

# KERATAN AKHBAR

NAMA AKHBAR: NEW STRAITS TIMES (LETTERS)

TARIKH: 29 JANUARI 2020

MUKA SURAT: 13

CITY STATUS

## SEREMBAN NEEDS MORE GREENERY

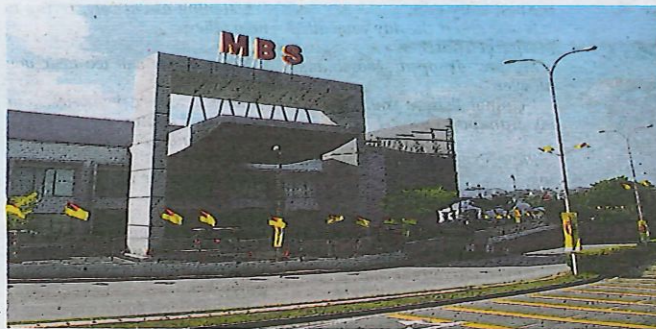
**S**EREMBAN'S status as a city was officially launched by the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir on Jan 20.

There was a royal banquet and fireworks display at the spanking new Seremban City Council (MBS) premises at Forest Heights in Rahang, which was open only to VIPs, MBS employees, media and security forces.

To me, it was a historic event to witness as a bystander. From the time I was a schoolboy, I have seen Seremban grow from being just a small town in the 1960s to attain municipal council status on March 1, 1979 and now, a city.

In order to attain city status, the town councils of Seremban and Nilai had to merge to fulfil the appropriate population requirement.

In the past few months, roads have been resurfaced, drains widened and traffic signs replaced. Still there are several fac-



*The new Seremban City Council at Forest Heights in Rahang.*

tors that need to be looked into.

First, there should be more gardens to make it a green city. Thus far, the biggest gardens are the Seremban Lake Gardens and the Seremban 2 City Park.

More flowers and big shady trees should be planted in housing estates since the urban areas are turning out to be concrete jungles with heavy traffic and

high air pollution. Trees naturally act as dust filters and oxygen generators, which are essential for our healthy daily living. Residents should be encouraged to plant more trees around their houses and make gardening a hobby to boost the greenery at a quicker pace.

At the same time, MBS enforcement officers should make reg-

ular spot checks in housing areas, particularly abandoned housing lots, where secondary jungles are thriving freely. Abandoned vehicles and indiscriminate rubbish dumping also make ideal breeding grounds for the Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes, rodents and stray animals.

Secondly, we need more sports facilities, such as running tracks

and swimming pools. Apart from the athletics tracks and swimming pools in Paroi and Seremban 2, such facilities exist only in private sports clubs and learning institutions, such as Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia in Nilai and Matrix Global School in Bandar Seri Sendayan.

Thirdly, more libraries and museums should be built, apart from the state library in Seremban and state museum in Labu.

Children should be encouraged to enrich their knowledge by reading and viewing artefacts, instead of spending hours on their smartphones and computers, which contain harmful radiation and rays that are detrimental to their vision and overall health.

As residents of Seremban, let us work together to make it a modern and healthy place to live for people of all ages from all walks of life.

**MICHAEL CHENG**  
Seremban