015 made a request to the government to repair the wooden track of Velodrome Rakyat which was in a deplorable state. Based on the request and with the support from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the government agreed to upgrade the velodrome's track and its facilities.

For the record, the first velodrome in the country was built from door-to-door public donation drive by Tan Sri Darshan Singh in 1984 after getting the blessing of the late Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak, thus called the People's Velodrome (Velodrome Rakyat).



## For the Love of Hockey



Ipoh Lads Hockey Club, together with Shaheen Sports Club hailing from Hong Kong and Ipoh Bug, held its annual junior hockey tournaments with a charity twist from July 24 to 28. The week culminated with a telematch with fifteen kids from the Good Shepherd Family Home.

"Shaheen Sports Club, an NGO, was formed in 1982 for men's, ladies' and youth hockey players. We train them as athletes and we are the only hockey club in Hong Kong that develops coaches and umpires. We gather their parents and together form a Shaheen voluntary caring group which visits old age homes, cleans up the beaches and others. Shaheen denotes eagle," Ahmed Khan, the vice president of Shaheen Sports Club cum founder of Action Sports Foundation, explained to Ipoh Echo. For more details, visit its Facebook page: Shaheen Sports Club – Hong Kong Official.

For the past six years, Ipoh Lads Hockey Club has been collaborating with Shaheen Sports Club for charity work and hockey development in the state. The national-level

Action Sports Foundation Trophy is conducted somewhere in November every year in the state with about 108 schools participating from the age of 12, 14 and 16.

What keeps them doing what they are doing? "We all love hockey! We have passion in sports because sports can bring all of us together to nurture the next generation as well as to help the underprivileged," 61-year-old Khan, an avid fan of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup International Hockey Tournament, enthused.

Present were Jasbir Nannuan, the president of Ipoh Lads Hockey Club and Sharan Kumar, the secretary of Ipoh Lads Hockey Club.

Formed in 2009 by a group of ex-state players, Ipoh Lads Hockey Club has three groups of members in the club: juniors (under 18), seniors (19-39 years old) and veterans (age 40 and above). The junior development programme includes coaching clinics by ex-coaches, former international and state players. To date, the club has about 100 members. Interested readers can visit their Facebook page (Ipoh Lads), call Sharan at 016 523 3957 or send an email to: [jasbir5993@yahoo.com](mailto:jasbir5993@yahoo.com).

Mei Kuan

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## HAPPENINGS

Ipoh Echo **IS** the **ONE** and **ONLY** medium to reach Ipohites and Perakeans for your Announcements or your Ads.

Only pay RM30 for chargeable events/seminars announcements. You get 3 media avenues for the price of one: • Print (circulation 100,000) • Website (over 1 million hits per month – verifiable) • Facebook (Free public events are published FREE)

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05 543 9411; or email: [announcements@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:announcements@ipohecho.com.my), by the 9<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### ARTS AND CULTURE

**SHARPENED WORD: "Old Arts must NEVER die". AUGUST 18 (Saturday), 2pm-5pm, at IDR Knowledge Centre Greentown Suria.** In conjunction with SAMA SAMA MENYAYANGI MALAYSIA is hosting this fascinating talk. Panel members: Eddin Khoo, founder of Pukasa; Pauline Fan, co-founder of Pukasa and Joseph V. Gonzales, Head of Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts prior to this with ASWARA. Entrance by donation.

**SHARPENED WORD. 'MALAYSIA – YESTERDAY, HERE & NOW AND IN TIME TO COME'. AUGUST 26 (Sunday), 10.30am to 1.30pm at Perak State Library, Jalan Raja DiHilir.** Let's celebrate Malaysia's 61st birthday with a Sama Sama Storytelling happening. For details and registration, visit Sharpened Word Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sharpenedword.kinta](https://www.facebook.com/sharpenedword.kinta).

**KINTA VALLEY SYMPHONIC SOCIETY ORCHESTRA CONCERT** will hold its annual concert entitled "Rendezvous" on **SEPTEMBER 23, 3pm at Dewan Leong Wan Chin.** Programme consists of an interesting array of music of different genres and different eras performed by the Kinta Valley Wind Orchestra. Amongst them is Cymbal Gesture which is making its debut performance in the country. Others are West Side Story Selection to celebrate the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein, Gabriel's Oboe, The Girl With the Flaxen Hair and more. Entry is by donation. For details, call 017 508 1351 (Ms Yam), 017 570 7776 (Ms Lau) or visit its Facebook page.

**BICARA WARISAN: "MAXWELL HILL CULTURAL AND NATURAL LEGACY HERITAGE" by writer Liew Suet Fun. AUGUST 25 (Saturday), 2.30pm at Hotel Seri Malaysia.** Light refreshments provided. Admission: Free. For details and reservations call Norhisham 013 424 1917.

### COMMUNITY

**FREE YOGA CLASSES.** Wednesdays 7pm-8.15pm: meditation & talk on Vethathiri Philosophy by Dr R.M. Muthiah (Asst. Prof. in Yoga for Human Excellence); Fridays 6pm-7pm: Vethathiri simplified holistic exercises in Tamil & English; 7.15pm-8.15pm: Vethathiri Simplified holistic exercises in English; Saturdays 4.30pm-6pm: Hatha Yoga classes for children (7-15 years old) with Mr Yoganathan Periyasamy. At **R.M. YOGA & MEDITATION CENTRE, 68 Jalan Tun Abdul Razak, 30100 Ipoh.** For further enquiry, contact Ms Yoges Muthiah 016 544 6855 or Dr Muthiah 012 591 4493. Preferably via WhatsApp.

**Kechara Earth Project. LET'S RECYCLE FOR GREENER EARTH. EVERY 4TH SUNDAY of the month, 9.30am-11.30am in front of Ipoh Garden Post Office, Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan, Ipoh Garden, 31400 Ipoh.** Carton boxes, paper, metal/aluminium, electronic equipment, plastics, light bulbs, batteries and used clothes. Funds are channeled towards Kechara Food Bank that serves the urban poor and underprivileged community in Ipoh. For more details, contact: 016 532 8309 (Mr So) or 012 522 3200 (Ms Yee Mun).

### EDUCATION

**SUNWAY COLLEGE IPOH WEEKEND COUNSELLING SESSION.** Calling all SPM, STPM, O-Level & UEC school leavers. Come and learn more about various Diploma programmes ranging from Business, Information System, Entrepreneurship, Graphic design and Interior design. A pathway to own your dual degree with our Foundation in Arts programme. Fast track to earned your Professional Accounting Qualifications (CAT/ACCA) with us, ACCA Platinum Approved Learning Partner. We are open every day from Monday to Friday (8.30am-5.30pm) and every Saturday (10am-4pm). Alternatively you can email: [infoipoh@sunway.edu.my](mailto:infoipoh@sunway.edu.my) or Whatsapp us at 019 368 1096.

### SPORT

**DEMENCIA SOCIETY PERAK MEMORY WALK 2018. SEPTEMBER 23 (Sunday), 6.15am-11am at Polo Ground.** Fees: RM20 includes T-shirt (to be worn for the walk and eligible for the lucky draw) plus certificate. The closing date for registration is **August 30**.

**IPOH 5KM HOSPICE RUN 2018 by Perak Palliative Care Society. OCTOBER 14 (Sunday), 7am at Polo Ground.** Fees: RM53 (Open and Junior Category) and RM42.40 per pax for family (2 Open + 2 Junior). Fees include finisher medal, t-shirt, goodies bag, e-cert, lucky draw and service fees. Trophy for top 5 winners. The closing date for registration is September 9. Race kit collection on **October 10 to 13** at Perak Palliative Care Society along Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah from 9am. For more info call 05 546 4732 or visit [www.ppcs.org.my](http://www.ppcs.org.my).

### IMPORTANT

**REPORT BULLYING.** All schools in Malaysia have an Anti-bullying Guideline. Anti-bullying hotline: Talian Aduan Disiplin 1800-88-4774 or email [adudisiplin@moe.gov.my](mailto:adudisiplin@moe.gov.my). You can also call 15999 Childline to report bullying.